

the NEW TRIER NEWS



Q & A with Jorrel Javier
2



Guys need to use the F-word
3



100th NT-ETHS swim meet
4

NT helps reunite WWII flag with fallen soldier's brother

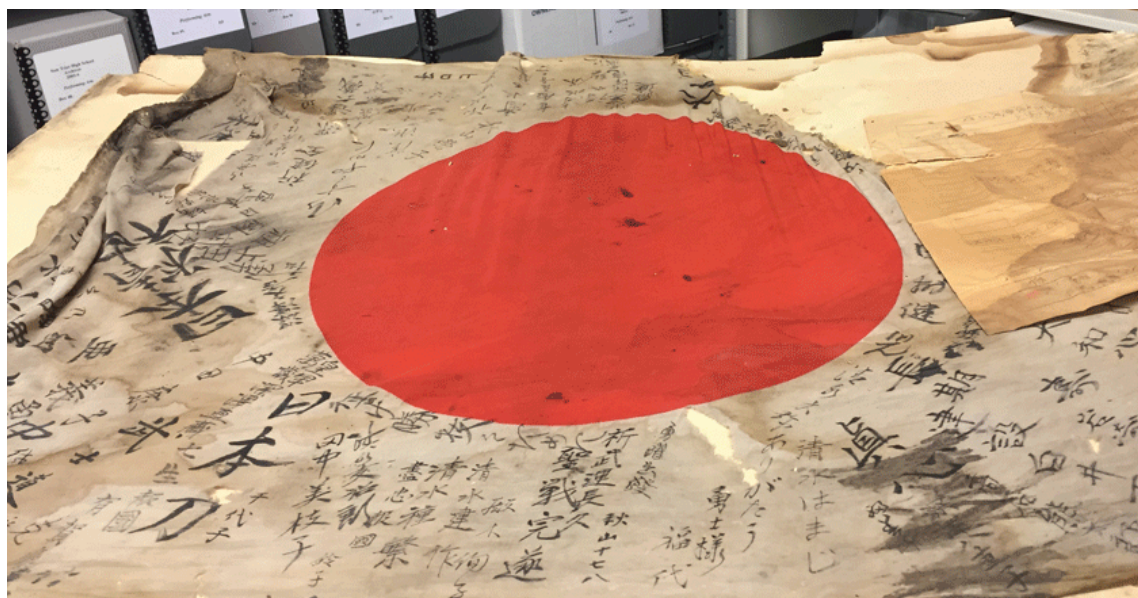
Japanese flag found in basement archives room at Winnetka campus

by Layla Saqibuddin

In 1944, as 21 year old Tokachi Shimizu went off to war, he brought his flag, covered in handwritten names and good luck wishes from his family, friends and neighbors. His flag was a type called "yosegaki hinomaru" --- a good luck flag.

According to History teacher and Archives Facilitator Susan Holderread during construction work at the Winnetka campus in 2015, a maintenance worker found the WWII flag behind the walls of a basement archive room, according to history teacher and archive facilitator Susan Holderread. It's still unclear how the flag ended up there, but with the help of Japanese language class and club members, the flag has been returned to his family so that Shimizu's brother and sister are able to remember him from the flag.

Sending the flag from the school to Shimizu's family was a long process, started by faculty members Holderread and Gardiner Funo O'Kain, then furthered by Japanese language teacher and club sponsor Naomi Suzuki and her



Shimizu's WWII flag found during construction was inscribed with good luck wishes from family and friends | NT

students.

After hearing of the flag, Holderread researched with her students and advisees at the Harold Washington library to investigate the newspapers that were attached to the flag. Holderread knew this wasn't something a high school should have. Along with Funo, they were all able to reunite the flag with the soldier's family.

"I am very gratified on how this process turned out. So many students were able to be involved and this had such an emotional importance to everyone. Without Ms. Funo, I don't

think this would have happened," said Holderread.

In an effort to return the flag in a timely matter, Funo contacted the Obon Society, a non-profit group that provides opportunities for personal items taken during war to be returned to families.

