Honouliuli Is Designated as a National Historic Monument.

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Smithsonian National Museum of American History Kenneth E. Behring Center

A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE IN D.C. Page 6

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JACL convenes in San Francisco for its quarterly board meeting.
P.C. KICKS OFF ITS 2015 SPRING CAMPAIGN: AIMS TO COMPLETE ITS DIGITAL ARCHIVE

The JACL was founded in 1929 and continues to be a membership-driven organization. I truly appreciate the financial support all of you have provided. The Pacific Citizen’s Spring Campaign is an opportunity to continue to support our own award-winning publication.

During my three years as the Pacific Citizen Editorial Board Chair, I have learned much about our official publication. Did you know that in addition to the many local and regional awards garnered by the P.C. it was once nominated for the very prestigious Pulitzer Prize in journalism? I enjoy reading the P.C. and also take great pride in the reputation of our publication. I know most of you share that enjoyment and pride.

Please join me in contributing to the Spring Campaign at the “Wall of Fame” level of $200 or more. Your past generosity in contributing at this level has enabled the P.C. to do so much. I urge you to continue this level of support, or upgrade your support to this level.

Absolutely 100 percent of your contributions are used for the P.C.’s daily operations — staffing, printing costs, postage and mailing, computer software upgrades and much more! Your donations also help the P.C. deliver an annual special Holiday Issue. The P.C. staff gladly put in a extra effort on the Holiday Issue, knowing it serves as an excellent JACL chapter key fundraiser.

During the last year, your contributions also allowed the P.C. to update its website. Please visit the site (www.pacificcitizen.org), and you’ll see the improvements that have been made.

And we are also moving forward in making all of our past issues available to you in a digital format. The project is a vast one, containing some 65 years of Asian American history and that of the JACL. The P.C.’s goal is to encapsulate all of these issues and make it available online. Our history is an important one and making it available to all would ensure that the future will always know its past.

Last year I noted that the Spring Campaign contributions would be used for these projects. I’m very pleased to inform you that the P.C. has followed through on these goals. But we need YOUR HELP in carrying on these projects. Please join me in thanking the members of the Pacific Citizen Editorial Board (Chie Aokawa, Roberto Barton, Jim Duff, Leona Hirooka, Jody Mobin, Gabrielle Nakamura, John Sabo Jr., Nicole Ogawa and Koto Misumi). Their volunteer efforts in overseeing the content of the P.C. is notable.

With your help, we will continue to provide the best, P.C. possible. Thank you again for all your past assistance. Please continue your generous support.

Respectfully,
Carol Kamenceo,
Pacific Citizen Editorial Board Chair

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I’m writing the letter written by Mr. John Takeuchi in the Jan. 28-29th, 2015 edition of the Pacific Citizen. I wish to respond to make sure the factual information is shared with your readers.

In the Sept. 17-23rd edition of the JACL Digest, the weekly newsletter that is distributed to 10,000 households, JACL unmasked the departure of Ms. Karen Yoshitani. JACL paid tribute to Karen’s many contributions to JACL and to the community. In that article were the words, “JACL’s success in the Pacific Northwest is a direct result of Karen’s dedication and commitment. Her leadership and vision for the community has elevated JACL.” The JACL organization stands behind her in all of her future endeavors.”

Weeks earlier Karen told me that she was accepting a job as executive director of the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Washington. After many years with JACL Karen made a donation to the executive director of the Seattle-based organization. JACL is very proud of its employees and even more proud when someone of Karen’s caliber assumes an elevated position of prominence within the Japanese American community.

I was selected by Karen to withhold that information to allow JCCC of Washington to announce the appointment. The article would have been a better article with the exciting news, but we respected Karen’s request.

On Karen’s last day I traveled to Seattle to take her out to lunch. Also in attendance were Pacific Northwest District Chair Sheldon Arnaud and the Seattle Chapter’s Bill Tashima. I regret that Mr. Takeshi missed that issue of JACL Digest with the announcement of Karen’s departure and recognition of her contributions to the JACL.

Sincerely,
Frisella Onchoda, Executive Director
A MOTHER'S TAKE
WHAT CHANGE ARE YOU CREATING?

By Martha Akiwa

For the past five years, my son, Aidan, his wife Mary, I have been attending a conference called "Creating Change," which is hosted by the National LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer) Task Force, and its purpose is to help individuals and organizations develop the skills to be gender- and gender-expansive caregivers in their communities. Six years ago, I had never heard of the organization, was just starting to understand what the "I" in LGBTQ meant and gender-expansive caregivers. It’s something you’d be talking to your parents about.

Today, I am an activist who is in this LGBTQ movement with my whole heart, and I AM a gender-expansive caregiver. But that is not where it started. I always loved being an activist. When people called me an activist early on, I would say, "Oh, no, I am not a mother who loves human and work to make the world safer for him." I thought that being an activist meant I was someone who had to be loud, punchy, and disordered. Those were all things I didn’t want to be. Now, I know that being an activist means I can be myself—a gently persistent, vulnerable yet strong, and loving human being.

The passion I have to do creative change is that I need to show up.

