

Search for truth brings justice to WWII Japanese American internees

By Kate Linthicum, Los Angeles Times

Every morning, she climbed the wide marble steps of the National Archives in Washington, D.C.

Aiko Herzig-Yoshinaga was not trained for this work. She was a homemaker, not a historian. But she had a lifetime of simmering anger and unanswered questions.

By lamplight in the grand reading room, she scoured thousands of documents, inventing her own organizing system to keep track of the information she found. She brought home so many copies that she commandeered a bathtub and used it as a filing cabinet.

Eventually, after years of labor, she happened upon files that would help correct injustices committed during one of the darkest periods of American history – and of her own.

These days, she works at the dining room table at her home in Gardena.

Now 86, she is busy finishing a book of first-person remembrances of the Japanese American experience in World War II. Asked about her deadline to finish the book, she lets out a low laugh.

“Yesterday,” she says.

Her home is quiet and light-filled, with Japanese screens and a budding fuchsia orchid. Scattered about are bankers boxes packed with files.

Read the whole story

Nevada reaching out to LGBT travelers

The Nevada Commission on Tourism has launched a website to meet the needs of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community, an increasingly lucrative and vibrant market within the travel industry.

The site offers information on LGBT-featured events, as well as information on Nevada's hotels, shows and amenities.

"The Nevada Commission on Tourism recognizes the importance of this vast market to Nevada's tourism industry," NCOT interim Director Larry Friedman said in a press release. "We continually expand and improve our efforts to reach potential visitors, and that is why we developed this new website that offers need-to-know information for the LGBT community."

The LGBT travel business amounts to \$60 billion in the United States, according to Community Marketing, Inc. in San Francisco. A healthy portion of that business comes to Nevada – Las Vegas is one of the top three U.S. destinations for LGBT travelers, according to CMI – and NCOT seeks to maintain and build that LGBT market.

The gay.travelnevada.com also includes a link that offers a free Nevada Visitor's Guide to those who sign up.

Finding the good in poison ivy

By Deborah Blum, Los Angeles Times

I still remember the moment in my childhood in which I lost all faith in the innocent purity of plants. One day, I was a carefree adolescent at summer camp, exploring the leafy woods with my fellow campers. A couple of days later, I was an illustration for a medical textbook. “The worst case of poison ivy I’ve ever seen!” the camp nurse told the other staffers as she trotted me and my dime-sized blisters around for inspection.



OK, I kind of enjoyed the attention. The slightly awestruck reaction. What 12-year-old girl wouldn't? But the itching, the oozing, the angry red swelling of feet and legs? Hated every minute. And since that summer, I've never entered forested land without conducting a slightly neurotic survey of the plant life furling about my feet.

It's a story that places me among the countless Americans – health officials estimate there are more than 350,000 new cases every year – who've tangled with poison ivy or its relatives, poison oak and poison sumac, and regretted it. I may, however, be one of the few ivy victims who have come to admire the enemy. In fact – have I spent too much time in the woods recently? – my purpose here as summer begins is to defend and even praise the fascinating, sometimes beautiful and environmentally essential poison ivy plant.

[Read the whole story](#)

\$141,000 in grants doled out to 18 Truckee-Tahoe groups

Tahoe Mountain Resorts Foundation recently bestowed \$141,000 in grants to 18 organizations throughout Truckee and North Lake Tahoe.

Adventure Risk Challenge was this year's top recipient, receiving \$30,000.

TMRF presents a number of grants and scholarships annually to organizations aiding environmental, educational, athletic, and cultural endeavors. Adventure Risk Challenge spearheads a unique 40-day program designed to support youth to gain essential leadership and academic skills. The Boys and Girls Club of North Lake Tahoe, Girls on the Run, and the Truckee Trails Foundation also received grants.

Additional grant recipients included Disabled Sports USA of Far West; Gateway Mountain Center; Get in the Act! Arts in Action; Jazz Artist in Residence; Northstar XC-Snowshoe Series; Project Mana; Sierra Senior Services; Tahoe Family Solutions; Tahoe Rim Trail Association; Tahoe Women's Services; Trails and Vistas; Truckee River Watershed Council; Kidzone; and the Northstar Concert Series & Autumn Food and Wine Festival.

The mission of Tahoe Mountain Resorts Foundation is to serve as a catalyst for community enhancement by providing leadership and funding which will enrich the quality of life in the Truckee-North Tahoe region through cultural, environmental, educational and charitable pursuits.

Free jazz at Valhalla

The free Summer Jazz in the Park is July 3 from 11am-2pm at the Valhalla Grand Lawn on the South Shore.

