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Judge Raymond S. Uno Receives an Imperial Decoration.

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Okaeri L.A. hosts the largest Nikkei LGBTQ gathering.

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KOREAN WAR MIS BROTHERHOOD
Veterans meet for their last reunion.
JAPAN IMPERIAL DECORATION
AWARDED TO JUDGE RAYMOND S. UNO

The Salt Lake City resident is named as the 2014 recipient of the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette by the Consulate-General of Japan in Denver.

Judge Raymond S. Uno of Salt Lake City has been named the 2014 recipient of the Japan Imperial Decoration, the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette by the Consulate-General of Japan in Denver. The award of this decoration, which is presented by the empress of Japan to individuals worldwide, recognizes lifetime achievement and a commitment to excellence, particularly including significant positive contributions to the mutual understanding and friendship between the United States and Japan.

Previously, Uno also received the Commendation of the Foreign Minister of Japan in 2012. As a leader in the Japanese American community of Utah, Uno previously served as president of the Salt Lake Chapter of the JACL from 1964-65. From 1969-70, he served as an officer of the organization's Civil Rights Program. He became president of the JACL from 1970-72 and helped spearhead efforts toward an official public apology and witness for Japanese American citizens who were detained in internment camps during the 1940s, which was eventually finalized with the signing of the Civil Liberties Act in 1988. In 1974, Uno was named the Japanese American of the Year by the JACL for his commitment and community work with the organization. At the local level, Uno led the Japanese Community Preservation Committee, a community group that has preserved the historic Japantown area of Salt Lake City. Uno has also been involved in a multitude of volunteer service and civic activities throughout his long career and has served on various boards and committees for various community organizations, many of which are related to Japanese legal organizations and promote the diversity, civil and human rights.

Born in Ogden, Utah, in 1930, Uno moved to California in 1938, and his family was later evacuated to the Heart Mountain internment camp in Wyoming from 1942-45. Uno then served in the U.S. Army between 1949-52 and was stationed in Japan for a significant time as part of a military consular service unit. He received a bachelor's degree in political science in 1955, a juris doctor degree in 1958 and a master's in social work in 1963 from the University of Utah and an honorary doctorate degree in 1994 from Weber State University. During his distinguished legal career, he has served both privately and publicly as a referee in the Juvenile Court, Deputy Salt Lake County Attorney and Assistant Utah Attorney General. In 1976, he became a judge for the Salt Lake City Court and in 1984 became a judge in the 3rd District Court, State of Utah. He retired in 1990 and served as a senior judge for the 3rd District Court, State of Utah, from 1993-2002. Throughout his long dedication in public and community service, Uno has contributed greatly to building stronger human relations and mutual understanding throughout society as well as between the people of the U.S. and Japan.

A conferment ceremony for the Imperial Decoration will take

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Donate $150 or more to become a WALL OF FAME; $200 or more for a chance to win a cruise! [ ] $100  [ ] $150  [ ] $200  [ ] $500 or other [ ]

JACL member? [ ] [ ]

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Pacific Citizen
200 E. First St., Suite 310
Los Angeles, CA 90012

For more information: (213) 620-6937

For more information: www.pacificcitizen.org

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Help the P.C. complete our archive.
NIKKEL VOICE

FOR JAS, GOING TO JAPAN IS LIKE GOING HOME

By G2 Andawa

I just returned from a two-week trip to Japan with my wife and in-laws, and I’m reminded once again that Japanese Americans should take the time and expense to visit the country of our roots. Whether you’re one generation or five generations removed from Japan, being in Japan will enrich your life and give you a renewed sense of identity.

We went first to Kumamoto on the southern island prefecture of Kyushu, where my father-in-law’s family is from. It’s an agricultural area — the air in the farmlands surrounding the city was hazy with the sweet blue smoke of burning rice straw, a by-product of the region’s harvest.

The four imperatives for JAs who travel to Japan are family (kazoku), sightseeing or tourism (kotob), food (basho) and buying souvenirs (sawaya). We accomplished all four in Kumamoto, visiting my father-in-law’s oldest son, who’s hospitalizing, for a reunion, dining at some terrific local fare and shopping for gifts to take back home. It helps that the city’s mascot is an adorable black bear cartoon character named “Kumamon” (Kumano is Japanese for bear), so we bought a lot of Kumamon souvenirs.

The family members we met were welcoming and incredibly generous. Between our combined poor Japanese and some relatives’ passable English, we were able to communicate pretty well.

