NATALIE NAKASE

The video coordinator intern for the NBA's Los Angeles Clippers paves her own path on and off the court.
Letter to the Editor

TULE LAKE INMATES

In John Tateishi’s column from the March 21-April 3, 2014, edition of the Pacific Citizen titled, “Why . . . And What For?” he acknowledges, “There are those like the resisters, the No-No Boys, the renouncers and others, who may have legitimate gripes against the JACL for what happened during WWII.” He goes on but is mistaken if he believes they have been effectively dealt with.

In 2002, the JACL did apologize to over 300 draft resisters, which has brought healing, but there was no mention of the 12,000 Tule Lake inmates who have been stigmatized by the JA community and the JACL as disloyal because they protested their unjust incarceration.

This is a group that has been maligned and unfairly labeled and stereotyped, and the misunderstanding continues to this day, as evidenced by the common JACL use of the highly derogatory slur “No-No Boys” when referring to former Tule Lake inmates.

I wrote this commentary (see Tule Lake Background on page 10 in this issue) to help provide some background about Tule Lake and to urge JACL members to consider how they might heal the rift that has divided our community for more than 70 years.

Yuko Kawaratan, JACL member, California

>> See LETTER on page 10
EDUCATION MATTERS

NEW MEXICO JACL CHAPTER HOSTS FIRST TEACHER-TRAINING WORKSHOP FUNDED BY JACS GRANT

The New Mexico Chapter recently hosted the first teacher-training workshop funded by the Japanese American Confinement Sites grant, where teachers from the Albuquerque area took the day away from their classrooms to learn about the incarceration of Americans of Japanese ancestry by the U.S. government during World War II.

Although none of the 10 camps operated by the War Relocation Authority were in New Mexico, a number of confinement sites that were operated by the FBI or military were in the state. The workshop was able to draw light upon lesser-known confinement sites, including the Lordsburg Internment Camp in Hidalgo County, Fort Stanton in Lincoln County, Old Raton Ranch (Raton Ranch Civilian Detention Station) and the Santa Fe Internment Camp in Santa Fe County.

Jennifer Yazawa, who more than 10 years ago coordinated a teacher-training workshop funded in part through the federal Civil Liberties Public Education Program, again reached out to her cadre of resources to include various public school districts, as well as charter and private schools.

Victor Yamada, a recent “transplant” from Southern California, has been actively involved with the New Mexico Chapter. Yamada worked with Andrew Russell, a professor at Central New Mexico Community College, who prepared the program proposal to JACS for funds to assemble a traveling exhibit that would tour throughout New Mexico. Both men recognized that the workshop would provide an excellent opportunity to inform teachers about the exhibit.

Abo to attendance at the workshop were JACL New Mexico Chapter President Steve Togami; Davis Begay, honorary consul general for Japan, and his wife, Ikuko; Esther Churchill; and Nikki Noinuma Louis, who took part in the event by contributing her personal stories.

Andy Noguchi, the chair of the committee, and I trust his integrity. He doesn’t do things lightly and without reason.

I’m curious to know what the recent historical research is because, frankly, I’m not exactly sure what this new enterprise hopes to reveal that isn’t already known about the infamous Questions 27 and 28 and their impact on the lives of Japanese Americans.

Will it implicate the JACL somehow in the nefarious workings of the questionnaire? My sense is that that’s more about hard feelings at this point than accusations of actual disloyalty.

Back in 1975, as the chair of the NCWN district’s redress committee, I formed a select committee to put together a survey to measure how the JA community felt about redress. This was at a time when the vast majority strongly opposed the idea and I wanted a sense of statistical validity but to get answers. Cherry kept saying it was too volatile and would inflame the community.

The survey wasn’t intended to be statistically valid but to get answers. Cherry kept pointing out that questions were leading and obviously sought certain kinds of responses, which, admittedly, was true, but the questions posed opposed to redress plenty of opportunities to let their views be known.

We ran into trouble when I wanted to include a question that said something like, “Do you think No-No Boys should be eligible for redress,” a provocative question in those days. Cherry said it was too volatile and would inflame the community.

FOR THE RECORD

THE NO-NO BOYS

By John Tateishi

Recently, the NCWNP district raised the No-No Boy issue, proposing that the JACL take a thorough look into the controversy surrounding the circumstances that led to the loyalty questionnaire in camp and, ultimately, to produce what amounts to a white paper and what I assume is an honest reckoning on this issue.

The NCWNP civil rights committees, by undertaking this new initiative, hopes to “show that [the No-No and nanminzai] were not ‘disloyal’ as the government tried to tell us.” Furthermore, this investigation and recent historical research can serve to “debunk this myth [of disloyalty] that has harmed many families (down through the generations) and divided the Japanese American community.”

The ultimate goal, in addition to clearing the air, is to “hold the government accountable for this.

I’m curious to know what the recent historical research is because, frankly, I’m not exactly sure what this new enterprise hopes to reveal that isn’t already known about the infamous Questions 27 and 28 and their impact on the lives of Japanese Americans.

Will it implicate the JACL somehow in the nefarious workings of the questionnaire? My sense is that that’s more about hard feelings at this point than accusations of actual disloyalty.

Back in 1975, as the chair of the NCWN district’s redress committee, I formed a select committee to put together a survey to measure how the JA community felt about redress. This was at a time when the vast majority strongly opposed the idea and I wanted a questionnaire to give me answers.

The committee consisted of Cherry Tetsunoda, the highest-ranking Asian in the Carter administration (she was temporarily living in S.F.); Ben Takeshita, committee co-chair; Ray Okamura, a virtual walking encyclopedia on the internment; and Mike Honda.

The survey wasn’t intended to be statistically valid but to get answers. Cherry kept pointing out that questions were leading and obviously sought certain kinds of responses, which, admittedly, was true, but the questions posed opposed to redress plenty of opportunities to let their views be known.

We ran into trouble when I wanted to include a question that said something like, “Do you think No-No Boys should be eligible for redress,” a provocative question in those days. Cherry said it was too volatile and would inflame the community.

>> See NO-NO BOYS on page 16
Japanese American author Naomi Hirahara's new mystery series 'Murder on Bamboo Lane' follows 23-year-old Hapa bicycle police officer Ellie Rush as she pedals during the day through L.A. and rides the subway home at night.

By Naota J. Ko
Reporter

Fans of Japanese American author Naomi Hirahara's mystery novels have voraciously read for years about the fictitious antics of amateur detective and gardener Mas Arai, a character inspired by her late father, Isamu.

Now, the Pasadena, Calif.-based Japanese American writer has penned a new series "Murder on Bamboo Lane," following newbie bicycle police officer Ellie Rush. The 23-year-old Hapa Japanese American character finds herself involved in a murder investigation of a Vietnamese American college undergrad in the newest Hirahara book that was released on April 1.

Hirahara, 51, is preparing to promote the new series at scheduled events across the United States, including an appearance on May 24 at the Japanese American National Museum in Little Tokyo.

The Pacific Citizen spoke with Hirahara about how she found the inspiration to create another mystery character and what's in store for Mas Arai in the last installments of that series.

What was the inspiration for Ellie Rush?
Hirahara: Well, frankly I didn't think I would be writing another mystery series beyond Mas Arai. But my father, who was the inspiration for Mas, got ill. He got stomach cancer. During that time, actually after he passed away, I was trying to do things out of the box. So, I had participated in this Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms and Explosives Citizen's Academy. It was through the Mystery Writers of America organization. Basically, it was an eight-week course, once a week. You just learn different aspects of law enforcement.

