PRESERVING MINIDOKA

An estimated $3 million settlement with South View Dairy is in need of funding to stop a proposed animal feedlot operation.
W e’re back! The Pacific Citizen is proud to announce the launch of our brand-new website—completely redesigned, the site has been made with you, our readers, being our No. 1 focus. You’ll find everything you need to know on our new site (www.pacificcitizen.org) regarding AAPI news, in-depth features, a completely up-to-date calendar, commentaries and, of course, all news and information regarding the JACL right at your fingertips in an easy-to-navigate site. Thank you for your patience, support and loyalty these past few years. We hope you’ll find the finished product was well worth the wait!

And please let us know your thoughts, as this is your site as much as it is ours. We’re on this journey together!

— The Pacific Citizen Staff

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF YOUR VOTE

By Nicole Gaddie
JACL NY/SC chairperson

M idterm elections are often met with apathy. What impact could a single vote have on our increasingly polarized government? Maybe it’s hope. Maybe it’s American citizenship. As Americans, we have the opportunity to be problem solvers, contributors in a self-governing community. Yet, voter turnout for youth ages 18-29 ranks far below any other age category (http://www.census.gov/prod/2014pubs/p20-573.pdf). Additionally, only about three-in-10 Asian American eligible voters have cast ballots in midterm elections since 1998. Sitting out of local elections seems to be a trend for youth. According to the Pew Research Center (http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/files/2010/10/millennials-confident-connected-open-to-change.pdf), during the presidential election in 2008, Millennials represented 21 percent of all Virginians who cast their vote. One year later during the gubernatorial election, less than 10 percent of the voting population were Millennials. The nonvoting pattern stretched across the United States. These numbers might seem bleak, especially when Asian Americans make up 5.6 percent of the total U.S. population and youth make up a quarter of the population (and a third of the electorate). However, they also prove that we have a large potential force.

We can use this force to elect quality leaders. Whether it be governor, mayor, city council member or state senator, all have a serious impact on our communities and daily life.

Don’t know who to vote for or what issues are being contested? Read the local newspaper or watch televised debates. Attend political forums and become an informed and engaged citizen. We have a plethora of information and opportunity at our fingertips—it is wasteful not to use it.

>> See VOTE on page 9
T
This column from JACL’s regional staff members is intended to provide information on JACL national programs, district and chapter activities and occasional commentary on important issues. It is vital for members of JACL to be informed of national programs that are managed by each of the JACL offices. In addition, we believe our membership will gain greater insight into the national scope of the JACL by learning about the projects and activities that take place in other regions and chapters.

Thanks, Karen
The JACL regional staff was saddened by the resignation of Karen Yoshitomi, who was the PNW regional director for nearly 25 years. Karen was a valued member of the staff whose extraordinary service cultivated goodwill within the PNW community for the JACL and truly made a difference for our organization. We wish her well in her new endeavor as executive director of the Japanese Cultural & Community Center of Washington. Thanks, Karen, and best wishes.

Teacher Training Workshops
The JACL Midwest Office has been managing a series of teacher training workshops titled “JACL Teacher Training: Incarceration and Confinement Sites.” This program is funded through a grant from the National Park Service, Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program. Christine Munteanu wrote the $98,328 proposal, which was accepted in September 2013.

So far, we’ve conducted workshops in Albuquerque, N.M.; Phoenix, Ariz.; Bellevue, Wash.; and Merced, Calif. The attendance for these four workshops was 120. At each workshop site, we’ve received the assistance of the local JACL chapter, who arranges for the venue, catering, panelists and outreach. We thank Jennifer Yazawa in Albuquerque, Donna Cheung and Megan Gately in Phoenix, Stan Shikuma in Seattle and Bob Taniguchi in Merced for their assistance in coordinating the trainings.

The primary workshop presenters are Sharon Ishii-Jordan and Greg Marutani. Greg has also been invaluable in volunteering his time to assist with all the workshop logistics.

One of the unique aspects of this grant is that it provides substitute teacher reimbursement to school districts for attendance by teachers. The workshops last approximately five hours, and teachers receive copies of the JACL curriculum guides “A Lesson in American History: The Japanese American Experience” and “The Journey From Gold Mountain: The Asian American Experience.”

The final workshops are planned for Houston, Texas, and Minneapolis, Minn., and possibly another workshop in Phoenix in 2015.

Okaeri: A Nikkei LGBTQ Gathering
For the past year, the JACL Pacific Southwest Office has been part of an amazing team for a one-day conference called Okaeri: A Nikkei LGBTQ Gathering. In case you’re wondering what all that means, here are some quick definitions: Okaeri = “Welcome home” in Japanese Nikkei = Those of Japanese descent living outside of Japan LGBTQ = Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning

The team is comprised of community members from diverse backgrounds who are united in the common goal of making the Nikkei community in Los Angeles, starting with Little Tokyo, a safe and inviting space for all. Through Okaeri, we are seeking to engage people who are looking for support and resources, would like to connect with others to build greater inclusion in the Nikkei community, want to learn about and be more involved with the LGBTQ community and are interested in the intersection of the faith and LGBTQ communities.

