Janson Iwakami’s love of ice sculpting began while working as a chef in Hawaii.
OSAKA, JAPAN — A 114-year-old Japanese woman, the daughter of a kimono maker, was formally recognized Feb. 27 as the world’s oldest woman. Misao Okawa said that she was “very happy” to receive the recognition and certificate from Guinness World Records. After a meal of her favorite mackerel sushi, Okawa nodded off as she sat in her wheelchair, her 3-month-old great-grandson, Hibiki Okawa, at her side. Asked for her secret for longevity, she said she was to “watch out for one’s health.” The recognition by Guinness World Records was a nice gift for Okawa, who will mark her 115th birthday this month. According to the Gerontology Research Institute, which verifies age information for Guinness, she was born on March 5, 1898. Okawa lives in a nursing home in Osaka. The manager there, Tomohito Okada, said Okawa eats whatever she likes. The world’s oldest-living person as recognized by Guinness — 115-year-old Jiroemon Kimura — also lives in Japan. Japan has the most centenarians in the world, with more than 51,000, according to the government. More than 87 percent of them are women.

NEW YORK — A long-forgotten World War II statue expected to sell for close to $2 million has been passed on by buyers at a New York City auction. Bonhams Maritime Art Department sales specialist Gregg Dietrich says an original cast of the famous 1945 flag-raising at Iwo Jima went unsold Feb. 22. Three potential buyers stopped the bidding at $550,000, below the undisclosed minimum sale price. The 12 1/2-foot statue was constructed nine years before the world-famous 32-foot sculpture of the flag-raising that rests in Arlington, Va. The sculpture was estimated to bring up to $1.8 million. The monument is inspired by a Pulitzer Prize-winning Associated Press photograph showing six American servicemen raising the flag as Allied forces struggled to capture the Japanese-held island.

HONOLULU — A new federal complex on Oahu is being named after the late Sen. Daniel Inouye. In a statement released by Inouye’s office on Feb. 5, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Pacific Regional Center will be named the Daniel K. Inouye Regional Center. It’s the first structure to be named after the senator since he passed away in December at age 88. Inouye shied away from having his name put on buildings or other things during his lifetime. An Army medical building and a University of Hawaii scholarship are some exceptions. The local offices of the National Weather Service and National Marine Fisheries Service are among those who will move into the $330 million complex in Pearl Harbor. The center is scheduled to open in December.

From the Midwest

Confronting Racial Slander

By Bill Yoshino
JACL Midwest Regional Director

There are times when we are jolted with a reminder that racism is alive and well. That was the case last summer when a gunman with ties to a supremacist group burst into a Sikh temple in Wisconsin and killed six congregants. Many of us don’t experience or notice racism in our daily lives, so the shock of Oak Creek makes us ponder the scope and frequency of racial incidents.

In recent months, the JACL has been called on to react to a series of incidents with racial overtones. A Google app called “Make Me Asian” purported to be a fun way to appear to be Asian. It used overlays such as a “cootie” hat and a “Fu Manchu” mustache that could be placed on photos. Needless to say, it was a convenient way to mock Asian Americans, and Google removed it following reaction from the community. We also objected to an Apple app called “Transformat Celebrities,” similar to Google’s, which no longer appears to be available.

Earlier last month, in an American Voices article appearing online in Tribune Media Services, Joel Brinkley, a journalism professor at Stanford University, said that a favored dish in Vietnam is dog. Moreover, he asserted, “... Vietnamese have regularly eaten meat through the ages, adding significant protein to their diet that also helps explain the state’s aggressive tendencies ...” Fortunately, he was pilloried by virtually every respondent to his article.

This dog-eating image plays into attitudes that cast Asians as different, as oddities within a Western culture, and even as uncivilized. These portrayals started in the 1800s when the Chinese were seen as having strange customs, a strange language and an appearance that made them targets for the harassment and discrimination that would follow. It is, of course, a way to perpetuate the myth of Asians as forever foreign.

There isn’t an expiration date on prejudice and bigotry. The notion of a post-racial society with the election of an African American president belies the institutional discrimination and the racial assaults, large and small, that continue to plague our society. For those reasons, there must be watchdogs — individuals and organizations — that will monitor and react to the insults and insinuations because it’s imperative that we confront the slander that tars us as outsiders by some and as uncivilized by others.

For more news from the Midwest, see page 8.
There was a controversy brewing in the JACL going into the Feb. 23-25 National Board meeting related to the Power of Words Handbook.

Specifically, the controversy was over the use of the term "American concentration camp(s)" to describe the 10 World War II prisons in which Japanese Americans were detained. The Handbook explains to readers that the government’s terms to describe the camps – “relocation centers,” “assembly centers,” “evacuation” – were euphemisms designed to hide the true nature of the government’s actions and urged readers to use, instead, more accurate descriptions like “American concentration camp,” “incarceration camp” or “illegal detention camp.”

This issue, first introduced by a resolution at the 2010 convention and overwhelming majority votes by the National Council at two subsequent conventions, led to the understanding that this was the accepted position of the organization.

The American Jewish Committee, the Anti-Defamation League and other Jewish community organizations, were told, voiced their objections over our use of the term "concentration camps."

This was not surprising, nor was it the first time that our use of the term met with strong objections from the Jewish community.

The Manzanar Committee, under the leadership of Sue Embrey, faced strong opposition in the early to mid-1970s from the Jewish community and state officials over the use of “concentration camp” on the plaque at Manzanar. But the Manzanar Committee fought for over five years and would not relent on the use of the term and finally won their battle when the state agreed to include the term.

A few years later, the then-NCWN District allocated funds to build a monument at the Tule Lake site and included "concentration camp" in the language of a proposed plaque to describe the camp. Using the Manzanar situation as a precedent, the NCWN District hunkered down for an expected long fight but neither the state nor the Jewish community raised objections to our proposal.

During Clifford Uyeda’s chairmanship of the JACL’s redress committee, Raymond Okamura (Berkeley chapter) produced a white paper on the government’s euphemistic use of words that shielded the truth about the camps. Much like the current Handbook, the white paper advocated the use of terms like “concentration camp,” “internment camp” or “detention centers” to describe the conditions of our imprisonment. The Okamura glossary of words eliminated from our campaign lexicon words like “evacuation,” “relocation” and “evacuees.”

