



Joseph F. Malango

June 22, 1932 - December 20, 2019

Joseph Frank Malango was born to Grace McGinley, formerly of Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania, on June 22, 1932 at the New York Foundling Hospital. Grace chose not to give Joe up for adoption, and he was placed with (Teresa) Tessie and Raphael Malango where he absorbed the Italian culture and language. The Malango family had a daughter, Gloria, who continues to be his life sister.

Joe was raised in the close knit Bronx Italian community where he had many small jobs. Every month he took the subway to visit Sister Marie Catherine at the Foundling Home; she oversaw Joe's educational, social and medical needs. Joe served as an altar boy at masses at Saint Lucy's Church.

At the end of World War II Gloria married Glenn Ray of Lakeview, Oregon and the whole family moved to Lakeview. Some months previously, his mother Grace had died so Joe was able to stay with the family and begin a new life out West.

At Lakeview High Joe became active in the Thespians and Future Farmers of America, becoming President of both clubs. Joe attracted the attention of Forrest Cooper, a local attorney, and Don Henry, the Drama teacher. With their mentoring and support, he graduated from the University of Oregon, majoring in drama.

At the University of Oregon theatre program, Joe met Patricia Johnson, and they married in 1955. Together they had three daughters: Teresa (Tami), Christina (Tina) and Lisa. Joe began his teaching career at Monroe High School, moving to Corvallis High School in 1958.

Joe helped create a drama program at CHS that was the foundation of the superb program that exists today. For twenty years he directed three plays a year: a drama or comedy; a children's play, and often a musical. The musicals were done in coordination with Joe Lobato, the music program director. Later Robert Baldwin became the scene designer for the theater, and the productions at CHS reached a high level of stagecraft.

The children's play was double cast, and four Saturday performances were held at CHS. Pat partnered with Joe, sewing costumes and writing many of the children's plays. Teresa, Christina and Lisa grew up in the CHS auditorium and occasionally acted in plays. They were fully seeped in theater; it was a childhood filled with show tunes and a love the arts.

Joe studied Mime with Francesco Reynders, a student of Marcel Marceau, and he started a Mime program at CHS in the late seventies. Students learned the basics and then were encouraged to create their own mime scenes, solo or full cast. The Mime Troop performed frequently, traveling to schools throughout the county. He also taught speech communication and chaired the English Department.

In addition to his work at CHS, Joe started a Summer Drama Program through Corvallis Parks and Recreation, introducing hundreds of children to the magical world of theater. Plays were double cast and presented at the end of the summer. Many of the plays were written by Patricia Malango.

Joe was involved in the start of The Valley Round Barn Theater, Readers Theater, Corvallis Community Theater and the Majestic Theater. After retiring from teaching in 1989, he served on the Boards and as President of the Community Theater and the Majestic Theater. He acted, produced and directed at all these companies, but especially loved doing Readers Theater. A particular favorite production was Love Letters with Vida Krantz. He was actively involved in the founding of The Corvallis Arts Center and famously climbed to the belfry and rang the bell opening weekend. In 1999 he was honored as Corvallis Patron of the Arts. In his retirement he was actively involved in weekly lunch time concerts at the Corvallis Arts Center. He also volunteered at Benton Hospice, now Lumina Hospice.

Joe married Lois Levine in 1974 in the backyard of their Garfield Street house, and Teresa, Christina and Lisa made their home complete. The house became the center of the family for four generations and forty years. Christmas was particularly special with every minute of the day filled with family traditions, featuring favorite meals and numerous practical jokes. He loved his Garfield neighbors and developed long relationships. Leaving the Garfield Street house in 2014 for a move to Albany's Mennonite Village was difficult for everyone, but Joe and Lois settled into the Village where life was easier.

In 1989 Joe and Lois did a search for Grace, Joe's mother, and easily found the McGinley family. The following year a reunion was held in Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania; and Joe and Lois were welcomed by the entire McGinley clan.

