The California Senate fetes 100th Battalion/442nd RCT veterans on the 75th anniversary of their formation.

JACL and USJC establish Japan Flood Friendship Fund.

Family owned Kale Wines is cultivating perfect wine pairings.
WASHINGTON, D.C. — Japan is currently experiencing what is considered to be the worst weather disaster the country has faced in 56 years. The floods and landslides in western Japan this month have led to severe damage, most notably in the Ehime, Hiroshima and Okayama Prefectures. To date, hundreds of people have lost their lives, many have suffered damages to their homes and many more are left without water.

The U.S.-Japan Council, the Japanese American Citizens League and our friends at other U.S.-Japan-related organizations offer heartfelt thoughts to all who are affected. Many in the U.S. have strong ties to the Ehime, Hiroshima and Okayama communities through people-to-people programs and exchanges. Many Japanese Americans also have family ties or personal connections to the region. Several JACL Kakehashi program participants have had the privilege of staying in homestays in affected areas.

USJC and JACL have established the Japan Flood Friendship Fund to aid those who are affected. One hundred percent of the tax-deductible contributions will go toward relief efforts through our network of nonprofit organizations that are working on the ground. We also welcome organizations that would be interested in partnering with us to support those in need.

Please consider donating by visiting http://www.usjapancouncil.org/japan_flood_friendship_fund.

If you would prefer to pay by check, please make your check payable to the U.S.-Japan Council and mail to:

U.S.-Japan Council
Attn: Japan Flood Friendship Fund
1819 L St., N.W.
Suite 800
Washington, D.C. 20036

If you have any inquiries or would like to partner with us, please write to JFF@usjapancouncil.org or call (202) 223-6843.

THOUSANDS STILL IN SHELTERS AFTER DEADLY FLOODING IN JAPAN

By Associated Press

TOKYO — More than 7,000 people were still in evacuation shelters and many more were struggling with basic needs July 12 after severe flooding and landslides last week in western Japan caused at least 200 deaths.

The disastrously heavy rainfall caused damage over a widespread area, with most of the deaths in and around Hiroshima. Power and water outages were common, and damage to roads and railway tracks disrupted deliveries of food and relief supplies.

Water shortages were even affecting some of the evacuation centers, which are usually priority destinations for relief supplies.

Takao Kusunoki, an evacuee staying at a junior high school in Ehime, said he has not been able to take a bath for four days now and could only clean himself with a wet towel.

“I’m so sweaty, and I want to take a bath as soon as possible,” he told the Mainichi newspaper. “We need our water system restored.”

Thousands of homes were still without clean water and electricity. Residents lined up for water under a scorching sun as temperatures rose to 95 degrees Fahrenheit, raising the risk of heat stroke.

Floodwaters have subsided in most places but left behind massive debris, including broken trees, furniture and mangled cars that still need to be moved out of the way.

Disrupted distribution systems are keeping lives in the disaster zone difficult. Convenience stores are open shorter hours, and dozens of major chains such as Family Mart, 7-Eleven and Lawson were closed due to delayed deliveries, supply shortages or flooding in Hiroshima, Okayama and Ehime.

McDonald’s said five outlets in Hiroshima and another in Ehime were without water. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at a disaster response meeting July 12 recalled seeing “horrendous” damage during his visit the previous day to Kurashiki city, where a river broke through its embankment and flooded a wide area.

“After seeing that, I feel even more strongly about doing whatever it takes so that the people who were affected could live safely again as soon as possible,” said Abe, who had canceled a trip to Europe and the Middle East to respond to the disaster.

Abe said the government obtained temporary housing for people whose homes were damaged or lost so that they could move in and be more comfortable.

More than 700 houses were destroyed or damaged, and more than 23,000 were flooded, according to the Fire and Disaster Management Agency.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told reporters 200 deaths had been confirmed, and another person was found without vital signs. Suga said 21 people are missing and about 40 others are still out of contact with their families.
TIME TO HEAL

By David Inoue, JACL Executive Director

Earlier this month, I attended the Tule Lake Pilgrimage as one of three that were able to attend this year. Previously, I went to Jerome-Rohwer, which is especially important in the discussion today over the detention of children as the government investigates the possibility of placing a new concentration camp for children overlapping several acres of the Rohwer site. I will be finishing the month at Heart Mountain.

The pilgrimages are vitally important to our community in healing the deep and persevering wounds of incarceration. There is perhaps no place where this is more true than at Tule Lake.

For those incarcerated at Tule Lake, there are the scars of the injustices inflicted by our government that are common to many who experienced incarceration, but also the ostracism many experienced from others in the Japanese American community and charges of disloyalty.

Hindsight is so often clearer, and the revelations of the depths of deception from our government make what happened all the more disturbing. What there can be no doubt about is the difficult situation everyone was placed in during the war. Decisions needed to be made on how to respond to what was happening to our community, and unfortunately, that often meant choosing a side, sometimes splitting families apart.

I often think through the “What If” scenarios. I was raised in the Anabaptist pacifist tradition and have thought myself a conscientious objector. Yet, I have never experienced the draft or been forced to put this claim to the test. How would I really respond if forced into service?

If anything, it does imbue within me a great sense of respect for those who are willing to go to battle and do something my own personal conscience would not allow me to do. It also means I will fight that we should never need to ask anyone to make the sacrifice of taking another’s life in the name of our country. It is from this perspective that I approach the divisions within our community.

JACL is responsible for ensuring that the story of Japanese Americans continues to be remembered and is brought to relevance to today’s concerns. The theme of resistance, for those who were sent to Tule Lake, is especially relevant today and was especially poignant at the pilgrimage, which I attended the weekend before the Fourth of July.

Following a memorial service to those who died at Tule Lake and those lost since, all pilgrimage attendees gathered in front of the prison building in protest of the inhumane family separation policy of our government for migrant families. This also coincided with the nationwide protests going on that day.