During my chairmanship as the national redress chair and later as the Redress Director, we continued to use the term “concentration camp.” It should be noted that we had a close alliance with the American Jewish Committee, the first national organization to endorse the JACL’s redress campaign, which was an important endorsement because every Jewish member of Congress seemed to be an AJC member. While some questioned our use of “concentration camps” in our printed materials, not one voted against our bill because of it.

It’s worth noting that the Anti-Defamation League strongly supported our campaign, and the legendary Dave Brody, the ADL’s Washington lobbyist, was probably our most active supporter on the Hill.

I met with the AJC, ADL, B’hai B’rith and other Jewish community groups to discuss their objections to our using the term “concentration camps,” but ultimately, we continued to use it in our literature about the camps. I used that term interchangeably with internment camps, detention centers and prisons, all of which in my thinking defined accurately what those camps were.

I understood the sensitivity of our Jewish friends and their objections to our use of the term, but we were in the middle of what at times was a brutal campaign and it was important to describe the camps for what they were. It was also important that we maintained our integrity and the way we fought for what we believed in.

Our was a campaign about truth, and once I took the program into the public arena and turned it into a campaign, I continued to use the term. We were lobbying Congress with its many Jewish members, but walking that minefield was not as difficult as one might have expected.

Which brings us to the current controversy about the term from the Handbook.

It seems the controversy is not over the use of the term as much as it is about whether the National Director can circumvent a decision of the National Council, especially one that is so clear and decisive.

It’s my understanding that the National Director, Priscilla Ouchida, met with the AJC, who raised objections over the use of the term and had indicated her intent to defer to the AJC’s concerns because we will need their support in seeking to implement the Handbook’s goals of eliminating the use of euphemisms in official narratives about the camps.

In a report to the Board about a meeting with representatives of Jewish organizations over the use of the term “concentration camp,” she states: ”...I anticipate we will join with the groups and form a coalition to push the NPS, the Department of Education and others to adopt all of the terms of the Handbook with the exception of ‘American concentration camp.’”
At the Feb. 23 JACL national board meeting, the P.C. editorial board chair presented a media plan that proposes the 84-year-old newspaper go all digital by 2015.

By Nalea J. Ko, Reporter

A revised media plan that would make the Pacific Citizen an all-digital publication by 2015 was presented by the newspaper’s editorial board chair at JACL national board’s recent meeting.

The national board met on Feb. 23 at the JACL national headquarters in San Francisco and renewed the discussion to set a timeline for the P.C. to become an all-digital publication. Carol Kawamoto, the P.C. editorial board chair, presented to the JACL national board a revised draft of the newspaper’s media plan. A revised draft of the plan was created, Kawamoto says, following the P.C. editorial board meeting on Jan. 26.

“I think we have to rethink our roles in the Pacific Citizen and how the P.C. is going to evolve in the next five years,” Kawamoto said. “So maybe the positions that were devised previously, maybe that’s going to have to change. But then that’s also going to depend on the fiscal picture of national, noting that 2014 is when we possibly can unfreeze the associate editor position.”

Former Executive Editor Caroline Aoyagi-Stom resigned on June 22 of last year. Lynda Lim, the former assistant editor, also vacated her position in 2012. The P.C.’s assistant editor position was previously eliminated from JACL’s budget along with the JACL Pacific Southwest District regional director position. But at last year’s July 5-8 JACL national convention, delegates passed a motion to reinstate both positions.

An interim P.C. executive editor, Allison Haramoto, was contracted on Sept. 25. Floyd Shimomura, JACL nation’s legal counsel, at the JACL national board meeting expressed the need to hire a permanent executive editor.

“We are in the process of hiring of the Pacific Citizen executive editor,” said Miko Sawamura, JACL vice president of general operations, who is also helping with the hiring process. “We’ll be continuing interviews. So we’re getting there.”

The P.C. editorial board first created an all-digital media plan in 2010 under the direction of a JACL national board-approved resolution that proposed the newspaper go all digital by 2014. Joshua Spry, then national JACL secretary/treasurer, motioned to approve the resolution on Feb. 12, 2010. Pacific Northwest District Governor Chip Larouche seconded it.

The P.C. polled readers that same year on the topic of eliminating the print edition. Out of approximately 1,145 surveys that were returned from subscribers, about 71 individuals indicated that they’d like a paperless P.C. The remaining subscribers indicated their desire to keep the print edition of the newspaper.

The most recent revised media plan outlines how the P.C. would convert to an all-digital publication by 2015. To facilitate a proposed all-digital conversion, it is suggested in the plan that the P.C. hire a “web journalist/
But some board members expressed concerns about the availability of financial resources to fund new positions at the P.C. “I see a portion in here, ‘Staffing the Digital P.C.,’ which would kind of request an additional staff person at the reporter position level or between the reporter and assistant editor position,” said Matthew Farrells, JACL national secretary/treasurer. “And my question is with the biennial budget in 2013-2014 being set, what are the plans or how much of this revised plan can be accomplished with the resources we already set in stone this year and next? It’s hard for me to think that another position could easily be funded and things given our current environment.”

The P.C.’s revenues in 2012 underperformed at about $135,997 in comparison to 2011 revenues of $276,004, according to Farrells, who presented a report at the JACL national board meeting. The P.C.’s business manager Susan Yokoyama is compiling a final report, totaling the 2012 revenues. The P.C.’s revenues include nonmember subscriptions and advertising revenues raised through the annual Holiday Issue, regular editions and other special issues. There are about 700 nonmember subscriptions, individuals who are not JACL members. Creating a paperless P.C. might mean that funds received from nonmember subscriptions would need to be refunded. “We’ll have to decide as a P.C. staff and editorial board, what is our makeup going to be?” Kawamoto said. “How are we going to address these needs? What type of decisions, will they have to change, are titles going to have to change? Are jobs requirements going to have to change? Because we’re moving into a different phase, we’re transitioning into a different phase.”

Traditionally the P.C. has raised about 50 percent of its budget through fundraising with the rest coming from JACL. In 2011, the P.C. received approximately $263,936 from JACL, according Yokoyama. Yokoyama says the P.C. received $189,567.59 from JACL in 2012.

