

Marching Home: For a Living Legacy

The Campaign To Complete the Nisei Veterans Memorial Center Campus

THE NISEI VETERANS Memorial Center (NVMC) has begun constructing the last segment of its \$6.5 million campus after Alexander & Baldwin, Inc.'s generous contribution of the land parcel adjacent to the NVMC. Campus completion is anticipated by early next year. (See *Construction Update*, page 2)

The Marching Home for a Living Legacy Capital Campaign (MH) will seek \$1.9 million to construct the NVMC Education Center, the last and crowning piece of its "living memorial." The 4,200-square-foot Education Center will house the organization's extensive collections of memorabilia, historic information, library, oral history, and educational classrooms. The facility is dedicated to recounting the history of the Nisei veteran in World War II through its collections and the presentation of educational programs in collaboration with community groups to facilitate the passing down of generational values.

Educational programs that focus on the transmission of values, knowledge and cultural tradition to the community's youth and families will be invited to be presented at the facility. Anticipated programs include cultural, social, educational, and arts-related activities and classes. Community, government, and groups focused on veterans and youth activities are also anticipated.

Project Cost

Planning/Evaluation	\$194,417
Construction	1,394,932
Furnishing/Fix tures	100,000
Contingency	100,000
Fundraising	103,500
Total Project Cost	\$1,892,849

Brian T. Moto, J.D., 52, has accepted the general chair position of the campaign. Former County of Maui corporation counsel, Moto has been an NVMC board member for five years. Currently, Moto



Brian T. Moto, J.D.
MH General Chairman

serves as special assistant to the chancellor at the University of Hawaii Maui College. A Maui boy, Moto is the son of Kaoru Moto, who as private first class in the 100th Infantry Battalion, earned the United States' highest military award, the Medal of Honor, a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart.

Recognized by The Maui News in 2009 as one of the "People Who Made a Difference," and in 2008 by receiving the Hawaii State Bar Association Government Lawyers Section Pro Bono Service Award, Moto is well known for his volunteer community activities. In addition to being actively involved on the NVMC board, he also currently serves on the boards of over a half-dozen worthy community organizations.

Moto discussed his motivations and community vision:

O: Why did you get involved in NVMC?

Moto: My Dad was a WWII veteran who served in the 100th Battalion. Growing up, our family attended activities of the Maui Chapter of Club 100. From a young age, I learned about the valor of Japanese-American soldiers, and their moving and powerful story of confronting hardship and a fearsome enemy on the battlefield, and of overcoming poverty and racial discrimination at home. The NVMC's



Hiroshi Arisumi
NVMC President
MH Board Segment Chair

mission of recounting this story so as to inspire and motivate others and transform our nation and community struck me, as I hope it does others, as a most important and worthy cause.

O: What will Maui, Hawaii, and the country gain with the completion of this facility?

Moto: With the completion of the NVMC campus, Maui and our country will gain one

of its finest resources dedicated to the memory of Japanese-American soldiers and veterans, committed to improving the lives of all people, especially the young and the elderly, through education, service, and the transmission of values that make for outstanding individuals and a just society. NVMC will be a venue for people from throughout our community, state, and nation, and from many walks of life, to learn, study, share and build bonds of friendship, understanding and commitment.

O: What inspired you to accept the position of general chairman of the campaign to complete the NVMC campus?

Moto: It is an honor to be part of a great effort to complete a daring plan and vision. The tenacity and commitment of the many community volunteers and veterans who have faithfully supported the NVMC and its work have bolstered my resolve and the resolve of NVMC officers and board members to fulfill what was begun many years ago. We are now at the threshold of the culmination of decades of labor and planning. We look toward a future of promise and possibilities. Now is the time for all of us to come "Marching Home."



OKAGE SAMA DE...

The OKAGE SAMA DE... newsletter is a free publication issued by the Nisei Veterans Memorial Center.

Articles, questions and comments may be sent to Nisei Veterans Memorial Center, P.O. Box 216, Kahului, HI 96733-6716.

We encourage family and friends to submit information and photos to our Lest We Forget column.

THE NVMC VISION:

Nisei values that resulted in heroic concern and sacrifice for community and nation, loyalty to family, friends and country, and patriotic valor in World War II will be embraced by all generations and demonstrated in civil society at all levels.

THE NVMC MISSION:

Nisei Veterans Memorial Center, guided by the values of Japanese-American veterans of World War II and inspired by their valor, will perpetuate the legacy of these Nisei veterans by nurturing the community's youth, supporting care and respect for the community's elderly and promoting an understanding about the history, values and culture of Japanese-American soldiers which contributed to their heroic military accomplishments as well as their continued contributions to the community and nation.

Board of Directors

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Phone: (808) 244-NVMC (6862)

Website: www.nvmc.org



Preparations are made to pour concrete for the foundation of the Education Center in May. • Photo by Riecke Sunnland Kono Architects Ltd.

Construction Update:

After delay, Education Center expected to be up this year

CONSTRUCTION OF OUR Education Center is progressing toward completion by year's end, and in the weeks that follow, we'll direct our energy to the interior of the building.

Much has happened since the last issue of *Okage Sama de* in June 2010, including: governmental permits were obtained, excavation and other preparation occurred at the site, and concrete was poured.

And, over on the other side of Kahului town, archival material is being prepared for the move to a permanent home. The interim education center on Papa Place is the setting for the quiet, involved, and sometimes tedious work of documenting and cataloging donations and other material. There are forms to be filled out, records to be added to a computer database, and artifacts to be handled with care.

Excavation of the Education Center site began in January, a year and a half after construction was expected to begin.

The building was delayed because of an unresolved issue of removal of

sand during the excavation process. The Maui/Lanai Islands Burial Council wanted the sand to remain on our premises.

A solution was found through working with the Burial Council and with the involvement of Alexander & Baldwin, which helped us to acquire a neighboring parcel to accommodate the sand.

Here's a quick look at some of the activity since then:

2010

July 15 – Grading permit approved for placing sand on adjacent property.

July 23 – Application made for a shoreline management area (SMA) permit to place sand on the adjacent property.

December 27 – SMA minor permit approved to place sand on the adjacent property.

2011

January – Excavation for the education center begins.

January 20 – Building permit extension approved.

February 16 – SMA major permit extension approved . . . and construction of the Education Center proceeds.

May 25 – Concrete poured for the slab and foundation.

Marching Home

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“I think Brian knew he needed to do this,” said Hiroshi Arisumi, NVMC board president, as he described Moto’s recruitment.

