



**Nora Shen**

My mom is the best,  
 Sandwich maker in the west,  
 All the other kids, were jealous of my lunches,  
 But little did they know, about her hunches,  
 A spidey sense, when I'm misbehaving,  
 Her foreboding warnings were paving,  
 The way for my, irrational fear, the horror,  
 The sleepless nights, she's the loudest snorer,  
 But that's about her only flaw,  
 For everyday, I'm in awe,  
 Of her selflessness, her compassion for others,  
 The patience she has, tolerating my brother,  
 She's a gem, a saint, truly one of a kind,  
 Never forgetting to remind,  
 Me to be safe, do my chores, open doors for girls,  
 A mom like her is rarer than the finest pearl  
 My mom would do anything for me, even drink milk that's  
 curdled,  
 And because of that, I'm the luckiest son in the world.

**Philip Shen**

*Happy Mother's Day!*  
*2025*



*"Honor ... your  
 mother, as  
 the LORD  
 your God  
 has  
 commanded  
 you ...."*

*Deuteronomy 5:16*

*In honor of mom....*



**Marian Sakaguchi Kageyama**

She grew up on a farm in Hanford, CA. As the only girl in a family of boys, she worked hard on the farm and was very athletic as a youngster. She was also the Teacher's Pet to one of her grade school teacher. In fact, the teacher liked her so much that she gave a young "Masako" an American name, Marian, which was her own name! My mother is hard working, thoughtful, genuine, and is always looking after me. She is special to me... an awesome Best Friend!

**Adele Kageyama**



**Nancy Ichiuji Wooding**

My mom is the greatest mom in the world. She taught me discipline, respect, morals, etiquette and most importantly how to make udon. She is so caring, kind, thoughtful, fun and an amazing cook! Now she has a new title - Best Grandma in the World!

I don't think I truly realized how incredible my mom is until I became a parent myself. She does all the little things that can go unnoticed. But now I really notice them and appreciate them more than ever.

Love, **Mark**



**Shai Wun Yee Wong** (Nov 22, 1911 - July 16, 2012)

My mother, a picture bride, married my father in 1929 at the Christian Church of Canton, China in Lon On Village. In 1935 my mother traveled to Angel Island on the SS President Hoover. My mother speaking no English was fortunate to find employment at Del Monte Cannery in Sacramento and it was there she met many of her life long Chinese friends. My mother was introduced to the First Chinese Baptist Church through these ladies and became a very active member. It was here she learned enough English to pass her test to become a US citizen. This was one of her proudest accomplishments.

My mother devoted her entire life to us 7 children. She taught us the joy of cooking, to be a good person, to care for others, and to be patient and understanding. She always made each of us feel special. She was there for us, and we felt it. I am blessed and humbled to have a mother with such remarkable characteristics as I honor her on this Mother's Day.

**Ellie Hattori**



**Edith Ichiuji**

My Mother's Garden Author: Anonymous

My mother kept a garden, a garden of the heart. She planted all the good things that gave my life its start. She turned me to the sunshine and encouraged me to dream, Fostering and nurturing the seeds of self-esteem. And when the winds and rains came, she protected me enough - But not too much - she knew I'd need to stand up strong and tough. Her constant good example always taught me right from wrong - Markers for my pathway that will last a lifetime long. I am my mother's garden. I am her legacy - And I hope today she feels the love reflected back from me.

~ **Nancy Ichiuji**

Mom was a special person... certainly the role model for her children. I pray that the next generation can carry on her legacy. God Bless Mom.

**John Ichiuji**

Growing up we were too young to understand the sacrifices that our mom made for the family. How did she raise 3 children, take care of her husband's needs, do yard work, housework and work full time? She was a great role model for us and as we have grown and have families of our own, I hope that we too demonstrate the work ethic that we learned from her. Her grandchildren have watched as she turned her talents into serving the church and her community. What wonderful memories they have. From her humble beginnings, growing up on a farm, surviving the discrimination and prejudice of being incarcerated in her own country during WWII, she rose to become a respected leader. We are so proud to call you Mom. □ **Mary Ichiuji**





**Sue Shen**

My mother always put others before herself. I am told she was very athletic, but what I remember most was her inner strength. It was a strength that kept her faithful in her commitment to my dad during years of separation with the war, a strength that took her from China to Taiwan and then with the kids to the United States.

In Taiwan, she was a teacher the students remembered and respected. When we immigrated to the U.S., her students would loyally surface in Michigan and California. Even the pharmacist at SVMH said his wife remembered my mom as her teacher.

She was my father's strength. He was a lost orphan before he met her and equally lost after her passing. God's greatest gift to us was mom. Attending a Christian missionary school in China, she put her faith in Jesus Christ and passed that faith to my father and their children.

My mom passed away a month before Nora and I were married. However, a few months before, she told me that Nora reminds her very much of herself. In that way, I am doubly blessed.