It is powerful when we as a Japanese American community can speak together of the injustice that was done upon our community during the war. It is even more important when we can bring that moral authority to the challenges of today whether it is the Muslim ban, family separation or the denial of service from a business.

When we say “Never Again,” we must also mean that we will never again be divided, and we will stand together as Japanese Americans against injustice.

One of the special aspects of this year’s JACL National Convention in Philadelphia will be the concurrent film festival. Among the films to be shown are “Resistance at Tule Lake” and “And Then They Came for Us,” two films that highlight the idea of resistance — past and present — that is a part of our concession theme.

It is my hope that we can also find some reconciliation within our community and embrace the fullness of our Japanese American experience during the war and bring that full experience to bear against the injustices we see today.

David Inoue is Executive Director of the JACL. He is based in the organization’s Washington, D.C., office.

A MOTHER’S TAKE

By Marsha Aizumi

Last month, Aiden and I were asked to speak to about 40 Mormon Church leaders. Aiden said that he was “super nervous.” I was nervous, too, but I felt like this was an opportunity to reach people who could become allies.

The reason we were so nervous is because the Mormon Church was said to be the reason Proposition 8, the California proposition that outlawed gay marriage, passed. They raised $5 million a few weeks before the election. And according to a New York Times article, “The money allowed the drive to intensify a sharp-elbowed advertising campaign, and support for the measure was catapulted ahead; it ultimately won with 52 percent of the vote.”

You can see why we thought we might be walking into an intense situation. But times change, and people can change, too. I think I am proof of that. I used to think that being Japanese could be the reason Proposition 8 passed. But it was not. I see the reason why it happened.

I often think through the “What If” scenarios. I was raised in the Anabaptist pacifist tradition and have thought myself a conscientious objector. Yet, I have never experienced the draft or been forced to put this claim to the test. How would I really respond if forced into service?

If anything, it does imbue within me a great sense of respect for those who are willing to go to battle and do something my own personal conscience would not allow me to do. It also means I will fight that we should never need to ask anyone to make the sacrifice of taking another’s life in the name of our country. It is from this perspective that I approach the divisions within our community.

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The courage to stand alone . . .
KOREMATSU REPEAL REPEATS THE SAME MISTAKE

By David Inoue, JACL Executive Director

It should have been a time of celebration. In the Supreme Court’s majority decision, Chief Justice John Roberts emphatically stated, “The forcible relocation of U.S. citizens and specifically Japanese Americans was wholly inapt to liken that morally repugnant ban as different from Korematsu, “But it is the basis of race, is objectively unlawful and today as we separate children from their parents seemingly without a second thought, or any intent to bring them back together. JACL successfully fought for changes to our country’s immigration policy in 1952 and 1965, which enabled Japanese immigrants to become citizens and establish that immigrants not be discriminated based on ethnicity, national origin and other similar characteristics. As Japanese Americans, we cannot forget the injustices that we experienced and allow them to be continued today. The first line of Executive Order 9066 opens, “Whereas the successful prosecution of the war requires every possible protection.” The unchecked power of the executive branch enabling “every possible protection” is what allowed the Japanese American incarceration. The decision, but the reality is that the court has replaced Korematsu with a similarly flawed legal decision. Chief Justice Roberts justifies the Muslim ban as different from Korematsu, “But it is wholly inapt to liken that morally repugnant order to a facially neutral policy denying certain foreign nationals the privilege of admission. See post, at 26–28.” As JACL noted in its statement following the decision, the key words here are “facially neutral.” Executive Order 9066 was also “facially neutral,” but the basis in the court of history and — to be clear — “has no place in our history and — to be clear — ‘has no place in the promise of citizenship for immigrants serv ing in our military. The dehumanization that happened in the classrooms of the Pasadena Art Workshops, where I took classes in photography, ceramics, jewelry making and enameling. “I consider the Armory part of my arts lineage,” Ito continued. “The impact that these classes had on me are a part of my professional building blocks in the trajectory of my arts career. I am thrilled that I have been able to pass this tradition on to my own children through the Armory’s art classes, art birthday parties and visits to the gallery. I am honored to have the opportunity to lead this important arts institution, and I look forward to working with the board, staff and community constituents to continue its great work.” In a statement given to its members and supporters, Craig Tomiyoshi, chair of the board of directors for the JACCC, said, “After five and a half years of leading our organization, Leslie Ito will be stepping down as president and CEO of the Japanese American & Cultural Community Center at the end of July. She’ll be joining the Armory Center for the Arts in Pasadena as their new executive director, and we are excited for Leslie as she brings her creativity to the arts and culture community in her hometown, Pasadena. "We’re incredibly grateful to Leslie for all she has accomplished and brought to the organization,” Tomiyoshi continued. “Under her leadership, JACCC experienced an incredible period of revitalization and growth. Leslie helped shape and rebuild the organization, including balancing the budget, strengthening our relationships and ties with Japan and developing a robust strategic plan that will continue to help guide and shape the future direction of JACCC.” The JACCC plans to announce the search for a new president and CEO, as well as an interim director, in the coming weeks. Ito will be officially installed as the Armory’s new executive director in September. A native of Los Angeles, Ito holds a bachelor of arts degree in American studies from Mount Holyoke College and a master of arts in Asian American studies from the University of California, Los Angeles. In addition, Ito attended Stanford University Graduate School of Business’ Executive Program for Nonprofit Leaders.

WILDERNESS >> continued from page 3

For the longest time, Aiden had worn a bracelet that had the letters “WWJD,” which stood for “what would Jesus do.” When he was rejected by the church, he never wore the bracelet again. Emerson said that when he heard the story about the “WWJD” bracelet, he wanted to give Aiden something that would replace that negative experience. It was a beautiful gesture filled with grace and compassion. Ironically, some of the awareness that I walked away with from that evening came from Brenda Brown’s book “Braving the Wilderness,” which was recommended by Darci. In Brenda’s book, she says, “People Are Hard to Hate Close Up. Move In.” Aiden and I moved in, and it has changed our feelings about the Mormon Church. I no longer judge all Mormons to be homophobic. And I hope the Mormon leaders who met us that night might have changed their feelings about what it means to be transgender. Emerson talks about a spirit that surrounds us and our work together. I feel it, too . . . I think it is love . . . . “Small things done with great love will change the world.” — Mother Teresa

Marsha Aisumi is an advocate in the LGBT community and the author of the book “Two Spirits, One Heart: A Mother, Her Transgender Son and Their Journey to Love and Acceptance.”