My future-in-law’s cousin, who’s now the CEO of the Mount Aso Volcano Museum, took us on a drive to the beautiful area that includes the still-active volcano, as well as an enormous land area that includes the city of Aso and a lot of farmland that sits inside a 75-mile diameter caldera, the largest in the world, created by an ancient eruption. We also went sightseeing, on our own to the grand Kumamoto Castle, which is right downtown in the shopping district.

The area’s cuisine is notable for Takanae names, made with a rich pork broth, and Basashi, a new hormone. Basashi Suraure who were trapped in Kumamoto Castle for 57 days in the 1800s were forced to eat horse meat, and the practice has become tradition. It’s not bad! I also had cooled horse meat in unon. But exotic food isn’t the only reason to go to Japan.

We left Kumamoto after five days and went to Hiroshima, our next stop.

The must-see sight is the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park and Peace Memorial Museum, which are stark but inspiring reminders of the atomic bomb that destroyed the city and helped end World War II. Some of the exhibits and the famous dome building at ground zero that was left standing as a memorial can be emotionally draining, but they’re also life-affirming.

Then we took a train to Miyajima Island, where there’s a famous Shinto shrine. The shrine has a torii gate in the water offshore. At Miyajima, you can taste the local specialty, called Monai Manju, with sweet bean paste inside a shell shaped like a maple leaf.

Back in Hiroshima, we had dinner at a famous Okonomiyaki restaurant called Haisho. Okonomiyaki is a sort of pancake made with meat, seafood, vegetables, ramen noodles and a batter, cooked on a tabletop grill. It’s delicious.

FROM THE MIDWEST

‘DEAR WHITE PEOPLE’: A MIXED-RACE PERSPECTIVE

By Christine Manzana

IACL Assistant Program Director

Last week, I watched a film called “Dear White People,” which follows the experiences of four black students at a predominately white, fictional Ivy League university. It was refreshing to see a movie that focused on the experiences of people of color, rather than the mainstream. Movies I usually watch that are almost exclusively about white people. Even though I know very little about black identity struggles specifically, as a person of color, there were many moments that I found relatable, familiar and funny.

I enjoyed the film overall, but as a mixed-race Japanese American, I was bothered by the portrayal of a biracial black character named Samantha White. Sam is the outspoken, Indiana leader of the Black Student Union’s protests against discriminatory university policies. She hosts a controversial campus radio show that speaks to the black experience, is well-versed in the history of civil rights and is the new head of an all-black residence hall.

The film follows Sam’s struggle with her identity as a biracial black woman. The fact that she is half-white is highlighted throughout the film, as the reason she feels the need to “overcompensate” through her activism as a way to prove her blackness. Sam’s white boyfriend, Gabe, whom Sam repeatedly pushes away as she organizes protests and implements new policies in her residence hall, tells Sam that she is denying her true self by being so militant — after all, he knows she secretly listens to Taylor Swift. Meanwhile, Sam’s white sister, literally. White, is suffering from health issues, adding a sense of urgency to Sam’s feeling that she must “choose a side.”

At the end of the film, Sam cuts off her black rebel persona to reconcile with Gabe and embrace her white identity. Her relationship with Gabe, who suffers as Sam doubled down as a black activist (even as he dismissed her commitment to her cause), is restored when Sam apologizes for rejecting him. Instead, Sam wears toward the other extreme, moving out of the all-black dorm, distancing herself from her black friends, questioning the future of her radio show and even changing her hair.

Being mixed race myself, I felt frustrated and betrayed by this ending. My issue isn’t that Sam chose to reject her blackness; she has the right to define her identity for herself. What I found problematic was the implication that her identity as a black activist was somehow inauthentic because she is half-white. What I saw in the ending was a white man imposing his own vision of a mixed-race woman’s identity upon her, leading Sam to break with her previous understanding of who she is.

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>> See PERSPECTIVE on page 12
LITTLE TOKYO HISTORICAL SOCIETY SEEKS ENTRIES FOR 2015 SHORT STORY CONTEST

‘Imagine Little Tokyo’ expands to include Japanese and youth divisions.

Expanding to include Japanese-language and youth divisions, Little Tokyo Historical Society seeks fictional short stories for its second annual ‘Imagine Little Tokyo’ writing contest. The deadline is Jan. 31, 2015.

The first-place winners of the English- and Japanese-language competitions will each receive a cash award of $600; the winner of the youth division (13 and younger) will get $300. The purpose of the contest is to raise awareness of Little Tokyo through a creative story that takes place in Little Tokyo. The story has to be fiction and depict the current, past or future of Little Tokyo as part of the City of Los Angeles.