**Wayne Shen**



**Yukiko Okada**

My mother was an amazing woman—kind, caring, and loved by everyone who knew her. She had a difficult life, but she never let it stop her. My father, a Sumo wrestler, was often away working, so my mom raised all five of us kids on her own. During the war, my father was placed in a different camp, and after it ended, he chose to return to Japan. My mother took all five of us children and followed him there.

Her own childhood was not easy. Her father passed away before she was born, and her mother took her back to Japan, where she was raised by a wonderful couple. Her mother returned to America to work but sadly passed away when my mom was just three years old.

After marrying my father, my mother returned to America. They settled in Monterey, where they lived for many years and my mother became an active member of El Estero Church. My mother was a devoted churchgoer and one of the dedicated Issei women who helped prepare the church's well-known annual Salmon Dinner. One special memory we share is that my mother, my sister, my daughter, and I were all baptized together at El Estero Church.

She was an incredible cook—her Sakura mochi on Girls' Day was especially memorable, and everyone loved anything she made. She was also a very intelligent woman, deeply admired and cherished by all who knew her.

**Taye Suzuki**



**Nancy Nakajima**

My Mom just turned 96 years young! She has continued to inspire us with her love of our family, God, and her commitment to her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. We honor her on Mother's Day 2025 and we are so fortunate to have her with us.

**Steven Nakajima**

To my mother, I don't say it enough but thank you for your unconditional love that you gave and continue to give our family. You are the best mother anyone can wish for.

Love,

**Grant, Alice, Kasey Jodie, Matt, & Ethan Luca.**

Grandmother, Great Grandmother, Sunday School Teacher, Senior Church Member, Japanese Internment Survivor, Full-Time House Wife and Mother, Caregiver (to her parents), Craft Artisan, Founder of Craft Business -



**Sakura Creations UC Berkeley Graduate- Public Service**

and Health Technology, Medical Technologist, Tennis Player. My family and I are blessed to have my mother's love all of our lives. Happy Mother's Day!

**Scott Nakajima**

**Deana Hanafusa Abe**

Best friend, confidant, encourager, cheerleader... teacher...Loved without measure, cared for and nurtured the family, sacrificed, generously shared all good things, wanted the best for us, and provided big adventures and small, everyday, precious memories! Love and miss her everyday! Thanking God for my mother who gave me a "taste" of who He is!

**Nora Abe Shen**

**Susie Marquez**



My brother and I were blessed with a loving, kind, faithful, caring, patient, accepting, joyful, understanding, gentle, peaceful, generous and hardworking mother.

She shares these fruits of her spirit with everyone. Her greatest joy was finding and accepting Jesus Christ at El



Estero Church in 1991, which gave her the opportunity to share her fruits of the Spirit with a large and wonderful family of fellow believers for which she was always grateful. **Richard Marquez**



**Meja Quock**

Like many moms, our mother is another example of strength and perseverance. She was born in 1930 in Korea and emigrated as a young woman to the US. She faced many challenges: moving to a new country while still learning the language, working hard to support her family, and raising her children. It was in Monterey that she eventually met Lyle and they married in 1966. They've been inseparable ever since.

Throughout all her years, Meja has always kept her faith in God. Not only that, but she also taught her children: Deniece, Roberta, and Daniel, to live with the core tenants

of Christianity. We would not be as rich in love with family and friends without mom's love and influence.

**Deniece, Roberta, and Daniel**



**Hiroko Nishiguchi**

My mother was born in San Francisco and lived there until her mother got sick and the two of them went back to Japan. Her dad used to sew her clothes and as he worked as a chef, he taught her how to cook. My mom made the best apple pie just using her eyes as a measuring tool. After she married Mateo, she started work as a personal assistant to Mrs. Godwin, wife of the owner of Pine Inn. The Godwins would let Frank Sinatra use the kitchen and mom had to go shopping for the ingredients Mr. Sinatra needed.

Mom raised 3 boys who kept her busy, but when Mateo opened up Peninsula Radiator Shop in Seaside, she would help him out after work at Pine Inn. Mom used to drive up to San Francisco to pick up radiators driving a stick shift truck going up and down the streets of San Francisco.



Mom was a hard worker, strong, smart and resourceful. When she set her mind to something, it got done.

**Morgan Nishiguchi**



**Yukii Yoda**

My mother was born in Japan and came to the US with my dad (Kunio) when he started work in San Francisco. I recall seeing pictures of mom and dad golfing but do not recall her playing after the war. She worked at Shinoda Brothers nursery, packing flowers for shipment. She never learned to drive so when I turned 16, I got my driver's license and drove my mom to work.

She was very creative with crocheting and knitting and made animals which I still have. She would wake up at 4am to make my brother breakfast as he started work at 6am.

She became a citizen in her 70's studying hard to pass the test. She started going to Gardena Baptist Church after I

married and left the area. She was baptized in her late 70's. My mom was really happy that she became a Christian. She was a devoted wife and a caring mother. She passed away in her 90's and I still miss her.