APAS IN THE NEWS

Leslie A. Ito Named New Executive Director of Armory Center for the Arts

PASadena, Calif. — Leslie A. Ito, 43, has been named executive director of the Armory Center for the Arts in Pasadena, Calif., following a six-month national search, effective Sept. 4. Ito, who recently announced her resignation after five years as president and CEO of the Japanese American & Cultural Community Center in Los Angeles’ Little Tokyo, comes to the Armony with more than 20 years of proven leadership and fundraising expertise.

Prior to her tenure at JACCC, Ito served as program director for arts and health at the California Community Foundation and director of grant programs at the Los Angeles County Arts Commission. In a statement given to Pasadena News Now, Ito said, “My family has lived in Pasadena for over 70 years. My relationship with the Armory dates back to its predecessor organization, the Pasadena Art Workshops. Some of my earliest and best art memories happened in the classrooms of the Pasadena Art Workshops, where I took classes in photography, ceramics, jewelry making and enameling. “I consider the Armory part of my arts lineage,” Ito continued. “The impact that these classes had on me are a part of my professional building blocks in the trajectory of my arts career. I am thrilled that I have been able to pass this tradition on to my own children through the Armory’s art classes, art birthday parties and visits to the gallery. I am honored to have the opportunity to lead this important arts institution, and I look forward to working with the board, staff and community constituents to continue its great work.”

In a statement given to its members and supporters, Craig Tomiyoshi, chair of the board of directors for the JACCC, said, “After five and a half years of leading our organization, Leslie Ito will be stepping down as president and CEO of the Japanese American & Cultural Community Center at the end of July. She’ll be joining the Armory Center for the Arts in Pasadena as their new executive director, and we are excited for Leslie as she brings her creativity to the arts and culture community in her hometown, Pasadena. “We’re incredibly grateful to Leslie for all she has accomplished and brought to the organization,” Tomiyoshi continued. “Under her leadership, JACCC experienced an incredible period of revitalization and growth. Leslie helped shape and rebuild the organization, including balancing the budget, strengthening our relationships and ties with Japan and developing a robust strategic plan that will continue to help guide and shape the future direction of JACCC.” The JACCC plans to announce the search for a new president and CEO, as well as an interim director, in the coming weeks.

Ito will be officially installed as the Armory’s new executive director in September. A native of Los Angeles, Ito holds a bachelor of arts degree in American studies from Mount Holyoke College and a master of arts in Asian American studies from the University of California, Los Angeles. In addition, Ito attended Stanford University Graduate School of Business’ Executive Program for Nonprofit Leaders.

Los Angeles Times Promotes Kimi Yoshino as Part of Its New Leadership Team

LOS ANGELES — In an announcement made by Los Angeles Times Executive Editor Norman Pearlstine on July 9, the newspaper’s new leadership team will include Kimi Yoshino, who has been promoted to deputy managing editor.

Yoshino, 46, who has served as the newspaper’s business editor for the past four years, will now oversee arts, business, entertainment and lifestyle and the sports sections. In a memo released by the Times, Pearlstine said, “I have come to recognize Kimi’s innate sense of fairness. She makes tough decisions look easy. I also appreciate her ability to create an environment that encourages collaboration and great journalism.”

Yoshino, who grew up in Modesto, Calif., joined the newspaper’s Orange County edition in 2000 and worked as a Metro editor and reporter. For the past few months, she also was in charge of the newspaper’s digital report. Also named to the Times’ new leadership team were Scott Kraft, managing editor, and Kris Visselmen, chief transformation editor and creative director. They join Deputy Managing Editor Colin Crawford and Editor of the Editorial Pages Nick Goldberg. In addition to Yoshino, all editors will report to Pearlstine.

Last month, new owner Dr. Patrick Soon-Shiong acquired the California Times news group, which includes the Los Angeles Times and San Diego Union-Tribune, from Chicago newspaper company Tronc.
FROM OUTCASTS TO OVATION: CALIFORNIA SENATE FETES 442 VETERANS

A ceremony at the state capitol building marks the 75th anniversary of the formation of the Army’s 100th Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team.

By P.C. Staff

Marking the 75th anniversary of the formation of the storied, segregated 100th Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team, California’s Senate paid tribute to the mostly Japanese American World War II Army unit at the state capitol in Sacramento on June 25.

In attendance were eight Californian members of the 442nd: Masao Kadota, 94; Fernando Sosa Masuda, 93; Don S. Miyada, 93; Yoshio Nakamura, 92; Lawson Ichiro Sakai, 94; Sam Isamu Sakamoto, 93; Noboru “Don” Seki, 94; and Tokui “Toke” Yoshihashi, 95.

Along with a resolution commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Army regiment, the eight vets received a standing ovation from senators, staff and a full gallery of guests in the Senate Chambers of the state capitol building.

The heroes’ welcome was quite a contrast to the treatment Japanese Americans received before and after Japan’s Dec. 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor in the then-territory of Hawaii.

First-generation Japanese immigrants were already proscribed from owning land and becoming naturalized U.S. citizens. After the U.S. declared war on Japan, Japanese Americans who were already serving in the military were removed from active duty. Japanese Americans who attempted to volunteer to serve in the military were denied after being classified as enemy aliens.

Sen. Richard Pan (D-Sacramento) recalled how California’s Senate had once considered a resolution that would have led to the firing of all California state workers of Japanese ancestry.

