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MARCH ON WASHINGTON

JACLers continue a tradition that began 50 years ago with Todd Endo.

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APAs Urged to Join National Bone Marrow Registry.

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The JET Program Celebrates Its 27th Anniversary.
2013 March on Washington
Still About Same Issues

By Priyanka Ouchida
JACL National Director

Todd Endo was a 21-year-old college student when he carried the JACL banner and led 55 JACLers in the historic 1963 March on Washington. With three generations of his family, Endo again marched on Aug. 24 as part of the 50th Anniversary March on Washington. Endo has memories of when he walked alongside his mother and other members of the JACL, which was a co-sponsor of the 1963 demonstration.

The 71-year-old Endo recalled of the historic event, “It was packed, people were dancing their feet in the reflecting pool. But there was camaraderie and friendliness. Everybody said hello to each other.” Endo could not hear Martin Luther King. It is said and said that the famous “I Have a Dream” speech was not heard at the time. “The King always was a little soft and more recognizable as a speaker than a speaker.” The “I Have a Dream” speech actually has a life of its own that comes after the march. He gave the speech and similar speeches before that, but it wasn’t the reason that people remember the march then. “It’s the reason they remember the march now.”

The day began at 7:40 a.m. with an NPR interview with Endo for “All Things Considered.” Marchers were given white T-shirts emblazoned with the words “Still Pursuit of the Dream.” Lisa Hasegawa, executive director of the National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development, spoke to the gathering, followed by Endo.

Marchers converge at the Lincoln Memorial as they begin their walk toward the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial.

Letter to the Editor

To the Editor,

I just received my P.C. (Aug. 2-15, 2015), which happens to members living way out east in N.Y. I refer you to the article (page 4) written by Christine Pahkashima, correspondent, titled “A Historic Right to Remember,” where I’m somewhat written up. I don’t remember being interviewed her, but there is a need to get my part of the story straight.

I remember back in 1988 attending my very first National JACL Convention, held at the University of Washington campus. I was awesome to see all the JACL leaders in person, who I only read about in the P.C.

As the article stated, all the JACL leaders left for D.C. to witness the signing of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 by President Ronald Reagan. What surprised me was to see not Harry Kajihara, who I did not know, but Mike Masuda by himself. This really surprised me since I thought he would be the most prominent JACLer to attend. He greeted me, and this was like my 15 minutes with him.

I gathered enough courage to ask why he did not attend the signing. It was then that he said with a smile, as the article stated, “I’m tired. I just want to relax. Let everybody else enjoy it.”

After hearing this, there was something I liked about him, and it was indeed a welcome for me that I did get to talk with a JACL legend. And let me conclude to say that I did enjoy reading Ms. Pahkashima’s article.

Sincerely,
Stanley H. Kanzaki
JACL N.Y. Chapter
NIKKEI VOICE

Is It Racist to Want Sushi Chefs to Be Japanese?

By Gil Anakawa

I have my prejudices, and I'm willing to admit it... If it's tasty and authentic, it doesn't really matter to me who makes it and what color she is.

Recently, a Seattle sushi restaurant, Mashiko, posted an open letter on its website saying that people who criticize the restaurant for having non-Japanese employees are bigots.

"Stop being an ignorant racist," the letter said, after noting that the restaurant is Japanese-owned and there are Japanese as well as non-Japanese staff. The letter also defends one of the restaurants most popular chefs, a Caucasian woman, who has worked there for 12 years and has a loyal and devoted following.

"Should you judge her based on her gender or race, you are an absolute fool," the letter states.

I feel for the staff and owners of Mashiko, and I'm surprised that diners in such a great foodie town as Seattle would be so unenlightened that they'd make decisions on food quality just on a racial basis.

Still, I think this is a much more complex discussion than just bigotry (though that's part of it, for sure).

I have to admit that I am wary when I enter Japanese restaurants where the floor and kitchen staffs are not Japanese. I would make the same judgments of non-ethnic restaurants—like seeing Italians in an Italian restaurant, Mexicans in a Mexican restaurant, and, yes, French people in a French restaurant.

But that doesn't mean non-Japanese chefs can't make terrific Japanese food, including sushi. It's been years since I've had anyone who's not Latino serve me at a Benihana, for example, and their food is still pretty darned good (mostly because it's been formalized down to a science, including the same bad jokes from years ago).

It all depends on training and passion. A good friend of mine from New York art school days is now a master chef in Seattle (teaching young gourmets at the Art Institute), and I know his food is authentic to matter which cuisine he chooses to cook or mix and match into a fusion style.

When he began his career as a chef, he was so good of Asian-influenced cuisine that he was hired by Chef Roy Yamaguchi to travel the world and open Roy's restaurants.

And I'm sure a Caucasian woman can make terrific sushi (though in Japan, there's historically a myth that women can't make sushi because their hands are too warm, but that's another story about prejudice).

Having said that, I've been to lots and lots of sashimi restaurants that are run by people who are not the ethnicity of the food they serve, and they're just as good, if not better.

See JAPANESE on page 16

FOR THE RECORD

The Dream

By John Tateishi

'I have my prejudices, and I'm willing to admit it... If it's tasty and authentic, it doesn't really matter to me who makes it and what color she is.'

On the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech in Washington, D.C., there's been a lot of soul-searching about the state of equality for black Americans today and how far we've come since the Rev. King (as he was often called) presented his historic vision in one of the greatest speeches in American history.

When I think of the Civil Rights Movement and the struggles that led up to it, most often I picture in my mind the image of freedom marchers in the South, mostly black but some white, and can picture in my mind the fire hoses turned on the protesters and vicious police dogs hanging at them. Occasionally, one of those dogs suddenly-on-purpose got loose from his master (a white cop, usually) and tore at the flesh of protesters.

Those were scary scenes. The dogs were vicious, but no more than the men and women who stood to the side baring, their ugliness and hatred at those who dared to challenge the way things had been for so many decades in Southern society. Whites were spot on and called "K-lovers" and as often as not were pelted with bottles and rocks.