Showing up means that I am not afraid. Even Brown says you are scared and brave at the same time. A friend of mine once told me, "When you scared and do it anyway... that is being brave." How many times have you done something that scares you, but you did it anyway? You showed up.

In my work in the LGBTQ community, I am showing up because the world is still discriminates against me. But things are changing. Asian Pacific Islanders are rising to the top of LGBTQ organizations, showing our AP community that there are visible leaders across the country. At "Creating Change," I met with Kei Hiyama, who is the new executive director of the very respected nonprofit Transgender Law Center. He is a compassionate, soft-spoken person who also possesses the passion and determination to bring greater protections and support to those in the transgender community. Like any good Trans Law Center, he is working to be inclusive.

Also creating change are all the JACL chapters that are taking up the mantle of advocacy along with JACL PSW who has created an LGBTQ Initiative to educate and support those in our community. JACL Seattle will be doing a two-day event forAP LGBTQ individuals and their families with four to five other AP organizations and churches in June. San Diego JACL is working on three to four events in 2015 that will bring greater awareness and support to San Diego LGBTQ individuals and their families. And while at "Creating Change," I had the chance to talk with John Shimandar and Harry Budidharma from the Milwaukee JACL, who have created three committees on advocacy that include our own "Creating Change."

And most recently in a video released for a safe schools event in Southern California, Congressman Mike Honda shared the following: "As both an individual, and as an educator, I have experienced and witnessed bullying in many forms. And as the proud father of a transgender child, I hope that my daughter can feel safe going to school without fear of being bullied. I refuse to be a bystander while millions of people are dealing with the effects of bullying on a daily basis."

Here is an education, lawyer, Japanese American, father and grandfather who is creating change in so many communities by unconditionally loving his granddaughter. I couldn’t feel prouder to know this man and his amazing family.

Congressman Mike Honda and his granddaughter.

We all have the ability to create change in our communities. We can stand up to bullying of any kind. We can share that we are an ally of the LGBTQ community and attend LGBTQ events. We can talk about how our families were forced as American citizens into internment camps and ensure that history will not repeat itself. And we can listen to each other and when an initiative is done to a fellow human being and stand up for fairness, respect, and what is right.

As a person, I hope that I have instilled in my children the ability to create change—including just by what they do, but by who they are. I hope they do not only have to tell them what is right, but also listen to the humanity that is within each of them.

In the part, I never really understood the power of one. But today I know it is true. Each of us has the ability to make the world better. Perhaps you might challenge yourself to do something today to be a force for change. If you do, you will be showing up speaking out and creating change. And that’s how the world you better...

Martha Akiwa is an advocate in the LGBTQ community and the author of the book, "Two Spirits, One Healer: A Mother's Transgender Son and Their Journey to Love and Acceptance."

MY COUNTRY
HEROES OF OUR TIME

By Rhimmon Tingquach

There are few people I distinguish as heroes. When I met Daniel Nguyen and I met the Mary Queens of Vietnam Community Community Development Corp. (MVN CDC) back in October 2013, I was humbled by their dedication to community health, economic opportunity, and environmental sustainability.

To address food quality, safety, accessibility, and environmental impact for the Vietnamese community in New Orleans in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the MVN CDC deployed unique methods to advance community health and create economic revitalization.

They carry out their work with an uncommon business structure and immense sincerity to the people they serve. They are true social engineers, and I’m fortunate to share their story and ask for your help in supporting their work as a viable alternative.

Daniel Nguyen is a true hero to her community. Daniel works as a project manager with MVN CDC in New Orleans East. His work encompasses workforce development, environmental justice, and incubation of aquaculture and sustainable agriculture. He is the project director of the startup enterprise, VESO Partners Cooperative.

VESO Partners Cooperative serves to improve family economic security by promoting sustainable agriculture and creating local sustainable jobs as well as provide workforce development in the Vietnamese community of Village de l’Est. Nguyen has also worked extensively in the Gulf region after the 2010 BP oil drilling disaster, providing technical assistance to affected workers, educators, community-based organizations, and others.

Nguyen has a strong passion for food security and has helped develop a community farm that includes a greenhouse and a food pantry.

Nguyen is a leader in the community, and she was recently awarded the MVP of the year by MVN CDC. She has been instrumental in bringing together community members and local businesses to address food access issues.

In a recent interview, Nguyen spoke about his work and the impact it has had on the community.

Rhimmon Tingquach: Why are you personally invested in your work?

Daniel Nguyen: I am personally invested in this organization because I believe that food production is one of humans survival, and our society is headed in a direction where food production no longer honors the environment and the people who work the land and consume the food. I believe that we must imagine a different way to produce food to sustain and nourish our bodies.

I also believe that we must imagine a different cultural system and believe that the Cooperative Model provides a powerful alternative to the current system.

Tingquach: How does your work relate to health? What is the importance of your work?

Nguyen: We believe that healthy food is the health of the community, and that the community establishes. This concept is not just possible or even possible for individuals to be healthy. Our community is home to three landfills, over 20 auto junkyards, 13 dumps, and a major industrial complex with industries producing emissions daily. In addition, our community is a food desert and lacks healthy, affordable produce and fruits to be able to lead a healthy lifestyle.

