



Nobuko "Helen" Novak

August 29, 1931 - June 8, 2024

Nobuko "Helen" Novak (nee Kawamoto), 92, a longtime resident of Garfield, passed on Saturday, June 8, 2024. Nobuko was born and raised in Japan, emigrating to the United States over 60 years ago, settling in Garfield. Taught by Ikenobo professors in Japan, Nobuko became a professor of Ikenobo Ikebana and taught the art of Ikebana (Japanese floral design) to many devoted students for over forty years. She was a Sensei (professor) in Continuing Education programs in Montclair, Saddle Brook, Paramus, Clifton, and Garfield, and taught many private classes. Nobuko was a founding member and President of The Ikenobo Ikebana Society of New Jersey, which continues today as the Ikenobo Ikebana NJ Society. Under her direction, the society participated in exhibitions at museums, hotels, Cherry Blossom, and other Japanese cultural festivals over the course of many years. Nobuko was a poet, pianist, and painter. She enjoyed dining out and going to Atlantic City. Growing cucumbers and tomatoes each summer season brought her great joy. Nobuko was the beloved wife of the late William Novak, dear aunt of Takashi Kawamoto, and dear friend of Mary Ann Bross and her husband, William. "Nobuko-san" will be sorely missed by her many students and close friends.

Cemetery Details

St Tikhon's Orthodox Cemetery

St Tikhons Rd
South Canaan, PA 18459

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN 14. 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Kamienski Funeral Home of Garfield
207 Ray Street
Garfield, NJ 07026

Visitation

JUN 14. 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM (ET)

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Visitation

JUN 15. 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM (ET)

Kamienski Funeral Home of Garfield
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Chapel Service at Funeral Home

JUN **15**. 10:00 AM - 10:15 AM (ET)

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Garfield, NJ 07026

Burial

JUN **15**. 12:30 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

St Tikhon's Orthodox Cemetery
St Tikhons Rd
South Canaan, PA 18459

Tribute Wall

PM

“ Nobuko was a wonderful teacher and friend to my sister Hycinth Newsome and me (Pamela Marshall). Both Nobuko and her husband Bill were so kind to give me my first fig tree about 25 years ago. Since then I've been sharing fig preserves with her and many friends. RIP Nobuko, you will be greatly missed.

Pamela Marshall - June 13, 2024 at 12:25 PM

VM

“ Vivian Miller purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Nobuko "Helen" Novak.



Vivian Miller - June 13, 2024 at 07:49 AM

VI

“ Nobuko-san inspired so many to appreciate plants and flowers through the art of ikebana. Her artistry lives on through us.

Vivian - June 13, 2024 at 07:37 AM

TK

“ Takashi kawamoto purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Nobuko "Helen" Novak.



Takashi kawamoto - June 13, 2024 at 02:05 AM