



PACIFIC CITIZEN

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**THE NATIONAL
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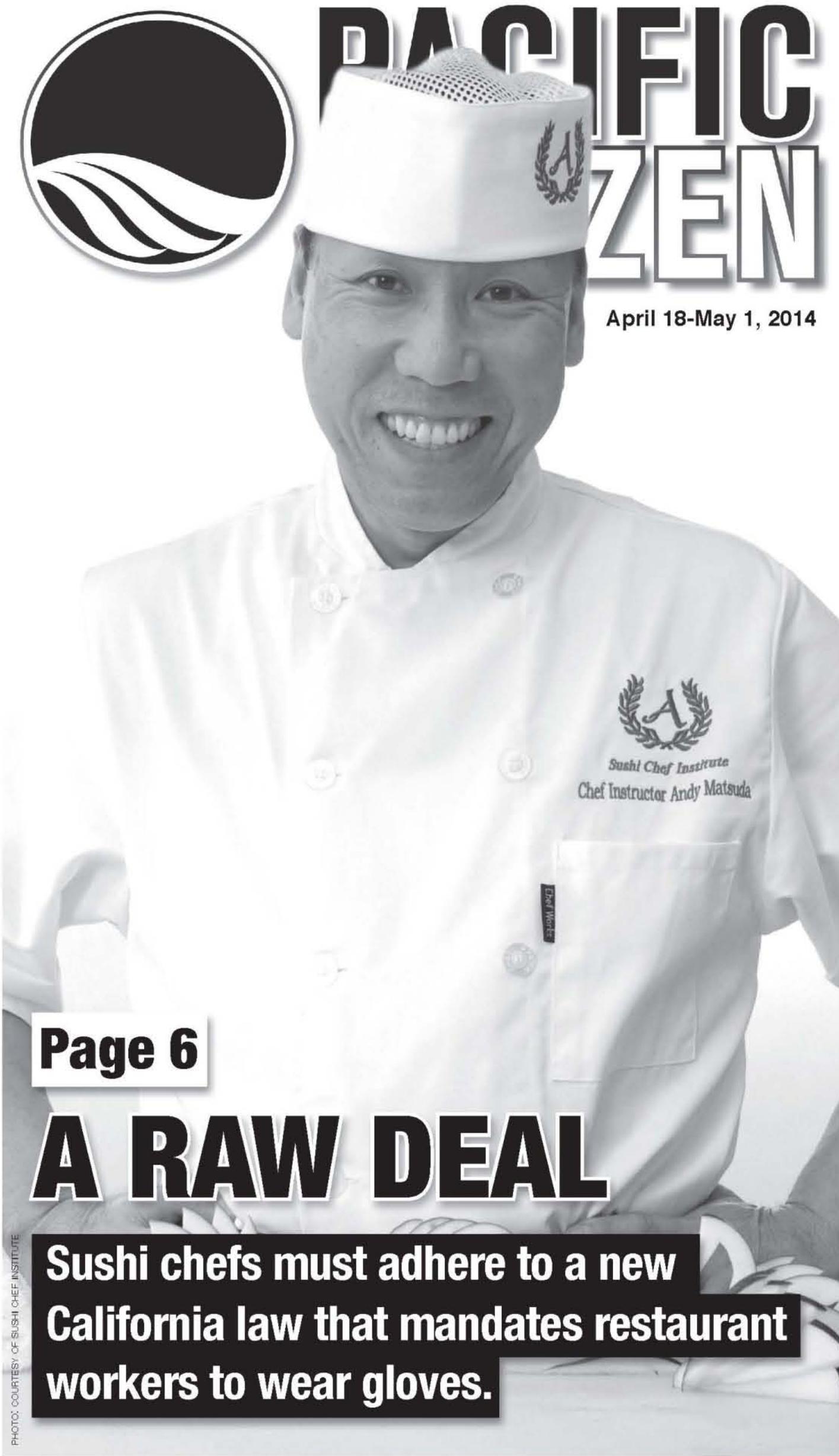
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A RAW DEAL

**Sushi chefs must adhere to a new
California law that mandates restaurant
workers to wear gloves.**

PHOTO: COURTESY OF SUSHI CHEF INSTITUTE



NIKKEI VOICE

Springtime Means the Return of Warm Weather and the P.C.'s Annual Outreach

By Gil Asakawa

The *Pacific Citizen* is about to sprout from a very long winter and bask in the sunshine. And you will provide the nourishing water to help the *P.C.* bloom.

The small but dedicated *P.C.* staff needs your help more than ever during its 2014 Spring Campaign in order to upgrade computer software and equipment to improve the *P.C.* and take the newspaper to the next level of excellence.

Many of you have supported the Spring Campaign in the past, so you already know how important your donations have been.

Your generosity every year has helped the *P.C.* keep up with technology and upgrade to the latest computer equipment and better cameras — the tools of the journalism trade. The Spring Campaign has even raised enough in the past to pay for a staff salary.

We're aiming for that kind of support from all of you once again.

This year, after two years of not being updated, we want to make the *P.C.*'s website a priority. The proposed future of the *Pacific Citizen* is a digital one, which means we need to make sure that *Pacificcitizen.org* is a reliable source for JACL's news and information, as well as all news affecting the Asian American community.

We'll also have new ways for you to find articles and other content. Of course, we'll maintain the important historical archives of the *P.C.* going back to the earliest issues in the 1930s.

And we'll begin featuring more of the types of content that the Internet allows to tell stories, as the *P.C.* will be competing with other news websites. We hope that you will trust the new *P.C.* website to be your No. 1 source of AAPI news and information.

To do all of these cool things and deliver the best possible website for you, our dedicated members and subscribers, we need the resources to once again upgrade our software and some of our equipment.

With your help, the *P.C.* will continue to be the most important connection you have to JACL and all Asian American news and evolve that connection into the digital era that looms before us.

I'll see you online in the months to come!

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.japanesanswers.com.

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Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I would like to commend John Tateishi for his article on the Minority Myth ("The JACL and the Model Minority Myth," March 7-20, 2014). I am an African American male who was born long before the Civil Rights Movement. I have been a longtime member and supporter of JACL. The African American experience is unlike all other minority groups in this country. After 250 years of slavery and another 100 years of suppression and discrimination, I am constantly amazed at the progress we have made.

Other minority groups rode in on the coat tails of the black Civil Rights Movement of the sixties and enjoy the benefits that were won with a human toll that is well documented.

Thank you for setting the record straight.

Sincerely,
George E. Logan

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A MOTHER'S TAKE

WORKING FOR THE GREATEST GOOD

By Marsha Aizumi

Last month I returned to Washington State to attend the 92nd Annual Seattle JACL banquet. One year after first meeting the leaders of the Seattle area, who were interested in bringing greater support to Asian Pacific Islander lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender families, I came back for two reasons. One was to accept an award from Seattle JACL, a Special Civil Rights Award, and the other to meet with JACL leaders, who wanted to grow our visibility in the Seattle area for API LGBT families. Both reasons were close to my heart, so I was excited to come back to the Pacific Northwest.