We had great success with our inaugural contest this year,” said Bill Watanabe, chair of the Imagine Little Tokyo Committee. As there is obviously great interest in writing stories that celebrate our community here in Los Angeles, we wanted to expand the contest to include entries written in Japanese as well as encourage young people to participate.

The winning stories will appear in the Rafu Shimpo and Discover Nikkei website. A public award ceremony and readings are also planned in 2015. Financial supporters of the contest include Sursei Legacy, other organizations and individual donors.

For more information on the complete rules and guidelines, refer to the LTHS website at www.littletokyoha.org.

APAs in the News

RECORD NUMBERS OF ASIAN AMERICANS AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS RUN FOR OFFICE IN THE 2014 MIDTERM ELECTIONS

Four U.S. states saw an APAs run for governor, emerging victorious were South Carolina. Incumbent Republican Nikki Haley was re-elected to her second term as governor with 56% of the vote. She is the first woman to serve as governor in the state and is of Indian American descent.

Hawaii Democrat David Ige won a seat at the governor of Hawaii, earning 50 percent of the vote, beating two other APA candidates, Duke Aiona and Muriel Iovannetti. Ige will serve along with Lt. Gov. Shan Tsutsui.

Along with Republican Governor of Louisiana Bobby Jindal, there are now three APA governors in the U.S.

Most of the APA members of Congress were re-elected, no one was newly elected.

Best include Republican Aumua Amata of American Samoa, who was elected to serve as a non-voting delegate to the U.S. House. She becomes the first woman to be elected to represent American Samoa in the U.S. Congress.

Ted Lieu, a Democrat from Torrance, Calif., was elected to replace Democratic Rep. Henry Waxman in California’s 33rd Congressional District; and Mark Takai, who defeated Republican Charles Djou to represent Hawaii’s 1st Congressional District (Honolulu). He has served for nearly 20 years in the Hawaii House of Representatives.

Also claiming victory were Rep. Judy Chu (D-Pasadena), chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus; Rep. Tammy Duckworth (D-Ill.), who won a second term and has served in office since 2011; Rep. Tulsi Gabbard (D-Hawaii), who represents District 2 (rural Oahu and the other islands); Rep. Mika Masaoka (D-San Jose), CAPAC Chair emeritus; Democrat Jari Iwamoto, a number of SaltLake JACL and elected to Utah Senate District 4 who becomes the first female APA to serve in Utah; Rep. Doris Matsui (D-Sacramento), who was re-elected by a wide margin over Republican Joseph McTavish Sr.; Rep. Grace Meng (D-N.Y.) who is the first Asian American to represent New York in Congress; Rep. Bobby Scott (D-Va.), who ran unopposed in his bid for his 12th term. Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan, who was re-elected as the Northern Marianas Islands’ Congressional delegate; and Rep. Mark Takano (D-Pomona), who won a second term and serves as CAPAC whip.

As of press time, Amti Bern (D-Rancho Cordova) held a slim lead over Republican challenger Doug Ose.

Of the 159 APA candidates for state legislature in 26 states, 95 emerged victorious in 19 states. Notable victories include Forty Mom, the first Cambodian American in Massachusetts’ House of Representatives; Stephanie Chang, the first Asian American woman to enter Michigan’s House of Representatives; Pramila Jayapal, the first Indian American in Washington’s State Senate; and Erwin Yang, the first Asian American in Oklahoma’s state legislature.

— PC Staff, APAICS and Associated Press
FABRICATION BEGINS FOR THE FUTURE
USS DANIEL INOUYE

Both Iron Workers celebrated the start of fabrication of the future USS Daniel Inouye (DDG 118) during a ceremony at BIW shipyard in Bath, Maine, on Oct. 31.

The first major ship milestone symbolizes that the first 100 tons of steel for the ship have been cut.

"Construction on Arleigh Burke-class (DDG 51) destroyers is in full swing on the East and Gulf Coasts," said Capt. Mark Vandroff, DDG 51-class program manager, Program Executive Office Ships. The result DDG 51s benefit from a mature and stable design with increased air and missile defense capabilities. These build on a legacy of success, providing outstanding combat capability and survivability characteristics."

The ceremony came just a day after BIW ceremoniously laid the keel for the future USS Rafael Peralta (DDG 115), and a month following the start of fabrication on the future USS Paul Ignatius (DDG 117) at the Huntington Ingalls Industries shipyard in Pascagoula, Miss.