With this mindset, we believe that by promoting local, sustainable agriculture through a community cooperative model, we can address the food issues facing our community. In addition, we believe that health doesn’t just need to provide access to more healthy produce, but must also be part of a solution.
Honouliuli Internment Camp
Designated as a National Historic Monument

A View of Honouliuli Camp looking into the gulch in Central Oahu. Honouliuli was the largest and longest-used World War II internment camp in Hawaii, housing about 350,000 people and 4,000 prisoners of war.

HONOLULU — U.S. Sen. Brian Schatz (D-Hawaii) on Feb. 18 praised President Barack Obama’s announcement that he intends to designate the Honouliuli Internment Camp as a National Historic Monument. The designation will put Honouliuli under the management of the National Park Service and help preserve the history of the site where hundreds of Japanese Americans were wrongly interned during World War II.

“Honouliuli represents a dark period in our history when thousands of Japanese Americans in Hawaii and across the country were forced into internment camps during World War II,” said Sen. Schatz. “This historic site will memorialize the strength and bravery of the many Japanese Americans who faced discrimination and served as a reminder to ourselves and future generations that we cannot repeat the mistakes of the past. Our deep gratitude goes to the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, the Japanese American Citizens League and others who worked tirelessly for this achievement. It is meaningful and right that Honouliuli has finally received the historic recognition it deserves. Sen. Schatz worked to help facilitate Honouliuli’s historic designation. In 2013, he met with NPS Director Jonathan B. Jarvis to discuss the need to complete the special resource study, which was authorized by Congress in 2009 to review the site for potential inclusion in the National Park System. Following the meeting, Sen. Schatz sent a letter to indicate his support for the Honouliuli Internment Camp’s inclusion in the National Park System.

In December 2014, Sen. Schatz joined Caroline Hayaishi, president and executive director of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, and Jesse Miyukawa, president of the Honouliuli JACL, to present Interior Department Sec. Sally Jewell with petitions from more than 6,300 Americans requesting the historic designation of Honouliuli. In 1943, the Honouliuli Internment Camp was constructed on Oahu to intern citizens, residents and prisoners of war. The camp held approximately 350,000 people and 4,000 prisoners of war. Honouliuli was the largest and longest-used World War II internment camp in Hawaii.

JACL Disappointed
With Ruling on
DAPA/DACA in Texas,
et al v. United States

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The JACL, the largest and oldest Asian American civil rights organization in the nation, expressed disappointment with the recent ruling in Texas et al. v. United States.

On Feb. 16, a federal district court in Texas ruled in temporarily block President Barack Obama’s executive actions on immigration nationwide in Texas et al. v. United States, the 26-state lawsuit challenging the immigration initiative announced by President Obama in November 2014. The lawsuit alleged that the president exceeded his constitutional authority and that states would be harmed by the expansion of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) initiative and the creation of the Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA) program.

JACL Executive Director Franella Coschides said, “I am disappointed by the decision of the Court to enjoin the DACA and DAPA initiative. This decision has a chilling effect on the dreams of hard-working families and students and is a step back wards from the progress made in November to provide reforms to our immigration system. JACL supports efforts to move past this expiration that will interrupt the implementation of multi-needed policies to secure family stability and economic growth.”

In the Asian American Pacific Islander community, an estimated 1.3 million people are undocumented. Half a million of that number are now temporarily blocked from expanded deportation relief of the DACA youth who were brought to the United States as children, often called DREAMers, and undocumented immigrant parents of citizen-children or legal residents who could defer deportation under the DAPA program.

The U.S. Department of Justice will appeal the decision, and the Obama administration has argued that states lack the legal standing to challenge the immigration order in court. A temporary request to stay the injunction is likely to be filed by the Department of Justice pending a full appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. If the stay is granted, the DACA and DAPA programs will be able to remain nationwide.

APAs in the News

Technology Entrepreneur Guy Kawasaki
Partners With AARP on a New Web Series

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Technology entrepreneur Guy Kawasaki has teamed up with AARP for a new web series about how people who are 50-plus can embrace technology. "Technology: It's Not Just a Guy Thing" takes a look at how technology can empower people of all ages and change their lives. The series, hosted by Guy Kawasaki, AARP/Asian American Journalists Association, Social Media Fellow and P.C. editorial board member, will focus on the art of innovation, social media, graphic design and how digital media is changing the way people consume information.

New episodes will premiere every three weeks until the end of March.

Asian Hall of Fame Announces 2015 Honorees

SEATTLE — The Asian Hall of Fame, which honors distinguished individuals of Asian Pacific descent whose personal achievements have contributed to the American experience, has announced its 2015 honorees.

The Class of 2015 includes Ben Hana, a military Martial Arts fighter and former UFC WEC Lightweight Champion; Carrie Ann Inaba (TV host, choreographer and " Dancing With the Stars" judge); Jeanette Lee (world-class billiards player) and Betty Nguyen (NBC News/MSNBC anchor).

The honorees will receive their awards on June 6 at the organization’s gala, which will take place at the Fairmont Olympic Hotel in Seattle. The Asian Hall of Fame is the initiative of the Robert Chinn Foundation and was founded in 2004.