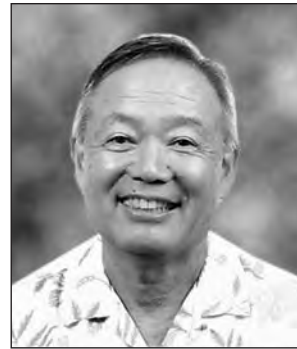
Now 91, Arisumi was a 442nd Regimental Combat Team member, part of the 232nd Combat Engineers and one of the few remaining Nisei veterans in the country. Arisumi is described by many as genuinely humble in character, stoic and generous in his focus for the past nearly 20 years on providing the NVMC campus for community usage.

The only other goal in his life that he recalled working so diligently toward is the work he has done to build his business, Arisumi Brothers Inc., over the past several decades. He now serves as the corporation’s chairman of the board, 60 years after he began the business with his younger brother Mits. Arisumi glazed over the “ups and downs” of the construction business, acknowledged the fact he was a “positive person,” and cited “hard work and honesty” as keys to business success. He is the proud father of Lloyd, June and Adele, who have given him eight cherished grandchildren.

Arisumi is a gentleman farmer in Kula and active community member. He recalled the day he himself was recruited by NVMC founder Leonard Oka to be the NVMC board president years ago. At the



Leonard Y. Oka
NVMC Founder, Board Secretary
Building Committee Chairman
MH Advanced Segment Chair



Paul K. Mizoguchi
MH Leadership Segment Chair

ones who couldn’t come home with us, we want to always remember them. What better way to do both than with this facility?” he asks. “And our sons and daughters who are working to make this happen – this is a work of devotion, and we are grateful.”

time, young Oka’s leadership to provide a lasting tribute to the members of the 442nd, 100th Infantry Battalion, 1399th Engineer Construction Battalion and Military Intelligence Service struck Arisumi as a rare demonstration of a virtue that is seen less and less in younger generations: filial piety, or devotion to elders.

“I was active with the 442 Veterans Club, and when Leonard asked me to help lead the NVMC, I thought, ‘Gee, not everybody has a head like this boy.’ I knew Leonard’s father. I made up my mind to step into the president’s office. Today, it’s on my bucket list to see the NVMC completed,” said Arisumi.

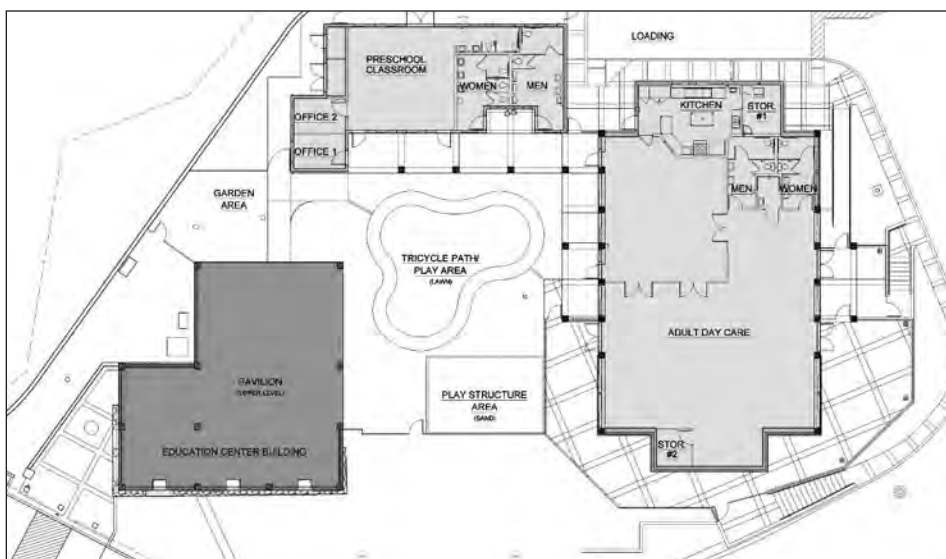
“All we vets want to do is be of service—the ones who came home. And for the

Leonard Y. Oka, 58, is founder of NVMC and Maui’s Sons and Daughters of the Nisei Veterans. Oka will chair the campaign’s Advanced Segment. Altogether, Oka has worked on this project for the past 30 years. “It’s been more than half my life,” he notes with amazement. “I give full credit to all of the people who worked together on this from day one – when we first got together as young adults to reminisce and tell stories of the amazing feats of our dads,” he said.

“It started out casually, this whole thing – there was no strategy. We were just the Sons and Daughters of Nisei Veterans getting together for social reasons, and because we knew we had some kind of responsibility. The history of what our families went through was extraordinary, significant. But we didn’t have an agenda from the beginning,” he said.

“Things got serious, though, when we received major gifts and encouragement from leaders in the community,” he recalled, “and we knew that to take care of this facility properly, we’d need a whole different organization. So that’s how the Nisei Veterans Memorial Center organization was created,” said Oka.

Oka said he spends at least 10 hours per week on NVMC business. Over 20 years, that amounts to quite a part-time job, albeit voluntary. How does he do it? Besides infinite support from his wife, Laurel, and son, Brandon, he repairs his psyche regularly via his weekly workout on the golf course. Thursdays. That’s the day no one may schedule meetings for NVMC or Sons and Daughters. In the few minutes of the day that Oka has apart from his family, his life’s passion of preserving the Nisei veterans’ history and promoting



Complete site plan of the Nisei Veterans Memorial Center at One Go For Broke Place, Wailuku, Maui, Hawaii.

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continuing service to honor their sacrifices, golf, and his paid work, he enjoys the art of bonsai.

Oka vows to “visit the Oka side of the family in Japan, visit Washington, D.C. and the colonial states, live long enough to see his granddaughter Merahi through college and be there for her wedding day, hit a hole in one, learn to play the saxophone or some other musical instrument, and revisit the battlefields where the 100th/442nd fought.”

Paul K. Mizoguchi, 62, vice president and director of merchandising for BFS, Inc., is the only non-board member community leader in Moto’s Marching Home Capital Campaign cabinet. Responsible for chairing the Leadership Segment of the drive, Mizoguchi and his team will be seeking the drive’s largest contributions.

“I always wanted to know how far along this project had come since 20 years ago when it started, and what was needed for completion,” Mizoguchi said, “because we had been involved from the beginning.”

When Moto recruited him to chair the segment, Mizoguchi said that he was following the construction of the center closely since his mother had been attending the Maui Adult Day Care Center at the NVMC for the past three years.

“I didn’t realize the level of commitment and sacrifices my dad and his fellow vets made during the war until after returning from college,” said Mizoguchi, who said he is now committed to seeing the NVMC completed as soon as possible for those Nisei vets who are still alive. Mizoguchi’s dad was Corporal Charles Mizoguchi, 442/100th Battalion, C Company.

Mizoguchi is married to Jessie, and they have a daughter, Dana, 26, and a son, Mark, 23.

Other campaign leaders are Mark Mizuno, RT (N) (MR), Lead Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technologist at the Maui Memorial Medical Center, and Yuki-Lei Sugimura, President, Connec LLC, who will co-chair the campaign’s Major Segment, and acting Executive Director David T. Fukuda.