I brought back with me my husband, my son, Aiden, and his new wife, Mary. I wanted them to be there to see me receive my award, but more importantly, I wanted all in attendance to know that they were not only honoring the work I was doing in the LGBT community, but they were also honoring my family, who has been an integral part of my journey. My husband, Tad, has supported every dream that I have ever had — Seattle JACL was honoring him. They were also honoring my son, Stefen, who was at college but with us in spirit, continuing to be our role model of unconditional love and acceptance. And then there was Mary, Aiden's new wife, who traveled with us as a loving and nurturing partner in our work. JACL was honoring her. Finally, they were honoring my transgender son, Aiden, whose courage and deep love for our family started us on this amazing journey as he became our guide, our cheerleader and our inspiration. He has



The Seattle JACL 92nd Annual Banquet honored Marsha Aizumi (far right), pictured here with (from left) Seattle JACL President Toshiko Hasegawa and Aiden and Mary Aizumi.

faced so much in his 25 years of life, but he has emerged stronger, more resilient and now more hopeful for his future.

A highlight for me was having Priscilla Ouchida, JACL executive director, come up to me and my family right after my acceptance speech and thank us for our work. It was Priscilla's encouragement three years prior that created a belief in me that one mother's voice could make a difference.

The day after the gala, I met with three Seattle JACL leaders: current President Toshiko Hasegawa, President-elect Paul Tashima and former President Bill Tashima, as well as an executive board member of PFLAG Bellevue, Karen Gold. PFLAG is a national organization of over 350 chapters that supports families of LGBT individuals. We planned on how we would expand visibility and support for API LGBT families. Often families feel so alone and don't want to talk about LGBT issues, out of the fear of being ostracized by their community, their family, religious, work or ethnic community. Raising awareness and offering

resources would send a message that these families are not alone.

Shortly after Seattle, I traveled to Chicago to speak to the JACL Midwest delegates and also to do a presentation at a JACL and Christ Church of Chicago co-sponsored event.

>> See GREATEST GOOD on page 12



FOR THE RECORD

LESSONS MY GRANDFATHER TAUGHT ME

By John Tateishi

One of the best memories I have of my early life was the time I spent with my grandfather in Manzanar. I was the youngest of four boys in my family, and our *ojichan* had gone to Manzanar with us when we were forced to leave Los Angeles. He moved into our barracks unit, such as it was with planks for floors (the government hadn't even bothered to lay down carpets for us!), no furniture and walls that let the sunlight (and dust) in through the cracks.

My father had been taken away early in our imprisonment at Manzanar, and I think I must have felt the need for an adult male figure, and so I gravitated to my grandfather.

In much the way my dog follows me around the house now, I think I was like that with my grandfather because everywhere he went, I was right there with him. Those were my formative years, and I'm sure my insecurities were glaring, having been uprooted from the only place I'd known and then being separated from my parents for a time before rejoining them in Manzanar, only to see my father later taken away and us as a family shattered and scared.

But my grandfather was there, and I'm sure he gave my mother some comfort that things would be OK, that we would be OK as a family. I never really talked to my brothers about that day, and it occurs to me as I write this that it's strange we never did. It must have been like those frightful feelings kids have when terrible things happen to the adults in their lives and they, the kids, have absolutely no control or understanding of what's happening.

My emotional safety net was my grandfather. In many ways, he became father and mother to me. I rearranged the cots in our barracks one day when no one was there so that

my bunk was next to his, and I don't remember anyone saying anything to me about that. And as much as I followed him around, he did things for me, like getting up in the middle of cold winter nights to help me get my boots and jacket on and accompanying me to the latrine, or warming my clothes on the potbelly stove on cold winter mornings before I put them on, or giving me a *dakko* when the rains came and the walkways were muddy, and a thousand other little things. Even in the awfulness of being imprisoned, he did his share of spoiling me in the way grandparents do.

For some reason, my grandfather had a pass to leave the camp every day. I never really understood what it was for, but one of my brothers told me once that he was a watchman of a dam at a nearby creek, George's Creek. I don't remember any kind of dam there, and he wouldn't have made much of a watchman. Besides, how do you watch over a dam?

But every morning, he would walk out the back gate of the camp and trek across the desert to the creek. And I would be with him. For the most part, he was a quiet, contemplative man, but I remember having conversations with him out there in the desert, asking questions about things that had no answers because he always seemed so infinitely wise to me and I must have figured that if anyone would know, it would be he. I remember one time asking him one of those "What is the meaning of life" questions. He sat me down, handed me a piece of driftwood he had rubbed smooth, and told me to study that piece of wood and he would come back to get me when I figured it out.

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NEW TRAVELING EXHIBIT 'UPROOTED' WILL TELL THE STORY OF JA FARM LABOR WORKERS

The Oregon Cultural Heritage Commission received an NPS grant of \$92,386 in 2013 to document Oregon and Idaho labor camps.



PHOTOS: RUSSELL LEE/LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

By P.C. Staff

It was just a coincidence when about six years ago, Janet Koda, 61, saw a black-and-white photo of her family pictured at a World War II farm labor camp. Koda's sister found the photo in a Japanese American book, and then her niece would once again find the National Archives photo online.

"My mom is the one on the right. She about 19, 20 years old," said Koda of the photo that captures her mother, Mary Takami. "And that's Auntie Rosie."

The image shows Koda's family in 1942 gathered around a picnic table in a tent at Garrison's Corner camp near Nyssa, Ore. The Japanese Americans are staring patiently at the man behind the camera, photographer Russell Lee.

Lee served as a photographer for the Farm Security Administration from 1935-73. From the spring to the summer of 1942, Lee captured the unjust removal and subsequent incarceration of Japanese Americans in the United States. He traveled during July and August to labor camps in Idaho and Oregon, where he snapped images of families like Koda's.

Koda, who still lives in Oregon, helped identify her relatives in several of photos, including one of her father, Sonny Takami, a camp security officer who is posed grinning with a cigar in his mouth. Those photos will be part of an exhibit presented by the Oregon Cultural Heritage Commission called, "Uprooted: Japanese American Farm Labor Camps During World War II."

During WWII, the Farm Security Administration and the War Relocation Authority operated the farm labor camps that employed Japanese American laborers to harvest crops like sugar beets, which were used to make sugar, rubber, ethanol and ammunition. Laborers were recruited first from temporary assembly centers in Portland, Ore.; Puyallup, Wash.; Sacramento, Calif.; and Stockton, Calif. Japanese American laborers later came from behind the barbwire fences of Heart Mountain, Manzanar, Minidoka, Topaz and Tule Lake.

The exhibit — which includes 45 photos and an oral histories component — will open on Sept. 12 at the Four Rivers Cultural Center in Oregon. From there the exhibit will travel to the Pacific Northwest region.

"I've been working on this project for a little more than two years. It really started revving up about a year ago because someone said, 'Hey, that's my father and my mother,'" said Morgen Young, a JA Snake River chapter member who is also the project director and historian.

Young contacted the Pacific Citizen last year to ask readers to help identify unnamed people pictured in the photos. She also needed firsthand accounts for the exhibit's oral history



Sonny Takami, who was identified by his daughter, Janet Koda, takes a cigar break in July 1942.

Photographer Russell Lee visited Oregon and Idaho labor camps to capture the everyday life of Nikkei. Pictured are (from left) Jack and Shizuko (married), Henry, Thomas, Kiuda and Shizuyo (parents), Mary Takami and Rosie Ouchida Kuroye at the Garrison's Corner camp near Nyssa.

section.

That article caught the attention of 79-year-old James K. Tanaka of Monterey Park, Calif.

"I volunteer at the Japanese American National Museum. One particular day, a person was out, so I substituted in the Hirasaki Resource Center. When I was sitting there with nothing to do, I started looking through the paper. I said, 'Oh, I haven't read the Pacific Citizen lately. So, I starting thumbing through,'" said Tanaka. "I came across [Young's] request for people who had left camp and gone and stayed in the farm labor camp. So, I contacted her and set up an interview."