Emily Murase Elected President of the San Francisco Board of Education

SAN FRANCISCO — Emily Murase was unanimously elected president of the San Francisco Board of Education on Jan. 13. Murase was first elected in 2010 to serve on the board, becoming the first Japanese American to do so. In a Facebook post, she said, "Tonight's school board meeting was momentous. One of the first orders of business was to elect officers. I am very pleased to be your new school board president."

In addition to her new position, Murase also serves as executive director of the San Francisco Department on the Status of Women.

Utah JA History Book

- 100 years of Japanese in Utah
- Last published in 1997
- 18 years ago
- 269 pages, hardbound
- Family keepsake
- Call Jane Sakashita 801 582-0560, or
- Natl JACL Credit Union 800 544-8825
- $50 each

Partial contents:
Bingham & Garfield, Farming, J Towns, Churchies, Women's businesses, Israel Histories, Topaz, Produce Markets, Education, JA Sports, Northern Utah, 500 photos

REPRINTED AND NOW AVAILABLE
COLLABORATION REMAINS KEY FOCUS OF NATIONAL JACL IN 2015

National President David Lin stresses the importance delivering action, gaining membership and the challenges ahead of increasing income to further enhance trust and confidence in the organization.

SAN FRANCISCO — An optimistic 2015 is the picture painted by the National JAcl at its recent board meeting at national headquarters in San Francisco on Feb. 7.

“We have great news on the table, but we have challenges ahead of us,” said National President David Lin. “That requires collaboration between all of us. I want to leave you with a great sense of accomplishment, but I don’t want to sugarcoat anything. It’s going to be a tough year, and we have to get everyone excited, engaged and motivated to deliver.”

Among National JAcl highlights in the coming months are a JAcl contingency along with original Selma members Todd Endo and sister organizations to participate in next month’s 50th anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery March, which was led by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., as well as a completely redesigned JAcl website that will be fully updated and cohesive with the organization’s media outlet the Pacific Citizen.

In addition, JAcl Executive Director Priscilla Oshida has been selected as a member of the 2015 Japanese American Leadership Delegation, sponsored by the U.S.-Japan Council. She is among 13 delegates who will travel to Japan from March 6-14. The JAcl provides “Japanese American leaders with the opportunity to become acquainted or re-engaged with Japan and participate in discussions related to the role that Japanese Americans can play in addressing key issues that face both countries, now and in the future.”

In Oshida’s absence, NCWNP Regional Director Patty Wada will serve as executive director.

Regarding its current financial status, Secretary-Treasurer Matthew Farella reported that total revenue for 2014 (based on unaudited financial statements) was $2.56 million. Although the total was down 17.3 percent from the previous year, the amount was attributable to a lower gain on investments. On a positive note, public support increased from 2013’s $596,928 to $645,370 in 2014.

Regarding net income, JAcl beat its plan by $45,000 or 23.5 percent in 2014. “There was a strong overall market performance in 2014, which was one of the drivers of a larger increase in net assets,” said Farella.

Farella also reported that the National Council voted on Jan. 15 to lift the hiring freeze of the business manager position, as longtime business manager Clyde Izumi will be retiring at the end of February.

JAcl ended 2014 ahead of budget overall, according to Farella, and aims to improve on a balanced budget over the next biennium and improve the PAC’s revenue, as well as general operations expenses organization-wide.

JAcl-National was also pleased to announce the hiring of tochihyo Hosogawa as its new fund development manager. Hosogawa, who will be based in Seattle, Wash., will work with Oshida to secure co-sponsors and finalize convention partnerships.

This year’s National Convention is set to take place in Las Vegas, Nev., at the Monte Carlo Resort and Casino in July.

And on the membership front, Membership VP Reiji Abe stressed the importance of building membership numbers. EOY numbers for 2014 indicate 8,318 total members (10,404 total members, down from 10,699 in 2013).

Abe reported that JAcl is trying to provide more benefits to its members and is holding membership roundtables to share feedback with the chapters on what might spur an increase in numbers.

“We have significant risks in the membership numbers,” said Lin. “We need to work hard.”

— P.C. Staff

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PROPOSED ESCORTED TOURS & CRUISES SCHEDULED FOR 2015

April 1-13
Yasaka Reisen Pacific Rim Cruise with Arakawa/Osawa - 8-night cruise Pre- and post-cruise includes 2 nights in Tokyo, 2 nights in Las Vegas and 1 night in Honolulu. In Japan: Kobe, Nagasaki, Sapporo, Hakodate, Hakata, and Fukuoka. ($4,999 world tour price)

May 25-June 5
Yasaka Reisen Hawaii Cruise - 14-night cruise to Hawaii to Honolulu, Kona, Maui, Lanai, and Hilo. ($4,999 world tour price)

May 31-June 5
Yasaka Reisen Hawaii cruise - 12-night cruise to Hawaii to Honolulu, Kona, Maui, Lanai, and Hilo. ($4,999 world tour price)

June 1-9
Yasaka Reisen Hawaii Cruise with Arakawa/Osawa - 8-night cruise to Hawaii to Honolulu, Kona, Maui, Lanai, and Hilo. ($4,999 world tour price)