I thought because I write about mysteries, I need to do my homework and learn about it. That's when we went to the shooting range. I'd never shot a gun before. We went on surveillance exercises.

Were you a good shot?
Hirahara: I was OK. I was a lot better than I thought. I thought that I would be blown back because we were shooting some powerful weapons. But I played like a lot of JAs in L.A. I grew up playing basketball. It's all about stance, right? So, when you shoot, you just have to have your feet planted on the ground.

At the same time, a professor at UCLA, an Asian American Studies and English professor, got ill. Actually, it was professor Valerie Matsumoto who recommended that I take over this class.

It was a creative writing workshop. It was 15 students, and I fell in love with my students.

Author Naomi Hirahara is now at work on the next Ellie Rush novel and will be finalizing her Mas Arai character with the sixth and seventh novels in the series.
That's right. You thanked them in the opening of your book.

Hirahara: Yeah. It's been awhile since I've been in college. But in the class, it was a really interesting picture of the 21st century because I had Hmong students, Cambodian students, Vietnamese students. There was [also] one Japanese American, who was, of course, fourth generation. It was so exciting.

For most of them, writing was new to them. They were doing it as a requirement or as a fun elective. They had really great stories.

That's probably more freeing to not be restricted by writing rules. They must've had interesting stories.

Hirahara: Exactly. And some of them were scared. One student wrote something that was dark, and he kept saying, "I don't know why this came out of me." (Laughs)

This was the fall of 2010. My dad was still alive. He was in hospice care. I was teaching the class and was taking this other class, this ATF class, just on a lark because I just really believe sometimes you have to do things out of the box. And they intersected. Then this character Ellie Rush, who is of mixed race, came into being.

Was it in the UCLA class that you picked up the lingo Ellie uses with her friends?

Hirahara: What was interesting is, a lot of my stereotypes were broken because I think people say these blanket statements like, "Oh, young people they're all into technology. They're all this, they're all that." But I guess teaching the class made me see that you can't make these blanket statements.

Time will tell if I really picked up their voice of twenty-somethings or not. I think as a writer you always have to be listening to people, no matter their age.

I'm still full aware that I'm a middle-aged woman writing about a younger person. So, it's going to be a slightly different book than if a person that age was writing it. But it's OK. You have to experiment.

Did you get your inspiration for Ellie from a specific student in that UCLA class?

Hirahara: We were talking about this, because I had a signing last night in Pasadena, and we were talking about the character, and I think some of it is me at that age. But replace policing with writing.

It is more than bike riding or policing. I think it's about a young woman trying to find her calling in life. I think that part of it is based on something I felt at that age.

Do your friends and family think they're the inspiration for the characters in your books?

Hirahara: It's funny. I use a lot of names of people I know. Ellie, I'm playing on the whole thing about L.A. That's kind of my silly word play there. But other characters are kind of named after people I know. But then I know more people with the same name.

So, one person thinks I named it after her, but I really didn't — I named it after another friend. (Laughs)

And you don't tell them?

Hirahara: No, of course not! But it was funny because I was reunited with my fourth-grade friend. We hadn't seen each other since fourth grade. She was my first Jewish friend, and her name is Abbie Gellman. In different books that I've written, I've had a Jewish attorney, Gellman. In my other book, I had an Abbie there, who's celebrating Hanukkah or something. Abbie read all my books, and she said,
HB 2766 Honoring the Late Kip Tokuda Signed Into Law by Gov. Jay Inslee

Washington Civil Liberties Education Act, which provided grants for educational projects. The late Kip Tokuda was present, and his teenage daughter, Pei-Ming Tokuda, testified in its favor. The supporting operating budget (ESSB 6002) was also adopted.

Program to the Kip Tokuda Memorial Washington Civil Liberties Public Education Program.

SEATTLE — Longtime JACL board member and Washington Rep. Sharon Tomiko-Santos has sponsored a bill honoring her late former seatmate, Seattle JACL chapter past President Kip Tokuda, who passed away in July 2013. Tokuda served in the State House of Representatives from 1994-2002, where he provided strong leadership on services for developmentally disabled persons; disadvantaged children, youth and families; and race and social justice issues.

And because Tokuda felt that it was important to keep the experience of Japanese Americans who were unjustly incarcerated during World War II alive, he sponsored the Washington Civil Liberties Education Act, which provided grants for educational projects about the legal and human challenges experienced by Japanese Americans during this period.

HB 2776 changes the name of the Washington Civil Liberties Public Education Program to the Kip Tokuda Memorial Washington Civil Liberties Public Education Program.

Tomiko-Santos, who pioneered the bill, budgeted $100,000 for the memorial fund, saying, “What is the memorial for if there’s no money funding the program?” The engrossed strike for the supporting operating budget (ESSB 6002) was also adopted.

It was heard on the floor of the House of Representatives on Feb. 18, where it passed unanimously with a vote of 98-0. On Feb. 26, it received a public hearing, at which Tokuda’s family was present, and his teenage daughter, Pei-Ming Tokuda, testified in its favor. It then moved swiftly out of committee to the floor, where it passed unanimously by a vote of 49-0. On March 19, members of the JACL attended a formal bill signing of HB 2766 alongside the Tokuda family, Tomiko-Santos and State Sen. Bob Hasegawa.

“He died doing what he loved,” said Tokuda’s wife, Barbara. “We appreciate the honor of this recognition.”

— National JACL Staff

Japan Allows First Evacuees to Live in Nuclear Exclusion Zone

TOKYO — For the first time since Japan’s nuclear disaster three years ago, authorities are allowing residents to return to live in their homes within a tiny part of a 12-mile evacuation zone around the Fukushima plant.

The decision, which took effect April 1, applies to 357 people in 117 households from a corner of Tamura city after the government determined that radiation levels are low enough for habitation.

But many of those evacuees are undecided about going back because of fears about radiation, especially its effect on children. More than 100,000 people were displaced by the March 11, 2011, nuclear disaster, when a huge earthquake and ensuing tsunami damaged the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant, causing meltdowns in three reactors.

Areas within the evacuation zone have become ghost towns, overgrown with weeds. New stores and public schools are planned to accommodate those who move back. Evacuees now receive government compensation of about 100,000 yen ($1,000) each month. Those who move back get a one-time 900,000 yen ($9,000) as an incentive.

— Associated Press

APAs in the News

Sen. Mazie Hirono to Chair Senate Judiciary Committee

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Sen. Mazie K. Hirono (D-Hawaii) became chair of the Subcommittee on Oversight, Federal Rights and Agency Action on April 1, after Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Patrick Leahy (D-Vermont) officially announced her appointment on March 27.

Hirono succeeds chair Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.), who is leaving to head up another committee. The subcommittee was created at the beginning of the 113th Congress to provide oversight and review of agency rulemaking and agency action.

“I look forward to chairing the Judiciary Subcommittee on Oversight, Federal Rights and Agency Actions and thank Chairman Leahy for this opportunity to help make sure that voices of everyday citizens are heard,” Hirono said. “I plan to work so that the unique needs of Hawaii are represented as we review agency actions and Executive Branch initiatives. I will also look for ways to improve oversight of government waste and abuse and strengthen consumer protections for all Americans.”

Christopher Lu Confirmed as Deputy Secretary of Labor

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Senate has confirmed President Barack Obama’s appointment of Christopher Lu as Deputy Secretary of Labor in an announcement made last week.