You could see the fear in the eyes of many of the black marchers, some very young kids, but you could also see the determination. "Just get through the day," they seemed to be thinking as they braved the hailstorm of angry epithets and hatred being directed at them.

I was in my 20s, a student at Berkeley, when we all still wore button-down collared shirts in those days before we morphed into longer hair and began to question authority and the quotients of the status quo. The freedom marchers, white men and women, mostly college kids from the North, went down to places like Mississippi and Alabama with the music of the Kingston Trio in their heads and came back to the sounds of Joan Baez and Bob Dylan.

It was a time of change, such as none of us who were around at the time had ever seen before in American society, and, I suspect, never will again. I started at Cal still looking like a guy who had just been in the army and came out a few years later living to rock and the music of America's social evolution. The world we knew changed seemingly overnight, and we came out of that experience not only smarter from having had a great education but also wiser about the world and society.

As we look back through those 50 years since Martin Luther King's vision of a more equitable America, it's clear that things have changed, that we have made some progress toward the kind of world Dr. King would have wanted.

See DREAM on page 16
Chinese American Jack Chin Finds Bone Marrow Donor Match From Fellow High School Alum

Asian Americans represent about 7 percent, or 720,000, of those registered on the National Bone Marrow Registry, according to the Be the Match program.

By Yonea I. Ko, Reporter

Jack Chin, 24, was a regular college student in 2011, cramming for finals at the University of California, Los Angeles, where he was studying economics and accounting. The Chinese American says he used to take his health for granted, sleeping late and gorging down fast food.

“I used to say to my parents that when they tried to warn me about the hazards of the outside world, I was like, ‘Sshh, me dou bipi!’” said Chin, a Cupertino, Calif., resident. “In Chinese that means I’m not afraid of anything. I was that guy with the cavalier attitude toward life.”

As finals week wrapped up, however, Chin began to have severe pain in his legs and needed the help of crutches to get around. Soon Jack was unable to use his legs and could only move, as he described, like a horse jumping Lt. Dan, who swooped on the floor in the 1994 movie Forrest Gump.” After an MRI and visit to the hematologist-oncologist, Chin learned he had acute lymphoblastic leukemia.

Chin had to quit his internship at Visa and begin chemotherapy. It was a difficult time for Chin, who had to quickly learn new medical jargon.

I remember waking up after the first day and my brother was there. I was like, ‘Hey, bro, what does oncology mean? I keep seeing it around the floor,’ recalled Chin.

Doctors referred Chin to Stanford Hospital and told him in January of 2012 that he would need a bone marrow transplant. His fraternal twin, Jim, was not a match.

Out of more than 12,000 patients who are diagnosed every year with diseases such as leukemia and lymphoma, which require a transplant, 70 percent cannot find a match in their family, according to Be the Match, a national marrow donor program.

“Though I recognized that this feeling was illogical, I was intensely personally disappointed,” said Jim Chin about finding out he wasn’t a match for his brother. In general, there was also this deep feeling of helplessness, knowing that while I would do everything possible to help Jack during this time, his fate was essentially in the hands of the generosity of strangers and random chance.”

The best chance of a match for patients like Jack Chin is to find a donor within the same ethnic community. Asian Americans represent 7 percent of those registered on the national bone marrow registry, according to the Be the Match program. Mixed-race persons represent 4 percent, and Pacific Islanders are 0.2 percent. With more than 7.1 million registered (67 percent), Whites represent the largest group of potential adult donors.

To help Chin find a match, representatives with the Asian American Donor Program hosted local donor drives and drummed
Jack Chin - 2012 winner of the Community of the Year award.

Macau - 2013 winner of the Community of the Year award.

Community - 2014 winner of the Community of the Year award.

I really hope this helps open people's minds, especially in the Asian community.

When Jack Chin was in Macau, he was asked if he was not a match.

He said, "No, I'm not a match. I'm a regular guy."
CA State Assembly Passes Resolution Apologizing to Japanese Americans During World War II

SACRAMENTO — The California State Assembly on Aug. 19 approved a resolution that provides a formal apology to Japanese Americans displaced by the state of California in 1942. Assembly Concurrent Resolution 19, authored by Assemblyman Richard Pan (picture), was passed without objection and sponsored by the Japanese American Citizens League, will now be considered in the California State Senate.

Shortly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor by the government of Japan, the California Legislature adopted a measure that led to the internment of Japanese American service employees. More than 300 employees were denied wages, military service, and attention from their jobs by the California State Personnel Board. In 1946, California ruled that charges against the employees, the most-investigated group of people in the nation, were unfounded.

JACL National Director Priscilla Orzech said, “The Japanese American Citizens League applauds the passage of ACR 19 (Pan). In 1982, dozens of Japanese Americans gathered in the governor’s conference room to witness Gov. Jerry Brown sign the first bill to recognize the World War II injustice that singled out loyal Japanese American employees of the state of California. Many of the employees clutched pink slips they had kept in hopes of vindication. Assemblyman Pan has taken the final step in a long struggle to right a wrong.”

APAs in the News

Daphne Kwok Named a Recipient of JACL’s Salute to Champions Award
WASHINGTON, D.C. — Daphne Kwok has been named a recipient of JACL’s 1013 Salute to Champions Award. Her decades-long commitment to providing a voice for APA, disabled individuals and senior citizens.

Kwok, who currently is a professor at the Asian American Studies Center, will be honored at the Salute to Champions Gala held on Oct. 1 at the Capital Hilton. The award recognizes “individuals and organizations that have demonstrated a commitment to promoting diversity in their respective field or industry.”

NJAFM to Honor Sec. Norman Y. Mineta With Lifetime Achievement Award
WASHINGTON, D.C. — The National Japanese American Memorial Foundation will present Sec. Norman Y. Mineta with its Lifetime Achievement Award at its 2013 Gala. Saturday, Nov. 2, at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel. Mineta’s award honors his decades-long commitment to preserving the constitutional rights of all Americans during their careers.

