



PACIFIC CITIZEN

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NEWSPAPER OF
THE JACL

Sept. 5-18, 2014

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WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A PERSON OF COLOR IN AMERICA?

By Priscilla Ouchida
JACL National Director

Michael Brown. Trayvon Martin. Vincent Chen. Three deaths on a roll call of what it means to be colored in America. As I watch events in Ferguson, Mo., unfold, I connect to the emotions that are tied to a system that led to the shooting of Michael Brown — a death linked to negative stereotypes about young African American males — the same kind of racist stereotype that threw 120,000 Japanese American men, women and children into prison during World War II.

This is not the first conversation about racism and racial disparities. Unfortunately, it will not be the last. As the Japanese American Citizens League is well aware, this is not just a black-and-white issue. It is yellow, brown, red and black. It is the reality of racial profiling and being a person of color.

What does it mean to be a person of color in America? As a Japanese American, it is a personal story of pervasive racism. Grandpa immigrated to California with a desire to be an American. He would never realize his goal. Just as full citizenship was denied

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I was saddened to read that John Tateishi decided to discontinue writing his column in the *Pacific Citizen*. I have been a regular reader of his and will miss his informative and insightful comments.

In his last column, I'm not quite sure I understand John's statement that many of the issues on his computer, over 20, won't get published because they don't fit what the *P.C.* should be about.

I got excited when he enumerated some of the topics he would of liked to have written in his column, for example, the feeble response of Congress in the aftermath of the Newtown tragedy regarding gun registration, how Wall Street continues using the system for their selfish economic advantage, the NSA's questionable overreach into our private lives. John goes on presenting a litany of topics that I think are very germane to the Japanese American community. JACL touts

itself to be a human and civil rights organization, then some of the topics John mentions in his column should be addressed.

John's articles have current events relevance. His writings contribute to offset the sometimes staid and stodgy image of JACL. Addressing these social justice issues in the *P.C.* could grab the attention of some young people we are encouraging to become active JACLers.

So, I beg to differ with John that the topics he mentions are not quite the right fit for *P.C.* and JACL. Perhaps *P.C.* could consider an open forum space for readers to contribute articles that are relevant to today's issues. And John, I would like to see you write an occasional column expressing your opinion on matters that demand our attention.

As John so aptly states, 'nuff said.

Sincerely,
Harry Kawahara
Altadena, Calif.

Dear Editor,

Keep John Tateishi's column going! As a longtime supporter of JACL and subscriber of the *Pacific Citizen*, his column is the first I read. It is fresh, relevant and brash. What makes his writings appropriate to the *P.C.* is their consistent underlying concern for accountability, justice and integrity.

Aloha,
Wally Fukunaga
Honolulu, Hawaii

Dear Editor,

I've been away for a while (Berlin, QM2) and am just catching up on my mail. Got to the *P.C.* and went immediately to your column to find "My Final Column." I read it to make sure and am stunned, disappointed, very let down but am coming to my senses.

I wish you a happy retirement; I look forward to seeing you in a different format. Thank you, thank you for your insightful writing.

In fact, I wanted to thank you personally, so at the San Jose Convention (my first), I asked President David Lin whether or not you were coming (he did not know), and I was disappointed to not meet you.

Anyway, I will miss your column greatly and thank you for your beautiful writing.

Sincerely,
Dorothy Yanagi

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NIKKEI VOICE

IF YOU HAVE THESE THINGS, YOU MUST BE JA

By Gil Asakawa

All the Japanese Americans I know have all sorts of ways to show their cultural roots. It may not be evident when you meet them, but the signs are there, in their homes.

When I was a kid living in Japan, it never occurred to me that the stuff in our house was . . . well, Japanese. And when we moved to the U.S., we took a lot of our stuff with us — folding screens, small artworks, dolls, dishware, pottery, chopsticks and cooking utensils, plus a lot more.

Once we moved into a suburban Northern Virginia home in the mid-1960s, we set about fitting in to our all-American “Wonder Years” life: nice ranch home, big backyard, all our Japanese stuff inside. Oh, except for my dad built a Japanese rock garden in the backyard complete with a stone lantern, and he planted a cherry blossom tree in the front yard, which bloomed every spring at the same time as the famous cherry blossoms that were given to the U.S.

That tree has grown huge in the decades since — I’ve seen photos, and it looks like a giant fluffy ball of pink cotton candy that dominates the yard and hides most of the old house behind it.

When we moved to Denver in the 1970s, my dad didn’t

plant a cherry tree in the front yard (they don’t grow so well in Colorado). Instead, he got a new stone lantern and put it by the front door.

I’ve noticed since then that many Japanese Americans have stone lanterns in front of their homes. We have one, albeit a small one, even today, proudly proclaiming that JAs live in our home.

There are many signs of Japanese culture that surround us, in our families and communities. On the one hand, these traditional artifacts may serve to separate us, like the bento box lunches we constantly had to explain to others in grade school. But on the other hand, they’re a reflection of our pride in our roots, even if we’re Sansei, Yonsei or even Gosei. If we announce our ethnicity to neighbors with a stone lantern, it’s because we’re proud to be Japanese, to be Asian.

Other symbols of our Japaneseness include the dolls we got from our mothers or grandmothers, handed down through generations, wrapped in colorful kimonos and kept dust-free in fragile glass cases, or the teapots we leave on our kitchen counters, and the section in our silverware drawer that we reserve for chopsticks. Back outside, some

of us might accompany our stone lanterns with carefully trimmed bonsai trees (we also trim our aspen trees to look like cute lollipops).

Do you have a display of Chinese zodiac figures? A framed kanji character or, better yet, a hanging scroll of calligraphy? These could be generally Asian, or specifically Japanese.

Do you bring out Hanafuda cards when someone mentions card games? Is your kitchen cabinet jammed with regular plates but also a full set of chawan bowls for rice or lacquer bowls for miso soup? And, of course, is there a bottle of shoyu on your table next to the salt-and-pepper shakers, probably with the red (or low-sodium green) tops?

Maybe your jewelry box has a drawer for little Japanese talismans, called *netsuke*. Or in your closet alongside Monopoly and Clue you have a Go set. Your walls might be graced with reproductions of famous Ukiyo-e artworks. Maybe a Japanese good luck charm hangs from your car window.

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FTW: FOR THE WIN

WORDS MATTER

By Tiffany Ujiiye

The first time I ever held a hard copy of the *Pacific Citizen* was during my first interview for the position as the new Assistant Editor. Before my interview, I had to Google everything I could about the publication and JACL, because I didn’t know what that was either. So, I had two strikes on me: 1) I had never heard of the *Pacific Citizen* and 2) What’s JACL?

On my first week, the staff had to explain to me the following: Nisei Week, J-League, Japantowns, JACL and that spam musubi was a food group.

It makes one wonder how that happened. I grew up in Southern California as a fourth-generation Japanese American in the thick of the largest population of Japanese Americans in the U.S.

