



Mr. David Kenji Fujino

May 6, 2017

David Kenji Fujino, aged 72, died unexpectedly on Saturday, May 6, 2017 at his home in Toronto after suffering from poor health for a number of months. David was born in Greenwood, B.C. on January 28, 1945 during the internment of Japanese-Canadians. He is survived by his sisters, Marcia Parr (Robert) and Delores Lydall (Steve). For many years, David wrote a monthly column in the N.A.J.C.'s publication, The Bulletin. He was also a published poet, a visual artist, an actor and an avid jazz fan. David supported the Arts, delving deeply into anything that interested him. He loved being Uncle David to his nieces, Meiko, Amanda and Stacy, and nephew, Cameron. His annual Christmas visits to Ottawa will be fondly remembered by the Lydall family. As per David's wishes, funeral services will not be held.

Tribute Wall

TS

“ I am so sorry to hear of David's passing. I had an opportunity to make some music with him in a duet with his poetry a number of years ago in the 90s, and I was grateful for that time with him.

I remember him having a clear interest and warmth for those that were around him.

Topher Stott - August 09, 2024 at 11:06 AM

DO

“ Would just like to let friends of David know about an event being planned. "Let's raise a glass to david fujino ..."
A convivial evening of tasty treats by Chef Shoji, drinks, jazz by Roy Miya and Bruce Tatemichi ... with a few remembrances, and complimentary copies of david fujino poems.

Thursday, July 20, 7-9 pm in the Heritage Lounge of the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre. rsvp if you can, to this email address: (bk anbara@gmail.com)

Dawn Obokata - July 09, 2017 at 11:12 AM

DM

“ There goes one of the special actors, that I had in mind for our centennial show. David Fujino was born in and spent his early years a Canadian prison camp for “Japanese” Canadian citizens. Their property was taken from them of course before they were put in prison. The irony is that David’s family did not consider themselves Japanese at all. They were Canadians. David’s mother frequently told her son that he must always remember that he is Canadian, and not to let anyone ever call him Japanese — and that he himself was Canadian born. He was a man that everyone respected and loved. Yes, loved is the right word because he projected a warmth of being as a person. It was a shock to learn of his death.

DAVID MILLS

David Mills - May 16, 2017 at 08:48 AM

EJ

“ I am so sorry to hear of his sudden passing. He was a true gentleman, artist and friend. He will be missed.

Esther Jun

Esther Jun - May 15, 2017 at 12:13 PM

JC

“ Delores, Marcia & families
So sorry to hear of David's passing. I am sad to hear that he wasn't feeling well and died unexpectedly. We reconnected after Dad's passing and kept in touch on Facebook. He was always very kind and thoughtful to me. Hope you are all well. With sympathy, Jennifer Clark (Don and Joyce Fujino's daughter in Utah)

Jen Clark - May 13, 2017 at 11:36 PM

ME

“ I'm shocked to learn of David's passing. We were high school and university friends and just recently (well 2 1/2 years ago by now) were at a reunion for our good friend Bruce Gadon who had been visiting from Northern Ireland. Seemed like old times. And two weeks ago David sent me a birthday greeting and I replied not knowing anything of his ill health. Sincere condolences to Marcia and Delores and all the family. And how did I learn about David's passing? Bruce telephoned me from Northern Ireland with the news which he had learned from his sister who had just attended the 90th reunion of our high school. Deeply, deeply moved by David's passing.

Malcolm Ewashkiw

Malcolm Ewashkiw - May 11, 2017 at 07:03 PM

SS

“ David and I were occasional colleagues for a dozen years or so. We'd meet on the bus or subway and exchange news and views on music and the latest movies. He had always seen more than me. I liked his angle of vision. Occasionally he saw a show of mine and was encouraging. If he couldn't come he usually sent a message. Lately he had said he hadn't been well, but no more than that. I am saddened to think I won't hear his voice again.

Steve-Paul Simms

Steve-Paul (SP) Simms - May 11, 2017 at 02:51 PM

DG

“ David and I met about a decade ago. I can't recall the exact time/place. But we both became members of ACTRA' AYA group. This came about in order to give senior members of ACTRA a community in which to come together, socialize and explore ways to grow in skills and knowledge.

We met throughout the years, off and on sometimes around projects, others just for coffee. Recently I met him twice at his local Tim's. We talked for a couple of hours. He had lost a lot of weight and was beginning to worry about his health.

In the past he had seemed quite vigorous as he rode his bicycle all over town, often to the Reference Llibrary at Yonge and Bloor and, of course, to PAL.

I found him to be a good friend over the years. He was confrontational and challenging but never dull. He always took me seriously as an actor/writer. His critiques were always sound and thoughtfully constructed. He was very generous with his time and energy.

