

這信是今年給你們的第五封團體信。今年公公壽滿八十。生日在五月。公公是 1921 年陰曆四月初六日出生。當時按陽曆為 5/13 日。今年則為 5/9 日。奶奶 1926 年陰曆六月初五日生。當時陽曆為 7/14，今年為 7/6 日。公公奶奶素來不很重視自己生日（但是兒孫對這卻不能如此）。人的年壽有定，過一天少一天。如果要珍惜要紀念，每天都值得做。我們生日時大都僅兩人上餐館吃一頓，照相留念，不驚動他人。因為陰陽曆時間上的錯亂，你們各家也常弄不清我們的生日。有時來電話，寄卡片，或送禮品。收到後我們非常高興。不常有的情況下，我們應幾位知道了好友之請，由奶奶發動請酒席大家聚敘。今年公公八十大壽，已為不少朋友知道。請客已是免不了的。今年公公活到八十歲，奶奶七十五，都遠在世人平均壽命之上。難得的是我兩至今都活得健康而愉快。生活也能自理。還在不斷在想做些有益於社會及後人的事。為了善用老年“黃金歲月”，公公最近決定撰寫回憶錄。已經先完成“年表”的草稿。分為：①序言 ②生前（公公的父親湘芷公出生 1887 年至公公出生的前一年 1920）③以後自 1921 年起每十年為一段落。包括今年。預計將寫到不能寫的時候為止。你們的出生當然也包括在年表中。回憶錄也已開始寫。分兩大部份。第一部是按時間的先後敘述。參考年表作不同而較詳細的說明。第二部份是按主題分別說明。包括：① 有關的重要人物，② 經歷社會變遷，③ 時代觀念的改變。④ 物質方面的改變，⑤ 經歷積累技術知識的說明等等。要將上述寫出來，對子孫將是一寶貴的遺產。但其完成不是易事。目前這祇能說是公公八十歲當前一項努力的目標。能做到甚麼程度尚不可知。公公之所以能這樣做，得力於對電腦中文打字精通和健康狀況能勝任。我們認為這些值得現在告訴你們。美國母親節為五月份第二個星期天。今年為 5/14。親愛的孫兒女們，我們倒想聽聽你們在獲知了你們祖父母 / 外祖父母活了這大把年紀的情況，上述生日，和寫作計劃等之後有何感想和建議。再者，母親節快來到，你們對你們的母親和內外祖母有何表示？暫時寫到這裡。祝你們身心健康愉快，學業進步。

公公/ 奶奶 同囑

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Dear Grandchildren: 5/6/2000

This is our fifth letter of this year sent to you folks as a whole. We would like take this opportunity to tell you that grandpa's birthday anniversary is near, which is 5/9 corresponding to his customized lunar birthday of the 6th day of the 4th month in the year of 1921, while that of grandma will be 7/6 this year corresponding to the lunar system of the fifth day of the sixth month in the year of 1926. In our marriage life we used to not paying not much attention to our birthday anniversaries, considering that every day in our life is going like the "the river of no return" making no difference in reality being a birthday or not. However, we think people should remember and celebrate the birthday anniversaries of their parents and grandparents, to show respect to their originators. Usually in the past, in our birthday anniversaries, we only arranged going to eat in some restaurants and take few photos together for future comparison. Only on rare exceptional occasions when urged by some friends and folks had been arranging banquets to entertain them. Old timers like us are customized to use lunar calendar system on counting their birthdays, thus their children sometimes got confused the proper dates sending greetings and gifts therefor. Even though we do experienced in our life receiving numerous cordial calls, blessing cards and sometimes-nice lovely gifts from the families of our own children with great pleasure on our birthday anniversaries in the past. To make best use of our golden age time, grandpa recently started to draft our brief family chronicle and then the memoir beginning in the year of 1887 when his daddy the great grandpa Xiang-Zhi was born, up to the time being. The memoir in our mind will consists two major portions, one largely in accordance with time going, and the other according to subjects of great importance to us such as important persons and events in our life, special experiences, comparisons on time and social changes. American national mother day being the second Sunday of May, i.e., 5/14 for this year. Being informed the above of this letter what is in your mind to react? What kind of good words do you want to say to your mothers and grandmothers? Love you all with best regards.

Grandpa and Grandma.