Tanaka was not able to identify family members in any of the photos, but he participated in the exhibit's oral history project. He shared his experiences as an 8-year-old boy living with his father and mother at Minidoka and later the Twin Falls labor camp in Idaho.

"My parents got cleared by the FBI. Their notice came Dec. 24, 1942," said Tanaka. "So, they went out on seasonal leave with a group of people who stayed at the Twin Falls farm labor camp that spring to help with the sugar beets," said Tanaka. "We stayed out until the fall harvest."

The traveling exhibit documents some 33,000 Japanese Americans like Tanaka, who left WWII incarceration camps from 1942-44 to work as seasonal laborers.

The Oregon Cultural Heritage Commission received a National Parks Service grant of \$92,386 last year to document agricultural labor camps in the Pacific Northwest. Financial support for the project also came from the Idaho Humanities Council and the Malheur County Cultural Trust.

Young, who is leading the exhibit project, says she was able to identify many people in the black-and-white photos with the help of the Japanese American community in Eastern Oregon. However, she still needs help identifying people in photos now uploaded to the photo-sharing site Flickr. Photos included in the exhibit will have captions with the

names of all who have been identified.

"I was real excited about this Farm Security Administration project. All the pictures that were taken, I'd never have them. It's part of our family history," said Koda. "I'm excited for the show that's going to happen in September here at Four Rivers Cultural Center."

Koda was in the fifth grade when her family left the labor camp in 1964. It was before the Beatles arrived in the U.S., she recalls. Thanks to the "Uprooted: Japanese American Farm Labor Camps During World War II" exhibit, Koda now has a piece of family history she never had before.

"The ones I have are just photocopies from the Internet," Koda said. "Eventually, we'll get actual photos, and those will be framed."

For more information about the project, visit the Flickr page at www.flickr.com/photos/119596064@N05/sets/, email uprooted@gmail.com or call (503) 333-4914.

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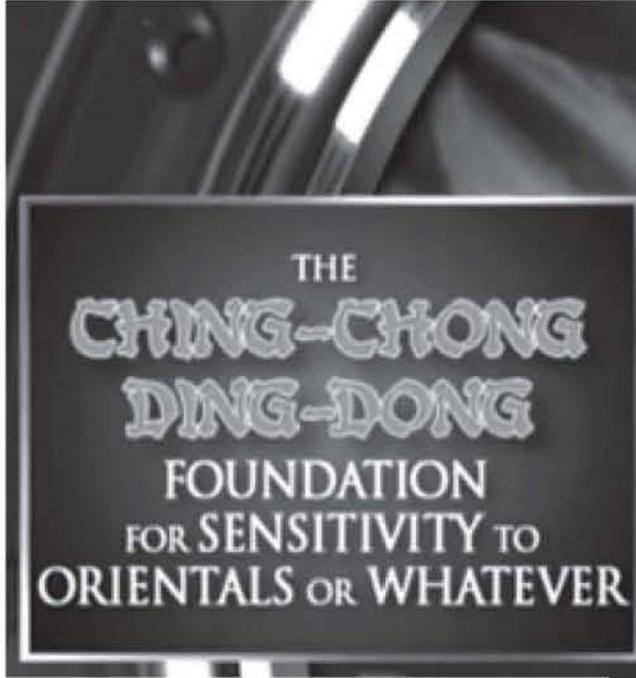
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Korean American writer and activist, Suey Park, is pictured here in a screen shot of her HuffPost Live interview with Josh Zepp.



CBS announced on April 10 that Stephen Colbert signed a five-year contract to host "The Late Show," succeeding David Letterman.

JACL RESPONDS TO 'THE COLBERT REPORT' CONTROVERSY

Some Asian American activists remain outraged over the comedy material that ignited the #CancelColbert Twitter firestorm.

By P.C. Staff

As comedian and political satirist Stephen Colbert prepares to take his seat as the host of CBS' "Late Show," some Asian American community activists are vowing keep alive the discussion that was sparked from the #CancelColbert controversy.

Writer and activist Suey Park, who ignited the Twitter firestorm, co-wrote a piece in *Time* magazine with fellow activist Eunsong Kim. In the April 10 article, Park and Kim explained their frustration.

"The marginalization of 'other voices' — except when those 'others' are brought in only to aid in the cheap punch line of a joke — is complete. This is aggression that we do not have to accept. We will protest this until it ends," they wrote.

The Korean American initially responded to a March 27 tweet sent out by @ColbertReport that stated, "I am willing to show #Asian community I care by introducing the Ching-Chong Ding-Dong Foundation for Sensitivity to Orientals of Whatever." The tweet was referring to a satirical sketch on the Comedy Central show that mocked Washington Redskins NFL football team owner Dan Snyder for creating a charitable foundation for Native

Americans, while the team still uses the racially offensive term.

The Twitter handle, as Colbert would point out, was not his personal account. But by then the hashtag created by Park was trending across Twitter.

In response to the situation, the JA CL issued a statement objecting to "Colbert's use of racist jokes to make a larger point about bigotry and ignorance."

"Tolerance and diversity is an ongoing education process. There is still a misunderstanding of racism as it applies to AAPIs," said Priscilla Ouchida, JA CL national director. "Each incident becomes a 'teachable moment' to educate the public about Asian stereotypes and the perpetuation of those stereotypes."

JA CL National, Ouchida says, has been actively working to raise awareness about cultural sensitivity and diversity in the media, meeting with officials from ABC, CBS, Fox and NBC.

Recently, Ouchida explained, the JA CL has obtained an apology from Robert Greenblatt, NBC Entertainment chair, for material on "The Tonight Show" that portrayed Asians as people who consume dogs. Additional advocacy work by JA CL has included meeting with Paul Lee, ABC Entertainment Group president, to discuss a child on "Jimmy Kimmel Live" who off-the-cuff suggested killing Chinese citizens.

Colbert, who will take over for David Letterman in 2015, deleted the Twitter account responsible for the controversy, with the help of the site's co-founder Biz Stone.

"According to news reports, Colbert will be dropping his conservative 'Colbert Report' character, which was where the offending material was placed," Ouchida said. "Colbert's intent was to draw attention to the fallacy of conservative arguments. The piece went south when it used an offending stereotype in the process. At this time, I do not have significant concerns. Colbert and the network are on notice, and I think they will be more thoughtful before straying into that territory again."

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A Raw Deal

A new California law mandating restaurant workers and bartenders to wear gloves has left many sushi chefs feeling that they have lost their 'connection' to their culinary works of art.

By **Connie K. Ho**
Contributor

Taste. Smell. Touch. These are all important senses for chefs, particularly those who have mastered the fine art of making sushi. However, a new law in California has made it mandatory for restaurant workers to wear gloves. The law was first passed on Jan. 1 and impacts everyone who touches food in any way, including bartenders and sushi chefs.

Those in the food industry have rallied together to repeal the law. At the end of March, the state's Assembly Health Committee voted unanimously to reword sections of the law that made disposable gloves mandatory. This is the first step in the repeal process and, in the next step, AB 1252 would move to the floor of the state assembly for a vote.

Chef Andy Matsuda is just one of the sushi chefs who has been vocal about AB 1252; he has spoken to a number of media outlets regarding petitions to repeal the law.

Matsuda has extensive experience, having worked in sushi bars in Aspen, Colo.; New York City and Santa Monica, Calif. In 2002, he opened the Sushi Chef Institute, a sushi training school for beginners and professional chefs that is currently based out of Torrance, Calif. He shares his knowledge of sushi with people of all backgrounds and has provided insight on how the California glove law will impact sushi chefs in particular.