Mark Mizuno



Yuki Lei Sugimura

New faces on our board

Longtime contributors Waki and Nakata depart

MARK MIZUNO and Yuki Lei Sugimura have joined our Board of Directors, succeeding two longtime members:

- **Dan Waki**, who served from 1991 until January 5, 2010. Dan is a past-president of our board.
- **Dorothy Nakata**, who joined the board in 2002 and served until December 31, 2010.

The new board members both have ties to Nisei veterans and records of community service.

Mark’s dad, Gary Tadao Mizuno, was in the 1399th Engineer Construction Battalion, Company A, and an uncle, Kazuo, served with the 100th Infantry Battalion.

Mark moved to Maui in 1979 when he was hired by Maui Memorial Medical Center, where he is now the lead magnetic resonance imaging technologist.

Soon, he joined the Haleakala Lions Club and met Nisei veterans Kazu Hamasaki and Richard Kibe and NVMC board member Hideo Kawahara.

“With their encouragement, I have stepped up to take leadership positions within the organization and in addition I learned a bit about the 442nd, MIS,

and 1399th.

“With the passing of my dad (in March 2009) and as retirement nears, I have tried to learn more about my family history and have become awed by the sacrifices made by our ancestors to make life better for us.

“It is truly an honor to have been voted onto the board of the Nisei Veterans Memorial Center, and I hope in some way that I can help perpetuate the endearing spirit and fortitude of those that came before us.”

This year, Mark also stepped into another leadership role when he was elected to be the Hawaii Lions District 50 second vice district governor for 2011-12, which means he will be the district governor in 2013-14.

He also is the district’s Region IV chair and is involved in the Lions’ vision and youth camp programs.

Yuki Lei is the president of Connec LLC, an event planning and promotions company with the mission to connect island residents through culture, community, and education.

Her Uncle Genro, who lives on Oahu, is a decorated veteran of the 442nd RCT.

He earned two Silver Stars, a Bronze Star, and a Purple Heart during service with L Company, 3rd Battalion.

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NVMC board

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And on April 1, he was awarded the Legion of Honor, the highest civilian tribute bestowed by the nation of France. With the medal came the rank of chevalier, or knight.

Yuki Lei's dad, the late Dr. Lester T. Kashiwa, also served in the Army, but he did not see battle during World War II because he was attending the University of Michigan medical school.

"I am honored to be part of the NVMC," Yuki said.

"Growing up in Hawaii, we all had connections and heard stories about the honor, bravery, and sacrifices made by the 442nd and/or 100th (Infantry Battalion) for us.

"Every day I see a photo my mother (Beatrice Atsuko) has displayed of their wedding day, with my dad in Army uniform and my mother with her '40s hairdo, so happy with big smiles on their special day.

"These kinds of living reminders keep me connected to the Nisei veterans, and I also feel a sense of obligation to ensure that the next generations can remember the importance of values taught and lived by the veterans."

With our Education Center opening just months away, that's a good reason to serve on the board, but Yuki Lei has another – one rooted in her respect for our board president.

"Plus, and most importantly, when Hiroshi Arisumi asks, cannot say no. He does so much for the community, so how could I ever be too busy?"

Thank You!



Dorothy Nakata and Dan Waki are leaving our Board of Directors.

Over the years, the Nisei Veterans Memorial Center has been fortunate to have such good people giving their time and talent to our Board of Directors. With the departure to two longtime members, we thought it would be appropriate to list those who have served us so well (with their terms).

Hiroshi Arisumi, since 1991

Beryl Bal, since 2007

Toshio Endo, 1991-1995

Glenn Goya, since 2002

Chuck Hazama, 2002-2007

Sam Hironaka, 2002-2009

James Hozaki, 1991-2009

Stanley Izumigawa, since 2003

Roy Katsuda, since 2006

Hideo Kawahara, since 2005

Richard Kibe, 1996-2002

Lloyd Kimura, 1991-1993

Patrick Kina, 1991-2005

Sam Kobayashi, 1992-2002

Glenn Kosaka, 2003-2007

Wayne Maeda, since 1994

Brian Moto, since 2007

Dorothy Nakata, 2002-2010

Leonard Oka, since 1991

Masao Sato, 1991-2002

Collette Takemoto, 1991-1996

Daniel Waki, 1991-2010

Executive director leaves post



Gail Raikes

THE NISEI VETERANS Memorial Center said goodbye June 25 to Gail Raikes, who had served as our executive director since fall 2009.

Gail has gone back to her first career – social work – as the director of social services at Hale Makua Health Services.

She started there in early July.

Gail came to our Center as the daughter of an Army

veteran, the late Michinori Kikudome. Four uncles also served in the Army, including three who were members of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

During Gail's tenure, much work was done at the interim archival center on Papa Place in Kahului. She and volunteers documented and cataloged the treasures in our collection in preparation for the move to the

permanent Education Center, which is expected to open early next year.

Many hours were also spent on the final permitting process for the building.

We wish Gail well as she returns to her social work roots.

(As this issue of Okage Sama de was sent to the printer, the search for Gail's successor was under way.)

Center pillars praised by Japanese community

TWO MEN who have been with the Nisei Veterans Memorial Center since the beginning were recognized by Japanese organizations for their contributions to our Center and others.

They are Hiroshi Arisumi, the current president of our Board of Directors, and Leonard Oka, the board's secretary.

Hiroshi received the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays, from the Japanese government during the autumn conferment of decorations held in Honolulu at the Consulate General of Japan.

Hiroshi, a veteran of the 232nd Combat Engineer Company, was one of three honorees.

The award recognizes his contribution to the promotion of cultural exchanges and mutual understanding between Japan and the United States.

Consul General Yoshihiko Kamo presented it in November.

At the ceremony, Kamo said Hiroshi "has been a generous benefactor to the Maui Japanese Community Association and the Japanese Cultural Society of Maui since the 1950s and a steadfast supporter of their programs that promote friendly relations, cultural exchanges, and mutual understanding between Japan and the United States."

At the NVMC, Kamo said, Hiroshi "continues to work on programs to teach the youth and inform the public about the valor of and the sacrifices made by the Nisei . . . soldiers during the Second World War, as well as contribute to the welfare of the local community through the center's preschool and adult day care operations."

Leonard was presented with the Japanese Cultural Society of Maui's Nihon Bunka Award, which recognizes tireless



Leonard Oka holds his 2010 Nihon Bunka Award as he stands with Tiffany Iida, president of the Japanese Cultural Society of Maui.

Photo by Irvin Yamada, Photography by Irvin



Hiroshi Arisumi wears his Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays, after the conferment ceremony in Honolulu in November.

Photo courtesy of The Hawaii Herald

dedication to helping the Japanese culture flourish on Maui.

