



## Asaka Watanabe Park

September 29, 2024

Asaka Watanabe Park was the first daughter of Edward Park and Junko Watanabe and the older sister to Natsuki.

Asaka was extraordinarily kind and caring to other people's needs.

Asaka was born in NYC and grew up in Bergen County. She attended the Japanese Children's Society in Englewood Cliffs up to 3rd grade before transferring to the Cresskill school district. She cherished growing up in Cresskill, NJ.

Asaka's early years were marked by a love for animals, but it was her growing passion for writing that truly defined her. This passion led her to the College of New Jersey, where she was in her final semester, majoring in Journalism. She was a strong advocate for disability to increase public knowledge.

Tragically, she passed away during a visit to her parents over the weekend from a complication from Vascular Ehlers-Danlos ( VEDS ).

In Lieu of flowers, please contribute to The VEDS Movement.

<https://give.marfan.org/give/259737/#!/donation/checkout>

# Previous Events

## Visitation

OCT 2. 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Barrett Leber Funeral Home

148 Dean Dr

Tenafly, NJ 07670

(201) 568-8043

<https://www.barrettleberfuneralhome.com/>

# Tribute Wall

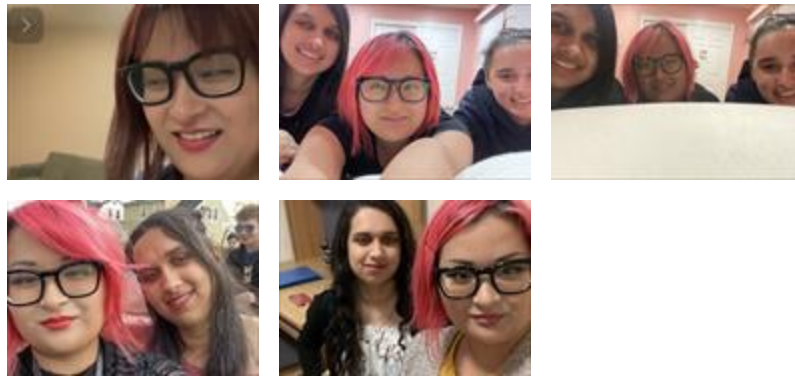
LI

“ *May Asaka rest in peace, and may her brilliance and kindness always be remembered*

Lindsey - October 06, 2024 at 08:39 PM

NI

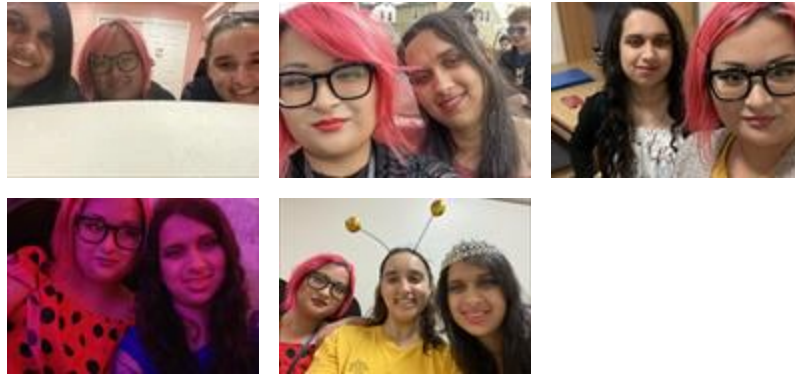
“ *Asaka was one of my best friends. She was like my sister. We laughed, cried, and argued like sisters. As roommates throughout college, we were together every day. We were virtually inseparable. I miss our late night conversations and the way we would tease one another in the best way possible. I miss laughing until our stomachs hurt. I miss our adventures together. I miss how I was able to just be myself around her. I miss Asaka with all my heart and will always love her. Thank you to the Park family for sharing such a beautiful person and soul with the world. I am better for having known Asaka.*



Natasha Ishaq - October 06, 2024 at 03:27 PM

NI

“Asaka was one of my best friends. In so many ways, she was my sister. We laughed, cried, and argued like sisters. As roommates throughout college, we were together every day. We were virtually inseparable. There are so many memories I have with Asaka. It would take me months to go through them all. I miss our late night conversations and I miss how we would make fun of each other in the best way possible. I miss laughing until our stomachs hurt. I miss being me around her. I miss Asaka with all my heart and I will always love her. Thank you to the Park family for sharing such a beautiful person and soul with the world.