This is the newest addition to the Valhalla Summer Festival program.

Bring a picnic basket, lawn chairs and sunscreen and relax near the shoreline of Lake Tahoe.

Carolyn Dolan and Friends will be providing the music.

‘Breaking Away’ actress will attend Placerville screening

By Carlos Alcalá, Sacramento Bee

Filmfare’s benefit screening of “Breaking Away” at the El Dorado County Main Library Saturday will include a special bonus: a chance to meet one of the key actors in the classic cycling movie.

Robyn Douglass, who played the love interest Katerina, lives in Placerville and offered to show up.

“I got a call from one of the stars and that was a big surprise,” said Lew Johnson, who has done the Filmfare series at the library for 11 years.

Read the whole story

Chase turns 1-woman company into international real estate firm

By Jason Hildago, Reno Gazette-Journal

Clarity is the hallmark of Lake Tahoe's pristine, blue waters.

But when Shari Chase first decided to move to Tahoe from San Francisco a few decades ago, the path to founding her own company wasn't as crystal clear.

"I really just wasn't quite sure about what I was going to do," Chase said. "So, I came up with this notion of finding five very wealthy families throughout the world and doing all their real estate transactions for them."



Shari Chase

In the end, it was a plan that never quite got off the ground, Chase said. But the experience she gained while pursuing that idea would prove to be the foundation for Chase International Real Estate.

These days, the company counts eight offices under the Chase umbrella, including a European branch based in London. The Chase family includes about 225 agents.

Not bad for a venture that was essentially a one-woman enterprise its first three to four years.

“I never dreamed that the company would expand to the size and caliber that it is now,” Chase said. “A big reason is that we decided to do things absolutely differently. We didn’t look at the industry and say, ‘This is how the industry works.’ We created our own vision for the marketplace.”

Read the whole story

Luxury market allows some to dream, others to snag a deal

By Linda Fine Conaboy

Just when you thought the economy was soon to be irretrievably annihilated, along comes Chase International Realty with some eye-popping homes, definitely worth a look-see.

“The luxury home market is now showing fantastic opportunity for buyers,” said Shari Chase, as she greeted people at one of the Glenbrook properties her company has for sale. “Values are the most compelling that we’ve seen in more than 10 years.”

The company has corralled a herd of high-end beauties, which it trotted out for all to see Wednesday during its annual Lakefront and Luxury Estates Tour.



This
beachfront
house on the
South Shore is
selling for
\$2.1 million.
Photos/Provide
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Sounding an equally optimistic note, Sue Lowe, Chase vice-president/corporate broker, is cautiously happy about what she sees as a re-emerging market.

"We're starting to see a change, not dramatic, but it is picking up," she told *Lake Tahoe News*. "We've had, so far this year on the Eastern Shore alone, five lakeside properties close, ranging in price from \$2.2 million to \$9.4 million. Last year at this time, we only had two properties close in the same price range.

"We're seeing a slow, steady, increase in interest," she said. "The luxury buyer is slowly re-entering the market place, taking advantage of some very good pricing and indicating some stabilization in this market."

Lowe said she's not expecting a huge rebound in the future, but a slow and steady climb. "Although some of the properties have been deeply discounted, especially the short sales – they're distressed, definitely."

While there are not as many distressed properties in the luxury market now, Lowe did say one of Chase's recent listings

was on the market only three weeks, but another lingered for three years.

What several million dollars can buy

Although time did not allow *Lake Tahoe News* to preview all 32 homes for sale, we had the opportunity to tour four of them, starting with a home on the West Shore, about 10 minutes south of Tahoe City, listed for \$24.9 million.

As we walked up the circular, heated driveway, we passed a four-car garage and entered the grand portico through oversized, etched doors, where our eyes were immediately drawn beyond the huge curved windows to 175 feet of Lake Tahoe shoreline, the pier, three slips, a 12,000 pound lift and a buoy.

This home is designed by Nick Kromydas and was constructed by Loverde Builders in 2001. The windows were built in Nevada City, taking more than a year to finish. The ceilings are 25 feet high.

Here, five bedrooms are divided into three suites in the main house and two in the attached guest apartment, separated with a hallway and a private entrance. Without the four-car garage, the home contains 12,250 square feet.

The living room, office, master suite, second-floor nine-seat theater and two additional bedroom suites are carpeted, while the rest of the home is covered with quartzite flooring.

