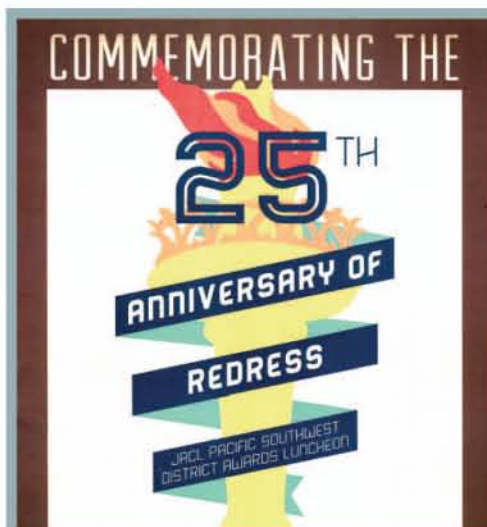


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**Volunteer Teaches  
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**PSWD Luncheon  
Remembers  
Redress**



# PACIFIC CITIZEN



**Page 4**

## CONTRA COSTA FLORIST

**Saving the last-known Japanese American  
florist shop in El Cerrito, a relic of World War II.**





# Loss of Housing Protections Revives Old Nightmares

By Priscilla Ouchida  
JACL National Director

The civil rights community is closely watching a case that threatens to unwind current law that protects minority communities from unfair housing practices. Pursuant to a 1988 amendment, the federal government determines the existence of discriminatory housing practices by analyzing whether an act unequally impacts specific populations of the community. The U.S. Supreme Court will consider whether disparate impact claims are cognizable under the Fair Housing Act.

As I read the fancy legal words in *Mount Holly Township v. Mount Holly Gardens Citizens in Action, Inc.*, an old nightmare returned. From the distant past, I heard the hushed voices of my parents as they tried to digest the news that their home had been condemned under Sacramento's redevelopment plan.

I saw my mother cry for the first time in 1956. She had just finished reading a letter that our home had been condemned under the government's eminent domain authority. Soon after, my aunt received a letter from the City of Sacramento that her home had also been condemned. So much had already been taken away from them by the Great Depression, the State of California that fired them from their jobs right after Pearl Harbor because they were the wrong race and the federal government's imprisonment of Japanese Americans during World War II.

What the government took away with one hand, it took away even more with the other hand. The California Alien Land Act prevented my first-generation grandparents from owning land. Compromises that came with the passage of the New Deal exacerbated the problem through HUD policies that red-lined communities of color and encouraged the adoption of all-white covenants. Residents that lived in inner-city, red-lined communities could not obtain federal loans to purchase or improve homes. Lacking financing, "colored" neighborhoods started to look a little more frayed than neighboring white neighborhoods. Following WWII, suburban communities were created across the country, but most excluded families like mine. In order to qualify for federal loans, most of the developments adopted all-white covenants in order to "protect" the value of homes and ensure repayment of loans.

*Redevelopment* became a dirty word as Japantowns and other ethnic neighborhoods disappeared up and down the West Coast. Our neighborhood was not "blighted." The gardens were neat, and the houses were clean; the homes were not fancy, but they were cared for. Our streets were an anomaly in the 1950s because they were a mixture of Asians, Latinos and African Americans. Eminent domain became a reverse-Robinhood tool that allowed governments to take property from the communities of color to give to rich developers. Ethnic neighborhoods became victims of an assembly-line process of lack of financing, depressed values, condemnation and corporate profits.

Dad and Mom paid far too much for our house. In post-WWII California, discrimination ensured that housing for Japanese families was scarce, driving up prices for even modest homes. The city offered only a fraction of the purchase price of our home to my parents. If there was a fair market consideration, the market was artificially depressed by the city's announcement that our neighborhood had been condemned. Every weekend, Dad and Mom went house hunting, and every weekend, my mother's purse was filled with tear-drenched handkerchiefs. It was months before they could overcome the dual challenges of affordability and a place that would accept a colored family.

*'Mount Holly is a major attack on the Fair Housing Act and is the most important case remaining before the U.S. Supreme Court this term. The Fair Housing Act . . . addressed grievous inequalities of the era.'*

>> See HOUSING on page 12

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The **Pacific Citizen** newspaper (ISSN: 0030-8579) is published semi-monthly (except once in December and January) by the Japanese American Citizens League, *Pacific Citizen*, 250 E. First St., Suite 301, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Periodical postage paid at L.A., CA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to National JACL, 1765 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94115.

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National Director: Priscilla Ouchida

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Periodicals paid at Los Angeles, Calif. and mailing office.

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## Letter to the Editor

In my last column, I got careless and expressed an opinion in such a way that it was stated more as fact when I said that BART policeman Johannes Mehserle got off scot-free from killing Oscar Grant, an unarmed black man.

That wasn't accurately stated. The fact is that Mehserle was convicted of involuntary manslaughter and received a two-year sentence but was released after his conviction because his incarceration before and during his trial qualified him for early release on parole. No sooner had he been convicted than he walked away virtually a free man.

I began my career after grad school teaching English and used to tell my students that the written word had a kind of permanence: Once stated, it becomes what you say it is. Be careful, I used to tell my students, be precise lest you say what you don't mean or you don't say what you mean.

It was good advice that I should have kept in mind when I wrote that last article.

Respectfully,  
John Tateishi

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# EDUCATION MATTERS

## Volunteer Nell Noguchi Enlightens Students in San Francisco

Nell Noguchi, a Nisei grandmother, has been volunteering at Jefferson Elementary in San Francisco ever since her granddaughters began going to school there. Nell, known as “Nana” to both the teachers and students, is invited into classrooms where she reads stories such as “Blue Jay in the Desert” by Marlene Shigekawa and “Baseball Saved Us” by Ken Mochizuki — children’s books that contain references to the years of incarceration of Americans of Japanese ancestry during World War II.

It doesn’t stop there. Noguchi also has assembled a few photographs of her family that depict their “home” in the Topaz War Relocation Center in Utah, as she has been invited to share her personal story in many of the classrooms.

One of Noguchi’s favorite teachers, Loret Peterson, who teaches fourth and fifth grade at Jefferson Elementary, prepares her students for Noguchi’s visit by having them read “Journey to Topaz” by Yoshiko Uchida. She also has them read “So Far From the Sea” by Eve Bunting. Peterson has her students compose a poem from the point of view of some of the symbols seen in the pictures and in the text of the story.

This year, Peterson included a very special art project from Peopleologie that presents a slide show based on the “Art of Gaman” exhibit, which showcases the talent and artistry of those incarcerated in American concentration camps by using simple everyday items found in and around the camps. After, the students are then asked to create something from the material found in and around their classroom.



Volunteer Nell “Nana” Noguchi (left) shares JA history in Jefferson Elementary teacher Loret Peterson’s classroom.

Peterson also asked Noguchi if she would arrange a field trip to San Francisco’s Japantown. Working with the National Japanese American Historical Society and the JACL, the students were issued a “camp” tag with their individual names on it, and based on the camp name designated on their tag, the students were divided into two groups.

One group went on a walking tour of Japantown, where they had the opportunity to visit some of the area’s historic landmarks, like Kinmon Gakuen, a Japanese language school where those of Japanese ancestry were required to report in preparation for the upcoming “evacuation.” The students also learned about the Origami Fountains designed by local artist Ruth Asawa and were given a brief history of the Japan Center Malls, the Peace Pagoda and the obelisk that is similar to the ones in San Jose’s Japantown and Little Tokyo in Los Angeles.

The other group visited JACL Headquarters, where they observed wood blocks containing photos of scenes, individuals and words all related to the incarceration. The students were divided up into teams of three, and they were then asked to select one of the photos. After a short group discussion, they were asked to designate a spokesperson to explain what they interpreted from the photo.

Following their discussions, the groups all went to Peace Plaza, where they ate lunch before returning to school.

Noguchi will be “retiring” soon, as her youngest granddaughter at Jefferson will be graduating. Noguchi says she is looking forward to relaxing a bit more, though she does express some sentiment about missing the time she was able to share her family’s story, including the incarceration period and answering various questions from the students.