The media plan proposes a three-part education campaign, beginning with teaching the JACL national board on how to use the digital P.C., then the “national, district and chapter-level leadership” and finally educating the general JACL membership. To further aid with the all-digital conversion, the media plan proposes holding “My P.C. Training” sessions, creating a “P.C. Moblog,” forming a “P.C. Corps” of volunteers and developing a “Mobile version.” The P.C. training sessions would include educating a representative from each JACL district on how to add content and navigate the My P.C. section of the website. The estimated start-up cost would be $15,000, according to the media plan.

The P.C. Moblog would be a mobile phone blog created by young members who text about their lives as Asian Americans. The P.C. Corps would be comprised of volunteers, including JACLers, who are “software engineers, designers and content creators,” who would update technical features of the website and mobile versions. The estimated start-up cost is $20,000.

The creation of a mobile version of the P.C. — optimized for iPhone, tablets and Android phones — is estimated to cost $5,000-$10,000.

Kawamoto said the revised media plan is a draft, and she welcomes any comments before the next JACL national board meeting on April 27.
PILGRIMAGE: BUS TRANSPORTATION AVAILABLE FROM LOS ANGELES

LOS ANGELES — The 44th annual Manzanar Pilgrimage, sponsored by the Los Angeles-based Manzanar Committee, is scheduled for Noon on Saturday, April 27, at the Manzanar National Historic Site on U.S. Hwy 395 in California’s Owens Valley.

Each year, hundreds of students, teachers, community members, clergy and former incarcerees attend the Pilgrimage. The Manzanar Committee is dedicated to educating and raising public awareness about the incarceration and violation of civil rights of persons of Japanese ancestry during World War II and to the continuing struggle of all peoples when Constitutional rights are in danger.

A nonprofit organization that has sponsored the annual Manzanar Pilgrimage since 1969, along with other educational programs, the Manzanar Committee has also played a key role in the establishment and continued development of the Manzanar National Historic Site.

Planning is underway for the afternoon event as well as for the Manzanar at Dusk program, scheduled from 5-8 p.m. that same evening at Lone Pine High School, located nine miles south of the Manzanar National Historic Site.

Manzanar at Dusk is co-sponsored by the Cal Poly Pomona Nikkei Student Union, the CSULB Nikkei Student Union, the UCLA Nikkei Student Union and the UCSD Nikkei Student Union.

Through a creative presentation, small group discussions and an open mic session, Manzanar at Dusk participants will have the opportunity to learn about the experiences of those incarcerated in the camps. Participants will also be able to interact with former incarcerees in attendance to hear their personal stories, share their own experiences and discuss the relevance of the internment experience to present-day events and issues.

The Manzanar Committee has also announced that bus transportation to the Pilgrimage will be available from Los Angeles. An air-conditioned bus will depart from St. Francis Xavier Chapel Japanese Catholic Center (formerly Maryknoll Japanese Catholic Center) in Los Angeles at 7 a.m.

The bus will take participants to the Interpretive Center at the Manzanar National Historic Site following the afternoon program. The bus should arrive back in Los Angeles at approximately 8:30 p.m.

Bus reservations are now being accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. For further information, or to make a reservation, call (323) 662-5102, or email 44thpilgrimage@manzanarcommittee.org. The nonrefundable fare is $40 per seat.

Those wishing to attend the Manzanar at Dusk program that evening should make other transportation arrangements.

Pilgrimage participants are advised to bring their own lunch, drinks and snacks, as there are no facilities to purchase food at the Manzanar National Historic Site (restaurants and fast-food outlets are located in Lone Pine and Independence, which are nearby). Water will be provided at the site.

For more information on the Pilgrimage, call (323) 662-5102, email info@manzanarcommittee.org or visit http://blog.manzanarcommittee.org.
Ten JAVA Scholarships Await Eligible 2013 High School Graduates

The JAVA Memorial Scholarship Program, now in its sixth year, will provide 10 scholarships totaling $1,500 each to winning high school applicants from this year’s competition.

According to Dr. Ray Murakami, chair of the scholarship program, the awards are an opportunity to link participants to those from whom their eligibility is derived.

JAVA scholarships are primarily memorials that have been established by friends and families to remember the memory of loved ones who have passed away.

Scholarships this year include those established in the memory of Betty Shimizu, whose husband, Terry, was executive director of JAVA and who still serves on its executive council; Orville Shrey, a former intelligence officer with the 442nd RCT; two scholarships for father and son Sunao Phil Ishio, founder and first president of JAVA, and Douglas Ishio; and Kiyoko Tsuboi Taubkin, who designated JAVA as the primary beneficiary of her estate.

Other scholarships honor Grant Hirabayashi and Joseph Ichiuji, who both served during World War II and were JAVA members; Mike and Etsu Mineta Masaoka; Victor and Teru (Kamikawa) Matsui; and Dr. Warren Tsumeishi, who served with the MIS.

To be eligible for a scholarship, the entrant must be a graduating high school student in 2013 and also be directly related to a person (e.g., a son, grandchild, etc.) who served in one of the famed Nisei battalions or teams during WWII and their associated units, the MIS or a Japanese American who has or is serving in our nation’s armed forces. Eligibility extends to graduates who are lineally related to a member of JAVA, e.g., children or direct descendants.

Because of eligibility requirements, recipients have historically been grandchildren of qualified Japanese American veterans.

The competition is now open, and eligible applicants must submit documentation showing that the entrant has been admitted to an accredited college, university or other institution that provides post-high school education or training in 2013.

In addition, all applicants must submit an essay of 500 words or less on the following subject, “What winning a JAVA scholarship award will mean to me.”

This year’s scholarship panel includes Sue Okubo, a Ph.D. economist formerly with the Department of Commerce; Ed Wakayama, Ph.D., who is an assistant secretary in the Department of Health & Human Services; and Calvin Ninomiya, formerly a chief counsel in the Department of Treasury.

The deadline for all submissions is May 1. Any applicant who has been admitted to more than one institution and is uncertain about his or her final choice should provide the admission information already received and must agree to submit information about the school selected as soon as a decision has been made.

For complete scholarship program details, visit admin@javadc.org.