**Setsuko (Suzan) Nishiguchi**



**Setsuko Yamanishi**

Our mother has always been the quiet force holding our family together. She stood by us in every victory, offered calm encouragement through our struggles, and remains the constant source of love through both our brightest and darkest moments. Her love isn't just the ground we stand upon—it's the light that leads us, no matter how far we go. Her care is one of the deepest blessings that we have known, and we are grateful to have her with us this Mother's Day. **Susan, Carol and Greg Yamanishi**

*"She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue.  
She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the*

*bread of idleness. Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her.*

*Many women do noble things; but you surpass them all. Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.” (Proverbs 31:26-30)*



### **Tomiye Tanaka**

Our Mom is a continuous inspiration for us. She has a love for life and looks forward to spending each day with family and friends. She got her second wind after she retired from the nursery business and was able to travel, learn and become an accomplished painter, continued her passion for gardening, and deepened her love of religion and became a dedicated Christian all in her golden years.

We always tease her that God has kept her here to continue to teach us life lessons. I guess we still have more to learn. Happy Mothers Day! We love you, Mom!



### **The Tanakas**

#### **Lilian Hisae Yamasaki**

My mother was born on Kauai and as her father passed unexpectedly when she was 8 years old in 1922, she was raised by her mother, Kaneyo Uemura. In her adult years, she was sent to a finishing school in Honolulu where she designed men & women clothing.

She & our father were matched by close family friends then married in November 1936 in Honolulu. My mother decided to return home to Kauai. Luckily, our father opted to follow her. Although, he was the oldest son in his traditional Japanese family. Thanks to our father, my siblings & I had a



perfect family growing up on Kauai with a dedicated maternal grandmother too!

Life on the rural Sugar plantation presented many challenges along with Mother Nature's hurricanes & tidal waves but we all managed to grow up with deep faith in God.

□□□□

**Joan Ouye**



**Setsuko (Suzan) Nishiguchi**

Happy Mother's Day! We are so thankful for who you are, what you do, and how you've loved us.

Mom has always made it a point to be present. Boxes of old 8mm tapes mark her presence at countless baseball/basketball/field hockey games, dance and twirl competitions, jazz and band performances, always filming and cheering us on. Showing us love by showing up.

She teaches us to advocate for others. Notebooks of community, PTA, school-wide athletic fund, and scouting meeting minutes, volunteering in many capacities. She would advocate for other kids to make sure they got the same support we did.

Mom has shown us how to endure. Whether undergoing dental procedures without anesthesia because of allergies or pushing through her own and our family's health struggles, she never complains but does what needs to be done.

Our mom is our hero, day in and day out. Thank you, mom, for everything. We love you.

**Cindy, Denise, and Trent**



**Mary Ichiuji**

Our mother is a loving leader—a force to be reckoned with. An inspiration to all! Our role model that glues the family together and keeps us strong. Bob finder and caretaker. Friend of the monarchs and flowers. A healer, advocate, and a blessing to

many. We are so lucky that out of all the moms in the world, you're ours!

We love and celebrate you today and everyday!

**- Danielle & Sarah Stolz**



### **Taye Suzuki**

Wife, Daughter, Mother, Sister, Aunt, Co-worker, Friend, and “Gaga”. My mother is known by many names, but I am incredibly fortunate to call her “Mom”—and my daughter calls her “Gaga.” Taye Suzuki has lived a life marked by quiet strength, resilience, and deep love for those around her.

As a Sansei Kibei, her story is one of survival and courage. She lived through the trauma of American concentration camps during World War II, where her father was forcibly separated from the family. She then spent her formative years in post-war Japan before returning as a

teenager to California, where she would later meet my father in Monterey. These early experiences shaped her into the strong, compassionate woman I’ve always admired.

Throughout my childhood, my mom was a steady and loving presence. She was deeply involved in every aspect of my life. She volunteered tirelessly—from being a Brownie troop parent and PTA president to driving me to every activity, volunteering in classrooms, and baking unforgettable treats. Her giant, frosted Valentine’s Day personalized heart cookies were legendary. Growing up, my friends all knew her and recognized her white Cadillac driving around town.

She is the model for the kind of mother I aspire to be. By her example, I learned the value of selflessness, community, devotion to family, and unwavering support. She showed up—for everything. She never missed a performance, a game, or even a practice. She gave her time generously—not only to me but to everyone around her. Her strong faith was the foundation of this unwavering support. She has always been dedicated to El Estero Church and is a devoted Christian, grounding her life in service, compassion, and community.

Now, as “Gaga” to Chloe, she continues to pour her love into the next generation. There’s nothing she wouldn’t do for her granddaughter—even venturing outside her comfort zone, like swimming in the ocean or learning how to “floss”, just to make her happy.

Taye Suzuki is so much more than any single title. She is a woman of remarkable strength and enduring grace. I am endlessly proud to be her daughter. **Michelle Suzuki**



**Anna Elizabeth McIntyre**

My mother taught me patience, responsibility, and love. I was very fortunate.

**Bob McIntyre**