With anti-Japanese sentiment already pervasive in California, the attack on Pearl Harbor would lead to President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Executive Order 9066 of Feb. 19, 1942, which forcibly removed from the West Coast nearly 120,000 U.S. citizens and legal resident aliens into 10 primitive concentration camps located in remote parts of the country.

“Today, the 442nd’s values of loyalty, patriotism and selflessness remain as relevant as in 1943,” said Senate President Pro Tempore Toni Atkins (D-San Diego). “They fought for freedom and social justice — helping to lead the way for the civil rights movement, integration of the U.S. military and greater opportunities for all Americans.”

Atkins praised the combat history of the 442nd, which included eight major military campaigns and its “rescue of the Lost Battalion,” which saw the 442nd save about 200 fellow American soldiers at the cost of more than 800 casualties in the Vosges Mountains in France in October 1944.

Underscoring how the 442nd remains the most highly decorated military unit in U.S. history for size and length of service, Pan noted that its record includes 9,346 Purple Hearts, 21 Medals of Honor and the Congressional Gold Medal.

The 442nd began after the Dec. 7, 1941, attack when members of the University of Hawaii’s ROTC formed a group known as the Varsity Victory Volunteers, which was the nucleus of what would become the 100th Battalion, which preceded the 442nd and was a segregated Army unit mostly comprised of Nisei or second-generation Japanese Americans from Hawaii. It was a stand-alone unit that was later absorbed by the larger 442nd Regimental Combat Team, which was formed after March 1943 with the need for more soldiers in the war effort and included mainland Nisei volunteers and draftees from the 10 U.S. concentration camps.

After the comments from Atkins and Pan, as well as the standing ovation by the Senate, Nakamura, who served in M Co. (the heavy weapons unit) and fought in the battles that helped break the Nazis’ Gothic Line in Italy’s Apennine Mountains, said, “As I was standing there, I was thinking about all of the guys who should have been there but couldn’t be. I’m not a hero . . . but I’m grateful that the 442nd was honored for its accomplishments. It’s a testament to all of the Nisei who served.”

Echoing that sentiment was A Co. member Miyada, whose late brother, Charles, was also a veteran of M Co.’s heavy weapons unit. Miyada also fought in the battle to break the Gothic Line.

Sakai, who served in E Co. and participated in all of the 442nd’s campaigns in Italy and France, including the liberation of Bruyeres, France, was seriously injured during the effort to rescue the Lost Battalion. He was wounded four times during his service, he went on to receive a Bronze Star, Purple Heart and Combat Infantryman’s Badge.

Kadota, who served in E Co., participated in the Gothic Line campaign and his honors include the Congressional Gold Medal, a Presidential Unit Citation with Oak Leaf Cluster, France’s Legion of Honor and a Bronze Star. Miyada was in A Co. and served in Epinal, France. He was part of the effort to break the Gothic Line.

The California Senate honored members of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team on June 25, marking the 75th anniversary of the most-decorated military unit for its size and length of service in U.S. history. Senate Pro Tem Toni Atkins (D-San Diego) (right, wearing lei) recognized the veterans with a resolution, citing the 442nd RCT’s unparalleled combat record and role in helping to pave the way for the civil rights movement.

See VETERANS on page 8
KALE Wines

Using a unique method to cultivate their offerings, this family-owned winery is creating the perfect pairing to complement any type of food.

By Kristen Taketa, Contributor

Some of Kale Wines’ best products are not made in oak barrels or stainless-steel tanks. They’re hatched from concrete eggs.

“It gives it a little bit of a different body and mouth feel. It’s the more expensive way of making the rosé,” said Ranko Anderson, proprietor of Kale Wines and a fourth-generation Yonsei Japanese American.

Concrete egg winemaking is just one of the things that characterizes and distinguishes Kale Wines, which is located in Napa, Calif.

The wine operation was founded with the direction of Kale Anderson, Ranko’s husband, who is also a wine consultant for several wineries in the Napa region. Kale Anderson is known for specializing in Rhone varietals of wine, rather than the pinot noir or cabernet, which Napa is better-known for. Kale Wines currently makes four red wines, two rosés and one Grenache blanc.

“Napa is mostly known for pinot noir and cabernet,” Ranko said. “Our kind of mantra is to source the finest grapes and fruit from vineyards in Northern California that grow Rhone varietals.”

With Kale Wines, Kale and Ranko Anderson pursue making wines that pair well with the foods they like to eat, Ranko said. For example, they make a syrah-grenache that makes for a great backyard BBQ wine, Ranko said, and goes well with lamb dishes and hearty stews in the winter. Their rosé is entirely dry, meaning it has no added sugar, and it pairs well with pretty much any Asian food, according to Ranko, whether it be Japanese, Indian or Thai food.

“Anything spicy and fresh is the perfect thing for the rosé,” she said.
Ranko and her husband, Kale, first met as undergraduates at the University of California, Davis. Kale had first been a premed student at Davis, to follow in his father’s footsteps. But, he eventually decided that he would rather work with plants than humans, Ranko said.

And it was not really much of a surprise, either.

Kale had already grown up within the winemaking industry. He had been raised on 14 acres in Sonoma County and attended school with lots of kids whose parents owned wineries themselves. Many of his family members are artists, and Kale saw winemaking as his own way of making art.

In addition, he has a strong affinity for the outdoors that also drew him to winemaking, Ranko said. A teaching assistant had noticed him out the viticulture department instead, which would allow Kale to combine his love for the outdoors and plants.

“That kind of sealed the deal for Kale,” she said.

It wasn’t long before Kale switched his major to plant biology. This technical and scientific knowledge of how plants work would serve him well as he sailed into winemaking.

“There is quite a bit of chemistry and biology to the vineyard on the winemaking side,” Ranko said. “He gets to be really artistic and really show his wine and his self through that, as long as he did all his own paperwork. That’s where Ranko stepped in and took charge, in 2008. That year, Kale Wines was born.