For Matsuda, there are both positive and negative effects of the law.

Potential positives of glove use include zero bacteria transfer between food, specifically meat, fish or vegetables. There is zero bacteria transferred from hands, but there is still the possibility of transferring bacteria from glove to food.

The potential negatives of glove use include higher risks of not having a firm grip on the knife, making it an unsafe cooking situation. Other potential negatives include bacterial growth within the glove, the possibility of accidentally cutting and serving part of the glove, loss of appetite from customers at sushi bars and the continuous use of the same glove despite the need to change out gloves.

"So many people come to us to talk about the law," Matsuda said. "A lot of people are calling us and asking for updates."

Matsuda notes the history of sushi, in particular how it's a culinary art that has been done for hundreds of years in the same fashion, repudiating the argument that the use of gloves will bolster food safety. He also points out how sushi chefs wash their hands frequently and use kitchen towels kept in sanitizing water to kill bacteria.



Chef Andy Matsuda of the Sushi Chef Institute

Sushi from the Sushi Chef Institute

"Japanese people are really healthy and have lived long lives. On average, men have lived until they're 79, and women have lived until they're 84. They are the longest inhabitants on Earth, and one of the healthiest cultures," Matsuda said.

Morihiro Onodera, chef of Mori Sushi from 2000-11, also waxes on the health aspects of the California glove law.

"I understand how the health department decided to use gloves because it's safe and a health issue," said Onodera, whose restaurant served handmade ingredients and locally harvested rice. "But not a lot of people are using gloves right now, (and) I go to sushi restaurants all the time." (Since the law took effect Jan. 1, restaurants have at least

six months to comply with the new mandate.)

For Onodera, who was trained as a sushi chef in Tokyo and has worked at renowned dining establishments such as Los Angeles restaurants Katsu, Matsuhisa, R-23 and Takao, the California glove law impacts the process of putting together the pieces of sushi.

"This is not very comfortable because it's such a delicate job making rice and cutting the fish, and (wearing a) glove is not really feeling the small details," Onodera said.

Jay Terauchi, a food marketing consultant, heard about the law early on. A number of Terauchi's clients are sushi chefs themselves, and he understands their disdain and suspicion of the law.

"For some of the older, traditional chefs, they do a lot of things by touch, by feel, to make a piece of sushi. It's not about squeezing the rice together to form it, it's all about the light touch. For them, it's like trying to type with ski gloves on. Yeah, you can do it, you can type with very heavy, thick gloves on, but are you going to be as accurate?"



Chef Andy Matsuda demonstrates the fine art of making sushi.



Culinary students hone their craft.

‘This is not very comfortable because it’s such a delicate job making rice and cutting the fish, and (wearing a glove) is not really feeling the small details.’

— Chef Morihiro Onodera

Pieces of sushi from the Sushi Chef Institute

code violations,” Terauchi said. “I’m not a health code inspector, I don’t pretend to be or even acknowledge the fact that I’m an expert. But on the other hand, common sense type of stuff, I don’t see a lot of places where I think, ‘I would never eat here.’ I think there are other things we should worry about in the food industry versus does everybody have on gloves. I think that creates a false sense of food safety.”

Terauchi also brings up the environmental impact that the law could have.

“My first thoughts were thinking about how California is usually one of the leaders — here we are trying to reduce the number of things that we throw away: rubbish, garbage. We’re talking about recycling, we’re talking about reusing things — and here we’re creating more to fill these dump sites,” Terauchi said. “I know that, in a sushi bar, when I was working behind the bar, I don’t know how many times I’ve washed my hands, I’ve washed out my towels, I’ve kept things clean versus having to wear gloves, whether it’s been in the front at a sushi bar or in the back kitchen because of cross-contamination. Having to change gloves each time you touch something different, taking out the gloves to go out to the dining room because somebody would like an explanation — I was thinking how many times you would have to change gloves, and it’s kind of creating more trash for me personally.”

He believes that more education could be done, highlighting the importance of keeping things sanitary and washing hands.

“I’m not sure if this has been thought out because just the amount of gloves I know I would’ve gone

through in a dinner shift, multiply that by the number of people who work in restaurants in California — that’s a lot of gloves,” Terauchi said. “I thought the movement and the ‘recycle, reuse’ kind of thing — if that’s the direction we’re trying to go to reduce the waste, to reduce the greenhouse gases, to reduce all that, it doesn’t sound like that’s a solution or that that solution is a Band-Aid, but there’s a much larger issue out there.

Apart from the environmental impact, Terauchi sees an economic impact from the California glove law.

“From the industry perspective, I think that putting restraints like this make it tougher. To be a business here in California, with so many businesses closing, with a lot of big business leaving the state, whether it’s taxes or regulation or things like that, it’s just making California a tougher place to do business,” Terauchi said.

Are you going to be as fast? Just losing that sense of touch, maybe for them it might be relearning — it’s all about the touch, it’s all about the feel, it’s all about the right amount of pressure to form a rice ball like that,” Terauchi said. “Because I had done more production stuff where I have worked with gloves, I’m not as fast, the sushi didn’t come out really uniformly because of it being different, having to wear gloves to do something that you have done with clean hands before.”

Terauchi intricately knows the food industry, having taught sushi classes in the past and worked as a chef in restaurants. As a food marketing consultant, he helps a number of businesses on their social media marketing and communications strategies.

“I’ve heard a lot of, ‘It’s added bureaucracy’ or, ‘Do they really understand what we’re doing at this level?’ I can also understand the flipside. There are a lot of places that, for sanitary reasons or unsanitary reasons, I understand. But I think, for the most part, I’ve been in a lot of kitchens, I’ve been to a lot of restaurants, and I would say I don’t see a lot of health

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CA State Grange Apologizes to Japanese Americans for Discriminatory Past

By JACL National Staff

SACRAMENTO — The California State Grange, a fraternal organization that supports agriculture and agricultural communities in the state of California, has offered a formal written apology to the Japanese American community for its treatment of Japanese Americans before and during World War II.

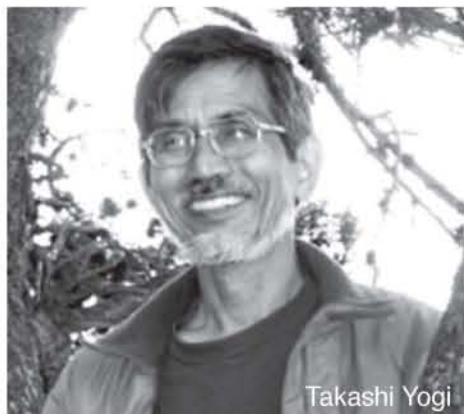
With its members threatened by Japanese immigrant farmers and farmworkers, the Grange joined forces with the American Legion, the California State Federation of Labor and the Native Sons of the Golden West to curb Japanese immigration via the Asiatic Exclusion League from 1907 onward.

Takashi Yogi, who sits on the executive committee of the Grange, was instrumental in this effort. He authored the resolution that called for the apology, a resolution that was adopted unanimously at their convention. Yogi states that historian and JACLer Sandy Lydon was “the spark” that inspired him to take action. It was Lydon who had informed some members of the Grange of its discriminatory past and who suggested remedial action. Yogi answered that call and introduced his resolution.

A letter addressed to JACL President David Lin from California State Grange President Bob McFarland apologizes for the Grange’s institutional racism against Japanese immigrants, as well as for calling for the exclusion and deportation of Japanese Americans during WWII.