The society presented its 2011 awards to Leonard and ikebana instructor Hideko Zwick at its annual Shinnen Enkai (new year) dinner on January 29 in the elleair Rainbow Room at the Maui Beach Hotel.

The cultural society called Leonard "a driving force in our community for almost 30 years, exhibiting leadership and dedication to ensure a lasting remembrance of the Japanese-American soldiers of World War II."

It noted that he founded Maui's Sons and Daughters of the 442, the first such organization of its kind in the nation when it was created in 1981.

The group's name was changed to Maui's Sons and Daughters of the Nisei

Veterans in 1995 to reflect its connection to the 100th Infantry Battalion and Military Intelligence Service as well as the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

The society further recognized Leonard's roles in the formation of the Nisei Veterans Memorial Center; the Sho Chiku Bai cultural celebration held in 1994 at the Maui Arts & Cultural Center; the performance of "The Gate of Heaven," about the friendship between a Nisei veteran and Jewish internee from the Dachau concentration camp; the development of writer Rita Goldman's award-winning book "Every Grain of Rice: Portraits of Maui's Japanese Community; the annual Chrysanthemum Festival, "and much more."

*" . . . a generous benefactor
 . . . a steadfast supporter . . . "
 of programs that promote
 friendship and understanding*

words used by the Japanese consul general
 to describe Hiroshi Arisumi

*" . . . leadership and dedication to
 ensure a lasting remembrance of
 the Japanese-American soldiers
 of World War II"*

the Japanese Cultural Society,
 describing Leonard Oka



Brian Nagami, a Japanese Cultural Society of Maui board member, shakes hands with James Barney Itamura as the 442nd Regimental Combat Team veteran's wife, Gladys, looks on.

Photos by Irvin Yamada, Photography by Irvin



Nisei veterans Hiroshi Arisumi (foreground) and Tom Hiranaga play one of the games set up by the Japanese Cultural Society of Maui for the "Coming Together" event. Holding the board is Rodney Ryugo, a JCSM board member, and JCSM member Jennifer Sumida is on the right.

Veterans' deeds inspire cultural society to partner in program

"THE NISEI VETERANS are true spirits of what it means to be 'Japanese,'" says Tiffany Iida.

"They live with such quiet honor, humility, strength, and desire to do well for family and friends."

Tiffany is president of the Japanese Cultural Society of Maui (JCSM), whose mission is to perpetuate the Japanese culture.

"And to me, the Nisei veterans are living proof of the culture," Tiffany said.

In June, the society partnered with the Maui's Sons and Daughters of the Nisei Veterans to present "Coming Together," offering veterans of the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and Military Intelligence Service a gathering of food, entertainment, and activities.

The midday gathering was held at the

Nisei Veterans Memorial Center on June 12.

The month and theme were chosen because on June 26, 1944, the 442nd RCT was assigned to the 5th Army and, in turn, was attached to the 34th Division.

The battle-tested 100th Battalion was attached to the 442, and the regiment went into combat near Belvedere, Italy.

The Sons and Daughters have organized numerous gatherings for and about veterans since the group was founded in the early 1980s.

The JCSM's desire to honor the Nisei soldiers gained momentum three years ago when Keith Regan was president of the group.

"We wanted to do something to honor our Japanese-American veterans," Tiffany said.

"The club felt it was important for the

Nisei veterans to know how much the JCSM appreciates them for their sacrifices."

In remarks made during "Coming Together" and for this issue of *Okage Sama de*, Tiffany – who is Yonsei – noted:

"It is because of the Nisei veterans that our generation is able to live our lives with pride and honor.

"They have opened doors for us that may have never been there if it wasn't for their strength and determination to improve lives for not just themselves but future generations."

She also spoke about the wartime wives and family at home who made sacrifices of their own while supporting loved ones who went to battle.

"We have so much to learn from this generation," she said.



Ted Kesaji (left) of Maui's Sons and Daughters of the Nisei Veterans works with others from his group and the Japanese Cultural Society of Maui at the "Coming Together" gathering. Others whose faces are visible are (from left) Susan Nakama, Wendy Higa, Dwayne Jacintho, Tiffany Iida, Jill Ross, and Keith Regan. Dwayne, Tiffany, and Keith are from the JCSM; the others are members of the Sons and Daughters.



Volunteers Ramona Ho (left) and Melanie Agrabante help with the collection at the interim Education Center.

Volunteers ready collection for new home

Like many organizations, the Nisei Veterans Memorial Center relies on partnerships with volunteers whose unique skills and talents enhance services and operations. Melanie Agrabante and Ramona Ho are two examples of dedicated and passionate volunteers.

Melanie has been volunteering since June 2009 and Ramona joined us in October 2010.

Both have a passion for history, in particular the history of the Nisei soldier.

Fueled by this passion, Melanie and Ramona have been volunteering with the Center to organize and preserve our collection, preparing it for the move to the Education Center, where it will be accessible to the public.

Ramona also uses her skills as a librarian to inspire students to learn about World War II and Maui's own veterans, and in some cases about their own relatives.

This is in keeping with the mission of the organization and echoes the Nisei Veterans Memorial Center's efforts to

educate and inspire our youth.

And, in this age of social media, Melanie uses her great love for the Internet and photography to help to manage the organization's Facebook page. (The page is at www.facebook.com/pages/Nisei-Veterans-Memorial-Center/157374870974680.)

This has enabled the Center to extend its reach to folks worldwide.

We could not accomplish many of our day-to-day tasks without the help of our invaluable, dedicated, and talented volunteers.

We want to acknowledge them and say a BIG "Thank you!"

Melanie was recruited by Dorothy Nakata – herself a longtime volunteer who served on our Board of Directors from

2002 through last year.

"She knew me from all the events around the island where we would run into each other," Melanie said.

"My first duty was to stuff and fold newsletters.

"It was fun, and I really enjoyed meeting the board members and other volunteers who were there, so I told Dorothy that she could call me any time she needed help."

And help, she did: greeting guests at a fundraiser kickoff, being recording secretary for the Special Events Committee, helping to polish water fountains and railings during a Center cleanup day.

She also has staffed booths for the Maui AJA Veterans Inc. and helped dress the flower girls in their kimono for the Chrysanthemum Festival.

As for the talents she contributes to the NVMC and the Education Center, "Photography is my hobby . . . and computers are my way of life."

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Volunteers

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Melanie uses both to photograph and document collections.

She has used her computer skills to digitize veterans interviews that were done on cassette tapes.

She also takes pictures at Center functions; many of the photographs you see in this issue of *Okage Sama de* are hers.

"Sometimes, I like to just sit in the temporary Education Center with my eyes closed and feel the history surrounding me. I have come into contact with just about everything in the current collection at one time or another . . . and I can honestly say that I am moved by every single item.

"I can't wait for the real archive and Education Center to be completed because the stories these treasures tell have to be shared."