To prepare for Okaeri, the PSW Office has been hosting preconference events, organized by PSW Program Coordinator Traci Ishigo. Three preconference events have been held at a different location in Los Angeles County, reaching over 200 people. We would like to thank the San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center, Centenary United Methodist Church (also a part of the Okaeri organizing team) and the Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute for hosting these important events and supporting the organization of Nikkei LGBTQ events. Each of these incredible events featured a different panel of Nikkei LGBTQ community members, focusing on storytelling and encouraging participants to critically analyze the messages they have received concerning gender and sexuality.

Okaeri will be a time to continue the dialogue that has already started. “Okaeri: A Nikkei LGBTQ Gathering” will be held at the Japanese American National Museum on Nov. 15. Please see okaeri-la.org for more information and to register. We hope to see you there!

Make Your Voice Heard in this Election!
Please Remember to Vote November 4th

Polls open across the country on:

Visit our page jaclvotes.weebly.com to see:
- Your closest polling location and when it opens.
- Candidates in your district.
- What to bring to your polling location.

Help Spread the word:
- Make a pledge on our website to vote in this election.
- Share our page on facebook and twitter to help friends and family vote too.
AUTHOR NAOMI HIROHARA WINS MYSTERY AWARD FROM INDEPENDENT BOOKSELLERS

Murder on Bamboo Lane," the first in a new mystery series by Edgar Award-winning author Naomi Hirahara, was awarded the 2014 T. Jefferson Parker Award for best mystery by the Southern California Independent Booksellers Assn. at its annual banquet on Oct. 18 at the Beverly Garland Hotel in North Hollywood, Calif.

The book, published by Penguin Berkley Prime Crime, follows the exploits of Officer Ellie Rush, a 23-year-old hapa bicycle cop for the Los Angeles Police Department. Other finalists were Drew Chapman ("The Ascendent") and David Putnam ("The Disposables").

The retail price of the mass-market paperback and ebook is $7.99 each.

For more information about Hirahara and her future events, visit www.naoimihirahara.com.

Author Naomi Hirahara was awarded the T. Jefferson Parker Award for best mystery for her book "Murder on Bamboo Lane" from the Southern California Independent Booksellers Assn. on Oct. 18.

California Drought Takes a Bite Out of the Rice Harvest

WOODLAND, CALIF. — California’s deepening drought is shrinking its rice harvest, and that’s bad news for farmers, migratory birds and sushi lovers.

The $5 billion industry exports rice to more than 100 countries and specializes in premium grains used in risotto, paella and sushi. Nearly all U.S. sushi restaurants use medium-grain rice grown in the Sacramento valley.

The rice harvest is just the latest victim of California’s historic drought, which has sharply reduced crop production as it enters its fourth year. With 95 percent of the state in “severe” to “exceptional” drought, farmers are leaving fields unplanted, cattle ranchers are reducing herds and almond growers are tearing out orchards.

California, the nation’s second-largest rice-growing state after Arkansas, usually produces more than 5 million pounds of rice and sells about half of it abroad. But this year, rice farmers only planted 420,000 acres — 25 percent less than last year — because of water restrictions, according to the California Rice Commission.

Farmer Mike DeWit, who usually plants 1,000 acres of rice on his family farm in Woodland, outside Sacramento, said he only planted 700 acres this year because his water supply was cut by 30 percent.

“I think it’s the worst as far as the California rice industry is concerned on record,” DeWit said. “One more dry year, and I think the impacts on California rice farmers will be devastating.”

The reduced plantings also impact migratory birds and other wildlife that depend on flooded rice fields as habitat. Every fall, millions of waterfowl fly south from Canada and Alaska to spend their winters in California’s Central Valley.

After the fall harvest, farmers usually cover their fields with water to break down the rice stalks, creating wetlands habitat for millions of ducks and geese that can feed on uncollected grains and other plants.

“It is environmentally a very nice crop to have in the system. It mimics the natural system of a couple hundred years ago, when that area was wetlands,” said Bruce Lindquist, a rice researcher at the University of California, Davis.

In a typical year, rice farms flood 250,000-300,000 acres in winter, but this year as few as 50,000 acres may be flooded because of water restrictions, according to the CRC.

Conservationists are worried that waterfowl and shorebirds will be at greater risk for disease as they crowd together in fewer rice fields and wetlands.

“When you have less rice out there, the impacts are significant for our environment, our economy, for the farms as well,” said Jim Rice, a CRC spokesman.