I will miss him. Best wishes to his family, about whom he spoke often.

diane Gordon - May 11, 2017 at 08:05 AM



“ I am so saddened to hear about David's passing. He was such a gentle artistic soul. I'm so glad I have had the privilege of knowing him for the short time I did, both as a colleague and a friend. May his memory always burn bright and condolences to his family.
—Lorne Hiro



Lorne Hiro - May 10, 2017 at 10:34 PM

LD

Thank you David for your beauty. You are special and made me feel special whenever we met at an acting class, an audition or email. The form is no more but the spirit is forever.

larry densmore

larry densmore - May 15, 2017 at 09:47 PM

FW

I was so sorry to hear of David's passing I often met and talked of his acting career and he was always kind and full of life. we live in the same artistic field of fine art's and at one time in my life a stage actor in toronto that lead to art of glamour he always would ask how I was doing in my field. good bye dear friend. frederick..

frederick watson - June 08, 2017 at 01:41 PM

NM

“ *I am very sorry to hear he was not in good health and has since passed away. My condolences to all his loved ones. Nina*

Nina Keogh Actra member - May 10, 2017 at 09:14 PM

DO

“ *I am shocked and saddened to hear the news of David's passing. I last saw him 3 months ago--we were at an event and then rode the subway home together. As a fellow theatre artist, I was able to commiserate with David about the challenges of life in the theatre. I often accompanied him to shows and concerts when he was writing reviews. He was such a man of words, and now words fail me.*

Dawn Obokata - May 10, 2017 at 07:08 PM

TF

“ Really sorry to hear of David's passing. Through AYA I got to know ...and play....with David on a regular bases. His smile and teasing ways will long live on in our memories. A true gentle man David will be sorely missed. Rest in peace, my friend.
Ros Feldman.

Tos Feldman - May 10, 2017 at 06:21 PM

JH

“ David -- the folks of the Act Your Age Committee of Actra Toronto will miss you sorely. I am so glad we saw you recently, and so glad we have you immortalized in the video "Misconceptions". Love you,
Jennifer Higgin
Chair, AYA

Jennifer Higgin - May 10, 2017 at 05:52 PM

PH

A gentle soul who loved to laugh. I am grateful I had the opportunity to work with David in ACTRA's Act Your Age Committee. My heartfelt condolences to all of his loving family.
Pam Hyatt

Pam Hyatt - May 11, 2017 at 09:52 AM

TW

“ I cannot say I knew David well despite the fact that I first met him in 1970. He was writing for Tora and I for the Powell Street Review. We were rivals of a sort. Over the decades, we met each other infrequently until we became "battery mates" for the Bulletin Magazine out of Vancouver.

He wrote insightful, sensitive and constructive criticisms of books, plays and films. He even reviewed my books without rancour or ulterior motive.

In the end, I'd have to say he was a good and kind man. Maybe I did know him well after all.

Terry Watada

Terry Watada - May 10, 2017 at 09:21 AM

MM

“ David you once wrote: *The Japanese have a saying: "A tiger goes out 2,000 miles and returns without fail."* Tora is the Japanese name for tiger. Tora is now the name of a magazine conceived by Sansei and young Japanese....it represents our positive attempt to understand the experience of being Japanese in North America.

Like the legendary tiger you are returning without fail ...

Bon Voyage my friend,

Mike Murakami

Mike Murakami - May 10, 2017 at 08:58 AM

LC

“ Sending our heartfelt condolences to all of the Lydalls and to David's entire family, friends and colleagues. It was a pleasure meeting David on his Christmas visits to Ottawa and sharing some great conversations with him on the occasion of his niece Meiko's wedding to Ryan Taylor.

Our deepest sympathies,

Dale and Lynda Cameron

lynda and dale cameron - May 09, 2017 at 07:51 AM

KT

“ It was a year ago that I met David for the first and unfortunately only time. He came to Winnipeg to help adjudicate the Endowment applications. David brought a very unique perspective. Being an artist, he looked at the submitted applications from the artist' perspective.

For some reason, David and I clicked from the time we met. During the weekend, we had many conversations about what it meant to be a Japanese-Canadian. He shared some personal family experiences which I was grateful to hear.

We are adjudicating this year's Endowment applications this weekend. I was saddened when I was told that David was not coming. I did not know how sick was except for a brief email he sent the committee. David's spirit will be with us this weekend and his spirit will be with me for some time.

While we had a very brief time together, I will be forever grateful to have met him and to be able to call him a friend. Please accept my condolences for an amazing man.

Ken Teramura - May 09, 2017 at 07:48 AM

BS

Too soon! Too soon for you to leave us. Rest in peace, David. You will be in my prayers.

Barbara Sadegur - May 10, 2017 at 06:08 PM