The New Year Launches a Major Civil Rights Effort

By Priscilla Ouchida
JACL National Director

I
joined a packed meeting late last year at the AFL-CIO headquarters in Washington, D.C., that was organized by the Leadership Conference. The 50 or so people in the room represented every major civil rights organization in the nation. The meeting was a call to action for the most significant legislative campaign in 2014 — restoration of the Voting Rights Act.

With the new year, two major legislative campaigns will happen simultaneously — the push to pass a bill for new voting rights provisions by June and implement immigration reform by July. The efforts will require coordination, targeted strategy and national participation.

Why the rush? As a result of the Shelby County v. Holder decision last year, state and local jurisdictions no longer have to make election changes public, which makes monitoring unfair practices much more difficult. Threats to voting rights include altering election methods, eliminating polling places, distribution of ballots, new identification standards and a whole host of other practices that impact voting and election results. For example, there was a recent effort in Pasadena, Texas, to change district seats to at-large seats in an effort to limit a Latino majority on the city council. Going forward, monitoring election practices will require significant public effort.

On Jan. 16, the House introduced the Voting Rights Amendment Act of 2014, H.R. 3899, by Rep. Jim Sensenbrenner (R-Wis.) and House Judiciary ranking member John Conyers Jr. (D-Mich.) A similar bill, SB 1945 by Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) has been introduced in the Senate. The push will be to enact a bill that protects racial and minority voters that were impacted by the decision that struck down Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act. JACL will be joining the field campaign to obtain passage of the bill.

With the release of a Republican platform on immigration reform, there is renewed hope for the passage of a bipartisan measure. The emphasis for JACL will be on citizenship in lieu of efforts to frame immigration reform from a legalization perspective. Legalization without citizenship is not acceptable. The concept brings up vivid memories of the experience of Isseis, who could live legally in the United States but could never become citizens.

It will be a busy year. On the plate are also efforts to increase the minimum wage and to address benefits for workers who are among the long-term unemployed. APIAs are disproportionately impacted by long-term unemployment. The call for action to JACL is off to a quick start.

CORRECTION

The article “WWII Vet Roy Matsumoto Turns 100, Celebrates With a Screening of His Completed Film “Honor and Sacrifice” that appeared in the Jan. 17-Feb. 6 issue of the Pacific Citizen incorrectly named the 28-minute documentary as “Honor and Sacrifice: Nisei Patriots in the MIS.” That was the name of the 17-minute version of the film. The new 28-minute version of the film was renamed “Honor and Sacrifice: The Roy Matsumoto Story.”
WHEN JAPANESE AMERICANS SAY, ‘CAMP,’ THEY’RE NOT TALKING ABOUT SUMMER CAMP

By Gil Asakawa

It’s a rite of greeting among older Japanese Americans. I’ve seen it happen over and over — one JA is introduced to another, and if they’re old enough, the first question they ask of each other is, “What camp were you at?”

We all know that “camp” in the context of Japanese Americans has nothing to do with summer camp. These people are not being nostalgic about singing “Kumbaya” around the campfire, hopping along in potato sack races (maybe it would be nice sack races?) and learning how to “rough it” in the great outdoors.

“Camp,” of course, in the Japanese American context, is the internment camps, or as I increasingly call them, “concentration camps,” that 110,000 people of Japanese descent were held in during World War II. So, an elderly man says he was in Arkansas, and the other man says, “Oh yeah? Which one?” “Jerome.” Common ground is found, and the two reminisce, if that’s the right word, about their families’ unjust incarceration.

Colorado, where I live, hosted one “relocation camp,” officially named the Granada Relocation Center but informally named “Amache,” after an Indian princess. It sat in the southeast corner of the state in a tumbleweedy flatsland outside the town of Granada that was barely suitable for grazing cattle.

More than 7,000 people lived at Amache at the peak of the war, and at one point, it was one of the largest municipalities in Colorado. Among its prisoners were the singer Pat Suzuki, poet Lawson Fusao Inada (who also spent time at Jerome in Arkansas) and California congressman Mike Honda.

One of the curious facts of Amache is that it’s often referred to as “Camp Amache.” The relocation centers are called “camps,” and JAs do ask each other what camp they were in. But these camps’ names, including Amache, didn’t include the word camp. And nobody calls the other sites “camps.” There’s no “Camp Manzanar,” “Camp Tule Lake,” “Camp Heart Mountain” or “Camp Jerome.” They’re all called by just the name of the camp.

But somehow over the decades, “Camp Amache” has become a commonly used term. The sign at the entrance of the Colorado site simply says “Amache,” but a more recently posted sign on the highway to alert visitors says “Camp Amache.” Hell, I’ve called it “Camp Amache” for years.

But that incorrect name has bugged one Amache survivor, and he’s had enough. Min Tonai, the president of the Amache Historical Society, wrote in an impassioned, eloquent email during an exchange while planning this year’s May 17 pilgrimage to explain his objection to the word camp. Here’s an edited excerpt:

Why is only Amache called “Camp Amache”? It’s a rite of greeting among older Japanese Americans, it’s a place to sleep. Jail inmates get three meals and a place to sleep, too.

>> See CAMP on page 16

FOR THE RECORD

MIRAI NAGASU

By John Tateishi

The memory of that moment came back to me last month as I watched the 2014 Olympics figure skating qualifying competition on television, a sport that normally doesn’t interest me much and that I generally only watch when the Winter Olympics come around every four years.

Not surprisingly, therefore, I knew nothing about the huge controversy in this year’s U.S. Figure Skating Championships in Boston until I watched the post-competition program the next day and saw Mirai Nagasu on the ice. She struggled to hold back tears as the crowd gave her a standing ovation when she was introduced, and she skated a beautiful performance as tears streamed down her cheeks.

The controversy, as I learned that day as she skated, was that she had finished third in the competition and had won a place in the Winter Olympics. Historically, the top three finishers are named to the U.S. Olympic Team, but on that day, the U.S. Figure Skating Association selected Ashley Wagner to replace Nagasu, despite Wagner having fallen twice during her routine coming in a distant fourth behind Nagasu.

In this unprecedented move, the USFSA stated that its decision was based on an “objective analysis” of the skaters, noting that Wagner’s body of work over the past year warranted her place on the team, especially in comparison to Nagasu’s apparently less-than-stellar year.

