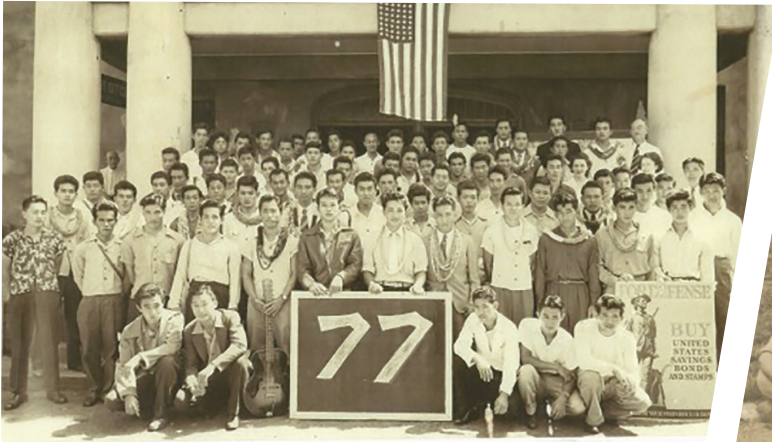




OKAGE SAMA DE

BECAUSE OF
YOU I AM...



The 77 Lahaina boys who volunteered for the 442nd. The photo was taken at the Lahaina Courthouse and was donated by the West Maui Veterans Club.



The 442 Baseball Team at Shelby, Mississippi. Photo courtesy of Clarence Hekka Oka Collection, NVMC.

THIS YEAR MARKS THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF ‘LOYALTY, COURAGE, SACRIFICE’ OF THE 442ND

The 442nd Regimental Combat Team (RCT) was composed of two distinct units: the 442nd RCT and the 100th Infantry Battalion.

These two units were formed independently at different times, but their history is intertwined.

On Jan. 28, 1943, the War Department announced it was forming an all-Nisei combat team and called for 1,500 volunteers from Hawai‘i. An overwhelming 10,000 men volunteered, from which 2,686 were selected. They joined with the 1,182 Japanese-American recruits who volunteered from the continental United States, many from behind the barbed wire of internment camps.

The 442nd RCT was activated on Feb. 1, 1943. They trained at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, until leaving for Italy

on April 22, 1944. The men saw their first day in combat on June 26, 1944.

By this date the 100th Infantry Battalion had already been in the Mediterranean Theater for more than nine months and had been involved in many significant battles including the Battle of Monte Cassino. After the two units merged, the 442nd RCT and the 100th Infantry formed a single infantry regiment and created a single history. Together, they became the most decorated unit of its size and length of service in the history of the U.S. Army.

The NVMC exhibit, “Loyalty, Courage, Sacrifice - The 442nd Story,” runs from March 26 to Aug. 24, 2018, and will include memorabilia from Maui’s Nisei WWII veterans who served in the 442nd RCT.

Nisei Veterans Memorial Center “Leadership Series”: Governor Waihe‘e

The Honorable John Waihe‘e served as the state’s fourth Governor from 1986-1994. He was the first Native Hawaiian to be elected governor of a state in the U.S. Governor Waihe‘e started his political career as

a delegate to the 1978 Hawai‘i State Constitutional Convention where he was instrumental in the creation of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and the adoption of the Hawaiian language as an official language of the state.

DATE & TIME: Saturday, April 28, 2018 at 1:30 pm
• **LOCATION:** Kahili Golf Course Nahele Ballroom
• **TICKETS:** \$35 per person and includes a buffet lunch. Call 244-6862 for tickets.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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 MISSION

The NVMC ignites human potential by inspiring people to find the hero in themselves through the legacy of the Nisei veterans.

THE NVMC VISION

We envision a community where all people act selflessly for the greater good.

THE NVMC VALUES

Being selfless for the greater good.
Leading by example. Living in gratitude.
Inspiring courage in adversity. Doing the right thing, always.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Deidre Tegarden

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NISEI VETERANS MEMORIAL CENTER

1 Go For Broke Place, Wailuku
Hours: Noon to 4 P.M. Weekdays
(808) 244-NVMC (6862)
www.nvmc.org



*How many, many things
They call to mind
These cherry-blossoms!*

-Basho

The Edo-period haiku poet, Basho, captures springtime so well. Whether it is the sakura, the lokelani rose or the jacaranda trees, the beautiful flowers gently capture our attention, allowing us, for a moment, to be transported to the fields of our memories. When we come back to earth we realize our day is moving

right along, and we better catch up so we don't miss anything.

There are many activities not to be missed this year at the Nisei Veterans Memorial Center (NVMC). The Year of the Dog has ushered in many stirring programs beginning with Dr. Gail Okawa and her presentation, "Through My Grandfather's Eyes," focusing on Hawai'i's Japanese-American internment story. In February, NVMC hosted Carole Hayashino, president and executive director of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i, and director Ryan Kawamoto who premiered the very emotional documentary, "Behind Barbed Wire: Stories from Maui County."

Our Leadership Series launched with a talk by former Gov. George Ariyoshi. Kayleen Lau of Kamehameha Schools Maui opened the event with a wonderful presentation on MIS veteran and family friend George Sano. Future speakers include Govs. John Waihe'e, Linda Lingle, Neil Abercrombie and David Ige. All of these individuals have been very helpful to the NVMC over the years and we are honored they are sharing their time with us.

As you know, this year marks the 75th anniversary of the formation of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team (RCT). Our exhibit, "Loyalty, Courage, Sacrifice - The 442nd Story," was made possible with funding from the County of Maui Office of Economic Development and pays homage to the brave men of the 442nd. The exhibit will run from March 26 through Aug. 24 with rotating displays throughout the summer.