Capitol’s Day of Remembrance Includes Official State Apology to Japanese American State Employees

SACRAMENTO, CALIF. — The state capitol’s National Day of Remembrance observance on Feb. 19 brought together Japanese Americans including World War II veterans and citizens interned and wrongfully fired from state employment.

On the floor of the Assembly Chambers, Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi (D-Torrance) recognized these Japanese Americans and led a vote on his resolution recognizing Day of Remembrance in California.

“We must never forget this important day in California’s history: the day we let fear and war hysteria trump our most sacred civil liberties,” Muratsuchi said. “Today we remember the commitment we make to freedom by ensuring this unfortunate injustice never happens again.”

Before Muratsuchi’s floor presentation, the assemblyman was joined by Assemblymembers Ken Cooley (D-Rancho Cordova) and Dr. Richard Pan (D-Sacramento) for the announcement of ACR 19, the first official apology for the firing of Japanese American state employees in California.

Yosh Uchida was a professor at San Jose State University when he was fired because of SCR 15. “I would like to thank these other legislators who recognize the injustice done to the Japanese American community within the state of California and rectifying it with the introduction of ACR 19,” Uchida said. Uchida went on to become a highly successful judo coach at San Jose State following the conclusion of the war; a building is named after him on the university’s campus.

ACR 19, authored by Pan, apologizes for the passage of SCR 15, which was authored by previous Sacramento legislator Sen. John Swan and passed by the 1942 legislature. SCR 15 led to the wrongful firing of hundreds of Japanese American state employees by the State Personnel Board.

“For too long, these firings have gone without an official apology by the legislature,” Pan said. “This is why today I have introduced ACR 19, which officially apologizes to these state employees.”

As the nation’s oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization, the JACL’s support for Day of Remembrance events helps promote the organization’s mission to “secure and maintain the civil rights of Japanese Americans and all others who are victimized by injustice and bigotry.”

Said JACL National Director Priscilla Ouchida: “Today is an important date, not only for Japanese Americans but for all Americans because it is a reminder of what our constitutional rights really mean. The Japanese American Citizens League joins the Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus in recognizing that rights have to be preserved not only in the best of times but, more importantly, are protected in the worst of times.”

As a legislative aid to then-Assemblymember Patrick Johnson in 1982, Ouchida was instrumental in working to pass legislation that would provide restitution payments for the fired workers.

Said Cooley, who represented Japanese American veterans honored at the Capitol: “Today we honored more than a dozen Americans of Japanese ancestry who were unjustly incarcerated and fired during World War II, as well as several who served in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, 100th Infantry Battalion and Military Intelligence Service. They stand as true patriots and citizens who continue to honor and defend our country to this day.”
Thinking about ice might lead people to see a variety of different things. Some might picture glaciers in the blistering cold Arctic, while others simply might imagine the splashing of ice cubes into a tall glass of cola. But when Janson Iwakami looks at ice, he envisions the beginning of a masterpiece.

For Iwakami, 54, ice is a representation of a form of art. It is his hands that carve blocks of ice to life. His one-of-a-kind sculptures have wowed clients for more than 22 years. Iwakami says the most gratifying part of his job is the ability to use his talent to create something that will make a time in someone’s life extra special.

“I enjoy being able to create something from nothing, and the appreciation I get from people is great,” he said. “It is very rewarding to be appreciated for your work, and the sculptures can make an event truly special.”

Iwakami works in the large garage of his Renton, Wash., home. His business, Amazing Ice Sculptures, has provided top-quality ice creations for celebrities, special events, hotels, restaurants, country clubs and major corporations since 1990. Iwakami has also sculpted ice presentations for three governor’s Inaugural Balls in the state of Washington, as well as events for former President Bill Clinton and the National Football League.

The award-winning ice sculptor has also participated in several team competitions in Alaska and Canada. The largest sculptures Iwakami and his teams have created were in Fairbanks, Alaska. Fairbanks holds one of the largest ice sculpting competitions in the world, where sculptors from around the globe compete to carve magnificent pieces of work. Iwakami says the sculptures created in competitions like these are typically scenic pieces that involve thousands of pounds of ice.

“The ice blocks weigh about 3,500 pounds each, and you have 10 blocks,” he said. “That is equivalent to 35,000 pounds of ice with only five days to work and create something monumental.”
Some of Iwakami’s most memorable pieces from the Fairbanks competition were a 20-foot-tall scene of a scuba diver, dolphin and reef, as well as a piece depicting a cougar attacking a bighorn ram.

Although Iwakami has created some of the world’s most spectacular sculptures, ice sculpting was not a career he had always planned to pursue. After completing high school, the Hawaii-born Iwakami furthered his education in culinary arts and worked as a professional chef for 18 years.

Iwakami says ice sculpting was a skill that sparked his interest while working as a chef in Kauai, Hawaii. Watching senior chefs carving ice inspired him to look into the art of ice sculpting. Iwakami also spent two weeks in Kobe, Japan, working for a master ice carver and his apprentice, but he says learning the art of ice sculpting was mainly a self-taught skill.

“I mostly learned on my own,” he recalled. “I looked at pictures in ice sculpture books and used house tools. Then, I just got a block of ice and started carving.”

Iwakami’s decision to expand his horizons in his trade led him to move his business from his home state of Hawaii to the state of Washington. In Washington, Iwakami continued to perfect his skill while also working for various hotels across Seattle.

One can only imagine the tedious and time-consuming process that goes into the art of sculpting ice. But it is a challenge Iwakami and other professional ice sculptors face before creating such intricate pieces of art. Iwakami begins his work by using an ice machine that utilizes a special freezing process that creates crystal-clear blocks of ice. The entire process takes nearly four days to make a 300-pound ice block.

Next comes the design, which entails intense research to study the various images he can use. However, Iwakami says his biggest challenge during the design stage is sometimes not having enough time to find a good picture or model to use as a reference while sculpting.

“Drawing a template of the profile of the subject definitely helps,” he said. “But in some cases, you have to piece things together and you have to visualize how it will work with ice.”

After the pattern has been prepared, Iwakami carves and chips away until he has completed his creation. It is then that he prepares the sculpture for transportation and delivery. Add all of this time together, and Iwakami says it can take him anywhere from two to several hours to complete a sculpture depending on its design, details and complexity.

