

VIOLET UZAWA DORIO



(1921-2026)

Our mother, Violet Uzawa Dorio, passed away on Feb. 24, 2026, at the age of 104.

She lived several lives after being born in Summerland, British Columbia, Canada, to Japanese immigrants. As a young girl, she was a free spirit who could be found roaming the apple orchards and climbing trees. Her father sponsored a teacher and helped establish a Japanese school so the town's children could preserve their

language and culture.

When she was 15, her family, except for her oldest sister, moved to Japan, where they stayed throughout the war. She later talked about the difficulties of adjusting to the society's strictness — how even something as simple as having trouble wearing traditional sandals could arouse suspicion, leading some to think she was a spy. She also remembered a harrowing moment on a beach when she was chased and shot at by an airplane. She made it through uninjured and, in her kind and gentle way, would laugh as she shared the story, as if the danger itself hadn't broken her spirit. This is how she faced life.

As a Canadian citizen, she served with the American Red Cross in U.S.-occupied Japan after WWII, where she met our father, Carl Dorio, an Army Air Corps pilot, writer and political activist. They married and moved to New York City, where they were involved in the civil rights movement.

Like many parents of their time, their achievements went unspoken, and over the years, we had to piece together their efforts from historical records to understand the role they played in their community. Even now, we are still learning how daring and courageous they were in fighting for their neighbors' rights.

They were part of the rising evolution of our society.

With their three sons, they had to leave New York in 1954 and chose to move to Los Angeles, knowing their Brooklyn Dodgers would soon follow.

They moved to a neighborhood of color, where our mother went back to school to become a healthcare professional, and our father attended night school to earn an advanced degree in social work.

Although they no longer participated in politics, the discussion around the dining room table remained political. Sometimes, they joined protests. While supporting our American troops, they opposed President Johnson's escalation of the Vietnam War in the 1960s.

Raising us and emphasizing "education" produced two medical doctors and an expert in workers' compensation law.

Coming to California meant that our family shared the same spirit of "bleeding Dodger blue" for the team that moved from New York. In those early days, listening to Dodger radio broadcasts was a big part of our daily routine.

Before the war, our mother, a skilled baseball player in Summerland, Canada, knew the game well. So when we went to Dodger games, we sometimes sat just above the booth where Vin Scully broadcast, hearing his voice directly. As Scully tried to read the lips of players on the field, our mom would successfully "pick off" signs from the dugout manager and the first- or third-base coaches of the opponents!

Our father passed away in 1989, but our mother took on a property manager role, cared for her cats, and maintained her garden. After a fall, she moved to Santa Clarita and celebrated her 100th birthday with us in her new community.

What made our mom wonderful was her loving, kind, caring, supportive and welcoming nature toward everyone. She had boundless energy and made the best apple and lemon meringue pies, cream puffs and chow mein, all of which fueled our souls. She embraced her signature red lipstick, colorful scarves, shiny necklaces and her lifelong routine of weekly hair appointments.

Our mother is the beloved matriarch of the large family she leaves behind, and her goodness is what people will remember most about her.

She was extremely proud that the Dodgers recently won the World Series two years in a row and hoped to see them three-peat. We know our mom and dad will be watching together this year.

A funeral service at the chapel, followed by a graveside ceremony, will take place on March 21, 2026, which is our father's birthday, starting at 11 a.m. at Rose Hills Memorial Park and Mortuary in Whittier, where they will be laid to rest together. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

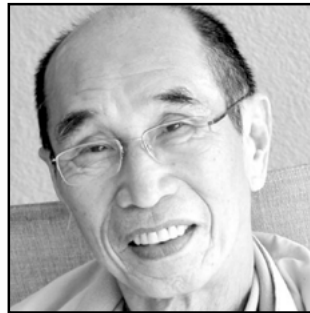
We will miss her dignity, hard work, and her special efforts to make the world a better place.

— Her sons

In MEMORIAM

(Note: Boldfaced names in the PDF version of this are active hyperlinks.)