Since our Spring/Summer exhibit is all about the 442nd RCT, we are thrilled to announce the Maui premiere of Stacey Hayashi's film, "Go for Broke," on May 3 at the Iao Theater. Ms. Hayashi has worked tirelessly over the past 16 years on this film, and we are absolutely ecstatic to host the Maui premier thanks to the support of the Maui's Sons and Daughters of the Nisei Veterans. NVMC and our partners, The Japanese Cultural Society of Maui and Maui Matsuri, are making the movie a part of this year's 150th anniversary of Japanese immigration to Hawai'i (Gannenmono).

In commemoration of Gannenmono, there are activities planned across the state to celebrate, including the arrival of the Kaiwo Maru training ship to Kahului Harbor in early May. For more information on all the activities, be sure to visit kizunahawaii.com.

While our daily schedules keep us busy, let's all take a moment or two to enjoy the blossoms and the replanting of our memories.

どうぞよろしく願いたします。

KUPUNA CAREGIVERS PROGRAM TO OFFER ASSISTANCE TO WORKING CAREGIVERS

Maui Adult Day Care Centers has provided care and activities for kupuna for over 43 years. The nonprofit organization provides social daytime therapeutic programs for individuals who are frail, elderly and may be diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease or other forms of dementia. The centers also offer a setting for adults who are physically or mentally challenged. Currently, there are five locations (Kahului, Lahaina, Wailuku, Kihei and Hana), with the sixth location in upcountry in the planning stages.

Last year, the Legislature passed House Bill 607 (signed into law as Act 102 by Gov. David Ige), which appropriates \$600,000 for the Executive Office on Aging (EOA) to establish the "Kupuna Caregivers Program." This program is aimed at supporting Hawai'i's working

caregivers. The bill provides financial assistance to support employed caregivers, so they can remain in the work place and their loved ones, who are experiencing health issues and need caregiving services, can receive the quality care necessary. Ultimately, local caregivers are then able to maintain their work schedules throughout the day. The EOA along with local area agencies on aging, such as Maui County Office on Aging, will partner together to develop and implement this much needed program.

To be eligible for the Kupuna Care Program, which will roll out this year, qualified caregivers must be employed for a minimum of 30 hours per week by one or more employers and be the caregiver who is providing care directly to a care recipient. Qualified caregivers may

receive up to \$70 per day in benefits (subject to the availability of funds) paid directly to the contract service providers such as Maui Adult Day Care Centers to cover costs of adult day care or other organizations providing chore services, transportation or personal care.

For additional information, interested individuals may call the Maui County Office on Aging at (808) 270-7774. Maui Adult Day Care Centers will continue to partner with the Maui County Office on Aging for adult day care center needs and the Kupuna Care Program in 2018.



JOINT NISEI VETERANS MEMORIAL SERVICE REMEMBERS 100TH BATTALION KIA

The annual Joint Memorial Service of the 100th Infantry Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team veterans was held Sept. 24, 2017, at the Nisei Veterans Memorial Center. The event featured keynote speaker Brig. Gen. Keith Y. Tamashiro, commander of the Hawai'i Army National Guard. Brig. Gen. Tamashiro's mother was from Maui (Arakawa). He spoke of the influence the men of the 100th/442nd had on his career.

Bo Mahoe served as the master of ceremonies, which

also featured the participation of the Kansha Preschool students and the Chrysanthemum Festival contestants in a floral tribute to the 101 Maui Nisei who were killed in action in Europe during World War II.

Jill Ross of the Maui's Sons and Daughters of Nisei Veterans, coordinated the annual event, which commemorates the death of "Joe" Takata, the first member of the 100th Battalion killed in action 74 years ago on Sept. 29, 1943, in Italy.



100th veteran, the late Willie Goo and daughter Joni hold a flower from Kansha students, as Judy Kitagawa watches from behind.

SHARING MANA'O

BY KATHY COLLINS

*He's working quietly
And effectively
To do what is best for Hawai'i...*

If you're a longtime local, I'll bet you are not only singing those lyrics in your mind right now, you probably voted for the man for whom that campaign jingle was written.

George Ariyoshi holds the distinction of being Hawai'i's longest-serving governor (13 years) as well as the nation's first Asian-American to be elected governor of any state. Though he hadn't envisioned a career in politics, he never lost an election.

Turning 92 next month, our former governor continues to serve the community as a respected elder statesman and advisor. He has written two books, "With Obligation to All," recounting the post-World War II transformation of Hawai'i, and "Hawai'i: The Past Fifty Years, the Next Fifty Years," published in 2009, the 50th anniversary of the 50th state.

My mother and I were fortunate to be in the audience last Saturday when the Nisei Veterans Memorial Center presented Governor Ariyoshi as the inaugural speaker in its new "Leadership Series" of lectures.

The stated mission of the NVMC is "to ignite the potential in people by inspiring them to find the hero in themselves through the legacy of the Nisei Veterans" and Ariyoshi's talk aligned perfectly with that mission. He invoked several of the values embraced by the celebrated Japanese American soldiers of WWII: *Ganbari* (perseverance), *Chigi* (loyalty), *Haji* (don't bring shame), and *Okage sama de* (thanks to you), a phrase often used by local Japanese to mean "because of you, I am who I am." It's an expression of gratitude and recognition of the importance of working together and depending on each other.

A Nisei veteran himself, Ariyoshi served as a Military Intelligence Service interpreter in occupied Japan. After the war, he attained his law degree and



Governor Ariyoshi and Chrysanthemum Queen Paige Nagahama. Photo by Shane Tegarden.

"Jack Burns talked to me about prejudice, how we had never had a governor who was not white, never had a governor who was born in Hawai'i." Well aware of the political power imbalance of the time, Ariyoshi admired the efforts of Nisei vets like Dan Inouye and Spark Matsunaga, who "were fighting to make the community fairer. The courage shown on the battlefield did not stop there." He agreed to run for the Territorial Legislature and spent the next 32 years in public office.

