



## Manaru Hogard (Suzuki)

August 7, 1976 - March 18, 2026

Manaru Hogard (Suzuki), 49, of Frisco, Texas, passed away on Wednesday, March 18, 2026 after a courageous three-year battle with cancer. Her kind spirit brought joy and love to all those around her, taken too soon she will be sorely missed and dearly remembered.

A loving mother and caring friend, she is survived by her son Isaac and husband Paul; her father Makoto Suzuki and stepmother Ayako; sister Masami Komatsu and family, and brother Masato Suzuki.

Manaru rejoins her mother's spirit in the great beyond. She also leaves behind extended family in Japan and the U.S., and dear friends from around the world.

A celebration of life for Manaru will be held on April 19 from 3:00-5:00 PM at the Lexus Box Garden at Legacy Hall, 7800 Windrose Ave., Plano, TX 75024. Please feel free to stop by, share a moment with us, and honor her beautiful spirit. Casual dress in bright colors at Manaru's request.

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life

APR **19**. 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM (CT)

The Lexus Box Garden at Legacy Hall

7800 Windrose Ave

Plano, TX 75024

<https://legacyfoodhall.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Manaru Hogard (Suzuki).*



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April 17 at 03:07 AM



“ *Gracious Lavender Basket was purchased for the family of Manaru Hogard (Suzuki).*



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April 17 at 02:08 AM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Manaru Hogard.*

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April 17 at 02:08 AM

“ Dear Mana-chan,

*I still haven't been able to come to terms with your sudden passing. Ever since I received the news three weeks ago, everything has felt somehow unreal, as if I'm still not fully in this reality. Being in Japan while you were in America, I couldn't come see you, nor could I hear your voice one last time—and that is something that continues to weigh heavily on my heart.*

*Ever since you were little, our relatives would always say how much we resembled each other. Each time, I felt a little shy, but also deeply happy, and I sensed a special connection between us. Perhaps I didn't think of you only as my dear niece, but also, in some way, as a part of myself.*

*The time we spent together around your twenties—going out for meals, attending concerts—those memories have now become precious treasures to me. Back then, you were as kind and thoughtful as ever, but more than that, you had a strong sense of who you were. You carried your own beliefs and expressed them gently, yet with quiet strength. When I realized that, I remember thinking from the bottom of my heart, “How wonderful you are.” I feel that, even as someone older, I learned so much from you.*

*Mana-chan, we'll meet again someday, won't we?  
I need to believe that—because right now, it still feels a little too painful not to.*

*That photo you gave me, smiling as you said, “Keep this—it'll bring you good luck.” The one taken in America, with your bright, happy smile. I still keep it close to me. Every time I look at it, your voice and presence come back to me, and my heart feels just a little warmer.*

*There are so many things I wish I could have said, so much more I wanted to share. But for now, please let me simply say thank you.*

*Mana-chan, I am truly grateful that I got to meet you.  
I will always love you.*

*Until the day we meet again.*

**Atsuko Ishida**

まなちゃんへ

突然のお別れになってしまって、いまだに気持ちが追いついていません。3週間前に知らせを受けてから、ずっとどこか現実じゃないような感覚のままです。日本とアメリカで、会いに行くこともできず、最後に声を聞くこともできなかったことが、どうしても心に残っています。

まなちゃんが小さい頃から、親族の皆に「よく似てるね」と言われていたね。そのたびに私は少し照れくさくて、でもとても嬉しくて、どこか特別なつながりを感じていました。あなたのことは、ずっと可愛い姪っ子としてだけじゃなく、どこか自分の分身のようにも思っていたのかもしれない。

20歳前後の頃、一緒にごはんに行ったり、コンサートに行ったりした時間も、今となってはとても大切な宝物です。あの頃のまなちゃんは、やっぱり優しくて思いやりがあって、でもそれだけじゃなくて、自分の考えをしっかりと持っていて、やんわりとした雰囲気の中でしっかり伝えられる強さもあって。そんな姿に気づいたとき、「なんて素敵なんだろう」と心から思いました。年上の私の方が、あなたから学ばせてもらった気がします。