Lu becomes the first Asian American deputy secretary of a cabinet department under President Obama and only the second in history.

Lu, who received an A.B. from Princeton University and a J.D. from Harvard Law School, began his career as a law clerk to Judge Robert E. Cowen on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. He most recently served as White House cabinet secretary during President Obama’s first term.

“I commend the Senate on its confirmation of Chris Lu …” said U.S. Secretary of Labor Thomas Perez in a statement. “He will continue to be a tenacious advocate for American workers, and I look forward to working with him on all of our priorities—from job training to wage protection to worker safety to benefits security.”

Former Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori Suffers Stroke

LIMA, PERU — Former Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori, 75, suffered a stroke on March 14 at the police compound where he is serving a 25-year-sentence for authorizing death squads during his 10-year presidency; he was hospitalized in stable condition.

Fujimori, who led the country from 1990-2000, has been jailed in his homeland since 2007, when he was incarcerated following a return from exile in Japan. The former leader resigned and fled in disgrace in 2000 after videotapes emerged of his spy chief, Vladimiro Montesinos, bribing prominent politicians and businessmen.

The disgraced former leader is currently in the midst of his fifth criminal trial, this one for allegedly diverting millions in public funds to tabloids that were used to attack his political opponents and back his 1998 and 2000 re-election campaigns.

Democrat Louis Watanabe Announces Candidacy

SEATTLE — Democrat Louis Watanabe, a businessman and educator, has announced his candidacy to run for the Washington State Senate seat in the 37th Legislative District in November.

Watanabe is hoping to succeed incumbent Adam Kline, who will retire at year’s end. A native of Southern California, Watanabe now resides in Washington, where he founded Dynamical Systems Research, Microsoft’s first acquisition. He later became an educator, where he taught business and statistics for nine years at Bellevue College.

Charles Ozaki Receives Commendation From the Consulate General of Japan in Denver

DENVER — Charles Ozaki of Colorado has been named the recipient of the 2014 Commendation of the Consul General of Japan, the Consulate General of Japan in Denver announced April 3.

Ozaki, who currently serves as city and county manager in Bloomfield, receives his award for his significant contributions to developing relations with Bloomfield’s sister city of Ueda in Nagano Prefecture.
Washington State Legislature Holds Day of
Remembrance Event at the Capitol Building

OLYMPIA, WASH. — The Washington State Legislature held a Day of Remembrance event at the state capitol on Feb. 19 to recognize the hardships and life faced by Japanese nationals and Japanese Americans that were interned during World War II. The event, which was attended by members of the Pacific Northwest JACL chapters, the Nisei Veterans Committee, the Ladies Auxiliary of the NVC and its Foundation (NVCF), also honored veterans that served in the U.S. Army during WWII.

During the ceremony, two local U.S. Army Military Intelligence Service veterans, Hiro Nishimura and Katz Okamoto, were officially recognized for their bravery and service on behalf of their country. Both men are recipients of the Congressional Gold Medal, which was presented to Nisei soldiers in recognition of their “exceptional service, sacrifice and loyalty to America.”

Nearly 19,000 Nisei soldiers served with the U.S. Army’s famed and highly decorated 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, the Military Intelligence Service and other units during WWII. The 442nd RCT and the MIS are the highest-decorated units of any organization that served in the history of the U.S. military.

This annual Day of Remembrance event in Olympia marks the anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1942, which led to the evacuation and incarceration of hundreds of thousands of people of Japanese ancestry.

To commemorate this annual DOR event, House Bill 1460 from the 2003 Legislative session was introduced by the Washington State Legislature and passed. Then-Gov. Gary Locke signed the legislation on July 27, 2003.

Mile High JACL Chapter Holds First AAPI Legislative Training and Lobby Day at the Denver State Capitol

The Mile High chapter of the JACL, along with the Asian Pacific Development Center, National Asian Pacific American Women’s Forum of Colorado and the National Federation of Filipino American Assn. hosted an AAPI legislative training session on Feb. 22, followed by the first-ever Lobby Day at the Colorado state capitol on Feb. 24.

More than 20 community leaders attended the inaugural event, where participants learned valuable advocacy skills such as writing a strong testimony, conducting an effective legislative visit and learning how to influence elected representatives.

In addition, participants talked about various issues that are affecting AAPI communities, such as health care for the elderly, the application for Temporary Protected Status for Filipinos in the wake of November 2013’s Typhoon Haiyan, suicide among refugee communities and the lack of affordable housing for indigent people.

Finally, discussions were held regarding various bills that are pending before the Colorado state legislature, including health equity, wage theft and the recruitment of minority teachers.

“It is important for AAPI communities to become active in the legislative process,” said Mile High JACL President Harry Budisidharta. “There are a lot of AAPI voters in several swing districts throughout Colorado, and our votes can determine the outcome of several federal and state elections. We are very happy with the turnout. All of the participating organizations now regularly communicate with each other, and we are more knowledgeable about various issues that are impacting the AAPI communities in Colorado.”

Following the training session, community leaders gathered at the state capitol building on Feb. 24 for Colorado’s first-ever AAPI Lobby Day, where they were officially recognized by State Rep. Crisanta Duran, who stood on the House floor and announced their presence in the building. The leaders then met with Colorado Senators Lucia Guzman and Jessie Ulibarri, as well as Representatives Dan Pabon and Joe Salazar to further talk about various issues affecting AAPI communities.

With the success of this year’s event, the Mile High Chapter is hoping to turn it into an annual occurrence.

For more information, email Harry Budisidharta at President@MileHighJACL.org.
For Natalie Nakase, basketball encompasses almost every moment of her life. A typical day consists of getting in to work early in the morning, sometimes between 6:30 and 7 a.m. She’ll work on breaking down videos of past games throughout the day and visit the gym during practice, helping players get up extra shots by rebounding, passing or playing defense. At night, she might be on call if something comes up for the coaching staff or if a player is in need of her assistance.

“The hours are crazy,” Nakase said. “We’re always working.”

As a video coordinator intern for the Los Angeles Clippers, Nakase puts in long hours in her work to support the coaches and the players of the professional NBA team. For Nakase, it’s worth it — it’s all a part of her journey to become the first female coach in the National Basketball Association.
Nakase began playing basketball early on with her family. A third-generation Japanese American, Nakase grew up in Huntington Beach, Calif., with her two older sisters, Noe and Nicoa. All three girls were encouraged to play basketball at a young age.

"My dad is a huge sports fan, but he loves basketball," Nakase, 33, said. "He loved it, so it was a chance for me to bond with my dad. I just instantly loved falling in love with the sport. We would always watch or play basketball together."

Apart from playing basketball with her siblings, she joined the Japanese American basketball youth league.

"Starting something like that really gave me a sense of being a Japanese American and having a second family," Nakase said.

Playing basketball also gave Nakase the opportunity to bond with her father, Gary Nakase, and she credits him as one of the people she admires the most.

"As I started getting older, we always had to travel around the country for tournaments, and I would always be with my dad. I would observe my dad every day, and he worked really hard every day — that was something I think he instilled in me because every day you would work," Nakase said. "The weekends were considered work for him, and he was never big on family vacations when we were younger so basketball ended up being all year round for me. So, that was a huge thing."

After graduating from Matina High School in Huntington Beach, Nakase attended the University of California, Los Angeles, where she made her mark on the basketball team and was already described then as "like a coach on the floor."