>> See EDUCATION on page 12



## FOR THE RECORD

### Who Are We?

By John Tateishi

*‘It’s time we ask ourselves who and what we are as an organization. . . . But being a civil rights organization implies advocacy, and if that’s what we are, we should start being one again.’*

I read in the most recent JACL Digest from the Washington, D.C., office an explanation of the Supreme Court’s decision to gut the Voting Rights Act of its most essential sections, which, since its enactment in 1965, ensured the right to vote for blacks in certain states that had histories of denying African Americans the vote. The Digest urges JACL members to contact senators and House representatives to demand restoration of the important sections of the Voting Rights Act.

And at the JACL convention in D.C. this past summer, the National Council passed a resolution affirming the organization’s support of immigration reform that includes a pathway to citizenship. The resolution directs that a copy be sent to the President, the Speaker of the House and the Senate president (which I assume means the president pro tempore) as well as to “appropriate” representatives.

The resolution allocates five hours total of staff time to this issue, which presumably is a priority issue of the organization.

Huh?

If the Voting Rights Act and immigration reform are such important issues for the JACL, why is so little being done? How many of our members will actually answer the call for letters? Five thousand? One thousand? Five hundred? Ten?

We have always prided ourselves on being a premier civil rights advocacy organization, meeting legislative challenges important to us.

On important policy issues, we have always sent our Washington rep to the Hill whenever we wanted our position known by members of Congress. That has always been a hallmark of the JACL and one of the reasons we’ve been so effective as an advocacy organization.

But if we pass resolutions that do nothing more than direct copies be sent to the offices of national leaders, it seems to me there really isn’t much of a commitment to the issue. And the allocation of five hours total staff time on this issue is laughable. That’s five hours out of an entire year’s work hours.

This isn’t about blame or pointing fingers but about who and what we are as an organization now. We have no big issues confronting us that are specifically important to the daily lives and well-being of Japanese Americans, and maybe that makes a difference. But we’re still a part of the Asian Pacific American family, and the old civil rights adage about doing harm to one of us is doing harm to us all still applies and should be a guiding principle of this organization.

We know from the 1980s that the bigots out there on the streets of America don’t know and don’t care about the distinctions between Asian ethnic groups. To him or her, the old expression “a gook is a gook” says it all. For us, the lesson of Vincent Chin should never be forgotten.

>> See WHO ARE WE? on page 12



# Housing Developer to Restore El Cerrito Japanese American Flower Shop

PHOTO: EL CERRITO HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Tomi and her daughters, Clara and Akiko Mabuchi, stand in front of the Contra Costa Florist in 1938. The Mabuchi family operated a fruit stand in El Cerrito, which was later converted into a retail florist shop.

THE JAPANESE AMERICAN COMMUNITY, ALONG WITH HISTORIANS AND PRESERVATIONISTS, HOPE THE RESTORATION OF A FORMER JAPANESE AMERICAN-OWNED FLORIST SHOP WILL TELL THE WWII INTERNMENT STORY.

*By Nalea J. Ko,  
Reporter*

**A** building that once housed the Japanese American-owned Contra Costa Florist beginning in the mid-1930s, with a reputation among the youth as being a quality and affordable florist shop to buy flowers for social gatherings, will be restored.

Preservationists, historians and the Japanese American community rallied to save the El Cerrito, Calif.-based florist shop that was once owned and operated by the Mabuchi family.

The fate of the former florist building and the Mabuchi's former residence was unclear when it was announced that the site would be incorporated into a 63-unit low-income senior housing complex.

"Eden housing's original proposal to make it into a gym and bike storage area fell short of honoring the Japanese American story," said Laura Iiyama, a Contra Costa resident for almost 20 years and JACL member. "Now Eden is proposing making the building into a community room, where seniors could do art projects or take classes. This is far more appropriate. Eden also is proposing ways to tell the Japanese American flower-grower and Japanese American story in public areas — such as the public garden — and is proposing Japanese-style landscaping for their gardens at the site."

The Mabuchi family — comprised of father Hikojiro, mother Tomi and daughters Michiko, Akiko and Clara — ran the florist shop and lived in an attached house in the back. The business was in peril, however, when the Mabuchi family was unjustly relocated to Tanforan center and then incarcerated at Topaz in Utah. At Topaz, Michiko met and married George Yoshimoto, who later lived in the family's home behind the florist shop, where he and his wife raised two daughters.



Sisters Clara, Michiko and Akiko Mabuchi photographed in front of their family business in 1942, shortly before they were unjustly relocated to Tanforan relocation center and then Topaz.

PHOTO: EL CERRITO HISTORICAL SOCIETY/YOSHIMOTO FAMILY



The memory of the affable, hard-working family and their florist shop still lives on in the memory of longtime El Cerrito residents.

"Oh, they were lovely people, absolutely lovely people. The little mother really didn't speak hardly any English at all. But she and her family ran that nursery for a long, long time," said 68-year-old Marsha Conwill. "When I was in school, that was the place to buy corsages and things like that. They always gave really good prices, very fair prices, and they did a beautiful job."

The Mabuchi girls, Conwill recalls, used to babysit her husband, Joe Conwill, who is now 77. The Conwill family owned the neighboring shop, Tradeway Furniture. When the Mabuchi family was unjustly incarcerated during World War II, Joe's father, Fred Conwill, helped save the shop by paying their taxes and protecting the shop from vandalism.

"The El Cerrito Florist Shop is a wonderful place and presents an opportunity to tell a full story of Japanese American heritage — from the Mabuchi parents immigrating, setting down roots and establishing a business connected to a thriving Nikkei flower industry, through forced avocation and incarceration and re-establishing their home and business with their Nisei children," said Donna Graves, project director of Preserving California's Japantowns, who was part of the project's historic resource evaluation process.

Contra Costa Florist closed in 1964 after decades of quality service. The Japanese American family's longtime friends, the Conwill family, purchased the building. The unique one-story structure, with its pitched roofs and quarried stone storefront was used as storage and then rented out to the El Cerrito Chamber of Commerce, said Marsha Conwill.

The city then bought the former Mabuchi florist store and furniture shop from Joe Conwill in 2008. By 2010, plans to develop the site into an affordable housing complex brought concerns that the former florist shop would be razed and erased from the community's history.

The draft environmental impact report for the 40,000-square-foot housing project was released in August and appeased some of those concerns. The report and earlier scoping work indicated that the one-story former florist shop at 10848 San Pablo Ave. would be preserved, keeping with the "original design to the greatest extent feasible." The building, according to the draft report, will also possibly serve Eden Housing's community and management functions.

"It's a very significant event in El Cerrito that this building is being preserved. We never before as a community had much of a discussion about preserving our historic buildings," said Tom Panas, a board member of the El Cerrito Historical Society. "It definitely is significant just in terms of preservation in general. It's the only remains of the Japanese internment and nursery industry in El Cerrito."

Eden Housing is currently applying for funding. The project's start date has not been determined.

"Eden Housing is proud to work with the Japanese American Citizen's League and the Historical Society of El Cerrito to honor the history of the Mabuchi family," said Woody Karp, project manager of the affordable housing nonprofit, Eden Housing. "The new affordable community for seniors will include restoration of the Mabuchi flower shop, which will be used as a community space for the senior residents to gather, as well as a public plaza with signage that tells the history of the site and the Japanese American influence of the floral industry throughout the region."

For Japanese Americans in the area, the news that the former florist shop will be preserved is a victory and an opportunity to keep alive the story of the Japanese American experience during WWII.

"This building is a chance to tell the story of what happened to Japanese Americans. It's not just the tale of a small group of people," said Iiyama. "Because of the U.S. government-ordered forced relocation during World War II — a constitutional violation — and the later U.S. government apology and payment of reparations, this can be used to illustrate a major piece of American history."

The comment period for the draft environmental impact report is open until Oct. 10.

To comment, visit [www.el-cerrito.org/index.aspx?nid=397](http://www.el-cerrito.org/index.aspx?nid=397) or email Sean Moss at [smoss@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us](mailto:smoss@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us).

PHOTO COURTESY OF LAURA IIYAMA



The Japanese American-owned Contra Costa Florist closed in 1964.