Always active, Joe loved sports. His Saturday set building work parties were followed by basketball in the old CHS gym but only if you worked the whole day. Crew fare was dollar burgers and ice cream sandwiches. He played basketball with the Sunday Slugs where he was known as “elbows”. An avid jock, he regularly played volleyball, golf, pickleball and was a member of a bowling team; he continued bowling to the last months of his life (Thank you, Dennis Corliss) Joe also announced home games for the girls volleyball team (state champion) and the wrestling team. He spotted for home football games at Reser Stadium. The sports page was the first thing he read in the morning. He was an avid Duck fan and followed the Trailblazers.

Joe was the guy who always met you with a joke or two. He was known for his home baked biscotti from Mama Tessie’s recipe which he had committed to memory. They were often auctioned at the Arts Center’s Chocolate Fantasy with monthly deliveries He favored white food: vanilla ice cream, pasta and a good baguette.

Joe was a beloved teacher to many generations of Corvallis kids and helped foster a life long love of theater for many. Long after he retired, wherever he went, he ran into former students who consistently reaffirmed this. Many of his students went on to have meaningful careers in theater.

Joe retired from CHS in 1989 and enjoyed a long retirement of volunteering and playing; he loved puttering around the house and yard. Lois and Joe were able to travel to Europe and Mexico several times; they especially liked going to an American city and absorbing it for a week to ten days. There were many trips to New York City with lots of theater. He served on the Federal Grand Jury in Eugene for 18 months.

One of his favorite gigs was working on Neal Gladstone’s shows, at the Majestic and the CHS auditorium. He acted as stage manager, announcer and created quirky roles; his favorites were Blackie the Gangster and Phantom of the Opera (with a bleach bottle mask)

Joe and Lois were fortunate to buy a small beach house near Waldport where dear friends also owned cabins. There were long beach walks, fires on the beach and many, many games of beach bocce. Labor Day celebrations with their friends was legendary. Joe and Lois owned a small condo in downtown Portland where they enjoyed theater, tried new restaurants, and watched the city morph into what it is today. The condo was well used by many family members and friends.

In his last years Parkinson’s Disease slowed Joe down, but he worked diligently with

exercise programs, physical therapy, voice therapy and daily home exercises to keep it at bay as much as possible. The Parkinsons Resource of Oregon (PRO) group in Albany was a great support with leader Lynn Hubert. Special thanks to Joanne Markham, instructor of the Power Ahead class at Sam Fit in North Albany. Ultimately complications from a fall resulted in a rapid and unanticipated decline.

Joe and his family were blessed that he spent his final days at Evergreen Hospice. His daughters and Lois helped care for him in those final days. He was never alone and was surrounded by peace and love. He was able to meet and hold his week-old great granddaughter, Ada Faye and have 5 of his grandchildren talk to him by phone from around the world.

Joe is survived by his wife, Lois; daughter Teresa and her daughter Grace Malango-Blake, her husband Rob Whitson and great granddaughter Ada Faye Whitson; daughter Christina and her sons Sam Malango, Jules Thorn and wife Taylor Thorn, and Riley McGinley; Lisa Francisco and husband Eddy Francisco and their triplets, Madeline, Dominic and Liliana. His sister, Gloria and her husband Glenn and his former wife Patricia Malango also survive him.

Rememberances can be made to the Corvallis Schools Theater Department in care of the Corvallis Public School Foundation, 1555 SE 35th Street, Corvallis Or 97322 or CPSFoundation.org/contribute/donate. Please note Joe Malango on your checks or on the website.

A celebration of Joe's life will be held Sunday, June 21st at The Corvallis Arts Center. Please save the date.

Please share your thoughts and memories for the family at www.demossturidan.com

Comments



“ Joe was a fellow member of the Thespians of Lakeview High School . I remember him as always friendly, and very talented as an actor. I am so glad he had success in life. He deserved it.

Mary A. Harbison - January 07 at 10:58 PM



“ In the mid-fifties, my parents took us to see one of the musicals Joe directed at CHS and I was hooked. As a high school sophomore I was the young daughter in Our Town and then moved to make-up so I could be part of the theater crowd in addition to many other activities.

