



# PACIFIC CITIZEN

THE NATIONAL  
NEWSPAPER OF  
THE JAFL

June 20-July 3, 2014

## THE SOLES OF J-TOWN

**Sneakers bring new foot  
traffic into Little Tokyo.**

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Downtown Los Angeles.



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Rinks Sano and Family



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It's Obon Time! Here's a  
Complete 2014 Guide.

# WASHINGTON UNION HIGH SCHOOL AWARDS HONORARY DIPLOMAS TO NISEI STUDENTS

FRESNO, CALIF. — One of life's greatest moments is receiving a high school diploma, a moment that signifies the beginning of one's future. For Nisei students attending high school at the start of World War II, that moment was taken from them when they were forcibly removed from their homes and taken to live in various internment camps. Although these students might have received their diploma in camp, they didn't receive it from the schools they attended.

On June 6, Washington Union, a rural high school district at the southwest border of the Fresno, Calif., city limits, paid tribute to those Nisei students that attended the school from 1942-45 by awarding them honorary high school diplomas.

Fifty Nisei students were found in the 1942 yearbook, and representatives for 44 out of the 50 Nisei students were contacted. Six living Nisei attended the graduation ceremony, with 21 confirmed family members also attending as stand-ins for the Nisei honorees unable to attend.

The recognition was made possible through



Receiving an honorary high school diploma during Washington Union High School's graduation ceremony on June 6 were (from left) Hisaye Kanegawa Shiba, Sadako Mukai Sogioka, Kikuye Shinkawa Takanishi and Akio Mukai.

the California Nisei High School Diploma Project, along with the generous support of the Washington Union High School administration and staff, in particular, Principal Derek Cruz.

In 2004, AB781 (Leiber) was passed mandating that all high school districts provide honorary retroactive diplomas to Nisei who

were not awarded their diplomas in ceremonies with their classmates as a result of their forced removal and incarceration during World War II.

Honorary diplomas were also available posthumously to families.

The Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California led a statewide outreach and educational campaign for AB781, where more than 1,200 Nisei were located and given an opportunity to receive diplomas.

As a result, belated honorary diploma presentations have been made all over California, rewarding more than 500 diplomas to Nisei or their families.

In the Central Valley, diploma ceremonies have been held at Edison High School, Caruthers

High School, Fowler High School, Clovis High School, Sanger High School and Reedley High School.

In 2009, AB 37 was passed and implemented by the California Nisei College Diploma Project to do the same for Nisei attending colleges and universities.

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## Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

For a Japanese American, it has been very, very painful to watch the news these past few weeks. Those who knew Gen. Shinseki believed in him, knew him to be an honorable man, a patriot, a veteran of the Korean War in which he served with distinction.

There is no way to reverse the outcome, but surely there must be many like Mark Shields of PBS' "NewsHour" who can give an accurate portrait of Gen. Shinseki.

Give them a chance to write about the insurmountable problems he inherited or the service to this country.

Sincerely yours,

Toshiko Nakamura Wilkinson

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## FTW: FOR THE WIN

### THE WAY OF THE WORRIER

By Tiffany Ujisyé

**W**hy do you need to stay out so late?" my parents would ask me. "What are you doing? Where are you going, and who will be there?" These are some of the questions I must answer before leaving my house, and because of this, I try to moderate my weeknight outings. Now, one might think that I resent my parents for questioning my nocturnal habits at the age of 22, but that assumption is wrong. I do not hate my parents for questioning me, their adult daughter.

The reason for this is because I understand them. I'm not saying that I know what parenting is, but I have a teeny tiny clue at what it might be like. It's a very small understanding, but it's enough to make me step back and realize that my parents are not enemy of the state No. 1.

One evening in my freshman year of college, I forgot to text my mom where I was after getting off work at 12:30 a.m. My coworkers and I had a long night at the UCI Student Center lifting tables and chairs for a banquet. Naturally, we were hungry afterward and found ourselves at the In-N-Out across the street for milkshakes and fries.

By two a.m. I came home to find the kitchen lights on, and sitting in front of my seat at the dinner table was a meal: a bowl of fluffy white rice, udon noodles with sprinkled green onions and a small plate of glad-wrapped pepper chicken on a woven placemat with chopsticks and a glass of water. The condensation on the glad wrap was still foggy and mildly warm, meaning my mom had been up waiting for some time before plating my meal.

The milkshake and fries were still sitting in my stomach along with the guilt. If I had only texted her when I left work, she wouldn't have stayed up and prepared dinner for me. I felt horrible and loved at the same time.

And so that night, I had two dinners.

Since then, I stopped having a short fuse with my parents whenever they asked me where I was going or what I was doing, because I understood that they loved me. Their texts, calls and questions came from a good place.

Four years after finding my mom's home-cooked meal, I was out on another evening at the Commissary Lounge in Costa Mesa to meet a few friends for drinks. I arrived with

my best friend, and after a few too many drinks, she was incredibly intoxicated.

At around 3 a.m., I decided it was time to head home so I could make it to work on time the next day, and as the designated driver, I asked if my friend wanted to leave. She looked straight into my eyes and said she was staying. After all, it was her birthday weekend, and our friends at the bar had offered to drive her home for me since they'd be staying longer.

I rolled my eyes, "OK, call me when you're safe at home," and we went our separate ways.

She never called. I sat in bed checking my phone periodically, and at 4:30 a.m., I called her — with no answer. The hours passed, and I must've nodded off because at 7 a.m., I woke up to find no new messages. My imagination ran wild with teen dramas, car crashes and TV news reporters from Channel 5.

>> See WORRIER on page 16



## FOR THE RECORD

### COMFORT WOMEN

By John Tateishi

**I**n February, an article appeared in the *L.A. Times* and on the Internet about the controversy surrounding a statue erected by the city of Glendale to memorialize the approximately 200,000 comfort women, mostly Korean, forced into sexual slavery during WWII by the Japanese army.

A lawsuit filed in the federal court by two private citizens and a nonprofit organization (not named in the *Times* article) seeks to force Glendale to remove the controversial statue, located in a public park.

The lawsuit states that Glendale, by erecting the statue, has taken a position on what the suit claims is an undecided international debate about "the proper historical truth" of the comfort women.

"The proper historical truth" is an interesting phrasing but curious since the Japanese government does not deny the existence of the comfort women. If there is any point of contention, it seems to center around the question of who these women were. Some claim they were prostitutes, implying they willingly followed the Japanese army during the period in question and were not, as others insist, sex slaves.

But in 1993, Yohei Kono, the Chief Cabinet Secretary, released a statement acknowledging Japan's responsibility

for recruiting comfort women for military brothels and expressed the government's apologies to the women. Subsequently, the Japanese government established a fund to provide assistance to former comfort women.

In February of this year, former Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama stated during an unofficial visit to South Korea that Japan had committed "indescribable wrongdoings" and should apologize and offer compensation to the women.

The *Japan Times* reported in April that the Japanese government made overtures to South Korea to put "an end this year to the issue . . . before the two countries mark the 50th anniversary next year of normalizing diplomatic relations."

According to the *Japan Times* article, Japan is "considering extending humanitarian measures such as an official apology and funding for the women."

I first became aware of the comfort women issue when Bay Area activist and former JACL National President Clifford Uyeda wrote about it in the *P.C.* in the late 1980s. Never one to shy away from the delicate, Clifford made it public after he had discovered information about the comfort women while doing research on the MIS, about whom very little was known at the time.

In the course of his research on the war in the Pacific, he

came across mention of this issue of comfort women used as sex slaves by the armies of Japan. I think it was the next morning that he mentioned this to me, still shaken and deeply disturbed by what he had discovered.

A decade later, Mike Honda raised the issue when he was in the California Assembly and again when he reached Congress, putting the issue on the international stage. Needless to say, the Japanese did not take kindly to Honda's actions, but knowing him as I do, I know his motive wasn't to embarrass but to find justice for the women who were victims of Japan's actions.

It's clear that this issue will not go away until the Japanese government enacts measures that can help put this issue to rest. Unlike some of the events that occurred during the war, this particular issue is not open to interpretation, nor the facts arguable. It's not something that can be swept under an interpretive rug of history and made to disappear. The existence of those military brothels was not the action of some renegade commander in the field. They were part of the morale-building effort of the army, an approved policy.

>> See COMFORT WOMEN on page 16

## NPS ANNOUNCES \$2.9 MILLION IN GRANTS FOR JA CONFINEMENT SITES

WASHINGTON, D.C. — National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis announced June 12 that 21 grants totaling more than \$2.9 million will be given to help preserve and interpret the World War II confinement sites of Japanese Americans.

More than 120,000 Japanese Americans, two-thirds of whom were American citizens, were imprisoned by the U.S. government following Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.

"As America's storyteller, the National Park Service is committed to sharing this tragic episode of our nation's past and what it teaches us about the fragility of our constitutional rights," Jarvis said. "These grants fund projects to help us gain a better understanding of the past, engage new audiences and build new partnerships in the preservation of these historic sites and lessons they hold."

Projects selected include the stabilization of the historic elementary school at the former Poston site in Arizona; an educational training program for 600 teachers across California on the local and national stories about the forced removal and incarceration of Japanese Americans during WWII; and an exhibition exploring the significance of the Congressional Gold Medal awarded to Japanese American veterans of WWII who served in the military while their families lived behind barbed wire.

The grant amounts range from \$12,650 awarded to the Nikkei for Civil Rights and Redress organization for a "Speak Out for

Justice" DVD video series that highlights the testimonies of 157 people who spoke before the Los Angeles public hearing of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians in 1981, to \$497,186 for the Topaz Museum to create exhibits for the newly constructed Topaz Museum and Education Center in Delta, Utah, located 16 miles from the Topaz incarceration site in Millard County, Utah.

The Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program, now in its sixth year, will support projects in seven states and the District of Columbia. The grants announced June 12 total \$2,905,000 and bring the program's total awards to more than \$15 million since Congress established the grant program in 2006. A total of \$38 million in grant funds was authorized for the life of the program.

Grants from the Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant program can go to the 10 War Relocation Authority centers established in 1942 or to more than 40 other confinement sites. The goal of the program is to teach present and future generations about the injustice of the WWII confinement history and inspire a commitment to equal justice under the law. Successful proposals are chosen through a competitive process that requires applicants to match the grant award with \$1 in nonfederal funds or "in-kind" contributions for every \$2 they receive in federal money.

For further information about these projects, visit <http://www.nps.gov/hpselhpj/jacsi/>.