“A one-block sculpture takes about two hours to create,” he said. “The more elaborate ones might take much more time. That’s how I determine the cost: the amount of time it will take to carve. The majority of times, it takes much longer than anticipated.”

Sculptures can range in price from $50 to upward of thousands of dollars. In a cool room, the beautiful, yet temporary work may last for up to eight hours.

Iwakami’s sculptures add a touch of elegance to make any event extra special. And he takes the time to really work with his clients to produce a sculpture that is exactly what they pictured. Some of Iwakami’s work includes sculptures of the Taj Mahal, a grand piano, the Titanic, Mickey Mouse, ice bars and even an Oscar statue.

Possibilities are limitless when it comes to what Iwakami can create. But even though he has almost created everything and anything imaginable, he says sculpting ice has its limits, and his most challenging pieces are those with the tiniest, most intricate details.

“Usually, a human figure is most challenging for me. If someone wanted an exact replica of a person, I would not be able to do that. But I would be able to carve a piece that resembles the individual,” said Iwakami.

“Also, anything manmade that requires superaccuracy, such as a Boeing aircraft (which Iwakami was asked to reproduce for one client). It was very difficult to create, and getting it to the event without it breaking was very nerve-racking.”

For now, Iwakami has no plans to expand his “Amazing Ice Sculptures” business outside of the state of Washington. For people living in or visiting the area, Iwakami can be seen carving on-site during the holiday season at the Seattle Center Winter Fest, as well as at Woodland Park Zoo’s Wild Lights Winter Light Festival and also at the Leavenworth Ice Fest.

For more information on Iwakami and his business “Amazing Ice Sculptures,” call (425) 255-5255 or email amazingice1@aol.com.
March 1-14, 2013

COMMUNITY

PACIFIC

CITIZEN

Day of Remembrance is a national observance that has been commemorated on or near Feb. 19 when, in 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, which led to the incarceration of more than 120,000 people of Japanese descent. This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which publicly acknowledged the wrongful incarceration and authorized apology and redress to surviving internees. Organizations observed this day with various presentations across the country.

LOS ANGELES — A capacity crowd gathered at the Japanese American National Museum on Feb. 16 to honor the 25th anniversary of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. Sponsored by JANM, Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress, JACL PSW District and the Manzanar Committee, the Day of Remembrance event also featured a special tribute to the late Sen. Daniel Inouye, archived videos from the Commission on Wartime Relocation, a presentation by Anan Ameri on the ramifications of the National Defense Authorization Act and a panel discussion moderated by the Manzanar Committee’s Bruce Embrey.

Panel participants included Richard Katsuda, founding member and co-chair of the National Coalition for Redress/Reparations (now known as Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress); Rose Matsui Ochi, who was instrumental in advocating for WWII wartime redress and championing the creation of the Manzanar National Historic Site; and Mitch Maki, vice provost of academic affairs at California State University, Dominguez Hills.

Maki expressed the need for redress, saying after 25 years, healing was still necessary. He also stressed the need for today’s youth to carry the history of our past forward to future generations. One person determined to make that happen is April Nishinaka. Her slideshow presentation displayed images that depicted the government’s use of Executive Order 9066, and she pointed out many details of the camps commonly left untold in history books.

“At my school (the University of Southern California), we barely covered it,” Nishinaka said. “People really need to know that this happened, so we make sure that this doesn’t happen to anyone else.”

The event was emceed by Soji Kashiwagi, playwright/executive producer of the Grateful Crane Ensemble, and Stephanie Nitahara, JACL PSW regional director.

— Pacific Citizen Staff
FRESNO, CALIF. — A moving performance of “What We Could Carry” by Central Valley farmer and agrarian artist Nikiko Masumoto brought an audience of more than 100 guests to tears at the JACL Central California District Council’s Day of Remembrance and Installation Luncheon on Feb. 17.

Masumoto’s powerful one-woman show, a re-creation based almost entirely on the testimony of 13 individuals from the Los Angeles hearings of the 1981 Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, elicited a standing ovation from the diverse crowd of Japanese Americans and other community members. Masumoto’s show also included her personal reflection about internment and the weight of those memories on her own identity as a Japanese American.

The event, which was sponsored by Union Bank, also offered an opportunity for Consul General Hiroshi Inomata to present Judge Dale Ikeda with a special honor from the Consulate General of Japan. Ikeda was honored for his work chairing the Pinedale and Fresno Assembly Center Memorials on behalf of the JACL and for his contributions as a volunteer on many other projects to benefit the Japanese American community, including the Nisei Veterans Network, Shinzen Japanese Garden and Fresno-Kochi Sister Cities.

In addition, World War II veteran Clarence Suzuki gave a recap of his January visit to New Orleans as a representative of the Central Valley for the opening of the Smithsonian Congressional Gold Medal traveling tour exhibit.

Other activities during the afternoon included a 50/50 raffle, which raised funds to support JACL scholarships, and a silent auction coordinated by the Livingston-Merced JACL.

Judge Ikeda presided over the swearing in ceremony for incoming officers set to lead the CCDC in 2013: Governor Robert Shintaku of Clovis, Vice Governor Roberta Barton of Fresno, Secretary Kathleen Ishimoto of Tulare County and Treasurer Travis Nishi of Clovis.

— Roberta Barton, CCDC vice governor

HOUSTON — The award-winning documentary “Pilgrimage” was shown at the Asia Society Texas Center in Houston on Feb. 10. The special film screening was presented in partnership with the JACL Houston Chapter and the Holocaust Museum Houston to commemorate the Day of Remembrance.

“Pilgrimage” is a poignant but powerful documentary about Manzanar and what it means to be Japanese Americans today. The inspirational film was lauded by those in attendance, including several JACL Houston members who lived through the mass incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II.

The film’s director, Yonsei filmmaker Tadashi “Tad” Nakamura, attended the screening and participated afterward in an onstage conversation with JACL Houston President Gary Nakamura and Holocaust Museum Houston’s Director of Education Mary Lee Webeck. Tad Nakamura and Gary Nakamura each recounted what it felt like when they first learned their families had been incarcerated at Manzanar and Gila River, respectively. They also spoke about the importance of educating future generations of Nikkei, as well as the general public, about the Japanese American experience.