Natasha Ishaq - October 06, 2024 at 02:43 PM

KS

“Dear Park family, We will all remember how much she was loved and the joy she brought to this world. May she rest in peace. My thoughts are with you during this challenging time.

Kate Hee Shin - October 02, 2024 at 06:09 PM

MA

“ Grateful to have known a person so kind and bright and talented. Thank you to the Park family for bringing someone wonderful to the world. Thank you Asaka for your voice. *それは常に生き続けます。*



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**Mayah** - October 02, 2024 at 03:35 PM

LC

“ Here is a photo of Asaka I had taken in 2022. I will forever miss her, and I hope she is resting peacefully.



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**Lyana Costantino** - October 02, 2024 at 01:29 PM



“ Dear Park Family,



*I was deeply saddened to hear about the passing of Asaka. Her untimely departure has left a void in our hearts that will be difficult to fill. As I reflect on the moments we shared, I am overwhelmed with both grief and gratitude for the time we had together.*

*Two memories, in particular, stand out vividly in my mind: About 15 years ago, Asaka and I spent a day at the Yomiuriland pool. I can still picture her youthful energy and the joy on her face as we enjoyed the summer day together. It's a cherished memory that I will always hold dear.*

*More recently, about three years ago, Asaka, along with Jun and Natsu, visited me at my home near the Tokyo Skytree upon their return from the US. Their visit brought such warmth and liveliness to my home. I remember feeling so proud of the young woman Asaka had become and how she had maintained her connection with family despite the distance.*

*These moments, among many others, showcase Asaka's vibrant spirit and the strong bonds she forged within our family. Her presence, though much younger than me, always brought a special light to our gatherings.*

*In this time of profound loss, I want to express my heartfelt condolences to all of you. Asaka's youthful spirit and the precious memories we created together will forever remain in our hearts. Her life, though tragically short, was filled with love, adventure, and meaningful connections.*

*Please know that my thoughts are with you during this challenging time. If there is anything I can do to support you, please don't hesitate to reach out. May you find comfort in the countless beautiful memories you shared with Asaka, and may her soul rest in peace. With deepest sympathy and love,*

?? ?? - October 02, 2024 at 03:43 AM

渡辺

“ RIP あーちゃん



渡辺雄太 - October 02, 2024 at 01:49 AM

TF

“ *We are so very sorry for your loss. We all loved Asaka and have fond memories of Merritt School together. We send our love, deepest condolences and healing prayers to you and your family. xo*



**The Debrot Family** - October 01, 2024 at 06:05 PM

HM

“ *Asaka was such a kind and intelligent girl, loved by everyone. I will miss her deeply. My heartfelt condolences to her family. -Harumi Nakagawa Maldonado (teacher at Japanese Children's Society then)*

**Harumi Nakagawa Maldonado** - October 01, 2024 at 02:55 PM

HM

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



**Harumi Nakagawa Maldonado** - October 01, 2024 at 02:53 PM

HH

“ My deepest condolences: I had the privilege of working with Asaka for an entire summer during her time at TCNJ, and saw firsthand her love of writing and her commitment to disability advocacy. Her kindness, strength, and compassion will be greatly missed.

*Harriet Hustis*

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**Harriet Hustis** - October 01, 2024 at 12:16 PM

RI

“ I remember playing together when we were little. You would not only have fun with me but also teach me a lot of things. You were like a big sister to me. I also remember when we met in Tokyo. I was surprised by how smart and independent you were. I will forever cherish my memories of those times, and forever miss you.



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**Ricky** - October 01, 2024 at 11:17 AM

LC

“ Asaka served on the ARC Advistory Board at TCNJ, and it was a pleasure and honor to have served with her. She provided thoughtful, insightful observations and recommendations in that role. When she came to the ARC offices, she would always be ready with a personal greeting for me, even when she had pressing concerns on her mind and heart. I will miss her gentle presence and treasure my memories of her. L A Cornell

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**Lynn A Cornell** - October 01, 2024 at 11:05 AM

RB

“ Raymond Brady lit a candle in memory of Asaka Watanabe Park



Raymond Brady - October 01, 2024 at 10:59 AM

RB

“ Asaka park was a very good great person and a fantastic friend to I will miss the times when we bumped into each other going to and from class i will miss her beautiful smile she always knew how to cheer someone up if they were feeling down i will miss you so much rest in peace and rest easy

Raymond Brady - October 01, 2024 at 10:58 AM

MK

“ Asaka-chan, we spent warm and precious time together in your childhood. Remember you enjoyed your mother's Kurikinton for New Year`s day, fresh cranberry sauce for Thanksgiving and your father's cooking for Christmas with Nacchan. Your essay in Japanese was already outstanding then. I also would like to thank you for taking care of your little brother, Ricky. I will see you again but miss you so much.