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## PSWD Remembers 25th Anniversary of Redress

ANNUAL AWARDS LUNCHEON HONORS TOP JACL REDRESS TACTICIANS  
ALONG WITH COMMUNITY LEADERS

By George Toshio Johnston

**B**lue skies and sunshine greeted the 198 JACLers and friends representing multiple generations in attendance at the JACL PSWD Awards Luncheon, held on Sept. 21 at the Grand in Long Beach, Calif., to mark the quarter-century since President Ronald Reagan signed the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.

The luncheon was capped with an award to and a keynote speech by Grant Ujifusa, one of the top redress tacticians in Washington, D.C., on how to win the battle politically. (See sidebar for an excerpt from Ujifusa's speech.)

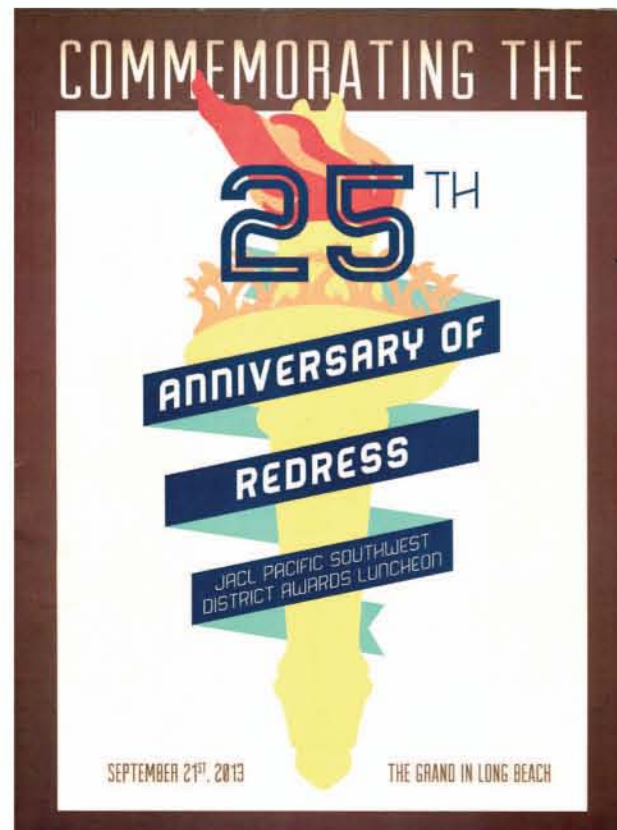
Co-emcees Linda Hara and Doug Urata kept the proceedings — which included a silent auction, dessert dash, video clips and award presentations — moving along. Faced with microphone issues early on, Hara also made certain to recognize the event's corporate sponsors: Toshiba, Toyota Motor Sales USA, JA Health Insurance Services and Southern California Edison.

Early in the program, a moment of silence was observed for longtime PSWD Regional Director John Saito Sr., who died in October 2012; *Pacific Citizen* Editor Emeritus and honoree at last year's PSWD awards event Harry Honda, who died in July; and former PSWD Redress Chair Miyo Senzaki, who passed away in May.

Dignitaries in attendance included Deputy Consul General of Japan Masahiro Suga, California Assemblyman Albert Muratsuchi (D-Torrance), former California Assemblyman George Nakano, Professional Peace Officers Assn. President Brian Moriguchi of the San Fernando Valley JACL Chapter, IW Group's Bill Imada and former Beverly Hills City Clerk Jean Ushijima.

Among JACL principals in attendance were former National JACL President Harry Kajihara, PSW District Governor and past National JACL VP Ken Inouye, *Pacific Citizen* Editorial Board Chair Carol Kawamoto, immediate past National JACL President David Kawamoto and in from New Jersey, JACL National President David Lin.

In his address, Lin touted the milestones made within the JACL under his administration, such as July's national convention in Washington, D.C., and the selection of a new *Pacific Citizen* editor. He also said that the national organization is "... faced by ongoing challenges in the areas of finance and membership, not much different than some



other Asian American nonprofit organizations."

Lin, however, told the audience: "What differentiates JACL from others is our strong membership, and that's you, your commitment and your dedication to the JACL."

He closed by making a request of the assembled guests. "I do have one favor to ask," Lin said. "A challenge to recruit and retain our membership is ongoing. I know that you know I would like to solicit your support to redouble your efforts in the membership area. One thing that you may not know is that there are over 900 lapsed members within the Pacific Southwest District since January 2011.

"Some may look at that as a problem, but I look at that as a great opportunity," Lin continued. "Nine hundred lapsed members who used to be part of this JACL family but have chosen not to participate for one reason or another.

So, think about that for a minute. If only we could bring back half of them, let's just say 500 — JACL will be growing in membership."

Urata introduced Muratsuchi and noted that the California assemblyman formerly served the JACL as the PSW's regional director in the 1990s. In his remarks, Muratsuchi noted that fact by saying his attendance was akin to "coming back to family."

On the topic of the 25th anniversary of redress, Muratsuchi noted that he was a "legacy of the redress movement" since he was at that time a college student at the University of California, Berkeley, serving as an intern at the Asian Law Caucus.

"The redress movement inspired me to go into politics because to me, the redress movement will always be the best example of how average citizens can get involved in the political process to achieve justice," Muratsuchi said. "I will always appreciate all of you in this room who led the redress movement."

Reflecting on the legacy of redress, keynote speaker Ujifusa told the *Pacific Citizen* that from his perspective, the redress movement "immunized the country" in the aftermath of 9/11 from repeating history, this time against Americans of Arabic ancestry or Muslim faith.

"While we were working on it, it seemed to be an entirely Japanese American issue. It was about us," Ujifusa said. "But as it turned out, after 9/11 and some of the problems that the Muslim community [faced], it turned out to be not a Japanese American constitutional issue but an American constitutional issue."

Inouye introduced award recipient and former National JACL President Kajihara, who was the organization's president in 1988; Kajihara was present when President Reagan signed the Civil Liberties Act into law. Inouye recalled how in the run-up to redress, he once asked Kajihara whether there really was a chance for passage. He said, "Ken, we're going to win because we have justice on our side."

Kajihara recalled how in 1980 he was listening to a "very conservative" L.A. radio talk show host who said Japanese Americans should seek restitution for incarceration. He said it brought him to tears and that he vowed to dedicate himself to the redress movement.



In contrast to Kajihara's positive attitude on the odds redress would one day become a reality, after Moriguchi awarded fellow San Fernando Valley Chapter member Phil Shigekuni, he admitted that he was skeptical regarding redress' chances, despite Kajihara always being so upbeat.

"I frankly didn't think it stood much of a chance to be honest with you," Shigekuni said. "Looking back on it, I think, 'My gosh, if it stood a chance, I would have worked a lot harder on it!'"

Shigekuni co-organized the first Southern California redress panel in 1975, co-founded EO 9066 Inc., served on the JACL National Redress Committee and co-sponsored the first Day of Remembrance event in Little Tokyo in 1978.



Harry Kajihara

PHOTO: DOUGLAS URATA

George Wakiji was also honored for his commitment to redress, having helped convince President Gerald Ford to rescind Executive Order 9066, which President Franklin Roosevelt signed in 1942. He was presented his award by Urata. And David Kawamoto presented Harry Kawahara with his award for his pivotal role in recruiting and preparing witnesses when the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians held public hearings in Los Angeles in 1981.

Recognized with awards for their dedication to JACL at the chapter level were Joseph Allman, Arizona Chapter; Sue Kunitomi Embrey, Marina SCAN Chapter; Jun Fukushima, SELANOCO Chapter; Mas Inoshita, Arizona Chapter; Hiroshi Kamei, SELANOCO Chapter; Marleen Kawahara, San Diego Chapter; Gary Mayeda, APAN Chapter; Meriko Mori, Greater L.A. Singles Chapter; Clarence Nishizu, SELANOCO Chapter; Kitty Sankey, Downtown Los Angeles Chapter; and Patty Sookdet, Downtown Los Angeles Chapter. Also of the Downtown Los Angeles Chapter was Amy Tanbara, who received the PSW District Governor's Award.

Urata himself was the surprise recipient of an award for his ongoing efforts on behalf of JACL. ■



Southern California Edison's Erwin Furukawa (left) chats with CAPI interns at the luncheon.

PHOTO: GARY MAYEDA



PHOTO: DOUGLAS URATA

PSWD Awards Luncheon keynote speaker Grant Ujifusa (center), founding editor of "The Almanac of American Politics," became the legislative strategy chair of JACL's Legislative Education Committee in the 1980s.