In addition to the screening, JACL Houston hosted its annual DOR Commemorative Dinner on Feb. 19.

— Gary Nakamura, JACL Houston president

CHICAGO — This year, Chicago’s Day of Remembrance program focused on a little-known aspect of Japanese American history: the Kooskia Internment Camp in north central Idaho and the Issei men who, while they were held there, labored in road crews for the Lewis Clark Highway. From 1943-45, Kooskia was home to about 265 Japanese resident aliens who had been arrested soon after the attack on Pearl Harbor on the unconfirmed suspicion that they were potential saboteurs.

Priscilla Wegars, author of “Imprisoned in Paradise: Japanese Internee Road Workers at the World War II Kooskia Internment Camp,” presented recently discovered material on Kooskia and its inmates, as well as findings from the 2010 archeological excavations of the campsite. Following her presentation, Wegars signed copies of her book and answered a number of questions posed by interested audience members.

The annual Day of Remembrance observance was sponsored by the Chicago Japanese American Council, Chicago Japanese American Historical Society, Japanese American Citizens League — Chicago Chapter, Japanese American Service Committee and Japanese Mutual Aid Society of Chicago. Approximately 400 people attended the DOR program held at the Chicago History Museum. Holding the event at this institution — a popular field-trip destination for the city’s schoolchildren — both brings the Day of Remembrance message to a population beyond the Japanese American community and underscores its significance in Chicago today.

— Bill Yoshino, Midwest District regional director
PORTLAND, ORE. — JACL’s Portland chapter held its annual Day of Remembrance at Portland State University on Feb. 17. The focus of this year’s event was the 25th anniversary of the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.

Following a welcome by JACL Portland Co-President Susan Leedham, Portland JACL Treasurer and Pacific Northwest Governor Chip Larouche introduced the event’s special guest speaker, JACL National Director Emeritus Floyd Mori.

Mori immersed the audience with stories from his own life as a young Nisei in rural Utah. He spoke of how the pain of rejection can shape or change your life depending on how you react to it.

Mori also spoke about the treatment of the Japanese community during WWII and the importance of understanding and recognizing that everyone had their own reasons for their actions and how they conducted themselves during a very difficult time.

Ultimately, the Japanese community united around the redress effort many years later, despite their differences.

A panel discussion led by moderator Linda Tamura, professor at Willamette University and author of “The Hood River Isser” and “Nisei Soldiers Break Their Silence,” followed.

Panel participants included Portland State University professor Hillary Jenkins, who is working currently to convert her dissertation “Home Is Little Tokyo: Race and Metropolitan Development in Twentieth Century Los Angeles” into a book; former Portland JACL President Joe Wahl, who relayed stories of his own life as a bi-racial boy growing up in Astoria; and Lewis & Clark Law School professor Tung Yin, who spoke about legal issues that arose in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

The panelists then answered questions from the audience, many of which came from members of Portland JACL’s youth group, Unite People, about an array of topics.

Portland JACL Co-President Jean Yamamoto then brought the event to a close.

Mori, Tamura and the entire panel enlightened the audience on the powerful, tireless work that went into making redress possible, as well as brought to light current events that continue to plague civil rights in our country today.

It certainly reminds us all why civil rights organizations like JACL are still a crucial part of American society.

— Heidi Kimiko Tantuleng, board member, Portland JACL
WWII Veteran Terry T. Shima Is Awarded the 2012 Presidential Citizens Medal

By Lt. Janelle T.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — At a ceremony in the East Room of the White House on Feb. 15, 2015, President Barack Obama awarded World War II veteran Terry T. Shima the 2012 Presidential Citizens Medal, the nation’s second-highest civilian award.

Shima was one of 18 recipients of the medal, hand-selected by the president from more than 6,000 candidates for “strengthening the sacred trust between America and its veterans.”

In his remarks, President Obama recognized the recipients “for the shining example that you set every single day and the inspiration that you give each of us as fellow citizens, including your president.”

Shima, 90, of Gaithersburg, Md., was born and raised in Hilo, Hawaii, and served in the Army’s 442nd Regimental Combat Team, a segregated unit comprised of Japanese Americans that became one of the most decorated units of its size in American history. Shima “ensured returning heroes received a welcome befitting their service and sacrifice,” said Obama.

Shima’s award citation recognized his many years of work as executive director of the Japanese American Veterans Assn. He currently is chair of the organization’s Outreach and Education Committee. “As executive director of the Japanese American Veterans Assn., he committed himself to preserving the stories of service members who fought and bled overseas, even while many of their families were relocated to internment camps at home,” said Obama.

Shima’s family members — brother Hiroshi Shima of Hilo, Hawaii, and son Michael Shima of Philadelphia, Pa., and daughter Eileen Roulier and son-in-law Richard Roulier of Potomac, Md. — traveled to the White House to view the ceremony.

When asked what his reactions were to receiving the award, Shima said, “In a word, awesome. There are others far more deserving than me to receive this medal than I.” However, having been designated, I accepted this award on behalf of my family, who has given me their total support.”

Said Eileen Roulier: “I am so proud of my father. Our family sees how deeply he cares and how hard he works to tell the Japanese American story, but he certainly never expected this medal. It’s an incredible gift of recognition. I believe in his heart he shares this honor, completely and thoroughly, with my mother, who supported him throughout their 65 years of marriage. What an amazing team. I am profoundly grateful for the inspiration and guidance they’ve given me over the years.”

Added Shima: “I accept this medal on behalf of all the volunteers at the Japanese American Veterans Assn. and for the men who fought and Europe and the Pacific, including my older brother, Hideichi Shimabukuro, to settle the question of loyalty once and for all and to help level the playing field for minorities. I also accept this medal for the over 800 men we left on the battlefields of Europe and the Pacific, and for the post-World War II Japanese American men and women who competed with the best of the best to build America’s greatness. JAYA President Gerald Yamada praised Shima’s service. “This award recognizes Terry’s tireless efforts as a 442nd Regimental Combat Team veteran, as executive director and now as the chairperson of our Education and Public Outreach Community to preserve the legacy of the contributions of the World War II Nisei soldiers. Terry brings honor to all of us.”

