



## Nobuko Santo Wolpert

August 22, 1933 - December 16, 2020

Nobuko Santo Wolpert of Edgewater, formerly of Bowie, passed away peacefully on December 16, 2020 at Hospice of the Chesapeake, Mandrin House, in Harwood. She was 87 years old.

Nobuko was born in Iwakuni, Yamaguchi-ken, Japan on August 22, 1933 to Chitoshi and Shige Sumi Santo. She married her husband and lifelong partner of nearly 58 years, Joseph, in Yokosuka, Kanagawa-ken, Japan on March 27, 1963.

As a young girl, Nobuko had to make a life for herself after being orphaned at the age of 12. She worked in a factory, living in the barracks of the business after claiming to be older than she was. She put herself through dressmaking school, learning to measure people and create patterns out of brown paper grocery bags. She made most of the clothes she and her family wore and created clothing gifts for friends. She also took ballet, having an appreciation of the art, but did not continue her study after starting her family. World War II had a profound effect on her, taking her eldest brother, Minoru, at the Battle of Mindanao. She often spoke of witnessing a bright glow on the horizon on August 6, 1945 from her home in Hongo. Many residents rushed towards the “great fire” to help only to return sick from radiation.

In her early adulthood, Nobuko adopted the philosophy of Nichiren Buddhism

and practiced faithfully until her death. Her faith helped her through many life challenges, both physical and spiritual. Her fellow SGI members admired her for her enthusiasm sharing her guidance with new and current members. The last words she spoke were Nam Myoho Renge Kyo.

She moved to the United States in 1964 with her husband and two children, bravely facing a new world with determination, assisted with her deep faith.

She is predeceased by her parents; six brothers, Minoru, Masashi, Takefumi, Tsuyoshi, Osami and Satomi; and four sisters, Chinou, Keiko, Akemi and Jyunko.

Nobuko is survived by her husband, Joseph; a daughter, Deborah; a son, Donald (and his wife Precy); and three grandsons.

A Celebration of Life will be arranged at a later date.

# Tribute Wall

AH

“ I only met you once. But beauty and grace and compassion indwelled you. Rest well. -Alysia Nicole Harris

Alysia Harris - July 27, 2021 at 07:14 PM

AN

“ Debbie, So sorry to hear about the loss of your mom. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Kathie and Andy

Andy - December 24, 2020 at 03:30 PM

RS

“ Please accept our most heartfelt sympathies for your loss... Our thoughts are with you and your family during this difficult time.

Rie Maruyama Sanchez - December 22, 2020 at 09:53 PM

DG

“ My fondest and earliest memory of Nobukosan was sitting in her kitchen after every meeting and eating sushi! That was my welcome to Bowie district, where she was the SGI Buddhist leader. We looked forward to those weekly meetings. Nobuko was a force! Strong, determined and wise. All my care for members and commitment to the district activities that I've developed, I credit 100% to the training I received from Nobuko! I will miss her dearly, but will be forever grateful, and I am a better person having known her.

Dee Gee - December 22, 2020 at 06:03 PM

TS

“ *Nobuko, your infectious smile , kindness and loving spirit will be missed. Rest with the Angels, job well done. Ben Harris*

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**Tribute Store** - December 22, 2020 at 04:26 PM

AD

“ *Deb, So sorry for you and your family. Will hold you in prayer. Gerry and Anne Dirscherl*

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**Anna M Dirscherl** - December 22, 2020 at 04:04 PM

BA

“ *I am saddened to learn of the passing of dear Mrs Wolpert. I have so many memories of seeing her at Buddhist activities - (almost) always smiling, sharing her gentle compassionate spirit with us all. Thank you Nobuko for being who you are. Enjoy your well earned rest!!*

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**Bill Aiken** - December 22, 2020 at 03:14 PM