July 1-9
Yasaka Reisen Hawaii Cruise with Arakawa/Osawa - 8-night cruise to Hawaii to Honolulu, Kona, Maui, Lanai, and Hilo. ($4,999 world tour price)

July 15-22
Yasaka Reisen Hawaii Cruise with Arakawa/Osawa - 8-night cruise to Hawaii to Honolulu, Kona, Maui, Lanai, and Hilo. ($4,999 world tour price)

July 31-August 1
Tokyo Reisen Hawaii Cruise - 8-night cruise to Hawaii to Honolulu, Kona, Maui, Lanai, and Hilo. ($4,999 world tour price)

Aug 1-9
Yasaka Reisen Hawaii Cruise with Arakawa/Osawa - 8-night cruise to Hawaii to Honolulu, Kona, Maui, Lanai, and Hilo. ($4,999 world tour price)

Aug 11-19
Yasaka Reisen Hawaii Cruise with Arakawa/Osawa - 8-night cruise to Hawaii to Honolulu, Kona, Maui, Lanai, and Hilo. ($4,999 world tour price)

Aug 20-28
Yasaka Reisen Hawaii Cruise with Arakawa/Osawa - 8-night cruise to Hawaii to Honolulu, Kona, Maui, Lanai, and Hilo. ($4,999 world tour price)

Aug 29-Sept 6
Yasaka Reisen Hawaii Cruise with Arakawa/Osawa - 8-night cruise to Hawaii to Honolulu, Kona, Maui, Lanai, and Hilo. ($4,999 world tour price)

Sept 10-18
Yasaka Reisen Hawaii Cruise with Arakawa/Osawa - 8-night cruise to Hawaii to Honolulu, Kona, Maui, Lanai, and Hilo. ($4,999 world tour price)

Sept 21-29
Yasaka Reisen Hawaii Cruise with Arakawa/Osawa - 8-night cruise to Hawaii to Honolulu, Kona, Maui, Lanai, and Hilo. ($4,999 world tour price)

Oct 9-17
Yasaka Reisen Hawaii Cruise with Arakawa/Osawa - 8-night cruise to Hawaii to Honolulu, Kona, Maui, Lanai, and Hilo. ($4,999 world tour price)

Oct 20-28
Yasaka Reisen Hawaii Cruise with Arakawa/Osawa - 8-night cruise to Hawaii to Honolulu, Kona, Maui, Lanai, and Hilo. ($4,999 world tour price)

Oct 30-Nov 7
Yasaka Reisen Hawaii Cruise with Arakawa/Osawa - 8-night cruise to Hawaii to Honolulu, Kona, Maui, Lanai, and Hilo. ($4,999 world tour price)

Nov 10-18
Yasaka Reisen Hawaii Cruise with Arakawa/Osawa - 8-night cruise to Hawaii to Honolulu, Kona, Maui, Lanai, and Hilo. ($4,999 world tour price)

Nov 21-29
Yasaka Reisen Hawaii Cruise with Arakawa/Osawa - 8-night cruise to Hawaii to Honolulu, Kona, Maui, Lanai, and Hilo. ($4,999 world tour price)

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A Day of INFAMY and a Day of REMEMBRANCE

Smithsonian and JACL Celebrate Day of Remembrance in Washington, D.C., kick-starting the 2017 museum exhibit and the 75th anniversary of E.O. 9066.

By Tiffany Uyehara, Assistant Editor

Yesterday December 7th, 1941 — a date which will live in infamy” President Franklin D. Roosevelt said before Congress a day after the attack on Pearl Harbor. It was indeed a dark moment in American history but for 120,000 persons of Japanese descent, it was actually much more.

At the Smithsonian National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C., the Japanese American Citizens League and the Smithsonian Institution joined together for its annual Day of Remembrance on Feb. 19 at 6 p.m. The evening commemorated President Roosevelt’s signing of Executive Order 9066, removing families from their homes into relocation camps during World War II — an infamous day in civil rights.

The evening’s program included a screening of the Emmy Award-winning documentary “The Legacy of Heart Mountain” and gave guests an opportunity to view the Smithsonian’s newly acquired acquisitions. After an hour of planning and organization, audience members and guests had a chance to preview artifacts for the 2017 E.O. 9066 exhibit.

Associate Director of Curatorial Affairs David K. Allison felt that “this evening had given [audience members] a new perspective on a story that continues to resonate through American society today.” For the past 15 years, the Smithsonian has offered Day of Remembrance programming.

The exhibition and event was the Smithsonian’s first commemoration of Executive Order 9066’s 75th anniversary.

In conjunction with the JACL, the museum is now preparing an exhibit set to premier in 2017. Artifacts and documents will aim to capture the Japanese American camp experience and share the stories and voices behind the camp walls.

“With the stroke of a pen, this three-page document reshaped the history of Americans of Japanese descent and upset the delicate balance between the rights of the citizen and the power of the state,” historian in the Office of Curatorial Affairs Noriko Satani said about Executive Order 9066. For more than 10 years, Satani has worked at the Smithsonian to preserve and organize programs to educate the public on APA history and culture. Her projects include “Sweet and Sour: The Americanization of the Chinese Restaurant,” “Creating Hawaii,” and “Barriers to Bridges: Asian American Immigration.”