It’s curious as it is concerning, but we can do something about it by keeping the *Pacific Citizen* alive. The paper is celebrating 85 years of recording, documenting and telling the narratives of not just Japanese Americans but also Asian Americans across the U.S. The *P.C.* started in 1929, according to author Roger Daniels in his book “*Pacific Citizen: Larry and Guyo Tajiri*,” as “the voice of a people mostly exiled to ten desolate concentration camps.”

The *Pacific Citizen* stood as a mouthpiece to voice

unheard narratives. During World War II, the *P.C.* did something that struck a light bulb inside of me: *ding!

Nisei journalists understood that news was no longer about what was new but what mattered.

Reporters like Togo Tanaka, Bill Hosokawa, Mike Masaoka, Bill Marutani and Saburo Kido recognized that what mattered were the stories of the silenced Americans. It required storytellers to look past the wartime headlines and stick their hands deep into the thickness of racism, oppression, censorship and fear.

While it’s easy to point out that these individuals did essentially report on what was new at the time, like developments in the war, I would highlight that at the core of their articles were stories about families being broken, corrupt institutions and the importance of community.

Japanese Americans, much like all other ethnic minorities in the U.S., had to fight for their rights. Even to this day, the JACL and organizations like it continue to battle politics, culture, education and sometimes Stephen Colbert, which, I guess, takes up two of those items.

According to the New York Press Assn., there are close to a hundred ethnic newspapers circulating in New York City, with roughly 2.94 million readers altogether. This strange

ecosystem lives off of printed news in a collection of monthly, weekly and daily newspapers. Over the past two years, at least 21 new ethnic newspapers have been opened. This is startling since in 2012, the Newspaper Association of America reported its findings that newspaper circulation volume dropped from 1,480 to 1,382 newsrooms. In a metropolitan city like New York, the ethnic news business is on the rise and in print, while major national offices are suffering heavily.

It’s hard to see the passing of major newsrooms and mainstream media, but it’s promising to see how ethnic media in America is growing now more than ever. With two decades of rapid immigration growth, our communities are constantly experiencing change with a new readership. We see the news, but what will it take to understand it?

The *Pacific Citizen*, much like every other news organization, is undergoing change with a new soon-to-be-launched website and editorial team. We also face the ever-lasting question of whether to go all digital or keep our print edition.

>> See WORDS on page 12

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY TO EXAMINE THE INTERNMENT OF JAPANESE AMERICANS DURING WWII



An exhibit of the George and Frank C. Hirahara Collection of Heart Mountain photographs will be on display at WSU's Glenn Terrell Library.

PULLMAN, WASH. — This fall, Washington State University will present its first campus-wide endeavor to examine the history of Japanese American internment during World War II. The campus will host many events and activities from Sept. 19-Dec. 13.

Seventy years ago, WSU opened its doors to Japanese American students. Some of these students were active in agriculture, engineering and athletics. After graduation, they became leaders in their own communities.

With the donation of the George and Frank C. Hirahara photo collection of Heart Mountain to the WSU Libraries Manuscripts, Archives and Special Collections unit in 2010, WSU received a National Park Service Grant to digitize and preserve the photo collection for future generations.

Frank C. Hirahara was a high school student from Yakima, Wash., when he entered Heart Mountain; he graduated from Heart Mountain High School in 1944. The following semester in 1945, he entered WSU and graduated in 1948 with a degree in electrical engineering. He represented the Associated Students as a member of the WSU Athletic Council from 1946-47.

Due to this donation, WSU has been able to expand its Japanese internment collection. A number of WSU departments across campus are collaborating to create new events and exhibits, as well as finding ways to tell the stories of Japanese American alumni.

Upcoming featured events include:

- **Sept. 19-Dec. 13** — Kicking off the series of events is the "Roger Shimomura — An American Knockoff" exhibit at the WSU Museum of Art.
- **Oct. 6-24** — An exhibit of the George and Frank C. Hirahara Collection of Heart Mountain photographs at the Glenn Terrell Library.
- **Oct. 13-Nov. 14** — The Student Entertainment Board will have an exhibit in the Compton Union Building Art Gallery showcasing internment-related artifacts and memorabilia collected from Japanese American alumni.
- **Oct. 15** — The Emmy-winning

documentary "Witness — The Legacy of Heart Mountain" will be shown at 7 p.m. in the Compton Union Building Auditorium. The documentary's co-producers, David Ono of ABC7 Los Angeles Eyewitness News and TV editor and videographer Jeff MacIntyre, will be in attendance.

- **Nov. 13** — A performance by Living Voices Theatre of "Within the Silence," at Jones Theatre in WSU's Daggy Hall at 7:30 p.m. This solo performance uses archival film and photos to tell the story of one incarcerated Japanese American family's struggle to sustain faith in each other and the country they love.

With the exception of the Living Voices performance, all events are free and open to the public. In addition to these events, many WSU professors will be incorporating the topic of Japanese internment in classes throughout the semester.

For more detailed information, please visit museum.wsu.edu/events.html or call (509) 335-6140.

APAs in the News

Jenny R. Yang Appointed First Asian American Chair of Equal Employment Opportunity Commission



WASHINGTON, D.C. — President Obama on Sept. 2 appointed Jenny R. Yang as the first Asian American to serve as permanent chair of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Yang was previously vice chair of the EEOC, where she led its efforts on behalf of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and also worked to improve enforcement of equal pay laws with the White House Equal Pay Task Force.

Yang previously clerked for the Hon. Edmund Ludwig of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and worked with the 1992-93 Presidential Transition Team. She was a senior trial lawyer for the U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division, Employment Litigation Section, before joining the law firm of Cohen Milstein Sellers & Toll PLLC.

Alison Matsumoto Estrada Elected to Los Angeles Superior Court



LOS ANGELES — Alison Matsumoto Estrada was elected as a Los Angeles Superior Court Judge on June 3 and will be sworn in on Jan. 9, 2015.

Matsumoto Estrada has worked with the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office for 16 years; her current assignment is in the District Attorney's Public Integrity Division, where she prosecutes criminal misconduct by elected or appointed officials throughout the county.

Matsumoto Estrada, a JACL Hoosier Chapter member, is a graduate of the University of California, San Diego, and received her law degree from the University of San Diego School of Law.

She is an active participant in the Asian American community in Los Angeles, serving as the Southern California Regional President of the National Asian Pacific Islander Prosecutors Assn., on the board of the Japanese American Bar Assn. and on the State Bar of California's Criminal Law Executive Committee.

Army Parade Field to be Dedicated to the Late Sen. Daniel Inouye



COLUMBUS, GA. — The parade field adjacent to the National Infantry Museum will be named for the late Sen. Daniel Inouye on Sept. 12.

The parade field is the site of all U.S. Army Infantry basic training graduations. Nearly 18,000 new infantrymen will march across the field in parades marking their successful completion of basic training this year.

A World War II veteran, Inouye, who passed away in December 2012, enlisted in the service shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor and served with the 442nd Infantry Regimental Combat Team. He was awarded a Distinguished Service Cross for his actions in combat near San Terenzo, Italy, in April 1945, which was later upgraded to a Medal of Honor. He lost his arm as a result of injuries suffered during the battle.