I still love musicals and have taken my grandchildren, ages 10 and 12, to Hello Dolly and My Fair Lady in the past few months as well as ushering for the Arena Stage (Newsies in December) and the Folger Shakespeare Theater (Amadeus in December) and subscribing to the musicals that visit the National Theater and the Kennedy Center. Joe and the CHS drama program were where this journey started. It has enriched my life and I am deeply grateful.

Joyce E. Howland
Washington, DC.

Joyce E. Howland - January 07 at 09:38 PM



“ Please spell check 'colleague' for me. I need to go back to college. Wayne S.

Wayne Spletstoser - January 04 at 08:44 PM



“ The Ten Incomparable Qualities of My Friend, Joe!
Let us take a moment to remember some Moe!

He Made Malango Famous!

10) He was born in Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania; a town which adopted another man's name...as did Joe Malango. However, Jim Thorpe made the town famous, while Joe Malango made his name famous.

He Smelled Great!

9) He was raised Italian, but born Irish. However, he reeked of spaghetti, pesto, panzanella, focaccia, carbonara, pizza, risotto, basilico and, of course, garlic! That was better than the smell a boiled potato!

He Made Altar-rations!

8) He was inspired by Sister Catherine at the Founding Home. Joe had been found! He was an altar boy at St. Lucy's Church. Ironically, his mind underwent "altar-rations". Change was on the horizon.

He Was Intrepid!

7) He moved with his sister out West under the directive of Horace Greeley. "Go West young man, go West!" Later he learned that directive may be legend or just theater. Hmmmmmm!

He Saved America's Farms!

6) He was raised in Lakeview, Oregon and active in the Thespians and Future Farmers of America. However, later on his entrance exam to the U of Oregon, he missed the question: "What does it mean for a plow to scour?" Luckily for the corn fields, he chose another kind of 'production'!

His Programs for Kids Were Mime Boggling!

5) He chose drama for his life. "Henceforth, and into hither more, perchance to dream, or to raise the minds of the infinitely cruel desolation of this wretched wonton congregation of sullied souls!" For Joe knew, so few had the slightest idea what that meant. It was theater! And he was needed. He had a job!

He Was a Found Founder!

4) He graduated a Duck. But, he knew, ducks need ponds. Only Beavers make ponds. Joe moved eventually to Beaverville and founded a superb theater (for the common man)/theatre (for the snooty man) program at Corvallis High School. The found-one did the founding "of a truly golden pond"

His Family Was His Greatest Production

3) He Married Pat and had three wonderful daughters, Tami, Tina & Lisa. Joe was the Italian Stallion and the greatest of fathers! Later, he married Lois where she loved him, his kids and helped him remain a McGinley.

He Only Failed Once!

2) In his spare time he taught Dennis Corliss and a multitude how to bowl. However, he was never able to do the same for Jim Dort. "A Tragedy in Three Gutters" by Boe Ling Ball

He Was Everyone's Friend and Admired College

1) He ran and directed a lunch table for colleges at CHS who were wanting in personality, table-presence, enunciation, voice projection, sense of humor, Isaac

Asimov answers and love of life. I loved Joe's life. I loved Joe. He was my friend. I will miss him. I am so sorry, Lois and All. Now Joe Moves to the 4th Act!

From the Heart and Pen of Wayne Spletstoser



“ I was a CHS graduate in 1960. Mr. Malango was just one of only three teachers from elementary to graduate school who profoundly influenced me. His inspiration helped me to a successful and varied career in broadcast journalism in Alaska. Thank you, Mr. Malango.
Scott Foster
Juneau, AK

Scott Foster - January 02 at 08:14 PM



“ What a legend Joe was, both while at CHS and for his participation in the community at large. I was not involved in Drama, but he still had a huge impact on my time at CHS. Reading his obituary made me realize even more what an amazing person he was. Lois, our thoughts are with you.
Karin Krakauer

karin krakauer - January 02 at 06:34 PM



“ Joe made a huge impact on my life, starting as a child of nine in summer theater (I still remember my opening line as "The Empress of all China") and continuing on into high school and beyond. For me, he'll always be the clever man and amazing mentor, pulling himself across the stage with that invisible rope. Thank you, Joe for your unwavering support of the thousands of young lives you helped shaped through the years.
Love, Liz McKinney

Elizabeth K Johnson - January 02 at 06:03 PM



“ Dearest Lois it is from the deepest part of my heart I am so sorry for your loss. His memory is a blessing.