When she isn't helping the Center or doing bon or traditional Japanese dance ("My greatest passion is dance!" the former hula dancer says), Melanie is an office clerk at Lihikai Elementary School.

Ramona became a volunteer after she attended an educators workshop the NVMC hosted and helped to present in October. It was the two-day "Looking Like the Enemy, Japanese Americans in World War II Hawaii" workshop. (See story on page 12.)

But she already had a strong interest in and connections to the Nisei veterans' story.

Ramona is the librarian of the Charles Reed Bishop Learning Center at the Kamehameha Schools Maui high school.

She earned master's degrees at the University of Hawaii at Manoa in library science in 1980 and library and information science in 1990.

In between, she taught U.S. history to fifth-graders at Kihei Elementary School. She found there was very little information about the Nisei veterans.

So she researched the subject, a mission that was nurtured by Rachael Jio, a co-worker at Ramona's other job at the Maui Community College library. Mrs. Jio's husband, Mitsugu, was a 100th Infantry Battalion veteran.

After earning her second master's degree, Ramona was a librarian at Maui High School until 2002, when she joined the Kamehameha staff.

She has taught about the Nisei veterans at both schools.

At Kamehameha, for example, she coordinates programs for the sophomore U.S. history class and with the Japanese instructor.

Many Kamehameha students have forebears who were in the 100th, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, or Military Intelligence Service.

Sadly, many Nisei soldiers died without sharing stories with the generations that followed. Thus, the lessons and the opportunities to research the Nisei units have personal meaning for some students.

Her family knows this feeling.

Ramona's husband is Glenn Ho, a pharmacist for Kaiser Permanente. His mother's only brother, Tokuo Tahama, received military intelligence training, but the family could not glean much informa-

tion about his service before he died.

Ramona is putting her skills to work as she tries to fill the gaps, including research for a granddaughter of Mr. Tahama's who was born on the Mainland just a few days after he passed away.

"It is something that is part of who she is," Ramona said.

She also is concerned that the veterans' story is not told accurately.

At both Maui High and Kamehameha, she accompanied students to Washington, D.C., for the national Close Up Foundation program.

Both times, she and the students encountered doubt about the Nisei veterans' story or an inaccurate version of history.

On one trip, the students were visiting the National World War II Memorial, where their guide said all of the 442nd RCT soldiers were from the Mainland.

One of Ramona's earliest exposures to the Nisei veteran topic came through her father, Joseph Cabral.

As a young teenager in Hana, Mr. Cabral helped care for the survivors of an attack on the General Royal T. Frank in the Alenuihaha Channel between Maui and the Big Island.

The military transport ship was torpedoed by a Japanese submarine on January 28, 1942. On board was a group of draftees headed from Oahu to their home in Hilo.

Fifteen of those men died.

The survivors were taken to the nearest port – Hana – and Mr. Cabral helped take them to the gym, wash the oil off their bodies, and get them ready to receive first aid.

Nine men survived. Eight would become members of the 100th Infantry Battalion.



Items from the archival collection are used for a display in the silent auction room of the Taste of Freedom annual luncheon last year. This year's fundraiser is scheduled for November 12 at the Maui Beach Hotel's elleair Rainbow Ballroom.

Photo by Melanie Agrabante

MORE VOLUNTEERS:

The great-grandnieces of Barney Hajiro are helping to organize the Center's archival collection, preserving the history of Maui Nisei veterans like the Medal of Honor recipient who grew up in McGerrow Village. A story is on the next page.

Descendants' work honors memory of hero

BARNEY HAJIRO. Among those who know the story of the Nisei veterans, the name can evoke thoughts of bravery and the Medal of Honor.

Terah and Alisha Summers are more likely to think of Great Uncle Barney.

"What I remember most about my Great Uncle Barney Hajiro doesn't include words like 'war hero' or WWII soldier," Terah wrote in an essay that helped her earn a scholarship from the Maui AJA Veterans Inc. and Maui's Sons and Daughters of the Nisei Veterans.

"Instead memories of Great Uncle stir back images of a quiet elderly uncle" who enjoyed talking story with friends at Pearl City Shopping Center on Oahu. He had an "unassuming manner (and) a friendly smile" and – for Terah and her cousins – a memorable gaze of kindness.

Barney Hajiro died in January at the age of 94. The McGerrow Camp native earned the Medal of Honor for actions in the Vosges Mountains of France – Bruyeres, Biffontaine, and the rescue of "The Lost Battalion."

"It wasn't until I was older that I realized the tremendous courage and sacrifice AJA soldiers like my Uncle Barney demonstrated during WWII," she wrote.

Terah and her sister, Alisha, are helping to record and share the history of Americans of Japanese ancestry from Maui.

In the weeks following Hajiro's funeral, the sisters became Nisei Veterans Memorial Center volunteers.

They helped to document items in the archival collection in preparation for the opening of the Education Center early next year.

Alisha also has been inputting information for the archival database.

"Ali was looking for someplace to volunteer," said the girls' mother, Anne. "That's when we went over to talk to Ms. Raikes."

Gail Raikes was the executive director of the NVMC until June 25.

Alisha, a junior at Baldwin High School, plans to continue volunteering.



Alisha Summers (above) catalogs a jacket and older sister Terah examines a lantern as they help to accept, document, and store donations to the archival collection.

Terah has enrolled at the University of Hawaii at Manoa after graduating from Baldwin in May.

As a sophomore last year, Alisha was volunteering two school afternoons a week.

Terah went less often because she was in the midst of a final high school semester crammed with college and scholarship applications.

Anne, who teaches sixth-grade English at Iao Intermediate School, has lent a hand to the archive effort several times.

Father John is a planner for the County of Maui.

Now that Terah is at UH, she has embarked on another of life's passages.

"After learning of the sacrifices my Uncle Barney and his fellow soldiers have made for their country and all the AJA, I feel eternally grateful to them. They have made it possible for young AJA like me to pursue our dreams," she wrote in her essay.

As for volunteering, it "has been a wonderful experience and has taught me so much about the history of the Nisei Veterans," Terah wrote.

"I now feel more connected to my family's history and I look forward to seeing many of the artifacts I handled in the soon-to-be finished Nisei Veterans Education Center."





Memorial Day: A time to honor and remember

The Nisei Veterans Memorial Center offering sits amid the floral tributes at the Memorial Day service at the Veterans Cemetery in Makawao. In the photo on the right, Stanley Izumigawa is in line

to present the floral tribute from the 100th Infantry Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team veterans clubs.

Photos by Melanie Agrabante

lest we forget | our departed comrades

Richard Tamotsu Hashi, 93, of Wailuku, passed away on December 31, 2010.

He was born on December 9, 1917, in Hana.

Mr. Hashi was a World War II veteran who served with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, Service Company.

He was the retired owner of Hashi Auto Supply & Service Co. and JC Terrace Apartments.