In part, McFarland’s letter stated, “The California Grange passed a resolution in 1907 which stated that aliens living in the United States should be barred from buying and owning land. The California Grange was instrumental in passage of the Alien Land Law of 1920, and the 1924 law ending Japanese immigration to the United States.

“In 1922, the California Grange passed



Takashi Yogi



Bob McFarland

a resolution supporting federal legislation that resulted in the 1924 law that expressed ‘... the intense feeling of our people of the West in this matter, so absolutely vital to Christian civilization and the white races of our country.’

“These early seeds of racism sprouted after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, and the Grange supported the incarceration of Japanese Americans. In 1943, the Grange called for the deportation of all people of Japanese ancestry, aliens and American citizens alike.

“In view of this history of discrimination, an apology is long overdue. The California State Grange, by unanimous vote of its member delegates, recently passed a resolution calling for an apology to the Japanese American community. As

President of the California State Grange, I present this letter of apology to the Japanese American Citizens League,

with the request that it be shared with Japanese Americans across the country.

“No words can compensate for the past injustice and loss of property, freedom and dignity, but I hope that this is a small step toward preventing a recurrence of racism and toward promoting equality for all people.”

McFarland concluded. ■



APAs in the News

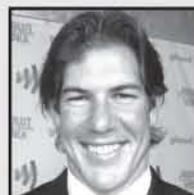


Jane Nishida Nominated for EPA Position

WASHINGTON, D.C. — President Barack Obama announced on April 3 his intention to nominate Jane Nishida as assistant administrator for international and tribal affairs at the Environmental Protection Agency.

Nishida is currently the acting assistant administrator for international affairs and principal deputy assistant administrator for international affairs at the EPA, a position she has held since 2013. Nishida has more than 30 years of environmental experience. Prior to her current role, she served as director of the Office of Regional and Bilateral Affairs within the Office of International and Tribal Affairs from 2011-2013.

She received a B.A. from Lewis and Clark College and a J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center.



Scott Fujita, Jamie Hagiya and Wataru ‘Wat’ Misaka Honored at JANM Gala

LOS ANGELES — Former NFL football player Scott Fujita and basketball players Jamie Hagiya and Wataru “Wat” Misaka were honored April 12 at the Hyatt Regency Century Plaza Hotel during the Japanese American National Museum’s 2014 Gala.

Under the theme “Evolving Pastimes: Connecting Communities & Generations Through Sports,” the event celebrated athletes and sports personalities who have made an impact at the highest levels of competition and also helped forge enduring bonds, from Nisei who sought normalcy playing sports during World War II to the growth of Japanese American sports leagues after the war.

Fujita, a former linebacker for the Super Bowl-winning New Orleans Saints, shared his story in support of the gala’s “Bid for Education,” which subsidizes bus transportation for student visits to the museum.

Hagiya received a full scholarship to play basketball for the University of Southern California Trojans and went on to a career playing basketball overseas. She currently owns a Crossfit Gym.

And Misaka was drafted by the New York Knickerbockers in 1947, becoming the first person of color to be drafted in the NBA.



Rep. Mark Takano Appointed to the House Education and Workforce Committee

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Rep. Mark Takano (D-Riverside) was appointed on April 2 to the House Education and Workforce Committee and has resigned his position on the House Science, Space and Technology Committee.

“I’m incredibly proud to be joining the Education and Workforce Committee,” said Takano, a former teacher in Riverside County in California. “Having spent more than 20 years as a classroom teacher and a union member, I have a unique perspective on how to improve our education system and the lives of our nation’s workers.”

Since being elected to Congress in 2012, Takano has used his teaching experience to advocate for improving the American education system through lasting reforms that positively impact student performance.



California Supreme Court Justice Joyce Kennard Retires

SAN FRANCISCO — On the 25th anniversary of her appointment to the California State Supreme Court, Justice Joyce Kennard retired on April 5.

As the court’s longest-serving justice, Kennard announced her retirement intentions in a letter to Gov. Jerry Brown in February. Kennard was first appointed to the bench by then-Gov. George Deukmejian.

Kennard, 72, was born in Indonesia and spent her infancy in a Japanese internment camp on Java.

Upon moving to the United States, she earned her MPA and law degree at the University of Southern California. She then served as deputy attorney general and was appointed to the L.A. County Municipal Court and Superior Court, as well as the state Court of Appeals.

Kennard was first elected to the Supreme Court in 1990 and again in 1994 and 2006.

Her retirement gives Brown his second Supreme Court nomination; his first appointee was Justice Goodwin Liu in 2011. Also serving on the court are Chief Justice Tani Gorre Cantil-Sakauye and Justices Marvin Baxter, Kathryn Werdegar, Ming Chin and Carol Corrigan. ■

Cross-Cultural Education: Japanese American and Muslim American Youths Visit Manzanar



The day ended at the cemetery, where Bridging Communities students reflected on their program experience. A moment of silence was also held to honor the lives of those who were incarcerated at Manzanar.

By JACL National Staff

Japanese American and Muslim American high school students from the Greater Los Angeles area took a four-hour pilgrimage from Little Tokyo in Los Angeles to the Manzanar National Historic Site in the Owens Valley on March 22 as participants in the Bridging Communities program.

Now in its sixth year, the Bridging Communities program emerged after various solidarity vigils and dialogues were held between the Japanese American and Muslim communities in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks. The program was created for youth from both communities to interact and share their experiences.

This year, the Los Angeles Bridging Communities program consisted of two main sessions, an educational retreat and a pilgrimage to the Japanese American confinement site Manzanar.

During the pilgrimage, National Park Service staff pro-

vided students with the history and tour of the Manzanar National Historic Site, and students also participated in an interactive service-learning project. The students' involvement in this project contributes to the NPS' ongoing efforts to preserve the remaining historical and cultural features of Manzanar and added to the participants' understanding of the Japanese American incarceration experience.

The students ended the trip by contemplating the importance of preserving all facts of history, giving them a shared sense of purpose.

Youth-led projects and workshops will follow, where participants will share their interpretations of the Manzanar National Historic Site with their communities, as seen through the eyes of their own generation.

Kathy Masaoka, a representative from Nikkei Civil Rights and Redress and one of the original organizers of Bridging Communities, remarked on the importance of cul-

tivating these relationships.

"We now have a history of working together and can fall back on those relationships in the future," said Masaoka. "Young people take these experiences with them and have deepened their own understanding of themselves. When they speak about the program, it is clear that supporting each other's communities has become a very natural thing to do."

The L.A. Bridging Communities Program is a collaboration between the JACL, Kizuna, the Council on Islamic Relations-Greater Los Angeles and NCRR. The program is funded, in part, by a grant from the Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program.

For more information on the Bridging Communities Program, visit www.jaclpsw.org.

National Cherry Blossom Freedom Walk Celebrates Enduring Friendship

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The 16th annual Cherry Blossom Freedom Walk, the first major event of the three-weeks-long National Cherry Blossom Festival, was held at the National Japanese American World War II Memorial to Patriotism on April 5.

Approximately 500 people attended the standing-room only program, which featured keynote speaker Joan Z. Bernstein, chair of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians. Additional speakers included Kenichiro Sasae, the current Japanese Ambassador to the United States, and Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton of the District of Columbia.

The program was jointly sponsored by the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation, Japanese American Veterans Assn., JACL, WDC Chapter and the Ekoji Buddhist Temple.

JAVA President Gerald Yamada provided background information about the role played by Bernstein as chair of the CWRIC, whose findings served as the basis of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.