Adachi, Nora, 88, White Plains, NY, Oct. 27, 2025



Aiko, Tetsu, 87, Tokyo, Japan, Feb. 3.

Aizawa, Brent L., 76, Athol, ID, Feb. 8.

Ando, Shigeko Julia, 96, Salt Lake City, UT, Aug. 26, 2025.



Bourbonais, Kiyoko Monica, 97, Ontonagon, MI, Sept. 3, 2025.

Chin, Brian, 64, Pasadena, CA, Feb. 8.

Fukushige, Ruth, 89, Torrance, CA, Feb. 7.

Garcia, Kimiko M., 71, Rehoboth, MA, Sept. 10, 2025.



Hall, Kimiko Ueno, 98, San Francisco, CA, Dec. 12, 2025.

Harman, Kimiko Hashimoto, 83, Los Angeles, CA, Oct. 30, 2025.

Hasegawa, Samuel Masami, 72, San Mateo, CA, Feb. 15.

Isemoto, Kinuyo 'Kay,' 95, Hilo, HI, Jan. 17.

Kimoto, Vernal, 76, Mililani, HI, Feb. 28.

Masuoka, Kayoshi, 98, Chandon, OH, Feb. 11.

Munekata, Yooko, 93, Los Angeles, CA, Oct. 20, 2025

Nishio, Ruby, 98, San Gabriel, CA, Oct. 9, 2025.

Nojima, Nancy Sachi, 68, Los Angeles, CA, Dec. 24, 2025.

Owens, Bangji (Yoshie), 91, Westerville, OH, Nov. 17, 2025.

Shoji, Kiyo, 98, Livingston, CA, Aug. 20, 2025.

News Briefs

Yamaha Has Georgia on Its Mind, Says 'Sayonara' to Southern California

The Japan-based maker of motorcycles, ATVs and snowbikes has announced it is burning rubber for Kennesaw, Ga., from its Cypress, Calif., headquarters, according to a *Los Angeles Times* report. The move should be completed by the end of 2028 and will include the sale of all of its fixed assets in Cypress, including land, offices and warehouses. Yamaha Motor Co.'s U.S. subsidiary, Yamaha Motor Corp. U.S.A., acquired the land in 1978 and established the office a year later. It's not the first Japanese vehicle maker to leave the Golden State. In 2014, Toyota Motor Sales USA Inc. moved its North American headquarters to Plano, Texas, from Torrance, Calif. That was preceded in 2006, when Nissan North America decamped to Franklin, Tenn., from Gardena, Calif.

Canada's Revived 'Charlie Chan' TV Series Reveals Clues for Casting

Entertainment industry trade publication *Variety* has reported that actors Tzi Ma, Rae Dawn Chong and Aileen Wu have joined the cast of Canada-produced TV series "Charlie Chan." In addition to taking the starring role, Ma will also serve as an executive producer. It's described as a "contemporary reimagining" of the Chinese detective character that was a popular 20th century movie franchise but was also controversial for casting Caucasian actors in yellowface to play the role. Also producing are Quentin Lee and Cindy Au Yeung. Lee is also serving as a showrunner with Josh Sager.

Accolades: Cannes Taps Park Chan-wook as President of '26 Film Fest Jury

Come May 12, the "Oldboy" director will become the first Korean filmmaker to head the Cannes Film Festival jury. In other movie news, at the March 15 Academy Awards, Netflix's "KPop Demon Hunters" won Oscars for best animated feature and for best original song, "Golden." The best cinematography statuette went to Autumn Durald Arkapaw for "Sinners." Finally among accolades, on March 12 at Oakland's Frank Ogawa Plaza, the city held a Celebration Rally for Alysia Liu, who won the women's singles figure skating gold medal at February's Winter Olympics and helped the U.S. win gold with Madison Chock and Ellie Kam in the women's figure skating team event. Also at the Games, snowboarder Chloe Kim, who won gold in Beijing in 2022, won a silver medal in Italy.

— P.C. Staff

PLACE A TRIBUTE

'In Memoriam' is a free listing that appears on a limited, space-available basis.

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