In 1970, Burns and Ariyoshi were elected to the state's highest offices, and when Burns was stricken with cancer in 1973, Ariyoshi became acting governor. The following year, he won the gubernatorial election and served three full terms, finally able to resume his law practice in 1986.

Throughout his military, political, and community service, the former governor adhered to those values addressed in Saturday's presentation. As he spoke, I was struck by the contrast between his soft-spoken, yet earnest, manner and the bombastic bluster that passes for political speech these days. Mom was most impressed by the fact that he delivered his entire talk without notes, speaking eloquently and sincerely from his heart. Afterwards, he graciously shared one-to-one time with attendees, quietly and effectively inspiring each of us to continue the legacy of the Nisei vets and work together to better our community.

The next NVMC Leadership Series speaker, on April 28, will be another former Hawai'i governor, John Waihe'e,



Brian Moto, Governor Ariyoshi, Sally & Dan Waki and Donald Ito. Photo by Shane Tegarden.

who served as Ariyoshi's third-term lieutenant governor and then succeeded him in office. He, too, made political history, as he is the first person of native Hawaiian descent to be elected a U.S. governor. But he didn't have a catchy jingle like Ariyoshi did.

Old-timers, please don't call me to complain when you can't get the "Quiet and Effective" song out of your head.

Kathy Collins is a storyteller, actress and freelance writer whose "Sharing Mana'o" column appears every Wednesday in The Maui News.

The NVMC Leadership Series is a year-long event sponsored in part by the A&B Foundation. Tickets are \$35 and include a buffet lunch. Future speakers include: Governor John Waihe'e on April 28; Governor David Ige on June 9, Governor Neil Abercrombie on August 19 and Governor Linda Lingle on December 16. For more information contact the office at (808) 244-6862.



Governor Ariyoshi and Kamehameha Maui Student Kayleen Lau. Photo by Shane Tegarden.

Kansha Preschool Welcomes New Director, Sets Improvement Goals

Kansha Preschool celebrated the start of the 2017-2018 school year by welcoming a new director, Jenna Carroll, who comes to Kansha with more than 11 years in the field of Early Childhood Education. Students, faculty and staff were excited to have Jenna onboard to continue to uphold the vision of the Maui Sons and Daughters of the Nisei Veterans. Last year, the preschool celebrated 10 years of service in the community.

The preschool program has set goals to renovate the school with plans to re-tile the bathroom and art/meal areas, along with re-carpeting the main classroom space.

Plans for the outdoor areas include giving the children a brand new play structure with safety turf flooring.

In addition, the preschool is working with the Maui Adult Daycare Center on improving the inter-generational garden. Staff have been applying for grants, welcoming donations, and participating in various events, and hope to meet fundraising goals within the next few years. Watch for updates in future editions of Okage Sama De.

Kansha Preschool is now accepting applications for the 2018-2019 school year. Please visit the preschool's website at www.kanshapreschool.net for more information.



New Board Member: Peter Hanano

Brought up by parents who were both educators, Peter Hanano learned the importance of hard work, studying hard and not taking anything for granted, at a young age. With an undergraduate degree from UH Manoa, an MBA from Chaminade and a law degree from Gonzaga, education has always been a central part of his life.

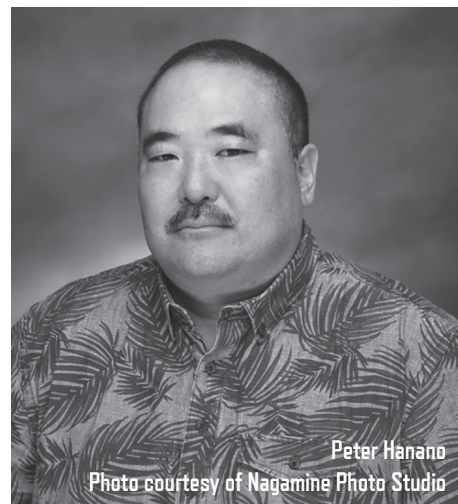
A Deputy Prosecuting Attorney for the County of Maui, Mr. Hanano says the importance of seeking justice and giving back is what attracted him to a career in law. "I participated in a Legal Clinic my senior year of law school. It was so rewarding to help the clients who visited us. It made a

big impact on my life."

Mr. Hanano's uncles, Meyer Ueoka and Tsutomu Hanano, both served in the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) during WWII. "All of the men who served are heroes. They displayed values and character traits that we can look up to. Traits that are sometimes hard to find in today's society. Those men risked their lives for a country that didn't necessarily feel the same way about them." When asked what values have had the greatest impact on him, he said, "Honor, loyalty and sacrifice."

Peter and his wife have one daughter and when the family isn't doing a project together you can find

Peter working on his '69 midnight blue Volkswagen bug that he has had since high school.



DESPITE THE 100TH'S ROMAN DISAPPOINTMENT, BATTALION EARNED RESPECT OF ARMY LEADERSHIP

On June 5, 1944, the 100th Infantry Battalion, consisting mostly of Nisei conscripted and former members of the Hawai'i Army National Guard, approached a road sign that read, "ROMA - 10 KM." The men had made it to the outskirts of Rome — The Eternal City, capital of Italy, home to the Vatican, Coliseum, Spanish Steps and Trevi Fountain.