*(The following is an excerpt of Grant Ujifusa's speech made at the PSWD Awards Luncheon as transcribed from a recording.)*

To give you a sense of my experience of redress in Washington, I want to talk about three people among many without whom redress would not have happened. They are Mike Masaoka, (Rep.) Bob Matsui, Cherry Kinoshita and, for me, the greatest hero of redress, Sgt. Kaz Masuda of nearby Fountain Valley, Calif. Kaz was killed in action in Italy almost 70 years ago.

This means I won't be saying much about two Japanese Americans without whom one can also say there would have been no redress. The first is (Sen.) Spark Matsunaga, to whom we owe Senate passage of S.1009. Much loved by his colleagues, Sparky — the very spirit of aloha — put together a solid bipartisan coalition of 69 "yes" votes largely by himself.

Here's what (Sen.) Dan Inouye said about Spark: "The man who should take nearly all of the credit for the passage of the redress bill is Sen. Sparky Matsunaga. He's the one who sponsored the bill and organized in the vote on that in the Senate. If Sen. Matsunaga's efforts work to be weighted at 10, mine would be one.

I will also have to save for another time talking about Dan himself, without whom we could have passed the redress authorization bill, but to this day might never have received a nickel in individual payments. Dan made those payments mandatory, like Social Security, in an appropriations bill. The authorization, or the "how-the-bill-becomes-law" part of the what we did, we all worked on. The entirely separate appropriations bill was the work of Dan Inouye alone.

Now, what about Mike Masaoka, the sometimes maligned Mike Masaoka? In the twilight of his career and his life, Mike was indispensable to the success of HR 442. How?

Mike was both IQ smart and street smart, a big-time problem solver, as good as any *hakuji* lobbyist in Washington and after 50 years in the trade, connected all over town.

Mike understood how Washington worked and Washington, to tell you the

truth, is not an easy place to understand.

The conversation I would have with Mike, more than once after dinner, around 9 in the evening: "Mike, the wheels are coming off this thing in Washington. I cannot believe what Mr. X did and said today. What are we going to do?"

Mike would say, "Give me the night to think about it." And I would say, "Mike, you don't understand! The wheels are coming off this thing!" Mike would say, "Give me the night to think about it."

An example of a problem Mike solved. In January 1987, (Rep.) Barney Frank told me that he was going to push our bill in a big way. This after having been bottled up for years by subcommittee chairmen who preceded him. Perhaps you remember that time. But Barney wanted bipartisan Republican cover on his subcommittee, which meant that Barney was not going to send HR 442 to the full judiciary committee and then on the House floor, where the vote could be taken, unless Pat Swindall, the No. 1 Republican on the subcommittee, would agree to support the bill.

I said, "Barney this guy is a born-again Christian from Georgia, a really tough get."

"I need to have him," Barney said, "and you need to get him." I called Mike and asked him what to do. He said, "Give me the night to think about it."

In the morning, he called and told me to call Dave Brodie, then the chief congressional lobbyist of the Anti-Defamation League, and ask to meet with him.

Mike said that Brodie had taken many born-again members of Congress to Israel on fact-finding trips, also known as junkets. Mike knew that this was one way the Jewish Americans allied themselves with the more numerous born-again, because both had a big stake in Israel being taken care of.

I saw Dave at his office at ADL. On his desk he had a small award from JACL, maybe 20 years old. Dave said he'd set up a meeting with Swindall, even though I knew and Dave knew that Dave



Grant Ujifusa

PHOTO: DOUGLAS URATA

had already talked to him. Swindall said that he was going to support our bill in Barney's subcommittee. He added that he had an aide who was half-Japanese, and that helped.

On the day of the vote on the House floor, Swindall made a speech supporting constitutional rights for Japanese Americans, rights he then said should be extended to the unborn.

Mike knew as perhaps no other Japanese American did that to get Swindall on board in Barney's committee, you needed to travel first to Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.

One last thing about Mike ... I once asked him if he had any regrets about urging cooperation with the government after 9066 came down.

"No," he said. "They had the guns. We didn't."

Many of you remember that Gordon (Hirabayashi), Min (Yasui) and Fred (Korematsu)\* were all young bachelors. We also need to remember that no Japanese American or Japanese American family in 1942 had to listen to *anything* Mike said or recommended, and they could have resisted in anyway they wanted. Only three did, and nobody else. Coulda, woulda, shoulda doesn't count.

\*The three Nisei men whose challenges to the legality of curfews and other restrictions directed at Japanese Americans that resulted from Executive Order 9066 reached the Supreme Court. ■



# APA College Students Encouraged to Apply for Scholarship Program

By P.C. Staff

Officials with the Asian and Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund are encouraging Asian Pacific American college students to apply for a chance to receive a \$2,500 scholarship.

The Asian American Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution Scholarship Program is open to full-time APA students enrolled at City College of San Francisco, Coastline College, De Anza College, Guam Community College, Richland College, South Seattle Community College, University of Hawaii at Hilo, University of Illinois at Chicago or the University of Massachusetts Boston.

"The AANAPISI Scholarship Program gives AAPI students great hope and a real chance to achieve their postsecondary education goals," said Neil Horikoshi, APIASF president and executive director. "We're partnering with some of the nation's leading AANAPISIs — truly great colleges and universities that are doing outstanding work serving large concentrations of low-income AAPI students — to help provide the financial resources students need to support their education."

The Asian and Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund is a nonprofit that provides college scholarships for APA students. AANAPISI scholarship applicants must be of APA ethnicity and are required to submit a request for federal financial aid through the Free Application for Federal Student Aid website at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).

Scholarship winners will be announced in January. Recipients will receive \$2,500 for the 2013-14 academic school year.

For more information about the scholarship program, visit [www.apiasf.org](http://www.apiasf.org).

## APAs in the News

### JACL National President David Lin Honored by the New Jersey Chinese American Chamber of Commerce

WHIPPANY, N.J. — JACL National President David Lin received the Diversity Champion Award from the New Jersey Chinese American Chamber of Commerce at its 10th anniversary gala and awards banquet on Sept. 12 at Birchwood Manor in New Jersey.

The NJCACC, a not-for-profit and nonpolitical organization dedicated to promoting business between its members, helping Chinese American businesses and professionals and facilitating U.S.-China trade, honored Lin for his "significant contributions to the engagement of diversity employees and/or the career development of such employees."



### Indira Talwani Nominated to Serve as District Court Judge in Massachusetts

WASHINGTON, D.C. — President Barack Obama nominated Indira Talwani on Sept. 24 to a seat on the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts. If confirmed, Talwani will be the first person of Asian descent to serve as a federal judge in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the first person of Asian descent to serve as an Article III judge in the First Circuit and the only the second female Article III judge of South Asian descent nationwide.

"We applaud Indira Talwani's historic nomination to the federal bench," said Wendy C. Shiba, president of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Assn. "Ms. Talwani has the right experience, intellect, integrity and temperament to serve with distinction on the federal judiciary in Massachusetts."

Talwani, a graduate of Harvard/Radcliffe College and the University of California Berkeley School of Law, has been a partner with the Massachusetts law firm of Segal Roitman since 2003.

### Miss America Crowns First Indian American Winner in Its Pageant History

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. — New York's Nina Davuluri made history on Sept. 15 when she was crowned Miss America 2014 in Atlantic City; Davuluri becomes the first contestant of Indian heritage to win the pageant and the second Asian American winner, after Angela Perez-Barraquero, who is of Filipino descent, won the crown in 2001.

Davuluri's pageant platform was "celebrating diversity through cultural competency." The Syracuse, N.Y., native wants to be a doctor and is applying to medical school with the help of a \$50,000 scholarship she won as part of the pageant title.

This year's pageant welcomed an unprecedented five candidates of Asian heritage, including first runner-up Crystal Lee (California), fourth runner-up Rebecca Yeh (Minnesota), Bindhu Pamarthi (District of Columbia) and Crystal Lee (Hawaii).



### Kenichi Ebina Named \$1 Million Winner of NBC's 'America's Got Talent'

NEW YORK CITY — Dancer Kenichi Ebina was named the winner of NBC's "America's Got Talent" during the Season 8 finale on Sept. 18 in New York City after beating out comedian Taylor Williamson.