The ceremony is being conducted in conjunction with the graduation of two Infantry basic training companies.

The Los Angeles Lakers' Jeremy Lin Unveils His Wax Figure at Madame Tussauds in San Francisco



SAN FRANCISCO — Los Angeles Lakers player and Palo Alto, Calif., native Jeremy Lin unveiled his first-ever wax figure at Madame Tussauds in San Francisco on Aug. 26.

"I am so honored by the way Madame Tussauds has captured me. It's truly incredible, and I am humbled by the gesture and artistry," said Lin in an official statement. "I especially love the pose that was chosen."

Captured in one of the museum's most unique poses, Lin, who stands 6 feet 3 inches tall, is positioned in an active slam-dunk pose. The wax figure of the NBA star and Harvard graduate took more than 20 studio artists to complete during a span of four months.

As one of the few Asian American players in NBA history and the first American of Chinese or Taiwanese descent to play in the league, Lin gained notoriety in the NBA when he became an instrumental star for the New York Knicks in 2012.

— P.C. Staff, JACL National Staff and Associated Press

JACL LOOKING FOR NISEI INJURED IN 1965 ALABAMA VOTING RIGHTS DEMONSTRATIONS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The JACL is asking for assistance in locating a Nisei who lived in Monrovia in 1965 and was injured in violent demonstrations in Montgomery, Ala.

JACL will participate in the 50th anniversary commemoration of the Selma-to-Montgomery March for voting rights that will take place in Selma in March 2015, and it would like to include the Nisei Californian in the activities.

In the spring of 1965, Todd Endo, a student member of JACL, traveled to Selma to support the African American struggle for human rights. He wrote articles for the *Pacific Citizen* about his experiences and views on what was happening in Selma after the death of his friend, Rev. Jim Reeb. One article provided information on other Asian Americans who participated in the demonstrations.

Endo wrote that a Nisei student had been injured in a civil rights demonstration in Montgomery. No other identification was provided for the student, who came from Monrovia.

A television news broadcast in Selma spot-



Todd Endo (at right center in cap) is pictured at the 50th March on Washington event in September 2013; in 1965, Endo traveled to Selma as a student member of JACL to support the African American struggle for human rights.

lighted the Nisei's involvement in its coverage of the event. At the time, an African American leader commenting on the inci-

dent referred to the student as a civil rights supporter who had come from Japan. The Nisei student clarified he was an American

born in California.

The Spokesman Review, a Spokane, Wash., newspaper, wrote in its March 17, 1965, issue, in an article titled "Demonstrators Routed by Montgomery Police," that eight were hurt by mounted sheriff's deputies as a result of a "mix-up in police orders." Under the subtitle "Five Horses Injured," the article noted the injured included a Japanese American college student who was treated at St. Margaret's Hospital.

JACL would like to recognize the heroism of the unknown Nisei. White spectators were heard to comment, "Look, even the Japs are here."

Among other Asian Americans in Selma during the demonstrations was Rev. Andrew Otani, an Issei Episcopalian priest from Minneapolis. His Issei congregation supported and financed his participation in the Selma crisis. There were also three Chinese American students in Selma.

Anyone with information about the unknown Nisei is asked to contact Priscilla Ouchida, JACL national director, at (202) 223-1240 or pouchida@jacl.org.

TOPAZ MUSEUM EXHIBITS TO BE FUNDED BY JAPANESE AMERICAN CONFINEMENT SITES GRANT

DELTA, UTAH — The Topaz Museum board recently received a \$497,186 Japanese American Confinement Sites grant from the Department of Interior, National Park Service. The grant, announced on June 12 by the NPS, will be used to manufacture and install the exhibits for the Topaz Museum and make it possible to open the museum's doors to the public in 2015.

The Topaz Museum's exhibits have been in the planning stage since 2008, when the museum board began working with West Office Exhibition Design, a San Francisco Bay Area firm whose work is exhibited nationally and internationally.

Following the announcement of the grant, the NPS, members of the Topaz Museum board and Japanese American community stakeholders from the San Francisco Bay Area met in Reno, Nev., to develop a plan to produce the text for the museum exhibits. Participants there shared their thoughts on important themes and key messages to be reflected in the exhibits.

A plan was developed that consists of the following:

- Museum exhibits will follow a chronological narrative, as designed.
- A writer and designer, along with a text/exhibit advisory group of four people, including historians, scholars and interpretive experts, will revise the current narrative to reflect input from the Reno meeting and previous comments on the draft narrative.
- A text/exhibit review group composed of

other historians, scholars, interpretive experts outside the process, as well as the NPS and a group of community stakeholders, will review and comment on exhibits. This group will make recommendations for any necessary revisions.

- Public meetings will be hosted once there is a product to present. The public will review and comment on the draft product and identify any significant gaps or issues. Any necessary adjustments will be made by the writing/design team.
- There will be continuing communication with community stakeholders on the progress of this plan to seek input when necessary.

The Topaz Museum board also recently hired Sarah Bartlett as the museum exhibit text writer. Bartlett, who works for Split Rock Studio, was the writer for the award-winning exhibit at the Heart Mountain Interpretive Center.

In addition, the board has named a four-person advisory group to work with Bartlett on the update of the exhibit narrative. The group includes Dr. Franklin Odo, who now leads a Theme Study on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders that will be published by the NPS in early 2016; Dr. Cherstin Lyon, an associate professor of history at California State University, San Bernardino, whose work focuses on Asian American history, citizenship, immigration and public and oral history; Dr. Greg Robinson,



The Topaz Museum will use its Japanese American Confinement Sites grant to manufacture and install exhibits, making it possible to open to the public in 2015.

professor of history at l'Université du Québec À Montréal; and Nancy K. Araki, founding volunteer and first staff member of the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles.

In 2012, the Topaz Museum board received a \$714,000 grant from the NPS Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program to help construct the Topaz Museum building, which was completed in May 2014.

The museum, located in Delta, Utah, is 16 miles from the Topaz site, where more than 11,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry were incarcerated during World War II. The

Topaz Museum board owns 634 acres of the site, which became a National Historic Landmark in 2007.

The exhibit development was funded, in part, by a grant from the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program.

JACS grants are awarded to private nonprofit organizations; educational institutions; state, local and tribal governments; and other public entities to preserve and interpret U.S. confinement sites where Japanese Americans were incarcerated during World War II.



PHOTO: HESTON QUAN



PHOTO: RICHARD FUKUHARA



PHOTO: KAREN UYEMATSU

This year's Nikkei Games brought together participants in all ages in martial arts, golf, baseball, basketball, bowling, volleyball and more to compete in the historic, friendly competition.

'GAMES FOR THE GENERATIONS'

The Nikkei Games preserve Japanese culture through sports.

By Alysha Tsuji
Contributor

A 1-year-old child races 50 meters down a track and is rewarded with a medal along with the applause of family and spectators. It's a priceless moment that captures the spirit of the Nikkei Games: "Games for the Generations."

