



Mrs. Grace Yuko Yamamoto

September 15, 1932 - April 9, 2012

Beloved wife, mother and grandmother, passed away peacefully on April 9, 2012 with her family by her side. Born Grace Murakami on September 15, 1932, in Los Angeles, she was interned at Poston Relocation Camp during WWII with her family. After the war she attended UCLA and taught English and Home Economics at Roosevelt High School in Los Angeles.

Grace married Shogo Yamamoto in 1958. After spending the early years of their marriage in the Boston area, they returned to California, living in Monterey Park and Anaheim before moving to Santa Barbara in 1971.

Grace participated in local bowling leagues, enjoyed many crafts and hobbies and took pleasure in the daily crossword in the News Press. She worked behind the counter at Color Services for several years during the 80s at their De La Vina and Canon Perdido Street locations. In recent years Grace became an avid fan of the LA Lakers, and was a devoted volunteer for the Cancer Center of Santa Barbara and Direct Relief International's "Holy Roller" bandage rolling group. Grace is fondly remembered for her many small acts of kindness and her famous homemade English toffee. Her incandescent smile was never brighter than when she was helping or encouraging others and will be sorely missed.

Grace was predeceased by her parents, Dr. Tsuneo and Fumiko Murakami,

and brother Paul. She is survived by her husband Shogo and daughter Noreen, son-in-law Vince Sherry, granddaughter Anna Sherry; brother Dr. William Murakami and wife Sumie, sister-in-laws Tami Murakami and Sumi Niizawa; nieces Dawn Murakami, Lynne Sueki, Jill and Lynn Niizawa, Annie Florendo and Amy Murakami; nephew Eric Murakami.

In accordance with Grace's wishes, there will be no funeral services. Her ashes will be scattered at sea and a celebration of her life will be held at later date - details forthcoming. Her family would like to express their gratitude to her oncologist, Dr. Thomas Woliver and to Visiting Nurse and Hospice Care, in particular, the amazing and compassionate staff of Serenity House. In lieu of flowers, donations to the Cancer Center of Santa Barbara, Direct Relief International, or Santa Barbara's Visiting Nurse and Hospice Care are suggested.

Tribute Wall

SS

“ Dear Shogo and Noreen and family,

I know it has been 5 years since your beloved Grace passed away, but I just found her obituary online today. I have no idea if this message will make it to you, but I do hope so. We are so very sorry for your loss and grateful that a very special woman is at rest.

Shogo, you may remember your young friend at Raytheon, Dan Schlesinger. He certainly loves you. When we moved from Santa Barbara to the Northwest in 1992, you never left our hearts. Dan is a wonderful man, and his only fault is telling people he cares about how much they mean to him. Please let me tell you from him.

There are many memories of Grace I have but the ones I'd like to share are the ones that help me know what a special mother and grandmother she was and her kindness and thoughtfulness.

When we lived in Santa Barbara, we were just starting out in life. Noreen was a teenager and I know Dan and Shogo talked at length about college choices and ultimate deciding on USC, if I remember correctly. As we went through that process with our own son, Dan remembered those conversations, especially about the part of the surrounding neighborhood and sending his young daughter to that area. In short, Grace and Shogo were much more than just friends to us at that time. We had no family in the area and they helped fill that void.

Both of our children were born in our first few years in Santa Barbara when Dan and Shogo worked together. Grace appeared to welcome both of them as I returned home from the hospital. Our little Becky (born 1988) is having her first child and I have been going through the very special things I saved for such a day. Grace gave her the most beautiful little outfit that any young mom had ever seen. Our budget was very tight and it was something that I could only have dreamed of seeing my little baby wear. I don't know if our daughter is having a girl or boy, but if it is a girl, she will certainly get

to wear what Grace so thoughtfully picked out for my daughter.

It is almost Halloween. Another knock on our door and a visit from Grace. She brought our son a special bag of treats. I could see her hand picking each yummy treat and smiling in anticipation of making a little boy happy. Those acts of kindness were part of my education on how to be a good human being.

I know what a special grandmother she must have been because I know what a special woman she was. Small but very mindful acts of kindness never go unnoticed, and even if it is many years since we have seen you, you live on in our hearts.

*Much love,
Susan*

*Susan and Dan Schlesinger
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Dan Cell: 630.450-7644 Sue: 503.730.7188*

Susan Schlesinger - October 16, 2017 at 12:01 PM

RS

“*My condolences to your family. I was the volunteer coordinator at the Cancer Center way back when Grace first began volunteering there. She was a lovely lady and always brought such grace, kindness, and warmth to our office. She shared so many stories of her life and we felt so fortunate that she chose to share her time with us.*

- Rebecca Stebbins

rebecca stebbins - April 16, 2012 at 02:09 PM



“ 5 files added to the album *Best grandma in the world*



Noreen Yamamoto - April 11, 2012 at 12:21 AM



“ 1 file added to the album *Grace Yamamoto*



Noreen Yamamoto - April 10, 2012 at 11:22 PM