まなちゃん、私たち、また必ず会えるよね。  
そう思わないと、今はまだ少しつらいです。

「これ持ってるといいことあるよ！」って笑いながら渡してくれた、あの写真。アメリカで撮った、にっこり笑っているあなたの顔。今も大切に手元に置いています。見るたびに、あのときのまなちゃんの声や空気がよみがえってきて、少しだけ心があたたかくなります。

もっと話したかったこと、伝えたかったこと、たくさんあります。  
でも今は、ありがたい気持ちを伝えさせてください。

まなちゃん、あなたに出会えて、本当によかった。  
ずっと大好きです。

また会えるその日までね。

石田敦子

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**Kawahara** - April 17 at 12:35 AM

KA

“ *Mana-chan, we truly loved your bright, radiant smile.  
It breaks our hearts that we will never see that smile again.  
You were always so kind and loving to the children.  
You were a wonderfully dependable older sister to us.*

*May you rest in peace.  
Our deepest condolences.*

*From all of us in the Kawahara family*

まなちゃんあなたの弾ける笑顔が大好きです  
もうその笑顔に会えないことが寂しくて悔しくてたまりません  
子供たちを可愛がってくれましたね  
とても頼りになるお姉さんでした

どうか安らかに  
心よりお悔やみ申し上げます

*Kawahara family*より

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**Kawahara** - April 17 at 12:32 AM

SC

“ Shio & Calina purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Manaru Hogard (Suzuki).



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Shio & Calina - April 16 at 12:15 PM

SC

“ Shio & Calina planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Manaru Hogard.

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Shio & Calina - April 16 at 12:15 PM



“ Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet was purchased for the family of Manaru Hogard (Suzuki).



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April 15 at 11:03 PM

PR

“ Manaru had magnetism — a smile that brightened a room and a whole hearted laugh that I can still hear all these years later. We lost touch after she moved from Michigan but she was a good friend for many years when we worked together. We started at Toyota at the same time and are near the same age. She has left an impression in this world with the many people she connected with. You are missed. Praveena Ramaswami

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Praveena J. Ramaswami - April 08 at 11:14 PM

TW

“ *Manaru, I will truly miss being able to having you here with me...just a call away. I will carry you in my heart always.* ”



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**Tina Watson** - April 08 at 09:13 PM

TB

“ *My beautiful friend, Manaru. We joined Toyota at the same time and became fast friends as our work brought us together daily. Lots of laughter for us both.* ”

*Years at work went by, we were sooo busy, and we slowly lost that contact. I, very sadly, regret that.*

*I pray for strength and peace for Paul and Isaac.*

*I love you my friend.*

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**Terry Bell** - April 02 at 10:25 AM

DM

*Hi Terri, I have been thinking of you a lot, we all started on the same day more than 20 years ago, sending you love and sincere condolences. Hug*

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**Deborah Magee** - April 07 at 03:02 PM

TB

*Wow! I'm still in Washtenaw County. You?*

**Terry Bell** - April 09 at 10:36 AM

PH

*Hi Terry. Thank you so much for posting. It's been too long. You were a dear friend to her, and played such a great part in helping her build our life in the U.S. Thanks for being a part of our journey. We will be celebrating her on April 19 in Plano, TX. Please email me at [paul.hogard@gmail.com](mailto:paul.hogard@gmail.com) if you would like more information. All my best!*

**Paul Hogard** - April 09 at 02:11 PM

KP

“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



**Kyoko Porteux** - March 31 at 06:39 PM

PH

*Hi Kyoko - We had such good times with our little ones and you were such a big part of our time in Michigan. Thank you for being a great friend for her! We will be celebrating her on April 19 in Plano, TX. Please email me at [paul.hogard@gmail.com](mailto:paul.hogard@gmail.com) if you would like more information.*

**Paul Hogard** - April 09 at 02:10 PM

KP

“ My friend Manaru,

*I am so lucky that I became your friend.*

*You made my Michigan life so much fun. You also supported me when I was in school and got so busy and down.*

*We ate, drank, danced (how can I forget your K pop dance!) , and talked a lot of stuff forever.*