Ebina took home the \$1 million prize, and he will have the opportunity to headline the "AGT" national tour, which will travel to more than 30 cities.

The self-taught performer consistently wowed the audience and judges Howard Stern, Heidi Klum, Mel B and Howie Mandel. As the show progressed, Ebina's act increasingly became more acrobatic and imaginative. With his victory, Ebina becomes the first dancer to win the competition.

### Martin Hoshino Is Appointed to California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Post

SACRAMENTO — Gov. Jerry Brown on Sept. 18 named Martin Hoshino of Folsom, Calif., as undersecretary of operations at the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

Hoshino, who has held various positions at the department since 2003, including acting undersecretary of operations, undersecretary of administration and offender services, executive officer at the Board of Parole Hearings and assistant secretary at the Office of Internal Affairs, requires Senate confirmation. The position's compensation is \$174,996.

Hoshino earned a master's degree in public administration and political science from the University of California, Davis.



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# CAROLINE KENNEDY: Humbled to Carry on Father's Legacy

By Associated Press

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Former first daughter Caroline Kennedy said Sept. 19 that she would be humbled to carry forward her father's legacy if confirmed by the Senate to be the next U.S. ambassador to Japan.

Testifying before the Foreign Relations Committee, the soft-spoken Kennedy described the crucial bond between the United States and its Asian ally, especially in promoting trade and ensuring strong military ties. She spoke of her own public service and work with the New York City school system.

She noted the significance of her nomination on the 50th anniversary of her father's presidency, focusing on his tenure rather than on John F. Kennedy's assassination on Nov. 22, 1963.

"I am conscious of my responsibility to uphold the ideals he represented — a deep commitment to public service, a more just America and a more peaceful world," Kennedy said. "As a World War II veteran who served in the Pacific, he had hoped to be the first sitting president to make a state visit to Japan. If confirmed as ambassador, I would be humbled to carry forward his legacy in a small way and represent the powerful bonds that unite our two democratic societies."

Kennedy faced gentle questioning from Republicans and Democrats on the committee, signaling that she faced no obstacles to confirmation. Her hearing lasted about an hour and 20 minutes.

"You have a good sense of what national interests are," said Sen. Bob Corker of Tennessee, the senior Republican on the panel. Corker told Kennedy she would be a "great ambassador."

Democratic Sen. Tim Kaine of Virginia noted the unusual symmetry: President Kennedy was honored for his military service fighting Japanese naval forces during World War II; decades later, his daughter would be the top diplomat in Japan, now a close ally.

Kaine said it was a reminder that hostilities need not be permanent.

President Barack Obama chose the attorney and best-selling book editor for the diplomatic job. If confirmed, she would be the first woman in a post from which many other prominent Americans have served to strengthen a vital Asian tie.

New York's two senators, Democrats Chuck Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, introduced Kennedy to the committee. Schumer noted that Kennedy and her daughter, Tatiana, (recently) made a three-mile swim in the Hudson River for charity, swimming from Nyack to Sleepy Hollow.

Her testimony came before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, a panel on which her father served when he was a Massachusetts senator in the late 1950s.

Attending the hearing was Vicki Kennedy, widow of Sen. Ted Kennedy.

Caroline Kennedy helped propel Obama to the Democratic presidential nomination with her endorsement over Hillary Rodham Clinton — the only time she's endorsed a presidential candidate other than her uncle, Ted, in 1980.

Japan is one of the United States' most important commercial and military partners and has been accustomed since the end of World War II to having renowned American political leaders serve as envoy. Former U.S. ambassadors to Japan include former Vice President Walter Mondale, former House Speaker

Tom Foley and former Senate Majority Leaders Mike Mansfield and Howard Baker.

Kennedy, 55, doesn't have their foreign policy left or any obvious ties to Japan, a key ally in dealing with North Korea's nuclear ambitions. She would replace John Roos, a wealthy former Silicon Valley lawyer and top Obama campaign fundraiser.

Kennedy's confirmation to the post by the Senate would bring a third generation of her family into the U.S. diplomatic corps. Her grandfather, Joseph P. Kennedy Sr., was President Franklin D. Roosevelt's ambassador to Britain, while her aunt, Jean Kennedy Smith, was ambassador to Ireland under President Bill Clinton.

Caroline Kennedy was five days shy of her sixth birthday when her father was killed, and she loved most of the rest of her life in New York City. She earned a bachelor's degree from Harvard University, got a law degree from Columbia University, married exhibit designer Edwin Schlossberg and had three children.

Kennedy is president of the John F. Kennedy Library Foundation and chairs the senior advisory committee of the Institute of Politics at Harvard. She has served on the boards of numerous nonprofit organizations, helped raise millions of dollars for New York schools and edited numerous best-selling books on history, law and poetry.

## AMERICAN HOLIDAY TRAVEL

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### 2013 TOUR SCHEDULE

OKINAWA HOLIDAY TOUR (Waitlist) . . . . . NOV 3-12  
Ishigaki Island, Yufu Island, Buffalo Cart Ride, Taketomi Island, Onna-son, Ryukyu Mura, Churaumi Aquarium Expo Park, Manzano, Himeyuri Monument, Peace Memorial, Gyokusendo at Okinawa World Park, Okinawa Cultural Show, Orion Beer Brewery, Shuri Castle, Traditional Hands-on Experience, Naha.

### 2014 TOUR SCHEDULE PREVIEW

CHINA ICE FESTIVAL HOLIDAY TOUR . . . . . FEB 6-13  
Beijing, Harbin, Ice Festival.  
NORTHERN LIGHTS HOLIDAY TOUR . . . . . MAR 6-12  
Anchorage, Fairbanks, Chena Hot Springs, Aurora Borealis  
JAPAN SPRING HOLIDAY TOUR . . . . . MAR 12-24  
Kyushu: Fukuoka, Nagasaki, Kumamoto, Ibusuki, Kagoshima, Miyazaki, Beppu.  
Shikoku: Kochi, Takamatsu.  
FRANCE HOLIDAY TOUR . . . . . APR 2-14  
Paris, Normandy, French Riviera, Nice, Monaco, TGV Train.  
AMERICAN HERITAGE HOLIDAY TOUR . . . . . APR 29-MAY 7  
Niagara Falls, Lancaster-Amish Country, Gettysburg, Washington DC, Williamsburg.  
AUSTRIA-SWITZERLAND HOLIDAY TOUR . . . . . JUN 5-17  
Vienna, Salzburg, Oberammergau Region, Black Forest, Zermatt, Lucerne.  
OREGON TRAILS HOLIDAY TOUR . . . . . JUN 5-10  
Portland, Mt. St. Helens National Park, Portland Rose Festival, Winery Visit & Tasting, Paddle-wheeler boat cruise on Columbia River, Tillamook Cheese Factory.  
CANADIAN ROCKIES VIA RAIL HOLIDAY TOUR . . . . . JUN 18-25  
Vancouver, Vancouver Island Victoria, Buchart Garden, The Canadian VIA Rail, Jasper, Maligne Lake, Columbia Icefields, Lake Louise, Banff.  
GRANDPARENTS-GRANDCHILDREN JAPAN TOUR (New) . . . . . JUN 22-JUL 1  
SOUTH DAKOTA ADVENTURE HOLIDAY TOUR . . . . . JUL 9-15  
Rapid City, Mt. Rushmore, Crazy Horse Memorial, Devil's Tower Monument, Custer State Park, Buffalo Jeep Safari, Fort Hays "Dances with Wolves" Movie Set.  
EAST-WEST MEDITERRANEAN HOLIDAY CRUISE . . . . . AUG 2-14  
ALBUQUERQUE BALLOON FIESTA HOLIDAY TOUR . . . . . OCT 6-11  
Albuquerque, International Balloon Fiesta, Route 66, National Museum of Nuclear Science and History, Pueblo Cultural Center, Santa Fe, Santa Fe School of Cooking.  
HOKKAIDO-TOHOKU HOLIDAY TOUR . . . . . OCT 6-16  
AUSTRALIA-NEW ZEALAND HOLIDAY TOUR . . . . . NOV 3-17  
Sydney, Cairns, Great Barrier Reef, Christchurch, Mt. Cook, Queenstown, Milford Sound.