USS Daniel Inouye will be equipped with the Navy's Aegis Combat System, the world's foremost integrated naval weapon system. This system delivers quick reaction time, high firepower and increased electronic countermeasures capability for anti-ship warfare.

The ship is part of the Navy's latest class of destroyers, Flight IIIA, which enables power projection, forward presence and escort operations at sea in support of low intensity conflict-oriented and littoral offshore warfare as well as open-ocean conflict.

First in-class ship, USS Arleigh Burke (DDG 51) was laid down at the BIW shipyard in 1988. Since, BIW and HI have laid keels for an additional 67 Arleigh Burke-class destroyers, including the USS Daniel Inouye.

Destroyers have been a mainstay of the Navy's surface fleet since the first U.S. Navy destroyer, USS Bainbridge, was commissioned in 1900. Able to operate independently or as part of carrier strike groups, surface action groups, amphibious ready groups and underway replenishment groups, today's destroyers provide the fleet with multimission offensive and defensive capabilities.

NATIONAL JACL KICKS OFF 2015 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

By Patty Wada
HCNP Regional Director

The National JACL announces its National Scholarship and Awards Program for the 2015 academic year. The JACL annually offers approximately 30 college scholarships for students who are incoming college freshmen, undergraduates, and graduates, as well as those specializing in law and the creative performing arts. There are also two student leadership awards to address the challenge of raising tuition costs.

JACL, in partnership with Meiji Gakuin University in Tokyo, also offers a U.S.-Japan Scholarship for an incoming college junior who wishes to study in Japan. Meiji Gakuin University, founded in 1863, is one of the oldest universities in Japan. This two-year scholarship will lead the recipient to a bachelor's degree in international studies. All classes are taught in English.

A scholarship program brochure and applications for 2015 can be found on the JACL website (www.jacal.org) under the "Education" menu bar. The National JACL Scholarship program requires that all applicants be a student or individual member of the organization.

The freshman application must be submitted directly by the applicant to their local chapter, postmarked no later than March 1, 2015. Students who wish to submit a second application must submit their materials by April 1, 2015. Applications for the "other" scholarship categories (undergraduate, graduate, law, creative, performing arts, and student aid) are to be sent directly by the student to the following address: National JACL Scholarship Committee, c/o Washington, D.C., JACL, 5406 Upshingham St., Cherry Chase, MD, 20815.

Applications for these categories must be postmarked no later than April 1, 2015, to be considered.

The Meiji Gakuin JACL Scholarship has its own deadlines and two completely different applications, which can be requested directly from Meiji Gakuin University via the JACL website.

For more information, contact Patty Wada, scholarship program manager, at pwada@jacl.org, or Chip Lavouche, national vp for planning and development, at clavouche@jacl.org.

THE LATE PATSY TAKEMOTO MINK AMONG RECIPIENTS OF THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM

President Barack Obama announced the names of 19 recipients of the 2014 Presidential Medal of Freedom on Nov. 10, including the late Rep. Patsy Takemoto Mink, who was a Democratic congresswoman from Hawaii.

Mink, who passed away in 2002, served a total of 12 terms from 1965-77 and 1990-2002. Born and raised on Maui, she became the first Japanese American female attorney in Hawaii and served in the Hawaii territorial and state legislatures beginning in 1956. In 1964, she became the first woman of color elected to Congress and is perhaps best known for co-authoring and supporting Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, a federal law that prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in any federally funded education program or activity.

The Presidential Medal of Freedom is the nation’s highest civilian honor. Among the other honorees are Alvin Alley (posthumous), Isabel Allende, Tom Brokaw, James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner (posthumous), Mildred Dresselhaus, John Dingell, Ethel Kennedy, Susan Hajo, Albert Milhous, Edward Roybal (posthumous), Charles Sifford, Robert Sobor, Stephen Southall, Meryl Streep, Mattie Thomas and Steve Wonder.

The recipients will be awarded their Presidential Medal of Freedom during an official White House ceremony on Nov. 24.
THE LAST REUNION

By Tiffany Ujije
Assistant Editor

The Korean War called for Nisei linguist soldiers to serve in a specific and unique way — through the Japanese language. Don Masui was one of thousands of Japanese American linguists who served as Korean War interrogators, translators, message interceptors or interpreters within the branches of the U.S. Armed Forces. It was during his time at Monterey Language School where he met lifetime friends and colleagues, including Neal Hayashida.