*We got pregnant almost at the same time and gave birth at the same hospital. You became my children's godmother. I feel we raised children together even after I moved from Michigan.*

*Every place I moved, you came to South Korea, Tokyo, and Osaka to catch up.*

*My heart is with Paul, Ryuryu, and her family during this difficult time.*

*Thank you for everything, Manaru. I still cannot imagine I am not able to see you....*

*I love you. I really miss you.*



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**Kyoko Porteux** - March 31 at 06:33 PM

MF

“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



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Misako Fagerquist - March 31 at 02:25 PM

HN

“ I was deeply shocked and still cannot believe the news of Manaru-san's passing. When I worked in TMNA HR, Manaru-san always spoke to me with a warm smile and kindness, and taught me many things. I still remember those times vividly and am filled with gratitude for everything she did for me. I offer my heartfelt condolences and pray for her peaceful rest.

-Hitoshi NISHIMURA

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Hitoshi Nishimura - March 31 at 02:15 AM

KH

“ *Manaru-san, the time we spent working together was truly irreplaceable. I still find it hard to believe that you are no longer with us.*

*Since I transferred TMNA, you were always there to guide me through all HR matters, teaching me so much along the way. You approached your work with such sincerity and dedication. Your smile and your passion for doing great work inspired everyone around you, and it was a true honor and a joy to work by your side. I deeply wish we could have had more time together.*

*All of us will forever cherish the lessons you taught us and carry your spirit forward in our work. Thank you so much for everything. Rest in peace.*

*-Ken Honma*

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**Ken Honma** - March 29 at 06:05 PM

MT

“ *Mana-chan, Maru, you were always our sunshine-the light that brightened our days back in Atlanta. We will miss you more than words can express. Our deepest condolences go out to your family and friends.*

*Yumiko Arai, Izumi Yukioka and Miyuki Takeda*

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**Miyuki Takeda** - March 29 at 04:03 AM

MS

みゆきちゃんご無沙汰してます、マサトです

みゆきちゃん、ゆみちゃん、ずーさんの3人から連絡をもらえて本当にありがたい限りです

6月ごろに日本でもセレモニーをしたいと思ってるので、よろしければ連絡先を交換させてください

facebook アカウントがあれば、僕のところにメッセージを送っ💎💎いただけると幸いです

<https://www.facebook.com/masato.suzuki.54966/>

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Masato Suzuki - April 17 at 09:50 PM

DM

“ *I feel privileged to have worked alongside Manaru and to have considered her a friend. We started at Toyota together 21 years ago, and when I moved to Texas, she was among the first to welcome me warmly. My heartfelt condolences go out to her loved ones. She will be missed by all of us at Toyota.*

-Deborah Magee

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Deborah Magee - March 27 at 01:37 PM

BG

“ *Blessed to have known Manaru through Toyota. Her positivity and laughter held us through difficult situations. Her creativity and passion for others created space for everyone to be impacted by her connection with them. Sending condolences to her family and friends. She was cherished.*

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Beth Gottfried - March 27 at 02:51 AM

ST

“ Our dear Manaru,

*Without you, our family would never have been able to survive our life in the U.S. What started as a coincidence—our sons having such similar names and close birthdays—became the foundation of a truly rich and unforgettable chapter in our lives. Because of you, our days were filled with warmth, laughter, and discovery. From the daycare you introduced us to, to the many wonderful restaurants we enjoyed together, you shaped so many of our happiest memories.*

*Your support changed the course of our life. Because of you, I, Ryoji, was able to attend graduate school, change careers, and ultimately create the opportunity for our entire family to live in the UK. These are gifts that have shaped not only my path, but the future of my family.*

*We will carry the love you gave us for the rest of our lives. In your honor, we promise to live in a way that shares that same kindness and generosity with as many people as we can—just as you always did so effortlessly.*

*Thank you for everything. You will forever remain in our hearts.*

*With all our love,  
Sayaka and Ryoji Tachibana*

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**Sayaka and Ryoji Tachibana** - March 26 at 03:39 PM

PH

*Hi Sayaka - Thank you so much for posting this. It warms my heart to know the impact she had on you, Ryoji, and the kids. We had such good times with you guys and some of my favorite pictures are of our little ones having fun together. Would love to see you guys if we make it to the UK. We will be celebrating her on April 19 in Plano, TX. Please email me at [paul.hogard@gmail.com](mailto:paul.hogard@gmail.com) if you would like more information.*

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**Paul Hogard** - April 09 at 02:26 PM

JO

“ I am so glad that I had the opportunity to get to know Manaru when we worked together in TX. She was a beautiful, shining light to all who knew her. My heart breaks for all of us that loved her. Special hugs to her husband, son and the rest of her family. Until we meet again, sweet friend.