Clearly, the USFSA’s insistence that its analysis was “objective” was another way of saying that something like race or ethnicity had nothing to do with its decision. That is to say, there was nothing subjective about its decision: Race had not entered into its consideration to make such an unprecedented decision.

>> See NAGASU on page 16
Giving a Gift With Heart

By Connie K. Ho, Contributor

With February here, it’s time to show love to friends and family. While many shower gifts and praise on loved ones during Valentine’s Day, appreciation of others can be done any day of the month. If you’re looking to give a gift, you don’t necessarily need to spend any money — consider making a homemade gift instead. Homemade gifts are budget friendly and from the heart. With this in mind, a few bloggers shared their unique recommendations.

A Savvy Gift

Alexander Lam, known as “Mr. Origami,” is on a mission to spread awareness about the ancient art of paper folding. “My mission for origami is actually to take origami into the next century as to how it’s taught,” said Lam, who has been creating origami since he was 10. “I guess I would consider origami to be a talent, but I like to imagine that anyone can learn it, given practice.”

He began his blog and YouTube channel in December 2012, and he also conducts in-person classes, where he is able to receive feedback on how to better teach others origami. “To the general public, origami isn’t really known, and I hope to change that perception,” said Lam, who’s based in Orange County, Calif. “My end game is not to teach origami but to spread it to the masses, getting people interested in it, talking about it, using it.”

One of his trademark origami pieces is the rose, and his newest venture is giving out roses at events. Combining his love of origami and swing dancing, Lam plans to give out origami roses at ATOMIC Ballroom in Irvine to visitors on Valentine’s Day. “The rose is my most favorite because for the last few years, I’ve made hundreds of roses — black roses, white roses,” Lam said. “Everyone is so enamored because they look so real, so alive, even if it’s made of paper.”

For beginners, Lam recommends learning how to make a blossom, a lily or an iris lily before transitioning to more advanced origami pieces like the rose. To make these beautiful pieces, visit Lam’s blog (http://mrorigami.com/) or his YouTube channel (http://www.youtube.com/user/MrOrigami).

A Sweet Gift

Japanese delicacies. Spaghetti. Pizza. Tacos. These are just a few dishes that Judy Ung of the blog Bebe Love Okazu grew up eating. Her blog is reflective of her multicultural food experience. A California native, she went to Venice High School in Los Angeles and even received a scholarship for college tuition from JACL. Ung first started blogging in March 2010 as a hobby and hasn’t stopped since.

“Around that time, I had been cooking more. I found myself calling my mom often to ask her how to cook this dish or that dish, and they were usually Japanese dishes. Most of the things on the blog are things that my mom made, and I try to re-create the recipe — she never had recipes for many of these dishes, so it was interesting for her to measure things out. It’s been fun for both of us,” said Ung, who’s currently based in Irvine, Calif. “It was not just my own legacy but that of our family’s.”

For those interested in giving a sweet tasting gift, Ung recommends a vanilla-flavored chia seed pudding that’s topped with tsuuban, a red bean paste. “It’s a vanilla-flavored cheesecake pudding, and I incorporated some fresh berries, strawberries and raspberries. But then on top, I made it like a Japanese parfait,” Ung said. “If you’re pressed for time, you can use the premade paste that can be bought at supermarkets. I’m all about simplicity, so hopefully this is something easy to follow.”

Following is “Ung’s Vanilla Chia Seed Parfait With Fresh Berries and Tsubuan” (republished with permission from Bebe Love Okazu, edited for publication).
Chia Seed Pudding Instructions
In a medium-size resealable plastic container, combine chia seeds, coconut milk, vanilla soy milk, alcohol-free vanilla extract and sugar. Gently incorporate all ingredients with a spatula, breaking apart any clumps of seeds to create a smooth mixture. Secure lid and refrigerate for 6-8 hours or overnight. Chia seeds will “puff up,” and the longer the mixture rests, the thicker the pudding will become.

Tsubuan (Coarse Sweet Red Bean Paste) Ingredients
Tsubuan may be made in advance and stored in the refrigerator. In a large bowl, soak azuki beans in water overnight. The beans will expand, and some may split. Rinse the beans, transfer to a medium pot, add water and bring to a boil.

Reduce heat to medium and simmer for 10 minutes, skim foam, discard and repeat until broth is clear of foam. Reduce heat to low, and simmer the azuki beans for about 1.5-2 hours, or until soft. Stir occasionally to make sure that the beans don’t stick to the pot and burn. Add water if necessary as the liquid evaporates.

Once the beans are soft, add sugar and salt and stir constantly until sugar dissolves (about 3-5 minutes). Gently smash the azuki beans into a chunky paste, leaving some of the beans in tact for texture. If the tsubuan is slightly watery in nature, as it cools, the beans will absorb the liquid, creating a thick paste. Once cooled, store tsubuan in an airtight container in the refrigerator.

Parfait Ingredients
- ⅔ cup chia seeds
- 1 cup coconut milk
- 2 teaspoons alcohol-free vanilla extract
- ¼ cup granulated white sugar, or more to taste
- 3-5 cups water, or more as needed
- Tsubuan (chunky sweet red bean paste)

Parfait Instructions
Chop fresh strawberries and set aside. If the strawberries are tart, a touch of granulated sugar may be tossed with the cut strawberries. Wash and drain fresh raspberries, then set aside.

In a mini 4-inch tall dessert glass, layer vanilla chia pudding, top with fresh fruit, add another layer of vanilla chia pudding, then top with a scoop of tsubuan, whip cream and more fresh berries. Serve immediately.

To read more about Ung’s cooking, visit her blog (http://bebeloveokazu.com/) and Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/BebeLoveOkazuFoodBlog).

A Savory Gift
Amy Kimoto-Kahn first began her blog easypeasyjapanese in August 2011 out of her love to cook and entertain.

“People were always asking me for recipes, so I thought it would be a good way to share these with family and friends,” said Kimoto-Kahn, a mother of three, via email.

“Plus, it really gave me a platform for developing a cookbook proposal that I hoped one day would come to fruition.”

Her blog has grown a following in the past few years and reflects her fusion cooking style; she describes her cooking as having an American influence that draws on the cooking traditions of her Japanese heritage.

“I currently am working with an agent and an editor who are helping me to fulfill my dreams and hope that in the very near future I will find a publisher who can make it all come true,” Kimoto-Kahn said.