The NJAFM is a nonprofit organization dedicated to education and public awareness about the Japanese American experience during World War II. In addition to honoring Mineta, the NJAFM also will recognize Admiral Mike Muller (USN, Ret.) with its Award for Constitutional Rights; Terry Shimizu with its Special Recognition Legacy Award and Craig Uchida with its Chairman’s Award.

Oscar-Winning Animation Director Hayao Miyazaki to Retire
VENICE, ITALY — Oscar-winning animation director Hayao Miyazaki’s latest offering, “The Wind Rises,” which is currently in competition at the Venice Film Festival, will be his last film according to his animation studio, Studio Ghibli. Miyazaki, 72, is in total attendance at the Venice Film Festival, where his film is receiving its international premiere. The prolific director is one of animation’s most-adored directors, having won a best animated film Oscar for 2004’s “Ponyo.”

“The Wind Rises” is Miyazaki’s 11th feature, and is a look at the life of Jiro Horikoshi, the man who designed Japanese fighter planes during World War II.

Buena Park Comfort Women Monument Proposal Rejected

The proposal to create a monument honoring comfort women in Buena Park, Calif., has been turned down, according to The Orange County Register. The motion was stopped when Buena Park Council Member Art Brown announced he would not support it. The council first discussed the issue during a meeting, on July 23, and no vote was made at the time. Brown showed sympathy to victims of sexual slavery and had asked that more time be given to research the issue. During the meeting, Mayor Pro Tem Miller Oh also asked that the issue be explored.

The Korean American Forum of California, a nonprofit focused on raising awareness about comfort women, had initiated the proposal for the monument in Buena Park. The group—has had success in the past, having raised funds to erect a memorial to the comfort women in the City of Glendale’s Central Park. The organization had planned to cover the $35.151 of building and maintaining the statue.

Japan’s treatment of others in Asia during World War II has continued to be a heated issue. In August, at least 2,000 protestors in South Korea and Taiwan demanded an apology from Japan and compensation for comfort women who had worked as sex slaves. Prior to the erection of the memorial in Glendale, ‘Japanese nationalists had strongly protested against the statue.'
Manzanar Committee Denounces LADWP Proposal to Build Solar Farm Near Manzanar

LOS ANGELES — On Aug. 16, the Manzanar Committee announced its opposition to the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power’s proposed 1,200-acre Southern Owens Valley Solar Ranch, which would be constructed east of the Owens River but in a direct line of sight with the Manzanar National Historic Site, which lies to the immediate west.

The proposed site would generate electricity that would be delivered to LADWP customers in Los Angeles. But generating that energy would result in the destruction of Manzanar’s historic solid waste dump, which has not undergone an archeological study.

Equally important, the site’s approximately 1 million solar panels, along with buildings, large equipment, transmission lines and much more, would destroy a significant portion of the historic landscape surrounding Manzanar National Historic Site.

“The importance of maintaining and enhancing the physical characteristics of the Manzanar National Historic Site cannot be overstated or overlooked,” said Manzanar Committee Co-Chair Bruce Embrey. “One of the most powerful parts of Manzanar is the unobstructed view and that many of the structures, gardens and other features of the World War II American concentration camp have not been bulldozed or destroyed by development.”

“Some of the best and most memorable parts of Manzanar have always been seeing the remnants of the camp, set in contrast to the natural landscape of the site,” Embrey added. “The continued restoration of the garden, the apple orchard and other crucial archaeological aspects, including Manzanar’s World War II-era solid waste dump, which undoubtedly contains historically significant artifacts—none of that should be compromised for commercial exploitation.”

Embrey noted that while LADWP has supported the Manzanar Pilgrimage for many years, this proposal is yet another blot on its poor record regarding the site.

“LADWP has a long and checked history regarding the establishment of the Manzanar National Historic Site,” Embrey stressed. “They have offered support over the years to the annual Manzanar Pilgrimage, led for decades by Sue Kunitomi Embrey. But the relationship between LADWP and the Manzanar Committee has been marked by serious and fundamental disagreements along the way.”

“LADWP opposed efforts to establish a National Historic Site at Manzanar, arguing instead for a local memorial park,” Embrey added. “And as late as 2001, they continued their efforts, under then-General Manager Michael Gage, to prevent the establishment of a National Historic Site under the auspices of the National Park Service.”

As a response to LADWP supported bill in Congress that would have established a locally administered memorial at Manzanar, rather than a National Historic Site, in an act of 1991, letter to the editor, Sue Kunitomi Embrey, one of the founders of the Manzanar Pilgrimage and the Manzanar Committee, was published in the Los Angeles Times:

“The DWP proposal is highly inaccurate and totally unacceptable to the Manzanar Committee for many reasons, the most important one being that Manzanar has national significance, and local jurisdiction does not give Manzanar the integrity and national recognition it deserves.”

More than 20 years later, LADWP’s insensitivity and disregard for Manzanar, not to mention the people who were unjustly incarcerated there, and their families, continues.

“The very idea that any land in or around the Manzanar National Historic Site could be used for a massive generating facility would not only hinder the ongoing efforts to preserve and understand the tragedy of justice that occurred there is simply beyond insensitive, and it’s not just insensitive to the Japanese American community, the survivors of America’s concentration camps and their families,” Embrey lamented. “That gross insensitivity extends to the efforts of the National Park Service, and others, who have worked so hard to bring this brief, but essential, part of America’s history to light.”

“George Sintayu said, ‘Those who cannot remember the past are doomed to repeat it.’” Embrey added. “This is true for our nation and for the LADWP. Their proposed solar farm will severely harm efforts to remember our past. The long-term, negative impact on the Manzanar National Historic Site cannot be understated. We call on the Inyo County Board of Supervisors, as well as the LADWP, to revisit the proposal and find a more suitable location for the proposed solar generating station.”

