

I was informed of Jim's death July 5,th 2009 after returning from church. Words cannot express the loss I feel. I had been in frequent contact with Jim for the past several years up until the end of his last week on earth. He was the "Father of Drumming" in my life and I was his "Daughter of Drumming." For 30 years, he was my "teacher," mentor and friend. It remains unknown how far I would have gone in music had it not been for his continual encouragement to battle the numerous gender biases I encountered. When music was involved, Jim never distinguished by gender, race, creed or color.

As of this past week, I was informed that Jim was very proud of me and bragged about my speed a lot. Such words reminded me of how any father would boast about one of his "children." I realized last night I cannot call Jim on the telephone anymore and hear his anxious greeting, "Are you still playing?" and his closure, "I love you"

Drumming was the spark which ignited Jim's soul enabling it to radiate as bright as the brightest stars in the heavens. If Jim Chapin had never lived there would never be the incredible legacy he has left in compassion, humility, and extraordinary talent in the world of drumming and music. All it takes is one life to change the entire course of the world. Jim Chapin, your life is one which has made an everlasting, benevolent, indelible impression on terra firmae. As of July 4th, 2009, you have joined the ranks of the luminaries of the heavens. I love you as my teacher, mentor and friend. You will be greatly missed.

-Julie Grocki