JACL’s partnership with the Smithsonian is important, as it enables the American story of the Japanese American experience to be shared on a broad national and international audience. The Day of Remembrance program at the Smithsonian drew a capacity audience, many of whom were new to the story.” JACL Executive Director Priscilla Ouchida said. “The program, like many held across the nation, opened the door to educating a new generation about what Americanisms mean even at a time when the rights of citizens are sorely tested. The presence of the Smithsonian elevates the message — a message that is key to protecting the rights of future generations.”

Details on the collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution and the JACL for the 2017 museum exhibit celebrating the 75th anniversary of E.O. 9066 is still underway and premature. However, the partnership and details are expected to finalize within the coming year.

On display was a signed softball discovered at Heart Mountain belonging to George Hirahara that was donated by his granddaughter, Patt Hirahara.

“It is wonderful that the Smithsonian is adding some camp artifacts to their collection, and to be able to donate my grandfather’s soft ball from Heart Mountain to the Smithsonian is an honor,” Patt Hirahara said. “George Hirahara came to this country when he was 5 years old from Japan and always felt America was his home. When he got the chance, he became an American citizen in 1944 and would have never imagined that his soft ball would now be on display in an event at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History.”

Hirahara’s granddaughter had built a hidden photo booth, developing photos and capturing life in Heart Mountain. Wyo.”

“The Legacy of Heart Mountain,” produced by Jeff Mootry, and David Ooshita used many of Hirahara’s photos and stories. The film illustrates the lives of 10,000 Japanese Americans imprisoned in Powell, Wyo. during WWII.

“I am honored to be able to show our film here at the Smithsonian and to have the opportunity to keep these important stories alive,” Ooshita said. “Over 70 years later, they are still so relevant and represent not only Heart Mountain but the overall camp experience with unique and personal stories.”

Other artifacts included a hand-carved, wooden archery in the shape of a bat made by actor Sab Shimono’s father. Shimono is an accomplished stage actor appearing on Broadway and numerous movies and TV shows. His father was interned at the Tule Lake War Relocation Center and the Granada War Relocation Center.

Guests also had the opportunity to view a baseball uniform worn by Tetsuro Futamura from the Shasta River War Relocation Center. Futamura was a teenager when he entered the relocation camp but the first baseman hoped to express his Americanism and citizenship through baseball.

Following the film screening, University of Massachusetts Prof. Franklin Odo led a panel discussion on Executive Order 9056, exploring why it had taken so long to honor those who lost their freedom to share their stories with family and friends. Participants included some of Department of Transportation Security and former Heart Mountain internes Noriko Y. Mineta, "The Legacy of Heart Mountain" co-producer Cas; former Japanese War Authority Center internes Alice Takemoto; "Nani M_OBJA_? My Parent's Talk about the War Years" author Paul Takemoto; and Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation chairperson Shirley Higuchi.

During a live Skype visit, performance was presented by the Portland Story Theater’s Story Champion, G. Yasumura. As a Japanese American born to parents in North Carolina, Yasumura discovered spoken-word within the hip-hop culture in Durham. His performance reflected on his experiences about life and his heritage, recounting the messages of Americanism and his take on youth in today’s cultural landscape. A standing ovation was given to Yasumura after sharing a verse about his Japanese grandfather’s life story.

This year’s annual Day of Remembrance event was sponsored by the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation, the JACL, Japanese American Veterans Asso., Patt Hirahara, Terry K. Odeh and the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation.

For further information about the Smithsonian Executive Order 9066 75th Anniversary exhibit artifact acquisition, please contact the coordinators at arca.khistory.si@si.edu.
(From left) Patti Hirahara, Priscilla Ochsner and Hiroko Sano stop.

Audience members had the opportunity to watch "The Legacy of Heart Mountain."

Sab Shimono’s father handcrafted a wooden astrolabe in the shape of a cat during this time at the Tule Lake War Relocation Center.

A Smithsonian representative explains the museum’s condition to guests, educating the public about the Japanese American experience during World War II.

2014 National Poetry Slam champion La Yamazaki concluded the evening with a live performance.

The Smithsonian Museum of American History has hosted and hosted a Day of Remembrance for the past 5 years.
The 46th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage Set for April 25

LOS ANGELES — "Wasaushi wa Manzanar: Continuing Our Civil Rights Legacy" is the theme for the 46th annual Manzanar Pilgrimage, sponsored by the Manzanar Committee, which is set to take place on April 25 at the Manzanar National Historic Site.

Each year, more than 10,000 people from all walks of life attend the pilgrimage, including students, teachers, community members, clergy and former internees. Planning is underway for the afternoon event as well as for the Manzanar at Dusk program — co-sponsored by the Nihon Student Union at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, California State University, Fullerton, California State University, Long Beach, the University of California, Los Angeles, and the University of California, San Diego — which is scheduled for the same evening at Los At High School.