Polaris Tours
Presents:
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- Oct 04 – Oct 08: A Baja Caravan & Eco Tour to Baja, Mexico
- Oct 19 – Oct 21: A Baja Caravan & Eco Tour to Baja, Mexico
- Oct 22 – Oct 26: A Baja Caravan & Eco Tour to Baja, Mexico
- Oct 27 – Oct 30: A Baja Caravan & Eco Tour to Baja, Mexico
- Nov 01 – Nov 05: A Baja Caravan & Eco Tour to Baja, Mexico
- Nov 06 – Nov 10: A Baja Caravan & Eco Tour to Baja, Mexico
- Nov 11 – Nov 15: A Baja Caravan & Eco Tour to Baja, Mexico
- Nov 16 – Nov 20: A Baja Caravan & Eco Tour to Baja, Mexico
- Nov 21 – Nov 25: A Baja Caravan & Eco Tour to Baja, Mexico
- Nov 26 – Dec 01: A Baja Caravan & Eco Tour to Baja, Mexico

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2013 MARCH >>
continued from page 2

The 2013 JACL contingent joined marchers from the NCAPA to form a block of well over 100 participants. JACL marchers included National Director Priscilla Cuchida, VP of Membership Toshi Abe, EDC Governor Michelle Amano, Amy Watanae, Kelly Honda, Todd Endo, Paul Endo, Eric Endo, Aiden Endo, Nancy Hall, Jen Hanaki, Austin Harada, Junsei Faden, Michael Faden, Paul Igarashi, Looma Igarashi, Paul Uyehara, Mary Yee, Brigha von Walter, Macenzie Walter, Rosie Abidam, Patrick Lee, Noriko Saejuki, Martha Johnson, Greg Johnson and Lauren Yamagata.

JACL and NCAPA arrived at the national mall as the program commenced. Speakers included Atty. Gen. Eric Holder Jr., Rep. John Lewis (who was the youngest speaker in 1963), House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, Rev. Al Sharpton and Martin Luther King, III. Mee Mota, president of Asian Americans Advancing Justice, addressed the more than 200,000 individuals in the crowd, as well as recognized JACL’s participation and Endo’s presence.

As Endo surveyed the National Mall, he observed that people were dressed a lot more casually and that Jim button and audio technology made it possible for everyone to hear the speakers. Instead of the blue and gold JACL banner carried by Endo half century ago, Igarashi and Amano carried a white banner. JACLers held signs in support of voting rights and immigrant rights. Endo noted that the issues — voting rights, jobs and other civil rights issues — had not changed much in 50 years.

The March on Washington was a reminder of the critical role JACL played in advocating social justice. As a child, I remember watching the March on television. Today, I followed a new generation of young JACLers who carried the banner for what still needs to be done.

Endo met other veterans of the 1963 March, including Ernest Green, one of the original Little Rock Nine. The two, who were the same age in the historic March, exchanged stories about their experiences before their live interview on All American.

The 1963 March impacted Endo’s life. He said, “The March told me that I’m more of an activist than an academic.” He decided to forge a career in education and helped integrate schools in Maryland, as well as worked with high school drop-outs.

Endo concluded the day with his thoughts: “Fifty years later, there’s still that dream. That’s not realized. You never get there. But that sense of unity and working together and peacefulness has carried on and remains influential.”

The JACL was represented at the first March on Washington 50 years ago.

A historic crowd surrounds the Reflecting Pool on Aug. 24.

Leaders of the National Coalition on Asian Pacific Americans form the frontline for the APA contingent of more than 100 marchers. Pictured (from left) are JACL’s Priscilla Cuchida, Virginia delegate Mark Keam, Maryland delegate Susan Lee and Christine Chen.
Japanese American Freedom Marcher Invited to the White House

TODD ENDO PARTICIPATED IN THE MARCH ON WASHINGTON IN 2013 AND 1963.

By IACL Staff

Todd Endo has a unique place in Japanese American history. He is believed to be the only Asian American to have marched at both the 1963 March on Washington and the recent 50th Anniversary March on Washington.

In light of his historic achievement, his participation garnered the attention of President Barack Obama and his White House staff.

On Aug. 27, Todd and Paula Endo were invited to a special reception at the White House commemorating the historic demonstration on behalf of civil rights.

For several hours, Endo was in the company of several hundred prominent civil rights leaders. Endo related, “I met my personal hero, Congressman John Lewis, in whose shoes I barely walked in the March on Washington and in Selma. I talked with C.T. Vivien, Andrew Young, Joseph Lowry and Julian Bond. My wife, Paula, took pictures with each of these giants of the civil rights movement.”

“The highlight of the evening at the White House came when Endo joined a select group of individuals that personally met President Obama. Endo was given the opportunity to shake the president’s hand as well as pose for an official White House photo with the nation’s commander in chief. The photo should be a reminder at his residence any day now.”

Endo proudly marched with his son, Erik, and grandson, Aiden, in the 50th Anniversary March on Washington. Other Endo family members also participated, including Todd Endo’s wife, Paula.

Still a social activist, Endo observed, “We never fully achieved the dream that Martin Luther King spoke a bout in 1963, and we are still in pursuit of the dream in 2013. We aim to preserve voting rights in 2013 rather than entail voting rights as in 1963. We push for a living wage in 2013 as in 1963. We argue that no child should go to bed homeless or hungry in 2013. We urge a comprehensive reform in immigration laws as we did in the 1950s and again in the 1960s and 1980s.”

“Each time, we get closer to achieving the dream, but there is always more work to be done,” Endo continued. “We never achieve the dream. I believe all this, and many, many socialists expressed these same thoughts about the unfinished business that we need to work on now and in the near future. To make our voice more effective, individuals and IACL must work together.”

Endo concluded, “I am happy to have participated in the 50th Anniversary March and look forward to the 75th Anniversary event when my son’s generation and my grandson’s generation will be in the lead on the activities designed to pursue the dream in 2038.”
Budokan Project in Downtown Los Angeles Awarded $1.3 Million Grant

LOS ANGELES — The City of Los Angeles, Bureau of Engineering, officially announced this month its selection of grantees for its Prop K funding cycle, and the LTSC Community Development Corp. was one of the agencies selected for the highly competitive funding areas.

