

Phyllis Miyeko (Ono) Kimitch
1949 – 2000

Phyllis M. Kimitch Memorial Scholarship
Twin Cities JACL

Phyllis Miyeko (Ono) Kimitch, was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota in 1949 to George and Masaye Ono.

Phyllis moved with her family to St. Louis Park when she was 5 years old. She graduated from St. Louis Park High School and was a member of the “Parkettes” synchronized swimming team. She would recall always shaking hands with her father before he left for work. Another favorite childhood memory was going to the hardware store with him.

She attended University of Minnesota to study child psychology and subsequently worked as a receptionist at St. Louis Park Medical Center (SLPMC).

Phyllis married Michael Kimitch and moved to California for a year while Michael was in the Navy. She then returned to work at SLP. They moved to Rochester, MN for 2 years working at the Mayo Clinic while Michael taught school there. After that period, Phyllis moved back to SLP, where she worked on a computer system used to monitor heart patients, eventually working her way up to a medical office assistant position, where she assisted in out-patient dermatology surgeries.

During this time Phyllis and Michael had 3 children, Miyeko, Benjamin, and Bailey.

Phyllis was a fantastic bread baker. She volunteered in the Eden Prairie school system as her children attended – everyone knew her there. She also was a long-time member of a local Japanese dance group, a founding member of the Kogen Taiko drum group, and a Twin Cities Buddhist Association dharma school teacher.

Phyllis loved life, Phyllis loved people, and people loved Phyllis.