## 'Witness — The Legacy of Heart Mountain' Garners Awards and Emmy Nominations

LOS ANGELES — The internment of Japanese Americans during World War II is a profound chapter in American history, and their only crime was being Japanese American.

ABC7 Eyewitness News Anchor/co-producer David Ono and Jeff MacIntyre, co-producer, are telling this story through their documentary "Witness — The Legacy of Heart Mountain."

Through the largest private collection of more than 2,000 photographs taken at Heart Mountain and interviews with local Southern California internees and descendants such as Judge Lance Ito and Brian Kito of Puget Sound Confectionery and a visit to the actual camp site, this documentary brings a powerful message of what can happen when civil liberties are traded for fear and discrimination.

On June 19, the Television Academy announced its 66th annual Los Angeles Area Emmy Award Nominations, with "Witness" receiving four total nominations in the category of Arts and Culture/History, outstanding writer (Ono) and outstanding editor — programming (MacIntyre) and outstanding videographer (MacIntyre).

In addition, "Witness" has received a Radio Television Digital News Assn.'s Edward R. Murrow Award and the RTDNA's National Unity Award, which honors outstanding achievements in the coverage of cultural diversity in the communities they serve.

The Los Angeles Area Emmy Awards will be presented on July 26.

To further educate the public on this important issue, a website has been created to share information on what happened in Heart Mountain through newly discovered documents from the camp and WRA, as well as various organizations such as the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation, the Japanese American National Museum and Washington State University.

For more information, visit [www.heartmountainfilm.com/](http://www.heartmountainfilm.com/).



ABC7's David Ono co-produced the film.

## FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF THE WINNING PROJECTS:

ABAS LAW FOUNDATION, SACRAMENTO, CALIF. "Research Documents for Tule Lake Segregation Center" Tule Lake Segregation Center, Modoc County, Calif. ....	\$47,400
CAMERA NEWS INC., 10 BATHURD WORLD NEWS REEL, NEW YORK, N.Y. "Resistance at Tule Lake" Tule Lake Segregation Center, Modoc County, Calif. ....	\$109,961
CENTRAL ARKANSAS LIBRARY SYSTEM, LITTLE ROCK, ARK. "Rohwer Art Textile Conservation and Preservation Project" Rohwer Relocation Center, Desha County, Ark. ....	\$26,827
COLORADO PRESERVATION INC., DENVER, COLO. "Amache Laundry Building Relocation and Restoration, Mess Hall Planning, and Guard/Water Tower Security" Granada Relocation Center (Amache), Prowers County, Colo. ....	\$160,254
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY, FORT COLLINS, COLO. "Confinement in the Land of Enchantment"— Historic Markers, Publication and Website Implementation Santa Fe Internment Camp, Santa Fe County, N.M.; Fort Stanton Internment Camp, Lincoln County, N.M.; Camp Lordsburg (USA Army Internment Facility), Hidalgo County, N.M.; and Old Raton (Baco) Ranch Camp, Santa Fe County, N.M. ....	\$189,864
CYARK, OAKLAND, CALIF. "Rediscovering Honouliuli: Exploring Japanese American Confinement Through Student Narratives and Digital Documentation" Honouliuli Internment Site, Honolulu, Hawaii. ....	\$39,020
DENSHO, SEATTLE, WASH. "Online Repository for Editing Confinement Sites Video Testimonies" Multiple Sites ....	\$209,982
EARS NOT JAZZ SOCIETY OF SEATTLE, SEATTLE, WASH. "Panama Hotel Jazz Education and Performance Extension" Bainbridge Island, Kitsap County, Wash.; Seattle Temporary Detention Facility, King County, Wash.; Puyallup Assembly Center, King County, Wash. ....	\$33,419
HEART MOUNTAIN, WYOMING FOUNDATION, POWELL, WYO. "Heart Mountain Accessibility Project" Heart Mountain Relocation Center, Park County, Wyo. ....	\$16,943
JAPANESE AMERICAN NATIONAL MUSEUM, LOS ANGELES, CALIF. "A Collections-Based Guide for Digitally Exploring America's Concentration Camps"; Multiple Sites ....	\$130,432
LOS ANGELES HARBOR DEPARTMENT, SAN PEDRO, CALIF. "Lost Communities of Terminal Island Publication" Terminal Island, Los Angeles County, Calif. ....	\$100,000
NATIONAL JAPANESE AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF. "Western Region Confinement Sites Education Project" Multiple Sites ....	\$63,766
NIKKEI FOR CIVIL RIGHTS AND REDRESS, LOS ANGELES, CALIF. "Courage of Japanese Americans as They Speak Out for Justice (CWRE: Los Angeles)" Multiple Sites ....	\$12,650
POSTON COMMUNITY ALLIANCE, LAFAYETTE, CALIF. "Historic Structures Assessment and Stabilization for the Poston Elementary School Site" Colorado River (Poston) Relocation Center, La Paz County, Ariz. ....	\$163,760
SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION, STOCKTON, CALIF. "California Legacy Voice Network" Manzanar Relocation Center, Inyo Valley, Calif.; Tule Lake Segregation Center, Modoc County, Calif.; and all California WOCA Assembly Centers. ....	\$180,836
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION, ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN CENTER, WASHINGTON, D.C. "Congressional Gold Medal Digital Exhibition: The Untold Stories of the Nisei Soldiers" Multiple Sites ....	\$238,090
TOPAZ MUSEUM, DELTA, UTAH "Manufacturing and Installation of Exhibits for the Topaz Museum and Education Center" Topaz Relocation Center, Millard County, Utah. ....	\$497,186
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS AT LITTLE ROCK, LITTLE ROCK, ARK. "The Rohwer Relocation Center Cemetery Conservation, Phase II" Rohwer Relocation Center, Desha County, Ark. ....	\$220,706
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA BERKELEY SPONSORED PROJECTS OFFICE, BERKELEY, CALIF. "Voices in Confinement: A Digital Archive of Japanese American Internees" Multiple Sites ....	\$287,266
VISUAL COMMUNICATIONS, LOS ANGELES, CALIF. "Building History 3.0: Learning About the Japanese American Incarceration Camps Through Minecraft" Multiple Sites ....	\$97,150
VISUAL COMMUNICATIONS, LOS ANGELES, CALIF. "The Heart Mountain Barracks Project" Heart Mountain Relocation Center, Park County, Wyo. ....	\$39,510
<b>TOTAL</b> .....	<b>\$2,905,000</b>

# JACL NYSC CONCLUDES SPRING 2014 YOUTH LEADERSHIP SUMMITS

By JACL National Staff



Kota Mizutani (second from left), Eastern District Council representative, leads a discussion at the Chicago Youth Leadership Summit's "Don't Get Too Comfortable" event.

The JACL Youth/Student Council hosted two Leadership Summits on May 31 in San Jose, Calif., and Chicago, Ill.

Sponsored by State Farm and Southwest Airlines, the Youth Leadership Summits seek to build a network of JACL youth leaders who understand local, regional and national Asian

and Pacific Islander issues and empower the next generation of advocates through community organizing and personal development.

The San Jose Youth Leadership Summit, "Asian Americans in Politics," was hosted by Elizabeth Uno, Northern California Western Nevada Pacific Youth Representative, and Kevin Modi, National Youth Representative, at the Issei Memorial Building, where they focused on API political engagement.

There were 40 attendees, and Evan Low, mayor of Campbell, Calif., and the youngest openly gay Asian American mayor in the country, gave the keynote address. Low also brought the mayor of Cupertino, Calif., Gilbert Wong, who spoke with the audience as well.

Kim Delevett of Southwest Airlines also attended the Summit and generously distributed \$50 LUV vouchers as a supplement to the State Farm water bottles and workbooks that participants were given.

This Youth Leadership Summit was organized partially in preparation for the upcoming JACL National Convention, which will be held next month in San Jose.

The Chicago Youth Leadership Summit, "Don't Get Too Comfortable," had 15 attendees and was hosted



Campbell Mayor Evan Low (left) and Cupertino Mayor Gilbert Wong at the San Jose summit

by Remy Hidaka, Midwest District Council's representative, and Kota Mizutani, Eastern District Council's representative, at Christ Church of Chicago in Chicago.

This Summit explored API racial and ethnic identity, as well as ways in which discrimination still affects the API community.

Pacific Southwest Regional Director Stephanie Nitahara and Assistant Program Director Christine Munteanu also led workshops in which participants defined and identified

various identity markers ranging from racial/ethnic identity to citizenship status.

The participants in these exercises were able to unpack various forms of oppression that they've experienced and the areas in which they experience privilege. As an immediate result of attending the Chicago workshop, one participant started an advocacy campaign concerning a racist incident that occurred on her previous high school campus, which affected another Summit participant. She was able to engage 40 other alumni who opposed the racist incident.

Overall, these Youth Summits, though differing in theme and content, allowed space for the youth of JACL to start thoughtful dialogues, strategize ways to combat intolerance, create change at an institutional level and ultimately serve as venues for young people to be in community with each other.

The NYISC is looking forward to its next round of Youth Leadership Summits, which will be held in fall 2014.

Please contact Stephanie Nitahara at [snitahara@jacl.org](mailto:snitahara@jacl.org) or your local NYISC representative with any questions.

## FLORIN JACL AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS



Leesa Kakutani (center) with her parents, Kenneth and Cindy

Elizabeth Uno (center) with her parents, Richard and Irene

PHOTOGRAPH BY JACI CHAN

Florin JACL honored Leesa Kakutani and Elizabeth Uno as its 2014 scholarship recipients during an Ice Cream Social held May 24 at the Florin Community Historical Center in Sacramento, Calif.

Each applicant was judged on achievements in academics, school and community involvement, community service and personal interview.

Kakutani attends California State University, Long Beach, where she is working toward a bachelor of science degree in biology with a minor in physiology and chemistry. Her plan is to attend medical school and become a pediatrician. She is a 2012 graduate of Elk Grove High School.

Uno comes from an active JACL family, and she currently serves on the National Youth Student Council as the NCWNP District Youth Representative, as well as the newsletter editor for the Florin JACL. Upon graduating John F. Kennedy High School in 2007, Uno attended the University of California, Los Angeles, majoring in history and minoring in applied developmental psychology. She recently earned her multiple subject teaching credential and is working on her master's degree in education at the University of California, Davis.

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# ALL IT TAKES IS MAGIC

Renowned international magician Shoot Ogawa curates the 'Magic of Japan Week' at the famous Magic Castle.