LTSC Community Development Corp., a nonprofit community-based organization that has been providing services for more than 30 years to the greater Los Angeles community, was awarded a $1.35 million grant to fund the construction of the Budokan of Los Angeles, which is a multipurpose facility with a roof-top park in Little Tokyo, near Downtown Los Angeles.

The Budokan project will be located at 237-249 Los Angeles Street, between 2nd and 3rd Streets in Little Tokyo, near the Little Tokyo Branch Library and Vihana LA. The Budokan project will consist of a gymnasium, community space and a rooftop park and will also feature an array of sports (basketball, volleyball and martial arts), after-school programs, special events, tournaments and programming, for people of all ages.

I am extremely excited and pleased that the Budokan project received this highly competitive Prop K funding,” said Los Angeles City Councilmember José Huizar, who represents the Little Tokyo community. The Budokan project will benefit the community in multiple ways by bringing a much-needed recreational facility and park space to the area. The award also recognizes that this worthy project will serve a broad and diverse audience in Downtown Los Angeles and the Little Tokyo community.”

The passage of Proposition K created a city-wide assessment district, which will generate $25 million each year in funds for the acquisition, improvement, construction, and maintenance of city parks, recreation facilities and other projects through an annual real property tax assessment on city residents over a 30-year period. Funding is for capital improvements and maintenance. The primary purpose of Prop K is to combat the inadequacies and decay of the city’s youth infrastructure, which has resulted in serious unmet needs for parks, recreation, childcare and community facilities.

“I would like to thank the City of Los Angeles for their partnership with LTSC on the Budokan project and for their recognition of the importance of expanding recreational opportunities in the Downtown area for a broad range of potential users, especially for many within the area who don’t have access to affordable recreational opportunities,” said Dean Matsumaya, executive director of the Little Tokyo Service Center. The Budokan project will fulfill many of these unmet needs, provide a boost to the local economy and serve as a cultural icon for Little Tokyo in the near future.”

The Budokan of Los Angeles is currently working on a $22 million capital campaign, that was launched in August 2011. LTSC anticipates the capital campaign to run for approximately two and a half to three years, with an estimated groundbreaking in 2015 and an estimated construction timeframe of 16 months.

An artist’s rendering of the Budokan of Los Angeles.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION: Contact Susan Yokoyama at busmgr@pacificcitizen.org or call (213) 620-1767

Applications Available for State Farm Youth Advisory Board

The State Farm Youth Advisory Board is now seeking new board members for 2014-15. The board is given responsibility over $5 million to grant service-learning and community impact projects that seek to solve domestic issues. SFYAB members are trained to work on a team, prioritize, write requests for proposals, read grant applications, question a budget, exercise critical thinking and make grant decisions.

Applications are now available at www.sfyab.com/applyfortheboard. The deadline to apply is Oct. 4. Anyone between the ages of 17-20 who is passionate about service learning and positively impacting communities within the U.S. and Canada is eligible to apply.

For more information, visit www.sfyab.com.
Japan to Fund Ice Wall to Contain Leaks

The plan is announced days before decision on Tokyo's bid for 2020 Olympics.

By Associated Press

TOKYO — The Japanese government announced Sept. 3 that it will spend $470 million on a subterranean ice wall and other steps in a desperate bid to stop leaks of radioactive water from the crippled Fukushima nuclear plant after repeated failures by the plant’s operator.

The decision is widely seen as an attempt to show that the nuclear accident won’t be a safety concern just days before the International Olympic Committee chooses among Tokyo, Istanbul and Madrid as the host of the 2020 Olympics.

The Fukushima Dai-ichi plant has been leaking hundreds of tons of contaminated underground water into the sea since shortly after a massive 2011 earthquake and tsunami damaged the complex. Several leaks from tanks storing radioactive water from recent weeks have heightened the sense of crisis that the plant’s owner, Tokyo Electric Power Co., isn’t able to contain the problem.

“Instead of leaving this up to TEPCO, the government will step forward and take charge,” Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said after adopting the outline. “The world is watching if we can properly handle the contaminated water but also the entire decommissioning of the plant.”

The government plans to spend an estimated 47 billion yen (U.S.$470 million) through the end of March 2015 on two projects — 32 billion yen (U.S.$320 million) on the ice wall and 15 billion yen (U.S.$150 million) on an upgraded water treatment plant that is supposed to remove all radioactive elements except water-soluble tritium — according to energy agency official Tatsuya Shiukawa.

The government, however, is not paying for urgently needed water tanks and other equipment that TEPCO is using to contain leaks. Shiukawa said the funding is limited to “technologically challenging projects” but the government is open to additional help when needed.

The ice wall would freeze the ground to a depth of up to 100 feet through a system of pipes carrying a coolant as cold as minus-minus 40 Fahrenheit. That would block contaminated water from escaping from the facility’s immediate surroundings, as well as keep underground water from entering the reactor and turbine buildings.

The ice wall would have the same effect as a solid curtain of ice, but one that could extend deep underground. It would be made of a mixture of 95 percent water and 5 percent cement. The cement would cause the water to freeze, creating a barrier. The government plans to build the wall using the internal space of the reactor building, where much of the radioactive water has collected.

The project, which TEPCO and the government proposed in May, is being tested for feasibility by Japanese construction giant Kajima Corp. and is set for completion by March 2015.

Similar methods have been used to block water from parts of tunnels and subways, but building a 0.9-mile wall that surrounds four reactor buildings and their related facilities is unprecedented.

An underground ice wall has been used to isolate radioactive waste at the U.S. Department of Energy’s former site of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee that produced plutonium, but only for six years, according to the MIT Technology Review magazine.

Some experts are still skeptical about the technology and say the running costs would be a huge burden.