Bernstein provided the history, conclusions and impact of the CWRIC, which was established in 1980 and mandated

by Congress to conduct a study of Executive Order 9066. The nine-member commission held hearings in various U.S. cities and the Pribilof Islands and heard testimonies of more than 750 witnesses.

In 1983, the CWRIC findings were included in the 467-page report "Personal Justice Denied." Among the report's findings, it was concluded that internment was not necessary, that it was caused by war hysteria, racial prejudice and the failure of political leadership, and it recommended that legislation be passed consisting of an official government apology, redress payments to each of the survivors and a public education fund to help ensure that this kind of tragedy would not happen again. The Civil Liberties Act of 1988 incorporated these recommendations.

Ambassador Sasae noted that the first place he visited upon arrival in Washington, D.C., to assume his duties was the National Japanese American Memorial, the symbol of ethnic Japanese treatment during World War II and of their courage and patriotism to help America win the war and defeat prejudice and racism. He also observed that the "cherry blossom has long been a symbol of enduring and close friendship between Japan and U.S.A."



Cutting the ribbon to officially begin the 2014 Freedom Walk are (from left) Nobuko Sasae, JACL's Amy Watanabe, Ambassador Kenichiro Sasae, Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, keynote speaker Joan Bernstein, NJAMF's Dan Matthews and JAVA's Gerald Yamada.

Following the program, more than 100 participants took part in the one-mile Freedom Walk along the Tidal Basin, home to the 3,000 cherry blossom trees that were gifted to Washington, D.C., by Japan in 1912.

A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

PHOTO: JCCCNC



CALENDAR

Colma Japanese Cemetery Cleanup Day COLMA, CA

May 17, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Colma Japanese Cemetery
1300 Hillside Blvd.

The Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California will coordinate a cleanup day at the three-acre Colma Japanese cemetery to honor those who have passed. JCCCNC will provide tools, cleaning supplies, water, bentos and flowers. Volunteers should bring their own gloves, if needed.

Info: Visit www.jcccnc.org or call (415) 567-5505.

>> NATIONAL

The 45th Annual National JACL Convention SAN JOSE, CA

July 9-12
Double Tree by Hilton
2050 Gateway Place

The 2014 JACL National Convention's theme is "We Are America." National JACL is accepting proposals for convention workshops scheduled on July 11 from 10 a.m.-noon. The deadline to submit a workshop proposal form is April 30. **Info: Email dc@jacl.org or visit www.jacl.org.**

>> EDC

Asian Americans Advancing Justice's American Courage Awards WASHINGTON, D.C.

Oct. 2, 6:30-8 p.m.
The National Press Club
529 14th St., NW

Cost: \$100/ACA Reception Ticket
The American Courage Awards will feature the presentation of the American Courage Award, the Distinguished Service Award and the Bridge Builder Award. **Info: Contact Hannah Zlotnick at (202) 296-2300, ext. 117, or visit www.advancingjustice-aaajc.org.**

The 2014 Spirit of Asian America Gala NEW YORK, NY

June 18, 6:30 p.m.
The Pierre

Fifth Avenue at 61st Street
Cost: \$500/General Admission; \$350/Nonprofit Ticket; \$7,500-\$100,000/Tables

The Asian American Federation's Spirit of Asian

America Gala celebrates communities, corporate diversity partners and giving back to those in need. This year's honorees include Kyung Hee Choi and Rachel Orkin-Ramey.

Info: Visit www.aafny.org or call (212) 344-5878.

Butoh Dancer Moeno Wakamatsu's Training Workshop BROOKLYN, NY

June 27, 1:30-5:30 p.m. and
June 28-29, 2:30-6:30 p.m.

CAVE Home of LEIMAY
58 Grand St.

Cost: \$160/Full Course; \$56/Single Class

This LEIMAY Ludus training lab with butoh dancer Moeno Wakamatsu will emphasize sharpening awareness, sensitivity and concentration. **Info: Visit www.leimaymain.cavearts.org.**

>> NCWNP

Day in the Life of Asia Pacific America Photo Workshop SAN JOSE, CA

May 4, 2 p.m.

Japanese American Museum of San Jose
535 N. Fifth St.

Cost: \$5/Nonmember Admission; \$3/Students and Seniors; Free/JAMSJ Members and Children

"Day in the Life of Asian Pacific America" invites all photographers on May 10 to capture the essence of Asian Pacific America and upload images to Flickr. Photogs Curt Fukuda, Jim Nagareda and filmmaker Duane Kubo will hold a May 4 workshop to discuss the details and parameters of the event. RSVP is required.

Info: Visit www.jamsj.org or call (408) 294-3138.

Udomatsuri Sports Event PALO ALTO, CA

May 25, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Gunn High School
780 Arastradero Road

Cost: \$10/Per Person; Free/Children

This event aims to strengthen community ties through family-friendly games of tug-of-war, ball toss, obstacle relay, dodge ball and more. Entrance fee includes a team T-shirt, light lunch and bottle of tea.

Info: Visit www.undomatsuri.com.

>> PSW

Liberty in North Korea Student Summit MALIBU, CA

June 12-15

Pepperdine University
24255 Pacific Coast Hwy.

Cost: \$10/ To Reserve a Seat; \$200/General Registration

The North Korea Summit aims to unite, educate and activate students to be leaders in creating change for the future. Registration covers food, housing and transportation. Special guests include musician David Choi, musical group Run the River North and YouTubers Eat Your Kimchi.

Info: Visit www.libertyinnorthkorea.org or call (310) 212-7190.

Flower Lei Making Workshop LOS ANGELES, CA

June 7, 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Japanese American National Museum
100 N. Central Ave.

Cost: \$38/JANM Members; \$45/Nonmembers

Learn the Hawaiian tradition and technique behind making single and double carnation leis. Participants must be 12 years or older. RSVP to reserve a seat.

Info: Visit www.janm.org or call (213) 625-0414.

Taiko Nation 2014 Concerts LOS ANGELES, CA

July 19, 8 p.m. and
July 20, 2-7 p.m.

Japanese American Cultural & Community Center
244 S. San Pedro St.

Cost: \$35/Orchestra; \$30/Balcony

Taiko groups from across the world will come together for Taiko Nation, presented by 2014 World Taiko Gathering. Featured artists include Kagemusha Taiko, Taro Kobayashi, members of TaikOz, Chieko Kojima & Eiichi Saito, Kaoru Watanabe, Yakara and Taiko Project. **Info: Visit www.jaccc.org or call (213) 628-2725.**

Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival LOS ANGELES, CA

May 5-11

Japanese American National Museum
100 N. Central Ave

The LAAPFF will celebrate its 30th anniversary, featuring 40 feature-length films and 103 shorts. The film "To Be Takei" by director Jennifer Kroo will kick off the event on May 1. Other screenings will be held at the Director's Guild of America, Koreatown CGV Cinemas and Art Theatre in Long Beach. Ticket prices vary for each event.

Info: Visit www.asianfilmfestla.org/2014 or call (213) 680-4462.

>> MDC

Wisconsin Chapter Luncheon MILWAUKEE, WI

May 3, 11:30 a.m.

Wilson Commons
Community Room

1400 W. Sonata Dr.

The Wisconsin Chapter will hold its inaugural luncheon with speaker Jasmine Alinder, University of Wisconsin Milwaukee professor and author of "Moving Images: Photography and the Japanese American Incarceration." Midwest Director Bill Yoshino will help swear in new officers and present the chapter's Member of the Year Award.

Info: Email Cheryl Miyazaki Lund at cmk.lund@gmail.com.