Magician Shoot Ogawa (right) mentors up-and-coming Japanese magician Akinobu Mitsui.

By Tiffany Ujioye  
Assistant Editor

**A**round 1 a.m. at the illustrious and haunted Magic Castle in Hollywood, Calif., sat Shoot Ogawa recently after his final performance in one of the famed venue's small showrooms. He's tired and satisfied with the shows he performed that evening. He's finally ready to head back to his apartment, located only a few minutes away.

But the 38-year-old magician, born and raised in Tokyo, Japan, calls the Magic Castle his true home. Over the course of his 28-year career with cards, rings, stages and spotlights, Ogawa stands with one foot in Tokyo and the other in Hollywood, bridging the two worlds together.

Today, Ogawa mentors Akinobu Mitsui, an up-and-coming slight-of-hand magician who also performs at the Magic Castle on a weekly rotation.

"He's really one of the premier performers," Ogawa admitted about his student. "He'll spend days or months perfecting the same trick over and over again because that, to me, is talent — to be so dedicated."

At the Victorian-era mansion, which has hosted some of the greatest magicians in the world since it first opened its doors in 1963, Ogawa coordinates shows for the Academy of Magical Arts, a nonprofit organization whose members include some of the most celebrated magicians and illusionists in the world.

Last month, he curated the fourth annual "Magic of Japan Week," where magicians from Japan came to perform their unique style, humor and Japanese magic to Castle guests.

"It is my honor to work with each performer," said Ogawa. "I am very excited to bring some of the best magicians from Japan to perform at the Magic Castle

— some of whom are appearing in America for the first time."

In the early years of Ogawa's career, magicians tried to soil his name, calling him a masked magician who exposed secrets and tricks. In 2001, magic societies in Japan branded the TV series Ogawa performed on as dangerous because he explained how tricks were done. The show, in fact, was a kids' program. Ogawa wanted to inspire future magicians and allow them to witness the possibilities of magic, inviting everyone to participate. Unable to deal with the gossip and the belief that all Japanese magicians hated him, Ogawa looked across the Pacific, where the Magic Castle had approached him.

When Ogawa first arrived in America, he struggled with custom and culture changes. He didn't have another Japanese magician to help him transition easily. Japanese mannerisms didn't have a place on an American stage for him, but it never changed his magic.

"I just want to be me," Ogawa explained. "On and off the stage, I'm the same person."

He was following his dream of performing magic, recognizing from a young age its ability to bring people together and bring wonder to their worlds. Now in Hollywood, Ogawa explained to members of the Magic Castle that he wasn't destroying magic, despite what others said. With VHS copies of his video programmed and a word-for-word translation on the screen, Ogawa landed a job at the Castle and a world tour to Europe and South America.

In 2002, he took first place at London's MacMillan International Magic Convention with his double-hand matrix and ninja rings routine, making him



world renowned for his slight-of-hand techniques. No fancy stage props or flashing lights needed.

The following year, the American Academy of Magical Arts awarded Ogawa as its "Magician of the Year" in the Close-up Category.

Since then, Ogawa has been mentoring up-and-coming magicians like Mitsui, and he is proud of his transitional leap from Japan to America, all while keeping his magic intact.

To this day, Mitsui continues to wow American audiences at the Magic Castle, and he is grateful to Ogawa for imparting his knowledge of the industry on to him. ■

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626 Night Market Founder Jonny Hwang (left) and Mama Musubi's Phillip Kwan



Mama Musubi's secret menu wasabi poke



Sticky Rice Burger



Canada's Japadog with seaweed and Japanese mayo



## A NEW DTLA SKYLINE

FUSION FOODS STEAM UP L.A.'S STAPLES CENTER WITH MORE FLAVORS AND HEAT.

Folks at the 626 Night Market continued their culinary domination with a visit to the Staples Center in Los Angeles on June 20-21. The San Gabriel Valley locals visited downtown for the first time in Lot 7 outside the famed venue, featuring new foods, artists and performers. "The skyline played a big role in the event in setting the ambience, energy and the vibe," founder Jonny Hwang explained. "Like all of our events, we try to incorporate as many local vendors as we can, bringing in a lot of local merchandise, food, performers and artists from downtown."

The weekend also included an Art Battle with contestants Chris Ouk, Darren Inouye, Eddy Lee, Geoff Pascual, Gmonik and Keenan Chapman. Attendees were allowed to vote on their favorite live art demonstrations from each artist while listening to the DJ Dance Floor.

In the latest foodie trend, seafood poke made a splash at the DTLA Night Market. Mama Musubi and chef Jay Terauchi together whipped up a secret menu featuring a wasabi poke. The petite serving packed a punch with its fresh ahi tuna, sweet onions, sesame seeds and green onions served with rice too-style on a lettuce leaf. This vendor and chef team also served up currywurst rice balls with smoky Berkshire pork sausages and a tangy Japanese curry aioli, adding in the extra twist.

A few tents down from Mama Musubi was Sticky Rice Burger. As the name implies, the Sticky Rice Burger is built between two rice buns—perfectly shaped and perfectly sticky—sandwiching together a house sauce, cabbage and a generous, gooey beef patty.

This time around, the 626 Night Market spiced things up with less Asian-inspired vendors and opened its doors to other international foods. Unfortunately, the ever-smelly stinky tofu tents did not attend the weekend's festivities, but flavors from India, Mexico, the Middle East, Indonesia and Europe arrived and were well represented.

First-time vendors Paella Artisan served Spanish paella pescadora (seafood with saffron) and their paella robusta (chicken, pork and chorizo with paprika).

From our neighbors up north, the famous Japadog from Vancouver, Canada, made a splash with its Japanese-fashioned hot dog truck. Attendees had a chance to take a bite into yakisoba noodle fillings, bonito flakes, radish, kimchi, seaweed, Japanese mayonnaise and teriyaki. This remixed classic pleased crowds, bringing a fresh kick to the Night Market.

Not to say that hungry eaters didn't have a chance to eat fusion foods, as the intersection between ramen and everything else was bustling over the weekend. Delicious hybrids included platters from Umayu Ramen's ramen pizza and Keizo Shimamoto's Sriracha Ramen Burger.

On the classic side, the historic Formosa Café from West Hollywood offered up delicious drinks and dishes. The restaurant's movie history includes Frank Sinatra's late-night dinner runs and visits from Clark Gable along with James Dean and Elizabeth Taylor.

For a different taste palette, attendees had a chance to try boba and hookah in an odd but exciting marriage by Boba Beat. The hookah garden gave patrons a chance to sip on boba and puff on one of the vendor's 20 tobacco flavors.

Be on the look out for more exciting and odd fusions at the next 626 Night Market, July 18-19, at Santa Anita Park in Arcadia, Calif. For more information, visit the website at [www.626nightmarket.com](http://www.626nightmarket.com).

—Tiffany Ujije



Soy sauce sticky rice with brown egg, sriracha and pork flakes



Takoyaki



Chocolate caramel popcorn frozen with liquid nitrogen



Artist Darren Inouye's gallery in DTLA Night Market's Artist Row



# THE SOLES OF J-TOWN

Fancy footwear at RIF, Jason Markk and DunkxChange are putting Los Angeles' Little Tokyo in the sneaker game.

By Tiffany Ujue  
Assistant Editor

**L**ittle Tokyo in downtown Los Angeles is a quaint historical and cultural real estate, sitting between the 110 Freeway and the Los Angeles River. Equipped with Japanese-themed architecture, Americana character, a historical museum and delicious dining, Little Tokyo draws in locals, community groups, students on field trips and tourists all year long. It sits at the core of the largest Japanese American population in North America — and possibly for sneakers.

OK, so maybe it's not the sneaker culture epicenter, but it's hard to ignore Little Tokyo's increasing popularity with sneaker enthusiasts and businesses. In a quarter-mile radius on and near Second Street is RIF Los Angeles, Illest, Jason Markk and Footland Sports. Four sneaker-related shops cohabitating next to sushi restaurants and Japanese craft stores.

A casual stroll through the plaza is met with a high chance of smelling Mitsuru Café's imayawakis and spotting trendy sneakers. Now amongst the usual crowds is a new set of visitors — from professional athletes to actors — journeying into Little Tokyo for an entirely different purpose.

They come to visit stores like RIF Los Angeles, a consignment sneaker store. The museum-like sneaker storefront was originally named L.A. Avenue when co-owners Ed Mateo and Jeff Malabanan bought the store from Kai Nagakusa in 2006. The name change to RIF came from Mateo and Malabanan's dream to reinforce not just shoes but cultures and ideas.

"It just stuck to us," Mateo explained. "We didn't want to just stand for sneakers."

At the time, L.A. Avenue had another location in Shibuya, Tokyo. But Nagakusa decided to sell the Little Tokyo store due to the slipping economy.

A new RIF faced an increasing unemployment rate, the end of the housing boom and a shrinking consumption rate. Sneaker communities weren't popular, and neither was reselling Nike basketball

shoes and collectibles.

"But Jeff and I thought, 'Why not?'" Mateo said, leaning back in his seat. He and Malabanan pulled together a small loan and kept RIF in Little Tokyo.

Back in 2006 when Mateo and Malabanan purchased L.A. Avenue, only one other sneaker consignment store existed in Los Angeles, Flight Club on Fairfax Avenue. Originally from New York City, Flight Club is arguably the world's largest sneaker marketplace.

"In the reselling game, it's not about how cool it is, it's about merchandise," Mateo said, explaining Flight Club's strength. "That's why they've been so strong all of these years. They control the pricing. The prices are high and everyone complains, but people still buy them."

Even with a large inventory and a hand in the market, stores like RIF remain highly relevant because of the culture, bringing in consumers from across the nation to Little Tokyo.

"There's no loyalty in the game," Mateo said. "At the end of the day, it's who has the shoe, and who has it at the better price. There's no, 'I'm with Flight Club' or, 'I'm with RIF' — in my opinion at least."

For RIF and Flight Club, profits are made when clients bring in product to the store, in this case, shoes. Next, the shop and the client will negotiate the shoe's market value to sell at an appropriate price. Once the shoe is sold, a certain percentage is given to the client and the shop.

"That's where consignment was," said Mateo. "When you go to Japan, they don't just have consignment shoe stores. You'll find women's clothing, purse stores — everything. So, the original owner brought that idea down here to Little Tokyo because it was a Japanese company."

RIF opened its second consignment location just next door in 2012, and it carries premium street wear clothing and

accessories. Both stores receive special visits from such recording superstars as Macklemore and Kendrick Lamar, as well as the NFL's Mark Ingram and actor Orlando Bloom. The list goes on and on.