This year, conservation groups are renting 14,000 acres from rice farmers and temporarily flooding them, turning the fields into “pop-up wetlands” for birds traveling along the Pacific Flyway.

The CRC doesn’t track prices, but Taro Arai, who runs eight Japanese restaurants in the Sacramento area, said he paid 8 percent more for rice this year and expects to pay even more next year.

Arai, “chief dreaming officer” of the Mikuni Restaurant Group, is concerned about the reduced supply and rising cost of California sushi rice, but he’s reluctant to buy rice from outside the state.

So, he’s looking into growing and harvesting his own rice as he prepares to open more restaurants in Northern California.

“Sushi rice makes or breaks sushi for every restaurant in California or the United States,” Arai said. “I hear rumors there’s a cheaper rice, but you want to eat high-quality California rice.”

Lava Stalls Short of Big Island Town’s Main Road

PAHOA, HAWAII — Lava from a vent at Kilauea volcano has been sliding northeast toward the ocean since June. Last month, scientists said it was two weeks away from hitting the main road in Pahoa, a small town of about 950 residents. On Oct. 29, it was about 225 yards away from Pahoa Village Road, Hawaii County Civil Defense officials said. It was traveling about 5-10 yards an hour.

The languid pace has given residents time to pack their valuables and get out of the way, as well as a moment to question how they will cope once the lava blocks the only roads in and out of town.

Once the lava crosses the road and the bypass road, effectively slicing Pahoa in half, most residents won’t be able to get to the area’s only supermarket. The rural, mostly agricultural community of Puna, for which Pahoa is its commercial center, will be cut off even more if the lava makes it all the way to the ocean, some six miles away.

Authorities have alerted about 50 households in Pahoa that they should be prepared to evacuate.

On Oct. 30, the Hawaii National Guard deployed 83 troops to Pahoa to help provide security, as well as help with a roadblock and other safety issues.
NISEI VETERAN RECALLS HIS COMBAT MEDIC DUTIES IN OPERATION OVERLORD

DR. SEIYA OHATA IS THE ONLY JAPANESE AMERICAN TO PARTICIPATE IN OPERATION OVERLORD: NORMANDY AND THE BATTLE OF THE BULGE

By Former Capt. Seiya Ohata, Army Medical Corps

(Following is the first-hand account of First Lt. Seiya Ohata, the only Japanese American who is known to have served in Operation Overlord: the D-Day Invasion of the European continent that began on June 6, 1944. Serving in the Army Medical Corps, Ohata recalled his story during the recent JAVA annual luncheon at the Harvest Moon Restaurant in Falls Church, Va. For Ohata’s full report, visit www.javadc.org.)

I was born in the town of Lahaina, Maui, spent my childhood in Paia, now known as the windsurfing capital of the world, attended Maui High School, the University of Dayton, Ohio, and received my medical degree from the University of Missouri, St. Louis, Missouri.

“When the war started on Dec. 7, 1941, I was a senior medical student. Those were very tough times. I was thoroughly investigated by the FBI because of the status of my father, a physician and a leader in the Japanese community on Maui. When World War II broke out, he was immediately detained and all of his assets were frozen. I needed financial aid desperately, so I went to the Army recruiting office to enlist. “I was rejected repeatedly but was accepted in March 1943, when I received my medical degree and was commissioned as a First Lieutenant. “Following training and duty at various camps, I was assigned to the 165th field hospital, Camp Grant, Ill., for deployment to Europe. We left New Jersey in the spring of 1944 — the convoy zigged-zagged their way through the Northern Atlantic to avoid the German U-boats. Finally, in about two weeks, we arrived in England. D-Day started on June 6, when Gen. Eisenhower unleashed the mightiest onslaught imaginable and the Allies invaded Normandy. We waited and when the Allies established a beach-head, we were ordered to proceed. I think it was around midnight on June 7 when our landing craft brought us to the shores of Omaha Beach in Normandy. The tide was low and the landing craft could only go so much — we had about 50 yards to go — it seemed like a mile. We had to wade in. My comrades were six-footers — the water came up to their knees so it was not a problem, but being only five foot, the water came up to my waist!I had to carry my backpack over my head — it was very difficult. We finally arrived in the wee hours on June 8.