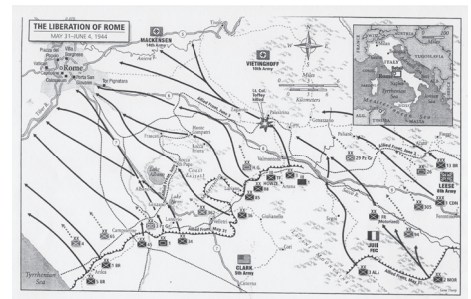
"Since setting foot on the Italian Peninsula in Naples nine months earlier, the 100th had fought countless battles and suffered massive losses against elite German forces. Originally, six companies totaling 1,300 men comprised the battalion, but after the battle of Monte Cassino the 100th was reduced to four companies of less than 600 able-bodied fighters. While the men received heroes' welcomes as they made their way toward Rome, liberating village after village, nothing would compare to the thundering outpouring of support and gratitude the battalion received when it reached Rome, one of Europe's largest cities and the first European capital to be liberated by the Allies.

However, "Instead of moving on they were told to halt by Gen. (Ernest N.) Harmon, commanding general of the First Armored Division, the division which made the final dash into Rome. The Japanese Americans sat by the roadside, jealously watching the other unit go by in a swirling stream of dust," wrote author Masayo Duus, describing what happened in her book, "Unlikely Liberators." (p. 136)

Lyn Crost, then-Honolulu Star-Bulletin war correspondent, followed the 100th during the war. In her book, "Honor by Fire," she wrote, "Rumors flew through

the ranks, one of them that racial prejudice had denied them the prize." She wrote after the war, "some 100th veterans have continued to believe that racial prejudice prevented them from being among the first troops to enter Rome." (p. 146)

As to whether the 100th would have been the first units, or one of the first, to enter Rome had it not been for the order to halt, one may turn to Rick Atkinson's book, "The Day of Battle." In it he quotes Gen. Mark Clark, commander, U.S. Fifth Army, "It is impossible to determine with certainty the unit of the Fifth Army whose elements first entered the city." (p.570) One thing is certain, however: the date when the first units entered Rome was June 4, a day before the 100th came upon the 10 kilometer sign, and on June 5 at 1:30 p.m. — a half-hour before the 100th reached the city outskirts — the U.S. Flag and Union Jack were raised above Piazza Venezia. Both Lt. Col. Gordon Singles, battalion commander, and Capt. Young-Oak Kim, battalion operations officer, have stated the men may have overreacted to the day's events. Battalion records show the 100th had been halted so its officers could attend a meeting relating to the impending link-up with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, which had just arrived in Civitavecchia. As for the charge of racism, Crost was in regular contact with Gen. Clark, and she felt the general had too much aloha for the 100th to have permitted such an intentional snub. In fact, when the Fifth Army later approached Leghorn (Livorno), Gen. Clark made certain the 100th was the first unit into the city.



Nevertheless, the disappointment of not being able to enter the city of Rome and participate in the Allied troops' moment of glory weighed on the men of the 100th, both then and in later years.

Even for victorious Gen. Clark, who had arrived in Rome ahead of his British nemesis, Gen. Harold Alexander, the celebration was short-lived. Early the next morning on June 6, Gen. Clark woke up to the news the Allied invasion of Normandy had begun. Clark responded, "How do you like that? They didn't even let us have the newspaper headlines for the fall of Rome for one day." (Atkinson, p. 575)



Stories Serve as Reminders of What Must Not Happen Again to Any Group

On Feb. 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 authorizing the internment of Japanese Americans, German Americans, and Italian Americans to camps in the United States. Approximately 110,000 people of Japanese ancestry were interned.

To coincide with the opening of NVMC's "Internment - Stories from Maui County" exhibit, Dr. Gail Okawa presented, "Through My Grandfather's Eyes," an illustrated talk on the journey of Hawai'i Japanese immigrants who were exiled to mainland internment camps during World War II.

On Feb. 10, NVMC hosted three sold-out showings of the mini-documentary, "Voices Behind Barbed Wire: Stories of Maui County." Released in 2018, this 25-minute documentary, written and directed by Ryan Kawamoto and produced by the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai'i, features the stories of Shigeji Terada, Seiichi Ohata and Rev. Tadao Kouchi of Maui County and shared updated information on the Maui confinement sites.

The late U.S. Sen. Daniel K. Inouye said of internment: "The lessons learned must remain as a grave reminder of what we must not allow to happen again to any group."



Melanie Agrabante, Dr. Gail Okawa, Deidre Tegarden and Brian Moto



Carole Hayashino, Executive Director, Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, Mildred Okuda, and Ryan Kawamoto

Governor Ige Proclamation



After touring the NVMC Campus, Governor David Ige presented a proclamation recognizing the International Day of Peace. Pictured are representatives from the Kansha Preschool, the Maui Adult Day Care Center, Board Members and friends of the NVMC.

Volunteers Install Walkway and Marker at NVMC Historic Site

A heartfelt mahalo goes out to members and friends of the Maui Lions Clubs for the selfless work they performed building a 40-foot concrete brick walkway and installing a permanent granite burial marker at Maui's Nisei Veterans Memorial Center (NVMC) on Aug. 26, 2017.

Thirty-five volunteers representing the Lions Clubs of Haleakala, Kahului, Kahului Maui Airport, and Maui arrived early at 8 a.m. that Saturday morning and, under the guidance of former NVMC board member and Lions Club District Governor Mark Mizuno, undertook the much-anticipated work at the location. Identified as site No. 4668 in the State Inventory of Historic Places (SIHP), the marker was installed in the NVMC burial preserve and later blessed by Rev. Laki Ka'ahumanu.

The walkway runs from the NVMC curbside to the Hawaiian Islands Land Trust Peace Park and will stem future erosion of sand onto the driveway. Volunteers also cleared the driveway bank and the park of weeds, shrubs and trees.

