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**From:** P Ramakrishnan  
**Sent:** Monday, 22 October 2018 7:31 PM  
**Subject:** Fw: R.I.P. LAI MEE LAN, MONICA (54-56): 20-10-2018

## R.I.P. LAI MEE LAN, MONICA (54-56): 20-10-2018

We have reached a moment when our lives are like the autumn leaves: they keep dropping off! More and more Kirkbyites are taking leave of this world.

Ramlah Ahmad (54-56) conveyed to the Kirkby Family that her college mate, Monica Lai Mee Lan had passed on in Penang on 20-10-2018.

I rang up Ramlah who informed me that Mee Lan had passed away in the hospital.

Ramlah and Mee Lan have remained bosom friends. Mee Lan used to spend holidays with Ramlah's family – they were that close.

According to Ramlah, Mee Lan had a big family with caring brothers and sisters. Her brothers' and sisters' family are in KL and PJ.

It is a pity that although Mee Lan had been in Penang for about 20 years she remained unknown and undiscovered. It is very upsetting that we have not been told of her existence. We in Penang had organized three Kirkby Reunions. Had we known of her address or contact details, we could have reached out to her to join us and meet up with her Kirkby colleagues. Unfortunately, this never happened.

According to Mee Lan's sister, Sheila, Mee Lian, about 20 years ago Mee Lan came to visit her elder sister, Katherine at Mar Vista in Penang and liked the over-looking view of the sea and decided to buy a condo to be near her elder sister.

Apart from her elder sister she apparently did not have anyone else in Penang. Though she had many siblings and relatives they were all living in KL and PJ. I would think that her life would have been somewhat lonely.

I'm reminded of the quotation:

“The worst part of holding the memories is not the pain. It's the loneliness of it. Memories need to be shared.”

Memories need to be shared and relived so that life becomes meaningful. I have no idea how Mee Lan spent her days in Penang.

According to Ramlah, she and Mee Lan were posted to a school in Alor Gajah in Malacca. Later on, Mee Lan shifted to Bukit Mertajam in Penang.

After serving her contract, she left the teaching profession and joined the tour company, Harison and Crossfield. She retired while working with this company.

Ramlah tells me that Mee Lan had stayed at various places: near the Zoo in Selangor; Bangsar; Petaling Jaya. Finally she moved to Penang and settled down here.

Ramlah and Mee Lan had remained firm friends throughout.

Mee Lan remained a spinster all her life.

I was anxious to know of the funeral arrangements so that I could attend the service. Ramlah gave me Mee Lan's niece's mobile number.

I called Sheila, the niece, Katherine's daughter but there was no response. Sheila kindly returned my call later on. She was in the plane heading for Penang. I was informed that the funeral service will take place at 10 am on Monday, 22-1-2018 at the Batu Gantong Crematorium, Penang.

I attended the funeral tomorrow this morning. It was a simple service followed by the cremation.

The close relatives who attended the funeral were Katherine her elder sister in a wheelchair. Katherine shares her birthday with Koh Puay Neo (54-56) – they will be 83 years old and going on 84.

There were her younger sister, Lai Mee Lian. 72 years old, - her younger brother Dennis, 68 years old as well as Mee Lan's niece, Sheila, a very friendly and lovely person.

With me, we made up five people who bade farewell to Mee Lan.

Mee Lan's remains will be scattered in the sea tomorrow morning.

Those wishing to convey their condolences may do so through Sheila.

Sheila's contact is 019-338 4368.

Yours in sorrow,

RAMA