Through a creative presentation, small group discussions and an open mic session, Manzanar at Dusk participants will have the opportunity to learn about the experiences of those incarcerated in the camps. Participants will also be able to interact with former internees in attendance to hear their personal stories, share their own experiences and discuss the relevance of the concentration camp experiences to present-day events and issues.

The Manzanar Committee has announced that there will be transportation from Downtown Los Angeles to the pilgrimage site.

The bus will depart at 7 a.m. and arrive at the pilgrimage and stadium prior to 10 a.m. It will also take participants to the Interpretive Center at the Manzanar National Historic Site following the afternoon program. The bus should return by 1:30 p.m. to Los Angeles.

Reservations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. The comfortable fare is $40 per seat, $30 for students and seniors. Complimentary fares are available for those who were incarcerated at any of the former American concentration camps or other confinement sites during World War II.

Anyone wishing to attend the Manzanar at Dusk program that evening should make arrangements with their transportation arrangements.

Pilgrimage participants are advised to bring their own lunch, drinks and snacks, as there are no facilities to purchase food at the Manzanar National Historic Site. Fast-food outlets are located in Lone Pine and Independence, which are nearby. Water will be provided at the site.

For more information about the pilgrimage or to reserve a seat on the bus, call (723) 662-5102 or email 46thpilgrimage@manzanarcommittee.org.

The Manzanar Committee is dedicated to educating and raising public awareness about the incarceration and violation of civil rights of persons of Japanese ancestry during World War II and to the continuing struggle of all peoples when their constitutional rights are in danger. A nonprofit organization, it has sponsored the annual Manzanar Pilgrimage since 1969, along with other educational programs. It also plays a key role in the establishment and continued development of the Manzanar National Historic Site.

Upcoming JCCCNJ Program Focuses on Tule Lake Block 42 Protest

Even before Tule Lake became a notorious segregation center that imprisoned alleged troublemakers during World War II, the camp was fraught with unrest.

In 1943, the Tule Lake administration had the men of Block 42 arrested to make an example of what could happen if others in the camp refused to register for the controversial loyalty questionnaires. The protest of the Block 42 men frightened some into complying with the War Relocation Authority's orders by registering for the loyalty questionnaires, while others felt they had become more defiant.

Brothers Mantor "Mor" Ad and James Tanimoto were among 36 Nisei men from Block 42 who were sent to Manzanar after that they answered "No" on the loyalty questionnaire.

The event also will share insight on the Suyama Endowment, which strives to preserve the history of Japanese American dissent during World War II.

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KOKUSAI-PACIFICA 2015 TOURS

| Mar 31 | Spring Japan Classic "Cherry Blossoms" | 10 Days | S1995 | Tokyo, Osaka, Nara, Deep Fuki, Kobe, Okazaki, Takayama, Hiroshima, Osaka, Fukuoka, Shinanomura
| Apr 21 | Tour of Nikko "Tange, Bankei & Lake" | 10 Days | S1999 | Nikko, Tochigi, Tokyo, Lake Yamanaka
| Jun 23 | Summer Special Japan | 10 Days | S1799 | Tokyo, Takayama, Miyagawa, Hida, Oku, Koyasan, Koyasan, Nara
| Jul 10 | Summer Hokkaido "Flower Fields" | 10 Days | S1995 | Lake Tazawa, Akan, Lake Toya, Shirakawa-Go, Tsurunuma, Lake Akan, Lake Toya
| Sep 17 | snsch Switzerland | 9 Days | S1595 | Einsiedeln, Lucerne, Berne, Geneva, Zermatt, Interlaken, Grindelwald
| Sep 24 | Sicily, Amalfi & Calabria | 12 Days | S2199 | Salerno, Sorrento, Amalfi, Sorrento, Pompeii, Positano, Paestum, Matera, Messina, Catania
| Oct 19 | Full Japan Classic "Fall Foliage" | 9 Days | S1195 | Tokyo, Nara, Hiroshima, Kyoto, Takayama, Miyagawa, Oku, Hida, Koyasan, Nara, Koyasan
| Oct 20 | Uruma "Other Side of Japan" | 8 Days | S1095 | Tokyo, Nara, Saga, Kyushu, Shimonoseki, Hiroshima, Takayama, Koyasan, Nara, Koyasan
| Nov 03 | Oklahoma & Texas | 8 Days | S1095 | Oklahoma City, Dallas, Austin, San Antonio, El Paso, Houston, New York
| Feb 11 | Discover South America | 10 Days | Land Cost S2850 | Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Iguazu Falls, Buenos Aires, Argentina

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PO Box 2096, Huntington Beach, CA 92647, 714-540-8455
Mannamed? The 442nd? The internment? At one time, these were just vaguely familiar names to Don Graves, the San Francisco photographer and author of "Twice Heroes: America's Nisei Veterans of WWII and Korea" which earned the 2014 IEFA Benjamin Franklin Award in history. For a limited time, JACL members can order the book at a discount.

The history of the internment of persons of Japanese ancestry during World War II is not taught in public schools on the East Coast, where Graves grew up. He first heard of Manzanar from a book by photographer Ansel Adams that featured photographs taken in the internment camp. Graves heard of the 442nd, a legendary Combat Team, but he knew little more than that.

