

# Yoriko (Okamoto) Sato

MARCH 17, 2020

Yoriko was born in 1932 in Japan to Saburo and Miyoko Okamoto. She was the eldest of three daughters. She loved to sew, knit, draw and read as a child... and she dreamed of traveling and living in a foreign country.



She met Daihachiro Sato in high school and they dated through their early University years. In 1954, they travelled by ship to Los Angeles, CA, where they both studied at UCLA. After Daihachiro finished his doctorate, he got a position at the University of Regina. Here, they raised their daughter Mika and sons Kimihiko (Kiko) and Yusuke. Yoriko, a devoted and endlessly patient mother, also volunteered at their school and supported their many activities.

In addition to raising a family, Yoriko taught Ikebana (Japanese flower arrangement) and continued her passion for sewing and knitting. In her later years, she made MANY cotton dishcloths, which we still use today. We will always remember her knitting while watching Japanese television, then giving out dishcloths to friends and family.

Yoriko and Daihachiro loved to travel and fortunately his work in Mathematics brought them to many countries, meeting people from all over the world. She also stayed in contact with her friends and family in Japan and would often go back to visit. She enjoyed going to hot springs with her sisters, Yukiko and Michiko.

When Yoriko's first grandchild was born, she moved to Ladner, BC, and enjoyed being close to her grandchildren for the rest of her years. It was common for one or two grandchildren to be at her house, doing homework and eating her delicious food. This was especially comforting for her when Daihachiro passed away in 2008. She always had treats for the children.

Travel and time with friends were her two passions. Her days were filled with phone chats or going for lunches, movies and shows with her friends. Regular visits to Japan were a must but she also went to Cuba with Mika and California to visit Kiko. One of her final holidays was to Prince Edward Island to live with Yusuke's family for a month. This was very special for her. In mom's final days, she reflected on her favourite memories in life and without a doubt, she said it was her children and grandchildren. She is dearly missed.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the family of Yoriko Sato has decided to forego the traditional Celebration of Life gathering. Thank you for your understanding.

As you reminisce on some of your good times spent with Yoriko, if you'd like to share them with us online, we would love to read about them.

You are invited to leave a personal message of condolence for the family.

## Messages of Condolence

I really loved "mom" and always enjoyed spending time with her and the rest of the family. So happy that she was able to come out here to California and spend time. Love her always smiling face ☺ Will b greatly missed! I love all my little knitted towels

— **Elle French**

All of our family remember your Mom with great fondness, especially chatting with her at one of the family get togethers or at a birthday celebration. Those memories will stay close to our hearts.

Laurel, John, Cam and Anthony

**— Crosby Family**

Your Mom was such a bright light, always so energetic and happy. To this day, Sean especially, loves the dish clothes I would bring home after every visit. You were raised by an extraordinary woman and it shows. You and your family carry her legacy forward. Big Love ☐

**— Sue Siri**

Bright smile, independent adventurous spirit and full of energy... We met at Zumba class. Watching her dancing energetically was refreshing - we had lots of laugh, too . It was so impressive and a big surprise that, one day, she showed up with purple streaks and tint on her hair! it looked so nice on her - I wished I could do it just like that, too. Yes, she loved going out to restaurant, trying new places. She always knew which ones were good. Living in a close neighborhood , I was a lucky one to get a taste of her delicious meals often and without making a reservation. To me, she was a bit like a " mum " figure - warm and comfortable to be near and around with. Yoriko-san, thank you for your friendship. I miss you...

**— Kay Goto**

I am so fortunate to have known you as my second mom

You watched my family go thru good times and hard times and always stood by

**— Laura Johnson**

We first met when Yoriko-san asked me to repair her house. We had a great time chatting over lunch and coffee break, and I forgot about my fatigue from work. She always smiled and seemed to be enjoying life in my eyes. In Japan, there is an old proverb, "Good fortune and happiness comes to those who smile". I think I was reminded of this important thing. Gomeifuku-wo-oinoriitashimasu.

— **Nobuo Kato**

We so enjoyed the years the Sato family lived across the street from us in Regina. I had many conversations over the years with Yoriko. She was a wonderful woman!

Mika, Kiko and Yusuke you may be interested to know we still reside at 34 Wesson Bay. 46 years for us! Paul and Stephanie both live in Regina too.

Our most sincere sympathies for your loss.

Love from

Don, Shirley, Paul and Stephanie.

— **Shirley Mack**



<https://www.myalternatives.ca/obituaries/sato-yoriko-okamoto>

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