He is survived by his son, James, and daughter-in-law Takane.

Willard Yeiko "Lanky" Matsumoto, 89, of Kahului, passed away on January 28, 2011, at his residence.

He was born April 10, 1921 in Hana.

Mr. Matsumoto was a retired scout executive for the Boy Scouts of America, Maui County Council.

He was a veteran of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

He is survived by his daughters, Lila

(Allen) Kanda, Iris (Eric) Yamashige, and May (Dino Oliveira) Matsumoto; a sister, Alyce Yoshino; and grandchildren, Brendan, and Sarah.

Toshio Miyamoto, 92, of Kailua, Oahu, and formerly of Lahaina, died in Kailua.

Born in Lahaina, he was a retired Pioneer Mill Co. power plant assistant operator.

Mr. Miyamoto served in the 100th Infantry Battalion, Company C, during World War II.

He is survived by his wife, Mitsue "Rene"; sons Roy and Alton; daughters Amy Nakamura and Elsie Shimomura; sister Sally Sakaida; and eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Hiroshi Omura died on April 9, 2010.

Mr. Omura was a harvesting superintendent at Pioneer Mill Co. and a veteran in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

He is survived by his wife, Jane H. Omura,

and four sisters, Mildred Sato, Matsuko Kubo, Florence Fukunaga, and Kay Inouye.

Anthony "Tony" W. Takashima, 90, of Kahului, died July 25, 2010, at Maui Memorial Medical Center.

Mr. Takashima was born Nov. 30, 1919, in Hilo.

He retired from the lumber department of A&B Commercial Co.

Mr. Takashima was a veteran of Company D of the 100th Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

He was married for 61 years to Peggy M. Takashima.

Other survivors include two daughters, Lei N. Watanabe and Donna H. Ueki; a brother, Russell Takashima; two sisters, Vivian Watanabe and Dorothy Ogasawara; five grandchildren, Angie Watanabe, Misty Watanabe, Ian Ueki, Scott Watanabe, and Emi (Ueki) Suzuki; and three great-grandchildren, Kailee, Lexie, and Paige.

Local flavor added to national curriculum

Go For Broke gives teachers workshop with NVMC's help

TEACHERS FROM MAUI, Molokai, and Oahu got the chance to attend the "Looking Like the Enemy, Japanese Americans in World War II Hawaii" workshop with the help of the Nisei Veterans Memorial Center.

The NVMC and Maui Waena Intermediate School were sites of the October 8-9, 2010, session presented by the Go For Broke National Education Center (GFBNEC) in partnership with the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii and the Center.

It was the second workshop offered in Hawaii, and lesson plans were added to the national curriculum to help teach local students about subjects such as the Varsity Victory Volunteers and the internment camps on Maui and other parts of Hawaii.

Maui veterans participate

Several Maui veterans shared experiences from the workshop's timeframe: the bombing of Pearl Harbor, to the occupation of Japan, to the post-war impact of the Japanese-American World War II



Shigeru Nakamura, veteran of the 522nd Field Artillery Battalion, and Gaylord Kubota were among those at the workshop. Gaylord is the former executive director of the Alexander & Baldwin Sugar Museum and he lectured on the history of Japanese Americans in Hawaii.

veterans on Hawaii.

Such firsthand, "primary source" accounts are treasured by historians because they are unfiltered history told by those who lived it.

Also, the NVMC invited former students of a 2009 institute participant, Maui Waena teacher Jennifer Suzuki.

The students shared online and display projects they created using the institute's curriculum.

Teachers were trained in using both the GFBNEC's "A Tradition of Honor" and the Hawaii World War II Internees Project high school curricula.

The goal is to provide tools to teach World War II history in social studies and modern Hawaiian history courses through the experiences of Japanese Americans in Hawaii.

The tools include field trip sites, online resources, books and publications, DVDs, and local historical institutions and community organizations.

One such resource is our Nisei Veterans Memorial Center, and we presented information about the archive that will provide a place for research and to find primary resources on the Nisei veterans of Maui.



Workshop attendees go over some of the printed material. At right, in the dark T-shirts, are Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii education volunteers Jane Kurahara (back to the camera) and Mary Chun.



Junior ROTC cadet leaders hosted a Meals Ready to Eat (commonly known as MREs) lunch for Nisei veterans and guests in June during a leadership training course on Oahu. It included interactions with

and presentations about the veterans. Viewing the NVMC's "Our Nobler Selves" was part of the cadets' preparation for the program.

NVMC's short video has a long reach

'Our Nobler Selves' tells Maui veterans' stories

AS BARBARA WATANABE was transitioning out of her executive director position with our Center, the Board of Directors asked her to take on one last challenge: to develop a short video featuring Maui veterans that provided an overview of the Nisei veteran legacy.

"One of the greatest privileges of working at the Center was to be in the company of the veterans," noted Barbara. "So many times I found myself just smiling and nodding to them – it was hard to muster the courage to talk with them."

"They, and their wives, are such an extraordinary generation. I saw this short video as a way to say thank you to all of them."

The resulting video, "Our Nobler Selves," features Maui veterans telling their story from early childhood, through the attack on Pearl Harbor; the formation of

the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and the Military Intelligence Service; and the post-war years up through statehood.

The video recordings are courtesy of the Go For Broke National Education Center's Hanashi Oral History collection.

In the midst of developing the video, Barbara contacted retired General David Bramlett to ask him to rerecord a portion of the speech that he gave at our Center's 2005 dinner event.

"General Bramlett spoke about how the veterans remind us of our nobler selves – of what we can be when we search deep within ourselves when facing life's greatest challenges. . . . but because it was recorded at our dinner, you could faintly hear the clanking of plates and forks," explained Barbara.

"When General Bramlett saw this early cut, he asked me to show it to the University of Hawaii's Nisei Veterans Endowed Forum working group, which was

searching for a short video that captures the essence of the Nisei soldier legacy."

With the permission of NVMC, the UH Nisei Veterans Endowed Forum used "Our Nobler Selves" at a 2010 statewide conference of 400 student leaders hosted by the state Department of Education.

In small groups, the student leaders discussed the values of the Nisei soldiers – and many common attributes emerged: humbleness, family honor, and turning the cheek in the face of discrimination.

"Our Nobler Selves" has since been used in a variety of educational settings, including the 2011 JROTC Advanced Leadership Training Course, East-West Center teacher workshop on Southeast Asia during World War II, Punahou School's Pueo Conference on student leadership, and once again at the 2011 DOE statewide student leadership conference.

Center benefits from Eagle Scout projects

'Rock crusher' area cleaned, fenced, made more secure

THE "ROCK CRUSHER" AREA on a northwest portion of the Nisei Veterans Memorial Center is more secure thanks to an Eagle Scout project by Kaipo Tagaloa of Troop 35.