“I’ve been working on a cookbook proposal for the last three years, and it’s finally ready to present, so this is a very exciting time for me to see that it all could happen.”

She is inspired by food that she sees both on cooking shows and the Internet. Having lived in London for three years, she’s also inspired by the food that she has tasted in international locales. She’s currently based out of Mill Valley, Calif., a city located just outside of San Francisco.

“It’s a great area to explore cooking because of our access to fresh, organic ingredients and everything I would need just across the Golden Gate Bridge in Japan Town,” Kimoto-Kahn said.

A fourth-generation Japanese American, her family has been involved with JACL in the past; her great-grandfather, Mikio M. Fujimoto, was a former president of the JACL in San Francisco.

“I am not sure of his tenure but do know that he was very involved in the community, and I know that it is because of the JACL that my parents and grandparents were able to receive some preparation for their time in internment during the war,” Kimoto-Kahn said. “My family and I appreciate all that the JACL does for the (Japanese American) community and the education that they give to so many about the history and lessons learned from WWII.”

For those who are looking for a dish to share with their friends and family, Kimoto-Kahn recommends a sushi recipe, one of the most viewed posts on her blog.

“I especially like this for Valentine’s Day because it’s just as easy for a husband or boyfriend to do as a wife or girlfriend. It can be prepared as an intimate dinner for two or can be offered to your entire family,” Kimoto-Kahn said.

Following is Kimoto-Kahn’s Sushi Recipe (republished with permission from easypeasyjapanese, edited for publication).
Nominations Open for JACL National Office

LOS ANGELES — The National JACL Nominations Committee is seeking members who are interested in running for a seat on the National JACL Board of Directors. The filing deadline is April 11. After that date, those wishing to declare their candidacy must run from the floor of the National Convention and are subject to additional requirements. The term of office shall be two years covering the 2014-16 biennium.

Positions include National President, National Secretary/Treasurer, Vice President of General Operations, Vice President for Planning & Development, Vice President for Membership, Vice President for Public Affairs, National Youth/Student Council Chair and National Youth/Student Council Representative. A description of the officers and their duties can be found in the updated Nominations and Election Guidelines. Beginning with this election year, the Nominations Committee will be monitoring the campaigning process to provide for and establish guidelines that will ensure that all candidates, campaigns and voting delegates have a pleasant and productive electoral experience.

Of particular note this year is that the committee has instituted a rolling vetting process for potential candidates who file their papers. Therefore, those who file early may be vetted by the committee early and thus cleared to begin their campaign as an official candidate for office.

In every even-numbered convention year, the JACL holds its election of national officers. This year, the National Convention will be held from July 9-12 in San Jose, Calif.

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For more information on running for office, contact any Nominations Committee member or Nominations Committee Chair Kent Kawai at mkawaiasa@netscape.net.

Tule Lake Committee Announces 2014 Pilgrimage Dates

The dates of the 2014 Tule Lake Pilgrimage will be July 4-7, announced the Tule Lake Committee. Registration for the four-day trip begins Feb. 19 on the committee’s website, www.tulelake.org.

This year marks the 20th pilgrimage to Tule Lake. The theme of this year’s trip is “Criminalizing Dissent,” and it will focus on Japanese American dissenters who were incarcerated at the maximum-security segregation center.

Those who were imprisoned at the center were subjected to harsh treatment by the government and lingering stigma from traumatized Japanese Americans compelled to accept wartime propaganda that defined dissent as disloyalty.

Tule Lake is the only War Relocation Authority concentration camp that became a maximum-security segregation center. Tule Lake was unique in having three separate segregation centers. Tule Lake was unique in having three separate segregation centers.

Pilgrimage, please avoid disappointment by registering early.

NATIONAL

APAs in the News

Mark K. Hanasono Appointed Judgeship in the L.A. County Superior Court

SACRAMENTO — Mark K. Hanasono, 39, was appointed to a judgeship in the Los Angeles County Superior Court by Gov. Jerry Brown on Dec. 27.

Hanasono has served as a deputy alternate public defender in the L.A. County Alternate Public Defender’s Office since 2004. He previously served as a deputy public defender in the L.A. County Public Defender’s Office from 2000-04 and as a law clerk for Judge Stephanie Duncan-Peters at the District of Columbia Superior Court from 1999-2000.

Hanasono, who earned a J.D. degree from Georgetown University Law Center and a B.A. from the University of California, Berkeley, fills a vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Stephanie Sautner. Hanasono is a Democrat. The compensation for his position is $181,292.

Maia and Alex Shibutani Named to U.S. Olympic Figure Skating Team

COLORADO SPRINGS, COLO. — The U.S. Figure Skating Assn. named ice dance siblings Maia and Alex Shibutani to the U.S. Olympic Figure Skating Team, along with Meryl Davis as an alternate in the ladies singles event.

The Shibutani siblings, who finished third in their event at the U.S. Championships in January, will join U.S. champions Madison Chock and Charlie White, as well as two-time reigning U.S. silver medalists Madison Chock and Evan Bates in Sochi, Russia.

The Olympic Winter Games run through Feb. 23.

Alex, 22, and Maia, 19, Shibutani were raised in Colorado Springs and Ann Arbor, Mich., where they now attend the University of Michigan.

Ruth Ozeki Is Named a National Book Critics Award Finalist

NEW YORK — Ruth Ozeki was named a finalist in the fiction category for “A Tale for the Time Being” (Viking) by the National Book Critics Circle on Jan. 13.

Thirty finalists were named in six categories — autobiography, biography, criticism, fiction, nonfiction and poetry — for the best books of 2013.

Ozeki, a novelist, filmmaker and Zen Buddhist priest who is a resident of British Columbia and New York City, received her nomination along with Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie (“Americanah”), Alice McDermott (“Someone”), Javier Marías (“The Infatuations”) and Donna Tartt (“The Goldfinch”).

“A Tale for the Time Being” was also shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize and will be published in more than 30 countries.

Israel Names Missile Facility After the Late Sen. Daniel Inouye

JERUSALEM — Israel has named an Arrow defense missile facility after the late U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye for his contribution to Israel, marking the first time Israel has named a military facility after a non-Israeli.

In a ceremony that took place on Jan. 14, Inouye’s widow, Irene Hirano Inouye, accepted the honor on her husband’s behalf.