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Nov. 06 ~ Nov. 22	Kii Peninsula & Shikoku & Okinawa: "Koyasan, Kii Katsuura"
Nov. or Dec.	Winter Las Vegas: Show: TBA

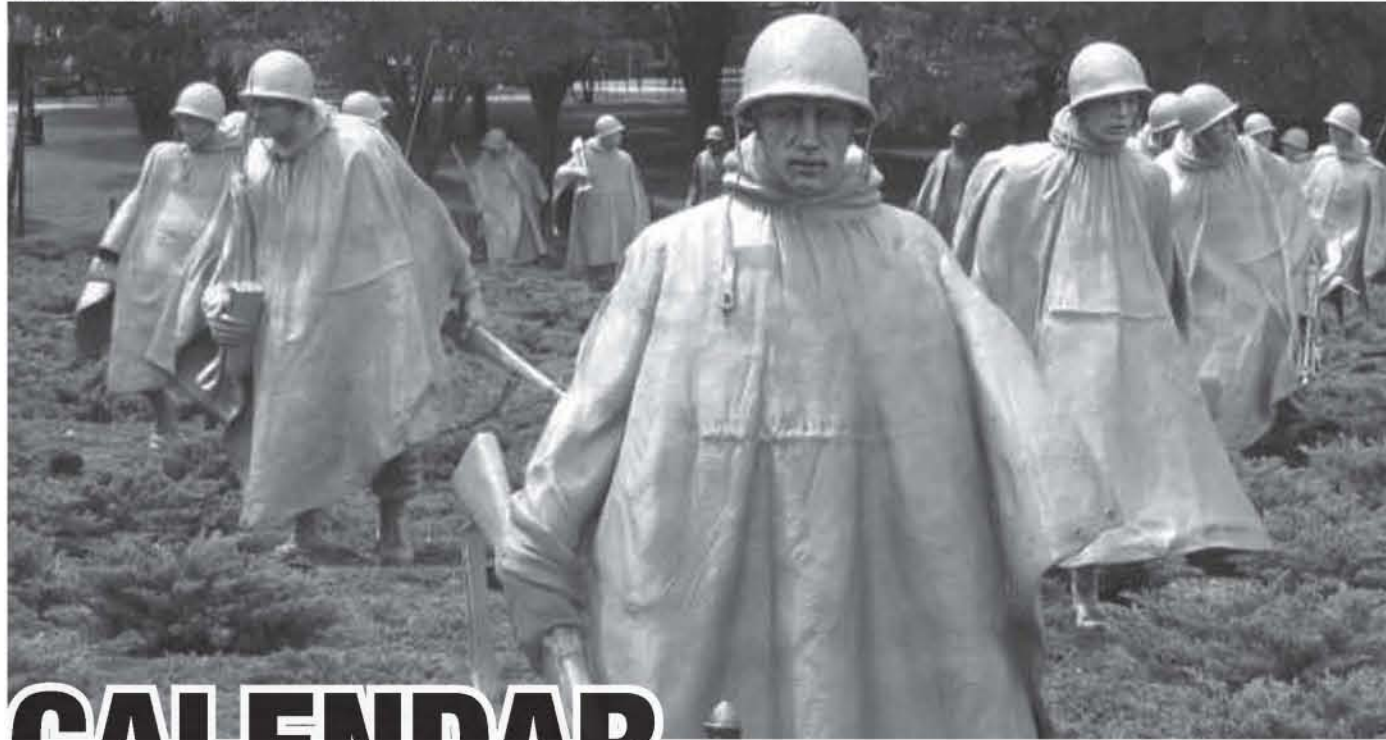
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## A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS



# CALENDAR

## Korean War MIS Veterans 13th Annual Luncheon Reunion ALHAMBRA, CA

**Oct. 30, 10 a.m.**

**Golden Coast Asian Buffet  
2223 Commonwealth Ave.**

The Korean War Military Intelligence Service Veterans group is having its 13th annual reunion luncheon. All Korean War Military Intelligence Service veterans are invited to attend.

**Info: Call Bob Miyasaki at  
(858) 486-9120.**

### >>EDC

**The Asian Americans United  
28th Anniversary Fundraiser  
PHILADELPHIA, PA  
Nov. 15, 5:30-8:30 p.m.  
Painted Bride Art Center  
230 Vine St.**

The Asian American United's 28th Anniversary fundraiser celebrates the roots of the Asian American civil rights movement. Yellow Pearl trio member Nobuko Miyamoto will perform. Music will be provided by DJ Pure J and food by Anna Cruz Catering. The event includes the traditional Standing Up for Justice Awards ceremony. **Info: Call (215) 925-1538 or email [aauna@aaunited.org](mailto:aauna@aaunited.org).**

**Kollaboration Boston  
BOSTON, MA**

**Oct. 11, 7:30 pm**

**Berklee Performance Center  
136 Massachusetts Ave.  
Cost: General admission/\$16;  
VIP/\$35**

Kollaboration Boston, a nonprofit devoted to helping Asian American artists showcase their talents, is gearing up for its third annual show featuring vocal/instrumental duo Angel & Will, improv pianist Daesun Yim, Chinese yo-yo pro Derek Hsu, vocalist Justin Oppus; rapper LuDo, Movement Box and the hip-hop dance group UPdrifting Crew. Guest performers and judges include hip-hop dancer Ellen Kim, musicians, AJ Rafael and Andrew Rhim and Kollaboration Boston 2 grand finalist Justin Chiou.

Contestants will compete for \$1,000 and a chance to win the \$20,000 grand prize at Kollaboration L.A. on Nov. 16. **Info: Visit [www.kollaborationboston.org](http://www.kollaborationboston.org).**

**The 17th Annual Diversity & Inclusion Leadership Gala  
BOSTON, MA  
Oct. 19, 6:30-11 p.m.  
Boston Marriott,  
Copley Place  
100 Huntington Ave.**

**Cost: General admission/\$125** World Unity Inc., an organization that aims to eliminate all forms of prejudice and discrimination, is sponsoring this gala, which will feature cocktails, dinner, silent and live auctions, entertainment and a special guest speaker. The attire is "black-tie" optional. Proceeds benefit the construction of the World Unity landmark. **Info: Call (617) 971-0317 or visit [www.worldunityinc.org](http://www.worldunityinc.org).**

**Musical Performance by  
Yamato: The Drummers  
of Japan  
CAMBRIDGE, CA  
Nov. 23, 8 p.m.  
Harvard University,  
Sanders Theatre  
45 Quincy St.  
Cost: \$48-\$28**

Experience more than 20 drums, bronze cymbals, vocals and bamboo flutes as the taiko group Yamato takes to the stage. The event is presented by World Music/CRASHarts. **Info: Call (617) 876-4275 or visit [www.worldmusic.org](http://www.worldmusic.org).**

### >>NCWNP

**The Kenko No Hi Health Fair  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA  
Oct. 12, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Christ United Presbyterian  
Church  
1700 Sutter St.**

This free health fair will offer free flu shots, blood pressure tests, dental exams and other health screenings. Japanese-speaking staff will be available. The event is coordinated by the JACL San Francisco chapter.

**Info: Contact Jill Yano at (415) 235-7760 or email [sjjacl@yahoo.com](mailto:sjjacl@yahoo.com).**

**Florin JACL's Nikkei  
Scholarship/Youth Dinner  
SACRAMENTO, CA  
Oct. 12, 5:30-7 p.m.**

**Buddhist Church of Florin  
7235 Pritchard Road  
Cost: \$12/General admission;  
\$10/Advance tickets;  
\$6/Children**

The Florin JACL's 32nd annual Scholarship/Youth Dinner and Free Bingo Night features over 100 prizes and a dozen toppings on Nikkei hot dogs and different types of cupcakes! There will also be veggie dogs, a raffle, a pumpkin game and a senbei contest.

**Info: Email [florinjacl@hotmail.com](mailto:florinjacl@hotmail.com) or visit [www.florinjacl.com](http://www.florinjacl.com).**

**Contra Costa JACL Hosts a  
Redress Talk  
EL CERRITO, CA  
Oct. 20, 3-4:30 p.m.  
East Bay Free Methodist Church  
5395 Potrero Ave.**

The Contra Costa JACL chapter is commemorating the 25th anniversary of redress by hosting a lecture "Redress: Achieving the Impossible Dream," with former JACL national director John Tateishi. RSVP by Oct. 12 with your name, email and phone number. Reserved seats will be released 15 minutes before the talk.