At the end of the workday, Mark Mizuno presented Maui Adult Day Care Centers (MADCC) President Bill Kinaka with a \$10,000 check from the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation as part of the Weinberg "Friends" program. When his club was invited to participate in the program, Haleakala Lions Club Secretary Frank Hamasaki submitted an application for the grant. To qualify for the grant, which is issued to eligible 503(c)(3) nonprofit agencies dedicated to assisting the less fortunate in our community, the Lions Club members were required to put in 100 hours of volunteer work.

Suzanne Antounian and Margie Dela Cruz of MADCC kept the workers comfortable with refreshments and snacks as well as a wonderful lunch.

The NVMC thanks Mr. Mizuno and the Lions Club members for their valuable time and efforts in bringing these long-outstanding projects to fruition.



Rev. Laki Ka'ahumanu blessed the ancient burial site identified as site No. 4668 in the State Inventory of Historic Places.



Lions Club members on Aug. 26, 2017, installed a 40-foot concrete brick walkway at Maui's Nisei Veterans Memorial Center.

We Honor Our Nisei ‘Uncles’ by Emulating Them *by Warren Orikasa*



We, the descendants, families, neighbors and friends of the Nisei veterans, have been blessed with the benefits and lifestyle earned and paid for by our predecessors. As recipients of these unearned blessings, we may sometimes forget its cost, which we can never truly repay.

The legacy of our Nisei veterans is alive, though we may not necessarily realize or recognize it. Memories of our many “uncles” still remain after so many decades as they surely do in many other sansei. Retelling of their memories is an appropriate attempt to perpetuate their legacy.

Uncle Stanley always had a smile and gentle laughter. His home was warm and friendly and the site of many gatherings. I may not remember the exact food we shared, but I do remember the comfort of his hospitality.

Uncle Kiyoshi frequently invited others for meals and card games. The shared laughter was always contagious, though I hardly ever understood what they were laughing about.

Uncle Kuni always seemed to have time to share. He took me fishing on many occasions to still memorable spots. He had a quiet, patient demeanor. Those were such wonderful memories — and lots of fish, too!

Uncle Den was a frequent visitor to our home, as we were to his. I remember a gentler man with a quick smile and a warm heart. His home was always open to friends, and many an afternoon were spent there.

Uncle Kiyomi was a constant source of laughter and chuckles, a great sense of humor and a genuine openness. He loved music and fishing, and he hardly ever complained.

Uncle Sho seemed to take great pride in attempting to discipline me, though I don’t remember being the child that needed such discipline. Scolding, not yelling. Sincere caring, as though I was his son.

Uncle Noburu was always proper, yet ready to kokua. Always reliable in

times of uncertainty, he lived, caring for, and helping others, quietly.

Uncle George. I never really knew him, but everyone spoke so highly of him and he held this esteem with great obligation. He did a lot for many, but never for personal recognition.

Uncle “Others” surround our upbringing throughout our lives, even today. These honored, valiant soldiers, so ferocious in battle, surrounded us without a hint of ferocity. Quite the contrary, they were exemplary in their efforts to create a new order, one which would benefit those who followed. They accomplished this without great fanfare. They accomplished this with a lifelong commitment to the personal, social and cultural qualities that influenced their accomplishments.

Perhaps our obligatory legacy would be to emulate the Nisei characteristics as we interact with others. In doing so, we may be able to repay a small part of our debt throughout our lives. Many are living this way today, reflecting, caring and sharing, trying to bridge the divide between generations. Okage sama de.

2018 Mayor’s Small Business “Outstanding Non-Profit”



The Nisei Veterans Memorial Center was honored to receive the 2018 Mayor’s Small Business “Outstanding Non-Profit” award on Friday, March 9 at the King Kamehameha Golf Club.

L-R: Kyoko Kimura, Melanie Agrabante, Mayor Arakawa, Deidre Tegarden, Brian Moto and Leonard Oka.



Photo by Shane Tegarden

NVMC 14TH ANNUAL DINNER

The NVMC 14th Annual Dinner, held on November 17, 2017, was titled “Finding the Hero in Yourself,” echoing the NVMC mission: to ignite the potential in people by inspiring them to find the hero in themselves through the legacy of the Nisei veterans. The underlying theme of the evening was the celebration of a group of unlikely heroes who have now been immortalized in literature, through Julie Checkoway’s acclaimed book “The Three-Year Swim Club – The Untold Story of Maui’s Sugar Ditch Kids and Their Quest for Olympic Glory.”

An overflow crowd filled the Maui Beach Hotel ballroom and was captivated by Ms. Checkoway’s keynote address, in which she described her journey of discovery: hearing about Coach Soichi Sakamoto and his “swim kids,” researching the history of the club, meeting the swimmers and their families, falling in love with the story and the people involved. She spoke of the deep sense of fulfillment she experienced, not just while writing the book, but also in the aftermath, as the publishing of “The Three-Year Swim Club” led to international recognition of the incredible, innovative contributions Coach Sakamoto made to the sport.

Tables were decorated with photos and mini-biographies of Nisei vets who were also members of the Three-Year Swim Club. And, in a “chicken-skin” moment, Ms. Checkoway was joined on stage by some of the families of Sakamoto’s swimmers and even one of the original club members, Kimiko “Joyce” Higa Horikawa.

NVMC Executive Director Deidre Tegarden and Board President Brian Moto shared emcee duties and, following the keynote address, presented the annual Hero Awards:



Deidre Tegarden, Grant Chun and Brian Moto.
Photo by Shane Tegarden.