Just visit their Instagram, @riflosangeles and one can join the 200,000-plus followers to see pieces of Little Tokyo in the background and endless scrolling of visitors coming into the stores.

"There was someone from Chicago who came down," Mateo recalled. "He brought down his U-Haul on a Saturday with over 160 pairs or so, and we bought them." The collection carried recent Nike sneaker releases, as well as retro Michael Jordans and the entire Supreme SB set, including two low dunks, dunk high Supremes and a set of blazers. Each shoe sold for roughly \$600 a pair and moved quickly off the shelf. "You could tell it was a collection he had built over time by just the merchandise he had," Mateo said. "I kept the dunk lows though — just one."

Today, the majority of RIF's sales are generated from online consumers, with orders coming in stateside and internationally. But the store still experiences regular foot traffic each and every day.

Just across the street from RIF is Jason Markk, a friend to RIF and sneaker enthusiasts everywhere.

Jason Markk, a premium goods and accessories brand for the sneaker market, opened its first brick-and-mortar shop last month. The shop offers a full cleaning service for sneakers, ranging from a classic clean at \$10 to a Purr Special at \$32 for deep cleaning on premium materials.

Inside Jason Markk's flagship store is some of Croatian Style's sneaker collection on exhibit with an Undeafated Air Jordan IV and a Watch the Throne LeBron 9 to name a few.





Crowds at the DXC event wander through vendor tents looking for exclusive kicks and deals.



RIF storefront with its iconic bench is a popular photo op for customers and celebrities.



Inside RIF's store sit rows of shrink-wrapped sneakers selling anywhere from \$100-\$8,000.

The shop has already received visits from two pairs of Kobe 9 Elites, an OG pair of 1985 Air Jordan 1's and all of the Yeezy models and color ways for service. Before and after photos are available on the store's Instagram @jasonmarkk, bringing back soles to life.

President Jason Markk Angsuvarn from Torrance, Calif., was born to a Filipino mother and a Thai father. As an Asian American kid growing up in the South Bay, he always had an interest in sneakers, wearing Nike's and Vans Sk8 Hights around town.

In 2006, the same year Maëo and Malabanan purchased RIF, Angsuvarn found a hole in a growing sneaker culture.

"For a long time I was using a home remedy to clean my sneakers, and I thought, 'There's gotta be a better way,'" Angsuvarn explained. "I went to sneaker lineups — even boutiques — and asked how they cleaned their shoes. Everyone had their own solution, but they didn't have that one go-to product. Then I realized there was a hole there that I could fill, so I developed this concept, and I jumped ship."

The California State University, Long Beach, graduate left his job at an advertising agency a year later and founded Jason Markk, which is named after his first and middle name, plus an extra "k." Operations began in his parent's garage in Torrance, then on to his sister's home in Signal Hill, then to the Arts District in Downtown before finally settling in Little Tokyo.

"It just felt right," Angsuvarn said, thinking about the store's opening. "I'm so glad that we made the decision to move to Little Tokyo." Prior to signing a lease in Little Tokyo, Angsuvarn and his team considered La Brea Boulevard and Fairfax Avenue, recognizing that elevated street wear brands such as Stussy, Undeafated and Union lived there.

"Nothing against La Brea, I love La Brea, but we never try to do what's necessarily hot or trending, so in that aspect, we were doing our own thing and not following."

Angsuvarn said. "So, Little Tokyo felt right for the brand."

Along with its popular cleaning service, visitors to the flagship store can view an Undeafated Air Jordan IV, a yellow lobster SB, Wu Tang Clan Dunk High and a Watch the Throne LeBron 9 in a small gallery exhibit that will regularly change with different collections and collectors.

"I don't think I've ever seen any of these shoes in person," a customer said looking through the glass. "Just on a computer screen — crazy."

Within the first several weeks of its opening, visitors have included hip-hop artist Trinidad James, former NFL linebacker Shawn Merriman and Los Angeles Clippers center Ryan Hollins.

"We've had quite a few pairs come in as referrals from our friends over at RIF," Angsuvarn said. "It works out perfectly because when the customer gets their kicks cleaned by us, it increases the sneakers' value, and everybody wins."

Although the flagship store doesn't accept shipped sneakers to the store for service at this time, that may change due to increased interest. Discussion for more store locations is already in the process, with New York as Jason Markk's next stop. Plans also include Chicago, Miami, San Francisco, London, Spain and Tokyo.

"Never, to be honest, did I think I'd open a brick and mortar," Angsuvarn said smiling. "I love it."

Currently, Jason Markk offers only nine shoe cleaning products, but will include a repellent line by the end of July that provides waterproofing and protection for shoes. Angsuvarn and his team are also developing a solution to remove yellowing from discolored soles without the use of gloves and masks. Since existing products on the market are dangerous to handle, Jason Markk hopes to create a safer solution.

As the sneaker communities grow, so, too, have national shoe collector events, where collectors and sellers can meet to buy and sell shoes.

National events like DunkXChange visited Little Tokyo for the first time in conjunction with Jason Markk's store opening last month. DunkXChange drew in a little more than a thousand visitors to Little Tokyo who were looking to buy the latest Kobe 9s or classic Michael Jordans.

NiceKicks.com, the largest sneaker blog online, posted a full-coverage video of Little Tokyo, highlighting the shops and shoes. (To view the video, visit [www.nicekicks.com](http://www.nicekicks.com) or [www.dunkxchange.com](http://www.dunkxchange.com).)

The traveling sneaker event is a buy-sell-trade space for sneaker enthusiasts and entrepreneurs as well as artists and performers, touring to cities such as New York City, Miami, Honolulu, San Francisco and Las Vegas.

International tours in the coming year include stops in London, Puerto Rico, Paris, Berlin and Australia, with a possible visit to Japan.

"We haven't been to Japan because it's just physically difficult with limited spacing," CEO Curtis Brown explains. "But we're still looking into it. We already went to the Philippines with a good turn out because the Asian consumer is huge."

Founded in 2006 by Gary Hughes as the original buy-sell-trade sneaker show, DunkXChange hosted its first event in Orange County that same year, drawing in a measly 25 people to welcoming several thousand attendees last year at Chelsea Piers in New York City.

"We've never done an outdoor event, and Jeff at RIF thought it'd be kind of cool to do something together," Brown said. "We started talking, and it turned into an event." Prior to RIF, Malabanan was a vendor at DunkXChange, buying and selling his sneakers.

Now after making a splash in Little Tokyo, DunkXChange could return next year.

As sneakers become mainstream, catching the words of reporters and magazine features, players like RIF and Jason Markk in Little Tokyo are putting their foot or, more appropriately, their sneakers in the game. ■



A woman inquires about a Jordan 11 at Little Tokyo's DXC.

@riflosangeles



@dunkxchange



@jasonmarkk



# WORKSHOP HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JACL NATIONAL CONVENTION

By JACL National Convention Committee

As busy as Conventioneers will be with the National JACL Convention business meetings, some of the more remarkable events that will be available for attendees will be the workshops covering unique discussion topics under the Convention's theme, "We Are America."

All are encouraged to review the workshop schedule and attend one or more that have been scheduled during the Convention. Each session is designed to be 90 minutes in length. A registration fee and sign-up are required to ensure availability of space.

Following is a list of workshops under the "We Are America" theme:

## BREAKING THE MOLD

Presenters: Roy Hirabayashi, PJ Hirabayashi and Johnny Mori; moderator: Lisa Hirai Tsuchitani

In Japan, taiko was performed for rituals to summon or drive away evil spirits or give spirit and courage to warriors. In North America, these artists helped spread taiko

across the U.S. and Canada to become a dynamic blend of sound, movement and rhythm that fuses Asian roots with a Western flair.

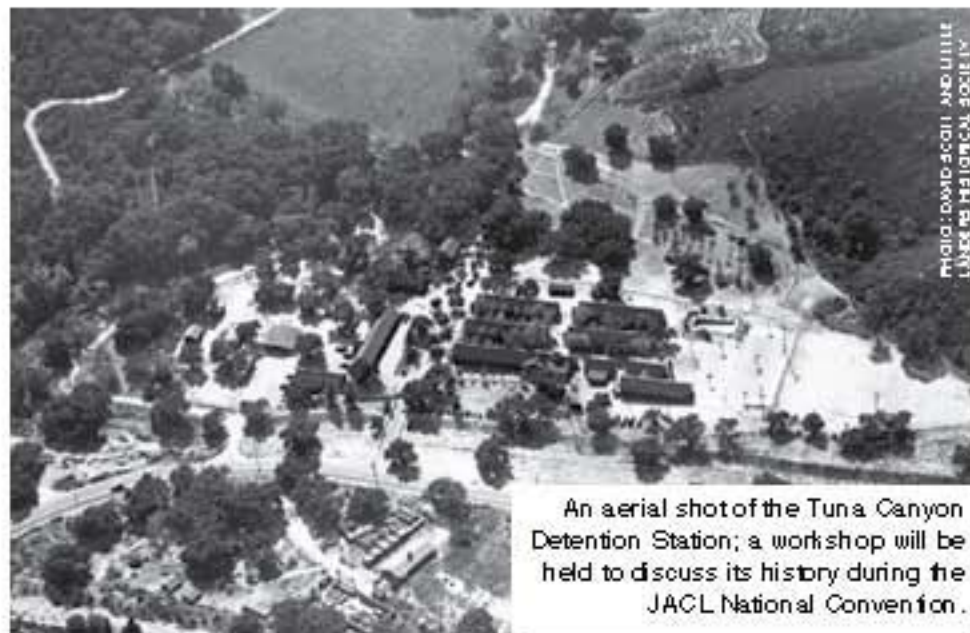
Roy and PJ Hirabayashi are the founders of San Jose Taiko and are the 2011 recipients of the National Endowment for the Arts Heritage Fellowship in Folk and Traditional Arts. Mori is a musician and arts educator/administrator from Los Angeles and one of the seminal members of Kinnara Taiko from Los Angeles and the original taiko drummer for the group Hiroshima.

## THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF HEALTH INSURANCE

Presenter: Stephen Divizich

Changes brought on by the Affordable Care Act have affected every American. The health insurance industry has struggled to comply with the new law, including the JA Health Benefits Trust.

Divizich, a longtime JACL member who has worked as the administrator of the



An aerial shot of the Tuna Canyon Detention Station; a workshop will be held to discuss its history during the JACL National Convention.