“The Army Corps of Engineers did a superb job of setting up the tents and buildings of our field hospital in the outskirts of Cherbourg in Normandy. It was a heart-wrenching site to see the severe destruction of the area. I remember the little village of Saint Lo — it was totally demolished — not one building was standing. The casualties were high, and we worked caring for the wounded. Then came the Battle of the Bulge. The Battle was fierce — the casualties high. In early spring of 1945, I received orders to be transferred to Collecting Company 8, a medical unit attached to the 286th Infantry Regiment, 97th Infantry Division of Patton’s 3rd Army. We were on the outskirts of Pilsen, Czechoslovakia, awaiting orders to attack. Instead, we received orders to cease fire! The war was over! “Soon we were on our way home. As our troop ship neared the United States, we saw the Statue of Liberty — what a sight it was — our Company Commander announced, ‘Good news! You will all get 30 days’ leave — visit your loved ones, your family and friends. Return to Fort Bragg, North Carolina, for regrouping, then we

SPECIAL OFFER FOR JACL MEMBERS
San Francisco writer and photographer Tom Graves spent a decade with the Nisei (Japanese American) soldiers of World War II and the Korean War, determined to share their unlikely story—one that must be told. That story is now being told in Twice Heroes: America’s Nisei Veterans of WWII and Korea, winner of the 2014 Benjamin Franklin Award in History.

All current members of the JACL Millennium Club will receive an autographed copy of Twice Heroes in appreciation of their outstanding commitment to JACL. JACL Members who upgrade to Millennium Club by December 31, 2014, will also receive an autographed copy of Twice Heroes: America’s Nisei Veterans of WWII and Korea.

ORDER TWICE HEROES NOW TO RECEIVE A SPECIAL 20% JACL MEMBER DISCOUNT
To redeem this offer, order the book at www.TwiceHeroes.com and enter the code “JACLHEROES” in the coupon field at checkout.

PRAISE FOR TWICE HEROES
“As a fellow WWII veteran, I salute these great Americans who are indeed ‘Twice Heroes’ and whose stories come to life in Tom Graves’s work.”
—Senator Bob Dole

“...This book adds an important chapter to the history of the WWII era in which some proud Americans suffered discrimination and internment simply because of their Japanese ancestry. The interviews go a long way to help us understand how wartime hysteria can make governments make poor decisions.”
—Lt. General Lawrence Snowden, USMC retired

Twice Heroes
AMERICA’S NISEI VETERANS OF WWII AND KOREA

Portraits and Interviews by Tom Graves
Located in southern Idaho, northeast of Twin Falls, Minidoka was one of 10 American concentration camps where persons of Japanese ancestry were imprisoned during World War II. It was here where notable Minidoka internees like Japanese American lawyer Minoru Yasui were incarcerated and soon where the smell of pungent manure odor will move in.

The National Park Service and the Conservation Fund negotiators are working on an agreement with South View Dairy, a proposed confined animal feedlot (CAFO), to purchase the landowners’ development rights or, more bluntly, the smell and waste.

Based on a preliminary estimate of value, the easement could cost $3 million. An agreement, while unofficial, may include a mix of public and private funding, involving private donations to meet match requirements for nonfederal funding.

Should the NPS negotiations team succeed with funding secured to purchase a conservation easement, the NPS and partners would permanently extinguish the right to develop the property as a feedlot or other industrial agricultural operation. Landowners would still retain the right to engage in traditional farming.

In addition to buying the permit development rights, the proposed buyout could also secure the water rights. Privately owned farmland would therefore lack the necessary size and water rights to support an operation of South View Dairy’s size. There would be no chance in the future that another CAFO or large farming operation could sustain itself without the water rights.

Following a decision by the Idaho Supreme Court in 2011, the landowners have the rights to develop the property to raise young cows (heifers) for nearby dairy farms. The site would also be the largest Southview Dairy site, a private land plot.

If developed, as many as 13,000 cows would generate large amounts of waste that would “negatively impact visitors to the park, local residents and water quality in the Snake River basin,” according to a case statement issued by the Friends of Minidoka (FoM), a coalition to stop the CAFO.

Coalition members include the Idaho Concerned Area Residents for the Environment, Idaho Rural Council and the Diamond and Sloan families, which are struggling to stop the CAFO development that sits 1.2 miles away from Minidoka, a unit of the National Park System.

In an air-quality study performed by FoM, the smell of cattle and feces would directly blow into the historic site as CAFO sits upwind (west).

“The proposed CAFO would undermine Minidoka’s educational and economic benefit and over a decade of progress by the Japanese American Community, conservation partners and NPS at Minidoka,” according to the case study.

Opportunity to purchase the development rights is shrinking. FoM is seeking to increase the level of interest in the Japanese American, historic preservation and nonprofit communities to pledge financial support to save Minidoka as the four-year endeavor is a limited window and subject to South View Dairy.

In 2008, Jerome County, Idaho, issued a permit to the landowners for the CAFO. As a response, FoM raised significant private funding to engage in a legal battle to block the CAFO, which succeeded in 2012. The Supreme Court ruling delayed land development, giving Minidoka an opportunity to buy out the permit.

“We have a limited period of time to preserve our nation’s heritage” FoM urged. “Your support is critical to preserve the investment in the park and ensure that it can tell the story of Minidoka to local and national visitors.”