At the annual Korean War Military Intelligence Security Veterans Reunion on Nov. 5 at the Garden Buffet BBQ and Seafood restaurant at Artesia, Calif., Hayashida and Masui met for the first time in 60 years — and perhaps the last. Less than 35 attendees arrived at the reunion where group organizer and MIS veteran Shoji Bob Miyasaki suggested the remaining balance of the reunion funds be donated to the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles.

“This is going to be the last one — the last reunion,” Miyasaki announced. After 16 years of coordinating reunions, finding Korean War MIS veterans and educating the Japanese American community, Miyasaki decided to continue the reunions, this is it,” Miyasaki said.

With 47 years of active duty and federal service, Miyasaki began the reunion group looking to connect lost friends and create a space for veterans to discuss, laugh and share their wartime experiences. Their friendship and stories are incomplete and “remain generally known, even among the Japanese American community,” wrote MIS Veteran Sam Miyamoto in a personal blog post, because of the highly sensitive nature of MIS: the full Nisei soldier effort is not A

Friends and wives recalled how Japanese American linguists were often ordered to operate behind enemy lines and collect intelligence — and many never returned.

“I’m very proud of the veterans and my friends here,” 505th MIS veteran Dan Hikikama said to his table. “It’s a brotherhood.”

Many Nisei soldiers, including Masui, Miyasaki and Hikikama, were called to fill communication gaps between the U.S., Korea and China with an unrelated third language — Japanese. The MIS soldiers were trained as interrogators and were assigned to a level from the front with the U.S. and South Korean divisions in Korea.

Past Korean War MIS activity, while sensitive, militarily, is relevant in today’s tense political landscape both on the Korean peninsula and the global stage. Even after the war, individuals like Miyasaki continued to serve by interrogating prisoners and North Korea’s access to the South.

It’s funny,” Yoshiyo Oyama explained about the reunion’s importance. “You know what they’re talking about. You don’t have to explain yourself here.”

The group’s last meeting, while bittersweet, encouraged veterans to continue sharing their stories and memories.

After this, please contact each other and keep up the relationships,” Miyasaki said before the reunion group. “I would really like to see that.”

Masui and Hayashida exchanged numbers after reminiscing and connecting each other’s memories. I don’t believe it’s been 60 years,” Masui said to Hayashida. The two men laughed as Hayashida leaned over and gave Masui a pat on the back, waving a piece of paper with Masui’s number on it and said, “Now, I know where to find you.”

A collection of Shoji Miyasaki’s personal photo album books

Dan Hikikama browses through Korean War MIS photo albums.

Neal Hayashida (left) and Don Masui meet for the first time in 60 years.

(From left) William Cune, Kinuko Cune, Manilo Kayano, Huj Kayano, Masaru Izuno, Sam Takahashi and Betsy Takahashi together at the reunion.

Shoji Miyasaki motions to approve the remaining group’s funds be donated to JANM.
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 move from Amache, Colorado, he fought tooth and nail to re-establish his farm and milling operations and instilled those around him with 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 proprietary heirloom strains, to milling and packaging in our own facilities. Our trademarks and products include Kukaho Kome, Japonica style rice; Sho-Chiku-Bai Sweet Rice; Mochiko Blue Starr Sweet Rice Flour; Kukaho Kome Jyoshiboku, and Diamond K® Rice Flour. (Organic & conventional versions available.)

Koda Farms, Inc., South Dos Palos, CA 93665
kodafarms.com

NEW CROP 2014
After a year of planning, Okaeri holds the largest Nikkei LGBTQ gathering to bring visibility, resources and understanding to the L.A. community.

By P.C. Staff

The largest Nikkei LGBTQ gathering opened its doors to family, friends and community members at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles for a historical conference that discussed gender and sexuality through personal narratives and reflections at Okaeri on Nov. 15.

In an effort to create a safe and open space, Okaeri Co-Chair Marsha Aikuni during her opening remarks encouraged all of you to be transformed into more courageous and compassionate supporters of the Nikkei lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning community.

Echoed JAHM CEO and President Greg Kimura: ‘’We need to be more open and inclusive. It’s so important that we can be a place where people can feel safe and where people can be embraced. This is part of the Japanese American experience that is intrinsically and essentially an American story.’’

Workshop sessions held throughout the day gave many an opportunity to listen, participate in or join discussions on intersections between religion, social movements, sexuality, gender and culture.

Aiden Azumi (left) and his mother, Marsha, share the stage to encourage community members to listen, learn and be inspired by Okaeri’s message and discussion.