JACL Health Benefits Trust (now JA Health Benefits Trust) since 2001, will present strategies for choosing health insurance, give information on financial assistance and tax implications and tell you what you can expect for the coming open-enrollment period.

## NIKKEI GENEALOGY SOCIETY — FINDING YOUR JAPANESE ROOTS: IN THE U.S. AND IN JAPAN

Presenters: Linda Harms Okazaki and Melinda Crawford

Have you ever wanted to learn more about your family history? Have you wondered

about when and where your Issei ancestors immigrated or what really happened to your relatives in camp? Genealogy is a popular hobby and documenting your personal family history is a way to have a deeper understanding of the Japanese American experience.

Topics will include immigration, laws in the U.S., vital records, internment camp files and more. A Q & A session follows the lecture.

## IDENTITY IF NOT A MATH EQUATION: MULTIRACIAL, MULTIETHNIC AND MIXED IDENTITY



**JACL 2014**  
NATIONAL CONVENTION - SAN JOSE

JULY 9-12, 2014 • SAN JOSE, CA • REGISTRATION FORM

A separate form must be completed for each individual/youth package registration. To register online or obtain additional mail-in forms, please visit [www.jacl.org/2014](http://www.jacl.org/2014). **Convention Package includes:** Welcome Mixer (reception/buffet and "Valley of the Heart" reading), Awards Luncheon, Youth Luncheon, Sayonara Banquet, Hiroshima Concert, workshops, and breakfasts. Youth/Students are individuals age 25 or younger or full-time students. A la carte events may be purchased at multiple quantities for family and friends.

Mail payment & form to:  
2014 JACL Nat'l Convention  
Attn: Registration  
c/o San Jose JACL, 565 N. Fifth Street, San Jose, CA 95112  
Questions? (408) 295-1250 or [2014registration@jacl.org](mailto:2014registration@jacl.org)

**CANCELLATION POLICY**  
Return 100% by June 1, 2014 • Return 50% by July 1, 2014  
No return after July 1, 2014

### 1. EVENTS

REGISTRATION	BY 6/15	AFTER 6/15	
<input type="checkbox"/> Convention Package	\$250	\$300	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Youth/Student Package	\$200	\$250	\$ _____
<b>À LA CARTE EVENTS</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Welcome Mixer	\$60	\$75	# OF TIX \$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> (Youth/Student)	\$50	\$65	# OF TIX \$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Awards Luncheon	\$70	\$85	# OF TIX \$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> (Youth/Student)	\$60	\$75	# OF TIX \$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Youth Luncheon	\$70	\$85	# OF TIX \$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> (Youth/Student)	\$60	\$75	# OF TIX \$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Sayonara Banquet	\$130	\$150	# OF TIX \$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> (Youth/Student)	\$100	\$125	# OF TIX \$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Hiroshima Concert	\$50	\$65	# OF TIX \$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Workshops	\$25	\$40	# OF TIX \$ _____
<b>TOTAL \$ _____</b>			

### 2. REGISTRANT

Last Name, First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

JACL Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

### 3. PAYMENT METHOD

☐ Enclosed is a check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Payable to JACL 2014 Convention

☐ OR Please bill \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to my credit card:

☐ VISA ☐ Mastercard ☐ American Express

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder Name \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date (MM/YY) \_\_\_\_\_

Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Billing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder Signature \_\_\_\_\_



Floyd Shimomura (left) listens to a presentation at a nursery school in Fukushima Prefecture during a JACL delegation trip to Japan in 2013. Shimomura will moderate the "U.S./Japan Education Committee: Back to Our Roots" workshop at the 2014 JACL National Convention.

**Presenter: Christine Munteanu**

The multiracial movement in America is growing. Participants will explore their own sense of racial/ethnic identity, examine the issues involved in racial identity formation, learn about the history of racial categorization and mixed race in America and focus on the unique experience of multiracial and multiethnic Asian Pacific Americans. This workshop, presented by Munteanu, Midwest District Council Program Coordinator, aims to help participants realize that they have the right to choose and claim their own sense of identity.

#### LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER AND QUEER JUSTICE

**Presenters:** Stephanie Nitahara, Traci Ishigo and Marsha Aizumi

The JACL PSW District aims to make Nikkei LGBTQ inclusion and justice a priority. Goals are for participants to gain a greater awareness and understanding of the issues facing our Nikkei LGBTQ community members and how to create an inclusive community within the JACL, as well as empower chapter and district representatives by giving helpful recommendations for how they can get involved and expand this LGBTQ justice work to their local communities and beyond.

#### MODEL MINORITY: A DOCUMENTARY PRESENTATION AND WORKSHOP

**Presenters:** Darby Li Po Price and Connie Masuoka

Professor Price will present his award-winning PBS documentary *Model Minority: Do the Math*, then moderate a discussion of problems and solutions related to student learning, educational goals and overall academic success.

#### A MODEL FOR A SUCCESSFUL SPEAKERS' BUREAU: A GUIDE TO PRESENTING A NEW GENERATION

**Presenters:** Jodi Hottel, Henry Kaku and Marie Sugiyama

Participants will learn how one chapter reinvented its Speakers' Bureau, training a new generation to follow in the footsteps of its Nisei predecessors. The workshop leaders will make a presentation about how they expanded their team of speakers, increased the number of speaking engagements and reached a wider range of audiences.

#### DISCOVERING HISTORY IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD: TUNA CANYON DETENTION STATION

**Presenters:** Nancy Kyoko Oda, Kanji Sahara and Nancy Takayama

The purpose of the dialogue is to preserve history, educate people about

this little-known Department of Justice camp and encourage others to listen to the fading voices of our parents and their struggle for equality.

#### U.S./JAPAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE: BACK TO OUR ROOTS

**Presenters:** Minister Hideaki Mizukoshi, Priscilla Ouchida, Amy Watanabe, John Ino and Larry Oda; moderator: Floyd Shimomura

This workshop discusses the activities of the U.S./Japan Education Committee, including an update by JACLers who visited Tohoku last fall on the final distribution of \$6 million in relief funds raised by JACL/Direct Relief, a discussion of the new JACL/Direct Relief scholarship by Meiji Gakuin for Tohoku students who were victims of the 9/11 disaster and a report on the Kakehashi Young Adult Exchange visit to Japan by those involved in the May 2014 visit, as well as a report on the activities of the Japan Chapter regarding its involvement with disaster relief and student exchanges.

For more information about the 2014 JACL National Convention, go to <http://www.jacl.org/2014> for registration and updated event information, as well as additional tour event information.

## TOPAZ HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1945 TO CELEBRATE 69TH YEAR REUNION

**OAKLAND, CALIF.** — Sixty-nine years ago, they received their diplomas from a high school in the Topaz, Utah, Concentration Camp, the only high school class to spend its entire three and a half years behind barbed wire following the issuing of Executive Order 9066 in 1942.

There was not one act of sabotage or espionage committed by loyal Japanese Americans before, during or after World War II. It was because of racism and the failure of our government that we spent our entire high school careers behind barbed wire," said reunion chairperson Ret. Army Lt. Col. Bob Utsumi of Oakland, Calif.

Now, the Topaz High School Class of 1945 will gather again for a historic reunion of former classmates to reminisce and reflect on their lives since graduating nearly 70 years ago. Class members and their offspring are invited to attend the 69th year Topaz High School Reunion at the Sequoyah Country Club in Oakland on June 28.

The day's program will include displays of photographers, maps, dioramas, woodcarvings and other memorabilia from Topaz. Each class member will re-create a replica of the government-issued identification tag imprinted with their name as well as their family's prison camp number.

The reunion's keynote speaker will be Patrick Hayashi, former associate president for the University of California System.

Born in the Topaz Concentration Camp, Hayashi has been interviewing many members of the Topaz Class of 1945 and will share his insights into the qualities and characteristics that make

this group of Nikkei unique.

The Topaz Class of '45 includes five Lt. Colonels, numerous PhDs and other graduate degrees," noted reunion coordinator Daisy Uyeda Satoda. "Our class also generated a group of writers who created the autobiographical anthology 'Blossoms in the Desert: Topaz High Class of 1945' about what it is really like to come of age in an American concentration camp during World War II."

Also sharing her experience will be former student Mary Tamaki Murakami of Bethesda, Md., who continues to talk with students, schools and organizations about the challenges her class endured during WWII. Despite wartime hardships, Murakami continued her education at the University of California, Berkeley, where she earned a degree in public health/microbiology.

If you want to go to college, you study like you're going to go to college, although you don't know when camp is going to close or when you'll ever get home to California," she recalled. That was one of the things that kept most people going — the feeling that they can't defeat you."

Music from the 1940s and '50s will be performed by Mark Inouye, principal trumpeter with the San Francisco Symphony and the son of the late Tak Inouye (Topaz '45).

For more information about tickets, transportation or how to participate, contact *Somao Ochi* at [ochi@earthlink.net](mailto:ochi@earthlink.net) or *Kathy Sumitomo Lilenstein* at (415) 806-9924 or [kathyngw@yahoo.com](mailto:kathyngw@yahoo.com).



Members of the Topaz High School Class of 1945 gather in San Francisco's Japantown for last year's reunion.



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# RINKS SANO

A personal look at farming life in California's great Central Valley

By David Unruhe  
NCWNP District Governor

If you've ever driven through California's great Central Valley, you've seen the signs: "Food Grows Where Water Flows," "Water = Food = Jobs," etc. To most Californians, the current three-year drought is merely an inconvenience. To farmers like Firebaugh's Rinks Sano, it's a matter of survival.

In 2011, the last "wet" year, Sano Farms received less than 50 percent of the water it needed from the federally controlled water system. In 2014, California has notified him that he will receive zero percent. That's zero, as in nothing.

Sano Farms must determine how much of its 4,200 acres will remain fallow — and for how long. That's an easier decision for row crops such as tomatoes than it is for orchard crops like almonds. When you consider that almonds are California's No. 1 cash crop and that Sano Farms supplies three different almond wholesalers, including the massive Blue Diamond, that decision becomes even harder. Following this year's harvest, Sano Farms will be pulling out one entire orchard of mature almond trees.

Fortunately for Rinks, that is a decision he no longer has to make as he has delegated day-to-day operations of Sano Farms to his children, Alan, Bobby and Lori. Rinks has earned that right since he turned 90 in 2013.

He is still sharp and independent, and most days, his biggest decision is whether to drive to the poker room in Fresno or Turlock for no limit Texas hold 'em. His biggest physical ailment is Nisei Farmers Disease — he's extremely hard of hearing. On my recent visit, his hearing aid wasn't working, so communication was dependent on eye contact and lots of shouting.

