

SHIZUKO KAWAMOTO

NOVEMBER 21, 1921 - OCTOBER 31, 2020

*We are sad to announce the passing of
our beloved mother and grandmother.*



Shizuko Kawamoto, who was going to celebrate her 99th birthday on November 21, died peacefully while a resident at The Redwoods Senior Community in Mill Valley. A Japanese word that describes an underlying philosophy which guided much of Shizuko's lifestyle is *gaman* - enduring the seemingly unbearable with patience and dignity.

Shizuko was born in Brawley, California, in the Imperial Valley, the third child of Tsunematsu and Hayame Fujita who were Issei or first generation Japanese-Americans. Shizuko and her family did back-breaking work of growing melons, strawberries and other produce under the hot California sun. As migrant farmworkers, they were required to move frequently. *Gaman.*

In the spring of 1942 the Fujita Family was uprooted and incarcerated for three years in the Poston Concentration Camp, along

with other Japanese Americans. About this experience Shizuko said, "I was in shock. It was so sudden, and we had to move quickly. It was dusty and hot, hot, hot." *Gaman.*

Shizuko married Carl Kaoru Kawamoto on November 2, 1947. Carl built their house in Mill Valley where they lived together for 65 years, becoming an integral part of the Japanese American community of Marin. They were founding members of the Marin Nakayoshi Club and the Buddhist Temple of Marin, where they participated in countless Obon festivals, religious services, and fundraisers. Shizuko worked as a domestic until the age of 92. She was loved and appreciated by all her clients and never missed a day of work. *Gaman.*

After the death of Carl in 2010, Shizuko moved to The Redwood Senior Community in Mill Valley in January, 2015. She enjoyed the exercise classes and walks in the garden and participated in every bus outing offered. Shizuko created some beautiful pieces of art and crafts and had her creations exhibited in an art show at The Redwoods. During her five years at The Redwoods, Shizuko was fortunate to have been taken care of by an attentive and friendly staff, especially during her last few days. Employees frequently said, "She is the sweetest person," and after her death, "We will miss her dearly." Although she never really recovered from the loss of her husband, Shizuko did her best to keep a positive attitude. *Gaman.*

Shizuko is survived by a younger sister, Miyeko Yuki of Sacramento, her two children, Sandra Goto and Gerald Kawamoto, three grandchildren, Stacey and Garrett Goto, Nicholas Kawamoto, and a great-granddaughter soon to be. She is preceded in death by her husband Carl who died on July 12, 2010, older sisters Miyako Kawaguchi and Fumie Mukai, and younger brothers Shoji and Yutaka Fujita.

Because of current restrictions with Covid-19, there will be no funeral services at this time. Shizuko will be interred next to her husband Carl, after a brief Buddhist ceremony for immediate family only, at Fernwood Cemetery in Mill Valley.