The 2014 Nikkei Games were held from July 13-Aug. 17 at California State University, Long Beach, and many other venues throughout Orange and Los Angeles counties. With competition occurring over the span of one month, the games brought together participants in all ages in martial arts, golf, baseball, basketball, bowling, volleyball and more to compete in this historic, friendly competition.

The Nikkei Games began in 1928 when the Japanese Athletic Union sponsored the Junior Olympics to feed the need for community activities in the Los Angeles area, according to the Nikkei Games' online history page.

These Junior Olympics generated track clubs for Issei and Nisei participants. Per the history page, the Junior Olympics carried on strong through the years and was only interrupted by World War II. Although post-war, the games struggled in pushing for a revival in 1948.

At that point, the Japanese American Citizens League stepped in to help, thus forming the Nisei Relays in 1952. According to the history page, "friendships and rivalries again blossomed," and "the Nisei Relays flourished for decades."

Nisei Relays Chairwoman Carrie Okamura looked to high

school as volunteers, but eventually, the event lost support from the JACL, thus leading to its demise, according to current Nikkei Games Director Jesse James.

In elementary and middle school, James competed in the Nisei Relays track events. He didn't want to see the tradition disappear forever, so he put together a group of guys with the hopes of making the relays "bigger and better."

Two years after the Nisei Relays died out, in 1994, the

Orange County Nikkei Coordinating Council decided to bring back the Nikkei Games. The new games would broaden the spectrum of participants and reach further out to the Los Angeles community.

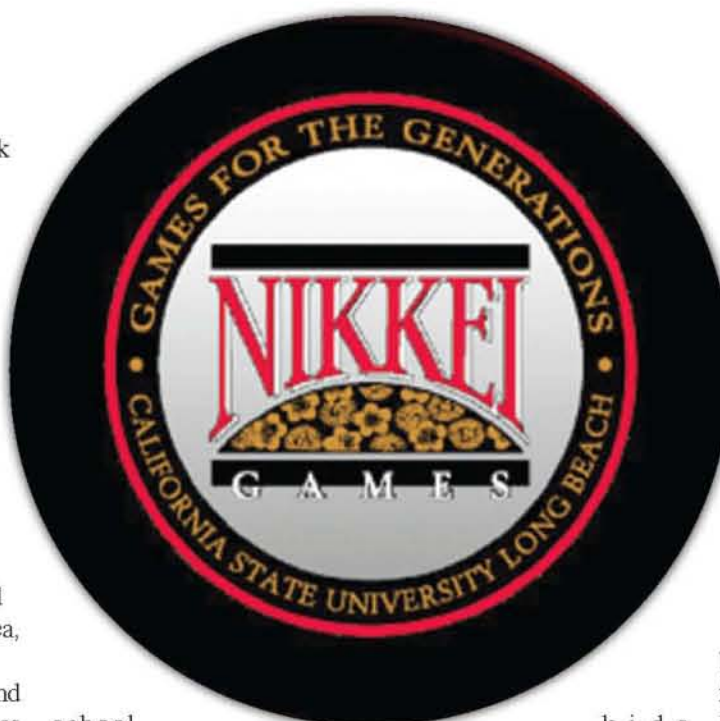
"Jesse is the mover and shaker in the Orange County community, particularly in sports," said Nikkei Games Chairman Art Ishii. "He's pretty much 'The Guy' out there."

One factor that James wanted to make absolutely clear with his founding of Orange County's Nikkei Games is a "lack of politics." He said that bad blood and old grudges would hold back the event. His goal in bringing back the games was to "break down all politics and allow them to be creative within the organization itself."

As a first step in demolishing any political bickering, James brought in a solid proponent from another historical, impactful Japanese American event in Los Angeles: Nisei Week. Ishii was chairman of Sports and Martial Arts for Nisei Week when he took notice of Orange County's Nikkei Games.

Ishii said he began attending Nikkei Games meetings. He believed in what its organizers were trying to accomplish, and he reached out to James.

Something to note is that Nisei Week started in 1934, according to its website. When James began talks with Ishii, the Nikkei Games hadn't picked up full momentum yet. However, the two hit it off and, as Ishii puts it, "The rest is history."





'It's important for generations to follow, pick up the banner and pursue the vision that the founders of Nisei Week and the Nikkei Games have.'

Ishii served as a branch from Nisei Week to the Nikkei Games and quelled any politics associated with the organizers. Ishii says they've built "a good, healthy relationship between organizations" and are "growing every year."

As a fixture in the Los Angeles martial arts community (he has been running his own Karate Dojo for more than 22 years in Little Tokyo), Ishii was able to draw in a crowd of contacts to grow the Nikkei Games' martial arts program.

He said he started by reaching out to a friend who would then reach out to another friend, and it turned into a large networking circle.

From the beginning until now, the martial arts component of the games has quadrupled in the number of participants, which Ishii describes as "magic." The Nikkei Games is proud to claim to be the first event in the world to host judo, kendo and karate tournaments on one floor at the same time — at the Pyramid located on the campus of California State University, Long Beach.

Besides martial arts, there is also a list of people chairing other indoor and outdoor sports — from basketball to bowling to track and field.

In fact, the basketball component of this year's games set new records for the two-day tournament, which was also held at the Pyramid. Now in its 11th year, the tournament

had more than 1,900 participants and an estimated crowd of 6,000 on hand to watch the event unfold.

A record 476 teams ranging in age from 5 to 64 took part in 952 games during the two-day span. Organized by Basketball Chairperson Wallace Chan, the basketball event now rivals the martial arts component in popularity and scope.

In the true spirit of the games, friendships were formed, teams bonded over fair play and old and young were brought together — sportsmanship and generational gaps blended together seamlessly throughout the two-day tournament.

As an organization, the entire Nikkei Games work team meets about four times a year, according to James. The groups within each sport have their own separate meetings throughout the year in preparation for the main event in August.

Additionally, more than 1,000 volunteers turn up each year. "Because of the value of the Nikkei Games to the community, many people have stepped up," said James. And he is overjoyed to see the growth of support, even from those outside the immediate Japanese American community.

For example, James says the average karate participant is Hispanic, but that doesn't mean they should be barred from taking part in the games. To be part of the Nikkei Games is to celebrate the Japanese culture.

"We encourage people to play with us . . . We want to share in our cultural values as well," said James. "They want to use chopsticks and eat sushi or teriyaki chicken. They want to hang out with us like we want to hang out with them, and by doing so, prejudices and discrimination are destroyed. That's really important in the philosophy of the Nikkei Games."

James added that he is not just working to promote Japanese culture but also to preserve Japanese culture. Likewise, Ishii says that what appeals to him the most is how "vibrant and unique our Japanese American culture really is" and that "it is worth celebrating."

>> See GAMES on page 8

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NEWSPAPER EMPLOYEE FIRED FOR RACIAL CAPTION IN PHILADELPHIA PAPER

PHILADELPHIA — The newspaper editor responsible for writing a racially offensive caption for the *Philadelphia Public Record* was fired by its publisher, Jimmy Tayoun Sr., on Aug. 25 and a formal apology by the paper was issued.

