

FALL CALENDAR

By GAIL MIYASAKI RAFU CRAFT EDITOR

Let's Hear it for the Gals!

Think pink this month! Simple! Wear a pink ribbon.

As small as this gesture may seem, it is far more important than you can imagine. It shows your support for breast cancer awareness, prevention and hopes for a cure. Early detection means fast action to kick butt on the cancer.

Lee National Dentin Day ambassador Mariska Hargitay will look hot in jeans on Friday, Oct. 5, as thousands of staffers nationwide don dentins in exchange for a \$5 donation. A little by many makes this one of the largest single-day fundraisers for breast cancer.

Country music star Billy Ray Cyrus, challenged recently on "Dancing With the Stars," has jumped on board. With a family history of breast cancer, he'll help raise funds for the Entertainment Industry Foundation.

Be reminded that mammograms are the most powerful breast cancer detection tool. Gals out there 40 and older, there is absolutely NO excuse for not getting your annual mammogram. Some discomfort for a brief period of time, but so what? It's your life, your health. Do it for YOU.

Gals 20 to 39 are encouraged to get a clinical breast exam every three years as part of their regular health exam.



Courtesy of Mark Jiro Okui

Amusing "no evil" monkeys sitting in a tree are illustrated by Mark Jiro Okui of Long Beach on greeting cards.

The fight against breast cancer is an uphill battle. No sugar coating the hurdles. Surgery. Chemo. Radiation. Drugs with long lists of side-effects. Physical changes. Emotional fluctuations.

But dues get paid and survival rates increase. Promising news from the American Cancer Society is a reported 2 percent decline in the death rate. Survivors get the chance to move on with

their lives.

Debbie Allen, actor and choreographer, who lost her best friend to cancer sums it up in a nutshell in "Thoughts of Survivors," published by Sisters Network, Inc.:

"Remember that women are the heartbeat of the family and the earth, so take time for yourselves, live life to its fullest and know you can face all challenges. Breast cancer is not only survivable, but with the right mind and spirit, it can be overcome altogether."

As you shop at the Asian arts and crafts show, pass it on that October is breast cancer awareness month.

Info tech manager Kat Shimizu travels for both business and pleasure.

Just for newborns, an animated lunar pig is screened on a brown cotton onesie from Angela Chu of San Francisco.



Courtesy of Little Buddha Baby

Bitten by a travel bug, she intentionally packs light to bring home cute *omiyage* for friends and family. Now she tackles the design work for a new business, Whatever Souvenirs, so that she can still shop, but also offer quality products that are priced right.

Look for her souvenir stash at the Aki Matsuri Fall Festival at the East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center in West Covina on Saturday.

Shimizu's breakthrough product was kids holiday pens. Niece and nephew, Courtney and Christopher Wellington, serve as design and photo consultants, respectively. Lots of candy containers with a Martha Stewart style make appealing gifts.

Cleverly packaged baby gifts by Angela Chu are for sale at the 13th annual Eden Holiday Craft Show at the Marina Community Center in San Leandro on Saturday. A portion of the proceeds will

benefit the Eden Japanese Community Center.

What better reason for a new business than the birth of a baby. Chu was in search of cute Asian-inspired clothes and family traditions for daughter Madie and ended up creating her own line of onesies and T's. Little Buddha Baby de-

signs for newborns through six are screen printed onto 100 percent organic cotton products made in the U.S.A.

A computer techie by day, she goes outside the box with endearing designs ranging from zodiac signs to baby sumo and kid's age appropriate using Asian fabric. Matching parent T's are also available.

The San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center hits the 12-year mark with their holiday arts and crafts show in Pacoima on Sunday. Illustrator Mark Okui will be on hand with a diverse line of greeting cards and prints.

Drawing comes naturally for this fine arts grad, something he's done most of his life.

Lucky for him it's all in the genes—both his mom and grandmother were artists. His stylized illustrations and patterns resemble Japanese woodblock prints, be it a koi fish, fiery dragon, Chinese zodiac animals or even monsters. An insurance claims adjuster, Okui makes time to produce his own monster movie fanzine, "Calling Monster Island." A single annual issue has been available for the past 10 years.



Saturday, Oct. 6, 12-8 p.m.

Aki Matsuri Fall Festival
East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center
1205 W. Puente Ave., West Covina
(626) 960-2566, Brandon Leong
(510) 471-8052, Karen Valero

Saturday, Oct. 6, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

13th Annual Eden Holiday Craft Show
Marina Community Center
15301 Wicks Blvd., San Leandro
(510) 471-8052, Karen Valero

Sunday, Oct. 7, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

12th Annual Holiday Arts & Crafts Faire
San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center
12953 Branford St., Pacoima
(818) 893-6503, N. J. Nakamura

Saturday, Oct. 13, 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

SEJSCC 14th Annual Holiday Boutique
(Hawaiian Panacke Breakfast 7-11 am)
Southeast Japanese School & Community Center
14615 Gridley Rd., Norwalk
(626) 330-0828, Helen Hikiji

Sunday, Oct. 21, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Kratty Delices #1
Carson Community Center
801 E. Carson St., Carson
(310) 329-5874, Stephanie Nakayama
Donation: Go For Broke National Education Center