Her basketball career eventually took her overseas, where she became the first female coach in the Japanese professional men's basketball league. She was a volunteer assistant for the Tokyo Apache, where she worked with former NBA coach Bob Hill, and coached the Saitama Broncos.

"My first year, I was assisting a former NBA coach, so that was why I started to want to coach in the NBA — I started to learn a completely different style of coaching that I never experienced. It was the highest level of coaching," Nakase said. "I remember just learning from Bob Hill and Casey Hill to prepare for anything."

Even though she enjoyed coaching in Japan, Nakase's dad pushed her to pursue her dream of working in the NBA. She contacted everyone she knew in the organization and worked the NBA Summer League, but didn't have any luck in securing a job. She attended to find a job coach at a coach clinic, and ended up becoming an assistant coach with the Dippers, is an avid reader herself who gives her the tip of scanning books quickly to find words and phrases that might attract her eye. Her Twitter feed is full of inspirations, highlighted in yellow with comments she's gleaned from her reading.

"I've learned the importance of eliminating distractions, whether it's friends or even some family members or TV or going out. I got rid of a lot of distractions that I used to do," Nakase said. "And who you surround yourself with I think is the second most important thing that I've learned.

Nakase has determined that even though her goal is to coach in the NBA, her bigger mission is to serve others.

"I think going through those books, they tell you how to be successful, but what I've learned beyond that is the purpose of life, or what I think it is, is to help people and serve people," Nakase said. "That means a lot because I've been in such crazy situations with being a female in the NBA world or being in an environment, especially with video — I'm a coach going into video, and I've never worked with video before. I was frustrated a lot, and I understood by reading, you could control every thought that goes into your mind. It helped me so much."

Other coaches Nakase works with have also encouraged her to read more. She explains how Kevin Eastman, an assistant coach with the Clippers, is an avid reader himself who gave her the tip of scanning books quickly to find words and phrases that might attract her eye. Her Twitter feed is full of inspirations, highlighted in yellow with comments she's gleaned from her reading.

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"I think going through those books, they tell you how to be successful, but what I've learned beyond that is the purpose of life, or what I think it is, is to help people and serve people," Nakase said. "That means a lot because at the end of the day, how am I going to help people believe in themselves — that's the important thing.

— Natalie Nakase

Last year was great because it was so new to me, so every day was like a dream," she says. "This year is even better because I'm now more experienced with the video, and now it's not just for me — I can do things faster with the video. You're pretty much like an assistant to all the assistant coaches. Whatever they want from you, you'll have to break down and prepare for them. At the end of the day, you learn so much because you're on top. And those coaches have love to teach. I am truly blessed."
TULE LAKE BACKGROUND

By Yukio Kawaratani

The World War II concentration camp experience was the darkest time in Japanese American history. It was also a black mark on America, as the government trampled on our constitutional rights. Except for the Issei, we were all American citizens. All 120,000 of us suffered. With the short notice of forced removal, we had to sacrifice and sell homes, businesses, farms and possessions at a fraction of their value. Then we were herded like cattle on to trains to be incarcerated in 10 American concentration camps, located in isolated areas of the country.

My family was first sent to Poston, Ariz., in the desert on Indian reservation land. It looked like a large Army post, with almost 50 blocks and rows and rows of newly constructed wooden barracks covered on the roof and sides with black tarpaper. The camp was hot and dusty, and my parents were highly perturbed. Mama kept saying, "Shikata ga nai" and "Gambare," which means "it can’t be helped" and "endure." Papa, a simple farmer with 9 children, was very angry, and his favorite expletive was, "Gan dan sano bichi."

In the summer of 1943, the notorious loyalty questionnaire was thrust upon all adults, 17 years old or more, in the 10 concentration camps. Question 27 asked, "Are you willing to serve in the armed forces of the United States on duty, wherever ordered?" And Question 28 asked for unqualified allegiance to America and to foreswear any other allegiance. There were misunderstandings, as some said answering "Yes" meant volunteering for the Army. And some parents were reluctant to give up the only citizenship they had. They would become stateless, as they were always denied American citizenship.

About 90 percent of the adults answered "Yes, Yes" to conform to what they knew the government wanted. Some people were indignant about being forced to answer a questionnaire on loyalty while they were being incarcerated. They protested by refusing to fill out the questionnaire. For various reasons, including keeping the family together, some inmates answered "No, No." Others answered "No" to one question. Some answered "Yes, Yes" with qualifications. They were all categorized as "disloyal" by the government.

With differences, we became a divided but predominately No-No family because my mother, with tears in her eyes, said, "I cannot bear to have five sons who might be taken into the Army and killed in the war. Let's keep as many family members together as possible and face whatever additional punishment the government gives us."

Soon, eight of us were sent to the Tule Lake Segregation Center in Northern California. It was a maximum-security prison. There was a 6-foot-high barbed-wire fence, then about 30 yards of vacant no-man's land, an 8-foot-high chain-link fence with 3 feet of barbed wire on top and many watch towers with armed guards surrounding the camp of 18,000 men, women and children.

The Tule Lake Segregation Center had dissention, demonstrations and strikes, which were primarily about farm working conditions, camp living conditions and poor food. For a while, the Army took over, and Nikkei leaders were picked up and put in a primitive Army stockade. Rumors, like we would be deported to Japan during and after the war, sapped our spirits and made it difficult to know what to believe. To prepare for the possibility of a prisoner exchange and deportation, some of us children were sent to Japanese school to learn the language. There was a pervasive feeling of abandonment by the U.S. government, who treated us like enemy prisoners. It was a time of confusion, intimidation, anger and large-scale civil disobedience that caused many adult inmates in Tule Lake to renounce their American citizenship — a spiteful but regretful decision made under duress and traumatic conditions. It took decades, but due to the heroic efforts of former ACLU lawyer Wayne Collins, one by one, nearly all remnant Japanese legally regained their American citizenship. Even most of those who expatriated to devastated Japan after the war eventually returned to America.

The great majority of those in Tule Lake were victims of the government for many different reasons, and misunderstandings that had nothing to do with loyalty. But for many years, we have all been stigmatized by the Japanese American community and labeled as the "troublemakers" and "disloyals." After the war, the standard question was, "What camp were you in?" I was always angered by those who raised their eyebrows and instinctively reacted negatively to Tule Lake. They didn't understand the difficult positions we were placed in by the government or how greatly some of our families suffered as a consequence. That is why many former inmates would not admit they were in Tule Lake.

Four U.S. presidents understood. Under redress, President Ronald Reagan apologized for a grievous wrong and Congress authorized reparations to all. President Bill Clinton awarded Fred Korematsu a Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor. President George W. Bush designated Tule Lake a WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument, in recognition of the punishment suffered there. And President Barack Obama awarded the late Gordon Hirabayashi a Presidential Medal of Freedom for his protest against America's concentration camps. These actions were all praised by the JACL.

Over a decade ago, the JACL finally issued a public apology to the draft resisters for not recognizing their wartime stand of protest. But the protests of those segregated in Tule Lake have been treated as a shameful secret. The JACL should recognize their constitutional right to protest injustice, the duress and suffering they have endured and bring reconciliation and closure. Only the JACL can bring closure, as they have been favorably recognized as the public spokespersons representing and defending all Japanese Americans and as an advocate of the civil rights of all Americans.

You are asked to help reconcile the community divisions that were created by the government, to re-examine this historical travesty and help lift the stigma placed on those who resisted the government’s injustice.

(The opinions expressed in this column are solely those of the author and do not necessarily reflect policies of this newspaper or any organization or business.)