Over the past 13 years, the Japanese American community, FoM, the Conservation Fund (TCF) and the NPS have added nearly 150 acres of land, including the Residential Barracks Blocks 22 and 23.

Other successful efforts include adding the Bainbridge Island Eagledale Ferry Dock unit in Washington State, eliminating the threat of a high-voltage power line that would have run through Minidoka, land acquisition, new trails, interpretive signage, reconstruction of the Honor Roll and a reconstructed guard tower.

More recently, a new visitor center is set for construction sometime between 2015-16, complete with a new design and master plans.

Community members can help by joining the Friends of Minidoka, donating funds to FoM to support the work of the NPS or pledge support for the CAFO buyout. All three options can be done at www.minidoka.org.

“You can make a difference,” FoM urged, “to prevent a second injustice from being committed.”

For additional information, please contact FoM Chairman Alan Momohara at alanmomohara@hotmail.com or FoM Board Member Dan Sakura at tellyah@gmail.com.
New Crop 2014

Here on our farm in the Central Valley, it’s that time of the year when broad swaths of rice are slowly turning gold awaiting harvest. Year after year, this cycle repeats as we carry on in the tradition of our grandfather and Koda Farms founder, Keisaburo Koda. Our family has now been farming in California for over 85 years and we look forward to our approaching centennial. To some that may seem far and distant, but in farming, the long term picture is always in sight. This was especially true for our grandfather who during the World War II internment of Japanese Americans lost over 90% of everything he owned. After the family’s release from Amache, Colorado, he fought tooth and nail to re-establish his farm and milling operations and instilled in those around him an indomitable sense of hope for a better future.

With the daily reminders of the changing seasons and imminent harvest, we extend our sincere gratitude to all of you folks that have made the aforementioned possible.

“The Koda Family

Koda Farms is the oldest, continuously family-owned and operated rice farm and mill in California. We oversee all facets of production – from growing and harvesting our propriety heirloom strains, to milling and packaging in our own facilities. Our trademarks and products include Kokubo Rose® Japanese style rice, Sho-Chiku-Bai® Sweet Rice, Mochiko Blue Star® Sweet Rice Flour, Kokubo Rose® Tyohanko, and Diamond K® Rice Flour. (Organic & conventional versions available.)

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Present at "South Bay Stories: A Nikkei LGBTQ Forum for Everyone" were (from left) PSW Program Coordinator Traci Ishigo, panelists Traci Kato-Kiriyama, Melvin Fujikawa, Janet Uradomo and moderator Diane Ujiiye.

GARDENA VALLEY JCI HOSTS ‘SOUTH BAY STORIES: A NIKKEI LGBTQ FORUM FOR EVERYONE’

By Traci Ishigo

More than 70 community members gathered at the Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute for “South Bay Stories: A Nikkei LGBTQ Forum for Everyone” on Oct. 4. With the goals of initiating meaningful dialogue around gender, sexuality and LGBTQ stories in the Japanese American community, the event engaged attendees through personal stories and provided ample opportunities for questions.

Diane Ujiiye, outgoing executive director of API’s CAN and longtime community organizer, moderated the panel and encouraged audience participation throughout the event.

Attendees were invited to participate in an interactive activity, which asked them to write down their answers to two specific questions: “What are your experiences with discussing sexuality with your family and other Japanese Americans?” and “What are some gender expectations you have heard from our family and other Japanese Americans?”

The activity’s answers revealed a large trend: Many attendees had never discussed sexuality with their family, but learned that there were specific roles and responsibilities for girls and boys for which to conform.

As Ujiiye reviewed these trends at the beginning of the program, she also showed the need to uplift Nikkei LGBTQ narratives in our community.

Three community members from the South Bay area shared their personal narratives from unique perspectives.

The panel began with Melvin Fujikawa, former senior pastor at the Christian Layman Church in Oakland, Calif., and now a spiritual director and voice coach in Torrance, Calif. Fujikawa shared his story of coming out later in life as gay-identified in his mid-50s, at a time when he felt much more comfortable and proud of who he is as a man.

In addition, Fujikawa shared his thoughts on how he reconciles with his gay and Christian identity with the interpretation that God made him the way he is for a reason, rather than it being a sin, and he sees his gay identity as a true gift.

Janet Uradomo also proudly shared her story of being the mother of a young transgender 8-year-old daughter and the various challenges her family has faced. As a toddler, Uradomo’s trans-daughter exhibited gender nonconforming behavior, such as her interest with feminine dresses and choosing to play mostly with girls rather than boys.

While Uradomo and her husband thought it was “just a phase” in their child’s development, they have realized over the last couple of years that their child is far happier with identifying as a girl.