Under the headline “Squilla Hosted in Chinatown,” the newspaper caption read, “Enjoying Asian-American cuisine at fundraiser for City Councilman Mark Squilla are: Feng Chen, Xiao Ting, Guang Zhou Yiyao Rong, Hao Hello, Guang Zhou, Mark Squilla, Yiyao Zhao, Du Wei, Me Too, Chinky Winky and Dinky Doo.”

Complaints flooded the newspaper from across the nation, including the Asian American Journalists Assn. and OCA-Asian Pacific American Advocates Greater Philadelphia Chapter, and outrage ensued, with many threatening boycotts by advertisers and readers as well.

As a result, the paper issued the following statement: “In our Aug. 21, 2014, issue an offensive slur was accidentally published in the *Philadelphia Public Record*. This shocking lapse of professional conduct occurred contrary to our editorial directives and in no way reflects the views of our staff or our organization. . . . We apologize wholeheartedly to the Asian

American community and to all Philadelphians of this vibrant, diverse city who work together to make it the best place in America to live and to grow.”

In response, the AAJA issued the following statement: “We at the Asian American Journalists Assn. (AAJA) are disappointed that editors at the *Philadelphia Public Record* would stoop to using ethnic slurs and tired caricatures of Asian-sounding names in a photo caption published Aug. 21. The caption in the *Public Record* adds to the long history of Asian Americans being subjected to slurs for their language and appearance. We accept the apology from *Public Record* Publisher Jimmy Tayoun Sr., and we applaud him for issuing a correction online and pledging to publish one in print.

“ . . . While we at MediaWatch did not ask for disciplinary action, we acknowledge Tayoun’s extraordinary step in firing the person involved in the incident. . . . MediaWatch, AAJA’s watchdog program for fair and accurate news coverage of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, also stands ready to assist news organizations that have questions or concerns about covering our communities.” ■

‘MADE IN AMERICA’ Concert Rocks Downtown L.A.



PHOTO: STEVE AOKI/INSTAGRAM

The Budweiser Made in America music festival, held in downtown Los Angeles’ Grand Park during the Labor Day holiday weekend, attracted more than 70,000 fans to the two-day ticketed event. Co-sponsored by Shawn “Jay Z” Carter and Live Nation, the event was the largest ever for the L.A. park, which spans from City Hall to the Music Center. Musicians such as Steve Aoki, Iggy Azalea, Imagine Dragons, Kendrick Lamar, John Mayer and Weezer each performed on one of four stages that had been set up for the event. Also on hand were five beer gardens, one amusement park thrill ride and an air-conditioned pop-up restaurant, in addition to numerous food trucks. Local businesses also enjoyed the uptick in business, as many restaurants stayed open to accommodate hungry and thirsty fans, and nearby hotels all reported near-capacity occupancy. (Above) Electro house musician Aoki (far right) performs for the crowd alongside Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti (far left).

GAMES >> continued from page 7



PHOTO: NANCY TERAMURA HAYATA

This year’s martial arts competition was held at the Pyramid in Long Beach, Calif.

Track and Field Chairman Richard Fukuhara has also been with the Nikkei Games since the very beginning, and he says it’s “never boring.” Fukuhara sees competitors as young as 1 years of age to as old as 80-plus years of age.

The tradition and culture behind the event generates a buzz in the air. Fukuhara explained that they try to set up track and field as a big picnic. His favorite

part is watching the children having fun and seeing generations come together as grandparents cheer on their grandchildren.

“These are the experiences of a lifetime,” said Fukuhara.

James is one of those grandparents. He has six children and six grandchildren, whom he loves to watch compete. The smiles on the faces of the children

provide priceless moments for families who return year after year.

“We want people to keep competing and having a good time,” said James.

More than memories are made as the good times roll and the Nikkei Games continue to thrive. Through the games, Japanese culture is retained through sports. As James says, “basketball is king of Southern California culture,” and yet the once Japanese leagues have morphed into “Asian leagues.”

“I feel really good that I’m of Japanese descent. I want my kids to understand something about it,” said James. “Some people want to preserve the tea ceremony, flower arranging, origami — everyone picks out different things. Within the Nikkei Games, we want to preserve the traditional and contemporary (Japanese American) sports.”

Ishii full heartedly agrees with James, and sees the preservation of Japanese culture as a responsibility for Japanese Americans to carry.

“It’s important for generations to follow, pick up the banner and pursue the vision that the founders of Nisei week and the Nikkei Games have,” said Ishii. “And to never forget the cultural heritage, our lineage and our community.” ■

Polaris Tours 2014 Schedule

Oct. 04 ~ Oct. 11	Andean Lake Crossing & Chilean Wine Country: “Bariloche, Santiago”
Oct. 09 ~ Oct. 18	Treasures of France: “Paris, Avignon, Arles, St. Remy, Nice, Monaco”
Oct. 15 ~ Oct. 27	Dynamic Taiwan: “Taipei, Taroko Gorge, Tainan, Kaohsiung”
Oct. 17 ~ Oct. 31	South Africa & Victoria Falls: “Cape Town, Johannesburg & Safari”
Oct. 19 ~ Oct. 28	Autumn Japan: “Hiroshima, Kyoto, Kanazawa, Takayama, Tokyo”



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HUY FONG FOODS REOPENS FACTORY TO THE PUBLIC

Irwindale's Sriracha maker continues to pump its famous hot sauce with new tours and equipment after a temporary shut down.

By Tiffany Ujiye
Assistant Editor

Huy Fong Foods, makers of the famous rooster-printed Sriracha sauce, opened its doors to the public on Aug. 22 in Irwindale, Calif., after a temporary shut down in 2013 due to complaints about the chili odors coming from the plant.

The company's shiny, new 650,000-square-foot factory offers free tours to give visitors a chance to view the plant's production process. With its new equipment, Huy Fong Foods has now fully transitioned in response to a partial shutdown ordered by Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Robert H. O'Brien due to complaints, claiming that the odors emanating from the plant were a public nuisance and therefore needed attention.

During the temporary shutdown, Huy Fong Foods and its founder, David Tran, looked to move production to Texas this past May. Texas Gov. Rick Perry and Attorney



Sriracha sauce travels along the assembly line in preparation for shipment in Huy Fong Foods' new plant in Irwindale, Calif.

General Greg Abbott sent representatives in hopes of wooing the Sriracha maker to the Dallas area.

Over the past several years, major businesses such as Toyota and CKE Restaurants — the parent company of Carl's Jr. and other chains — have left California in search of lower tax rates and softer regulations. According to the *Orange County Register*, in 2011 alone, more than 254 California companies moved some or all of their offices out

of state, 26% more than in previous years. Their departures, critical to California's economy, made leaving the Golden State for Huy Fong Foods tempting.

Afraid of losing another business, California Gov. Jerry Brown's economic development team resampled and evaluated Irwindale's air, finding no significant odorous problems. The results ended in peace, with Huy Fong Foods remaining in California, and the city lawsuit was dropped. The new factory still underwent major upgrades for its filtration systems, mitigating any future air-quality problems.