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LOS ANGELES — The Manzanar Committee announced March 26 that Arthur A. Hansen, a renowned scholar and co-founder of the Japanese American Oral History Program, and educator Mas Okui are this year’s recipients of the Sue Kunitomi Embrey Legacy Award.

The award, named after the late chair of the Manzanar Committee and also one of the founders of the annual Manzanar Pilgrimage, as well as a driving force behind the creation of the Manzanar National Historic Site, will be presented at the 43rd Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage, which is scheduled for April 26 at the Manzanar National Historic Site.

ARTHUR A. HANSEN

Hansen, 75, a native of Hoboken, N.J., began his work at California State University, Fullerton’s Department of History in 1966, where he would later immerse himself in the field of ethnic studies.

“In the early 1970s, I was provoked by the upsurge of protest and dissent on the campus and in the outside world, along with the rise of ethnic consciousness and Ethnic Studies, to redirect my attention to Asian American Studies and, in particular, the social disaster inflicted by the U.S. government upon Americans of Japanese ancestry during the Second World War,” Hansen wrote. “However, convinced that the standard historical version of what Japanese Americans had experienced during America’s so-called ‘good war’ was severely compromised by a criminal neglect of the voiceless perspective of the victimized population. In 1972, I launched, in concert with one of my graduate students, Betsy Mitson, the Japanese American Oral History Project within Cal State Fullerton’s Oral History Program.”

A pioneering effort over four decades that focused on the unjust incarceration of Japanese Americans, the Japanese American Oral History Project recorded and transcribed hundreds of interviews and, periodically, illuminated their contents and perspectives in published anthologies and unpublished theses.


Hansen, along with Embrey and Mitson, co-edited “Manzanar Martyr: An Interview With Harry Y. Ueno,” who was the principal figure in the Manzanar Riot.

He is now editing “Nisei Naysayer: The Memoir of the History Through Oral Histories of All Who Served, Including Residents of the Owens Valley.” Art is known for his thorough and democratic approach.

“Art is no mere academic,” Bruce Embrey continued. “As a scholar, his focus is to get to the underlying truth. But his thorough research is imbued with fierce and tireless advocacy for social justice. He is a colleague, friend and confidant of my mother, Sue Kunitomi Embrey, and it is both fitting and long overdue that he is recognized for his role in our long struggle for justice.”

Mas Okui is pictured at the 43rd Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage on April 28, 2012.

“Mas Okui has been a tireless advocate and educator, telling the story of Manzanar and the forced removal of the Japanese American community to literally thousands of people, including many Los Angeles Unified School District teachers,” said Bruce Embrey. “With humor, wit and poise, Mas is one of the most ardent advocates for keeping our story alive.”

“Mas served on the Manzanar National Historic Site Advisory Commission, along with my mother, helping to create and shape the Manzanar National Historic Site,” Embrey continued. “He is one of our community’s unsung heroes. This recognition is long overdue.”

For more information on the Manzanar Pilgrimage and the popular Manzanar at Dusk program, including bus transportation to the afternoon Pilgrimage program, visit the Manzanar Committee’s official blog at http://blog.manzanarcommittee.org or call (323) 662-5102.

Polaris Tours

2014 Schedule

Mar 20 – Apr 08  Spring Japan: “Hiroshima, Kyoto, Inuyama, Hakone, Tokyo”
Apr 07 – Apr 19  Beautiful South Korea: “All Major Highlights & Daeons Sites”
May 13 – May 25  Kii Peninsular “Kii Peninsula, Kitakamata, Shirahama, Tokyo, Kyoto”
May 17 – May 25  Wonders of Iceland: “Stunningly Beautiful”
May 24 – Jun 02  Garden & Villas of the Italian Lakes: “Venice, Como, Bellagio, Lugano”
April / May / June  Spring Las Vegas Shows: “TBA”
Jun 21 – Jun 29  The Best of Southern California: “Marin Headlands, San Francisco, Yosemite National Park”
Jul 07 – Jul 16  Japan By Train: “Hiroshima, Kii Peninsula, Okayama, Kyoto, Tokyo”
Sep 07 – Sep 18  Tohoku & Hakodate: “Sapporo, Akita, Tohoku & Hakodate”
May 07 – May 21  Highlights of Spain: “Barcelona, Valencia, Granada, Seville, Madrid”
Oct 17 – Oct 31  South Africa & Victoria Falls: “Cape Town, Johannesburg, Safari”

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PSW District and SFV JACL Chapter Host ‘Nikkei Intersections: An LGBTQ Forum for Everyone’ Event

By Traci Ishigo

More than 40 community members gathered for “Nikkei Intersections: An LGBTQ Forum for Everyone” at the San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center on March 23. As a part of the JACL Pacific Southwest District’s new Nikkei LGBTQ Initiative, the event was the first of many educational forums intended to bring gender, sexuality and LGBTQ awareness and inclusion to the greater Nikkei community.

Co-organized by the San Fernando Valley JACL chapter, this event was an opportunity for multiple generations, including many Nisei, Sansei, Yorosei and Shin-Issei attendees, to learn from the moving experiences of the program’s panelists, riku Matsuda, Ellen and Harold Kameya and Eric Arimoto.

Before the panel, attendees had the opportunity to reflect on various questions to understand how they have experienced homophobia and transphobia, as well as how inclusive they perceive the Japanese American community to be. As evidence of how much cultural change is needed, an overwhelming majority of attendees responded “Yes” to the question, “Have you ever sensed or heard homophobic and transphobic comments/language in your family and/or community?”

Matsuda, from the L.A. County Commission on Human Relations, then led the group through an important LGBTQ 101 terminology lesson and answered many audience questions to clarify the difference between multiple and fluid gender identities and sexual orientations. Moreover, as a queer mixed-race Nikkei transman, Matsuda’s personal story spoke to the importance of making the effort to intentionally understand all of a person’s identities, including his or her gender and sexuality. One audience member commented how “it was most touching” that Matsuda’s open dialogue with his family about his identities has also made space for younger family relatives to feel open about their LGBTQ identities as well.

The Kameya’s, parents of a lesbian daughter, shared the importance of the greater community showing support for LGBTQ community members. When their daughter came out to them in 1988, Ellen and Harold Kameya were fearful of what their friends and family would say and faced painful discomfort from their church. The Kameyas are now strong leaders in Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbian and Gays (PFLAG), and they have started their own Asian Pacific Islander chapter in the San Gabriel Valley.

Said one attendee, who expressed happiness that the two LGBTQ-rights advocate parents speak to multiple audiences: “Ellen and Harold are so outspoken to share their story that many people can find a way to connect to.” Arimoto, an LGBT-affirming psychotherapist, shared his journey of struggling with his gay identity since he was a child. As a young adult, with fear of what would happen if his parents knew the truth, he joined the military to suppress his sexual orientation but decided to come out during his time and was discharged due to the recently overturned “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy. Coming out as a gay Asian man also meant that he would face intense anti-Asian racism from the majority white LGBTQ spaces through which he navigated. Since then, Arimoto has reconciled with his parents, who support him, and also shared how “healing” it is to have the opportunity to publicly discuss his experiences in the Nikkei community.

Future LGBTQ educational events centering on Nikkei experiences will be programmed throughout the year, leading up to the Nikkei LGBTQ Gathering/Conference, which will be held on Nov. 15 at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles’ Little Tokyo. Everyone is encouraged to attend all events.

For additional updates, visit the JACL-PSW website at www.jaclpsw.org or log on to its Facebook page.

