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Bridgerland's Daily Newspaper

Isabel Katana, local exemplar in charity, dies

By Tyler Riggs
staff writer

Cache Valley lost one of its gems this week. Isabel Katana, a 94-year-old woman who met thousands in the valley through everything from extensive community service to her time as a hostess at McDonald's to her hundreds of calls into Utah Public Radio's program, "Access Utah," died Sunday at the Logan Regional Hospital of causes incident to age.

Katana, who came to Cache Valley 30 years ago, impacted many lives in her time here.

"She has been a staple of our community and of our radio station for as long as anyone can remember," said Cathy Ives, general manager of Utah Public Radio. "We miss her dearly."

The staff at Utah Public Radio came to know Katana well, as she'd often call into the station's show with questions for guests, and during the station's semi-annual fundraising drive, she'd contact the station several times to donate money.

"She's endeared herself not only to the staff, but to listeners as well," said Bryan Earl, UPR's development director. "She looked for those who were marginalized by society and thought for ways to reach out to them."



Isabel Katana

Earl recalled instances such as when Katana would donate money to the radio station and instead of accepting gifts such as a magazine subscription for herself, she asked for them to be sent to prison inmates.

"I loved the way that she was always concerned about someone else," Earl said.

That concern for others was evident through

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Katana

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Katana's extensive fund-raising efforts and charitable contributions in the community. Katana helped raise money and community awareness about several issues, including getting much-needed equipment for the Logan Fire Department, kick-starting the efforts to build an indoor ice arena in the valley and befriending international students at Utah State University.

Her efforts were so extensive that the congregation of the Cache Valley Unitarian Universalists established the Isabel Katana Social Justice Ward in her honor. The award was started to acknowledge the contributions to social justice that Katana brought to Logan.

Katana also served on



Isabel Katana as a young woman, circa 1930s

the board of the League of Women Voters, the USU PRIDE Alliance, the USU Women's Center and Friends of the Library.

A full obituary for Katana appears in today's edition of The Herald Journal.

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