Said former Secretary of Transportation and Secretary of Commerce Norman Mineta: “Given all the work, time, dedication and effort that Terry has expended over all these years on behalf of the veterans and the total community, there is no one who is more deserving of this recognition. I know that the thousands of Japanese American veterans who served in World War II and those who ultimately made the supreme sacrifice on behalf of all of us are really smiling and saying, ‘Well done, Terry, and thanks a million.’”

Philanthropist and Community Leader George Aratani Passes

MEMORIAL SERVICE IS SET FOR MARCH 2 AT THE ARATANI/JAPAN AMERICA THEATRE.

A memorial service for philanthropist, successful businessman and community leader George Aratani is set for March 2 at 2 p.m. at the Aratani/Japan America Theatre at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center in Los Angeles’ Little Tokyo.

Aratani, an entrepreneur who founded Kenwood Electronics and the tableware company Mikasa, passed away peacefully in Los Angeles on Feb. 19 at the age of 95.

Influenced by his father and motivated by the unjust internment of Japanese Americans during World War II, Aratani and his wife, Sakaye,
A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

CALANDER

>>EDC
JACL Philadelphia Chapter’s Annual Graduate Recognition and Installation Luncheon
VILLANOVA, PA
March 23, Noon
Azte on Main
789 E. Lancaster Ave.
Cost: $40/JACLers; $45/Non-members; $20/Children
The JACL Philadelphia chapter will hold its annual recognition of graduates and installation luncheon.
Info: Call Scott Nakamura at (610) 265-5434.

>>NCWNP
Asian & Pacific Islander Wellness Center’s Bloom Fundraiser
SAN FRANCISCO, CA
May 17, 7:30 p.m.
Mer at Terra Gallery
511 Harrison St.
Cost: $100/General admission
The Asian & Pacific Islander Wellness Center’s annual fundraiser Bloom will include drinks, food, entertainment and a silent auction.
Info: Call (415) 292-3400 or visit www.apiwellness.org.

>>PSW
Children’s Health Presentation
ALAMEDA, CA
March 9, 5:30 a.m.-Noon
Buena Vista United Methodist Church
2311 Buena Vista Ave.
Parents are invited to attend this lecture with Ronald Mah, a licensed marriage and family therapist. The presentation will focus on how parents can help their children balance their social, physical and emotional health.
Info: Call (415) 863-1414 or visit www.somarts.org.

Hawaii Film Screening of ‘The Land of Eb’
HONOLULU, HI
March 11, 7-9 p.m.
Doris Duke Theatre
900 S. Beretania St.
Cost: $5-$10/Suggested donation
Director Andrew Williamson and leading actor Jonithen Jackson present “The Land of Eb," a film about a Marshallese family struggling to survive. The film is sponsored by the Hawaii People’s Fund, the JACL Honolulu chapter and Kokus Kaihi Valley.
Info: Call (808) 593-0969.

>>PNW
Portland Taiko ‘Insatiable’ Performance
PORTLAND, OR
March 30, 8 p.m. and March 31, 7-9 p.m.
Portland State University
Lincoln Hall
1620 S.W. Park Ave.
Cost: $16-$30
Portland Taiko’s “Insatiable” performance includes contemporary reflections on Japanese folk dance. The performance is under the artistic direction of Michelle Fujii.
Info: Call (503) 288-2456 or email info@portlandtaiko.org.

>>MDC
The 2013 Cleveland Asian Festival
CLEVELAND, OH
May 18-19
Payne Ave, Between E. 30th and E. 27th Streets
The Cleveland Asian Festival will feature authentic Asian foods, merchandise, performances, children’s activities, games and eating competitions. Admission to the event is free.

The JACL Cincinnati-Dayton JACL Installation Dinner
MONTGOMERY, OH
March 24
Montgomery Inn
9440 Montgomery Road
Cost: $35/Person
Join the Cincinnati-Dayton JACL at its annual installation dinner, with keynote speaker Dr. Santa Ono.
Info: Call Hiroko Nishiyama at (513) 522-2688 or email contracostajacl@gmail.com.

The 2013 Riverside JACL Installation Luncheon
RIVERSIDE, CA
March 16, Noon
Riverside Marriott
3400 Market St.
Cost: $30/Per person; $25/Students
The Riverside JACL will be holding its annual installation luncheon, hosted by Ken Inouye, PSW governor. The guest speaker is Congressman Mark Takano.

Danny Ho Meet and Greet
PHOENIX, AZ
March 9, 2 p.m.
Guitar Center
2750 W. Peoria St.
Hawaii musician Daniel Ho and the Guitar Center invite the public to attend a free guitar clinic and live performance, followed by a Q&A session.
Info: Call (602) 375-3800 or visit www.danileho.com.

JACCC’s Hinamatsuri Celebration
LOS ANGELES, CA
March 3, 1 p.m.
Japanese American Cultural & Community Center
James Irvine Japanese Gardens, Garden Room
244 S. San Pedro St.
Cost: $10/General admission;
Free/JACCC members
As a part of the JACCC’s “On the Veranda” lecture series and to celebrate Girl’s Day, there will be a showing of Komakii Matsui’s film “Reiko’s Hina Dolls.”
Info: Visit www.jaccc.org or call (213) 628-2725.
In Memoriam

Ando, Florence Toshi, 89, Santa Monica, CA; Jan. 25; survived by children, Curtis Ando and Nici (Jeff) Parker; sister, Frances (Ed) White; sister-in-law, Machi Chikasawa, Roy Masao, 77.

Yoshimura, Helen (Howard) Takata, 90, LA, CA; Feb. 5; past president of Puyallup Valley JACL chapter; predeceased by mother, Irene; children, Ronald, Walter (Cindy) and Edward (Wendy); nieces, Nancy Park, TK; nephews, Richard, Howard, Scott and Andrew; siblings, Yoshihiko Takeuchi and Toshiko (Fuyuki) Nanbu; mother-in-law, Emiko Kuroiwa; brothers-in-law, Edward (Joan) Kuroiwa, Harold and Edmond; uncle, James (Ako).

