



## Jane Dilling Griffith

August 16, 1913 - October 20, 2011

Alice Jane Dilling Griffith, 98, was born to Elmer Wesley and Emza Louise Dilling on Aug. 16, 1913, in Fletcher, Oklahoma, and passed away on Oct. 20, 2011, in Norman, OK. She graduated as valedictorian from Fletcher Public Schools in 1931 and graduated with a Bachelor of Music Education degree in 1935 and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Latin in 1937 from Oklahoma College for Women in Chickasha, OK. She took summer courses at the University of Oklahoma 1933-1935 and 1951, attended summer classes at the University of Colorado in 1936, and attended graduate classes at the State University of Iowa in 1937 and 1938.

Jane taught vocal music in various capacities for 35 years in Dewey, OK, Algona, IA, Fletcher, OK, Moore, OK and Lindsay, OK. She met Jewell Keith Griffith on a blind date June 16, 1940, and they married Sept. 15, 1940. From this union were born two children, Barre Keith Griffith and Ann Louise Griffith Thomas, both of Lindsay, OK.

For her teaching and work in the area of vocal music, producing wonderful choirs, ensembles, and soloists, Jane was highly regarded and respected. Not only did she do a most commendable job of teaching music but also taught her students how to be ladies and gentlemen, how to be assets to their communities, and how to be disciplined in their lives. Always artistic in all her endeavors, Jane sewed well, did work in ceramics, knitted sweaters and

afghans for friends and family, and especially in her later years, became an exceptional china painter. Other endeavors over the years included being an active member of Eastern Star in Fletcher, a charter member of Eastern Star in Moore, a member of Delta Kappa Gamma, The Oklahoma Choral Directors Association, The American Choral Directors Association, The World Organization of China Painters, and, in Lindsay, a member of the Literary Club, The Progressive Club, The Music Club, and the Lindsay Civic Arts Association. In addition, Jane was a life-long member of the United Methodist Church. In 1986, she was given an award by the Oklahoma Choral Directors Association for "Outstanding Service to Oklahoma Choral Music". Last, but not least, she represented Oklahoma as "The Mother of the Year" in 1989. Travels with her husband included most of the United States, including Alaska and Hawaii, Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, the Holy Land, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Tahiti, Singapore, China, and Russia.

Jane was preceded in death by her husband, Jewell Keith Griffith, her parents, E.W. and Emza Dilling and her brothers, an unnamed infant and Jerome Dilling.

She is survived by her children, Barre Griffith, Ann Thomas and her husband Terry; her grandchildren; Matthew Griffith, Kimberly Tigert and husband Todd, Jared Thomas and wife Stephanie, Paula Barron and husband Brock, and Kristin Masaoka and husband Tom; and great grandchildren; Brooks and Blakely Tigert, Ava Jane Thomas, Hayden and Elliot Barron, and Liam Masaoka.

Funeral services for Jane are set for three o'clock p.m. on Monday, October 24, 2011, at the United Methodist Church in Lindsay, Oklahoma, with Rev. Ron King officiating. Interment will follow at Green Hill Cemetery in Lindsay. Services are under the direction of B.G. Boydston Funeral Home of Lindsay, Oklahoma. The family requests that memorials be made to The Lindsay

Education Foundation, the United Methodist Church of Lindsay or the charity of your choice. Condolences for the family may be made online at [www.boydstonfuneralhome.com](http://www.boydstonfuneralhome.com).

# Tribute Wall

SU

“ My sympathies go out to the family of Mrs. Griffith. She was a wonderful person who shared her love of music with so many young people. I will never forget the impact that she had on my musical life. She was a lady in every sense of the word. May God Bless and comfort all of you.<br>

Sharon (Malone) Urioste - November 05, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LG

“ My heart goes out to your family in the loss of Mrs. Griffith. She was such an example of excellence in her teaching and in life. It is one of my biggest regrets that I did not stay in vocal and learn more about music from her. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Lila (Lindsey) Gossett - November 02, 2011 at 12:00 AM

KE

“ Former student who lovingly referred to my special choir teacher as Jungle Jane. Love ya.

Kelly - October 31, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ Mrs. Griffith was such a special Mother to so many! As I read the on-line thoughts I can feel the impact she had as a community leader, mentor, and friend to so many! Our Oklahoma Chapter of American Mothers was very blessed and honored to Jane as our Mother of the Year in 1989. We will miss her very much! We are thinking about her family and are so proud to have shared her with you for a brief time!