In an official statement by Rep. Colleen Hanabusa (D-Hawaii), a member of the House Armed Services Committee, she spoke of Inouye’s legacy and how his work impacted not only Hawaii but also the U.S. and the world.

“When I had the opportunity to travel to Israel with a congressional delegation in August, Prime Minister (Benjamin) Netanyahu told me that he loved Sen. Inouye and that Israel could not thank him enough,” Hanabusa said. “Sen. Inouye played an integral role in transforming the relationship between our two countries, and I am pleased that our allies around the world continue to honor him and carry on his legacy.”

USA Today Photographer Robert Hanashiro to Be Honored by the National Press Photographer’s Assn.

The National Press Photographer’s Assn. on Jan. 17 named USA Today photographer Robert Hanashiro as the recipient of its Morris Berman Citation, which is awarded to an individual for special contributions advancing the interests of photojournalism.

Hanashiro, who has been a staff photographer since 1989 and has covered various high-profile news, sports and entertainment events for the paper, also is founder of Sports Shooter, a popular online community of sports photographers and photojournalists.
Estate Tax or Income Tax?
Planning for Your Charitable Contributions

By Steve Okamoto
Planned Giving Committee Chairman

The American public is a very generous group. In 2012, Americans donated $316.23 billion to charitable organizations. Most of it came from individuals to a tune of $223 billion. Why are Americans so generous?

A recent study showed that the main reason people make charitable contributions is because they believe in the work that the charity provides. However, there is one other compelling reason that people give. The U.S. Government wants you to give. In fact, the government encourages charitable giving! It feels that if people give to charitable organizations like the JACL, then the government won’t have to provide that service — another group will do its job.

How does the government encourage people to give? No, it doesn’t put up billboards saying, “Please give so we don’t have to.” No, it does it in a much larger way. The government gives citizens tax incentives if they make a charitable donation.

Tax incentives catch people’s attention. Here are two basic incentives that the government allows citizens to make donations and earn benefits: the Federal Estate Tax and the Federal Income Tax.

The Estate Tax
The tax imposed on the transfer of the taxable estate of a deceased person to an heir whether the property is transferred via a will, according to the laws of intestacy or by trust. Included in the taxable estate are also payments from certain life insurance policies. However, before the tax is applied, certain exemptions are allowed to be deducted from the gross estate. Since 2010, the allowable exemption is $5 million per person, and it increases slightly each year. After the exemption is applied, the remainder or net taxable estate is taxed at the current rate of 40 percent. This gives the final amount of tax due to Uncle Sam.

The Federal Income Tax
The tax imposed on earned income from various sources. Every citizen pays taxes, so a detailed explanation is really not necessary. I bring up these two taxes because of the choice of tax that many high-net-worth families are facing when they have to give to a charity.

High-net-worth families with charitable intent have used various giving strategies to reduce the size of their estates so that the estate is not big enough ($5 million) to have to use the charitable giving strategy to reduce their estate to a level where there is no estate tax implication.

Now, these clients are looking to take advantage of the income tax deduction rather than the estate tax deduction and are giving away their assets during their lifetime instead of leaving charitable bequests. The favored vehicles to give assets away are donor-advised funds and charitable trusts.

Here is an example of how giving assets away will benefit the donor. Suppose a couple that is 70 and 69 years old, respectively, contributes $250,000 to a 6.5 percent charitable trust. They would receive a $75,000 income tax deduction PLUS a lifetime income of $16,250 per year. It’s sort of a cake-and-eat-it-too scenario.

These techniques usher in a new concept about charitable planning. Give it away but still enjoy the income benefits. A person would get a charitable income tax deduction for giving an asset away, but he or she also would receive income for life. These techniques may cost a bit more, but they sure make a lot more sense.

For more information, email steveokamod@gmail.com.
Japanese American artist Joel Nakamura, the youngest of three creative siblings, will have his folk art-inspired murals showcased at the Feb. 12 grand opening of a new education center at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science.

By Nalea J. Ko
Reporter

Sitting in her Whittier, Calif., parlor decorated with her family’s paintings and sculptures, Grace Nakamura proudly says that she has been practicing art ever since she was old enough to hold a pencil.

The 86-year-old Japanese American recalls during World War II when her family of seven was abruptly relocated from their Southern California home and unjustly interned at Manzanar. The family was among the 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry who were incarcerated following the war hysteria and racism that erupted in the aftermath of the Pearl Harbor attack in 1941.

As children, Grace and her late brother, Larry Shinoda, an automotive designer who was credited with the 1968 Corvette Stingray, loved to draw on cutout sides of paper sacks that their mother supplied for them.

“My mother was a very resourceful person,” Grace said. “She was a widow and didn’t have a lot of money. In those days, they used to have flyers they used to pass around in people’s mailboxes. She’d save the side that was good, the blank side, and there was a little box of pencil stubs. That was always there for us. It was right near the radio.”

After the war, with the help of the Quakers’ organization, American Friends Service, Grace was able to get a scholarship to attend the University of Redlands to study sociology and education. She went on to teach in the Pasadena School District and receive two master’s degrees. While in her early 20s, Grace would meet Yoshio “Yosh” Nakamura, now 88, who also shared her love of fine arts.

“We were at the Union Church of Los Angeles. The young people decided they’d like to go to the beach after the service. So, they all got in the cars. This one woman didn’t have a ride, and I happened to have — as a veteran I was able to go to their
war surplus stores and they had a Ford that had a Mercury engine that was for sale,” said Yosh. “She needed a ride. I took her to the beach. She was at the university, and I was about to go to USC.”

Yosh, a decorated war veteran of the famed all-Japanese 442nd Regimental Combat Team, also grew up in Southern California. After the war, Yosh, who was first drawn to watercolors, was able to briefly hone his art skills in Florence, Italy. He went on to receive his bachelor’s and master’s degree in fine arts from the University of Southern California. Later, Yosh was one of the first faculty members to ink a contract with Rio Hondo Community College in Whittier, Calif., and then become the first chair of the fine arts department.

The husband and wife will celebrate 64 years of marriage this year. The three Nakamura children also inherited their parents’ love of doing art.

The youngest of the three children, 54-year-old Joel, is a professional artist. Luckily for Joel, his mother is also a natural public relations manager, as she promotes his work pro bono.

“Here my mom is calling the museum, and I’ll tell her, ‘Please don’t do that.’ But she does it anyway,” said Joel, with a laugh, from his art studio in New Mexico. “I get the PR whether I want it or not. This is living testament that I’m talking to you. My mom called up.”