The work was done March 5, but much preparation occurred beforehand, including the recruitment of 32 workers, arranging for and supplying proper safety glasses and gloves, and dividing the work force for maximum utilization.

A Tagaloa family friend, Joe Kapisi, was familiar with the NVMC because he had done some work on the campus. He suggested that Kaipo inquire about project opportunities.

Kaipo walked the six-acre property with Board Member David Fukuda, who was the NVMC coordinator for the project.

After the survey, Kaipo came up "with an ambitious list of potential projects to undertake," David said.

The reason for the project: People were going onto the property for reasons ranging from wedding pictures to drinking or sleeping. The brush provided cover for the less-desirable activities.

In addition to clearing the site, Kaipo's crew erected fence posts, and fencing was installed a couple of weeks later by David and board Secretary Leonard Oka.

"I was most impressed," David said,



Ina Tagaloa (front row, striped shirt) puts his arm around son Kaipo after the project.

The "rock crusher": The project site contains five 30-foot concrete walls with arch doorways that were part of a Kahului Rail Road rock-crushing facility. Train tracks used to run between the walls.

Rocks from a quarry were hauled to the site, crushed, then loaded onto trains and transported for use in the construction of Kahului Harbor.

The rock crusher was damaged in the 1946 tsunami. By then, trucks were doing much of the hauling.

"with (Kaipo's) presentation to the entire work crew prior to commencing, where he provided all with a brief history of the men for whom the NVMC was built, memorializing their contributions to our country and community.

"Kaipo took it upon himself to research and share this information with all."

Kaipo graduated from Baldwin High School in May.

His troop is sponsored by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Pukalani Ward.

Located along Kahului Beach Road, Kaipo's project site is on four acres acquired by the NVMC last year.



Grandpa Keiji Tsuji in March 1945.

Nisei veteran grandfather is inspiration for project

"GRANDPA TSUJI WAS a Nisei veteran, and this project was a way to honor him" is the way Dean Tsuji explains why he erected our Center's new bulletin board and sign holder.

The replacement of an older sign was Dean's Eagle Scout project, a requirement of candidates for Boy Scouting's highest rank.

He is a member of Wailuku Hongwanji Mission's Troop 40 – and of a patrol that can boast

that all eight members became Eagle Scouts.

The sign fronts the intersection of Kahului Beach Road, Lower Main Street and Waiehu Beach Road. It has a Japanese-style theme in keeping with that of the rest of the campus.

It was designed by Earl Kono of Riecke Sunnland Kono Architects Ltd. – the firm that has contributed so much to our Center through the years.

Earl actually designed the

sign more than two years earlier, for another Scout who had planned to do the project.

Dean learned of the design from his unit leader, Grant Chun, then received permission from the Scout and Earl to do the project.

Major construction was done March 19. Planning and other work took from February 13 to April 11.

Dean was mentored by

Please turn to page 15



AJA Veterans, Sons and Daughters distribute scholarships

The 2011 recipients of \$1,000 scholarships from the Maui AJA Veterans Inc. and Maui's Sons and Daughters of the Nisei Veterans are (from left) Malia Moore of Lahainaluna High School; Kasey Munetake, Lori Lynn Nishikawa, and Terah Summers, all of Baldwin High School; Jethro Casinas of Maui High School; Marissa Muraoka and Brytne Okuhata, both of King Kekaulike

High School; Ashley Akima of Kamehameha Schools Maui; and Cherise Milanio of Lahainaluna. Also earning a scholarship but not in this picture was Chelsey-Mei Borge of Maui High. The scholarships were presented during a Maui AJA Veterans' social and meeting at the Kula Sandalwood Restaurant.

Grandpa

Continued from page 14

Aldon Mochida of Pro-Bilt Construction.

Dean was only 10 when his grandfather, Keiji Tsuji, passed away at age 82.

Keiji Tsuji joined the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in March 1943 but missed much of his training at Camp Shelby in Mississippi because of leg surgery.

While in the hospital, he ran into a former sheet metal supervisor from Hawaii who suggested that Mr. Tsuji transfer into the Military Intelligence Service because he could speak Japanese.

He was transferred to Fort Snelling in Minnesota for intelligence and language training.

His service included time in the Philippines, where he had to coax Japanese soldiers from caves and convince them the war was over, and in Tokyo, where interviewed civilians about the effects of the atomic bomb.

Grandpa Tsuji told Dean that as a member of the MIS, he took an oath not to divulge his wartime experiences for 50 years.

Though he shared some experiences, he admitted that after a half century, he could not remember many details.



The crew erects the sign under the watchful eye of Dean Tsuji, in the background, third from left, in glasses.

He was happy to join in the celebrations for the 50th anniversary of the MIS in 1993, the year Dean was born.

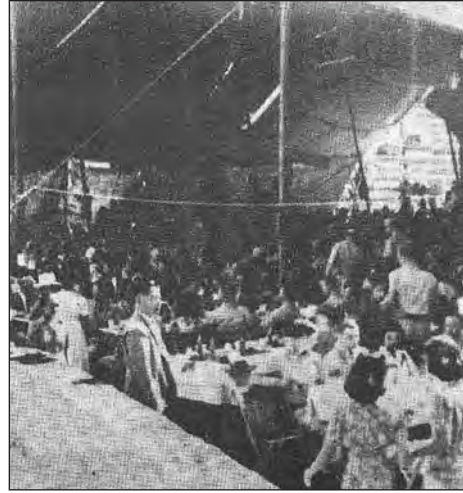
While working on his Eagle Scout project, Dean felt it was important that the legacy of the Nisei veterans be passed from generation to generation.

Dean also had a step-grandfather, Jack

MacDonald, who was Pearl Harbor survivor but did not care to talk about his wartime experiences.

Dean graduated with honors from Baldwin High School in May.

He is the son of Keith and Joan Tsuji of Wailuku



Before the “New Camp” was built, the 100th Infantry Battalion lived in tents (top left). Later, a first experience with snow was reason to send a message for three Hawaii soldiers. Back home, Honolulu’s Japanese community put on a luau for servicemen from Wisconsin in 1942. Decades later, headlines from the La Cross Tribune and Milwaukee Journal of September 28, 1987, herald the return trip of the 100th veterans, who are seen at right.

Fond memories, lasting ties created with folks near Camp McCoy

David Fukuda joined the board of the Nisei Veterans Memorial Center in 2009 as it was in the final phases of planning for the Education Building. He offered to provide nuggets of history about some of the things the Center will preserve, and he now spends about five minutes before each board meeting sharing these stories. Articles by David based on these presentations are published in Okage Sama de. A veteran of the Vietnam War, David is the son of the late Major Mitsuyoshi Fukuda. A businessman for most of his adult life, David is retired; his last career was as a history teacher at King Kekaulike High School.