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FOR MORE INFO:

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(800) 966-6157

In Memoriam

EMOTO, HARRY HIROSHI, 92, Spokane, WA; Feb. 18; a member of the Highland Park Methodist Church, the JACL and the Railway Brotherhood; predeceased by his parents, his wife, Hatsue, his sister, Jeannie, and his brother, Joe; survived by his children, Tom (Judy), James (Beverly), John, Jerry (Linda), Connie (Bob) Birr; sisters, Hisako Akiyama, Shizuko Mita, Jean Okazaki; numerous nieces and nephews; 6 gc; 5 ggc.

GOHATA, TOSHIKO JAN, 93, Gardena, CA; April 2; predeceased by her husband, Tomio, in 1981; survived by children, Edwin (Connie), Brian (Joyce), Ted (Linda) and Mark; also survived by nieces and nephews; 3 gc; 2 ggc.

INASHIMA, MARY E., 93, Woburn, MA; March 30; beloved wife of Dr. O. James Inashima of 62 years; a longtime member of the First Congregational Church of Woburn and charter member of Woburn Guild of Artists; survived by son, John Harvey Inashima; daughter, Cindy Custer (Joseph Jr.); also survived by many nieces, nephews and grandnieces; 2 gc.

KAIURA, JEAN FUMIE, 71, March 24; survived by her husband, Earl M. Kaiura; daughter, Terry (Christopher Johnson) Kaiura Johnson; mother, Elinor Ishimoto of HI and brother, Dennis (Cindy) Ishimoto of HI, also survived by many aunts, uncles and relatives; 4 gc.

KANESHIRO, STEVEN SHIGETOSHI, 90, Carson, CA; March 20; Hawaii-born 442nd RGT veteran with the Cannon Company; he served in the European Theater and received the Purple Heart and Bronze Star; predeceased by his wife, Florence Harue; survived by daughters, Gail and Mona and Bernellie (Al) Chong; brother, Shigemitsu (Jean); and sisters, Clara Ishihara, Thelma Wong and Frances (Stanley) Tengan; also survived by his niece, Nancy (Tom) Matsumoto, and many other relatives; 2 gc.

KIYOHIRO, YURIKO, 92, Spokane, WA; March 13; during WWII she was interned in the Japanese Relocation Camps; she predeceased by her husband of 65 years, Leo; her beloved mother and father; a sister and two brothers; survived by one sister in Japan; a brother and sister-in-law in Japan; a brother-in-law in Illinois; and many cousins, nieces, and nephews.

KUNITSUGU, YOSHIMI, 88, Stevenson Ranch, CA; March 24; a veteran of WWII; survived by his wife, Ida; daughter, Laura (Doug) Ridnor; sisters-in-law, Mary Sata, Kay Mori and Judy; brother-in-law, Bill (Helen) Hayakawa; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; 2 gc.

LEE, MICHAEL CHARLES, 66, Los Angeles, CA; March 14; he is survived by his wife, Cyndi Wakita-Lee; daughter, April Lee (Jon Swartz); aunt, Nell Yee; cousins, Darryl Yee (Anne) and Kevin Yee (Lisa); mother-in-law, Nancy Nishi; brother-in-law, Mark Wakita (Celeste); nieces, Madison and Jady Wakita; also survived by many other relatives; 1 gc.

MATSUMOTO, GEORGE ATSUSHI, 89, Anaheim, CA; March 31; he is predeceased by his brothers, William Hideo and David Hiroshi Matsumoto; beloved husband of Shizuko Matsumoto; father of Betty Akemi (James Herle) Matsumoto and June Fumi (James) Suzuki; brother of Fred Shigeru and James Isao (Barbara) Matsumoto of IL, Mae Masako Kambara, Grace Akiko Hoy; brother-in-law of Kathy Matsumoto of WA and Lillian Sumi Matsumoto; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives in California, New York and Japan; 2 gc.

MURAKAMI, ROY TAKESHI, 85, Carson, CA; March 21; a Sacramento-born Nisei; former internee of Jerome and Tule Lake; served in the U.S. Army; predeceased by his wife of 53 years, Mrs. Yotsuye; son, Larry Setsuo; he is survived by his children, Karen Kazuko Capirchio and Amy Emiko (Michael) Hansen; loving brother of John and Sam, Mary Wakita of WA, Joe (Katsuko), Fred (Toyoko) and Bob, Nancy (Torao) Takeuchi, Susy Tanaka, David (Charlotte) and Tom (Keiko); also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; 7 gc; 1 ggc.

NAKAGAWA, MIYOKO, 89, Alameda, CA; March 27; survived by her daughter, Lin (Henry) Miyake; nieces, nephews and other relatives; 1 gc.

NISHITSUJI, GEORGIA, 68, March 18; a Colorado-born Sansei; survived by her loving family; brothers, Kenny and Gordy (Martiza); sisters, Janice (Leigh) Fukunaga and Donna (Gary) Hiram; niece, Kary Fukunaga; also survived by many other relatives.

OTSUKI, ISAMI, 88, Norwalk, CA; March 18; he is survived by his children, Jerro (Joy), Nina (Tim) Marshall and Lisa; siblings, Hideo and Fumiko Okamoto; he is also survived by other relatives; 3 gc.

OZAWA, HITOSHI JAMES, 91, Los Alamitos, CA; March 15; a Calif.-born Nisei and WWII veteran; survived by his children, Steve (Pamela), Sandra (Tom) Matsui and Norman (Christine); sisters-in-law, Sayoko, Miyo Mitani and Michiko Kitaura; 5 gc; 3 ggc.

SHINGU, ALVIN MASARU, 58, Los Angeles, CA; March 18; survived by his mother, Masako; brother, Glenn; sister, Vickie (David) Tanabe; nephews, Bryan and Blake Tanabe; and many relatives.

TABATA, SAZUKO, 87, Ranchos Palos Verdes, CA; April 1; predeceased by her beloved husband, Hisayuki Tabata; survived by children, Mitsutaka (Yumiko) of Japan, and Chiemi.

TSUTAKAWA, HIDE, 91, Spokane, WA; March 15; predeceased by husband of 57 years, Ed; survived by her children, Nancy, Margaret (Dennis) Langston and Mark (Jackie); beloved step-grandchildren, Tamy Langston Tapia, Lisa Langston Alipate, Jeff (Carolynn) Langston and their families; 4 gc; 1 ggc.

UYEDA, FUMIYE, 88, Los Angeles, CA; March 21; a former office manager at Cedar Sinai Medical Center and Japanese American National Museum volunteer; predeceased by her husband, Tom; survived by her daughters, Vickie and Valerie (Larry Silva); sister, Kayo Nagatani.

YUMORI, BEN TSUTOMU, 93, Culver City, CA; March 25; he is survived by his wife, Betty; daughter, La Donna (Mike) Yumori-Kaku; sisters-in-law, Yukiko and Terrie Yumori.

TRIBUTE

SATOSHI 'BUD' NAGASE



Satoshi "Bud" Nagase passed away peacefully at home in San Jose, Calif., under hospice care on March 24, 2014, at age 97. He was predeceased by his beloved wife, Helen, and his brother, Isamu ("Sam"), and sister, Harumi ("Pam"). He is survived by his daughter, Nancy, and son, Alan, nephew and nieces and several grandnephews and grandnieces.