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Membership Coordinator

The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) is seeking to fill the position of Membership Coordinator. The position is located in the national office of JACL in San Francisco, Calif. The person will be responsible for developing and maintaining member and member services on a national level. This includes assistance to local chapters, management of the membership tracking system and development of membership policies and procedures and related materials.

Requires two years experience working in a nonprofit, above-average writing and communications skills and working as a team player, experience in the use of Microsoft Office and web-related software and a variety of office equipment. Experience with Asian Pacific American organizations a plus. College graduate preferred, with a degree in a related field of study such as nonprofit management, business or sociology.

Competitive salary commensurate with experience and excellent fringe benefit package. Send resume and cover letter to: JACL, 1765 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94115 by April 14, 2014. JACL is an equal employment opportunity employer. For questions, contact Priscilla Ouchida at (202) 223-1240 or Clyde Izumi at (415) 921-5225.
Japanese Court Frees World’s Longest-Held Death Row Inmate

TOKYO — The world’s longest-serving death row inmate was freed March 27 by a Japanese court that found investigators had likely fabricated evidence in the murder case that put Iwao Hakamada, a former professional boxer, behind bars for nearly half a century.

The Shizuoka District Court suspended the death sentence and ordered Hakamada released the same day after determining there was a “reasonable doubt” that Hakamada had committed the triple murder for which he was convicted in 1966.

Hakamada, 72, was escorted outside. He looked briefly at the crowd and got inside a car.

It took 27 years for the Supreme Court to deny his first appeal for a retrial. He filed a second appeal in 2008, and the court finally ruled in June 2013 that a DNA test that Hakamada had conducted strongly suggested someone other than Hakamada had committed the crime.

More than 45 of his 48 years in prison have been on death row, making Hakamada the longest-serving such inmate, according to Guinness World Records.

Hakamada was escorted because of a lengthy appeals process. It took 27 years for the Supreme Court to deny his first appeal for a retrial. He filed a second appeal in 2008, and the court finally ruled in June 2013 that a DNA test that Hakamada had conducted strongly suggested someone other than Hakamada had committed the crime.

Hakamada was convicted of killing a company manager and his family and setting fire to their central Japan home, where he was a live-in employee.

The court said Thursday that a DNA analysis obtained by Hakamada’s lawyers suggested that investigators had fabricated evidence.

The court’s order for a retrial makes Hakamada only the sixth death row inmate to be given a retrial since the death penalty was reinstated in Japan in 1997. Hakamada was sentenced to death in 1998.

The court’s order for a retrial makes Hakamada only the sixth death row inmate to be given a retrial since the death penalty was reinstated in Japan in 1997. Hakamada was sentenced to death in 1998.

Hakamada walked out of the Tokyo Detention Center, escorted by his sister, as dozens of journalists and supporters waited outside. Hakamada looked briefly at the crowd and got inside a car without speaking.

Hakamada was not expected because of a lengthy appeals process. It took 27 years for the Supreme Court to deny his first appeal for a retrial. He filed a second appeal in 2008, and the court finally ruled in June 2013 that a DNA test that Hakamada had conducted strongly suggested someone other than Hakamada had committed the crime.

Japan is highly secretive about executions. Death row inmates are informed the morning they are hanged. Critics say executions without prior notice violate basic human rights and that secrecy and uncertainty cause unnecessary suffering for inmates. The Justice Ministry discloses only limited details afterward.

— Associated Press

Heart Mountain Pilgrimage to Honor World War II Veterans

By P.C. Staff

This year’s Heart Mountain annual pilgrimage will honor the late Sen. Daniel K. Inouye and all Japanese American veterans who were unjustly interned at Heart Mountain during World War II.

The theme of the 2014 pilgrimage, scheduled from Aug. 22-23 at the Heart Mountain World War II Japanese American Confinement Site in Wyoming, is “Honoring Selfless Service.”

The Honor Roll, created by interns in 1944 to recognize the men and women who served in the military during WWII, will be dedicated to the memory of Inouye, the nation’s longest-serving senator and a decorated veteran who lost his arm in combat.

“As our most important event, the annual pilgrimage serves our mission by educating the public about the history of Japanese Americans’ confinement and engaging visitors in discussion about racial prejudice, poverty and civil rights, as well as hopefully providing an opportunity for healing for former internees and their families,” said Brian Liesinger, executive director of the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation.

Of those with the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation are seeking former Heart Mountain veterans to invite to the pilgrimage. Pilgrimage travel stipends may be available to veterans.

Scheduled guest speakers include Inouye’s widow and U.S. Japan Council President Irene Hirano, former Sen. Al Simpson and former Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta.

For more information or to register for the pilgrimage, visit www.heartmountain.org/pilgrimage.html, email info@heartmountain.org or call (307) 754-8000.
The 2014 JACL National Environmental campaign's Annual Benefit
The second annual Heart of Portland Taiko Annual Benefit, event sponsored by Genryu
The Pivoting for Peace in Asia Portland Taiko Annual Benefit

The Heart of the Community: Fundraiser

The 45th Annual National Cost: $10/Registration; $20/Cost: $751V1P Admission
July 9-12
JACL Convention Registration and Lunch (Includes $50 tax-deductible
www.jaol.org. masspeaceaction.org or
APRIL 19, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. April 23, 6:15 p.m.
Arrigg Koh.
A Dim Sum Breakfast BROOKLINE, MA
Cost: $100/Individual Tickets; $20/Advanced Tickets; Between Geary Boulevard and
China Pearl Restaurant 32 Harvard St. July 13, 1-5 p.m.

Asian American Resource Japan Day is a community
Toyota
The 8th Annual Dessert Tasting

Community Development and nonprofit organizations. demonstrations and
The Pacific Rim Street Festival celebrates Asian
Pacific Rim heritage with a

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EVENTS IN THE CALENDAR

A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

Sharing the Spirit of Aloha Gala
HONOLULU, HI
June 21, 6-9 p.m.
Hilton Hawaiian Village Waikiki Beach Resort, Coral Ballroom
2005 Kalua Road
Cost: $200/JCC Members; $250/Non-
members; $3,000-$25,000/Tables
The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii’s
Annual Sharing the Spirit of Aloha Gala
will honor Isssei pioneers David Ikawa,
Wayne Kamitaki, Richard Matsui
and George and Willa Tanabe. Dinner begins
at 6 p.m., after registration and the silent
auction.
Info: Visit www.jcch.com or
call (808) 945-7633.

>>EDC
The Heart of the Community:
A Dim Sum Breakfast
BOSTON, MA
May 2, 7:30 a.m.
China Pearl Restaurant
9 Tyler St.
Cost: $100/Individual Tickets; $50/Friend; $1,000-
$25,000/Tables
The second annual Heart of the Community Breakfast is a
fundraiser held by the Asian Community Development
Corp. The morning will feature
a tea tasting, silent auction,
dim sum meal and key-
note address by the Boston mayor’s chief of staff, Daniel
Arrigg Koh.
Info: www.asianode.org/
content/community-gourmet-dim-sum-breakfast or
call (617) 482-2380.
The Pivoting for Peace in Asia
Pacific Conference
CAMBRIDGE, MA
April 19, 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Wong’s King Seafood Restaurant
8733 S.E. Division St.
Cost: $75/VIP Admission
(Includes $68 tax-deductible
donation); $60/General
Admission ($35 donation)
Celebrate Portland Taiko’s
20th Anniversary Season at
its Annual Benefit
Banquet. The night begins with
a no-host bar, silent
auction, mystery origami
prizes and a Chinese feast.
Portland Taiko will perform a
private show for guests,
followed by the Golden Bachi
Awards, which will recognize
Alice Sumida and Oregon
Nikkei Endowment.
Info: Visit www.portlandtaiko.
tickets or call (503) 288-2456.