Three of Joel’s murals that depict the museum’s collections were unveiled on Feb. 12 at the grand opening of the $56.5 million Morgridge Family Exploration Center at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. The new five-level, 126,000-square-foot education wing was funded thanks to $30 million from the city’s Better Denver Bond program and $26.5 million from other museum fundraising.

“Three Joel’s murals that depict the museum’s collections were unveiled on Feb. 12 at the grand opening of the $56.5 million Morgridge Family Exploration Center at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science. The new five-level, 126,000-square-foot education wing was funded thanks to $30 million from the city’s Better Denver Bond program and $26.5 million from other museum fundraising.”

“We really wanted to find just the right artist who could interpret the museum’s fabulous collections in a way that would connect to kids,” said Lisa McGuire, the museum’s exhibits graphic designer. “Exhibits project manager Bryce Snellgrove and I had both worked with Santa Fe artist Joel Nakamura before, so we thought he’d be a perfect match for this vision. As luck would have it, Joel was also excited to work with the museum again. It was apparent to Bryce and to me that with Joel’s youthful enthusiasm and fascination with the collections, something wonderful was in store. And we were not disappointed.”

An award-winning illustrator, fine artist and third-degree Aikido black belt, Joel lives in Santa Fe, N.M., and has been an artist for more than 30 years. Grace called the Pacific Citizen earlier this month to promote Joel’s murals at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science.

“She scolded their PR person. And they actually didn’t know that there was artwork going to be in this new wing. They were actually grateful that they were informed about something that they should have known about,” Joel said. “To her, I’m still a 10-year-old.”

The mother of three, however, is equally proud of all her children’s careers and creative endeavors.

“Carrying on the resourceful art tradition that began with her mother, Grace would provide big sheets of X-ray paper that she acquired from her radiologist uncle for her children to do art projects on when they were growing up. The eldest Nakamura child, Linda, is now an immigration attorney who also does photography. The middle sibling, Daniel, is a teacher who is also a skilled origami artist.

Together, the Nakamura family has had seven art shows. They will showcase their works as a family at the 54th Hillcrest Festival of Fine Arts in La Habra Heights, Calif., from Feb. 21-23.

From her family home where the Nakamura art is on permanent display, Grace laughs saying, “I’m not the typical Japanese mom.” But she adds, looking at her husband, “I get a lot of shows for you.”

“All of our kids are embarrassed,” Yosh said laughingly. “She opens a lot of doors. But she’s not a typical Asian woman.”

For more information about the Hillcrest Festival of Fine Arts, visit www.HillcrestArtsFestival.org.
ABC Entertainment Group President Meets With Asian American Organizations

By JACL National Staff


During the controversial October episode, host Kimmel held a “Kid’s Table” segment in which he posed the following question to four children: “Americans owe China a lot of money, $1.3 trillion. How should we pay them back?” One child immediately suggested, “Kill everyone in China.” Another child said, “If we don’t allow them to live, then they’ll try to kill us.”

The skit triggered national protests, and a White House petition drive garnered more than 100,000 signatures. Responses to the Oct. 16 episode included charges of racism and the promotion of genocide. Following demonstrations throughout the country, ABC issued a formal apology for the airing of the “Kid’s Table” skit, stating the segment should never have been broadcast. Host Kimmel also apologized on the air, in writing and personally met with concerned citizens to hear their viewpoints and apologize. The “Kid’s Table” segment was pulled from all media and was discontinued for all future shows.

The Japanese American Citizens League and the Asian Pacific American Media Coalition negotiated the Jan. 24 meeting with ABC executives to discuss the incident and formulate measures to prevent future occurrences.

According to ABC, the incident was the result of human error, and steps have been implemented to prevent future errors across the ABC spectrum. All material will be subject to review under a dual system that ensures broadcast standards are correctly met.

At the request of the organizations, ABC also agreed to work with Asian American representatives to incorporate programming around Asian American Heritage Month in May to counter racial stereotypes and racism. ABC also agreed to organize showrunner meetings with creative staff to promote the use of AAPI characters and story lines.

"ABC deserves praise for stepping up and taking responsibility," said JACL National Director Priscilla Ouchida. “ABC demonstrated a willingness to view the portrayal of Asians in the media from a new perspective. The meeting enhanced the relationship between the Asian American community and ABC. The consensus is that this was a win-win-win for ABC, for concerned organizations and for the portrayal of Asians in network programming.”

ABC executives in attendance at the meeting included Lee; Hope Hartman, vp of corporate communications; Steve Milovich, senior vp of global HR, talent and workforce diversity; Olivia Cohen-Cutler, senior vp of broadcast standards and practices; and Tim McNeal, vp of creative talent development.

Representing Asian American organizations were Ouchida, whom also serves as co-chair of the Asian Pacific American Media Coalition; Dan Mayeda, co-chair of APAMC; Ed Moy of the Chinese American Citizens Alliance; Haipei Shue of the National Council of Chinese Americans; Tom Hayashi of OCA; and Guy Aoki of Media Action Network for Asian Americans.
Los Angeles Announces DOR Commemoration Event

LOS ANGELES — More than seven decades after Executive Order 9066 was issued by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on Feb. 19, 1942, events continue to affect generations of Japanese Americans. As an acknowledgment of this impact, the theme of the 2014 Los Angeles Day of Remembrance is “Generations Speak Out: Impacts of E.O. 9066.”

The Los Angeles DOR commemoration is set to take place on Saturday, Feb. 15, at the Japanese American National Museum from 2-4 p.m., followed by a reception catered by Carri E. Morita’s Community Caterers.

Central to this year’s program will be performances by individuals representing their respective generations.

Tribute will be paid to the Israeli generation with a reading by Nomi Shimizu. Based on extensive interviews of her mother, Yano created this tribute for the DOR program.

Harold Kasamatsu, a Nisei author from the Bay Area, will share his testimony presented to the 1981 Commission on the Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians about the impact of the wartime incarceration on his life. Volta Houston, a Shijii Nisei playwright, will also present her original poetry about her incarceration experience.

Representatives of the Sansei and Yonsei generations will share their connections to the camp experience and the impact on their lives by way of their parents’ and grandparents’ influence and stories. Performance artists Jule Ninomi and Sean Miura will present their original pieces.