I was a member or The Corvallis High School Mime Troupe for all 4 years at CHS. From Fall 1984 to my graduation in Spring 1987. Because of Joe's magnificent vision and engaging teaching style I was able to find confidence and learn how to achieve excellence. Before it was trending Joe would use routine and mindfulness to develop our discipline and the craft of performing. To this day I use the same warm up when directing a play for my actors. I am filled with gratitude for his tireless work. In his High School Mime class, every spring semester was for performance. Once a week from February to May we would perform at a local elementary school. Then the last performance was for the CHS student assembly. His energy was unmatched as we got into make-up, costumes, and gather props title cards, and music! He would pack

up a group of high school students into a van and cart us around town! We were on a mime mission! We also went out in the community performing on weekends and non-school days like at The Imagination Celebration, and other local events. Even taking us to the Hult Center to watch Marcel Marceau himself! As so many of you are posting and as Shelia Daniels said so well: I can't imagine a life without Joe as a teacher!

Love, Sarah Sheldrick



Sarah A Sheldrick - January 02 at 05:09 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Bob Johnson - January 02 at 04:30 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Rory Rohde - January 02 at 01:40 PM



“ He always smiled at me in High School. I was very shy, but he made me feel like I was of value, My sister Kathleen was lucky to be in his class, I knew from her, that he was one of the Greats, She loved his keen wit. I often ponder on what he wrote in her yearbook, "Play your part well." I believe it is a quote from a classical Greek sage. I am grateful, that I had teachers in my young life who loved the arts. Dear Mr. Malango, I know you are in Heaven now. You made the Earth better, I am sure with your gifts, but for me, you saved my life many times with the memory of your kind smile meant for me. Laureen Louise McCarthy

Laureen McCarthy - January 01 at 12:52 PM



“ Dear Lois and family,
Reading about Joe means so much to me and reminds me of what an amazing person he was and how he touched soooo many people in his lifetime. I have been one of those people and I'm forever grateful. Let's keep celebrating his life. Lucy Oxenhandler



lucy oxenhandler - January 01 at 11:24 AM



“ I met Mr. Malango in 1973 as a transplant from Burien, WA when my father became the pastor of the Free Methodist church in Corvallis. The Drama department (and Joe) became a lifeline for me as it was my Senior year, and I didn't know anyone or anything about Corvallis. I loved drama and jumped headlong into the scene there, with many happy memories of "The Wonderful Tang" and friends in the cast. Joe was one of a kind, and I will always have fond memories. And I shall never forget the epitaph: "Uppeth thy Johnny Casino."

David C Rickard - December 31, 2019 at 08:29 PM



“ Joe was the bedrock of my high school experience. Because of his humor, my life is richer because what he taught me in Drama stayed with me to the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy in MA. and a career in diplomacy with the U.S. Government. I really learned how to act in diplomatic missions around the world. Without the skills, he taught me I never could have bluffed my way teaching a graduate statistics class at Harvard, which I had not practiced in 20 years, and presented a debate with the Bolivian Vice Presidential candidate in Spanish on TV in the '90s in Bolivia. I look forward to meeting him in heaven

Richard Persons - December 30, 2019 at 05:53 PM



“ Joe was a true educator...working with students to help them achieve their dreams. He was hilarious, personable, lovable and generous. As a new teacher at CHS he welcomed me and took an interest in the sports I coached. I will always remember his humor and his giving nature. He will be missed but left a wonderful legacy. Thinking of you Lois.

judy lovre - December 28, 2019 at 09:03 PM



“ Joe was a major figure in my life during my three semesters at Corvallis High School (January 1968 - June 1969). He cast me in several CHS plays, along with a summer production (summer 1968) of a play written by his wife.

Being a part of the "drama group" had outsized effects on me - because I was basically a loner who has little other social interactions. Being in these productions affected my outlooks on life, people, the larger society, and myself. He was also a powerful teacher in the classroom, in the two classes I took from him my senior year.

