



Akira Hamaguchi

January 2, 1945 - February 23, 2014

Akira Hamaguchi died on Sunday, February 23, 2014 at Columbia Memorial Hospital.

He was born in Japan on January 2, 1945 and came with his family to California as a teenager in 1960. He graduated from San Pedro High School in 1963, where he was active in the drama department and a member of the swim team.

He married after graduation and worked in his step-father's gardening business. His beloved daughter died of leukemia when she was almost nine years old. Aki carried the pain of that loss throughout his life.

He traveled across the United States, from Texas to Colorado, where he studied with a master chef and spent many years there perfecting his craft. He arrived in Albany, NY in 1990, where he found work as an assistant chef. Aki was diagnosed with cancer and endured many surgeries and hospitalizations during his time in the northeast. He came through his ordeal with strength and determination.

Akira arrived in Hudson around 1998. He became active in the community garden, one of his great loves, and he worked in a few local restaurants, including the WunderBar. He began volunteering at The Second Show around

2000, and soon became a regular fixture there, making many friends of both staff, volunteers and customers. He was a dedicated, dependable, and hard-working member of their staff. His language skills came in handy with the Spanish and French speaking customers.

Aki was particularly fond of the neighborhood dogs (that always knew where he stored the treats) and was very kind and welcoming to small children who would be shopping with their parents. He'd smile at them, say "hi!", and remember his own daughter at that age.

Aki was very artistic. He loved to paint, make origami mobiles, and craft lamps and screens. He was a baseball fan-especially of the Japanese members of various American teams. He looked forward to fishing off the coast of Massachusetts with his good friend. Aki loved to watch Japanese television programs on his satellite dish. He kept up his love of gardening, planting vegetables as well as flowers.

Akira made a family for himself here in Hudson, with many friends and acquaintances throughout the community who will miss his smiling face.

There will be a Memorial Service for Akira in a few months, the day and time to be announced. We are waiting for several of his close friends to return to Columbia County this spring. That is also the time of year that he loved the most, when the flowers and trees were beginning to blossom.

The Second Show is taking up a collection to help with the cost of the final arrangements. Donations may be made to them at 519 Warren St., Hudson, NY.

Tribute Wall

CC

“ I first knew Aki when he worked for me at Charleston. After he had to stop working because of illness he said he would work occasionally as needed and he did. He was always there when I needed him. I will always remember his resilience, tenacity, utter reliability, good humor and his sweet gentle nature. He was a pleasure to have in my busy kitchen. He was unflappable. If it was quiet, he would make Japanese style pickled ginger for me to take home. Through the years, his waning health was evident but he was always a warm, cheerful presence. Aki was very devoted to his friends.

carole clark - March 03, 2014 at 03:35 PM