“We were only still in our 20s, and we started making our first 200 cases of Kale wines,” Ranko said.

Now, 10 years later, they make 1,000 cases.

Unlike many wineries that grow their own grapes and use only their own grapes for wines, Kale Wines uses grapes from several different vineyards and doesn’t grow grapes of its own.

Kale has several contracts with carefully chosen vineyards that produce grapes for its wines. The contracts specify that those vineyards farm grapes to Kale’s exact specifications, down to the block of land.

By contracting with other vineyards for grapes, Kale saves money by avoiding the costs of owning and maintaining its own vineyard, which is very expensive, according to Ranko.

After graduation, Kale moved to Napa Valley and began taking on internships at various prominent wineries. He worked his way up from assistant winemaker, to associate winemaker, to winemaker.

The roots of what would become Kale Wines began to grow while Kale was an assistant winemaker at Cliff Lede Vineyards in 2007. Kale asked the owner, Cliff, if he could start experimenting with his own wine label in the back of Cliff’s cave. The owner gave Kale the green light, as long as he did all his own paperwork. That’s where Ranko stepped in and took charge, in 2008. That year, Kale Wines was born.

“We were only still in our 20s, and we started making our first 200 cases of Kale wines,” Ranko said.

Now, 10 years later, they make 1,000 cases.

To the general public, perhaps the best-known ways of making wine are using wooden kegs or stainless-steel tanks. But the practice of using concrete eggs to ferment wine has caught on around the world and is producing some of the best wines, including those made in Northern California.

Winemakers see several benefits with concrete eggs. Unlike stainless steel tanks, wine in concrete eggs can breathe because the concrete is porous.

The egg’s unique shape has no “dead corners,” so it naturally stirs the lees, or the chunky leftovers that are produced during wine fermentation, Ranko said.

The shape and concrete material also keeps temperature cool and even throughout the wine. Concrete is a natural insulator and stabilizes the temperature of the wine, according to Kale Wines’ owner, Kale. The stable temperature helps the wine ferment gradually and steadily.

“Each wine is a little bit different, depending on the vineyard,” Ranko said. “All our wines are vineyard-designated because we’re so proud of the vineyard that they came from.”

Instead of having its own tasting room, another expensive part of wineries, Kale wines are showcased in a collective tasting room, which also save on costs. Kale and about a dozen other wineries share the same tasting room located in downtown Napa’s Oxbow District. So families, couples and wine enthusiasts can stop by such a collective tasting room and try a variety of wines from different vineyards.

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And unlike oak barrels, concrete eggs do not add any spice or taste to the wine, Ranko noted. “A concrete egg is completely neutral,” she said.

Kale used to import concrete eggs made in France, but it became too expensive to ship them. So, they approached Sonoma Cast Stone, a company based in Petaluma, Calif., that mainly specialized in concrete countertops and sinks. Ranko said they teamed up to engineer the concrete tanks that now dominate much of Kale’s winemaking.

Kale Wines’ eggs each hold precisely 400 gallons, which makes about 200 cases of wine, or 2,400 bottles.

Ranko has received copies of the Pacific Citizen since she was a little kid, she said. Her father, who is Japanese American, was the president of the Japanese American Citizens League Stockton chapter and attended JACL conferences.

Ranko, who is half-Japanese, a quarter Polish and a quarter Filipino, has Japanese roots that stretch back decades. Her grandmother grew up in Little Tokyo in Los Angeles, and her grandmother’s family name is inscribed on the sidewalk where the family sewing machine store used to be. Ranko’s grandfather grew up in north Central Valley and went to Stockton High School. Ranko’s grandparents first met at the Rohwer internment camp in Arkansas.

Now that she’s an adult and has two boys, ages 7 and 4, Ranko remains aware of her Japanese roots and searches for ways to keep them alive in her kids.

“It’s something that grapple with every day now that I have two kids of my own,” she said. But that’s difficult to do, she says, as there doesn’t really seem to be a Japanese American community in Napa Valley. She thinks of taking her boys to a Buddhist church, but she doesn’t know of one near where they live. She also tries to speak a little Japanese at home with them and became known at their preschool for being the onigiri snack mom, she said. And she tries to get them out of Napa as much as possible, such as on their annual trips to Hawaii.

In the meantime, Ranko said she is happy with Kale Wines’ success. In the future, she and Kale plan to keep their wine operation entirely family owned. They hope to use Kale Wines to continue educating the Napa region more about Rhone varietals, which Ranko said are “more of a red-headed stepchild in Napa Valley.”

“I think we’re very happy at the point we’re at now,” she said.

Kale Wines says it is “fortunate to produce our inaugural Southern Rhone-inspired white wine” from Somerset Vineyard, located high in the eastern hills of the Napa Valley.
Sakamoto was incarcerated along with his family at the Tule Lake WRA Center in California and was drafted in September 1943. He served in I Co. and was part of the 442nd’s April 1945 assault on the Gothic Line; he went on to receive a Combat Infantry Badge.

Yoshihashi and his family were incarcerated at the Gila River WRA Center in Arizona, when he and his brother, Ichiro, were drafted into the Army. He served in A Co. and also participated in the campaign to break the Gothic Line.

Born in Honolulu, Hawaii, Seki joined the 442nd and was assigned to L Co. and fought in the campaigns to liberate Italy and France. He was seriously injured after the battle to save the Lost Battalion and would receive the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, the WWII Victory Medal, the Congressional Gold Medal and France’s Legion of Honor award.

Masuda was assigned to F Co. and would receive the Congressional Gold Medal with his fellow Nisei.

The eight 442 vets were joined by family members and staff from the Go For Broke National Education Center in Los Angeles. Representing the GFBNEC was Mitchell T. Maki, its president and CEO.

“This is not just a great Japanese American story, but a great American story,” Maki said. "Thank you for honoring our vets and recognizing their contributions to our democracy.”

Also joining the delegation was Ann Burroughs, president and CEO of the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles.