MUTSUMI KOIZUMI - October 01, 2024 at 10:57 AM

ML

“ Marie L. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Asaka Watanabe Park.



Marie L. - October 01, 2024 at 10:21 AM

BM

“ Asaka will always be remembered for her kindness and sensitivity. She was an excellent student, and a young woman who made quite a difference with both her presence and her writing, even if her life was so sadly abbreviated. The Cresskill community is better for having had Asaka being a part of it! XO Ms.Muller

Barbara Muller - October 01, 2024 at 09:17 AM

BZ

“ Brooke Zevon lit a candle in memory of Asaka Watanabe Park



Brooke Zevon - October 01, 2024 at 09:12 AM

BR

“ Brenda Richards sent a virtual gift in memory of Asaka Watanabe Park



Brenda Richards - September 30, 2024 at 11:42 PM

BR

“ *Brenda R. purchased a sympathy card for the family of Asaka Watanabe Park.*



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**Brenda R.** - September 30, 2024 at 11:38 PM

AG

“ *Asaka was one of the sweetest people I have ever met. I invited her to my apartment a little over a week ago and we kept each other company and even she helped me pack for a business trip. We had a class together in Fall 2023. She will always be such an inspiration to so many people including myself. What an honor and a privilege to be friends with someone so beautiful inside and out. I love you Asaka* ☐

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**Alexa Giacoio** - September 30, 2024 at 09:59 PM

BZ

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



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**brooke zevon** - September 30, 2024 at 08:41 PM

ML

“ Dearest Asaka,

*I am deeply saddened to hear of your passing. You were truly one of my favorite students at the Japanese Children's Society, and I had the privilege of teaching you English for two wonderful years. I hold such fond memories of your bright spirit and your love for dogs.*

*Your sweet and radiant smile could warm any heart, and knowing that you are no longer with us fills me with great sorrow. I feel incredibly honored to have had you touch my life in such a meaningful way. Thank you, Asaka.*

*My thoughts, prayers, and heartfelt love go out to your family during this difficult time.*

*With much love,  
Melissa Lauricella*

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**Melissa A Lauricella** - September 30, 2024 at 08:20 PM

JJ

“ Hi! I was a pal of Asaka's and met her during January of this year. She was so talented and such a cool girl. Another friend of hers and I saw Asaka 4 days before this was announced and we're crushed. Please take care and get lots of rest and thank you guys for raising such an amazing girl ❤️👍



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**Jennea Jeter** - September 30, 2024 at 06:42 PM

BZ

“ I am so sorry for this tremendous loss. I had the privilege of working with Asaka through Breaking Down Barriers. She was a beautiful person and talented writer and her loss will be felt by all.

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**brooke zevon** - September 30, 2024 at 05:39 PM

AA

“ I had the privilege of knowing Asaka this past year. She constantly challenged me to think outside the box and never failed to check in on me. Asaka was unapologetically herself, sharing her story with grace and poise. She was a trailblazer for our campus community, a powerful voice, and a leader. Just last week, we exchanged texts about her memoir. I hope everyone takes the time to read it and learn from her. I will miss her dearly. May her memory be eternal.

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**Antigone Antonakakis** - September 30, 2024 at 04:09 PM

AA

“ I had the privilege of knowing Asaka this past year. She constantly challenged me to think outside the box and never failed to check in on me. Asaka was unapologetically herself, sharing her story with grace and poise. She was a trailblazer for our campus community, a powerful voice, and a leader. Just last week, we exchanged texts about her memoir. I hope everyone takes the time to read it and learn from her story. I will miss her dearly. May her memory be eternal.

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**Antigone Antonakakis** - September 30, 2024 at 04:03 PM

RR

“ On behalf of The VEDS Movement and The Marfan Foundation, we extend our deepest condolences to Asaka's family and friends. Though her life was tragically cut short, Asaka's memory will undoubtedly live on through the love of those who knew her. To Asaka's loved ones: our hearts are with you during this difficult time. May you find comfort in your memories and the support of those around you. Asaka's story reminds us of the preciousness of every moment.  
Our thoughts and support are with you all. -- Ryan Rodarmer

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**Ryan Rodarmer** - September 30, 2024 at 10:58 AM