Atsuo Maru, an underground water expert at the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology, said a frozen wall could be water-tight but is normally intended for use for a few years and is not proven for long-term use as planned in the outline. The decommissioning process is expected to take about 40 years.

“We still need a few layers of safety backups in case it fails,” Maru told the Associated Press.

New ‘UNFORGIVEN’ Honors Great Filmmaking

By Associated Press

TOKYO — The Japanese remake of Clint Eastwood’s “Unforgiven” isn’t a mere cross-cultural adaptation but more a tribute to the universal spirit of great filmmaking for its star, Ken Watanabe.

“I was convinced from the start that this will be an original Japanese movie in its own right,” said Watanabe, who has become the go-to Japanese actor for Hollywood.

Watanabe was happy Eastwood welcomed the idea of him taking the role of Morgan Freeman’s sidekick previously portrayed by Morgan Freeman. Yuya Yagira, named Best Actor for “Nobody Knows” at the 2004 Cannes Film Festival, plays the younger, sidekick previously portrayed by Morgan Freeman.


While Watanabe takes Eastwood’s starring role in “Unforgiven,” veteran Akira Emoto plays the sidekick previously portrayed by Morgan Freeman. Yuya Yagira, named Best Actor for “Nobody Knows” at the 2004 Cannes Film Festival, plays the younger, sidekick previously portrayed by Morgan Freeman.

Watanabe is also set to be in the 2014 “Godzilla” remake, as well as in the upcoming Martin Scorsese film, “Silence,” based on Shusaku Endo’s novel about the historical persecution of Christians in Japan.

Watanabe stressed he was proud of the legacy of Japanese films, a legacy he has helped create in a career spanning more than three decades, following legends like Toshiro Mifune and Tatsuya Nakadai. Sometimes he worries the old glory of Japanese movies may be fading. He hopes his “Unforgiven” might help win over new foreign fans.
Fall Signals Start of School for JETs Abroad

Now in its 27th year, the teaching program promotes international exchanges between Japan and other countries.

By Connie K. Ho
Contributor

It was the first week of school, and Rebecca Mesh, a 25-year-old petite blonde, was ready for her second year of teaching English in Japan. She was working in Shibutani, a small city in Gunma Prefecture that has about 80,000 people, and had been using the last few weeks of summer to prepare for her students. Among her completed projects included a passport system with prizes from different countries, with incentives such as delectable candy from Korea and veggie matters packs from Australia. Just as kids all over the United States are trekking to school now, Mesh is just one of the participants in the Japan Exchange and Teaching Program (JET) who is gearing up to teach English in classrooms across Japan.

The JET Program, celebrating its 27th year, focuses on promoting international exchanges between Japan and other countries. This year's JET Program class halls from locations as diverse as the United States, Australia, Canada, Europe, New Zealand and South Africa. The Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR) administers the JET Program, and there are currently 4,372 participants this year.

JET Program participants can be employed as an Assistant Language Teacher (ALT), a Coordinator for International Relations (CIR) or a Sports Exchange Advisor (SEA). ALTs are placed mostly in public schools or local boards of education, assisting classes taught by Japanese Teachers of English Language (JETs/TEJs). Some of their duties include providing support in preparing, teaching, materials and executing extracurricular activities such as English clubs or sport teams. More than 90 percent of JET Program participants serve as ALTs in varying locations in Japan, ranging from remote mountainous villages to metropolitan cities.

Mesh, originally from Sunnyvale, Calif., works in the countryside, teaching at a junior high school and an elementary school. During a day in class, Mesh might find herself facilitating language games, leading readings of English texts or conducting demonstrations and presentations. Mesh has past experience in these areas, having worked with Japanese exchange students during college. It was her experience with these exchange students along with her time in the campus' Japanese Student Association that piqued her interest to teach abroad in Japan.

"I just wanted to push outside my comfort zone and experience something that, after I settle down and get married, I won't be able to experience life like this ever again," Mesh said.
I’m really happy about starting up this year again, getting into the groove of teaching.

— Rebecca Mesch

Apart from her daily tasks, Mesch also provides grammar and pronunciation support for students on their compositions for a speech competition.

“I’m really happy about starting up this year again, getting into the groove of teaching. I feel a lot more competent and more confident than I did last year,” Mesch said.

Mesch takes advantage of cultural opportunities outside of the classroom, enrolling in Japanese language classes and participating in traditional Japanese celebrations. This past New Year’s, Mesch visited the family home of her Japanese friend Nanami near Mt. Fuji, where she practiced her Japanese language skills, sampled a traditional Japanese feast, donned a kimono, visited local shrines and even watched the first sunrise of the New Year at Enoshima Beach.

“I felt really grateful to Nanami that I got to experience these things,” Mesch said.

JET Program participants can also form relationships with their fellow teachers and students. Ramon Lee Jr., a 23-year-old from Anaheim, Calif., currently teaching in the city of Kyotó, has been able to see the interpersonal growth in his students since arriving in Japan last August. During the first week of school, he was happy to see some of the students he had taught last year.

The students were fifth-graders whose first few moments of English exposure were with Lee. As he was walking home, he stumbled across his students who were playing, soccer nearby. They ran over to him and attempted to practice English with him.

“Even though they had only learned ‘hello,’ ‘by name is,’ little simple conversation stuff, it really stuck out to me because at a such a young age, they were trying to use English to speak with a foreigner, whereas a lot of Japanese people who are older (may be) afraid to speak English because of their own personal insecurity with it,” Lee said. “So, it was really cool to see 10-year-old kids go out and try it, even though they could be really shy in class.”

This year, Lee is working at three junior high schools, three elementary schools and one special needs school. He was inspired to teach abroad after hearing stories of Japan from his mother, who had studied abroad in the

**Standing alongside her friend Nanami, Rebecca Mesch celebrates the New Year holidays in traditional Japanese garb.**

country when she was a college student. Lee applied to the JET Program during his last year of college and, over the past year, has soared his time in Japan.

