Obituaries

Kiyō Suyematsu
Kiyō Suyematsu, Professor Emeriti of
Minnesota State University
Mankato, age 85, died
Sunday, September
18, 2011 at
Laurel's Edge
in Mankato.
Memorial
Service will
be held at
11:00 a.m., Thursday,
September 29, 2011 at
Mankato Mortuary.
Visititation will be one hour
before service. Burial will
be in Highland Cemetery,
Casper, Wyoming.
Memorials may be given to
Minnesota State University,
Mankato Foundation for the
Kiyō Suyematsu Scholarship
Fund, the Kiyō Suyematsu
Music Library, or the VINE
Faith in Action Nichols
Project, or donor's choice.
Kiyō was born April 17,
1926 to Ben and Masa
Suyematsu in Casper,
Wyoming. She attended
Natrona County School. She
then earned a Bachelor's
Degree in Music and
Master's Degree in Music
from the University of
Colorado and a Master's of
Arts Degree from the
University of Denver. She
moved to Mankato in 1963
to assist Mankato State
College in establishing a
piano program and the col-
lege's first music library in
Nichols Hall on the old
campus. In 1970, Professor
Suyematsu added "Music
Librarian" to her title. In
1995 Mankato State
University renamed the
music library, "Kiyō
Suyematsu Music Library".
She is fondly remembered
as an excellent, respected
teacher who worked well
with students and staff.
Kiyō moved to Laurel's
Kiyō has been a generous
contributor to the MSU
Music Performance Series,
the MSU Pianist Fund, the
Kiyō Suyematsu Scholarship
Endowment, the Theatre
and Dance Department, and
the Mankato Symphony.
She has served as a board
member, member, and/or
volunteer at the Madelia
Hospital Auxiliary, MRCI
Auxiliary, Region Nine
Commission, Blue Earth
County Library, VINE Faith
in Action, Sorosis Book
Club of Madelia, AAUW,
Delta Kappa Gamma. She
was a former member of St.
John Episcopal Church and
altar guild.
Kiyō enjoyed visiting
with family and friends, hik-
ing, downhill skiing, swim-
mimg, music and theatre
productions, and time in
the boundary waters. She
hosted many friends at her
time share near Hill City
and traveled to most of
North America to attend
music library director's
meetings. After retirement
in 1991 she traveled to
China with friends, volun-
teered at MRCI Thrift
Store, RSVP, and libraries.
She never lost her love of
the piano and played for
religious services at Laurel's
Edge.
Kiyō is survived by a sis-
ter-in-law, Beverly
Suyematsu of Harwick, MA;
seven nephews; one niece;
and many close friends,
including, Eddice Barber,
Evie Casey, Vera Brack all
of Mankato.
Kiyō was preceded in
death by her parents; three
brothers, Tosch, King, and
Taro; and two sisters, Sarah
and Alice.