Shelly Soliz, President Oklahoma American Mothers - October 31, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DF

“*Mrs. Griffith was a great lady who influenced so many lives. We all respected her and were happy to have known her. Our love, sympathy and prayers are with your family.*

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**Don and Mary Frankenberg** - October 31, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SH

“*Barre, Anne and Family: My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. I will always remember the vocal trips fondly. Ms. Griffith instealed in us to strive for excellence in anything we did. I've tried to do that in my life. She was a good example to us and will be greatly missed. May God be with you and your family.*

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**Sandra Hamilton Hiatt** - October 26, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LK

“*Ann and Barre, Your mother was a Jewel of a Women and one of my favorite teachers in school. Some years later she became a good friend as we golfed together. She had a life that can truly be celebrated as she positively touched the lives of so many. We love your family and pray for your comfort in the days to come. Linda, Preston and Family*

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**Linda ( Lindsey) Keck** - October 25, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MB

“*Barre & Anne and the Griffith family : We are so sorry to hear of you mother passing I know she had a good life and enjoyed all of you. I see Barre every now and then at the Fletcher Bank. Our prayers are with all the family*  
*Morty & Ruth Baxter*

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**MORTY & RUTH (HILL) BAXTER** - October 24, 2011 at 12:00 AM

J6

“ Ann, I am so sorry to hear of the passing of your mother. Regrettably, I will be unable to attend her service, so, please accept my heartfelt condolences. Your mother, to me, has and will always remain, the Grande Dame of Music and Life itself. She gave me the self confidence to perform in public. I remember how tirelessly she worked with me in preparation for my solo's at Tri-State and how she cried with me when my voice turned from Tenor to Baritone. I'm often complimented when I sing and I always give tribute to my high school vocal teacher, Mrs. Griffith. I still get chill bumps whenever I sing the Hallelujah Chorus in church because I always envision Mrs. Griffith standing front and center and directing my church choir. I hope she will have a place reserved for me in the Baritone section of her new Heavenly Choir.

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**Jesse Langford (Class of 66)** - October 24, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ Barre, my prayers are with you today. I will always be thankful to Mrs Griffith and Mr Moore for setting us on a lifetime of music enjoyment and performance. Jim Martindale

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**Jim Martindale** - October 24, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ Barre, My thoughts are with you and my prayers are for you as you move through this time of mourning and adjustment. Your mother broadened the horizons of many of us as we progressed through LHS. No doubt, she was a positive influence on many many students! She was a blessing.

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**Donna Rushton Shinn** - October 24, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JY

“ We wish you and your nice family the best at this time. Your mother will continue making music. We'll miss seeing her at the symphony concerts.

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**Joe & Ava Young** - October 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MC

“ Ann & Barre, Even though I was probably one of the worst music students she ever taught, I have many fond memories of your mother from the Methodist church and the influence she provided there. I have the same memories of your Dad in Little League baseball. Betty & I are thinking of you.

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**Mike Crawford** - October 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CV

“ Barre and Ann: I wept when I saw that your mother had past away. She had an influence in my life that I carried with me every day of my life as a teacher. Her dignity and self control set a standard for everyone she taught. Not only was she my teacher in the classroom, but my private voice teacher. She paved my way into the music school at Oklahoma City University. Every time I sing, she is with me in my heart. She was also a good friend to my mother, Dorothy, and my brother, Mark. (I remember she hosted Mark's wedding shower.) I know she will see them both in Heaven. May you find comfort in the knowledge that you were born to a mother who had such an amazing affect on the lives of so many people. God bless each of you and your families.

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**Carol Ann (Miller) Vaught** - October 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM

NA

“ Heaven got a new choir director Thursday. I am sure that Don Charles was one of the first to greet Jane as she came through the pearly gates. This time she will have his full attention and he won't be playing any pranks. Jane was a lovely lady and I am blessed to have known her. I know that all of you will miss her terribly. It was just a few weeks ago that I visited with her at Duchess's Beauty shop. Still the exquisite lady she has always been. My heart goes out to you. May God comfort you now and in the days to come.