Lee has traveled throughout the country during his time in the JET Program, but really loves his placement city for its cultural, historical and political history.

“You can just walk down a neighborhood or walk down a narrow street and walk into an ancient temple that’s been there for hundreds or possibly a couple of hundreds of years; so that’s always really cool,” Lee said. “I think it’s great because there are a lot of festivals in Kyotó, especially during the summertime and, even during the regular week, you’ll see people walking around in traditional kimono.”

Over the years, the JET Program has received international acclaim for its efforts to bridge local and global communities. Lee, himself, has been able to make friends from all around the world. Teaching in Kyotó has also helped him better understand language education and Japanese society.

“I think our community is great. I’ve made friends from all around the world — from South Africa, Australia, New Zealand — we’ve formed a lot of good friendships,” said Lee, who was born in the Philippines. “As for professionally, I think the experience of working abroad really challenged me to be confident in myself and to really learn to effectively communicate with people who may not even speak a common language.”
Go for Broke Annual Evening of Aloha
LOS ANGELES, CA
Oct. 12, 5 p.m.
Westin Bonaventure Hotel & Suites
404 S. Figueroa St.
This year's Evening of Aloha Gala Dinner celebrates "embracing the past to navigate the future.". The dinner will be prepared by chef Roy Yamaguchi of Roy's Restaurants Worldwide and chef Akira Hirose of Maison Akira, with the dessert from King's Bakery. Winners of this year's essay contest will be awarded a ticket to the gala dinner.
Info: Visit www.goforbroke.org or call (818) 242-9188.

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### Calendar

**EDC**

Asian American Commission's Young Leaders Symposium
BOSTON, MA
Sept. 27, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
State House, Great Hall, 2 Beacon St.
The Young Leaders Symposium is designed to introduce Asian American youth to leadership and service roles in the public sector. Speakers and workshops are scheduled to educate attendees about running for office and careers in government, among other things.
Info: Visit www.aacommission.org or call (617) 267-0233.

The 14th Manjion Festival
FAIRHAVEN, MA
Oct. 5, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Center and Walnut Streets
The 14th annual Manjion Festival honors Manjion Nakoshima, who is believed to be the first Japanese person to live in the United States.
The daylong event features Japanese and American food, martial arts demonstrations, arts and crafts vendors, and take drumming performances by Odaiko New England.
The festival is sponsored by the Whitfield-Manjion Friendship Society.
Info: Call (508) 995-1219 or visit www.whitfield-manjion.org.

Japanese American Association of New York's Charity Golf Tournament
BOONTON, NJ
Sept. 30, 9 a.m.
Knoll West Country Club
990 Greenbank Road
Cost: $250/Entry fee
The Japanese American Association's 14th Annual Charity Golf Tournament kicks off at 10 a.m. with a lunch buffet.
Golfers are asked to report to the course by 11 a.m.
The shotgun is at 12:15 p.m. The grand prize is an All Nippon Airways flight to Tokyo. To enter register by Sept. 7.
Info: Visit www.jaany.org or call (212) 840-6942.

NCWNP

The JCCCNW Fall Auction
SAN FRANCISCO, CA
Sept. 15, 6 p.m.
The Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California's Fall Auction is now open online.
Sale items include Japanese ceramic pieces, gift certificates to restaurants, sports memorabilia, wine tastings and more.
Info: Visit www.jcccnw.org or call (415) 557-5505.

Floris JACL Women's Forum
SACRAMENTO, CA
Sept. 14, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.
Capitol Center
2522 21st St.
Cost: $120/Nonmembers; $100/JACL members
The 20th annual Women's Forum, organized by the Floris JACL, is dedicated to spark engaging and valuable health, family and community dialogue. The event includes a continental breakfast, lunch and gift bag. RSVP, as there are a limited number of seats.
Info: Visit www.florisjacl.com or email FlorisJACL@hotmail.com.

Fourth Quarter NCWNP District Meeting
STOCKTON, CA
Nov. 9, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Calvary Presbyterian Church
2343 Country Club Blvd.
The JACL French Camp chapter is hosting the fourth quarter Northern California Western Nevada-Paciﬁc District Council meeting.
Info: Contact Kent Higashiyama at higashiyama@at&t.net.

Midori Kai's Annual Boutique
MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA
Sept. 14, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Mountain View Buddhist Temple Gymnasium
575 N. Shoreline Blvd.
Midori Kai, Inc., a nonprofit professional business women's organization, will feature its annual arts and crafts boutique with works of Asian American artists and artisans.
Info: Contact Phyllis Osaki at (925) 966-2700 or Marsha Baird at (510) 579-1518.

Santa Cruz County Fair
WhatsApp, CA
Sept. 10, 8:30 a.m.
Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds, Heritage Hall
2601 E. Lake Ave.
Cost: $575/General admission
The 2013 Santa Cruz County Fair's first annual Opening Night Gala tickets include valet parking, fair admission and entrance to the private gala in Heritage Hall.
The National Register Rodgers House will be open, with docents seated in period costumes.
Proceeds will benefit the Heritage Foundation.
Info: Visit www.santacruzcountyfair.com or call (831) 724-5571.

Pacific Rim Film Festival
SANTA CRUZ, CA
Oct. 17-23
Rio Theatre
1205 Soquel Ave.
The theme of the 25th annual Pacific Rim Film Festival is "When Strangers Meet." Featured films will focus on fostering a cross-cultural understanding.
The free festival is funded by the community and Ow Family Properties.

PSW

PSW District Awards Luncheon
LOS ANGELES, CA
Sept. 21, 11 a.m.
The Grand Event Center
4101 E. Willow St., Long Beach
The 17th annual PSW District Awards Luncheon is "Commemorating the 25th Anniversary of Redness." Keynote speaker is Grant Ujifusa, with awardees including Southern California Edison, Phil Shigekuni, Harry Kayhama and George Wakuki.
Info: Email Carol Kawai to, chairperson, at ckkawai@msn.com.

