



Fumiko Tomoyama Togasaki

January 16, 1932 - March 15, 2014

Fumiko Tomoyama Togasaki, 82, passed away on March 15, 2014, at Sterling House. She is survived by her husband, Robert K. Togasaki.

Born January 16th, 1932, in Tokyo, Japan, she was the oldest of the six children of Yoshio Tomoyama (electric engineer) and Sato Tomoyama (nurse and midwife). She graduated with a degree in English from Keisen Junior College (a Christian school) in 1953, then worked as a secretary in the Humanities Department of International Christian University (Tokyo) from 1953 to 1958.

In 1959 she married Bob Togasaki, accompanying him to Cornell U, Ithaca, NY, U.S.A., where Bob began his studies as a graduate student in biochemistry. While in Ithaca, she worked as a receptionist in the office of the dean of the College of Agriculture, and later as a Japanese language instructor.

In 1964 she moved to Cambridge, MA, where Bob began his postdoctoral work at Harvard University. There she assisted Bob in his laboratory and also began to seek out her own academic interest.

In 1968 the Togasakis moved to Bloomington, IN, where Bob joined the Botany Department and Fumiko entered Indiana University as a BA student. She received her BA (1972) and MA (1977) in Art History with Prof. T. Bowie as advisor. In 1980 she entered the doctoral program of the East Asian Languages and Cultures Department, receiving her Ph.D. in Japanese Literature and Art in 1995 with Professor S. Jones as her advisor.

In 1989 she joined the Foreign Languages Department and East Asian Studies Program at Wittenberg University, Springfield, OH. There she taught courses in the language, literature, art, and film of Japan, while continuing her research on 17th and 18th century Japanese arts and literature--presenting papers at international conferences in Toronto, Canada; Claremont, CA; and Hamburg, Germany.

In 2000 she retired from Wittenberg University and returned to Bloomington with five adopted cats. Besides continuing her research, she participated in the IU Adultfitness program (2000-2006), and Y-Fitness for Life program at the YMCA (2006-2008).

Fumiko is survived by her husband, Bob (Bloomington); her sisters Chikako T. Hoshi (Tokyo), Mitsuko T. Chikami (Tokyo) and Eiko Yamami (Nagoya); and a brother, Yoshiharu Tomoyama (Tokyo).

She loved people, the arts and literature, and flowers; she had a great sense of humor and most memorable laughter. Above all, she could observe the beauty that surrounds her, both in people and in things.

The time and place for an informal gathering in her memory will be announced at a later date.

Memorial contributions may be made to the IU Health Hospice in memory of Fumiko.

Allen Funeral Home is handling arrangements. Friends can send condolences to www.allenfuneralhome.org

Tribute Wall

AL

“ Bob, I'm saddened by Fumiko's passing. I'll miss my parents anniversary dinner with the two of you! Fumiko was such a beautiful and strong woman. She's a real inspiration in my life.

Aleksandra Asuri - October 26, 2015 at 04:06 PM

FR

“ Dr. Togasaki:

I am Dr. Joan Wood's ex-husband. You did quite a bit for Joan, and she was very grateful. She would want to say something. Since she can't, I will instead say how sorry I am, and wish you well.

Genetics has really blossomed since the discovery of restriction endonucleases and the PCR. I imagine that it was very exciting for you, even after you retired. I often think about how much Joan would have enjoyed it.

Thank you for all you have done, and best wishes.

Fredrick Peterson - October 26, 2015 at 04:06 PM

YS

“ I will miss her so much. I was just remembering her and give her call with my update after a long time. I feel very sad. There were a lot of things to catch up. When I was at Witt, she taught me many things about life, out of class, and one time was a wonderful gathering in Tokyo. I sometimes remember what she taught me whenever I have difficulties about work, etc anything then I can find what I should do and how I should face with. I still keep the books she gifted me. She always encouraged me with lots of humor. Togasaki sensei I will miss you so much and the things you taught me will be in my mind forever.

Yukiko Sumida - October 26, 2015 at 04:06 PM

JA

“ I am so very sad to learn of the passing of Togasaki-sensei. She was my Japanese professor at Wittenberg (1989-90), and I worked as her TA during my senior year (1991-92). Togasaki-sensei was such a kind, gentle, and lovely person. She taught me much about Japanese language and culture. I have done my best to carry on what I learned to a career in the State Department that has included two assignments at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo. I can trace many of my professional accomplishments to the learning I received from Togasaki-sensei. I fondly remember her love of cats and the Japanese dinners she would host at her apartment. I also remember her appreciation of flowers and other plants. Once at her apartment, we students saw she was displaying an onion that had sprouted. When we asked her why, she asked us, "Why not? Isn't it beautiful?" Many fond memories!