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**Nancy Payne Adams** - October 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM

KS

“ To the Griffith Family,  
  
I am so sorry for your loss. Mrs. Griffith was one of my favorite teachers and I will never forget all I learned from her. She will be greatly missed. God Bless you all,  
  
Kathy (Mihlhauser) Sauers

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**Kathy Sauers** - October 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BM

“ So sorry to hear of Mrs. Griffith's passing. She was one of my favorite teachers and I share many of the sentiments of others who have already written. I truly believe she is the main reason I love good music to this day. I will always remember this wonderful woman who was a part of my life.

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**Beverly Dunham Miracle** - October 23, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LG

“ I will have to agree with Wayne Roberson, there are some things you learn that last all of one's life. I have been blessed by taking her classes.

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**Lester Grumbles** - October 22, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SM

“ Barre, I am so saddened to hear about your Mom. She touched so many children through her teaching and talent. Please know that I am praying for you and all her family in this difficult time.

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**Shirley (Hayes) Miller** - October 22, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LJ

“ I was saddened to learn of Mrs. Griffith's passing. Words cannot express the gratitude for all she taught to generations of young people.

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**Linda Woodruff Johnson** - October 22, 2011 at 12:00 AM

EH

“ Mrs. Griffith was one of the brightest stars in my school experience at Lindsay. I always chuckle at the memories of how she handled our classroom full of 7th grade boys with aplomb and dignity. She really was an artist who helped us all appreciate fine music.

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**Eugene Hilderbrandt** - October 22, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JR

“ Saddened to hear of your loss. I know that my life and the lives of others were enriched because your mother crossed their paths.

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**jSandra Carey Raycraft** - October 22, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ To all the Griffith & Thomas families, I am sorry to hear of Mrs. Griffith's passing. Extremely gifted & talented in so many things. She was the epitome of grace. My thoughts & prayers are with you.

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**Jody Holden** - October 22, 2011 at 12:00 AM

IG

“ Barre and family, I am sorry to hear of your loss. Your Mom was a wonderful lady and teacher. I have fond memories of being one of her students. You all are in my prayers.<br>

Irene Bell Gragert - October 22, 2011 at 12:00 AM

SE

“ To Barre & Ann you have our sympathy at the loss of your mother. In my dictionary the defination of class is a picture of Jane. We appreciate the way we were so graciously invited to her home for Christmas parties. And so grateful for the time we worked with and for Mr.& Mrs. Griffith and family.

Sherwood & Linda Eastman - October 22, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RJ

“ We are sorry for the loss of your mother. She was a great lady who lived her life well. We will keep you in our thoughts and prayers in the days ahead.

Ron and Janet Janousek - October 22, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ It is said that teachers change lives forever...your Mom surely did that for many. What a great legacy! You are in our thoughts and prayers.<br>

Jeanette (Ardrey) Williams - October 22, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LZ

“ Barre and Ann, May the Lord comfort you and give you peace of heart and mind with the loss of your Mother. She is still alive in our hearts.<br>

Linda McCabe Zwirn - October 22, 2011 at 12:00 AM

HR

“ Ann & Barre - I thought I was a great singer until 7th grade when I learned in your mother's vocal music class that I could not match pitch. I think this was as frustrating to your mother as it was to me. While I learned not to sing (yell?) loudly, I did get to enjoy the benefits of having your mother as a teacher. One of those benefits was the trip to Oklahoma City to see a Broadway musical road show each year. Those experiences made me a life-long fan of good musicals. I remember that our seats for Camelot were center orchestra beginning on the second or third row and that Davy Jones, later a member of The Monkees, played The Artful Dodger in Oliver. Your mother was a great teacher and a great person.

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**Hank Ryan** - October 21, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JH

“ Our hearts and prayers are with the family,

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**Joe and Juanda Howell** - October 21, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LT

“ Barre and Ann: I am so sorry to hear of your mom's passing. She had such an impact on my life. Those years when she was in charge of vocal music and Mr. Moore was directing the band were great times for LHS. She lived a long life, and she and your dad were pillars of the community.<br>

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**Louanne Ward Trueblood** - October 21, 2011 at 12:00 AM

GF

“ To the Family of Ms.Griffith...What a wonderful legacy this woman leaves behind. I was telling a friend last week of all the trophies that used to line the aisles of LHS from the band and vocal department under her and E.B.'s leadership. Every Christmas, when I listen to Handel's Messiah, I can't help but think of Ms.Griffith. She is the one who taught me to appreciate the arts in music. She worked tirelessly year after year to make sure the vocal presentation was presented in a spirit of excellence. I wish you all the best during this difficult time. Glen Fox

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**Glen Fox** - October 21, 2011 at 12:00 AM

WR

“ I owe this fine lady much of what I know about singing. God used her in my life.<br>

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**Wayne Roberson** - October 21, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BB

“ Barre and Anne, Just heard of your Mother;s passing. Now she can keep heaven in tune and perhaps teach them a few new things. Was so thrilled to see her at the Reunion last year. She is a true monument in the Lindsay School system and will be greatly missed.