His wife Pat was very kind, understanding, and encouraging to me - and sometimes helped me feel better when Joe occasionally seemed a little harsh or cold to me.

Joe inspired many of us to better lives, wider vistas, and probably bigger dreams for our lives and futures.

Light Bryant - December 27, 2019 at 03:13 PM



“ Oh I am so sad to hear the news. Ditto what so many have written about Joe's legacy and influence on the lives of students at CHS. He was demanding, funny and a perfectionist with an enormous heart. Even beyond the stage and the classroom he gave so much. I remember coming back to school after the summer my mother had died, unable to talk about it with anyone, paralyzed with uncertainty and he came and sat on the cement sidewalk with me in the sunshine, not saying much but telling me he was there if I needed it. I've never forgotten that sweet gesture from that giant of a man. Love to Lois and family- may his memory bring you comfort.

Kirsten Irgens-Moller - December 26, 2019 at 11:21 PM



“ He sounds like a person of great gifts, vision and kindness, a person
For the ages who touched many,
I'm sorry for your loss and happy
You were people in each other's
Lives!

cathy chisholm - December 31, 2019 at 12:44 AM



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Peggy Paarmann - December 24, 2019 at 04:43 PM



“ Joe was a wonderful man and teacher of dramatic arts. My son, Patrick, daughter Morgen, niece Sheila, and nephew Sean were all in his CHS mime troupe or took courses from him, which was really fine. All are involved seriously in the arts today. Joe leaves much influence and many memories behind. Richard Daniels

richard daniels - December 24, 2019 at 11:59 AM



“ Joe was my Drama teacher in the early 70's and inspired me to major in Theatre, get a Masters' in Theatre, and become a Drama teacher myself. Lois was my English teacher. Teresa was my good friend. Sure am saddened to hear of his passing. Waiting for news on the service, as I hope to come down from Okympia.

Debby Kellar Pattin - December 23, 2019 at 11:56 AM



“ Joe was my high school drama teacher. From him, I learned theatre etiquette which has been a constant in my life in theatre. In 1974, I had the pleasure of directing Joe in STORY THEATRE. Joe touched my lives. He will be missed.

Robert Leff, Class off 1967.

Robert Leff - December 23, 2019 at 02:54 AM



“ Joe attended our class of 65 50th reunion five years ago and was as astute and funny as ever. His were by far the most important classes I took in High School. How he put up with us I do not know. I wish all of of could have a life as important and influential as Joe did. We are much saddened today. Rest in peace, Joe.

Roger Aikin, class of 1965



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Rory Rohde - December 22, 2019 at 08:33 PM



“ This man was amazing either the talent he could extract from highschool kids. So sorry to hear of his passing. Rest In Peace, Joe and Thankyou for all you did for us and our community

Jeannie Nordyke - December 22, 2019 at 07:48 PM



“ I remember Mr Narocki calling him Broadway Joe. I also remember how he would pace back and forth at the back of the auditorium during rehearsal

Melinda Lewis Kimlinger - December 22, 2019 at 07:32 PM



“ So sorry to hear Lois of Joe's passing. Such fond memories of the "family" that Joe fostered within the theater program. We all had such a great time...while at the same time such respect for Joe. You also were one of my favorite teachers....also making me feel so comfortable in expressing myself through writing.

Holly Smith Short
Class of 1972

Holly Short - December 22, 2019 at 03:29 PM



“ Mr. Malango taught me that to build a theatre program in a school you have to do children's theatre. The audiences are the most honest in their reactions to your work and eventually they want to be a part of the magic. He was a special teacher and crossed the lines with his basketball skills. Tom Schaad CHS 1981

Tom Schaad - December 22, 2019 at 10:49 AM



“ I have a lot of happy memories of the children’s theater program at the Barn Theater, and of high school drama with Mr. Malango. He was definitely the coolest teacher we had and the most fun. He used to munch on ice cream sandwiches to help his ulcer, which we probably had a part in giving to him, but which my father operated on, successfully I believe. Lois, you were beautiful together and I enjoyed seeing you both at concerts. Sincere condolences to the whole family, from Valerie, Nancy and all of the Lemans.