OBITUARIES

Masaru Nakadaira

Masaru Nakadaira, 86-year-old residence of Calipatria, Calif., who passed away on Sept. 25, was born in San Fernando, Calif. He is survived by his wife, Rose Chiyoko; sons, Robert Mitsuhi (Rita) and Richard Masaru (Rosemarie); daughter, Julie Yoriko (Kevin) Yorita; brother, Hiromu Nakadaira; sisters, Ayako Kido, Toshive (Roy) Maeda, Yoshiko (Benny) Tsujimoto and Linda Sasaki; sister-in-law, Bernice Nakadaira. Leaves behind 5 grandchildren, many nieces, nephews and other relatives. Private memorial service will be held Oct. 6. In lieu of flowers please make donation to



OPEN END-O By Ellen Endo

Round Bacon and H

If it wasn't for the whirl of electronic slot machines

and clatter of coins dropping into metal trays, one might mistake Las Vegas' California Hotel for downtown Honolulu. Nisei senior citizens and middle-aged Samsen roam the hotel sporting aloha shirts and fanny packs.

Everything I'd heard or read in George Yoshinaga's "Horse's Mouth" about the Cal was true. This was no urban legend. It was real, and my life would never be the same.

I was in Las Vegas with a contingent from the Go For Broke National Education Center's Hanashi Oral History Project. While others were communing with slot machines or greeting old friends in the hospitality suite, the GFB crew had converted one of the hotel rooms into a temporary film studio.

Four staff people and another six volunteers worked diligently to record as many interviews with Nisei veterans as possible before the Friends and Family of Nisei Veterans (FFNV) reunion wound down.

Since launching its mission 10 years ago, Go For Broke has recorded over 800 veteran oral histories, the largest collection of Japanese American oral histories anywhere. The Nisei veterans are in their 80s and 90s, and GFB national program director Tim Yuge has accelerated efforts to capture their stories, traveling throughout the U.S. to places like Denver, Seattle, New Jersey, Arizona, Utah, and more.

If there's anything filmmaker Ken Burns has taught us, it's that those who are eyewitnesses to history are treasures. Their value is immeasurable and their benefit to future generations profound.

My father and I had numerous conversations about his wartime experiences. I wish now I had thought to record those times we shared. Eleven years ago, as he lay in intensive care, hours before he would pass away, he began

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

View of a Typical Room in a 'Comfort Stat

Dear Editor,

While George Yoshinaga boldly calls the *Los Angeles Times* "all wet," I found his opinion on the so-called "Comfort Women" issues apparently to be truly "all wet" ("Horse's Mouth," Sept. 29) and a baseless assessment likely formed in an air-tight closet.

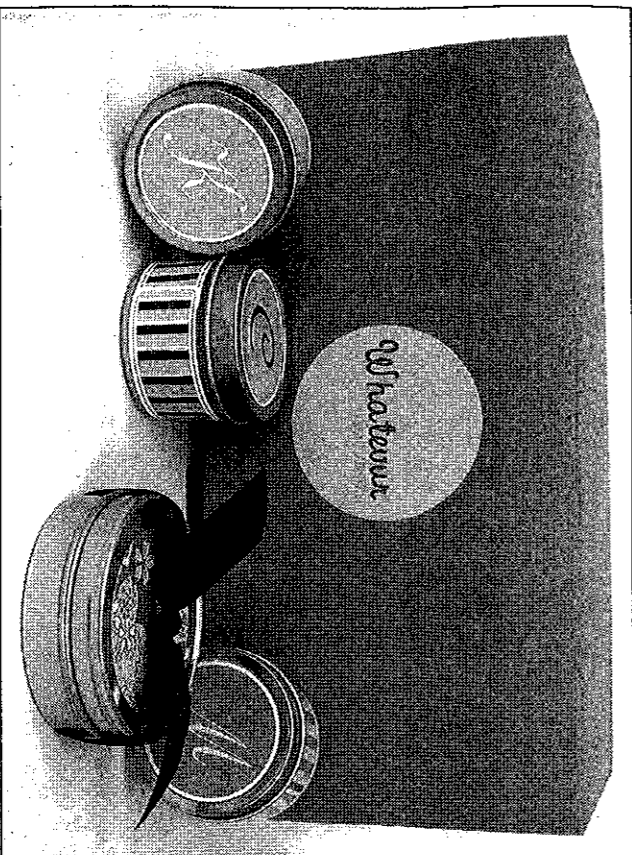
He or anyone who has actually met a victim of Japanese military sexual slavery wouldn't make such an outrageous claim. The victims were simply volunteers or opportunists for hire at business establishments run by Japanese pimps?

Obviously, Yoshinaga did not do any research or read any related materials, including those official documents released by the Japanese Government since 1994.

I have met numerous victims from different countries. As recent as July this year, a group of American high school teachers and I traveled to

Tamio Uemura

Funeral service for 82, dearly loved father, brother, uncle and friend after a long battle with cancer. Oct. 8 at 10 a.m. at Temple, 1311 W. 37th under the direction of Mortuary, (213) 749- He was a devoted father, brilliant poet, a wonderful man to by his kindness and caring way will be



Courtesy of Wharvet Sweetenits

Adding a touch of whimsy by Marina Del Rey's Kat Shimizu makes these candy containers pretty special gifts.



Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute

595 Lincoln Avenue • Pasadena 91103 • Free Parking • Free Admission