§

IN MY LAST ARTICLE, I wrote about the internment camps in World War II Hawaii.

About 1,000 Japanese Americans were incarcerated at eight sites, but these camps also held people of German, Austrian, and Italian ancestry.

Among them were two of my Punahou classmates’ fathers, Herb Walther and Alfred Preis – men of German and Austrian origin, respectively, who were held at Sand Island and later moved to a location on the Mainland.

That location was Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, located near LaCross on the eastern bank of the Mississippi River.

Camp McCoy was the home of the Army’s last horse-drawn artillery unit.

A section of the 61,000-acre site was set aside as a prisoner-of-war and enemy-alien prison camp.

Located at the former Civilian Conservation Corps center on the South Post, it originally held 293 enemy-alien internees (five Italians, 106 Germans, and 182 Japanese) and later was converted into the largest holding facility for Japanese (2,700) and German POWs (3,000).

The 100th arrives

In mid-June 1942, the men of the 100th Infantry Battalion were on a train taking them on the last leg of their journey from Hawaii to training at Camp McCoy.

As the train arrived at McCoy, its first stop was South Point – and the sight of the POW camp caused consternation among its members.

The men of the 100th Battalion arrived at McCoy as a 37,437-acre “New Camp” was being constructed (cost of \$30 million, capacity of 35,000 troops). The men spent most of that summer sleeping in tents until the camp opened on August 30, just before the Wisconsin fall and winter set in.

The 100th would remain at Camp McCoy until January 6, 1943, and in the process, build up a commendable training record.

The men of the 100th have fond memories of their stay at Camp McCoy and in particular for the people in the surrounding area. At a time of apprehension, the townspeople welcomed the men, a gesture the 100th men and their families have tried to repay on several occasions.

Soldiers grateful to townspeople

After learning of a devastating flood in the area, the men of the 100th took up a collection that was sent to the townspeople. In Honolulu, family members held a luau for the Wisconsin men stationed there.

And in 1987, a group of 100th veterans returned to the renamed Fort McCoy and the surrounding towns to once again thank the people for their hospitality during the war.

In 1965, I had the opportunity to spend a weekend on maneuvers at Camp McCoy with my Ripon College ROTC. We were housed in the same coal-heated barracks the 100th occupied 23 years earlier.

Camp McCoy at that time was virtually abandoned, serving primarily as a Job Corp Training Center.

In 1974, it was upgraded to Fort McCoy and is now the only major installation in the North-Central U.S.



Grandma Daie Sheehan and Gabriella Jones (above) enjoy table activities in the intergenerational room. In the courtyard, Grandpas Sanford Sakamoto (left) and “Papa” Aguinaldo teach keiki Emma Jane Roy and Max Takahata how to putt.

Intergenerational connection reaches a milestone

THIS SUMMER MARKED THE fifth anniversary of the intergenerational partnership between Kanska Preschool and the Maui Adult Day Care (MADCC) Oceanview Program.



One of a few intergenerational preschool program sites in the state, the collaboration fulfills the Nisei Veterans Memorial Center’s goal of providing a nurturing environment for both the elderly and the youngest segments of the

community. steps away in the Oceanview program, and that loving connection continues today.

Whenever the children walk into the Oceanview rooms, their presence brings out smiles and “look, look the children are here!!”

community.

In July 2006, the first group of Kanska Preschoolers became fast friends with their “grandmas and grandpas” a few

It is the same when the children see the grandmas and grandpas outdoors in the shared courtyard. The children quickly gravitate to the clients to talk story, share jokes, and exchange hugs and high-fives.

The activities of the day offer opportunities for both the children and the clients to strengthen and retain their motor, cognitive, and social skills, and they create an environment for the children to learn patience, respect for different ages and abilities, and understanding of diversity.

Chrysanthemum Festival court’s efforts pay off for scholars and our Center



The 58th Chrysanthemum Festival queen was Dayna Taketa, seen in the middle with her escort, Lawrence Marquez. The princesses and escorts were (from left) Julia Bissen and Luke Livaudais, Lyssa Nishikawa and Matthew Wallner, Beth Onaga and Christopher Kim, and Joni Sanchez Casio and Sean Uyechi. The queen is the candidate who raises the most funds for Maui’s Sons and Daughters of the Nisei Veterans. Proceeds help the group to provide scholarships in partnership with the Maui AJA Veterans Inc. and to conduct historical preservation programs associated with the Nisei Veterans Memorial Center. The 2010 festival was held December 5 at the Velma McWayne Santos Community Center in Wailuku. The 2011 event will be on December 3 at the same venue.

Photo by Leon Matsui, Akatombo Images

Nisei Veterans Memorial Center Contributors

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Lillian Takabayashi
Hideo and Tomoe Takeuchi
Ellen T. and Dennis K. Tamanaha
Marvin Tanaka, DDS, MS
Elaine Tanaka
Harriet Tavares
William and Martha Tavares
Donald and Gail Terada
Molly Tokunaga
Lynne and Charles Toma
Joan Tsuji
Ethel T. Uyehara and Douglas Keefe
Louis and Jean Wada
Isao Watanabe
Mary Frances Watanabe
Midori Watanabe
Toshiko Watanabe
Satoko Yamada
Mitsue Yamamoto
Stella Yamamoto
Matsuko Yamanishi
Harvey Yatogo
Esther Yokoyama
Helene Yonemura

Retirees donate TLC to keep Center grounds looking good

DAVID FUKUDA AND DONALD ITO are among the volunteers who contribute in many ways to our Center.

The mission for these two retirees is to help take care of the grounds.

David started doing yard work at the Center two years ago, taking on the naupaka, loading up his truck, and doing a dump run each time.

"About one year ago, Donald joined me and took over responsibility of the courtyard," David said. "Its been beautifully kept since then.

"We do a little each time, and he's actually more regular than I am," David said, explaining that trips – especially to visit his grandchildren – keep him and wife Judy off the island for a good part of the year.

Donald and David are sometimes joined by Stanley Izumigawa, who serves on the Center Board of Directors and has been active with the Nisei veterans clubs on Maui.

"We welcome all-comers," David said, to work from 6 or 6:30 until 8:30 on Tuesday and Thursday mornings.



David Fukuda (left) and Donald Ito



OKAGE SAMMA DE...

November 2011



Construction of the NVMC Education Center is expected to be completed this year.

Photo by
Melanie Agrabante

- **Marching Home:** The capital campaign to complete the NVMC campus is underway, chaired by Brian T. Moto, son of Medal of Honor recipient Kaoru Moto. **On Page 1**
- **Leadership:** NVMC thanks departing Board Members Dan Waki and Dorothy Nakata and welcomes Mark Mizuno and Yuki Lei Sugimura. **On Pages 4 and 5**
- **Volunteers:** Preparations are made to move our archival collection to the Education Center in early 2012. **On Pages 8 – 10**