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**Jen O'Daniel** - March 26 at 12:51 PM

SC

“ I am honored to have had the opportunity to get to know Manaru and work alongside her. Her dedication, kindness, and spirit were truly admirable. She was far too humble, yet so deserving of recognition for her many contributions. The outpouring of comments and support is a testament to the deep friendships she built and the impact she had on so many lives. My heart goes out to Paul and Isaac, and to all of her friends and family.

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**Shayne Carter** - March 26 at 09:51 AM

PA

“ My sweet, beautiful sister in law. Thank you for being the example for all of us on how to be kind, so thoughtful and brave. You were truly the sweetest and always thought of others first. Thank you for the love you gave to Evie. She loved her Auntie M so much. We were so blessed to have you in our lives. I can't imagine life without you...I love you and will miss you more than any words could ever express.



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**Pamela Anderson** - March 25 at 11:03 PM

MO

“ Manaru, I have so many great memories of you. We used to hang out together on weekends in Michigan, eating, drinking and chatting through the night. We also traveled and experienced good foods! You are like a sunflower, always bright, smiling, and making everyone laugh. I am so glad we met last summer, though I did not know it would be the last time. I miss you a lot. love, Maya

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**Maya Ono** - March 25 at 08:07 PM

MU

“ *Manaru-san, thank you for being a great friend for us. You were always warm and kind. We love you and we miss you. Rest in peace. Taka & Mitch*



Mitsunobu Umeda - March 25 at 07:20 PM

EM

“ *Manaru was the ABSOLUTE sweetest woman! I loved recruiting with her, because we always hung out together! She is deeply missed, my heart breaks for her family.*



Elexica McAlister - March 25 at 05:09 PM

MF

“ *Manaru-san was a person of great integrity and kindness. I am so thankful for having had the opportunity of working with her. So many years ago, we created a Diversity Shield at TEMA. There I learned her musical talent to play Koto and Flute. Also there was a question of “How I would like to be remembered”. Her answer was “Dedication” She was a great example of helping people without hesitation. I miss her laughter and bright spirit. I will always cherish the fond memories.*  
*-Misako Fagerquist*

Misako Fagerquist - March 25 at 05:04 PM

TA

“ Even though Manaru-san warmly welcomed me, I ended up unable to be of any help. Please rest peacefully in heaven. Thank you.

Taka - March 25 at 02:58 PM

SI

“ You were my life coach and my big sister. I'm so sorry I couldn't do more ongaeshi to give back after all that you gave me. I will always cherish the beautiful memories we shared and carry your wisdom in my heart.

Saori Ison - March 25 at 02:50 PM



“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Asako Takahashi - March 25 at 12:36 PM

VB

“ My deepest condolences to Manaru and your family. You were so great to work with and kind. You will be truly missed and wishing your family comfort during this time. -Van Bates

Van Bates - March 25 at 11:27 AM

DW

*I'm so sorry for your loss. I never had the pleasure of meeting her, but I know Pam was very fond of her. My prayers to the entire Hogard family. Rich and Donna White*

**Donna White** - March 25 at 01:20 PM

YS

“*Manaru-san, thank you so much for always cheering me on, even though your own treatment has been far more difficult. Being able to spend time with you—always so positive, such a foodie, devoted to your family, and with such a warm heart—has been a true treasure in my life.*”

**Yuki Sakamoto** - March 25 at 10:21 AM

AM

“*I am so grateful to have known and worked with Manaru for the last 20 years. Her smile and positivity were infectious. She cared so much for her family and her Toyota family and will be sorely missed. Paul and Issac, may you find comfort in knowing she is smiling and peaceful in heaven. -Amy Stone*”



**Amy** - March 25 at 09:55 AM

MB

“*Gone way too soon my sweet friend. I was lucky to have known you and worked with you the past 15 years. Always had such a calm regardless of the situation. Your smile is contagious. My heart and prayers go out to your family. Miss you so much Manaru. - Maha Badia*”

**Maha Badia** - March 25 at 09:50 AM

ML

“ My deepest condolences to Manaru's family and friends. Like many others, I had the privilege to work with her at Toyota for several years. I will miss her dearly.