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(Left) Aiden Azumi and his mother, Marsha, share the stage to encourage community members to listen, learn and be inspired by Okaeri’s message and discussion.
NATIONAL VETERANS NETWORK BEGINS DEVELOPMENT OF A CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL DIGITAL EXHIBITION

TORRANCE, CALIF — The National Veterans Network, in partnership with the Smithsonian Institution's Asian Pacific American Center and the National Museum of American History and with the financial support from the National Parks Service, has begun developing a state-of-the-art digital exhibition centered on the military service of Nisei soldiers during World War II, including those who served in combat, in supporting roles and as part of the Japanese Occupation.

The exhibit is inspired by the 2011 awarding of the Congressional Gold Medal to three Japanese American soldiers: the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and members of the Military Intelligence Service.

In June 2014, NPS agreed to provide a grant to the Smithsonian's APAC to help fund the Congressional Gold Medal Nisei Soldier digital exhibition. The Smithsonian engaged the NVN to conceive and implement the project, working with APAC in the design review and planning for the exhibition content.

In 2013, NVN and the Smithsonian organized a seven-city tour of the Congressional Gold Medal and its accompanying materials in February, the Congressional Gold Medal was returned to the Smithsonian with plans to display it permanently as part of the National Museum of American History's exhibition Price of Freedom: Americans at War.

"We are honored to partner with the Smithsonian Institution, America's national museum, on the Congressional Gold Medal digital exhibition project," said Christine Sato-Yamazaki, executive director of the NVN. "We are grateful to the National Parks Service for its support as well. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to ensure that the Japanese American World War II experience, including the forced removal of families from Hawaii and the mainland, the heroism of our veterans and the postwar civic engagement, will never be included as an integral part of U.S. history at our nation's premier history museum. The National Veterans Network is proud to be working with the Asian Pacific American Center and the National Museum of American History on such an important story."
A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

Moohitsuki 2015
Portland, OR
Jan. 25; 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
Smith Memorial Student Union,
Portland State University
1828 S.W. Broadway
Cost: Advance Tickets $10 Adult

Experience hands-on demonstrations and activities with friends and family with mochi pounding, caligraphy, origami, a tea ceremony, ikebana and games. Enjoy traditional Japanese dancing, drumming and musical performances all day. Guests include Portland Taiko, Takahahi, Unit Souzou, Sahomi Ta hibana Dancers and many others. Presented by Portland JACL and co-produced by Konko Church, Oregon Nikkei Endowment and Portland Taiko.

Info: Purchase tickets at www.moohipdx.com/about/tickets

IDC
TNT Band Concert
Centennial, OR
Dec. 6; 7:30-9 p.m.
Volcano Asian Cuisines
10440 E. Arapahoe Road
TNT Band, featuring Filipino-American duo Tim Pasion and Top Almiera, will perform rock and folk music. Guest musicians are welcome to join the performance. Relax and enjoy live music while dining on sushi, Chinese and hibachi cuisine and sushi at Volcano. Be sure to make reservations before arriving at the restaurant.
Info: www.cdbf.org

EDC
Symposium: Historical Preservation in Japan and Boston
Boston, MA
Dec. 2-3
Harvard Art Museum and Boston Children’s Museum
32 Quincy St. and
308 Congress St.
Cost: Free
The program will feature presentations by international architects, scholars and specialists in historic preservation. The two-day symposium is part of the 55th anniversary of the Boston-Kyoto Sister-City relationship and is dedicated to discuss architectural preservation in Japan and New England.
Info: www.japansocietyboston.org

Theresa Hak Kyung Cha: Avant-Garde of One
New York, NY
Dec. 6; 7 p.m.
Cost: Free
The APA Institute at NYU and Asian American Writers’ Workshop present an evening of critical reflection, with writers, scholars and artists on Cha’s diverse body of work. Cha’s work tackles and challenges new understandings of history, language and the body. Presenters include Thomas Beard, Crystal Parikh and poet Alison Roch Park. This will be one of the most comprehensive programs and one of the few to examine Cha’s work.
Info: www.aaww.org

Odako New England: Winter Extravaganza
Woburn, MA
Dec. 13
ACAS
29 Montvale Ave.
Cost: $10 Donation
Drop by and see Odako New England’s taiko project this season for a fun performance. The group will be celebrating the holiday season with their selection of songs with plenty of taiko.
Info: Visit www.onetaiko.org

NOWNP
Kimochi Silver Balls 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. Exhibit booths will include Kelley’s Koolies, Kimochi Arts and Crafts, Cynthia Sannaki, Danshi Ishida, Ono Memories, Tobi-Mulan Designs and Little Buddha Baby. The event is expected to host over 90 vendors, featuring Asian- and Pacific Islander-themed arts and crafts.
Info: Visit www.kimochi-isc.org
or call (415) 931-2294

Na Leo 2014 Holiday Concert
San Francisco, CA
Dec. 14; 4:53 p.m.
JOJCC
1840 Sutter St.
Cost: $10 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.