>>NCWNP
Japanese Day Festival
SACRAMENTO, CA
May 10, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Old Sacramento
Downtown Plaza
547 L St.
The Pacific Rim Street Festival celebrates Asian
Pacific Rim heritage with a
day of fun for the whole
family, with food, live
entertainment, arts and
crafts and community booths.

Chinese for Affirmative Action’s Celebration of
Justice
SAN FRANCISCO, CA
June 12, 6 p.m.
Empress of China
830 Grant Ave.
The Chinese for Affirmative
Action’s Celebration of
Justice is a fundraiser, where
civil rights, LGBT rights and
political leaders gather to
honor extraordinary
community members.
Info: Visit www.caast.org or
call (415) 274-6750.

Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL
Community Picnic
APTOIS, CA
June 28, 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Aptos Village Park
100 Aptos Creek Road
The Watsonville-Santa Cruz
JACL chapter is hosting its
annual community picnic,
which will feature traditional
races and family-friendly
entertainment.
Info: Email wcjcaol@gmail.com or
visit www.watsonville
santa Cruz JACL.org.

The Pacific Rim Street Festival
SACRAMENTO, CA
May 10, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Old Sacramento
Downtown Plaza
547 L St.
The Pacific Rim Street Festival celebrates Asian
Pacific Rim heritage with a
day of fun for the whole
family, with food, live
entertainment, arts and
crafts and community booths.

>>IDC
Traci Kato-Kiriyama Leads
Art and Activism Workshop
DENVER, CO
April 30, 7 p.m.
Sakura Square
20 Street and Larimer
Writer, actor and activist
Traci Kato-Kiriyama, who
previously taught “Wellness &
Expression in the Asian
American Community” at
Claremont Colleges, presents
this workshop, which
will incorporate writing,
performance and arts
activism.
Info: Visit www.milehigh
jacl.org.

>>PSW
Dodgers Gallery Talk
LOS ANGELES, CA
May 10, 11:30-1 p.m.
Japanese American National Museum
100 N. Central Ave.
Join “Dodgers: Brotherhood of the Game” curators Mark
Langill and Koji Steven Sakai
for a behind-the-scenes
gallery tour. RSVP early, as
there are only 30 available spots.
Info: Visit www.jacl.org or
call (213) 625-0417.
In Memoriam

Abe, Satsuki, 93, L.A., CA; Feb. 24; born in San Juan Bautista, CA; predeceased by her husband, Shiyoji Abe, and grandson, Christopher Ige; survived by son, Stephen (Jan); daughters, Carolyn (Danny) Hashiba, Doreen (Edwin) Ige, Lillian (Eiji) Takagi, Charlene (Ted) Elias and Marcia (Edwin) Ige, Lillian (Eiji) Takagi, and many nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends; 6 gc; 1 ggc.

Ibusuki, Tomio Tom, 72, CA; March 9; he is survived by his wife, Yoshiko; son, Bruce Kenichi (Lorraine Lee) Kimura; brother, Shigemi Kimura of Japan; and many nieces, nephews and other relatives in and in Japan; 2 gc.

Kimura, Fred Ichiro, 96, L.A., CA; March 11; survived by his family members in Japan; predeceased by his wife, Hatai, Yukiye Hatai; sister-in-law, Diane (Don) White; son, Ty Dote; nieces, nephews and other relatives; 6 gc; 4 ggc.

Lee, Maj. Kurt Chew-eeen, 88, Washington, D.C.; March 3; the first Marine Corps Chinese American regular officer; he was awarded the Navy Cross, Silver Star and two Purple Hearts; he helped rescue 8,000 American troops at the Chosin Reservoir in Korea; predeceased by his brothers, Col. Chew-Mon Lee and Wilbert Lee, and beloved wife, Linda; survived by his brother, Chew-Fan Lee; his sisters, Faustina Lee, Betty Mar and Juliet Yokoe; brother-in-law, LTC Yukio Yokoe, Ret.; sisters-in-law, Rose Lee and Frances Lee; and many nieces and nephews.

Mano, Susumu Henry, 74, Northridge, CA; A kagoshimaken Issai; survived by his sons, Roy Tetsuya of Seattle and Richard Makoto (Marlene); sisters, Yori Fukunaga and Miki Maeda both of Japan; sister-in-law, Emie; sisters-in-law, Hinae and Sakai, the latter from Hawaii; brother-in-law, Chukw (Merrilyn) Mateumura; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Narasaki; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; 6 gc; 1 ggc.

Dote, Chiyeko Anna, 90, Redondo Beach, CA; March 1; she is survived by her daughter, Diane (Don) White; son, Ty Dote; granddog, Riley; sister, Yaeko Sako (Richard) Kawano; brother, Toshio Yagami; sister-in-law, Yasuko Yagami; she is also survived by her daughter, Rochelle. Lilly was a longtime resident of San Jose. She worked for many years at San Jose Hospital and also for Katsumi Tokunaga. Lilly was then married to Jules Berchem for 18 years. Lilly was preceded in death by her father, George; her mother, Sodeko Ikeda; her brothers, Robert and Elmer; and her eldest son, Roy. She is survived by her sons, Russell, who resides in San Diego; her daughter, Robin Tokiwa of Morgan Hill and her 2 children, Kayla McElvy and Darren McElvy; and her daughter, Rochelle (Scott) Kennedy and their daughter, Kailyn. Lilly respected her children and loved them unconditionally. Funeral services were held at Willow Glen Mortuary on April 3. An additional memorial service will be held in Lodi at the Church of Christ at 800 S. Ham Lane on Tuesday, April 8, at 11 a.m.

Northridge, CA; A kagoshimaken Issai; survived by his sons, Roy Tetsuya of Seattle and Richard Makoto (Marlene); sisters, Yori Fukunaga and Miki Maeda both of Japan; sister-in-law, Emie; sisters-in-law, Hinae and Sakai, the latter from Hawaii; brother-in-law, Chukw (Merrilyn) Mateumura; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Obata, Shuichi, 91, Carson, CA; March 5; survived by his family members in Japan, brother, Toshio Yagami; sister-in-law, Yasuko Yamaguma; she also is survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; 5 gc; 4 ggc.

March 5; survived by her daughters, Cheryl Yamaguchi and Irene (Ronnie) Ikeda; 4 gc; 2 ggc.

March 5; survived by her daughters, Cheryl Yamaguchi and Irene (Ronnie) Ikeda; 4 gc; 2 ggc.

Dote, Chiyeko Anna, 90,

Redondo Beach, CA; March 1; she is survived by her daughter, Diane (Don) White; son, Ty Dote; granddog, Riley; sister, Yaeko

Ishii; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives in California and in Kochi, Japan.

Goto, Chiyoko, 100, Pasadena,

CA; Feb. 25; survived by daughters, Takako Murashige and Misako (Richard) Kawano; brother, Masato (Ayako) Yamagami; sister-in-law, Yatsuko Yagami; she also has family members in Japan, brother, Toshio Yagami; sister-in-law, Yatsuko Yagami; she is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; 1 gc; 2 ggc.