Rinks Atsushi Sano was born in 1923 on Bacon Island in the Sacramento Delta. The Sano family worked as sharecroppers, which meant living an itinerant life following the crops. Rinks' father eventually found more stable employment on the Kishi Ranch in Livingston, Merced County. It was there that Rinks graduated from high school in 1940.

In 1942, like all other Japanese Americans in Merced County, the Sano family was forced from their home into American concentration camps, first at the Merced Fairgrounds and then at Amache, Colo.

Rinks was an adult by this time, and he knew what his rights as an American citizen were. He remembers the humiliation he felt of being treated like a criminal, even though he had done nothing wrong.

Rinks left Amache as soon as he was able to and found



Sano Farms' Rinks Sano (center) with his sons, Bobby (left) and Alan

work harvesting sugar beets. He tried to join the Army but was rejected because of his poor vision.

Eventually, Rinks found his way to a manufacturing job in Detroit, Mich., where he was able to earn a decent living and even had enough money to visit the racetrack and bet on the ponies. Rinks is looking forward to the Belmont Stakes when California Chrome, born and raised by his neighbor, cattle and thoroughbred baron John Harris, will be running for the Triple Crown. (At press time, California Chrome finished fourth in the Belmont Stakes, which was held on June 7.)

In 1945, Amache closed, and the Sano family returned to the Livingston area, where they were greeted by signs saying, "No Japs Wanted" and "Keep Out You Rats." And Livingston was one of the friendlier communities in California.

Both of Rinks' parents died soon after the war. Rinks and his brother began farming in the LeGrand area. Rinks married Helen Yamano in 1951, and they established a home in Merced while continuing to farm in LeGrand. Rinks and Helen raised their four children, including daughter Julie, in Merced.

In the early 1970s, Rinks moved his farming operations to Firebaugh, where both land and water were cheap and plentiful.

The rest, as they say, is history.

I recently took a tour of the Sano headquarters in west Fresno County. My first stop was the repair barn, which is the size of an airplane hangar. The barn was full of

tractors of all shapes and sizes, more different kinds of tractors than I knew existed.

I asked Bobby Sano how many tractors were on the ranch, and he replied that he couldn't even guess at the answer. In addition, there are fertilizer spreaders, shakers, rakes, sprayers, sorters, pruning towers, almond harvesters and other equipment that was a mystery to me.

Then came the tomato harvesters, each of which is the size of a small naval vessel. These incredible machines dig up the plants, separate the tomatoes from the rest of the plant, sort the tomatoes, mulch the greens and return the mulch to the soil — all at the same time.

Most of the tomatoes on the Sano Ranch are processing tomatoes, meaning they will end up on your dinner table as spaghetti sauce or ketchup rather than on your hamburger or in your salad.

The next stop on the tour was "the shop," which is the heart and soul of the whole operation.

The shop houses the parts department and the fabrication division.

The parts department resembles your neighborhood auto store. Fabrication, the domain of Alan Sano, takes care of the parts they don't have or that don't exist. With all of the equipment and tools, it felt more like a Sears department store than a farm shop. Other corners of the shop had more work stations, break facilities, lockers, uniforms and other agricultural industry necessities.

At this point, I was convinced that Sano Farms is just like any other farm, only much, much bigger. I wasn't prepared for the pipe storage yard. There are literally miles upon miles of irrigation pipes stored there, all sorted by length and diameter.

The entire 4,200 acres have been mapped out and color coded with the location of wells, pumps and the size of irrigation pipes needed to get water from Point A to Point B. This was my reminder that even with all of the sophisticated farm machinery, the life blood of any farmer will always be that which the rest of us take for granted: water.

There were still lots of farm operations left to tour, but it was obvious to me that Rinks was anxious to get to the poker table and that I was keeping Alan and Bobby from more important work. I asked Rinks why he felt such loyalty to JACL. He simply replied: "JACL stood up for us when nobody else would."

JACL will be honoring the Sano family at the National Convention Sayonara Dinner on Friday, July 11, at the Doubletree Hotel in San Jose, Calif.





# 2014 Obon Festival Schedule

Obon, an annual Japanese Buddhist custom to honor the spirits of one's ancestors, has evolved into a family holiday that is celebrated each summer, primarily in July. Traditionally, lanterns are hung to guide ancestors' spirits back home, delicious food is enjoyed and bon odori dances are performed to pay homage to families' loved ones. Following is a tentative schedule of various Obon celebrations across the nation and in Hawaii.

## JUNE

- 7 Arizona Buddhist Temple (AZ)
- Lahaina Shingon Mission (Maui/Lana'i/Molokai)
- 13/14 West Kauai Hongwanji Waimea Temple (Kauai)
- 14 Honouliuli Henjoi Mission (Big Island)
- Kona Hongwanji (Big Island)
- Puunene Nichiren Mission (Maui/Lana'i/Molokai)
- Hawaii's Plantation Village (Oahu)
- 14/15 Buddhist Church of Oakland (CA)
- 20/21 Kapaa Hongwanji (Kauai)
- 21 Papaikou Hongwanji (Big Island)
- Wailuku Shingon Mission (Maui/Lana'i/Molokai)
- Ewa Hongwanji (Oahu)
- 21/22 Valley Japanese Community Center (CA)
- 22 Buddhist Temple of Chicago Summer Festival (IL)
- 27/28 Waimea Higashi Hongwanji (Kauai)
- Wahiawa Hongwanji (Oahu)
- Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin (Oahu)
- 28 West Covina Higashi Hongwanji (CA)
- Idaho-Oregon Buddhist Temple (CA)
- Honouliuli Hongwanji (Big Island)
- 28/29 San Mateo Buddhist Temple (CA)
- Buddhist Church of Lodi (CA)
- San Fernando Valley Hongwanji Buddhist Temple (CA)

## JULY

- 19/20 Venice Japanese Community Center (CA)
- Orange County Buddhist Church (CA)
- Pasadena (CA)
- Seattle Buddhist Church (WA)
- Mountain View Buddhist Temple (CA)
- 20 Watsonville Buddhist Temple (CA)
- 25/26 West Kauai Hongwanji Hanapepe Temple (Kauai)
- Makawao Hongwanji (Maui/Lana'i/Molokai)
- Higashi Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin (Oahu)
- 26 Buddhist Temple of Alameda (CA)
- White River Buddhist Temple (WA)
- Kona Hongwanji (Big Island)
- Hilo Hongwanji Mission (Big Island)
- Papaikou Hongwanji (Big Island)
- Guzeeji Soto Mission of Molokai (Maui/Lana'i/Molokai)
- 26/27 Berkeley Higashi Hongwanji (CA)
- West Los Angeles Buddhist Temple (CA)
- Los Angeles Betsuin (Higashi Hongwanji) (CA)
- Vista Buddhist Temple (CA)
- 27 Buddhist Church of San Francisco (CA)
- Guadalupe (CA)

## AUGUST

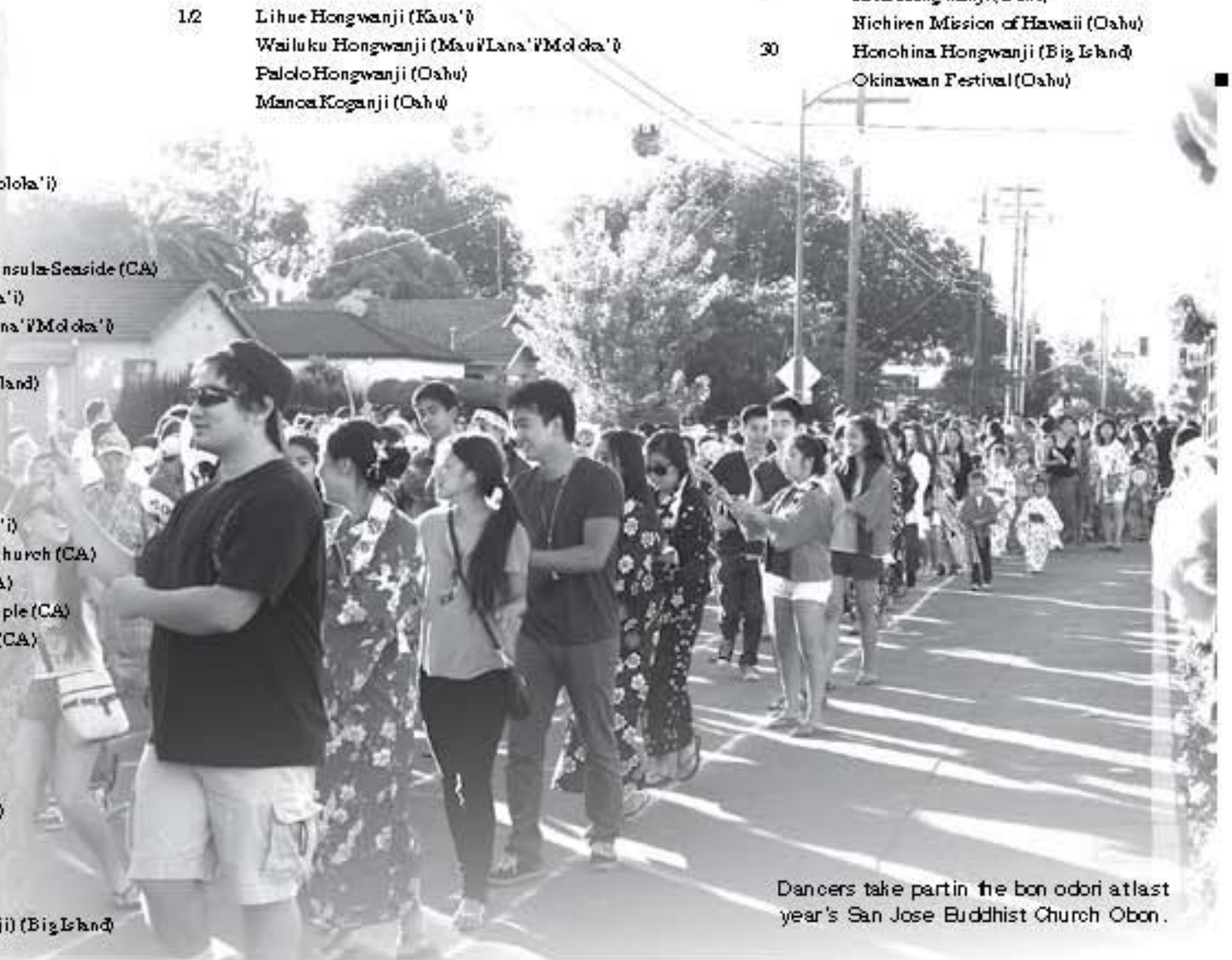
- 2 Stockton Buddhist Temple (CA)
- San Luis Obispo (CA)
- Hawi Jodo Mission (Big Island)
- Hilo Taishoji Soto Mission (Big Island)
- Wailua Hongwanji (Oahu)
- 2/3 Gardena Valley JCI Carnival (CA)
- Palo Alto Buddhist Temple (CA)
- Las Vegas (NV)
- 6/7 Kapaa Jodo Mission (Kauai)
- 8/9 Waimea Shingon Mission (Kauai)
- Pearl City Hongwanji (Oahu)
- Soto Mission Aiea Taiheiji (Oahu)
- 9 Hamakua Jodo Mission (Big Island)
- Hilo Higashi Hongwanji (Big Island)
- Kona Koyasan Daishiji Mission (Big Island)
- Kahului Hongwanji (Maui/Lana'i/Molokai)
- 15 Life Care Center of Hilo (Hilo Higashi Hongwanji) (Big Island)
- 15/16 Jodo Mission of Hawaii (Oahu)
- Mililani Hongwanji (Oahu)
- Soto Mission of Hawaii (Oahu)
- 16 Hakaku Jodo Mission (Big Island)
- Kamuela Hongwanji (Big Island)
- 22/23 Lahaina Hongwanji (Maui/Lana'i/Molokai)
- 23 Aiea Hongwanji (Oahu)
- Nichiren Mission of Hawaii (Oahu)
- 30 Honohina Hongwanji (Big Island)
- Okinawan Festival (Oahu)