Kato, Mary, 85, Rosemead, CA; Jan. 31; predeceased by her wife, Mary; son, Melvin; survived by children, Naomi, Larry (Du) and Arthur; siblings, Sayuri Watanabe and Chiyoko Satake; brothers-in-law, Sam (Lillian) Kusaka, sister-in-law, Kate Ohdara.

Nakagawa, Akiko, 98, L.A., CA; Feb. 7; survived by nephews, Craig (Debra), Jon (Annette), Glenn (Chie), sister-in-law, Nancy Takeshi, and family; son, Tom (Yoko); son-in-law, Yoneo Hashimoto and Yoneko Yabe; sister-in-law, Lil Kanehira; sister, Nancy Michi (Dustin) Hurshman.

Nishida, Fumio, 93, Sacramento, CA; Jan. 17; past president of French Camp JACL chapter; predeceased by wife, brothers Katsumi and Roy; survived by siblings, Mineko Inuma, Betty Nishimori and Jimmie, his children and their spouses, Michael and Bill, and sons, Jeannie and Jenny Takeshi.

Okitsu, Kazuo, 94, Canoga Park, CA; Feb. 3; predeceased by his wife, Jou; sisters, Toshiko Ikawaka and Amy Tominaga; survived by her children, Ronald Ichikawa, Ann Okitsu-Saeed, Walter (Cindy) and Edward (Wenling); sisters, Shizue Naramura and Hideo Mochizuki; gc.

Osawa, Akeko, 94, Small City, CA; Feb. 1; a WWII Korean Conflict vet and Purple Heart recipient; Survived by his wife, Carol; daughters, Janet, Richard (Carol), Robert (Harriet), Glenn and Jean (Albert) Tawata.

Omotu, Santa, 94, San Clemente, CA; Jan. 25; predeceased by her husband, Toshiyuki; eldest daughter, Toshiye Ann; siblings, Juro Sagata, Tomoe and Mary Tamura; daughter-in-law, Julie; survived by children, David (Aileen) and Aileen (Tom) Buhning; sister, Fusaye Sasaki; gc; and great-grandchildren.

Sasai, Emiko, 93, Monterey Park, CA; Feb. 12; survived by children, Clifford, Gary (Denise), Eddie, Lester (Tammy), siblings, Roy (Bette) Yoshimura, Cherry Ishihmatsu, Harold (Masako) Yoshimura, Helen (Howard) Takata and Bill (Thelma) Yoshimura; sisters-in-law, Midori and Elsie Yoshimura; brother-in-law, Frank Kawasaki; 12 gc; 1 ggc.

Sasaki, Shigeru "John," 96, Tacoma, WA; Jan. 21; John served as Puyallup Valley JACL chapter president; predeceased by parents, Shunichi and Ko; wife, Yoshiko; brothers, Pete and Mike; sisters, Akiko Komoto, Fumiko Tanabe and Hedi Harada; he is survived by sisters, Masa Laigo and Fudge Tokunaga, son, Delbert (Cynthia); gc.

Sato, Frank Tadaishi, 85, Monterey Park, CA; Feb. 5; survived by wife, Edna Fujiko "Fudge"; children, Glenn and Candice; gc.

Sato, Rosemary Shizuko, 90, Tarzana, CA; Jan. 20; survived by sons, John (Jean) and Dr. Thomas (Paul), daughters, Carole Endo and Glenn; sons, John (Jean) and Dr. Thomas (Paul), daughters, Carole Endo and Glenn; children, Ronald Ichikawa, Ann Okitsu-Saeed, Walter (Cindy) and Edward (Wenling); sisters, Shizue Naramura and Hideo Mochizuki; gc.

Takeuchi, Jeen "Tatsy," 73, Rosemead, CA; Feb. 7; survived by husband, William; children, Chris (Christine) and Jodi (Plinio) Lattanzi; siblings, Suzie Mitzi (George) Akamine, Hiroko (Yo) Niho, Richard (Momoko) and Paul (Hide), sister, Sueko (Ichiro) Moroga, Jean Kawakami, Betty Ganik, Clara Uyema, Seiki (Yoko), Grace and Robert; gc; 4 ggc.

Tamura, Larry Yomi, 62, Rancho Paico Verdes, CA; Jan. 19; a U.S. Navy vet; survived by mother, Ruby; sisters, Susan (Gene) Endo and Glenn; nieces, Darlene (Jeff) Omane; nephews, Ryan and Matthew Endo and Darren (Lacey).

Uyehara, Hiroshi, 89, L.A., CA; Feb. 3; survived by wife, Chiyoko; children, Katherine (Ruchi) Nakamura, Wayne (Diane), Gall and Tommy (Lynne), sisters, Yayono Hashimoto and Yoneko (Yoshiaki) Machino; gc; 5 ggc.

Yamamoto, Yoshiko, 87, Arcadia, CA; Feb. 3; survived by husband, Yoneo; children, Kit (Terry), Kris (Sharon) Okamura and Kerri (Mike), Sandover, daughter-in-law, Margie Okamura; sister, Miki Uyeda; gc; 6 ggc; 5 ggc.

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In a statement released by JANM: “George Aratani will be remembered for his success in business after World War II with Mikasa and Kenwood, but if you walk around Little Tokyo, you’ll see the impact his generous and lasting support has made on the JA community. RIP.”

In addition, Aratani is one of the eight original founders of Keiro Senior HealthCare, which was established in 1961, and he was a longtime supporter of the Asian American Studies Center at the University of California, Los Angeles.

George Tetsuo Aratani was born near Gardena, Calif., on May 22, 1917. His Issei parents, Setsuo and Yoshiko, moved their family to the San Fernando Valley, then finally settled in Guadalupe, Calif. There the Aratani family grew a highly successful agricultural business, amassing more than 5,000 acres of farmland.

But the onset of World War II forced the family into an internment camp at Gila River in Arizona, and the family lost everything. After the war, George Aratani married Sakaye Inouye, and in the years that followed, he began to launch his businesses. Mikasa was officially launched in December 1957, followed by Kenwood in 1961.

As Aratani’s businesses grew, he began to also get involved in philanthropic endeavors. In 1994, the couple launched the Aratani Foundation, which to this day continues to support dozens of Japanese American programs and organizations.

The Aratani Foundation also endowed the first academic chair to study the WWII internment of people of Japanese descent and their efforts to gain redress.

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