**Info: Email [ContraCostaJACL@live.com](mailto:ContraCostaJACL@live.com) or call (510) 730-2402.**

**Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL  
Senior One-Day Trip  
FRIANT, CA**

**Oct. 29, 8 a.m.-7:30 p.m.**

**Table Mountain Casino  
8184 Table Mountain Road  
Cost: Active Senior Members/  
\$30; Nonsenior Center  
members/\$35**

Join the Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL for its one-day senior trip to Table Mountain Casino. The cost includes \$5 e-cash.

**Info: Call Carol Kaneko at (831) 476-7040 or Rubie Kawamoto at (831) 464-6721.**

**San Jose JACL's 11th Annual  
Recognition Dinner  
SAN JOSE, CA  
Nov. 2, 5 p.m.**

**San Jose Airport Garden Hotel  
1740 N. First St.**

The San Jose JACL's annual Recognition Dinner will honor Mas Horiuchi, Mike Inouye, Midori Kai and Dale Sasaki. A silent auction and dessert dash will also be part of the festivities.

**Info: Email [sanjosejacl@sbcglobal.com](mailto:sbcglobal.com) or call (408) 295-1250.**

### >>PSW

**The J-Town Jazz Club  
LOS ANGELES, CA  
Oct. 26, 2 p.m.  
Nishi Hongwanji Los Angeles  
Betsuin Kaikan  
815 E. First St.**

**Cost: General admission/\$25** The Grateful Crane Ensemble presents "The J-Town Jazz Club," featuring the J-Town Blues Band. The performance tells the story of a group of jazz musicians who return to Little Tokyo after WWII. **Info: Call (310) 995-5841.**

**Marvels and Monsters  
Comics Exhibit  
LOS ANGELES, CA  
Oct. 12-Feb. 9  
Japanese American  
National Museum  
100 N. Central Ave.**

The exhibit explores how perceptions of Asians were shaped by comics. Curated by Asian Pop columnist Jeff Yang, the exhibit is a collaboration between NYU's Asian Pacific American Institute and the NYU Fales Library & Special Collections. **Info: Call (213) 625-0414 or visit [www.janm.org](http://www.janm.org).**

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Events in the calendar section are listed based on space availability. Place a 'Spotlight' ad with photos of your event for maximum exposure.

## FOR MORE INFO:

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# In Memoriam

**Endow, Lily Kumie, 96**, Santa Barbara, CA; Sept. 23; survived by children, Everett (Gladys) and Nancy (Bob) Brophy; sister-in-law, Koko; brother-in-law, Frank; 6 gc; 6 ggc.

**Hashitani, Natsuko "Nats," 97**, Missoula, MT; Aug. 7; a member of the Community Methodist Church, JACL and a ladies' golf club; predeceased by parents and siblings, Mamaro, Kazuo, Isamu, Akira, Chiyeiko, Harumi; and her husband, George; survived by sister Tomae Amano; her son, Glenn (Misha); and daughter, Donna (Roger) Thomas; 6 gc; 2 ggc.

**Hirai, Fusae, "Junne," 86**, Nyssa, OR; Sept. 9; predeceased by husband and two siblings; survived by her children, Mark and Dr. Debbie Cook-Hirai, Lynn Stuart, Gail Hirai-Stinnett and Ron Stinnett and Dina and Michael Ahten; 3 gc.

**Hirayama, Naoe, 87**, Monterey Park, CA; Sept. 8; predeceased by husband, Taiji; survived by siblings, Masaji "Mas" Kawashima and Kikue Shigetomi; nieces, Joanna Masae Kawashima, Fuomi Patricia Naomi Shigetomi and Linda Reiko Shigetomi.

**Hoshino, Shizuye Tachiyama, 90**, L.A., CA; Aug. 16; survived by children, Wyman and Cheryl (Len Trautman); and sister, Hatsumi Harada; 1 gc.

**Ishii, Nancy Shigeko, 86**, Buena Park, CA; Aug. 15; survived by children, Donna and Alan (Karen);

brothers, Kazuma, Shigeo (Yumi) and Fred (Patty) Nakata; sisters-in-law, June Watanabe and Clara; brothers-in-law, Ka Osumi, Tom (Mitzi) and Shig (Frances); 5 gc.

**Kondo, Shizuye, 95**, Arcadia, CA; Sept. 10; predeceased by her husband, Masao; survived by daughters, Joanne Keiko (Ken) Nakano, Reiko, June and May (Kenneth) Inouye; 5 gc; 5 ggc.

**Minamide, Asako, 91**, Orange County, CA; Sept. 14; survived by sister, Kiyoko Yoshida; niece, Lynne (Mark) Kaufold; nephews, James (Jeri) Inoda, David, Daniel, Alan, Mark Yoshida; Duane (Sheryl) Yoshida.

**Miyahira, Harry T., 80**, L.A., CA; Sept. 16; a U.S. Army veteran; survived by wife, Nery N.; daughters, Polly (John) Veatch, Bekky Miyahira and Juddy (James) Dunagan; brother, Melvin (Jaclyn) Higa; sisters, Shirley (James) Asato, Ann (Robert) Creen and Dilys (George) Sunabe; 6 gc.

**Morikawa, Marjorie Misato, 92**, L.A., CA; Aug. 18; survived by children, Diane (Tim) Sumarnkant, Gregg and Mark (Ewa); siblings, Shig (Donna) Nakagiri, Bob Nakagiri, Jane Shintani and June (Jimmy) Akioka; 7 gc.

**Nakayama, James Iwao, 100**, Gardena, CA; Sept. 20; survived by daughters, Jane Zampol and Michiko Smith; son, Glenn (Jeanette); 5 gc; 4 ggc.

**Ohama, Christine A., 60**, L.A., CA; Sept. 13; survived by mother, Tomoko; brother, Steven; aunts, Masako (Claude) Tokashiki and Iris Adi Higashi; and her companion, Mochi.

**Shiroma, Yukiko, 80**, Gardena, CA; Sept. 5; survived by her husband, Isamu; children, Sharlene (Richard Myers), Lynette (Gary) Kajikawa and Deanna Takahashi; sister, Miye Yagi; sister-in-law, Hatsume Taira; 4 gc.

**Tanaka, George, 92**, La Mirada, CA; Sept. 8; survived by wife, Louise; daughters, Kathy (Joel Davidson) and Annette (Paul) Moran; 3 gc.

**Tanimoto, Chiyoko, 81**, Gardena, CA; Sept. 17; predeceased by husband, Nobuyuki Frank; survived by children, Carolyn (Darrin), Robert and Sandra (Brandon); brothers, Sadao (Yuri), Mas (Taeko), Tosh; 4 gc.

**Unoura, James Makoto, 87**, Culver City, CA; Aug. 10; a WWII veteran; survived by wife, Matsuyo; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

**Yamashiro, Jack Mitsuyoshi, 87**, Arleta, CA; Sept. 9; survived by wife, Rose Natsuko; daughters, Kimiko Ellen (Carl) Larson and Mariko Jean (Bill) Broad; son, Mark Musashi (Sabrina); sister, Tamiko (Chuck) Fujikawa; sister-in-law, Frances Tsuneishi; brothers-in-law, Noel and Paul (Aiko) Tsuneishi; 4 gc.

## ROBERT K. KOGA



Robert K. Koga was born on Feb. 15, 1930, to Tokukei and Frances Koga in San Francisco, Calif. Robert K. Koga, 83, died peacefully at his home in Fallbrook, Calif., on Sunday, Sept. 8. He was in the company of family and friends when he lost his struggle with Mesothelioma, a cancer resulting from asbestos exposure.

After serving in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War, Robert became the second Asian police officer hired by the Los Angeles Police Department in 1955, retiring in 1979.

While assigned to the LAPD training academy, he saw that officers were experiencing problems with their arrest situations. He completely revamped their arrest-related training by developing and implementing an integrated system of search, handcuffing, arrest control and self-defense techniques that came to be known as the "Koga Method." When the department was faced with challenging civil unrest events, he devised unique methods to separate and control demonstrators without the need to use physical forces. Robert's arrest- and crowd-control techniques, now known as the "Koga System," are now utilized around the world by law enforcement, military and civilian specialized services. The Koga Institute continues to provide this training today.