There's a wine cellar and tasting room as well as a kitchen fully populated with commercial-grade Viking appliances. The kitchen leads to the family room with a large wet-bar and not far away is the cherry-paneled office featuring a gas fireplace and more lovely lake views. In fact, you will be hard pressed to find a room in this house without a view of either the lake or the exquisite grounds surrounding the more than 3-acre lot.

South Shore luxury

Across the lake, this West Shore beauty has a little brother on the South Shore, offered at \$2.1 million. While not a grand residence, the juxtaposition between the two is striking. This home, built in 1950, is situated on Jameson Beach, not far from the Beacon Restaurant.

It sits on more than one-third acre with 50 feet of lakefront in close proximity to its front door. Its 70-foot pier extends deeply into the lake with two buoys beyond. You might call it an old-style residence, full of knotty pine paneling, steep stairs leading to the second story, big picture window with full lake views and a beach to make sun worshipers sing songs of praise. The fully-gated lot is landscaped with lots of tall pines to ensure its privacy.

What's unique about this property is the fact that this gorgeous old home could be demolished to make way for up to a 4,000-square-foot home. There's enough land to accommodate a large residence, although it would be sad to rid the lake of one of its early beauties.

In Glenbrook, Chase offers two homes full of history, dating back to 1863. These reminders of Glenbrook's lumbering era have been fully-restored and are actually a part of the original Glenbrook Inn.

The first home, on the banks of Glenbrook Creek, played host to the likes of Ulysses S. Grant, Mark Twain and maybe even Clark Gable. According to Chase, Glenbrook was a great spot for a six-week Nevada quickie divorce in the "olden" days.

The first home is listed at \$3.75 million. It sits, like its neighbor, also for sale, directly across the road from the Glenbrook homeowners' pier. There's a covered patio and porch, hot tub, family room with a wet bar, an open living room, a spacious master suite upstairs as well as two baths and a bonus room on the third floor.

The second property, next door, dates back to 1906. It's a Cape Cod-style residence, recently remodeled, including four stories, five bedrooms, three-plus baths and lots of decking.

This home is selling for \$3.8 million.

Using what nature provides

On to the North Shore, Dan Schwartz is listing a casual, but still elegant home at 30 Crystal Drive in Incline Village, where huge boulders seem to have found a convenient resting place inside.

According to Schwartz, Crystal Bay/Incline Village is known for its large rocks. Instead of removing them from the property, the builder incorporated them into the home's décor, upstairs and downstairs, making a definite and absolutely unique Tahoe statement of elegance.

This two-story manse sits just above the lake, where paths lead to its swimming deck and boat dock. There's 80 feet of shoreline incorporated into this parcel, which is nearly a half-acre in size.

In addition to the boulders, the designer integrated large, exposed lodge pole pines into the home's structural design, stating loudly and clearly "this is a Tahoe house." It features five bedrooms, more than five baths in more than 6,000 square feet of living area. There's a workout room, three-car tandem garage and a boat hoist. The home is listed at \$7.2 million.

As Lowe said, "There's only one Lake Tahoe. We have very limited growth here, but there's now opportunity to be able to afford to play and live in Lake Tahoe."

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Lego exhibit at Carson City kids' museum

The Children's Museum in Carson City is exhibiting The Art of the Brick – Nathan Sawaya's Lego creations.

This New York-based artist has three unique exhibitions created solely from standard Legos. New sculptures are created specifically for each exhibition. Each show has nearly 1 million colorful Lego pieces transformed into whimsical and awe-inspiring creations.

"These works are very personal to me, since they reflect my growth as an artist as I strove to discover my creative identity," Sawaya said in a statement. "The museum exhibition is accessible because it engages the child in all of us while simultaneously illuminating sophisticated and complex concepts. Everyone can relate to the medium since it is a toy that many children have at home. But I want to elevate this simple plaything to a place it has never been before."

The Children's Museum of Northern Nevada is located at 813 N. Carson St., Carson City. Call (775) 884.2226 for details and prices. The museum is open daily from 10am-4:30pm.

Tahoe Tails – Adoptable Pets

in South Lake Tahoe

Diego is a impressive Mastiff-pit bull mix, about 85 pounds, but he is a sweetheart. He is affectionate with people and likes to play with other dogs.



He is about 18 months old, and hasn't had much training, but he's smart, and should learn commands quickly.

He loves to play and has lots of energy. Diego was left behind when his owners moved from the area.

Diego is neutered, microchipped, and vaccinated. He is at the El Dorado County Animal Services shelter in Meyers, along with many other dogs and cats who are waiting for their new homes.

Call (530) 573.7925 for directions, hours, and other information on adopting a pet.

For spay-neuter assistance for South Tahoe residents, go online.

– Karen Kuentz