Following their trans-daughter’s lead of how she wants to identify her gender, Uradomo and her husband recently enrolled their daughter in a Torrance public school that supports gender nonconforming youth. The couple fully supports their trans-daughter, and they want to focus on making sure she is happy with being her whole self.

Traci Kato-Kiriyama, an artist/writer/community organizer, next read from her 2011 piece in the Rafu Shimpo called “LGBT(JA)Q” under the “Through the Fire” column. She described some of her experiences of being queer, her mother’s support of accepting her daughter’s decision to openly identify her sexuality and also the interesting reactions of Nikkei community members who read her 2011 piece.

While Kato-Kiriyama expected people to engage with her further about her story at the time, instead, people did not go any deeper than telling her that they read it. She moved on to encourage the attendees about the importance of opening up the dialogue, and she expressed her hope that one day it will be considered “really JA” to be actively inclusive to the LGBTQ community.

The JACL Pacific Southwest (PSW) District, the Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute, the South Bay JACL chapter, the Greater Los Angeles JACL chapter and the Torrance JACL chapter were very proud with the large attendance of “South Bay Stories: A Nikkei LGBTQ Forum for Everyone.”

This event was a part of PSW’s Nikkei LGBTQ Initiative, which also intends to encourage community members to save the date and attend “Okaeri,” a Nikkei LGBTQ Gathering coming up on Nov. 14 and 15 at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles.

Okaeri, which means “welcome home” in Japanese, is a gathering of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning individuals, family and allies. Attendees can expect to find support, resources and motivation through informative workshops and moving speakers, as well as the opportunity to connect with others to build greater inclusion in the Nikkei community.

For more information and to RSVP to Okaeri, visit www.okaeri-la.org or email or call Traci Ishigo, program coordinator, at tishigo@jaclpsw.org or (213) 626-4471 with any questions.
LOS ANGELES — The University of California, Los Angeles’ Asian American Studies Center is pleased to announce that the 2014 George an Sakaye Aratani CARE grant applications will be accepted for review between Oct. 24 and Dec. 12. Awards will be announced during the winter quarter, 2015, and should be completed within a year or less.

The Aratani “Community Advancement Research Endowment,” or Aratani CARE, grants are designed to promote projects that will (1) benefit and advance the Japanese American community, as well as (2) strengthen ties between the Japanese American community and UCLA students, staff and faculty.

Applications that include a campus partner (e.g., faculty, staff, students or alumnae) will be prioritized, as will events or programs where the grantee agrees to acknowledge the Aratani CARE grant, UCLA’s Asian American Studies Center as a co-sponsor on public relations and programs.

Nonprofit organizations and qualified individuals are invited to apply for grants that generally range from, but are not limited to, $1,000-$5,000. Past awardees include the Little Tokyo Historical Society, Kizuna, the Japanese Community Cultural Center; the UCLA Nikkei Student Union; and the PSW chapter of the JACL.

Information about the grant and how to apply is available on the Aratani CARE website at www.aratanicare.org.
Ishibashi/Stonebridge Presents

The GREAT NISEI REUNION

Featuring

The Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra & The Mills Brothers

with special guests The Island Crooners

CALENDAR

EDC

2014 Philadelphia Asian American Film Festival Philadelphia, PA Nov. 12-22 Locations may vary The 2014 Philadelphia Asian American Film Festival presented by HBO presents 16 features, five free short programs and other events this year. This year will also feature the new PAAFF+ peripheral program, including three new sections: PAAFF Eats, PAAFF Pulse and PAAF Pride — which refer to the food, music and LGBTQ programming, respectively. Info: Visit www.paaff.org or contact Festival Director Rob Buscher at rob@philjasianfilmfest.org.


NCWNP

Heart Mountain Town Hall Event San Jose, CA Nov. 22, 2:30 p.m. San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin 640 N. 5th St. The Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation and Japanese American Museum of San Jose will be hosting a Town Hall event and a screening of the award-winning documentary “The Legacy of Heart Mountain.” Info: Visit www.jamsj.org or call (408) 294-3138.

Kimochi Silver Bells Arts and Crafts Fair 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. Exhibits will include Kelley’s Kookies, Kimochi Arts and Crafts, Cynthia Sasaki, Dardie Ishida, Ono Memories, Tobi-Mulan Designs and Little Buddha Baby. The event is expected Asian and Pacific Islander themed arts and crafts. Info: Visit www.kimochi-inc.org or call (415) 931-2294.

Na Leo 2014 Holiday Concert San Francisco, CA Dec. 14, 4:50 p.m. J CCCNC 1840 Sutter St. Cost: $45 General Admission and $75 VIP Share the holiday season with Na Leo for their first mainland holiday tour in 10 years. Na Leo has won the most Hoku Awards of any Hawaiian music group, becoming the most-recognized music group from the islands. Enjoy the holidays and listen to the most popular, award-winning and biggest-selling female Hawaiian group in the world, Na Leo. Info: Purchase tickets at http://bit.ly/naleoconcert.