For decades, Robert taught a wide variety of police skills across the U.S. and in several other countries, focusing on improving safety and control practices for law enforcement personnel. He developed systematic techniques for street police officers, SWAT teams, riot- and crowd-control teams and for detention and corrections officers. He provided training for the Secret Service, Federal Air Marshals and various other agencies including the Navy Seals, Delta Force and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, as well as the Royal Brigade Guards of the King of Saudi Arabia and many U.S. police departments and other public safety agencies. His techniques are also taught in other countries including Japan, China and at the Police Academy in Vera Cruz, Mexico.

Robert established a huge and far-ranging community of peace officers who strive to follow his relentless example of dedication to the highest standards of personal and professional conduct and accountability. He is remembered by family, friends and students as a man with an extraordinary focus, a remarkable ability to anticipate the actions of others and a lifelong dedication to raising standards of training throughout the law enforcement profession. Those who knew him understood that he was a law enforcement teacher and mentor above all else; he made it his life's commitment, embodying the "No Give Up" philosophy. Many of his students have commented on how his teachings and philosophies have changed their lives and have certainly saved many lives.

Throughout his life, Robert embraced all forms of training and earned many black belts. He would later study with Aikido Master Koichi Tohei, traveling with Master Tohei during his tours through the United States.

Robert actually began his martial arts studies when he was 12 years old, in order to combat the gangs he and others faced in the Japanese Internment Camp in Topaz, Utah, where he and his family had been forcibly moved at the beginning of WWII.

Robert was inducted into the World Martial Arts Masters Hall of Fame and the Costa Mesa, California Martial Arts Masters Hall of Fame. He has authored several books and was featured in many magazine articles over the years, emphasizing his adaptation of traditional Aikido to the needs of law enforcement.

Robert was widely recognized in the law enforcement community, and he received many awards. In 2000, he was the Lifetime Achievement recipient of the California Governor's Award for Excellence in Peace Officers Training. He was the first president of the California Asian Peace Officers Assn. and a past president of the National Asian Peace Officers Assn.

Robert had boundless energy, was a voracious reader and had a wide range of passionate interests. Perhaps surprising to many people, Robert was an avid fan of the historic American West. He enjoyed wearing Western-style clothing; he loved steer roping; he loved his horses and enjoyed riding the rough and rugged land. He would have been happy to have been born a cowboy a hundred years ago.

Robert is survived by his wife, Susan; his children, Michael, Frank, Kelleen and Thomas; his grandchildren, Kelsey, Jared, Kamryn, Trent, Rylee and Kai; and by his stepfather, Frank Shoda.

On Wednesday, Sept. 11, the California Senate session was adjourned in Robert's memory, with remarks by Sen. Joel Anderson.

After a private family interment service, a public celebration of his life will be announced at a later date. Details will be provided on the Koga Institute website at [www.kogainst.com](http://www.kogainst.com). An online guest book will be available shortly through [Legacy.com](http://Legacy.com).

## TRIBUTE

### SHOICHI JACK NOMURA

Shoichi Jack Nomura passed away on April 28. He was 85. He was a longtime board member of the WLA JACL chapter and actively involved with both the WLA United Methodist Church and WLA Community Center. During WWII, he and his family were interned in Wyoming. After the war, he served in the U.S. Navy and received an honorable discharge. After the Navy, he reunited with his family in Chicago where he earned a law degree from De Paul Univ. He returned to L.A. with his family, passed the California bar exam and practiced law for over 50 years. He worked up until his death as a lawyer because he liked to help people. He was an avid gardener. He is survived by many nieces and nephews of the Yoshino, Horiuchi, Inouye and Higuchi family.

### PLACE A TRIBUTE

'In Memoriam' is a free listing that appears on a limited, space-available basis. Tributes honor your loved ones with text and photos and appear in a timely manner at the rate of \$20/column inch.

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## HOUSING PROTECTION >> continued from page 2

This is much like the story of the more than 350 families that lived in the Gardens in Mount Holly Township. These African American and Latino families settled in the military-owned houses right after World War II. It was the only section of town that was integrated. It was the kind of community where you could smell the cookies being baked by grandmothers for their grandchildren and where the furniture is a little worn but always provides comfort.

Today, only 70 homes remain. The Township demolished the others home by home, sometimes damaging adjoining townhomes in its rush to build \$250,000 homes where humble homes once stood. Thirty-odd families are still fighting for their rights to their homes.

In New Jersey, it is easy to declare an area as blighted. No inspections are required. The government offered only \$30,000-\$50,000 for the homes, far less than the \$250,000-\$300,000 required for a home in the new development. There are those who argue that they have made provisions for these families to live in the new development, but New Jersey bases "affordability" on the median income of 80% of the population. The New Jersey standard ignores the plight of retirees and those who live at the lower end of the income scale.

*Mount Holly* is a major attack on the Fair Housing Act and is the most important case remaining before the U. S. Supreme Court this term. It is another assault on the civil rights advances of the 1960s. The Fair Housing Act was a foundational measure that addressed grievous inequalities of the era. If we do not preserve the use of disparate impact to protect abuses, we not only lose homes but also lose what it means to be a community.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Fair Housing amendments of 1988 that established the concept of disparate impact. The policy has applicability beyond housing. The case on behalf of the residents of the Gardens is winnable if we all put our shoulders to the task. ■

## EDUCATION >> continued from page 3

Peterson, as well as the other teachers at Jefferson, will miss Noguchi because they value her willingness to share her history with the students. It is especially important to Noguchi because she says it is necessary that the children know about what happened to her and others of Japanese ancestry, and that as they grow up,

it is imperative they not let such a thing happen again to any other group of individuals.

But the teachers and staff, especially Peterson, at Jefferson Elementary remain hopeful that Noguchi's "retirement" will be short-lived. They are all hoping to invite her back into their classrooms so that she can continue to tell her personal story, a story that is reflective of so many Japanese Americans living today and important to keep retelling. ■

## WHO ARE WE? >> continued from page 3

But even if you take away the extreme, there are still a lot of issues confronting the APA community that should concern us as the oldest APA civil rights organization in the country, something we're quick to point out. Don't we have an obligation to lend our support to others in the community since, theoretically, we should be adept at national politics based on decades of experience and the bridges we've built?

If we're truly a civil rights organization, there's a moral principle that says we do battle against any effort to limit the rights of any group, be it Asian, Latino, black, LGBT, disabled and others.

Immigration may not be an important concern specifically for Japanese Americans, but it is important — to Asian immigrants, to Latinos with whom we share a historical kinship. As an issue, it is important because it speaks to what we are as a nation when racism lies behind the determination to exclude certain groups from being part of this country. It's important when we allow the rhetoric of race to cloud our

humanity as a nation.

We can lay claim as an ethnic community to our success in achieving our share of the American dream, but let's not forget those who get left behind because of who they are and the color of their skin. I can't imagine a Japanese American anywhere in this country being stopped at a voting booth to be questioned as to his/her right to step into that booth. Or being stopped and asked to show proof of the right to be here.

But that doesn't mean it's not our concern because, really, it is. We should feel as indignant as that black person denied his right to vote and should be in legislative offices on the Hill to confront every member of Congress from those states who dare to be so un-American and demand to know why.

But have we done anything meaningful at all?

It's time we ask ourselves who and what we are as an organization. If we're intent on maintaining the status quo and doing little more than living with our past glories, so be it.

But being a civil rights organization implies advocacy, and if that's what we are, we should start being one again.

*John Tateishi is a former JACL national director.*



**Tony Taguba**

Retired U.S. Army General Tony Taguba has spent decades serving on the front lines for his country while being an advocate for social equality. A lifetime AARP member, Tony mentors tomorrow's leaders through the non-profit national organization, Pan-Pacific American Leaders and Mentors. He also supports military veterans and is an avid community volunteer. What's Tony's secret to life? Staying mentally and physically fit to run two marathons a year. Join Tony today and enjoy the support and resources for life at 50+ by becoming an AARP member. Visit us at [aarp.org/asiancommunity](http://aarp.org/asiancommunity)

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