Now, guests can check out the entire sauce-making process from start to finish — from pepper grinding to bottling. In conjunction with the opening of this year's pepper grinding season, the company recently celebrated the event by giving the first 200 guests of its company tour a gift bag filled with Sriracha-themed goodies ranging from T-shirts to underwear.

In addition to its free tours, Huy Fong Foods has added two new buses, each holding 14 guests, that will take tour groups to the Rooster Room, where guests can buy Sriracha-related items.

Tours are available between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday-Friday, and require an appointment. Visitors can call customer service at (626) 286-8328 for arrangements.

COLOR >> continued from page 2

African Americans, U.S. policies denied citizenship to any immigrant from Asia.

The American dream of home ownership did not extend to Asian immigrants — Asian immigrants could not hold property. Grandpa and Grandma lived with over a hundred laws that restricted where they could live, where they could work or whom they could marry. They paid extra fees and taxes. Life was not equal under "yellow" Jim Crow laws of the 20th century.

They gave birth to the first generation of Japanese American citizens. Citizenship and the Constitution sank to a low point when they and their American children were imprisoned during World War II. Men, women, children, old and young were subjected to years of incarceration. My family lost everything. Dad, like many of his generation, served the nation with honor, fighting in both theaters of the war. He returned a wartime veteran to a country that called him "Jap" and denied him a job or a home. He lived in a house with his parents and sisters because very few wanted to rent to "damn Japs." The war ended, but not the racism.

In 1957, my mother came home crying after her house hunting trips — everywhere she turned, "all-white" covenants barred her from finding a home.

The 1968 Fair Housing Act provided a legal infrastructure, but it did not erase discrimination. In 1979, my husband and I bought our first home in a new suburb in Sacramento, and the next year, my mailbox was burned to the ground. We suffered the same fate as my 14 Asian American neighbors. "Go Home Japs"

and obscenities were spray painted on garages. In 1994, the Sacramento Office of the JACL was firebombed.

A report came out last year that anti-Asian bullying has significantly increased in New York City public schools. There are disproportionate numbers of Asian Americans among the long-term unemployed. Six were shot and killed at a Sikh temple in Oak Creek, Wis., two years ago.

How many decades does a person of color have to wait to be treated as a person rather than a stereotype? The people of Ferguson have been waiting for a long time. The JACL and the Japanese American community have been waiting for a long time.

Racism is not as simplistic as calling someone a derogatory name. It is a mental process that categorizes people by their physical traits and assigns stereotypes to those categories. The stereotypes are so deeply embedded that they subconsciously impact our views and our actions.

The president and the U.S. attorney general are taking command of the matter using federal resources. History tells me it won't be enough.

The responsibility for Ferguson is the responsibility of each and every one of the 314 million people who make up the United States. We have to change the way we approach people — each person is a unique individual. Irrespective of gender, race, religion, age, sexual orientation or physical ability, each one of us deserves that respect.

Priscilla Ouchida is the National Director of the JACL.



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A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

**Tabemasho Matsuri****San Francisco, CA****Sept. 20, 3 p.m.****JCCCNC Center****1840 Sutter St.****Cost: Registration, adult \$175, children \$50**

Celebrate the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California's annual fundraiser. Six community chefs will present their specialty dishes for guests such as chirashi, misoyaki chicken, tri-tip and tofu age avocado poke. The event will also include a live auction with prizes, including Japan Airline tickets and a dinner for eight at the Consul General of Japan's residence.

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

National**2014 National JACL Gala Awards Dinner****Washington, D.C.****Oct. 6, 6-10 p.m.****Capital Hilton****1001 16th St. NW.**

This year's Gala Awards Dinner, themed "A Salute to Champions," will celebrate JACL and community members. Keep an eye out for event details and updates.

Info: Visit www.jacl.org or call (202) 223-1240.

MDC**Annual Aki Matsuri****Albuquerque, NM****Sept. 28, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.****National Hispanic Cultural Center****1701 Fourth St. SW****Cost: Admission \$5, free parking**

This year's annual fall festival, themed "Bushido: The Way of the Warrior," will be full of activities, food and live entertainment. Don't miss out on the Japanese vintage car club shows, vendor booths and a special samurai exhibit featuring artifacts from the Bushido Era.

Info: Visit www.nmjacl.org or call (505) 565-2185.

EDC**The Asian American Resource Workshop Annual Benefit****Cambridge, MA****Sept. 20, 6-9 p.m.****MIT Media Lab****75 Amherst St.**

This year's theme, "Just

Eats," will honor community leaders during the dinner, featuring pan-Asian cuisine with a dessert buffet. The MIT Media Lab will also feature a live auction as well as a raffle for guests.

Info: Visit www.brownpaper tickets.com/event/780131.

NCWNP**Nikkei Angel Island Pilgrimage****San Francisco, CA****Oct. 4, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.****Immigration Station at Angel Island State Park**

Rediscover the little-known history of the Japanese and Japanese American legacy at Angel Island. The event will honor the legacy of George Araki and Alexander Weiss.

Info: Visit www.nichibei.org or email programs@nichibei foundation.org.

Otsukimi Moon Viewing Festival**Oakland, CA****Oct. 5, 5:30-8:30 p.m.****Lakeside Park Garden Center****666 Bellevue Ave.****Cost: Admission is Free,****Parking \$5**

Join the Oakland Fukuoka Sister City Assn. and the Golden State Bonsai Collection North for an evening of Japanese food, entertainment and moon viewing. The moon viewing will be hosted by the Eastbay Astronomical Society. The event will also feature live taiko and dancing performances. Bento box dinners will be catered by Musashi Restaurant and must be

preordered (\$15).

Info: Visit www.oakland-fukuoka.org or email ofsca1962@gmail.com.

'Art of Survival: Enduring the Turmoil of Tule Lake'**Lodi, CA****Ends Oct. 19****Micke Grove Regional Park****11793 N. Micke Grove Road**

The traveling exhibit dives into the complexity of the WWII Japanese American Segregation Center near Newell, Calif. Photos, artifacts and personal narratives will be up for display to provide glimpses into life at Tule Lake.

Info: Visit www.artof survival.org.

Kimochi Silver Bells Arts and Crafts Faire**San Francisco, CA****Dec. 13, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.****The Event Center at St. Mary's Cathedral****1111 Gough St.****Cost: Free**

Don't miss out on this one-stop shopping event for holiday gifts this year. Exhibit booths will include Kelley's Kookies, Kimochi Arts and Crafts, Cynthia Sasaki, Dardie Ishida, Ono Memories, Tobi-Mulan Designs and Little Buddha Baby.

Info: Visit www.kimochi-inc.org or call (415) 931-2294.

PNW

Meet and Greet With Producers and Cast From 'Witness: The Legacy of

Heart Mountain'**Pullman, WA****Oct. 15, 7 p.m.****Compton Union Building****Wilson Road****Cost: Free**

David Ono, Jeff MacIntyre and Patti Hirahara will offer audience members an insider's view of the production. This will be the first time that Ono and MacIntyre will visit Washington State University to see the WSU George and Frank C. Hirahara Collection of Heart Mountain, the inspiration for the documentary.