JACCC’s Gift Giving Setup
San Jose, CA
Dec. 20; 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
JACCC Main Office
2400 Moorpark Ave., Suite 300
Join community members and help Asian Americans for Community Involvement (JACCC) members prep for the annual holiday gift-giving event. The program will help families in JACCC’s domestic violence program and bring holiday cheer. Help is greatly needed with the organization of toys, sorting and decorations. Join today and help those in need this holiday season.
Info: Visit www.jaccc.org

PSW
Photo Exhibition by Sanjjo Minamikawa
Los Angeles, CA
Dec. 5-27
George J. Dozuko Gallery
244 S. San Pedro St.
Representative works of Sanjjo Minamikawa include “100 artist in their atelier,” 100, ” photographs of the masters of the later 20th century and their studios, including Joan Miro, Marc Chagall, Salvador Dali and Giorgio de Chirico. The exhibit will also include the works of European and American writers such as Ed McBain, Graham Greene, Frederick Forsyth and Michael Cruton.
Info: Call Stewart Himano at (213) 648-5430 or email himano38@msn.com

MDC
Ghosts and Ghouls in Japanese Prints
Chicago, IL
Ends Jan. 4
Art Institute of Chicago
111 S. Michigan Ave.
Price: $22
This exhibition showcases some of the most special works of the Clarence Buckingham Collection of Japanese Prints, including chilling images of ghouls, Shoki and the Demon Queller. The images were printed to ward off disease and bad luck.
Info: Visit www.artic.edu

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

In Memoriam

Abe, Margie, 95,
Los Angeles, CA; Oct. 28; she was preceded in death by her husband, Reo Abe; daughter, Joyce Holway; she is survived by her children, Caroline (Sten) Tait, Linda (Bobby) Abe; brothers, Roy and Charles Torii; she is also survived by many nieces and nephews and other relatives; go: 6; go: 3.

Iwaki, Grace Michiko, 83, San Pedro, CA; Oct. 24; she is survived by her beloved husband, Mamoru (Ike); son, Tim and Dr. Ken (Jindy) Iwaki; sister-in-law, Masako (Yamaru); she is also survived by many nieces and nephews and other relatives; go: 2.

Maeburi, Michiko ‘Midge,’ 98,
Shibuja, Laura Yeeko, 91, Los Angeles, CA; Oct. 20; she is survived by her beloved parents, Kinnichi George and Reiko Shibuya; siblings, isabel, David, Margaret Psycho and Thomas Shibuya; she is survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Kanemitsu, Tsuruko, 90,
Fullerton, CA; Oct. 24; she was survived by her husband, Hideki Yamanaka; sons, Ken, Chris and Nob Kanemitsu; step-daughter, Gwen Avila; she is also survived by many nieces and nephews and other relatives.

Kawahima, Jiro, 95.

Los Angeles, CA; Oct. 19; he was survived by his children, Frank (Betty) Takeichi, Steven, Suzuru and Gary (Sandra) Minoru Kawahima; brother-in-law, Jack (Kate) Muro; he is also survived by many nieces and nephews and other relatives; go: 6.

Kawaki, Grace Michiko, 98,
Garden Grove, CA; Oct. 17; she was survived by her loving family, children, Patricia (Marvin) Marvins, Marilyn (Gary) Kodama; stepdaughters, Helen Harada and Aiko Morita; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; go: 8; go: 9.

Kamiya, Myo, 97, Los Angeles, CA; Oct. 24; she was survived by her daughter, Kayo (Hidemi) Obahara and Mabel (Edward) Shimada; brother, Hiroshi Kalimoto; sister-in-law, Seitu Ohara; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; go: 5.

Koizumi, Mieko, 91,
Gardena, CA; Nov. 2; she was survived by her husband, William; son, William Jr.; she is survived by her children, Stan (Martha) Koizumi, Corinne (Gary) Passavant and Mardia (Gary) Grimsrud; go: 9; go: 1.

Makihara, Tsuruko, 90,
Fullerton, CA; Oct. 14; she was survived by her loving son, Scott (Cindy) Takahashi and Leslie (Burt) Yamane; mother-in-law, Stanton (Jean) Uchida; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; go: 5.