Mitchell T. Maki, president and CEO of Go For Broke National Education Center (left), and Ann Burroughs, president and CEO of the Japanese American National Museum (right), with 442nd veterans honored by the California Senate in Sacramento on June 25. Pictured (front row, from left) are Masao Kadota, Don Seki and Sam Sakamoto and (back row, from left) Don Miyada, Tokujiru Yoshihashi, Yoshi Nakamura, Lawson Sakai and Fernando Sosa Masuda.

**EDITOR’S NOTE:** The ceremony can be viewed online by visiting [http://senate.ca.gov/media-archive and clicking on “Senate Floor Session, Monday, June 25th, 2018.”](http://senate.ca.gov/media-archive and clicking on “Senate Floor Session, Monday, June 25th, 2018.”)
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII PROFESSOR TALKS ABOUT HIS NEW BOOK ‘IN THE SHADOW OF KOREMATSU’

Professor Eric Yamamoto was on hand at the King Kamehameha V Judiciary History Center in Honolulu on June 28 to talk about democratic liberties, national security and his new book “In the Shadow of Korematsu: Democratic Liberties and National Security.”

More than 70 individuals attended the talk story event, which was hosted by the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association Hawaii Chapter, JACL-Honolulu and the Federal Bar Association Hawaii Chapter.

During his presentation, Yamamoto addressed the present-day significance of an independent judiciary viewed through the lens of the World War II Japanese American incarceration cases. His new book, “In the Shadow of Korematsu,” tackles pressing questions about the significance of judicial independence for a constitutional democracy committed to both security and the rule of law. Through the lens of the WWII Japanese American incarceration cases, he opens a path through the legal thicket so that American society might better accommodate both security and liberty.

Yamamoto is the Fred T. Korematsu Professor of Law and Social Justice at the William S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawaii.

ANAHEIM HONORS PATTI HIRAHARA WITH PROCLAMATION

Anaheim, Calif., resident Patti Hirahara was honored with a proclamation from the Anaheim City Council on June 12 for her continuing work to help preserve the city’s Japanese American legacy. Pictured at the ceremony.

In attendance at the June 28 talk story event at the Judiciary History Center were (from left) Mei-Fei Kuo, assistant general counsel at Bernstein Ball; Lt. Gov. Doug Chin; Professor Eric Yamamoto; Claire Wong Black, president-elect of the Federal Bar Association Hawaii chapter; and Liann Ebesugawa, vp of JACL-Honolulu.

Patti Hirahara was honored recently with a proclamation from the City of Anaheim for her work in preserving the city’s Japanese American legacy. Pictured at the ceremony (from left) are Anaheim City Council members Kris Murray, Lucille Kring, Mayor Pro Tem Dr. Jose Moreno, AUHSD Student intern Tien Le from Magnolia High School, Hirahara, Denise Barnes, James Vanderbilt and Stephen Faessel.

In the Shadow of Korematsu: Democratic Liberties and National Security.
## National

**JACL National Convention**
Philadelphia, PA
July 18-21
Sheraton Downtown
201 N. 17th St.

Join the JACL for its National Convention, themed “Redress, Resistance and Reconciliation.” JACL will look back on the success of redress in this, the 30th anniversary of the passing of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. Don’t miss this opportunity to support JACL and help further its mission of ensuring civil rights for all.


## NCWNP

**Japanese Summer Festival**
Concord, CA
Aug. 11-1-9 p.m.; Aug. 12, Noon-7 p.m.
Diso Japanese American Club
3165 Treat Blvd.

Price: Free; free parking is also available at Ygnacio Valley High School with complimentary shuttle service

This festival is the annual fundraiser for the Japanese American Religious and Cultural Center, featuring musical performances, Obon and classical Japanese dance, taiko, martial arts exhibitions, food and ikебana and bonsai exhibits. There is something for everyone in this premier East Bay event.


**Aloha Festival**
San Mateo, CA
Aug. 11-12
San Mateo County Event Center
1346 Saratoga Dr.

Price: Free; Parking $15

Hosted annually by the Pacific Islander Cultural Assn., this event in the heart of the Bay Area offers two days of music, art, crafts, island cuisine, educational exhibits and workshops and ohana games for the kids. All are welcome to get a taste of the best of Polynesian culture in the Bay Area.


## PSW

**‘What We Carried: Fragments & Memories From Iraq & Syria’**
Los Angeles, CA

July 20-7 p.m.
Japanese American Cultural & Community Center
244 S. San Pedro St.

Price: General Admission $125

U.S. Bank presents Little Tokyo Service Center’s 12th annual Obon and food tasting event. Admission is for adults 21 years of age or older. Don’t miss this great opportunity to sample fine food and drink from such establishments as Feast From the East, Prime Pizza, Shaktas, Roy’s Bar, Bake Duju and more. All proceeds will benefit the LTSC.

Info: Visit ltsc.org.

**Iyashi Care Seminar**
Japan

July 28; 2-3 p.m.
Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute
1964 W. 162nd St.

Price: Free

Join Kero as it hosts a free seminar on Iyashi Care, highlighted by team members Dr. Glen Komatsu and Dr. Yuichi Edwin Yanami. This presentation will explain why Iyashi Care is so timely and important as the program’s approach to medical care is primed to meet the unique healthcare needs of family members.

Info: Visit keiro.org.

**Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple**
Ocon

July 28-29; 9 a.m.-7 p.m.
Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple
505 E. Third St.

Price: Free

Don’t miss this year’s annual Obon celebration featuring Japanese food, cultural performances and exhibits, farmer’s market, games and more!

Set to perform are TaikoProject, Bombu, Kitsune, plus many additional performers. On Sunday at 6 p.m., Happy Fun Smile performs live! Bon Odori begins at 6:30 p.m. both days.


**Young Professionals Mixer**
San Diego, CA

Aug. 16; 5-7 p.m.
SD Chinese Historical Museum’s 50th-Ann Memorial Building 328 J St.