ROY KATSUDA (ACCEPTED BY GRANT CHUN) COURAGE AWARD sponsored by Alexander & Baldwin

The Nisei vets courageously dealt with the horrors of war, then upon their return, worked intently and tirelessly to reduce the suffering of others. The Courage Award, a tribute to those in the Maui community who use their position, influence, and personal sacrifice to help others through tough times, was presented in absentia to Roy Katsuda, recently retired Executive Director of Hale Mahaolu. In accepting the award on Katsuda’s behalf, his successor Grant Chun said, “Roy (who was visiting family in Japan) has been a pillar of our community for decades; no other housing provider in our state has met with the kind of growth and success that Roy & his team have achieved.”



Deidre Tegarden, Kathy Collins, Grant Nakama and Paul Mizoguchi. Photo by Shane Tegarden.

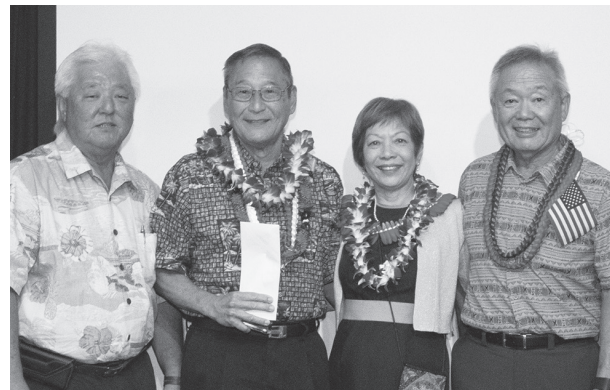
KATHY COLLINS PHILANTHROPY AWARD

Sponsored by Pacific Pipe Co.

The generous yet quiet style of the Nisei generation often meant that their philanthropic deeds stayed out of the spotlight. The Philanthropy Award brings attention to those in our community who are quietly and selflessly working to benefit our community. In receiving the award, storyteller and Maui News columnist Kathy Collins, who frequently emcees and writes about community events and causes, expressed her gratitude for being allowed to give back to the community in this way.



Brian Moto, Warren Shimabukuro, Grant Nakama and Kyoko Kimura. Photo by Shane Tegarden.



Leonard Oka, David & Judith Fukuda and Paul Mizoguchi. Photo by Shane Tegarden.

WARREN SHIMABUKURO LEGACY AWARD

Sponsored by Maui Land & Pineapple

While the Nisei veterans were most recognized for their achievements during wartime, they did not let WWII define their entire lives. They continued to work for the betterment of their community and their families, and they established a legacy of civilian service. The Legacy Award recognizes individuals who have dedicated their lives to improving our Maui community and was presented to Warren Shimabukuro, longtime caretaker of “Iron” Maehara Baseball Stadium. Shimabukuro was recognized for being “a tremendous advocate and volunteer for baseball and Japanese cultural activities on Maui.” He has helped organize Maui AJA baseball for over 40 years.

DAVID FUKUDA HIROSHI ARISUMI LEADERSHIP AWARD

Sponsored by HouseMart

During WWII the Nisei soldiers inspired America and showed the world what it meant to “go for broke,” then upon their return from war, they continued to lead the Maui community with the strength of their character and the integrity of their actions. The Leadership Award, renamed this year to include NVMC leader Hiroshi Arisumi, recognizes individuals who have led Maui forward with the leadership style of the Nisei. David Fukuda, a former contractor and retired teacher, NVMC Board member, tireless volunteer and major contributor, accepted the award in his typically humble and gracious manner, saying he was especially honored to be the recipient of this particular award because “Hiroshi has been like a second father to me.”

The entire evening was truly inspirational as well as entertaining; attendees left the ballroom feeling energized and, hopefully, ready to begin their own journeys of discovery – to find the heroes within themselves.

NVMC 14TH ANNUAL DINNER



Julie Checkoway surrounded by Maui's Sugar Ditch Kids swimmer and families.
L-R: Glenn Goya, swimmer Joyce Horikawa; children of swimmer Shiro Mukai: Kim Mukai-Otani, Zane Mukai, Gary Mukai, Julie Checkoway; children of swimmer Fudgy Katsutani: Colleen Matsui, and Lee Matsui.
Photo by Shane Tegarden.



A standing-room-only crowd for Julie Checkoway's book signing at Barnes and Noble.

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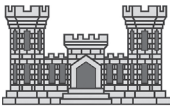
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LEST WE FORGET OUR DEPARTED COMRADES



Torio Nishida

Jan. 27, 1921 – Nov. 27, 2017

Torio Nishida of Wailuku, Maui, passed away on Nov. 27, 2017, at Hale Makua. He was 96 years old.

Torio was born on Jan. 27, 1921, in Omaopio, Maui. He attended Kula Elementary and then began working on the family farm. In 1943, he married Yuriko Inazaki and together they raised two children. On July 15, 1944, Torio entered the U.S. Army, serving in the 1399th Engineering Construction Battalion on O'ahu. He served as a construction machine operator and was honorably discharged as a Technician Fourth Grade on July 20, 1946. He received the Asiatic-Pacific Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal.

Upon his return from war, he worked for various agricultural and distribution companies such as Wailuku Sugar, Seaview Farms, M & K Distributors, and King Theater.

Mr. Nishida was predeceased by his wife, Yuriko "Lillian" Nishida. He is survived by his son, Roy (Leila); daughter, Eleanor; grandchildren, Carrie (Peter) Pereira and Lianne (Shaun) Nishida-Costello; five great grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.



Willie Goo

May 12, 1920 – Jan. 21, 2018

Willie Goo of Waihe'e passed away on Jan. 21, 2018, at the Maui Memorial Medical Center. He was born on May 12, 1920, in Olowalu, Maui. When he was about 7 years old, his family moved to Waihe'e where he attended school and later graduated from Maui High School. He worked for the County of Maui as a greens keeper at the Waiehu Golf Course.