Valerie Leman - December 22, 2019 at 01:31 AM



“ So sorry to hear of Mr. Malango’s passing. He and Lois were tied as my favorite teachers. Such a wonderful man and fun teacher! Blessings on all his family as they grieve....
Kathy Kingsbury Class of 1973

Kathy Kingsbury - December 22, 2019 at 06:32 PM



“ Summer Drama, The Barn Theater, CHS--all wonderful memories. He always wanted the very best for each of us. He build up our confidence, encouraged and motivated us to do better, dig deeper, give more. And then there were those wonderful, memorable clipboard moments. I will never forget them, or a single moment I had the good fortune to spend learning from him. He was truly a remarkable man. Heartfelt condolences to Lois and family.

Peggy - December 24, 2019 at 04:17 PM



“ Louise and I are very sorry to hear about the loss of Joe, we know what a talented teacher he was at Corvallis High.
But Joe was a special friend from those days we played volleyball on Thursday afternoons with faculty and others.
He always had such great stories and jokes to make our time together such fun. Joe often came by to offer comments on how Lois and I were doing in pottery class. Fine memories and he will be missed. Our love to you Lois.

Louise and Tony Van Vliet

Tony Van Vliet - December 27, 2019 at 02:34 PM



“ Lois - My heart is with you.

I can't imagine what my life would be without Joe as a teacher. He is truly the root of my artistic life - his belief in the work and his insistence on rigor, passion and humor are with me every time I walk into a rehearsal room or into a class room. He taught me about physical storytelling, about visual poetry...He was truly remarkable, in that a teacher had his students create original work every year....in that he taught us the rules, then gave us artistic freedom and license...in that he never had favorites or if he did we didn't know about it...and, Lois, we all knew how much he loved you. I have carried him with me everywhere and will continue to do so.

Sheila Daniels
Class of 1986

Sheila Daniels - December 21, 2019 at 03:40 PM



“ Thank you Shelia for this great post! It captures so much truth for me as well. Love you! -
Sarah

Sarah A Sheldrick - January 02 at 05:12 PM



“ Joe Malango was the heart of CHS Thespians and he made involvement in all aspects of the drama club so much fun! Since my older brothers had also been involved, I knew I would be too and jumped in right away; never a dull moment, learned many skills, met a wide variety of people and stretched myself to take on tasks and learn those valuable life lessons that theatre and "Mr Malango" taught so well. Forever grateful for my times with him in both the classroom and theatre. Fortunate to have also spent time with his family, my sincere condolences and big hugs to you all.

Patti Johnson Donohue, class of 1974

Patti Donohue - December 21, 2019 at 01:41 PM



“ I loved Joe. Looking back, it seems I spent all three years of high school striving for his attention and approval and for him to give me whatever part I wanted in the current play. From the first time I showed up at tryouts for The Miracle Worker, it was clear to me that here was the guy with the power. Here was the funny, entertaining guy, and I hung on his every word. I could shock everyone reading this by the extent I could quote Joe with everything he ever said to us. I remember him calling himself a "baby throwaway," alluding to actually being Irish, but adopted by an Italian family in NYC. He made theatre at CHS so special for so many of us, and it was a shock to me when I hit college and realized I didn't really want to pursue theatre after all. It turned out it that for me, it was all about Joe Malango. What a lovely man.

Linda Welch Crew - December 21, 2019 at 01:00 PM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are for peace for Lois and their family. Joe was a good friend who had a great impact on all who knew him. Many many students greatly benefited from his leadership and talents as a teacher. His quick wit was always a welcome addition to any setting. Corvallis loses a most valued member of the community. Gods peace and comfort for his family.

Gary Beck - December 21, 2019 at 10:19 AM



“ Joe was a favorite teacher of mine at CHS. The speech classes I took from him have proven to be some of the most useful classes of my life and I am grateful. His sharp wit and the twinkle in his eye were always encouraging and energizing. He was an excellent actor and blessed the community with many memorable roles over the years. He will be remembered with respect, affection and gratitude.

Carolyn Holderread Heggen

Carolyn Heggen - December 21, 2019 at 10:09 AM