

Learn 'The Final Chapter of World War II'

Rex and Keiko Ziak to speak at Seaside Public Library

SEASIDE — The Friends of the Seaside Library will host Rex and Keiko Ziak as they present the program "The Final Chapter of World War II" at 7 p.m. Thursday, June 2. The evening will also include Pearl Harbor survivor Ed Johann. The event is held in conjunction with a photographic exhibit of images from the OBON Society depicting the story of the Yosegaki Hinomaru that will be displayed in the library May 25 to June 30.

When war broke out, the Japanese called their young men to serve in the military. Each family prepared a unique personal keepsake for their son when he was away from home. The family signed their names and wrote messages on a small flag, which each man

carried with him and carefully guarded. It was called a Yosegaki Hinomaru. When American soldiers discovered that every Japanese soldier carried these flags, they became highly prized treasures of war and were brought back to the U.S.

After 70 years, many U.S. veterans and their children realize these battlefield souvenirs are personal items and want them to be returned to their rightful owners in the spirit of peace and reconciliation. They send the flags to the OBON Society, which conducts a search across Japan through a network of priests, scholars and government agencies. When the family is found, the article is returned at no cost. These flags, for most Japanese families, are the only surviving trace of their husband, brother, son or father.

The U.S. Ambassador to



PHOTO BY JOSHUA BESSEX

Rex Ziak talked about the Yosegaki Hinomaru flags in March 2015 during the first public transfer of the flags from U.S. veterans to OBON 2015, the nonprofit Ziak and his wife run that locates the families in Japan and returns the flags to them.

Japan, Caroline Kennedy, often speaks of her father's efforts to encourage reconciliation and friendship between the U.S. and Japan. President John F. Kennedy even invited the commander of the ship that destroyed his PT boat

during World War II to his presidential inauguration. The



PHOTO BY JOSHUA BESSEX

Keiko Ziak unfolds a Yosegaki Hinomaru flag. Covered in well-wishes by family and friends, the flags were carried into battle by Japanese soldiers during World War II and taken by American soldiers as prizes. The Ziaks are working to return the flags to families in Japan.

program and photographic exhibit that the OBON Society is presenting continues President Kennedy's spirit of friendship and respect that

these two nations now share.

Seaside Public Library is located at 1131 Broadway. For more information, call 503-738-6742.

TURKISH RUG EVENT Memorial Day Weekend

Friday and Saturday
May 27th - 28th

SESAME + LILIES

183 N. Hemlock St.
Cannon Beach
10 am - 5:30 pm
436.2027





MEMORIAL DAY

Weekend

CELEBRATING VETERANS
CELEBRATING FREEDOM

Follow the Old Soldiers Trail and learn the story of Fort Stevens the Defender at the River of the West.

Raffle tickets will be sold for the chance to help fire Civil War cannons.

FORT STEVENS STATE PARK HISTORIC AREA
SATURDAY & SUNDAY,
MAY 28 & 29 • 11AM-4PM
PARK HOURS 8AM-6PM

How do I get there? The Fort Stevens Historic Area entrance is approximately one mile north of the Fort Stevens State Park camping entrance on Ridge Road. Head west at the 4-way stop.

FRIENDS OF OLD FORT STEVENS, INC.
503-861-1470
Ft. Stevens State Park, Hammond, OR
email: foofs@teleport.com Click on: www.visitfortstevens.com