PSW

Okaeri Los Angeles, CA Nov. 15 (Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.) Japanae American National Museum 100 N. Central Ave. This gathering will bring Nikkei people together to talk about their identities and how they intersect with social justice issues for an evening. The event will discuss gender, sexuality, racism, ableism, classism, xenophobia and the unique experiences from community members. Info: Register at www.okaeri-la.org.


Photo Exhibition by Sanjirō Minamikawa Los Angeles, CA Dec. 6-27 George J. Doizaki Gallery 244 S. San Pedro St. Come see works of Sanjirō Minamikawa and photographs of the masters of the later 20th century and their studios, including Joan Miro, Marc Chagall, Salvador Dalí and de Chirico. Info: Call Stewart Hibino at (213) 249-5439 or email hibino3@gmail.com.

PNW

Live On: Mr.’s Japanae Neo Pop Seattle, WA Nov. 22 Seattle Art Museum 1400 E. Prospect St. Price: $5 In response to the devastating nuclear accident in 2011, Japanese Neo-Pop artist Mr. composed a massive installation of everyday objects from Japanese life in a series of new paintings and other work. Info: Visit www.seattleartmuseum.org or call (206) 654-3100.

MDC

Chicago JACL Annual Meeting and Dinner Chicago, IL Nov. 12, 6 p.m. JACL Office 5415 N. Clark St. Come share a meal with fellow JACL members and learn about the chapter’s programs. The meeting will cover new projects and events in the coming year. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend. Info: RSVP at Chicago@jacl.org or call (773) 728-7171.

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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.

FOR MORE INFO: tiffany@pacificcitizen.org (213) 620-1767

‘The Great Nisei Reunion’ Los Angeles, CA Nov. 16; 2 p.m. The Aratani Theatre 244 S. Pedro St. Price: $45 and $60 Ishibashi and Stonebridge present ‘The Great Nisei Reunion,’ honoring an inspiring generation and their music. A feature performance by the Jimmy Dorsey Orchestra and the Mills Brothers are set to hit the stage with special guests the Island Crooners. Don’t miss out on this fun-filled evening to celebrate great music and community. Mention the P.C. to inquire about a special free ticket offer. Special bento lunches are available. Inquire when calling. Info: Call (310) 627-7272 or visit www.stonebridgeentertainment.com.

Ghosts and Demons in Japanese Prints Chicago, IL Through Jan. 4 Art Institute of Chicago 111 S. Michigan Ave. Price: $23 This exhibition showcases the most special works of the Clarence Buckingham Collection of Japanese Prints, including chilling images of ghous, Shoki and the Demon Queller. The images were printed to ward off disease and bad luck. Info: Visit www.artic.edu.
Coddington, Betty, 90, Los Angeles, CA; Oct. 7; she is survived by her children, Kenneth (May) Inouye and Marie (Bob) Petrie; gc: 3; ggc: 2.

Endo, Robert Toshikatsu, 79, Torrance, CA; Oct. 14; he is survived by his son, Fred Endo; daughter, Christina Endo; sisters, Julie Takahashi, Betty Fukuda and Louise Tanaka; also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2.

Hirata, Frank Hironobu, 88, Spokane, WA; Sept. 27; he is predeceased by his daughter, Darlene Hirata; brother, Ted Hirata; he survived by his wife, Patricia Hirata; children, Curtis and Patricia Hirata; brother, Ted Hirata; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2.

Kajikawa, Fred, 96, Los Angeles, CA; Sept. 28; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Kawaratani, Kiyoshi, 88, Monterey Park, CA; Oct. 23; he was the owner of Rau Bussan, Inc.; he is survived by his wife, Aiko Kawaratani; siblings, Tautomi (Atsuko) and Yukio (Lillian) Kawaratani; Yoshiko Tanaka, Fumiko Ozaki and Toshiko (Isamu) Masumoto; he is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Kobayashi, Sachiko Janie, 86, Woodland Hills, CA; Oct. 12; she is survived by her loving husband, Chiaki Kobayashi; nephew, Steve (Bridge) Hazeyama; nieces, Diane (Daniel) Kim and Anna (Edward) Hudson; she is also survived by many other relatives.

Koda, Dan Noboru, 88, Gardena, CA; Oct. 23; he is survived by his wife, Masako; son, Richard (Carolyn); daughter, Shirley Dozen; brother, Kenji (Shinobu) Koda; sisters, Sumiye (Ted) Takeuchi, Kazuko (Robert) Yamamoto and Fujiko Oriba; sister-in-law, Hiroko Koda; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 4.

