



The Gift that Jeannette Nishikawa was

I last saw Jeannette at the PASC (Public Authority) meeting about three weeks ago. She was still very well then and before we finally said goodbye for the day, like a big sister, she gave me a few tips on how our center could further survive the budget crisis. I thanked her for her ideas, a couple of which we already had in place and truly appreciated her concern for us. She had recently gone through an appendectomy and was on her way to full recovery when they suddenly had to rush her back to the hospital. That was where she passed away August 25th, in the middle of a meal.

Although it is reportedly going to be a very private funeral service, I'm hoping that DRC is going to have a memorial to celebrate her beautiful life. Jeannette brought tranquility to our meetings, while the passionate among us were easily riled up over issues, she cut through the issues with a very practical, level head and business approach. When she spoke, you know that she's been there and done that and what she offered were already bottom line lessons to learn from.

This was her particular gift and the secret too to how she lived each day successfully with the challenge of having to entrust every movement of life and limb to the intelligent exchange of goodwill and caring of and with people around her. From her, I experienced that living with a disability was and is about having a say in how to get from A to B efficiently, with clarity of intention and purpose and with everyone around you fully understanding how you want things done. This is the treasure that Jeannette Nishikawa leaves me from just watching her live her life.

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