

# Osamu Miyachi

## By Ken South

Senator Joseph McCarthy was censured in 1954, bringing an end to his Communist witch hunt and The Supreme Court ruled on *Brown v. Board of Education*, making racial segregation in public schools unconstitutional. The words "under God" were added to the Pledge of Allegiance and Swanson introduced TV Dinners.

While in Japan, Emperor Hirohito continued on the Chrysanthemum Throne and the country's Self-Defense Forces were established. The Prime minister was Shigeru Yoshida, a liberal democratic and Akira Kurosawa released the movie, *Seven Samurai*.

On November 12th of that year, Mr. July was born in Aichi Prefecture, Japan, the older of two sons. Sadly, his younger brother passed away some years later from cancer in 2005.

After attending college in Japan, Mr. J came to the US for additional education offered by a Japanese investment bank. He studied English in CA and MA before enrolling at NYU in NYC. For 15 years, Mr. J worked as an investment banker with the Japanese investment bank. His office was in a new building next to the World Trade Center where he worked for 10 years after obtaining his MBA.

Before he attended graduate school in NYC, Mr. J took summer school courses at U Mass, Boston. While in Boston that summer, he met Ed, an older American, with whom he had a 17-year, on and off relationship, until Ed's sudden death in 1998. Ed was a devoted Zen Buddhist, collector of art, enjoyed antiques and good food with friends. His passion was to visit a Zen Temple in Japan.

Starting an antiques business was not their plan. On a trip to Kyoto, Japan, Mr. J saw a nice glass work of Dale Chifuly. He was very surprised to see an American glass work in the middle of the antiques area (Shinmon Zen street). He talked with the owner. Her shop was full of 2nd hand porcelain and glass dishes which he use to see in the US. So, he asked her if she would like to come to the US to buy. After a month, she arrived in Philadelphia and the antique business was formed.

During her second visit, a pair of 17th century Japanese screens were found which enabled them to expand this new adventure exponentially. Until then Mr. J dealt mostly with Japanese dealers but, the business changed after his partner's sudden death and the 911 tragedy.

Mr. J. found a new direction for the business by watching Chanel buying back its old fashion items at antique shows. He started to collect vintage brand fashion accessories both in Japan and US. In 2004, he became a US citizen. Because of his younger brother's health problem, he had to make many trips to Japan. Each time he traveled, he purchased more brand accessories and accumulated quite a bit without much success until 2008.

In 2008, Lehman Brothers became bankrupt, and the big housing bubble burst. But Mr. J's business started to make money. Many US East coast, dealers started to wait for his new arrivals. By 2010, Mr. J had purchased a condo in Pompano Beach, but he also owned a house in Philadelphia and a townhouse in Flowertown, outside Philadelphia.

As a result of the Covid epidemic, Mr. J sold two of his properties and kept the one in Florida, and then moved to Florida permanently.

Mr. J is currently single and enjoys his time with Prime Gentlemen, he has many friends in the club, where he participates in tennis and the collector's group. He can also be found most Tuesday evenings at the Prime Gentleman mixer. He still visits Japan from time to time since his mother's passing last year, as he still has responsibilities to settle her estate there.