Price: Members $20

This mixer will be held in collaboration with the San Diego Chinese Historical Museum, UCSD’s Asian Pacific Islander Alumni Council and the Asian Business Association of San Diego will host this networking event while exploring the museum’s newest exhibition of paintings by Yihong Zhou.


## PNW

**Bon Odori Festival**
Seattle, WA
July 21-22
Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple
1427 S. Main St.

Price: Free

Food, cultural displays, dancing, a beer garden, live music and much more will be featured this year’s Bon Odori summer festival. Don’t miss this opportunity to share and celebrate Obon culture.


**Ocon 2018**
Portland, OR
Aug. 4; 3-9 p.m.
Oregon Budokan Temple
3702 S.E. 34th Ave.

Come celebrate Ocon at the Oregon Budokan Temple for an afternoon and evening event filled with Japanese food, cultural exhibits, crafts, entertainment and great friends. Oregon is an excellent opportunity to come together with family and friends to celebrate and remember our ancestors and culture.


**Collections Upon Close: ‘A Soldier’s Story: The Photo Album of Yukimori Okimoto Who Served During WWII With the 522nd Army Artillery, Liberator of the Suburbs of Dachau’**
Portland, OR
Aug. 5
Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center
121 N.W. Second Ave.

Price: Adults $5; Students/Seniors $3; Free for Members

The Oregon Nikkei Endowment presents artifacts belonging to Okimoto, a sergeant in the 522nd Field Artillery Battalion. A collection highlight is an album he kept of photos taken while he was stationed in Europe during WWII. The 522nd Field Artillery Battalion was comprised of Japanese Americans and was one of the fastest and most efficient artillery units in Europe, playing a major role in liberating the Nazi sub camps of Dachau.


## IDC

**‘Dust Storm’ High JACL Fundraiser**
Arvada, CO
Aug. 2; 6-9 p.m.
Simpson United Methodist Church
6001 Wolff St.

Price: $25

‘Dust Storm’ High JACL is partnering with Theatre Esprit Asia to present this one-man play “Dust Storm” to mark its 40th anniversary of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. This play tells the tale of a rebellious Japanese American youth imprisoned during World War II and his journey through the experience of forced relocation. In addition, there will be a re- enactment of former Colorado Governor Ralph Carr by Jim Wilkins. All proceeds will help support the chapters annual scholarship fund.

Info: Visit milehighjacj.org.

## EDC

**Barons of the Sea** by Steven Ujifusa
Washington, D.C.
July 25; 7-8 p.m.
Townhouse at the Wharf
70 District Square S.W.

Price: Free; seating is available on a first-come, first-serve basis

Join Steven Ujifusa as he brings to life his book “Barons of the Sea: And Their Race to Build the World’s Fastest Clipper Ship,” which details the golden age of the clipper ship from 1843-69 and the opening of the Suez Canal. Ujifusa will share about the people who owned these ships, the visionaries who engineered them and the stories of fortunes won and lost during this era.


41st Asian American International Film Festival
New York, NY
July 25-28
42nd Street East
181-189 Second Ave.
Asia Society
725 Park Ave.

Price: General Admission $16

Members, Students and Seniors $12

A variety of films are on this year’s lineup including special presentations of “Meditation Park” and “Searching,” which is the opening-night film.

Info: Visit aiaff.org.

**Last Defense: The Genius of Japanese Meiji Metallurgy**
Minneapolis, MN
Thru Sept. 2
Worcester Art Museum
53 Salisbury St.

This exhibition focuses on the genius and versatility of metalworkers during the transitional period of the Meiji Restoration. With the decline in the samurai class, armormakers applied their skills and artistry to new types of metal products, from tools to decorate art.


**Objects of Use and Beauty: Design and Craft in Japanese Culinary Tools**
Brockton, MA
Thru Oct. 28
Fuller Craft Museum
425 Oak St.

This exhibition explores the different uses and designs associated with Japanese cooking tools and provides an introduction to the techniques used in making Japanese foods.

**IN MEMORIAM**

**Dohara, Steven, 59, Placentia, CA, May 7; he is survived by his wife, Helen; son, Andrew; mother, Sue; sister, Shirley.**

**Eguchi, Miyoko, 91, Los Angeles, CA, June 7; she was predeceased by her husband, Hiroshi; she is survived by her children, Ron (Joyce), Rand (Janice), Steven and Diane (Jim) Adams; siblings, Hisashi (Stella), Joe (Francis) Matsuda and Fumiyoub Sakellaris; gc: 10; ggc: 4.**

**Fujikawa, June, 94, Kent, WA, May 1; he was predeceased by his wife, Nancy; daughter, Wendy; he is survived by his daughters, Jeri (John) Horii; brother-in-law, Mikio (Stella), Joe (Francis) Matsuda and Sandra (Honkawa) Iwamura and Sandra (Honkawa) Iwamura.**

**Fujin, Hiroshi, 93, Portland, OR, April 24; during WWII, he served in the Army’s 442nd Regimental Combat Team; he was predeceased by his Army’s 442nd Regimental Combat Team.**

**Gowen, Kazuko ‘Tommie,’ 93, Carmichael, CA, April 27; she was predeceased by her husband, Merle; she is survived by her children, Michael and Sylvia Gowen; she is also survived by a sister and a brother.**

**Hada, Hattie, 98, Roseville, CA, May 27; during WWII, her family and she were incarcerated at the Tule Lake WRA Center in CA; she is survived by her sister, Juliee (Alvin); gc: 2.**

**Inui, Melvin, 69, Seattle, WA, March 17; he is survived by his wife, Patricia; sons, Kevin (Kristy) and Jonathan (Sohkhour); mother, Bette Matsue Inui; sister, Juliee (Alvin); gc: 2.**

**Iwaki, Mamoru Mori, 97, San Pedro, CA, May 26; he was predeceased by his wife, Grace; grand-son, Kevin Iwaki; he is survived by his sons, Tim and Ken (Cindy) Iwaki; brother, Ted Takio Iwaki; gc: 1.**