Koshimizu, Haruko, 93, Fountain Valley, CA; Oct. 14; he is survived by his son, Craig (Jodi) Okihara; daughter, Karen Okihara; brothers, Kazuto Okihara and Rajph Okihara; sister, Joan (Ken) Oyama; gc: 2.

Koda, Dan Noboru, 88, Gardena, CA; Oct. 23; he is survived by his wife, Masako; son, Richard (Carolyn); daughter, Shirley Dozen; brother, Kenji (Shinobu) Koda; sisters, Sumiye (Ted) Takeuchi, Kazuko (Robert) Yamamoto and Fujiko Oriba; sister-in-law, Hiroko Koda; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 4.

Koshimizu, Haruko, 93, Los Angeles, CA; Oct. 19; she is survived by her children, Eiko Koshimizu, Judy (Koji) Sashiki, Irene Hino, Robert and Michael Koshimizu; brothers, Tom (Kimi) Shishido; also survived by many other relatives; gc: 4.

Masushima, Marie Toyoko, 95, Gardena, CA; Sept. 25; she is survived by her children, Harry (Sylvia) Masushima and Reiko (Robert) Mayebo; sister, Lilly Kakita; gc: 8; ggc: 13; ggg: 9.

Okihara, Toshio, 89, Torrance, CA; Oct. 14; he is survived by his son, Craig (Jodi) Okihara; daughter, Karen Okihara; brothers, Kazuto Okihara and Rajph Okihara; sister, Joan (Ken) Oyama; gc: 2.

Sada, Irene Murata, 85, Los Angeles, CA; Oct. 3; she is survived by her nieces and nephews, Janice (Curtis) Mizufuka, Kenneth (Brenda) Harada, Jane (Dane) Yagi and Taro Suzuki; she is also survived by many other relatives.

Tanioka, Barney Hoshio, 92, Laguna Woods, CA; Oct. 11; he is survived by his wife, Aileen Tanioka; daughter, Sue (Rick) Tanioka; siblings, Teruo (Misaok) Tanioka and Katsuko (Johnny) Yamada; sisters-in-law, Rose Woods and Helen Worral; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Terasawa, Issei, 64, Los Angeles, CA; Sept. 23; she came to know her and kodomonotameni.

Yoshinaha, Amy, 87, New York, NY; Oct. 13; she was a former internee at Jerome, Ark.; she is survived by her brother, Tsugio John (Lucienne) Yoshinaha; sister, Aiko Herzig-Yoshinaha; she was also survived by many nieces, nephews, friends and other family members.
DEFECTIVE AIRBAGS PROMPT URGENT AUTO RECALL OVER POTENTIAL RUPTURES

By Associated Press

DETOIT, MICH. — A potential safety crisis over defective airbags widened Oct. 21 as the U.S. government issued an urgent plea to more than 4.7 million people to get their cars fixed.

The inflator mechanisms in the airbags can rupture, causing metal fragments to fly out when the bags are deployed in crashes.

Safety advocates say at least four people have died from the problem and there have been multiple injuries. They also say more than 20 million vehicles in the U.S. are equipped with the faulty airbags.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration warned people whose cars are equipped with the faulty airbags to get their cars fixed.

The recall covers vehicles made by Toyota, Honda, Mazda, BMW, Nissan, General Motors and Ford. Passenger or diver air bags or both could be affected depending on the vehicle.

Toyota issued the latest recall Oct. 21, covering passenger airbags in 247,000 older model vehicles, including the Lexus SC, Corolla, Matrix, Sequoia and Tundra.

Like many of the other recalls, the Toyota recall covers vehicles in south Florida, along the Gulf Coast, in Puerto Rico, Hawaii, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, Saipan and American Samoa — all areas that have high absolute humidity. Toyota, in documents posted on the NHTSA website, said the company and Takata are still trying to pinpoint the cause of the rupture and to gauge the influence of high absolute humidity.

Absolute humidity is a measurement of water vapor in the air, while relative humidity, which is commonly used in weather reports, measures air moisture content relative to the air temperature.

Toyota has been testing the airbags, and it found an unusually high incidence of inflator failures along the coasts, according to appointment John Hanson. The investigation continues, and the recall could be expanded to more areas, Hanson said.

Neither Toyota nor the NHTSA could say exactly how far inland the recall area goes or what states it covers.

The NHTSA urged people to check if their car has been recalled by going online to https://vinrcl.safercar.gov/vin and typing in their vehicle identification number.

Clarence Ditlow, executive director of the nonprofit Center for Auto Safety, estimated there are 20 million-25 million cars in the U.S. alone that are equipped with the faulty airbags.

Toyota said repairs will be done for free. People who live in areas that are outside of the recall zone who are afraid of driving their cars should contact their dealerships, Hanson said.

"Based on NHTSA's open investigation, the agency will take appropriate action, including expanding the scope of the recall if warranted," an agency statement said.