Satoshi was born in San Fernando, Calif., and grew up in Watsonville, Calif. During World War II, he was interned in Poston, Ariz., until he was released to be one of the first Japanese language instructors at the Military Intelligence Service Language School in Camp Savage, Minn. He subsequently served more than 20 years in Japan as a liaison officer in both a civilian and reserve officer capacity. He worked with the Japan Defense Agency, the Prime Minister's Office and the National Police Agency. He retired as a lieutenant colonel and later from federal service in June 1976 and moved to San Jose. He was a proud recipient of the Congressional Gold Medal in February 2012 in recognition of his wartime service in the Military Intelligence Service.

Satoshi's main hobby was golf, which he played into his 80s. He also watched golf on TV and sumo (Japanese traditional wrestling) tapes. As a young man, he enjoyed ham radio work. Later, he became interested in stamp collecting and operated a small philately business. He also pursued genealogy research into his family tree in Japan. He enjoyed travel and especially his special trip to Scotland to play golf at some of the famous courses and visit Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, in the Outer Hebrides, because the family's beloved Scottie dog's name was Winston Chase de Stornoway.

Satoshi participated in activities at Yu-Ai Kai Japanese American Community Senior Service Center and was a member of Wesley United Methodist Church. He donated to many Japanese American causes. He will be missed by many.

The family wishes to thank his wonderful caregiver, Yodit Tesfay, who tended him lovingly and compassionately in his home for 14 months. Pathways Hospice provided excellent care during his last days. The family requests that in lieu of flowers, friends make a contribution to Yu-Ai Kai or the charity of their choice.

Burial with full military honors will be at Golden Gate National Cemetery in San Bruno and will be private. A memorial service was held on April 12 at 1 p.m. at Wesley United Methodist Church, 566 N. Fifth St., San Jose.

TRIBUTE

GEORGE S. NAKASHIMA

George S. Nakashima, 91, passed away peacefully on March 22, 2014, in Los Angeles. Born on April 10, 1922, in Montecito, he was a longtime resident of Monterey Park and enjoyed a successful career in the aerospace industry. In retirement, he enjoyed golf, gardening, cheering his home teams, the L.A. Dodgers and Lakers and spending time with family and friends. Beloved husband, brother and uncle, George was predeceased by his wife, June, in 2008. He is survived by his loving sister, Bette Nakatomi, and nephews, Glenn D., Gerald E. Hayashi, and Gloria A. (David) Siebold, Cynthia Mikimoto, Barbara (Jim Perna), Debra (Bob Miyamoto), Judy (Ricky Schlesinger) and Douglas Nakatomi and many grandnieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, April 26, 2014, at 2 p.m., at Fukui Mortuary, 707 E. Temple St., Los Angeles, with Rev. Mark Nakagawa of Centenary United Methodist Church officiating.

Memorial contributions can be made to: Great Leap, 1730 W. Olympic Blvd., Suite 300, L.A. 90015 or Little Tokyo Service Center, 231 E. Third St., L.A. 90012. www.fukuimortuary.com.

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

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JAPANESE AMERICAN HERITAGE DAYS EVENT TO BE HELD AT MONTEREY'S FISHERMAN'S WHARF



Many Japanese worked in abalone canneries in Monterey, as seen in this photo, circa 1938.

GREATEST GOOD >> continued from page 3

Working with Bill Yoshino, the Midwest regional director, I hoped to find leaders who wanted to be a beacon of hope to API LGBT families in their area. I also wanted to support churches who voted to become open and affirming places of worship, where LGBT individuals and their families could find a spiritual place to belong. In the back of my mind as I do this work, I see the tear-stained face of a JA college student who came up to me following one of my presentations. She was crying because she didn't know how to help her family. You see, she has a gay brother that has not been totally accepted. And so his sister weeps for him, for her parents and for their family.

There is so much work left to do. We need to educate our community to understand that being LGBT is not a choice. LGBT individuals are born with an orientation, gender identity or expression. As Aiden has said to me many times, "I would not choose to be this way. Why would I, knowing what I will have to face in the future? But it is who I am, and I must be true to myself."

The work that JACL is doing for the JA community, the API community and the LGBT community are one and the same. We are working not only for the greater good of our API families, but also for the greatest good for all families. Because according to Martin Luther King, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." And so I continue to work toward a world that is safe and accepting for both of my children, and a world that is safe and accepting for your children as well.

Marsha Aizumi is an advocate in the LGBT community and the author of the book "Two Spirits, One Heart: A Mother, Her Transgender Son and Their Journey to Love and Acceptance."

LESSONS >> continued from page 3

Well, I can tell you that a 5- or 6-year-old kid in the desert ain't gonna figure anything out! I sat there for what was probably a pretty short while before I got bored and started chasing lizards and throwing rocks. But when I saw my grandfather coming back, I sat down dutifully as if I were contemplating the piece of wood. I had no answer for him, so he left me again. A few times of this and I'd had enough, so the next time he returned, I told him I understood everything! And we continued on to the creek and his place, a little hut he had built out of branches where we would spend our days by the creek.

After the war, I continued to live with my grandfather, sharing a bedroom with him, loving those times when we would lay in the dark talking before I fell asleep,

taking little excursions to the merry-go-round at Santa Monica Pier every Sunday or spending four or five days together going up to Sacramento in his old Model A to attend the California State Fair. As our lives got further away from Manzanar, we still had those long conversations, only now we'd go down to the beach and sit for hours or up to the mountains. He talked, I listened.

Over the years, the lessons he taught me about life stuck with me. My father taught me about justice and principle and integrity, but the lessons my grandfather taught me are still as much a part of who I am today, and I hope the person I've become is half as wise as he was.

John Tateishi is a former JACL national director.

MONTEREY, CALIF. — Japanese American Heritage Days, co-sponsored by Monterey's Old Fisherman's Wharf Assn. and JACL of the Monterey Peninsula, will be held on May 3 and 4 from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at the historic Fisherman's Wharf.

The weekend's festivities will include interactive and educational activities, as well as an historic photo exhibit of Japanese fishermen in Monterey, an abalone cooking demonstration, origami, ikebana and bonsai demonstrations, as well as taiko and other musical performances.

In addition, restaurants on the wharf will be serving a variety of Japanese dishes and sweet treats. Ozeki Sake will provide a sake cask for a traditional Japanese ceremonial opening, and whale watching and sport fishing trips will be offered.

Overall, the event will celebrate Japanese American history and contributions to the Monterey Peninsula.

Prior to World War II, the Japanese had a dominating presence on Fisherman's Wharf, as a majority of businesses were owned or operated by Japanese. However, the Japanese presence on the wharf ended when 120,000 people of Japanese descent were forcibly removed from their homes and livelihoods and incarcerated in American Concentration Camps during WWII.

After the war, many Japanese Ameri-

cans returned to the Monterey Peninsula, encouraged by a welcome-back petition signed by approximately 1,000 local notables, including John Steinbeck and Edward "Doc" Ricketts.

These petitions were recently discovered amongst documents housed in the JACL Heritage Museum by Tim Thomas, a local archivist and historian. The JACL of the Monterey Peninsula was first formed in 1932. This organization grew out of a community group that helped the Issei community with the English language and provided immigration, tax and contract information.

Faced by the disappearance of the sardines (they run in cycles every 60 years), the returning Japanese Americans ventured into other fisheries, pursued entry-level jobs like gardening, restarted or opened retail businesses, gained employment with municipal agencies and established a presence in the medical professions.

Today, the JACL owns a building at 424 Adams St., which is used as an Asian Cultural Center. The JACL has been a driving force in the community for more than 80 years.

For more information or to volunteer and/or become a sponsor of this event, contact Bob Massaro at (831) 649-6544 or email bmassaro@bostrommanagement.com or visit the website www.montereywharf.com.

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