**Kaneshiro, Nancy, 85, Los Angeles, CA, March 25; she is survived by her sisters, Tsukur Nakagawa and Hideko Fukushima; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and cousins.**

**Hashiba, Neil Sadao, 70, Granada Hills, CA, April 2; he is survived by his wife, Mary; children, Kelli (Jeffrey Limpus) Hashiba and Dean Hashiba; mother, Nagiko Hashiba; siblings, Ben (Joy Nakamura) Hashiba and Joy (Gerry) Sekimura; gc: 3.**

**Ideta, Yoshio, 89, Fresno, CA, March 15; he was predeceased by his siblings, Takeyo (Mas) Yamashita, Takashi (Anne) Ideta and Mieko (Tsuigio) Sano; he is survived by his brother, Chuck (Jean) Ideta; brother-in-law, Mieko (Tsuigio) Sano; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.**

**Komatsu, Gene K., 71, Manhattan Beach, CA, April 1.**

**Matsuda, Glenn, 68, Gardena, CA, May 14; he is survived by his son, Jason; brother, Chris Matsuda; gc: 1.**

**Nakao, George, 80, San Jose, CA, May 18; he is survived by his wife, Shizuko; children, Edward, Janet and Brian; siblings, Mitzi, Ikoyo, Sue, Masao and John.**

**Osaki, Jon, 37, Sacramento, CA, March 23; he is survived by his son, Jay; sister, Karine.**

**Shiraga, Mariko Marie, 97, Torrance, CA, May 4; she was predeceased by her husband, Toshiyuki; she is survived by her children, Vivian Shiraga and Thomas Shiraga; she also is survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives.**

**Uemura, Joe Naoshiro ‘Jose,’ 88, Gardena, CA, April 15; he was predeceased by his wife, Iris Yumiko Uemura; sister, Tomiko Yamamoto; he is survived by his children, Linda (Wes) Ozima, Cliff Uemura, Faith (Jon) Enomoto and Vic (Kathy) Uemura; siblings, Nui Urabe, Fusa Takahashi, Natsuko Mary (Ken) Horn, Naoko (Nancy) and Koichi Uemura; gc: 10.**

**Tashima, Yoshie, 92, Fullerton, CA, April 13; she is survived by her husband, Toshiyuki; children, Patricia and Craig; gc: 1.**

**Uyemura, Faith (Jon) Enomoto and Theresa (Wes) Kokame; sisters-in-law, Lillian and Barbara; gc: 2.**

**Yamamoto, Peter, 63, San Francisco, CA, May 27; he is survived by his parents, Judith and Larry Yamamoto; sisters, Naomi and Ruth Yamamoto; and a niece.**
By Ron Mori

More than six million people in the United States suffer from various types of dementia, including Alzheimer’s disease, and sadly, those numbers are growing at an alarming rate. If you are a millennial reading this article, in just 12 years, the first millennials will be turning 49. Gen Xers will begin turning 65, and the first boomers will be turning 84 — an age at which dementia is most prevalent. By 2030, there are projected to be 82 million people suffering from dementia according to the World Health Organization.

Yes, it’s time to understand some facts and myths around dementia.

Last month, AARP released findings from a study to explore the level of awareness and treatment of Alzheimer’s and dementia:

- Nearly half (49 percent) of adults incorrectly believe that treatments are available to slow or stop the progression of Alzheimer’s disease.
- Two-thirds (67 percent) of adults age 18 and older incorrectly believe Alzheimer’s disease can be diagnosed with a single test. In fact, diagnosis is a multistep process.
- Dementia also takes a devastating emotional, financial and physical toll on the families of those who are diagnosed with these ailments. In 2016, nearly 16 million family members and friends provided more than 18 billion hours of unpaid caregiving assistance to those with Alzheimer’s and other types of dementia.
- Alzheimer’s disease/dementia is a natural part of aging.

Here are some facts about the diagnosis and treatment of Alzheimer’s and dementia:

- A majority (61 percent) of adults know that “dementia” and “Alzheimer’s disease” are not interchangeable terms for the same disease.
- Dementia is not a mental illness, but nearly six in 10 (59 percent) adults age 18 and older believe it is.
- Three-quarters (75 percent) of adults believe that memory loss is a normal and natural part of aging.
- While it is normal for aging adults to forget a name or date, this type of information is typically recalled later; however, it is not normal to forget where you live, for example.
- Here are some facts about the diagnosis and treatment of Alzheimer’s and dementia:
  - Relatively few adults (36 percent) have been asked questions about their cognition during a check-up with their doctor. A higher percentage (44 percent) of adults age 65 or older have been asked.
  - Nearly half (49 percent) of adults incorrectly believe that treatments are available to slow or stop the progression of Alzheimer’s disease.
  - Two-thirds (67 percent) of adults age 18 and older incorrectly believe Alzheimer’s disease can be diagnosed with a single test. In fact, diagnosis is a multistep process.
  - Dementia also takes a devastating emotional, financial and physical toll on the families of those who are diagnosed with these ailments. In 2016, nearly 16 million family members and friends provided more than 18 billion hours of unpaid caregiving assistance to those with Alzheimer’s and other types of dementia.
  - Alzheimer’s disease/dementia is a natural part of aging.

AARP works to improve the communities in which people with dementia and their caregivers live by working with leaders and local governments across the U.S. to adopt “age-friendly” guidelines and develop resources.

AARP also founded the Global Council on Brain Health to help people strengthen their brain health and minimize their risk of dementia. And, AARP is part of the National Advisory Council for Dementia Friendly America.

To access information available to family caregivers, visit: https://www.aarp.org/caregiving/care-guides/dementia

To join the conversation on social media, use AARP’s official campaign hashtag, #DisruptDementia.

Ron Mori is a member of the Washington, D.C., JACL chapter and manager of community, states and national affairs — multicultural leadership for AARP.