Film Screening of "MIS: Human Secret Weapon"
SAN DIEGO, CA
Oct. 19, 11:30 a.m.-1:15 p.m.
College-Rose Library
6800 Montezuma Road
The San Diego JACL chapter is hosting a free screening of the documentary film "MIS: Human Secret Weapon" by director Junichi Ushio.
The film tells the story of the heroism of the Military Intelligence Service during WWII. A QA with the film's narrator, Lane Nishikawa, and professor Susan Hasegawa will follow the screening.
Info: Visit www.jsclsandiego.org or call (619) 512-2334.

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**PNW**

Portland Japanese Garden
PORTLAND, OR
Sept. 15, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Portland Japanese Garden
811 SW. Kingston Ave.
The Portland Japanese Garden's 50th anniversary will feature activities, food, music, origami, taiko drumming and Tai Chi classes workshops. There will also be a book-signing with "Japanese Celebrations" author Betty Reynolds.
Info: Visit www.japanesegarden.com or call (503) 223-1321.

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Memoriam

Dohi, George Kaeichi, 86, Los Angeles, CA; Aug. 8, survived by his son, Steven; daughter, Katherine; grandson, Alex; and nieces and nephews.

Fukumoto, Harry Kiyoshi, 91, Los Angeles, CA; Aug. 15, predeceased by his wife, Nancy; survived by his brother, Richard; children, Mark, David, Susie, and Robert; and nieces and nephews.

Hashima, Mike, 90, Los Angeles, CA; Aug. 3, survived by his children, Jerry, Sandy, Mary, and John; and nieces and nephews.

Hashima, Kiyoko, 86, Buena Park, CA; Aug. 15, survived by her husband, William; children, David, Mark, and Sue; and nieces and nephews.

Hoehn, Shizuya, 87, Los Angeles, CA; Aug. 16, survived by her husband, Wataru; children, Shizuka, Koito, and Hitomi; and nieces and nephews.

Iwai, Nancy Shigeki, 86, Buena Park, CA; Aug. 15, survived by her husband, Isao; sisters, Kiyoko and Reiko; and nieces and nephews.

Kwei, Han Yu, 96, Los Angeles, CA; Aug. 4, survived by her husband, Michael; children, Peter, Matthew, and Lisa; and nieces and nephews.

Kojima, Haruo, 96, Los Angeles, CA; Aug. 18, survived by her husband, George; children, Thomas, Karen, and Susan; and nieces and nephews.

Koizumi, Tomisada, 87, Los Angeles, CA; Aug. 18, survived by his wife, Akiko; children, Tetsu, Yoko, and Masashi; and nieces and nephews.

Kofu, Hiroshi, 82, Los Angeles, CA; Aug. 11, survived by his wife, Asako; children, Yoko, and Toshihiko; and nieces and nephews.

Kuwabara, Toshio, 81, Los Angeles, CA; Aug. 18, survived by his wife, Noriko; children, Takahiro, Toshihide, and Masako; and nieces and nephews.

Kuroki, Masao, 87, Los Angeles, CA; Aug. 16, survived by his wife, Harumi; children, Masumi, Akihiko, and Masao; and nieces and nephews.

Matsumoto, Kiyonori, 87, Los Angeles, CA; Aug. 15, survived by his wife, Michiko; children, Yoko, Tomo, and Shigeki; and nieces and nephews.

Nakamura, James, 88, Los Angeles, CA; Aug. 21, he survived by his wife, Mary; children, Jim, John, and Jennifer; and nieces and nephews.

Nakayama, Tadakuni, 81, Gardena, CA; Aug. 10, survived by his son, Michael; daughter, Shizuko; and nieces and nephews.

Ogawa, David, 87, Los Angeles, CA; Aug. 16, survived by his wife, Teresa; children, David, Mark, and Steve; and nieces and nephews.

Okumura, Reiko, 85, Los Angeles, CA; Aug. 15, survived by her husband, Masao; children, Yoko, Shigeki, and Hideo; and nieces and nephews.

Okuda, Keiko, 92, Los Angeles, CA; Aug. 10, predeceased by her husband, Robert; survived by her children, Karen and John; and nieces and nephews.

Sunada, Richard, 81, Los Angeles, CA; Aug. 15, survived by his wife, Elizabeth; children, Jennifer and Michael; and nieces and nephews.

Takahashi, Shizuko, 86, Los Angeles, CA; Aug. 16, survived by her husband, Dr. Koichi; children, Shigeki and Yoko; and nieces and nephews.

Takagaki, Nobuo, 86, Los Angeles, CA; Aug. 12, survived by his wife, Haruko; children, Yoko, Toshi, and Hiroyuki; and nieces and nephews.

Takemura, Noboru, 86, Los Angeles, CA; Aug. 15, survived by his wife, eldest daughter, and nieces and nephews.

Takahashi, Lillian, 86, Los Angeles, CA; Aug. 16, survived by her husband, Koichi; children, Yoko, Shigeki, and Hideo; and nieces and nephews.

Takahashi, Jiro, 86, Los Angeles, CA; Aug. 15, survived by his wife, Elizabeth; children, Jennifer and Michael; and nieces and nephews.

Takahashi, Masako, 86, Los Angeles, CA; Aug. 16, survived by her husband, Dr. Koichi; children, Shigeki and Yoko; and nieces and nephews.

Takahashi, Yukiko, 86, Los Angeles, CA; Aug. 16, survived by her husband, Dr. Koichi; children, Shigeki and Yoko; and nieces and nephews.

Takahashi, Michi, 86, Los Angeles, CA; Aug. 16, survived by her husband, Dr. Koichi; children, Shigeki and Yoko; and nieces and nephews.

Takahashi, Hideo, 86, Los Angeles, CA; Aug. 15, survived by his wife, Elizabeth; children, Jennifer and Michael; and nieces and nephews.

Yamazaki, Yoko, 86, Los Angeles, CA; Aug. 16, survived by her husband, Dr. Koichi; children, Shigeki and Yoko; and nieces and nephews.
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