Right when the group was about to send the flag back to Shimizu's family, the Obon society told school representatives they could send letters along with the flag to Teruo Shimizu, Taikichi Shimizu's brother.

Students sent 45 written letters in Japanese to Teruo Shimizu along

with his brother's flag. This fall, Shimizu responded.

"During the 90 years of my life, I have never received letters that moved me so much," Shimizu wrote, "I pray for the further development of New Trier High School. I also pray for the good health and development and growth of New Trier High School students."

His response touched many people. In fact, Suzuki's favorite part was everyone writing letters and getting a response back from Shimizu.

"It was a very touching class

project. Students were able to use their Japanese to write from the heart. They will remember this because not every student has this experience," said Suzuki.

Sophomore Japanese language student Aiden Moore expressed that without the resources and classes at NT, this process may have never happened.

"The fact that I had the opportunity to write to Mr. Shimizu's brother was an amazing experience. I wasn't surprised when he responded, but what he said was very sincere and it made me happy to hear his gratitude," Moore said.

Similarly sophomore Vivian Kim said, "It's so interesting to be at a school that has a rich history. This is something you would expect to hear on the news and something that you wouldn't expect to experience personally."

In fact, NT's efforts in returning the flag drew comments from the public.

Julie Hannon and Katsushi Nagao wrote a message: "I can only try to imagine what Mr. Shimizu and his family felt when they received the flag and letters. It lifts my heart to think of the incredible opportunities for your students. You have achieved an unforgettable success with the flag project. Congratulations, and all the best to you and your program!"

Student hosts multimedia fashion show "Dec. 15th"

Victor Pearlman's event included new fashion, live music

by Claudia Levens

At 8:00 pm on Saturday, Dec. 15th, spectators flooded into the Masonic temple that had been transformed into a pop-up shop, runway, and concert venue.

As they took their seats, the overhead lights dimmed, leaving only the light emanating from the exit signs and a traffic light, reflecting off a row of adjacent traffic cones near the end of the walkway.

Hard-hitting, drum sounds clamored throughout the room, queuing the models, and the audience quieted in anticipation.

Senior Victor Pearlman watched from the side as the show he'd been planning for months came to fruition.

Models clad in his chaotic designs strided confidently through a translucent tunnel so that only their silhouettes were visible until they emerged from the aisle at the end of the walkway.

Every so often, they'd place a Juul onto a black pedestal and walk back in the other direction.

"It was really exciting and professional. The outfits were amazing," said Senior Claire Zoller who attended the event in support of Victor and her friend walking in the show.

Part popup shop, part fashion runway, and part concert, the event called "Dec. 15" was a self-described 'multimedia marketing event' and the

culmination of everything Pearlman has learned throughout high school.

"It felt like a form of closure for me," he said. "It's my last event before I graduate, and I got to apply everything I've learned about multimedia, entrepreneurship, marketing and art into one event."

"Throughout my life as a creative, I have been faced with constructing purpose out of the chaos that is daily life," he wrote in an Instagram post promoting the event.

"I've always been told in school that my presentation of my art and my work has been chaotic or messy."

"Dec. 15" is about "redefining the essence of our anarchic lives," he wrote.