Makihara, Kazuko, 86,
Fullerton, CA; Oct. 14; she was survived by her loving son, Dennis (Janet) Takahashi; daughters, Judy Takahashi and Jean (Mike) Eggert; go: 1.

Ishibashi, Masao, 92,
Los Angeles, CA; Oct. 24; she was survived by her loving husband, Masaaki Ishibashi; children, Ryo and Jun (Shiho) Ishibashi; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; go: 3.

Miyamoto, Toyo, 88,
Los Angeles, CA; Oct. 24; she was survived by her loving husband, Ryo; daughter, Kuriko (Takashi) Ikeda; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; go: 3.

Nakamura, Kiyoko, 94,
Gardena, CA; Oct. 30; she was survived by her husband, Takezo “Tak” Nakamura; son, Toshi (Miki) Nakamura; granddaughter, Mariko (Tak) Nakamura; sister, Helen Nakamura; she is also survived by many nieces and nephews and other relatives; go: 8; go: 7.

Ikezaki, Kenji, 90,
Novato, CA; Oct. 17; he was preceded in death by his loving wife, Katsuko; children, Henry Watanabe, Betty (David) Ito and Edward Watanabe; brother, Yoshinori (Miyoko) Ito; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; go: 2.

Watanabe, Hiromi, 96,
Camarillo, CA; Oct. 8; she was survived by her beloved husband, Atsushi Watanabe; children, Eiji (Julie) Watanabe; sister-in-law, Masako Watanabe; she is also survived by many nieces and nephews and other relatives; go: 4.

Obituary Information

In Memoriam

PLACE A TRIBUTE

In Memoriam is a free listing that appears on a limited, space-available basis. Tributes honor people with text and photos and appear in a timely manner at the rate of $200 per column inch. Contact: tiffany@spac.com or call (310) 202-1797.
HOME >> continued from page 3

We only had two days in Tokyo, so we didn’t do a lot of sightseeing. We went to Shibuya, Station where the famous statue of Hachiko, the dog, that was so loyal, he came to the station every day to meet his master for years after the man died of a heart attack at work, and the wonderful Asakusa Buddhist Temple complex and bazaar (for more on page). On the final morning before heading to Narita Airport, we went to Tsukiji, the world’s largest fish market, because it’s being closed down and moved within the next few years.

Everything about the trip was worthwhile and enhanced our feelings for Japan and our own heritage. Even if you’re a little hesitant to visit Japan, you’ll be surprised at how much of the country will feel familiar to you. My in-laws didn’t think they could speak any Japanese, but after a few days, you’ll surprise yourself at how much you do know, and how much you can comprehend. My father-in-law seemed to pull out words and phrases from the time he was stationed in Okinawa in the late 1950s — and he sounded perfectly natural.

It’s hard to describe the feeling that you’ve come home somehow, when you step off the plane and start exploring Japan. Give it a shot. Make it your next travel destination. Go home. You’ll be glad you did.

G S Akamatsu 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.makken.com, and he’s on Facebook, Twitter and lots of other social media. He is the 2014 Asian American Journalists Assn.’s AARP Social Media Fellow.

PERSPECTIVE >> continued from page 3

A major misconception about the mixed-race experience is the idea of an immutable conflict between your various sides. “Mixed-race identity is framed in a way that forces a choice between two or more incommensurable identities (i.e., being black or white, being Asian or white, but never both). At the same time, this framing suggests that to make this choice is to deny an essential part of who you are. Whether you are choosing to “pass” as white or embrace your identity as a person of color, the assumption is that a percentage of you remains unfulfilled and excluded. But identity is not a static math equation where the sum of our parts needs to neatly add up to one. Having a loving relationship with your white parent, being a white person enjoying Taylor Swift is not mutually exclusive with identifying as a person of color.

I was disheartened that a film that got so many things about race and racism right could get its portrayal of multiracial identity so wrong. “Dress White People’s” treatment of Samantha White played along the fixed stereotypes of the “confused mixed-race person,” whose loyalties, beliefs and identity are torn between her two different sides. Instead of mixed-race characters who are forced to make a choice between being white or black, it would be nice to see mixed-race characters who recognize and accept the fluid and nuanced nature of their racial identity. This type of portrayal will help add to an understanding that we all carry multiple identities that form our sense of self, a sense of self that is, as Walt Whitman once wrote, not confined to itself but uses it “innumerable multitudes.”

Christine Idenkova is the IACL Assistance Program Director. She is based in the IACL’s Midwest Regional Office in Chicago.

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