## JULY

- 4/5 Puna Hongwanji (Big Island)
- Molokai Hongwanji (Oahu)
- 5 Senshin Buddhist Temple Obon (CA)
- Kohala Hongwanji (Big Island)
- Lahaina Jodo Mission (Maui/Lana'i/Molokai)
- Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji (Oahu)
- 5/6 Walnut Grove Buddhist Church (CA)
- 11 Buddhist Temple of the Monterey Peninsula Seaside (CA)
- 11/12 Kauai Soto Zen Temple Zenshuji (Kauai)
- Pala Mantokuji Soto Mission (Maui/Lana'i/Molokai)
- Waipahu Hongwanji (Oahu)
- Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin (Big Island)
- 12 Ekoji Buddhist Temple (WA)
- Midwest Buddhist Temple (IL)
- Salt Lake City Buddhist Temple (UT)
- Pasadena Hongwanji (Big Island)
- Lanai Hongwanji (Maui/Lana'i/Molokai)
- 12/13 Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church (CA)
- San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin (CA)
- L.A. Honpa Hongwanji Buddhist Temple (CA)
- 13 Monterey Peninsula Buddhist Temple (CA)
- Buddhist Temple of Marin (CA)
- New York Buddhist Church (NY)
- 18/19 Hilo Meishoin (Big Island)
- Kolaka Jodo Mission (Kauai)
- Jikoan Hongwanji (Oahu)
- 19 Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple (CO)
- Enmanji Buddhist Temple (CA)
- Seabrook Buddhist Temple (NJ)
- Honokaa Hongwanji (Big Island)
- Keei Buddhist Church (Kona Hongwanji) (Big Island)
- Waianae Hongwanji (Oahu)

## AUGUST

- 1/2 Lihue Hongwanji (Kauai)
- Wailuku Hongwanji (Maui/Lana'i/Molokai)
- Palo Alto Hongwanji (Oahu)
- Manoa Koganji (Oahu)



Dancers take part in the bon odori at last year's San Jose Buddhist Church Obon.

A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS



# CALENDAR

**The Art of Gaman**  
**Bellevue, WA**  
**July 3**  
**510 Bellevue Way**  
**Cost: Adults \$10, Families \$25**

The Art of Gaman exhibit showcases more than 120 artifacts made by Japanese Americans in internment camps during World War II. Visitors will witness the creativity and ingenuity of the incarcerated as well as the concept of gaman, a Japanese expression for "enduring the seemingly unbearable with patience and dignity." Works range from tools, wood carvings, paintings, furniture and toys. The exhibit continues until Oct. 14. All JACL members will receive \$2 off admission price if they show their JACL membership card.

**Info: Visit [www.bellevuearts.org](http://www.bellevuearts.org).**

## >>NATIONAL

**Go for Broke Essay Contest**  
**Torrance, CA**  
**June 30**  
**Go for Broke National Education Center**  
**357 Van Ness Way, Suite 511**  
 Attention ninth grade to college students, enter the annual Go for Broke Essay contest to receive cash prizes. Awards will be given to the top nine student qualified entries, with the top two receiving \$1,000. The contest closes on June 30, and winners will be notified July 31. **Info: Visit [www.goforbroke.org](http://www.goforbroke.org).**

## >>EDC

**Films: The Tales & Tragedies of Kenji Mizoguchi**  
**CAMBRIDGE, MA**  
**June 23, 7 p.m.**  
**Carpenter Center**  
**24 Quincy St.**  
**Cost: General Admission \$9, Seniors and Students \$7**  
 "The Woman of the Rumor" is the final feature in Kenji Mizoguchi's film series hosted by the Harvard Film Archive and co-hosted by the Japan Foundation. Mizoguchi's cinema reflects his supreme artistry, and he remains one of today's best Japanese filmmakers. **Info: Visit [www.hcl.harvard.edu](http://www.hcl.harvard.edu).**

**Roger Shimomura:**  
**Great American Muse**

**New York, NY**  
**June 28**  
**Flomenhaft Gallery**  
**547 W. 27th St., Suite 200**  
**Cost: Adults (ages 11+) \$8**  
 Experience and explore a summer evening in the Japanese gardens with a cold drink at the Morikami Museum. Guests will enjoy Pan-Asian cuisine from Morikami's Cornell Café and a roaring drum performance from Fushu Daiko. Seating is limited for the taiko performance, and tickets will be sold at \$2 on a first-come, first-served basis at 5:00 p.m. **Info: Visit [www.morikami.org](http://www.morikami.org) or call (561)-495-0233.**

**Heisei Nakamura-za Kabuki**  
**New York, NY**  
**July 7-12**  
**Rose Theater**  
**14 W. 50th St. at Broadway**  
**Cost: Tickets \$45-\$150**  
 For its Lincoln Center Festival Engagement, the Heisei Nakamura-za company has revived a rarely performed 19th-century ghost story, "Kaidan Chibusa no Enoki" at the Rose Theater. Watch the artistic transformations and performances in this thrilling kabuki drama performance. **Info: Visit [www.lincolncenterfestival.org](http://www.lincolncenterfestival.org).**

**Majicolor Exhibit**  
**Worcester, MA**  
**November 2014**  
**Worcester Art Museum**

**55 Salisbury St.**  
**Cost: General admission \$14**  
**Visit prints by Majima Ryuoichi, a Japanese artist, in his Majicolor Exhibit.** Ryuoichi's neo-pop prints are imaginative and vivid examples of "East meets West." The paintings aim to energize and nourish his depiction of mixed cultures. **Info: Visit [www.worcesterart.org](http://www.worcesterart.org).**

## >>PNW

**24th Annual Walk for Rice**  
**Seattle, WA**  
**June 28, 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**  
**Seaward Park**  
**5902 Lake Washington Blvd.**  
**Registration fees vary.**  
 Help raise funds to provide rice and food for the Asian and Pacific Islander communities through AGRS Food Bank. All ages are welcomed to participate in the 2.5-mile walk. Those interested in forming a team or wish to volunteer can register online. **Info: Visit [www.walkforrice.kintera.org](http://www.walkforrice.kintera.org).**

## >>NCWNP

**TAIKOZ in Concert**  
**Sonoma, CA**  
**July 11, 7 p.m.**  
**Evert B. Parson Theater**  
**1801 E. Cotati Ave.**  
**Cost: Tickets \$20 presale and**

**\$20 at the door**  
**Sonoma County Taiko and Sonoma County Matsuri present a JACL-sponsored event "TAIKOZ — Asian Thunder From the Land Down Under."** TaikoZ is a premier taiko drumming ensemble based in Sydney, Australia. Since 1997, TaikoZ has developed a reputation for its performance with dramatic energy and dynamism. **Info: Visit [www.sonoma-county-taiko.org](http://www.sonoma-county-taiko.org).**

**Family Undokai and Track Meet**  
**Palo Alto, CA**  
**June 22, 8:30 a.m.**  
**Palo Alto High School**  
**50 Embarcadero Road**  
**Cost: Member fee \$15, Nonmember Fee \$20**  
 It's time to put on your running shoes and join the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California's annual Track Meet and Undokai. This event is a competition-friendly event held with friends, family and the community. **Info: Download a form at [www.jccncc.org](http://www.jccncc.org).**

## >>PSW

**'Issai: The First Generation'**  
**Film Screening**  
**Gardena, CA**  
**June 29, 11:30 a.m.**  
**Gardena Buddhist Church**  
**1517 W. 156th St.**  
**Cost: Free admission**

Filmed in 1983, Toshi Washizu's 54-minute documentary explores Japanese Americans in the rural San Joaquin Delta and their experiences before, during and after World War II. Through the eyes of the Issai, learn about their lifelong struggle through incarceration and the depth of racism they experienced. **Info: Call Patti Nishimura at (310) 527-7255 or email [pattinishimura@gmail.com](mailto:pattinishimura@gmail.com).**

**Target Free Family Saturdays**  
**Los Angeles, CA**  
**July 12, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.**  
**Japanese American National Museum**  
**100 N. Central Ave.**  
**Cost: Free admission**  
 Celebrate "Perseverance: Japanese Tattoo Tradition in a Modern World" with tattoo and printmaking-inspired activities. Please check the online schedule for a complete list of details for activity times. **Info: Visit [www.janm.org](http://www.janm.org).**

## ADVERTISE HERE

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

## FOR MORE INFO:

**Tiffany@pacificcitizen.org**  
**(213) 620-1767**

# In Memoriam

## Yuri Kochiyama

MAY 19, 1921-JUNE 1, 2014

BERKELEY, CALIF. — Prominent Japanese American human rights activist Yuri Kochiyama, who also worked with Malcolm X and Black Power organizations during her four decades of empowerment movements, died of natural causes on June 1. She was 93.