-Matt Long

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**Matt Long** - March 25 at 09:27 AM

JW

“ Sweet Manaru - I had the pleasure of working with her for years, and she was always supportive and generous. She taught me so much, and I am eternally grateful for her kindness and love. She consistently went out of her way to help others and was truly a kindhearted soul, someone who would do anything to lend a hand. I will deeply miss her beautiful smile, warm hugs, and her comforting presence. My heart is with her son and family during this difficult time. My prayers and thoughts are with you all!



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**Jess Witcher** - March 25 at 09:11 AM

JW

“ One of the brightest lights I have ever known. Manaru always had a way of helping me see the important things in life. Her warmth, kindness and thoughtfulness is only truly found in few. I will miss our talks and her constant encouragement. I will miss you Manaru more than words can say, and you will always remain in my heart Manaru. Prayers and sincerest condolences to her family.



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**Jami Williams** - March 25 at 09:09 AM

KM

“ I am deeply grateful and honored to have been one of Manaru's close friend. We shared so much time together for meals, tea, laughter and even tears. She was incredibly kind, intelligent and brave. I miss her more than words I can express, and she will always be my best friend.



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**Kaori Molina** - March 24 at 09:02 PM

MB

*Thinking of you Kaori!*

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**Maha Badia** - March 25 at 09:49 AM

SW

“ I'm very sorry for your loss of sweet Manaru. She was always a wonderful friend and coworker. I have many fond memories of her. She will definitely be missed.



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**Sarah Winner** - March 24 at 07:29 PM

TE

“ Manaru always had a way to bring light and joy to any moment. She gave her all to everything and everyone. I was honored to be a small part of her life. I will forever miss her.

*Toi Estes*

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**Toi Estes** - March 24 at 09:35 AM

JB

“ I had the absolute pleasure of working with Manaru during my time with Toyota. She was such a precious soul. She will be greatly missed.

*With much love!*  
*Jeannie Borland*

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**Jeannie Borland** - March 23 at 09:18 PM

JL

*So very sorry for your loss,let her be at peace and let her family know she is without pain.Prayers to her family and friends*

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**Joan L** - March 24 at 02:02 PM

TD

*Oh Paul, Larry, Gail and family, I am so very sorry to hear this. My prayers are with you all!! RIP*

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**Terry Donnelly** - March 24 at 09:26 PM

CC

*Manaru was a very special lady. I had the pleasure of working with her for several years. She always had a smile and we shared many stories. She was smart and finally gave up trying to teach me some Japanese words. When I think of her I will always smile and remember the laughter and good times.*

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**Christopher Corbett** - March 24 at 10:53 PM

NB

*I am blessed to have worked with Manaru for many years. Her smile, her positive attitude, her challenge, her professional approach and her friendship will remain always in my thoughts.*

*Sending prayers to the Hogard family. 🙏*

*Sincerely,*  
*Norm Bafunno*

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**Norm Bafunno** - March 25 at 08:21 AM

SD

*I had the pleasure of meeting and working with Manaru for the past nine years. She was immediately so kind and warm, so open and willing to help and talk. I loved our conversations. I will miss her very much. Sending my deepest condolences to her entire family.*

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**Shirley Davis** - March 25 at 10:18 AM



*I'm so sorry for the loss of this beautiful soul. Manaru naturally commanded all the attributes I aspire to possess: Honesty, intelligence, integrity, fairness, openness, and gratitude. I'm grateful I had the opportunity to know her.*

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**Becky Hedges** - March 26 at 09:55 AM