Hamamoto, Yasuto, 90, San Juan Capistrano, CA; March 5; born in Hilo, HI; survived by his wife, Marie; children, Dennis (Patti) Hamamoto, Barbara (Gary) Burnett, Kathleen Kikkawa of Hawaii, Phyllis (Dorai) Paris and Sandra (Fred) Luckau of Arizona; sisters, Fujiko (Fumio) Oshita and Taeko Toki of Ohio; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; 6 gc; 1 ggc.

Kawamoto, Wendy Yuki, 42, Glendale, CA; March 16; predeceased by her father, Roy Kiyoshi Kawamoto; survived by mother, Diana L. Kawamoto; brother, Chris (Aileen) Kawamoto; Aunt Bernice (Walter Nishikawa, Misato (Ken) Nakamori, Judy (Tosh) Tawarai, Alice (Minoru) Furuno of Japan, Sally (Sam) Aniza and Patsy (Tom) Northridge, CA; A kagoshimaken Issai; survived by his sons, Roy Tetsuya of Seattle and Richard Makoto (Marlene); sisters, Yori Fukunaga and Miki Maeda both of Japan; sister-in-law, Emie; sisters-in-law, Hinae and Sakai, the latter from Hawaii; brother-in-law, Chukw (Merrilyn) Mateumura; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Seal Beach, CA; March 7; he is survived by his wife, Darlene M. Mano; sons, Randy H. and John H. Mano; brothers, George (Grace) Mano, Ronne (Janet) and Bill (Linda) Mano, both of NV; sister, Emiko Graham; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Matsumura, Beatrice Setsuko, 85, Torrance, CA; March 4; predeceased by husband, Fred, and son, Daana; survived by her son, Dave (Della) Matsumura; daughter-in-law, Diana Matsumura; grandchildren, Dayn and Lani Matsumura; sibling, Walter (Jean) Ogata and Elsie

Oyama, Alan, 91, Caldwell, ID; March 3; survived by husband, Roy; sister, Fumi; and sons, Terry (Kathleen), Alan and Greg (Larina).

Obata, Shiuchi, 91, Carson, CA; March 17; survived by wife, Emio; sisters-in-law, Hinae and Michiko Sakakura; brothers-in-law, Arthur Sakakura and Pete Kurihara; also survived by many nieces.

PLACED 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.

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

Yamamura, Betty, 99, Glendale, CA; March 11; predeceased by husband, Ricardo, and son-in-law, Alex Shelehov; survived by daughters, June Shelehov, Teresa (Eric) Miyamoto and Sandy (David) Shin; 6 gc; 4 ggc.

Yoshimoto, Geoffrey Sadamu, 56, Santa Monica, CA; March 4; survived by his siblings, Linda Young, Amy (Greg) Jyo and Steve (Cynthia); nieces and nephews, Stanton and Brent Young, Tori Jyo and Jason and Michelle; also survived by many other relatives.

LiLly (tokiwa) bercher

Lilly was born on Oct. 30, 1929, in Salinas, Calif. Her parents were Shizuo George and Sodeko Betty Ikeda. She had 2 brothers, Robert and Elmer, and 5 sisters, Jean, Ritsuko, May, Carolyn and Michiko. The family was part of the internment of Japanese Americans and were relocated to Poston, AZ. After leaving Poston in 1945, her family moved to San Jose. Her family farmed at the Overfelt Ranch, where everyone helped. Lilly attended San Jose High School during her junior and senior years.

Lilly married Rudy Tokiwa and had 4 children, Roy, Russell, Robin and Rochelle. Lilly was a longtime resident of San Jose. She worked for many years at San Jose Hospital and also for Katsumi Tokunaga. Lilly was then married to Jules Berchem for 18 years. Lilly was preceded in death by her father, George; her mother, Sodeko Ikeda; her brothers, Robert and Elmer; and her eldest son, Roy. She is survived by her son, Russell, who resides in San Diego; her daughter, Robin Tokiwa of Morgan Hill and her 2 children, Kayla McElvy and Darren McElvy; and her daughter, Rochelle (Scott) Kennedy and their daughter, Kailyn. Lilly respected her children and loved them unconditionally. Funeral services were held at Willow Glen Mortuary on April 3. An additional memorial service will be held in Lodi at the Church of Christ at 800 S. Ham Lane on Tuesday, April 8, at 11 a.m.

Tributes honor your loved ones with text and photos and appear in a timely manner at the rate of $20/column inch.

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

TRIBUTE
DELEGATION OF JAPANESE AMERICAN LEADERS MEETS WITH JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER SHINZO ABE

TOKYO — The 2014 Japanese American Leadership Delegation met with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on March 12 to discuss issues pertinent to the U.S.-Japan bilateral relationship.

The 10-member delegation and U.S.-Japan Council President Irene Hirano Inouye shared that a stronger U.S.-Japan relationship benefits not only both countries but also the entire Asia-Pacific region. The delegation also described the purpose of the trip as building people-to-people relationships with Japanese leaders from all sectors of society in order to strengthen and diversify U.S.-Japan relations.

I would like to renew my appreciation for the Japanese American Leadership Delegation. For Japanese Americans, JALD provides a better understanding of Japan. I am counting on your continued cooperation to build bridges across our two nations in the future. I also would like to express my sincere appreciation for the late Sen. Daniel K. Inouye’s great contributions to the strengthening of Japan-U.S. relations,” said Abe.

Japanese Americans (including two of the delegates) have their ancestral roots. The delegation also participated in the seminar “Finding a Voice in Government: Japanese Americans Making a Difference in Their Communities and in U.S.-Japan Relations,” co-sponsored by the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership and the U.S.-Japan Council.

The delegation met with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (front row, center) in Tokyo.

For more information, visit www.usjapancouncil.org.

NO-NO BOYS >> continued from page 3

She was right, of course. In those days, the No-No Boys topic was never talked about and was a taboo subject. It was like talking about someone’s crazy aunt who was locked away in a bedroom somewhere. Nobody, and I mean nobody, ever talked about the No-No Boys in public.

Maybe it was the maverick in me that wanted that question, but I felt strongly that we needed to bring it out in the open once and for all. The committee discussion went around and around on this subject until Ben, one of the nicest, gentlest and kindest guys you’d ever know, said quietly in the middle of the heated debate that he was a No-No Boy. The conversation came to a dead stop. Total silence like we’d all been sucker-punched in the stomach.

Ben explained that he felt he couldn’t abandon his elderly Issei parents and so he answered “No” to the questions, knowing the consequences would not be good. We all realized what courage it took for Ben to tell us he was a No-No Boy, but it also made us realize that at least some answered “No” to the questions for reasons other than defiance.

I honestly didn’t know how many of the No-No Boys were like Ben or like some other Nisei friends I had who were so offended by the questionnaire that they answered the only way they could do honestly, I always strongly doubted any of the No-Nos were actually disloyal. I just wanted this issue out in public so we could talk about it.

In the end, Cherry was right. It was a volatile question that created a huge reaction, but I was also right. We brought the subject out into the light and debated it and confronted it. Brothers finally broke a silence of decades and began talking to each other again, families healed, and the community found the courage to put this issue behind us.

In the end, however one felt about the No-Nos, there was a consensus in the community that we were all screwed in so many ways, and we all deserved better.

If the current discussion in NCWNP uncovers new information, I’d like to see it. I think it’s always healthy to deal honestly with the truth, especially when it’s so profound a truth for our community.

John Tateishi is a former JACL national director.