Born Mary Yuri Nakahara on May 19, 1921, in San Pedro, Calif., she was one of three children of immigrants Seiichi Nakahara and Tsuyako Sawaguchi Nakahara.

Kochiyama's community service began in her youth as a Sunday school teacher, but her life changed forever on Dec. 7, 1941. Her father, recovering from ulcer surgery, was taken away from the family home, where he was detained at the Terminal Island federal penitentiary. He was denied medical care in prison and died six weeks later.

Yuri and the rest of her family were sent to an internment camp in Jerome, Ark., where she organized a letter-writing campaign to Japanese Americans who were serving in the military during World War II.

In 1944, she was released to help run a USO center for the soldiers in Hattiesburg, Miss. There, she met Bill Kochiyama, a member of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and they were married in 1946.

Following the war, the Kochiyamas moved to New York, where they raised six children. While living in an apartment in Harlem, Yuri joined her poor black and Puerto Rican neighbors in the fight for better schools and neighborhoods. While demanding better jobs for African Americans and Puerto Rican workers, Yuri was among 600 people arrested for blocking the entrance of a construction site.

In 1963, Yuri met Malcolm X, the Nation of Islam leader, and was drawn to his proclamations for black liberation.

Soon, Kochiyama began to study his ideas and joined his Organization of Afro-American Unity; for a time, she became a Muslim.

Kochiyama and her oldest son were in the audience at Harlem's Audubon Ballroom in 1965 when Malcolm X was assassinated by rival Black Muslims. A famous Life magazine photo shows Malcolm X lying on the floor moments after being shot, and holding his head in her hands was Kochiyama.

Kochiyama's connections with Black Power made her a leader of the emerging Asian American Movement in the late 1960s. Over the next decades, she campaigned against the Vietnam War, was a featured speaker at Hiroshima Day events and became a voice between East and West Coast activists.

In the 1980s, she and her husband organized with Concerned Japanese Americans and later East Coast Japanese Americans for Redress to demand that New York be added as a site of Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians hearings.

Following 9/11, she opposed racial profiling of Arab and Muslim Americans and spoke out against the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In 2005, Kochiyama was nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize through the "1,000 Women for the Nobel Peace Prize 2005" project.

Last year, she was honored at the Fred Korematsu Day event in San Francisco.

"I didn't wake up and decide to become an activist," Kochiyama told the Dallas Morning News in 2004. "But you couldn't help notice the inequalities, the injustices. It was all around you."

Kochiyama is survived by four children, nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. ■



## TRIBUTE

### EDITH YOSHIKO ICHIJUJI



Edith Yoshiko Ichijui, age 90, was called to her Heavenly Home while surrounded by her family on June 8, 2014, after a courageous battle with cancer. Born on Dec. 26, 1923, the second of four children, she grew up in the farming community of French Camp, Calif.

With the eruption of World War II, her nursing education was cut short when her family was evacuated to the Manzanar internment camp. In January 1944, with the help of the American Quaker Friends, she relocated to Rochester, Minn., to resume her nursing education at St. Mary's Hospital, which was associated with the Mayo Clinic. After graduating in 1947, she worked as a delivery room nurse at St. Mary's Hospital.

In 1949, with the passing of her father, she returned to California where she met her future husband, Mickey. They were married in 1952 and lived in Pacific Grove for the remainder of their lives.

They raised three children — Dr. Mary (Andrew Stolz), an oncologist at Kaiser Permanente in West L.A., Dr. John (Wendy), a dentist in San Ramon, Calif., and Dr. Nancy (George Wooding), a pharmacist at Kaiser Permanente in San Francisco. The loves of her life were her six grandchildren: Mark, Jamey, Trent, Sarah, Brynne and Danielle.

She worked at the Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula for 25 years in labor and delivery, nursery and postpartum care, and she retired in 1984. For the next nine years, she traveled extensively all over the world with her husband and friends. She was predeceased by her husband, Mickey in 1993.

A great cook, she loved sending cookies to her grandchildren and making lemon marmalade, which she gifted to her friends. She was known for her famous apple pie, and all the grandchildren looked forward to eating "Grandma's Calamari." She received great joy from spending countless hours creating works of art with her hands, from origami to sewing to crafting Japanese dolls.

She belonged to the Nurse's Association; was a lifetime member of the Japanese American Citizen's League, even serving as co-chair for the National Convention when it was held in Monterey in 2000; was an integral part of the El Estero Presbyterian Church, co-chairing the 100th anniversary celebration in 2012; served regionally as a member of both the Presbytery of San Jose Presbyterian Women's group and the Northern California Asian Presbyterian Women's group; nationally, she attended the General Assembly in Baltimore and Louisville as a commissioner, and served for three years on the National Racial Ethnic Dialogue committee representing Asian Presbyterian Women; was also a member of the CSUMB Women's Council.

She was most proud of her involvement with the Monterey Peninsula Salvation Army Advisory Board. As a member of the Board, her joy was helping to feed and care for the homeless twice a week, rain or shine. In 2010, she was recognized for her lifelong service to others with the Jefferson Award.

Her selfless attitude was her legacy, and she would like to be remembered as, "A person who helped others without being asked."

In addition to her children and grandchildren, she is survived by her sister, Tomie, and brother, Roy, and many other family members and friends.

The family requests that donations in her memory be sent to:

Monterey Peninsula Salvation Army, Good Samaritan Center, 1491 Contra Costa St., Seaside, 93955 or El Estero Presbyterian Church Ichijui Endowment Fund (a fund for camps or conferences for its youth members), 490 Camino El Estero, Monterey, 93940 or Central Coast VNA Hospice, P.O. Box 2480, Monterey, CA 93942.

Viewing was held at the Paul Mortuary on Thursday, June 19, from 4-7 p.m. Funeral service was at the El Estero Presbyterian Church on Friday, June 20, at 7 p.m.

Burial service was held at the Monterey City Cemetery on Saturday, June 21, at 10 a.m.

## Hugh Burleson

JUNE 7, 2014



SEATTLE, WASH. — Hugh Burleson, a longtime JACLer, Millenium Club Member, Thousand Club Lifetime Member, Seattle JACL member, former Lake Washington JACL member and president and longtime Pacific Citizen Editorial Board Member for PNWDC passed away at his home on June 7.

Until the end of last year, Hugh also was president of the Bellevue Sister Cities Assn. and on the board for Eastside Nihon Matsuri Assn.

Funeral services were private. ■

### 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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## WORRIER >> continued from page 3

"Oh, my god," I thought to myself, "What if she's not OK? It's my fault. I should've dragged her drunk body into my car and delivered her home safe and sound."

I tried calling for the fifth time before she answered. With a zombielike voice heavy with a hangover, she said, "Sorry, I fell asleep on the couch and forgot to call you."

Ugh, the relief.

It didn't matter if I was angry with her for being careless or angry with her for making me stress out. All that mattered was that she was on her couch at home in one piece with her phone.

The feeling to truly worry sucks. It's staying up at odd hours and waiting for some reassurance that the person you love is safe. It's hoping that you'll see them again and not wondering if you could've done something different for them. Sometimes to worry is having an incredibly colorful imagination of everything wrong happening at once and then replaying that over and over again.

To understand where people are coming from, not just my friend or my parents, puts everything into perspective. Too often people throw out a classic line of, "Well, you just don't understand," or, "You don't understand what it's like to blah, blah, blah."

Then explain. Allow yourself to find a commonality with others. You fail the world and yourself if you don't take the time to look for those parallels. The human experience covers an infinite spectrum, and we can thread them together by sharing those moments. Otherwise, we barricade communities from each other and dig canyons between families. You ultimately deny yourself the opportunity to understand and be understood.

*Tiffany Ujiye is the new Assistant Editor of the Pacific Citizen.*

## COMFORT WOMEN >> continued from page 3



This comfort women statue was dedicated in Glendale, Calif., on July 20, 2013. It is an exact replica of a statue located at the Japanese embassy in Seoul.

It seems to me that the only way the Japanese can resolve this issue is to offer an apology and direct individual compensation to each of the 55 surviving comfort women. Whatever the cost of such a gesture (and I think it should be enormously generous, given the horrors these women experienced), it would be far costlier for Japan to keep burying the issue in political rhetoric and continue to be the target of South Korea's wrath.

Resolutions between nations are never an easy matter and are complex in ways difficult to understand for outside observers. That may very well be the case

here, but one thing is clear: The existence of the comfort women is a known fact. It's out in the open, and however it was that the women found themselves in that situation, the fact remains that they were there as sex slaves. That is the "proper historical truth."

This issue may be beyond the purview of the JACL's mission, but it's too profound a human rights issue to ignore any longer. It's time the JACL considers a resolution at the San Jose convention to express its views on this sensitive issue.

*John Tateishi is a former JACL National Director.*

## NEW SAKAGUCHI RESEARCH FUND IN JA STUDIES ESTABLISHED AT UCLA

An endowed research fund in the amount of \$1 million has been established at the UCLA Asian American Studies Center through the estate of the late Dr. Sanbo Sakaguchi and his late wife, Kazuko. The Dr. Sanbo and Kazuko Sakaguchi Research Fund in Japanese American Studies will support students, community-based partnerships and a wide range of research-related activities.

"The remarkable gift from Dr. and Mrs. Sakaguchi will only strengthen our excellence in Japanese American studies," said David K. Yoo, director of the center and a professor of Asian American studies. "Students, scholars and community-based partners will benefit in perpetuity from the generosity of the Sakaguchi family."

Sanbo Sakaguchi earned a bachelor's degree from UCLA in 1939 and then attended medical school at Marquette University in Wisconsin. During that time, his family in California was incarcerated along with nearly 120,000 other Japanese Americans on the West Coast during World War II.

Upon his return to the Los Angeles area following the war, Sakaguchi married Kazuko (Kay) Furuta.

The Sakaguchis were pillars of the Japanese American community, especially in the San Fernando Valley, where Dr. Sakaguchi and his sister, UCLA alumna Dr. Mary Sakaguchi



Dr. Sanbo and Kazuko Sakaguchi

Oda, practiced medicine for nearly 50 years. The Sakaguchi family supported a wide range of activities for youth, and the main hall of the San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center was recently named for Dr. Sanbo Sakaguchi.

Yoo said the Asian American Studies Center is proud that the Sakaguchi Research Fund will join two academic prizes established previously by Dr. Mary Sakaguchi Oda for the study of the incarceration of Japanese Americans during WWII. The center also acknowledges UCLA alumna Akemi Kikumura Yano, a visiting scholar at the center, for her assistance in securing the gift. ■



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