“The Day of Remembrance committee is grateful to the artists who have generously created works for this year’s DOR program,” said Suzi Kasai, NCRR representative.

“We encourage the community to come out to support the artists and this very important annual commemoration.”

The DOR program is sponsored by JANM, the Japanese American Citizens League’s Pacific Southwest District, the Manzanar Committee and Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress.

The event is co-sponsored by community organizations including the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, Encarnación Workers Advocates, Little Tokyo Service Center, Muslim Public Affairs Council, Philippine Workers Center and the Shura Council of Southern California.

For more information, contact the NCRR at (213) 254-0350 or NCRRPACIFIC@213.com.

LTHS Observes the 130th Anniversary of Little Tokyo

LOS ANGELES — Throughout 2014, the Little Tokyo Historical Society will observe a yearlong celebration of the 130th anniversary of Little Tokyo in Los Angeles, which had its origin in 1884 with the establishment of a humble restaurant, Kame, at 340 E. First St.

To celebrate the rich historic and cultural heritage of historic Little Tokyo, the LTHS invites organizations and individuals who are passionately interested in the past, present and future Little Tokyo to co-sponsor developing anniversary presentations, oral histories, community photo-sharing activities, exhibitions and intergenerational activities.

Planning meetings are the first Saturday of the month at 11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. and are open to the public.

The commemorative project was introduced during the Jan. 1 “Oshogatsu in Little Tokyo” event and had its official kick-off at the 2014 LTHS Shinnenkai New Year’s luncheon on Feb. 1.

LTHS is a not-for-profit, all-volunteer organization that focuses on researching and discovering the historical resources, stories and connections of sites, buildings and events related to Little Tokyo as an ethnic heritage neighborhood.

The organization is committed to documenting and verifying the history of local sites and buildings, as well as preserving and sharing the history and personal stories of Little Tokyo and its residents.

For more information about the 130th Little Tokyo birthday observance, including volunteering, membership and donations, please visit www.littletokyo.org or contact Michael Okamura, president, at littletokyo@japantimes.com or call (626) 840-4809.
Ingredients

- 5 cups sushi rice (recipe at right)
- 10 sheets nori, toasted and cut into fourths
- 1/4 cup vinegar
- Salt

Sushi toppings

- 2-3 ripe avocados (cut into quarters and then sliced at a diagonal in the peel so that people can take a section and scoop out what they need)
- 1/2 Japanese cucumber, julienned (can substitute any cucumber)
- 1/2 lb lump crab meat (to make it easy, most seafood sections at the local grocery store already have this cooked, shelled and in a nice plastic container)
- 1/2 lb baby shrimp, cooked
- 1/2 lb sushi-grade tuna, albacore, yellow tail or any other fresh fish
- 1/2 cup white sesame seeds, toasted (these are available at most Asian grocery stores)
- 1/2 cup mayonnaise
- Soy sauce, wasabi and ginger

Sushi Rice Instructions

Prepare cooked rice, flavor it lightly by mixing in about 1/4 cup of a vinegar/sugar combination or seasoned rice vinegar. If making less rice, use less vinegar mixture. Some people like to fan the sushi rice while you are mixing the vinegar in so that you get a nice sheen to the rice. If you don’t have time, don’t worry, you don’t have to season — just serve plain.

Crissy Nori Squares Instructions

To toast nori, put sesame oil in a small bowl. Very lightly brush sheets of nori on both sides with any other fresh fish.

1. To toast nori, put sesame oil in a small bowl. Very lightly brush sheets of nori on both sides with any other fresh fish.

2. For dipping or adding — sesame seeds (sprinkle on), mayonnaise, soy sauce, wasabi and pickled ginger on the side.

3. Have the kids take a square of nori and spread a small amount of rice in the center and top with desired toppings. Show them how to carefully dip in soy sauce. Eat like a hand roll.

To read more about Kimoto-Kahn’s cooking, visit her blog (http://easypeasyjapanesy.com), Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/easypeasyjapanesy) and YouTube channel (http://www.youtube.com/user/easypeasyjapanesy).
NEC Welcomes New District Representatives

By JACL National Staff

For the National Education Committee, 2014 has begun with good news as it welcomes Stan Shikuma, representing the Pacific Northwest District, and Laurel Shannon, representing the Eastern District.

Shikuma is a Sansei who was born in Bogan, Ore., and grew up in Watsonville, Calif. His father's family was sent to the Poston War Relocation Authority concentration camp during World War II, and his mother’s family was sent to Tule Lake.

Among his accomplishments, Shikuma helped organize the first Asian American Studies course at Stanford in 1976 and helped lead the Asian Student Union while at the University of California, Berkeley. After moving to Seattle in 1981, he worked for redress and reparations with JACL, WCR and NCRR, as well as wrote numerous articles on redress and the Hirabayashi Coram Nobis case. He joined the Tule Lake Committee in 1979 and has attended every Tule Lake Pilgrimage since then. He has also pursued his passion for taiko and serves in leadership positions for taiko organizations on a local, regional and national level. He regularly teaches taiko classes for adults as well as children.

Shikuma is well-versed in the terminology of the Tule Lake Segregation Center, the most notorious of the 10 major WRA concentration camps and the largest confinement center for Japanese Americans during WWII. In 2012, he co-chaired the Power of Words Committee of the Seattle Chapter and has organized panels and made presentations on the subject at several national conferences.

Shannon recently earned her California Multiple Subject teaching credential to teach grades K-8 and music. Her passion is to teach history from multiple perspectives to all elementary grades, as well as teach multicultural education in all subjects. Prior to beginning her credential program, Shannon graduated with a B.A. in American studies and education from the University of California, Santa Cruz, where she graduated magna cum laude with highest honors in the major. Shannon focused on ethnic studies, particularly the experiences of Asian Americans throughout American history, literature, popular culture and education. She had the privilege of exploring her family's experience during WWII in the internment camps, which has inspired her to continue her lifelong learning of the JA experience.

Shannon first joined the JACL during her senior year of high school as a gift from her uncle, and she has continued to be a member ever since. Among her accomplishments, Shannon was the recipient of the JACL Performing Arts Scholarship, which gave her access to study music in college.

Their backgrounds will be very valuable to the NEC and its work to assist in the revisions to the Curriculum Guide and contributing recommendations on the eventual update on what should be included on the JACL Education website.