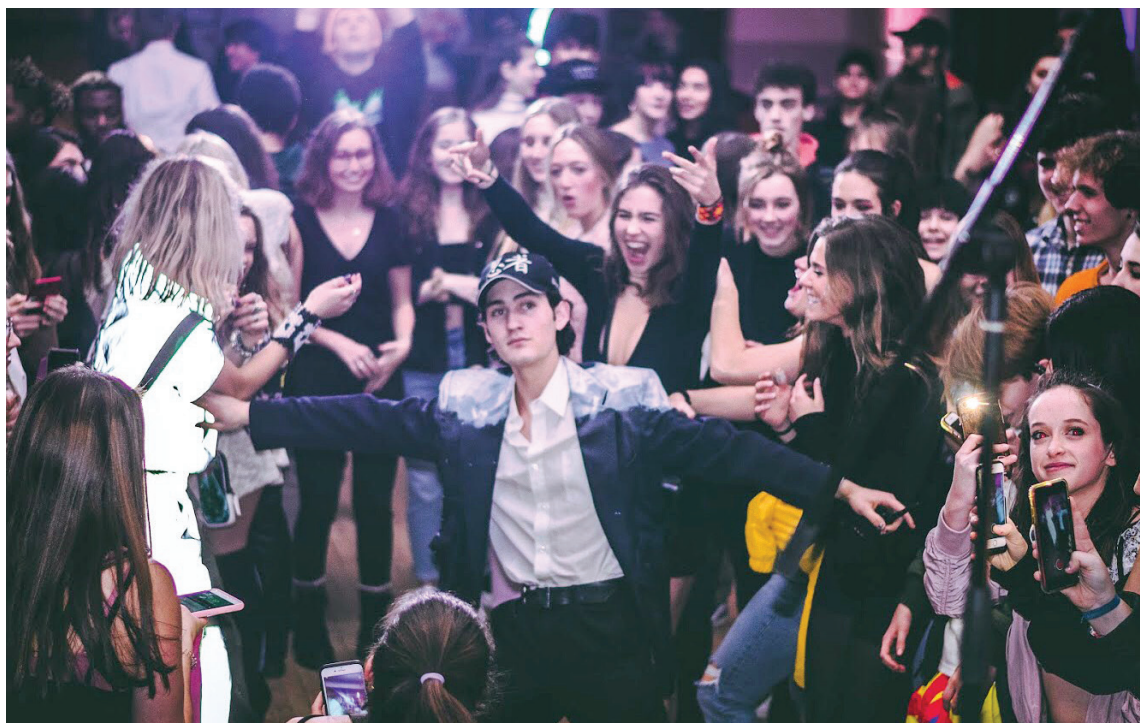
And inspiration for various aspects of the event came from different elements throughout Pearlman's life.

"I used used every day materials that are not conventionally used in clothing, including life vests from airplanes, tyvek, and materials from my grandma's couch," he said.

"And the words that the models were saying came from something that Eva Schneiden and I wrote inspired by 'The Four Steps of Analyzing Art' that one of my teachers showed me," he said.

Senior Eva Schneiden and Pearlman combined the Four Steps of Analyzing Art with the 12 Steps to Quitting that the models read-- a juxtaposition meant reflect on the event's use of art to condemn Juuling.

At the conclusion of the runway, Pearlman walked up to the black podium where a small pile of Juuls had gradually collected throughout



Pearlman's multimedia event "Dec. 15th" drew 270 people for a popup shop, fasion show and concert | Pearlman

the show. He raised a hammer above his head and brought it down upon the Juuls as the audience cheered.

Senior Ross Johnson said, "I respect Victor a lot. I couldn't make his previous events, but I thought this was cool. You could really tell that he put a lot of planning into this."

Victor felt it was important to spread these messages against Juuling because he sees it as a more accessible version of cigarettes.

"It's getting high school students who wouldn't normally be exposed, addicted and it's messing up people's lives."

In addition to the anti-Juuling

message, Pearlman also sought to make a statement about gender norms in fashion.

The event marked the release of his new brand, "Victor Pearlman," which included multiple gender-swapped pieces that he hoped would subvert the audience's understanding of gender norms in fashion and in society.

"I had a lot of the guys wear skirts and a lot of the girls wear business or industrial workwear," said Victor.

Model Ryan Kochman appreciated the collection's rejection on gender norms.

"We are trying to redefine gender norms and get rid of the misogyny that this church somewhat embodies," he said. "It's a Microcosm of everything victor has done so far," he said.

"I mostly just want to create a vibe," said Victor. "I don't make decisions and choose models based off of who's the most beautiful, I make it based on who will add to the vibe, who's going to create the best environment," he said.

"That's ultimately what I'm striving for. I do these events because I want to create opportunities to bring people together."