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**Barbara McHenry Bercik** - October 21, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RM

“ So sorry to hear of Mrs. Griffith's passing. Another of Lindsay's Icons has passed. She was such an influence to so many.

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**Ross Murphy** - October 21, 2011 at 12:00 AM

LM

“ *Barre and Ann though none of my children were privileged to be in Mrs. Griffith's class, I had the pleasure of meeting and visiting with her. She was a very gracious lady.*

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**Leota McCoy** - October 21, 2011 at 12:00 AM

NM

“ *What a wonderful person Mrs. Griffith was. She lives on in all of us who have an appreciation of music, dedication to church, interest in artistic endeavors. We were truly blessed in Lindsay to have teachers and leaders like the Griffiths.*

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**Neosha Mackey** - October 21, 2011 at 12:00 AM

PG

“ *Not just the passing of a gr4eat lady and educator. She was a catalyst who positively changed the lives of so many. I have many fond memories of being in her class, her at the piano while the men's quartet practiced new songs, her taking us by bus to OKC to see the New York Metropolitan Opera Company perform the comic opera Die Fledermaus. She was responsible for my first taste of pizza. I was privileged to have been one of her students and morn her passing but also celebrate her bright and long life. I wish comfort to her family and other friends.<br><br>Patrick<br><br>*

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**Patrick Greenlee** - October 21, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TS

“ *Barre, I am so sorry to hear of your Mother's passing. She was a fine lady and touched so many lives. God bless yo and your family.*

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**Terry Shoemake** - October 21, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DK

“ *Barre, Anne, and the Griffith Family:*  
*You are in my thoughts and prayers. Your mother did have a great impact on many of our lives. Much more than music. She was a wonderful woman. She had such a lovely smile. We mourn with you in the loss of a mother, but celebrate her life.*  
*May the Lord Bless all of you.*”

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**Darla Simmons King** - October 21, 2011 at 12:00 AM

PS

“ *Barre and Ann: My husband has told me the story numerous times over the years that while taking vocal in school, your mother finally had to tell him not to sing, just mouth the words because he couldn't sing. He never felt bad about it because she had taught him to appreciate all the different types of music. He says she turned a negative in to a positive.*”

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**Pat Sullivan** - October 21, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RP

“ *We are so very sorry for your loss. You're in our thoughts and prayers.*”

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**Randy & Phyllis (Trout) Phillips** - October 21, 2011 at 12:00 AM

RO

“ *Ann, Terry, Kim, Jared, Barre and family, Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you at this difficult time. May God bless and comfort each of you.*”

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**Ray and Geneva Owens** - October 21, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MW

“ *Barre and Ann: I am so sorry for your loss. Your Mother was a wonderful lady so many of us were privileged to have known.*”

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**Mahona Witter** - October 21, 2011 at 12:00 AM

PC

“ *The Griffith Family, Your mom not only taught us music, she taught us how to be ladies. Crossing our legs at the ankles, sucking in our stomachs when we stood and walked, and Never chew gum in public. :) I remember caroling her house one Christmas and she gave us hot chocolate and her famous fruit cake, made with eagle brand. She will always be remembered by all those who had her in Vocal. May God comfort your family during these days.*

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**Pamela Clark Cummings** - October 21, 2011 at 12:00 AM

GK

“ *Barre and Ann, The passing of your mother is a great loss for everyone. I have such fond memories of vocal growth, trips to Tri-State and All State Chorus. She taught us so much about the techniques of singing. She has also been a dear friend to my Mothers and the two of them have fond memories of all their Delta Kappa Gamma conventions. Her presence at the bridge table will be missed by all. Our prayers are with you and your families.*

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**Gayle Alexander Kearns** - October 21, 2011 at 12:00 AM