U.S. Japan Council Selects 2014 Leadership Delegates

Members of the 2014 Japanese American Leadership Delegation are joined by the USJC's Kaz Maniwa (far left) and Irene Hirano Inouye (far right) in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES — The U.S. Japan Council has selected 10 representatives for the 2014 Japanese American Leadership Delegation, which will visit Japan from March 7-14.

The JALD program provides the opportunity for Japanese American leaders from across the U.S. to travel to Japan to engage with “Japanese leaders in the business, government, academic, nonprofit and cultural sectors. The trip also allows Japanese leaders to gain a greater understanding of multicultural America through the experiences of a diverse group of Japanese Americans.”

The program is supported by Japan’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs and implemented by the U.S. Japan Council. Since its inception in 2000, 163 delegates have participated in the program.

Members of the 2014 delegation are as follows:

- Elisa Dozono of Portland, Ore. Dozono is a partner at Miller Nash LLP, where she specializes in business litigation and government law.
- Leona Hiraoka of Washington, D.C. Hiraoka is a media specialist who also serves as vp of communications for Points of Light, the world’s largest organization dedicated to volunteerism. She also is a board member on the Pacific Citizen’s Editorial Board and is vp of the Washington, D.C., JACL chapter.
- Yoriko Kishimoto of Palo Alto, Calif. Kishimoto, an international business consultant and author, is also director of the Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District and former mayor of Palo Alto.
- Brad Miyake of Bellevue, Wash. Miyake is acting city manager for the city of Bellevue, where he has played a primary role in developing the city's budget process and improving management structures.
- Carrie Okinaga of Honolulu, Hi. Okinaga is senior vp, general counsel and corporate secretary for First Hawaiian Bank, the oldest and largest financial institution in Hawaii.
- Derek Okubo of Denver, Colo. Okubo is the executive director of the Agency for Human Rights and Community Partnerships, where he oversees eight offices and 10 community commissions that serve as a bridge between the mayor's office, local government departments and the community.
- Keiko Matsudo Orrall of Boston, Mass. Orrall currently represents the 12th Bristol District of Massachusetts and was elected into office in October 2011. Rep. Orrall is the first Japanese American to serve as a member of the Massachusetts legislature.
- Toko Serita of Queens, N.Y. Serita was recently appointed as an acting Supreme Court justice in Queens County, N.Y., and has served on the bench since 2005. She is the first Japanese American judge in the state of New York.
- Keith Walters of Santa Monica, Calif. Walters is a Lt. Col. and Army Research Fellow for the U.S. Army/Rand Corp., where he works on U.S. strategy and policy in East Asia and on the development of future Army concepts. Walters also served in Kandahar, Afghanistan, where he was the chief operating officer of a task force of 1,200 soldiers.
- Gary Yamashiro of Chicago, Ill. Yamashiro is detective commander for the Chicago Police Department, where he has served for the past 27 years. Among his other achievements, Yamashiro was the former commander of the Chicago Police Academy and has assisted various Japanese officials in the field of criminal justice and law.

Also accompanying the delegation to Japan will be USJC President Irene Hirano Inouye and Consul Izuru Shimmura from the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles.

In addition to Tokyo, the group will visit Fukuoka and participate in a symposium sponsored by the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership and the U.S.-Japan Council. The group also is scheduled to meet with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida and various other officials.

The delegates were officially named on Jan. 24 at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo.
A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

**NATIONAL**

The JACL National Convention
SAN JOSE, CA
July 9-12
DoubleTree by Hilton
2050 Gateway Place
The 2014 JACL National Convention’s theme is “We Are America.” More details will be available soon.
Info: Email dc@jacl.org or visit www.jacl.org.

**EDC**

Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center
BOSTON, MA
March 7, 5:30 p.m.
Empire Garden Restaurant
690 Washington St.
The 37th Annual Nikkei Matsuri
San Francisco, CA
Feb. 7-20, 2014
San Francisco Japantown
Your guide to notable community events in the San Francisco Bay Area and beyond.

**NCWNP**

Film Screening of ‘Relocation, Arkansas’
SACRAMENTO, CA
Feb. 15, Noon
California Museum
Secretary of State Auditorium
1500 11th St.
Cost: $20/General Admission; $15/Students and Children
This is the premiere of the film “Relocation, Arkansas,” which documents how a small-town mayor stood up for Japanese Americans who were unjustly incarcerated at Jerome and Rohwer camps during World War II.
Info: Call (916) 506-6587 or visit www.ncwnc.org.

**PSW**

The Go For Broke National Education Center
100 N. Central Ave.
Los Angeles, CA
Feb. 15, 2 p.m.
Japanese American National Museum
100 N. Central Ave.
Cost: Donations
This event commemorates the 72nd anniversary of the 1944 trial when the U.S. government charged 63 Japanese Americans at Heart Mountain with evading the draft.
Info: Visit www.jcenc.org or call (773) 275-0097, ext. 222.

**MDC**

Chicago Day of Remembrance
CHICAGO, IL
Feb. 16, 2-4 p.m.
Chicago History Museum
1601 N. Clark St.
Actor Keith Uchima will lead a theatrical reading of excerpts from the 1944 trial when the U.S. government charged 63 Japanese Americans at Heart Mountain with evading the draft. The event is free and open to the public.
Info: Visit www.jchih.org or call (773) 275-0097, ext. 222.

**ADVERTISE HERE**

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:**

nalea@pacificcitizen.org
(800) 966-6157
TRIBUTE

ISAMU SAM FUJINAKA

Sam, at the age of 92, passed away on Oct. 21, 2013. Sam was born and raised in Lodi, Calif., where he attended and graduated from Lodi High School. At the time of World War II, the Fujinaka family was relocated to an internment camp in Rohwer, Ark. Sam continued to farm in Colorado until he entered into the U.S. Army and was in the armored division and then the Nisei Military Intelligence Service (MIS). On Feb. 23, 2012, Sam was a recipient of the Congressional Gold Medal for his service in the Nisei Military Intelligence Service.