Info: Visit www.cub.wsu.edu or call (509) 335-6678.

PSW**API Equality-LA 9th Anniversary Celebration****Los Angeles, CA****Sept. 14, 1-4 p.m.****Los Angeles LGBT Center****1125 McCadden Pl.****Cost: General admission \$35**

Celebrate API Equality-LA's Anniversary Celebration at the Village at Ed Gould Plaza. The event will include a

Hawaiian buffet, unlimited wine and mimosa for those over 21 and the company of friends and advocates for equality. Please be sure to purchase tickets in advance.

Info: Visit www.apiel9bday.bpt.me.

Fall Festival Bazaar**San Diego, CA****Oct. 5, 11:30 a.m.-4 p.m.****Pioneer Ocean View United****Church of Christ****2250 Fairfield St.****Cost: Free**

Celebrate fall with community and church members at the Pioneer Ocean View United Church of Christ. Enjoy delicious treats such as Yakisoba, sushi, lumpia and tacos with a Kids Zone and a produce market.

Info: Visit www.pioneer ocean-viewucc.com or call (619) 276-4881.

'Legend of Ko'olau'**Los Angeles, CA****Oct. 11, 7:30 p.m.****David Henry Hwang Theatre****120 Judge John Aiso St.****Cost: General admission \$30**

Watch the premiere of a historical drama written by Gary T. Kubota about the legendary love of a man and woman in Hawaii in 1893. A National Performance Network's Creation Fund project, "Legend of Ko'olau" visits a period of turmoil during the Hawaiian kingdom's overthrow.

Info: Visit www.legendofkoolau.com or call (808) 875-0315.

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

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In Memoriam

Aihara, Eugene Matsuo, 79, Hilo, HI; Aug. 3; he is survived by his wife, Amy; son, Keith (Jill); daughter, Lori (Alvin) Sugiyama; brothers, Toru and Raymond; sisters, Chieko Hashizume and Sachiko Komata; sisters-in-law, Beatrice, Edna and Natsue; gc: 6; ggc: 1.

Arakaki, Fumiko, 90, Culver City, CA; Aug. 13; she was predeceased by her husband, James Arakaki; she is survived by her son, Genji (Stephanie) Arakaki; daughter, Hope (Aric) Anderson; siblings, Henry Takashi (Emiko) Yamada and Jean Tomi Urushima; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 5.

Asato, Noboru, 86,



Torrance, CA; Aug. 11; he is survived by his wife, Anne Motomi; daughter, Linda Asato; siblings, Yoshie Betty Shimabukuro, Edwin Isamu Asato and Miyeko Tamashiro; Misao Higa, Margaret Ikuko Kishaba and Katsumi Asato; he was predeceased by his son, Glenn H. (Anne) Asato; gc: 2.

Higa, Lillian S., 79, Wahiawa, HI; Aug. 10; she is survived by her beloved husband, Harry Higa; son, Michael (Lana) Higa; daughters, Jo Ann (Ross) Shigeoka, Marilyn (Eric) Ige, Patricia Paderes and Stacy (Cy) Narusawa; sister, Faye Takara; gc: 16; ggc: 7.

Hirata, Takayo, 100, Hilo, HI; Aug. 6; she is survived by her loving son, Harvey S. Hirata; daughter, Jean Dulatre; gc: 5; ggc: 4.

Hokoda, Margaret Yoshiko, 92,



Los Angeles, CA; Aug. 17; she was predeceased by her husband, Masato Hokoda; she is survived by her children, Donna Ebata and Steven (Cathleen) Hokoda; brothers, Jiro (Ami) and Takashi (Anne) Watanabe; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 1.

Ito, Janet Fusae, 90, Honolulu, HI; Aug. 14; she is survived by her daughters, Winifred N. Odo and Beverly Y. Kato; gc: 5; ggc: 4.

Kiyabu, Shigeru, 94, Wailua, HI; Aug. 19; he is survived by his sons, Ronald Harada, Bernard Kiyabu and Raymond K. Napoleon; daughters, Arleen Kiraiwa, Cathay Matsuyoshi and Starley Medeiros; gc: 12; ggc: 9.

Kimura, Yukiko, 97,



San Fernando, CA; Aug. 18; she is survived by her son, Tadashi Kimura; brother, Shoichi Kamada; daughter-in-law, Jeanne Kimura; brother-in-law, Masao Kimura; nephews, Manabu Kamada and Richard Kimura; nieces, Miyuki Kamada and Joyce Kimura; also survived by other relatives; gc: 3.

Kodani, Sadako, 88, Hilo, HI; Aug. 16; she is survived by her daughters, Katherine (Charles) Webster and Cheryl (Leondard) Torricer; sons, Richard and Leslie (Widi) Kodani; sisters, Fukuyo Yamada, Yoshiko Nabara and Marion Lovings; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 5; ggc: 6.

Komoto, Midori, 92,



Ontario, OR; Aug. 14; she is survived by her children, Judy Lum, Bob (Janet) Komoto, Marcia (Ron) Kusaka and Melanie (Wayne) Gilbert; she was predeceased by her husband, Joe; daughter, Mary Jo; son-in-law, Jim Lum; siblings, Tomiko Iwata, Taichiro and George; gc: 3; ggc: 1.

Kunimura, Keith Gordon, 66, Hilo, HI; Aug. 19; he is survived by his wife, Andrea Kunimura; son, Garret (Ashley) Kunimura; daughters, Kris (Carlos) Ilaraza and Erika (Mark) Tanimoto; mother, Jean; sister, Jessica (Wilfred) Yamasawa; brother, Jon Kunimura; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 4.

Matsunami, Sachiko, 90, Los Angeles, CA; Aug. 27; she is survived by her children, Rikio and Dan (Thuy) Matsunami; siblings, Hiro, Ted and Michiko; she is also survived by other family members.

Murakami, Kaoru Cora, 91, Tacoma, WA; Aug. 30; she is survived by her daughter, Lois (Jeff) Saito; brother, Jack Masakazu Tokunaga; she was predeceased by her parents, Torahiko Tokunaga and Tori (Kashiwamura) Tokunaga;



husband, George; daughter, Pamela Kean Murakami; siblings, Harold Haruo, Joe Yoshio and Sam Susumu; gc: 2.

Nakamoto, Kimi, 90, Hilo, HI; Aug. 20; she is survived by her daughters, Lorraine (David Cinti) Nakamoto and Jeanne (Donroy) Uehara; son, Bert; sister, Takeko (Henry) Nakazato; gc: 1.

Nakasako, Ruby Ruri, 88,



Torrance, CA; Aug. 26; she is survived by her children, Michael Nakasako and Donna (Robert) Yukihiro; brother, Tommy Yano; brother-in-law, Tsutomu (Shirley) Nakasako; sisters-in-law, Purple Nakasako and Tomi, Hisaya, Fumi and Yone Yano; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2; ggc: 1.

Narikiyo, Yoshiko, 95, Molokai, HI; Aug. 11; she is survived by sons, Clifford, Yoshito and Steven; daughters, Janet Linardos and Coleen Narikiyo; gc: 15; ggc: 17.