In 1940, Willie enlisted in the 299th National Guard Unit on Maui. He later chose to join what would be called the 100th Infantry Battalion (Separate), Company C. He trained at Camp McCoy, Wisconsin, and for a while at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, for maneuvers. He later shipped out to Europe with the 100th Battalion and fought in the Naples Foggia Campaign and the Rome Arno Campaign.

Goo earned the American Defense Service Medal with Clasp, Asiatic-Pacific Service Medal, EAME (European-African-Middle Eastern) Service Medal, Battle Honors - Naples Foggia Campaign Letter, and the Good Conduct Medal. He was wounded on June 02, 1944, in the unit's push to Lanuvio and was awarded the Purple Heart Medal.

After recuperating in hospitals in Virginia, Minnesota and Illinois, he was finally released from the Army on July 25, 1945, with the rank of Private First Class.

Mr. Goo returned to Maui and his job at the Waiehu Golf Course. He then worked for Matson Navigation Company, Kahului Railroad, and then back to the County of Maui from which he retired in the early 1970s. He was a proud member of the 100th Infantry Battalion Veteran's Club. In his spare time, he enjoyed golfing as well as attending and watching sporting events. He was one of the top golfers in the state, winning numerous tournaments and awards.

Mr. Goo was predeceased by his wife, Janet, and seven siblings, a sister and six brothers. He is survived by his son, William Lorrin (Amy), and daughters, Joni (Craig) Kawamura and Charlene (Neil) Yashiro. He also leaves behind six grandchildren and four great grandchildren, as well as numerous nieces and nephews. In addition, he is survived by three sisters-in-laws, Barbara, Utako and Diannah.

‘Cultural Day’ Honors Legacy of Nisei Veterans

by *Tiara Kobayashi-Bautista*

The story of the 442nd unit was a defining moment in history for Japanese Americans and their culture. Men of Japanese descent bravely signed up to fight for a country that had turned their backs on them. I am proud to know that my grandfather, Stanley Kobayashi, was part of this courageous troop. In my hope of honoring him and the rest of the Nisei veterans, I incorporated the 442nd unit into my senior project. As for my involvement in the community, I organized a “Cultural Day” at the Nisei Veterans Memorial Center.

This was an event for the public that aimed attention toward Japanese traditions and cultural value, from which the Japanese Americans had to stray away after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Participating organizations included Maui Taiko, Chado Urasenke Maui Association, Barnes & Noble, Sew Special, Ben Franklin Crafts, The Japanese Cultural Society of Maui, Takamiya Market, Bamboo Grille and, of course, many food vendors including the Lau Hee food truck, Kansha Preschool and the Cub Scouts Pack 40 who sold hand rolled sushi and poke bowls. It was wonderful to have such a cross-section of the community come together to honor the Nisei veterans. The evening ended with a candle-lighting ceremony.

I am happy to say that everyone had a pleasant evening, and I am thrilled the evening raised over \$1,500 for the Nisei veterans. With the satisfaction of this project, I will always remember what the 442nd unit did for the United States.



Koko Wolbe of Chado Urasenke performs a tea ceremony during Cultural Day at the NVMC. Photo courtesy of Melanie Agrabante.



Organizer Tiara Kobayashi-Bautista, between her mother Miki & Senator Jill Tokuda

Chrysanthemum Festival



From Left to right: Kawika Fernandez, Princess Kristi Echiverri, Logan Cabanilla-Aricayos, Princess Jaelynn Nobriga, Kai Iinuma Nakaaki, Queen Paige Maki Nagahama, Princess Makaylen Tadeo, John Williamson, Sokha Furumoto, Caleb Perreira.
Photo Credit: Nagamine Photo Studios.

The Chrysanthemum Festival is a fundraiser for the Maui’s Sons & Daughters of the Nisei Veterans. The Festival supports the historical preservation efforts of the Educational Center at the NVMC and also provides scholarships to Maui high school seniors regardless of ethnicity.

NISEI RECIPE CORNER

COLD TOFU

Contributed by NVMC supporter Cynthia Ikeda

Ingredients:

- 1 block tofu, well drained
- 2 bunches of green onion, finely minced
- 2 Tbs ginger, finely minced
- 2 Tbs chung choi, finely minced
- 2 Tbs peanut oil
- salt to taste

Cut tofu in cubes and place in a single layer on a platter. Combine green onions, chung choi, peanut oil and salt. Spread mixture over tofu.



TSUBUSHIAN SHORTBREAD

Contributed by TJs Warehouse

Bottom Layer:

- 2 c. flour
- 1/2 c. sugar
- 1 c. butter (softened)
- 1/2 c. walnuts (chopped)

Top Layer:

- 1/2 c. flour
- 1/2 c. sugar
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 3 eggs (slightly beaten)
- 1-18 oz can Tsubushian (azuki)

1. Combine flour and sugar for bottom layer and cut in butter. Mix in chopped walnuts. Press mixture evenly into lightly greased 9x13 inch pan. Bake at 350° F for 20 minutes.
2. While bottom layer is baking for the last 10 minutes, sift together flour, sugar, baking powder, and salt for top layer.
3. Mix in slightly beaten eggs and Tsubushian to the sifted mixture.
4. Pour top layer over baked crust and bake at 350° F for 45-50 minutes. When done, remove from oven, cool for a little, then cut into pieces.

MATCHA MOCHI

Contributed by Diane Orikasa,
Volunteer Coordinator at the NVMC

Ingredients:

- 2 cup sugar (or less)
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1 box mochiko (16 oz)
- 2 Tbs matcha powder
- 1 can coconut milk (12 oz)
- 1 1/3 cup water
- 1 tsp vanilla
- Preheat oven 350 degrees.

Wisk dry ingredients together. Add remaining ingredients and mix well. Pour into a 9x13 pan (sprayed with Pam). Cover with foil and bake for about 1 hour. Remove foil when done and cool 3-4 hours. Cut with a plastic knife. Use Katakuriko or cornstarch while cutting for easier handling.