Once out of the service, Sam resumed his passion for farming in Lodi and married Ruby Matsuhiro. Sam was preceded in death by his wife, Ruby, sister, Tamiko Kada, and brother, Keiji Fujinaka. Sam is survived by his three daughters, Sandra (Gary) Kanemori, Kathleen Skeels and married Ruby Matsuhiro. Sam was preceded in death by his wife, Ruby, sister, Tamiko Kada, and brother, Keiji Fujinaka. Sam is survived by his three daughters, Sandra (Gary) Kanemori, Kathleen Skeels and Matthew Masao; sister, Yuriko Sahara of Hawaii; sister-in-law, Alice (Brian) Roberts; brother of Masao Ben Shimizu, Masao Ben, 97, Gardena, Calif., passed away on Jan. 5, was held on Saturday, Jan. 11, at 4 p.m. at Gardena Buddhist Church, 1517 W. 166th St., Gardena.

Sam is survived by his sons, Dr. Starley (Irene), Cary (Linda), Gary (Linda), Dr. Kelvin (Artene) Shimizu; grandchildren, Natalie, Alex, Scott, Darin, Garrett, Kaetlin Shimizu, Nicole (Rocky) Powell, Jocelyn Shimizu and Jennifer (Ryan) Kucera; great-grandchild, Kaito Kucera, Powell and Lukas Reef Shimizu; brother, Asayuki (Hirotoshi) Higashi; Shigeo (Dianne) Kawabe and Shigeyoshi (Dianne) Kawabe and Shirley Yukata Nakatani.

Murakami, Mitsu, 97, San Gabriel, CA; Jan. 5, survived by daughter, Kathleen Silva; brother, Suyoshi Nakamura; sister, Teri (George) Border; 3 gc; 8 ggc.

Nakayama, George, 90, Gardena, CA; Jan. 8, predeceased by wife, Marjorie; survived by children, Richard (Stephanie) and Susan (Martin) Slay; also survived by 4 siblings and many nieces, nephews and other relatives; 3 gc.

Nishimura, Rev. William Y., 98, Atascadero, CA; Dec. 14, survived by wife, Florence; sister, Mary Takamura.

Noguchi, Mery, 90, California; Dec. 23, survived by children, Dr. Jean and Paul; brother, George (Mitze) Hongo; sister, Jess Jett; daughter-in-law, Reiko; 2 gc.

Shimizu, Masao Ben, 97, Gardena, CA; Jan. 6, survived by sons, Dr. Starley (Irene), Cary (Linda), Gary (Linda), Dr. Kelvin (Artene) Shimizu; brother, Asayuki (Hirotoshi) Higashi; Shigeo (Dianne) Kawabe and Shigeyoshi (Dianne) Kawabe and Shirley Yukata Nakatani.

Yamamoto, Richard H., 91, Spokane, WA; Dec. 31; a member of Spokane Seiki Kan Dojo and the U.S. Judo Federation; he was also a member of the Highland Park United Methodist Church and the Spokane JACL chapter; predeceased by his parents and brothers, Edward and Floyd; survived by wife, Kaezue; children, Dale (Louise), Karen (Mark), Clyde (Elaine) and DeAnn; sister-in-law, Kimi; 6 gc; 1 ggc.

Yoshida, Martin Curtis, 60, Los Angeles, CA; Jan. 7; survived by wife, Patty; sons, Ryan and Jeff; sister, Sharon (Stan) Uchizono; mother-in-law, Masaiko Akita Takata; sister-in-law, Pauline (Don) Strietzel; nieces and nephews, Joseph, Joe and Jackie Strietzel, Jaime (Ben) Hynes and Janele (Sonni) Bocella.

Contact: busmg@pacificcitizen.org or call (213) 620-1767

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.
The Amache Museum is maintained by the students of the Amache Preservation Society at Granada High School and is opened during an annual pilgrimage. Amache is located just outside the town of Granada, Colo.

The outside critics did not consider that we were in a prison, even though we did not have the freedom to come and go as we pleased. Also, the prisoners got free clothes and personal items. We had to buy all of it from the small monthly allowances we were given. So, it was necessary for each family to have someone working and even then, to spend some of the savings that you had left after being incarcerated, to come and go as we pleased. Also, the prisoners had to subsist in Amache. Our food was limited by a daily budget of $0.50 per person, including all of the food we produced and used. Yet, they said that we were all of it from the small monthly allowances we were given. So, it was necessary for each family to have someone working and even then, to spend some of the savings that you had left after being incarcerated, to come and go as we pleased. Also, the prisoners had to subsist in Amache. Our food was limited by a daily budget of $0.50 per person, including all of the food we produced and used. Yet, they said that we were being coddled.

We were far from being coddled in Amache. It was nothing like a YMCA camp.

Tonai makes a solid case for rethinking how we refer to Colorado’s concentration camp. Let’s just call it “Amache,” respect its prisoners and not trivialize it by adding a word that no other concentration camp is burdened with.

NOTE: Don’t forget, Day of Remembrance — which commemorates President Roosevelt’s signing of Executive Order 9066, which in turn led to the incarceration of Japanese Americans in 1942 — is Feb. 19.

Gil Asakawa is a current member of the P.C. Editorial Board and former P.C. Board Chair. His blog is at www.nikkeiview.com, and he also is the Japanese expert for Answers.com at www.japanese.answers.com.

NAGASU >> continued from page 3

Granted, Wagner, who’s apparently the sweetheart of the figure skating world (at least in the U.S.), may have had a more consistent year and may have had more first-place wins, but the question about race still lingers.

One wonders whether the USFSA would have made a similar decision if the third-place winner had been African American. Would it have dared to raise the ire of the nation’s African American community and risk accusations of racism? Would its “objective” analysis have discounted all the subjective issues that come with such a decision?

In short, would it have had the guts to remove a black girl who had won the right to represent the U.S. in favor of a white one?

I think not.

Perhaps the decision to bump Nagasu in favor of Wagner was not based on racial considerations per se, but the action suggests that the USFSA did not fear an immediate and angry public outcry from Asian Americans protesting the decision for what it might look like.

It’s difficult to charge racism in this situation, but you know the old saying about if it walks like a duck and quacks like a duck . . . You judge for yourself.

I think about Craig Dixon, the best in the world, who lost his opportunity by his own mistake and wonder what was so different this time that the USFSA would ignore, if not the rules, then the integrity of the competition.

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I think about Craig Dixon, the best in the world, who lost his opportunity by his own mistake and wonder what was so different this time that the USFSA would ignore, if not the rules, then the integrity of the competition.

What I know is that there was a time when you had to earn your way to the Olympics, when it wasn’t anointed, even to the best who may fail on any given day.

John Tateishi is a former JACL national director.