Jason Lawrence - October 26, 2015 at 04:06 PM

LA

“ Togasaki Sensei was an amazing, and patient teacher. She exemplified what it means to be a Confucian scholar, and inspired love for Japanese and Japanese culture and arts in her students. I remember fondly her special tea ceremonies at her campus home. I am so sad to hear of her death, but so thankful to have had her as a teacher.

Laura Lewellyn - October 26, 2015 at 04:06 PM

DA

“ I'm so sorry to hear this news. Togasaki-sensei was one of the most engaging, dedicated, and generous teachers I've ever known. My deepest and most heartfelt condolences to the family.

David Hewitt - October 26, 2015 at 04:06 PM

JE

“ *Togasaki-sensei was a beloved teacher who ceaselessly demonstrated a nearly boundless capacity for patience, kindness and wisdom with me a rash, impatient and undisciplined student.*

With her I felt I was in the presence of a great and quiet wisdom that understood far more about existence than I did. Visits to her simple, serene campus apartment were always filled with laughter and happiness and a stray cat she adopted.

Togasaki-sensei was truly a cut above and carried herself with an unassuming elegance, dignity and grace, not to mention a gently subversive sense of fun.

I deeply appreciate her role in my life and am thankful to have known her.

Jeremy Hunter - October 26, 2015 at 04:06 PM

SA

“ *I have so many fond memories of Fumiko Sensei. She taught me so much about life and happiness. I will keep her in my thoughts forever. My condolences to all who had the pleasure of knowing her.*

Samja Dunkel - October 26, 2015 at 04:06 PM

JJ

“ *I am deeply saddened to hear of Fumiko's passing. She was a terrific teacher, dearly loved by so many students. And her scholarship was magnificent. I will miss her dearly--and will have you in my thoughts and prayers, Bob.*

Jim Huffman - October 26, 2015 at 04:06 PM

TI

“ *Fumiko was a dear, kind, gentle woman who took great pride in her students. They were the heart and soul of her work, her career, her calling. I learned more about the true importance of teaching from her than I could possibly say. The world is poorer for her passing.*

Timothy Bennett - October 26, 2015 at 04:06 PM

JL

“ *Dear Bob,
We were very saddened to learn that Fumiko had passed away and want to send you our condolences. It must be extremely difficult for you after being married for over 50 years. You shared much in common, and she was able to have a very satisfying career teaching at Wittenberg. One of us, John, has a particular attachment to Wittenberg because his maternal grandparents both graduated from that fine college.*

Our thoughts remain with you in this time of sadness.

John and Lislott

John and Lislott Richardson - October 26, 2015 at 04:06 PM

SU

“ *Dear Bob,*

My deepest condolences on the loss of your wife.

*Susie Graham
Area 10 Board of Directors*

Susie Graham - October 26, 2015 at 04:06 PM

GT

“ *Mattaku totsuzen, yujin kara Okusama no gofuhō o kiki, makoto ni odorite orimasu. Naganen tsuresowareta Sensei ni wa, donna ni ka otsurai koto to suisatsu moshiagemasu. Katsute oshitashiku sasete itadaki, musukotachi ni mo honto ni goshinsetsu o tamawari, sono osugata ga ima mo me no mae ni ukabu yo de gozaimasu. Kokoro kara gomeifuku o oinori moshiagemasu.*

George and Toshiko Elison - October 26, 2015 at 04:06 PM

DO

“ *Bob - as a member of the support group, I can say that we all are sorry for your loss. We also all love you!*

Donna Burkhardt - October 26, 2015 at 04:06 PM

MO

“ *Dear Professor Bob Togasaki,*

I am so sorry for your loss. My family and I would like to send you our deepest condolences. Our thoughts are with your family.

*Kindly,
Molly Harman
(Former IMP student Food Biology)*

Molly Harman - October 26, 2015 at 04:06 PM

VT

“ *Bob, I am deeply saddened to hear the news about Fumiko passing. It was a blessing to have known her. You, her siblings and friends are in my thoughts and prayers. Love, Viva, Anders, Mia and Martin*

viva combs thorsen - October 26, 2015 at 04:06 PM

PA

“ Bob -- I'm so sorry for your loss. Just remember - I'm here if you need me! You have always been a special person in our lives! If you need me, please don't hesitate to call me at 855-4696 or 345-2071! I'll be right there.

Patty Hooten - October 26, 2015 at 04:06 PM

BN

It's 2023, but I just learned about the passing away of Togasaki-sensei. I'm very sad to hear of it, even so late. She was my Japanese teacher at Cornell in 1962-64 and a person I idolized. She was such a gentle soul and a great teacher with limitless patience and a good sense of humor. I'm so sorry to read this, even it it was inevitable. Bob Newman, Marblehead Mass.

Bob Newman - February 21, 2023 at 01:53 PM