Nishikawa, Chikaru 'Nishi,' 72,



Sun Valley, CA; Aug. 10;

he is survived by his loving wife, Chizuko "JJ" Nishikawa; daughters, Lisa Nishikawa and Marine (Steven) Shojinaga; also survived by other family.

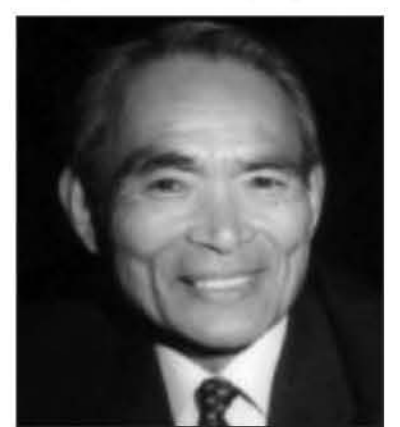
Oshiro, Masako, 88, Honolulu, HI; Aug. 10; she is survived by her loving son, George M.; daughter, Linda S. Chung; gc: 6; ggc: 14.

Ohara, Masami, 93, Pahoa, HI; July 14; he is survived by his brother, Masanori; sister, Kamie Nakandakari.

Sueko, Ernest Shigeru, 95, Honolulu, HI; July 30; he is survived by his loving sons, Dean K., Owen T. and Ryan O.; sisters, Sachiko Higashi and Emi Tokita; gc: 6; ggc: 6.

Sugioka, Seichi, 87, Kaneohe, HI; Aug. 29; he is survived by his wife, Hatsuko; son, Glenn A.; brother, Muneyoshi; sisters, Mary E. Sugioka and Saddle Hanafusa.

Tao, Yukinobu Jack, 94,



Monterey Park, CA; Aug. 22; he is survived by his loving wife, Terue; sons, Michinori (Linda) and Yuji; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 7; ggc: 10.

Tokuda, Kelly Yooko, 48, Waipahu, HI; Aug. 1; she is survived by her beloved husband, Keith; sons, Justin and Jason; sister, Lisa H. Nakayama; father, Bert; mother, Irma; she is also survived by other family.

Yamada, Suzie Shinohara, 83, Spokane, WA; July 19; she is survived by her husband, George; children, Catherine (Glenn) Rappleyea, Linda (Patrick) Kern, Gerald (Dawn) Yamada, Patricia (Christopher) Marinos, John (Renea) Yamada and Greg Yamada; brother, Jay (Kathy) Shinohara; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and friends; gc: 15; ggc: 3.

PLACE A TRIBUTE

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

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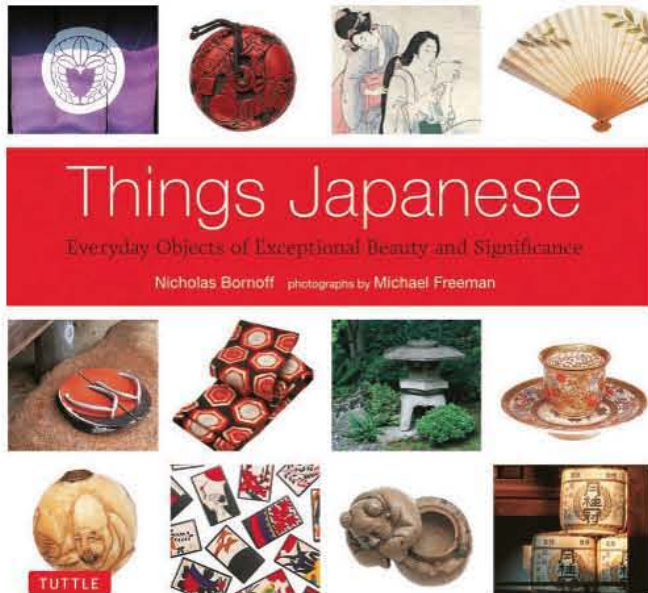
JA >> continued from page 3

We reveal our identity in dozens of small, cultural ways all the time. We may not even notice them ourselves.

A recently reprinted book reminds me of the Japanese stuff that surrounds us and keeps us tied together as a community. "Things Japanese: Everyday Objects of Exceptional Beauty and Significance" by Nicholas Bornoff, with beautiful studio and environmental photos by Michael

Freeman, was originally published in 2002 and reprinted in 2013 by Tuttle.

The images capture the objects, and the text puts them into cultural context. It's cool to know that those stone lanterns have a name: *ishidoro*. And to learn that those little talismans are called *netsuke*, and they were buttons or toggles. Hanafuda, you'll find, is based on a Portuguese



"Things Japanese" by Nicholas Bornoff, with photos by Michael Freeman, captures the objects that are synonymous with being Japanese.

game from the samurai times and is one of several popular *karuto*, or card games, that have evolved in Japan.

"Things Japanese" is chock-full of fascinating history and information that will enrich your knowledge.

You may look around your family's things and feel even more Japanese than ever before.

It's a fine book with the ability to connect you with your culture.

Gil Asakawa is a member of the Pacific Citizen Editorial Board and the author of "Being Japanese American." He blogs about Japanese and Asian American issues at www.nikkeiview.com, and he's on Facebook, Twitter and lots of other social media. He was recently named the 2014 Asian American Journalists Assn. AARP Social Media Fellow.

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In many ways, we do feel the rusty pains of these major news institutions like the *Los Angeles Times* and *New York Times*. Yet, at the same time, I see a chance to latch on to this new ethnic media movement. Everything is new, and things are always under crisis and change, but moving forward, the *Pacific Citizen* needs to help not only JACL in its efforts but also other Asian Americans in the U.S.

Currently, we don't have the staff resources to physically seek out the stories of AAPI's across the nation, but we want to. The *P.C.* wants to hear those stories, and we have this platform to do so. With over 85 years of history under our belt, the *P.C.* can pack a mean punch in the immigration debate, the LGBTQ fight and the battle against undocumented individuals.

The *Pacific Citizen* is a historian. Academics and community members often go through the *P.C.*'s archives to study what life was like for JAs in the past and read their narratives, presenting to them a kind of history untold in our classrooms. It would be a true disservice to the next generation if we limit ourselves in just telling the news.

Like Tajiri and Nisei journalists

before, we have to keep reporting on what matters so that one day, perhaps the *P.C.*, JACL and other organizations will be better understood.

This isn't to say that the *P.C.* failed to reach me growing up because here I am today at this historical paper. Here I am today learning about a community I knew very little about but can say I know a whole lot more now. What I appreciate about these past storytellers is their spirit in reporting so that I can understand and learn American history.

Because of this, I care not only about the Japanese American or Asian American communities but also all ethnic communities.




From when I started at the *P.C.* to now, a lot has changed not just for the newsroom but also for myself. As the *P.C.* goes into launching our website 2.0 in the coming months, we're ready to participate in the digital age but also honor our past in print. But what really drives the *P.C.* is not the shiny website or fancy print — it's the words inside. The little black letters that string together history. That is what matters.

Tiffany Ujüye is the new P.C. Assistant Editor.

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