DRY MEIN

Contributed by TJs Warehouse

Ingredients:

- 1 pkg Iwamoto noodles
- 1 pkg bean sprouts
- 1/2 c. shoyu
- 1/2 c. oil
- Dash of salt
- Dash of pepper
- 5 stalks green onion (chopped)
- 1 lb char siu or roast pork (sliced)
- 2 eggs (scrambled & sliced)
- 1/2 pkg kamaboko (sliced)

1. Bring 5 quarts of water to a rolling boil. Add loosened noodles. When water comes to a second boil, noodles should be just about done. Check noodles by taste or touch. Do not overcook.
2. Pour noodles and hot water over the bean sprouts contained in colander. Cool slightly. Transfer noodles and bean sprouts into an aluminum pan.
3. Pour shoyu, oil, salt, and pepper over the noodles and sprouts. Mix thoroughly.
4. Add chopped green onions, char siu/roast pork, scrambled eggs, and kamaboko.
5. Mix all ingredients until well blended.
1 pkg of noodles makes 1 half pan

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Please show your support for the Nisei Veterans Memorial Center

Your tax-deductible contribution will help the Nisei Veterans Memorial Center maintain the NVMC "Living Memorial" campus and fulfill its mission of promoting understanding about the history, values and culture of the Nisei veterans among our community's children, families and visitors.

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

The NVMC is so grateful to have the support of so many in our community.

We would like to extend a special "mahalo" to the organizations and individuals who continually share their generosity with the Center.

The NVMC is accepting donations such as photos, and documents for our archives. It is the NVMC's responsibility to ensure current and future generations understand the legacy of the Nisei Veterans.

Thanks to the donations, we are able to continue sharing their legacy.



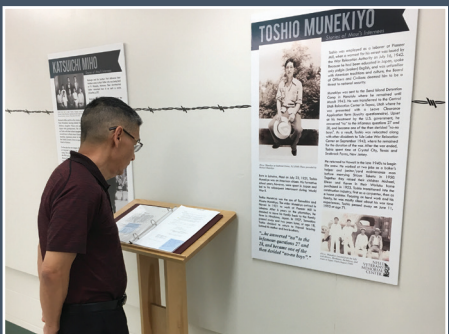
LOOK WHO STOPPED BY



Haleakala Waldorf Students



Larry Haramoto has created a number of wood work projects for the Nisei Veterans Memorial Center including the picture display stands on the table behind us. (He also makes really delicious kimchee.) Photo courtesy of Sarah Garbutt.



Michael Munekiyo in front of his father, Toshio Munekiyo's panel.



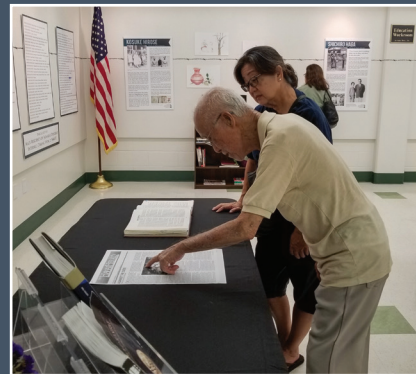
Kihei Charter school students talk story with Korean War Veteran Mr. Harold Kametani.



Mel Tomita and family visited us in December 2017. Mel served in the 100/442 from 1968 - 1970. In February, we received a package from the family that included Mel's unit picture and veteran records. The picture will be included in our upcoming exhibit on the 442nd Regimental Combat Team as part of the unit's "continuing legacy." Photo courtesy of Melanie Agrabante.



NVMC Board Member Beryl Bal gets her copy of "Picture Bride" signed by Barbara Kawakami.



The Sorayama family reading the Feb. 20, 1998 article "Against the Odds" from The Hawaii Herald. The story was about the fight for redress by former Maui plantation camp residents and included pictures of the Sorayama family whose members were on the forefront of the Maui reparations movement. Photo courtesy of Melanie Agrabante.



Students from Hiroshima Keizai University and Onomichi spent a morning learning about the Nisei Veterans.



The granddaughter of Gen. Sherman Dixon seeing an article on her grandfather for the first time in the book, "Bridge of Love." Photo courtesy of Melanie Agrabante.



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SPRING NEWSLETTER 2018

75th Anniversary of 'Loyalty, Courage, Sacrifice' of the 442nd

The 442nd Regimental Combat Team (RCT) was comprised of two distinct units: the 442nd RCT and the 100th Infantry Battalion.



PAGE 1

Kansha Preschool Welcomes New Director

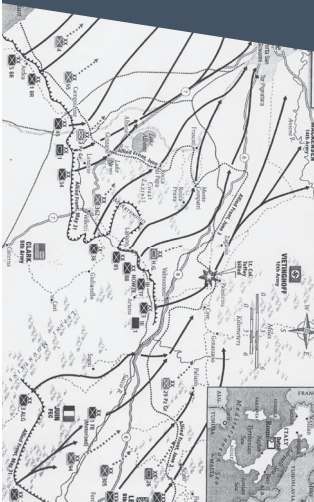
Kansha Preschool welcomes Jenna Carroll, who comes to Kansha to set improvement goals and uphold the vision of the Maui Sons and Daughters of the Nisei Veterans.



PAGE 5

Despite the 100th's Roman Disappointment, Battalion Earned Respect of Army Leadership

The 100th Infantry Battalion approached a road received outpouring of support entering Rome.



PAGE 6

NVMC 14th Annual Dinner

The NVMC 14th Annual Dinner echoed the NVMC mission: to ignite the potential in people by inspiring them to find the hero in themselves through the legacy of the Nisei veterans.



PAGE 10