



*You've meant so much in days gone by,  
you mean so much still,  
since you are the friend you are  
I know you always will.*

*For you're someone who's fine and good.  
I will always cherish the friendship  
that we share with all the love  
and blessings to you my friend.  
You will never be forgotten.*

*My Love Always,  
May Foster*

### ***Memorial Donations***

*In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in Sanai's memory to the Peninsula Humane Society. Donations can be made online or in person at the Lantos Center. If you would like her name to appear on the memorial wall, a minimum donation of \$150 is required.*



*The Nelson Family would like to extend sincere thanks to each of you for the love and support you have shown throughout this very difficult time.*



## ***In Loving Memory***



***Sanai Lisa Nelson***

***September 1, 1939 ~ June 29, 2024***

Sanai Lisa Nelson was born in Hiroshima Japan on September 1, 1939 to Mr. Wataru Minami and Mrs. Masami Minami. She had an older brother Makoto, and grew up there, graduating high school. She excelled in Zen archery and mathematics. She helped her uncle, a doctor, with his surgeries as his assistant.

In 1960 she married Kenneth Kirby. They had one son Daniel (Danny). The marriage lasted six years but ended. She lost custody of her son (customary).

She met John Nelson in San Francisco in September 1968 and after a whirlwind romance, they were married on January 7, 1969. Their daughter Kathleen was born subsequently.

Sanai worked for Japanese restaurants, notably, Benihana, where she served conductor Seiji Ozawa, Robin Williams, SF 49ers Joe Montana, and Dwight Williams, and others. She loved her work. She loved gardening. She had many different fruit trees and flowers and shared everything, to everyone's delight. She spoiled her cats, especially her last cat, Socks, who never left her side.

She adored her husband John, proud to be his wife. She enjoyed going to restaurants and trips. They held hands until the day she left the planet. Sanai loved hanging out with Kathleen. They would go for rides, day trips – she even went to choir practice (rarely singing)! They loved to laugh. She regularly went out with: Kazuko, Namie, Lynnelle, her 'high tea' club, St. Matthews Choir, Rebekah, etc. She enjoyed her Buddhist friends, especially Minao - but also loved talking with Monsignor John Talesfore and Fr. Dominic Lee. She treasured her friendship with Fr. Tom Parenti, who passed away in 2022.

Last year Sanai met her son Danny's daughter Alison! Overjoyed at being "Grandma", she looked forward to their FaceTime calls. She always made sure she looked her best whenever Alison would call.

We are indebted to Edith Estrella, who was a wonderful caretaker, and May Foster, who became her vigilant watchdog and buddy.

Predeceased by her parents, brother, son, and numerous friends, Sanai leaves behind her husband of 55 years John, her daughter Kathleen, her granddaughter Alison, and friends who became family. We will miss her smile, grace, laugh, sweetness and her beautiful heart.

## Funeral Liturgy

1:30 p.m. ~ Saturday ~ July 20, 2024

Sneider & Sullivan & O'Connell's Funeral Home  
San Mateo, California

**Celebrant:** Msgr. John Talesfore

**Cantor:** Eric Ribeiro

**Musicians:** Jeff Voss / Jerry Georgette / Kathleen Nelson



<b>Processional Hymn</b> .....	"Amazing Grace"
<b>Opening Prayer</b> .....	Msgr. John Talesfore
<b>Words of Remembrance</b> .....	John Nelson
<b>First Reading</b> .....	Revelation 21:1-5a, 6b-7 Lisa Schuster
<b>Responsorial Psalm</b> .....	Eric Ribeiro "Shepherd me O God beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into life."
<b>Second Reading</b> .....	1 Corinthians 13:4-7 Lisa Schuster
<b>Celtic Alleluia</b>	
<b>Gospel &amp; Homily</b> .....	Matthew 5:1-12a Msgr. John Talesfore
<b>Prayers of the Faithful</b> .....	Sandra Kijapi
<b>Meditation Hymn</b> .....	"I Am the Bread of Life"
<b>Poem</b> .....	May Foster
<b>Goodbye Mom</b> .....	Kathleen Nelson
<b>Farewell</b> .....	Msgr. John Talesfore
<b>Closing of Casket</b> .....	"Now in Peace O Lord" Mercy Center Taize Choir
<b>Recessional Hymn</b> .....	"Parable"