It was not until 2001, when he met 442nd veteran Lawson Sakai, that his curiosity was piqued. Since then, curiosity has grown into a passion for telling others what he has learned, and Graves now travels around the country mailing presentations at museums and universities to educate audiences on the meaning and the role of the veterans in the Japanese American experience.

Portraits of 98 veterans grace the oversize pages of "Twice Heroes," along with dozens of interviews of MS. 100th and 110th veterans from the Mainland and Hawaii, including the late Sen. Daniel H. Inouye, Sec. Norman Y. Mineta and Gov. George Ariyoshi. Four Medal of Honor recipients also appear in book, along with "regular GIs" — the husbands, fathers, uncles and grandfather of the many families Graves now considers good friends. Each veteran tells his own story.

A member and supporter of the JACL Watsonville-Santa Cruz chapter, Graves says he will never stop telling the story. "A book is a tremendous commitment of time, with a real risk of losing a lot of money," said Graves. "But I get over looking, like the Benjamin Franklin Award this year, and an email from an MS veteran in Hawaii, who told me his granddaughter is reading "Twice Heroes" to his great granddaughter — four generations sharing their family's history. That's why I do what I do."

To order "Twice Heroes: America's Nisei Veterans of WWII and Korea," visit www.TwiceHeroes.com and enter the coupon code JACLHEROES at checkout.

**EDUCATION MATTERS**

**JACL New Mexico Holds Teacher Training Workshop**

A teacher training workshop in Santa Fe, N.M., took place on Jan. 30 Thanks to the efforts of Jennifer Yawata and support from Esther Churchillwell and Victor Yamada, members of the New Mexico Chapter of the JACL.

The workshop, which was held at Santa Fe Community College, was also facilitated by Sharon Ishii-Jordan and Greg Marutani. Teachers who attended the presentation learned about the history of the Japanese American experience in the United States.

Workshop participants also heard from Nikki Nojima Louis and Herbert Tsuochiya, who were both children when they spent time in Manzanar, along with their families and nearly 10,000 others who were imprisoned there during World War II. Their recollection of their time spent in the camp with their family was among the highlights for the participants.

In addition, Churchillwell and Yawata updated everyone about the "Confession in the Land of Extermination," a project funded by the National Park Service through the Japanese American Concentration Site program and the teacher training workshops. Although the confinement sites in New Mexico (Santa Fe Camp Lordsburg) were smaller in size when compared to the West Coast Authority camps the stories that have been gathered from those who were imprisoned there or from their families make the imprisonment much more real and no less tragic as all were victims of racism.

The workshop concluded earlier than scheduled, as more snow was forecast for the afternoon and schools were closing due to the inclement weather.

Fortunately for the facilitators and the New Mexico Chapter volunteers — of which Yawata, Churchillwell and Yamada helped coordinate the chapter's 2014 workshop — the three back to Albuquerque on a snow-safe, through-the-border flight.

Another teacher training workshop took place in Houston, Texas, on Feb. 13, at the Holocaust Museum of Houston, where the "Art of Optimism" exhibit is currently on display through September.

New Mexico workshop participants included (from left) Greg Marutani, Esther Churchillwell, Victor Yamada, Jennifer Yawata, Sharon Ishii-Jordan, Nikki Nojima Louis and Herbert Tsuochiya.

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**Kikkoman Shoyu Bottle Designer Kenji Ekuan Passes Away**

By Associated Press

TOKYO — Japanese industrial designer Kenji Ekuan, whose works ranged from a bullet train to a red-capped Kikkoman soy sauce dispenser as familiar as the classic Coca-Cola bottle, has died, company said. He was 85.

A former monk, Ekuan crafted a tall teak bottle for Kikkoman Corp. in 1961, winning international popularity for the family-size shaped dispenser and, of course, for the ruby brown condiment familiar in many Asian cuisines.

He has said he wanted to design a small bottle because of his childhood memory of a mother pouring soy sauce from a big half-gallon bottle to a teakettle dispenser.

Other of his renowned works include the Yamaha VMAX motorcycle, the Konami bullet train connecting Tokyo and northern Japan, the Narita Express airport liner as well as audio equipment and company logos.

His design originates from the sights of Hiroshima's devastation after the U.S. atomic bomb blast of the city 70 years ago. He heard stories of street cars, bicycles, and other objects crushed and abandoned, saying they had waited to have been utilized more, he is quoted as saying in a company pamphlet for his Hiroshima exhibit last year.

His design principle was a "decoration" of goods and beauty to make them accessible for everyone. Ekuan became a monk at a Hiroshima temple to succeed his father, who died due to radiation from the atomic bombing. But he eventually pursued his career in design. He graduated from the prestigious Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music in 1965 and founded his design studio two years later.

In office, G&K Industrial Design Group, said Feb. 9 that Ekuan died of a heart problem at a Tokyo hospital early Feb. 7.

Last year, Ekuan received a prestigious Italian industrial design prize, the Golden Compass Award, after winning several other international awards.
>>EDC
17th Annual Cherry Blossom Freedom Walk
Washington, D.C.
March 28; 9 a.m.
National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism
New Jersey Avenue and Louisiana Avenue
Cost: Free
Rain or shine, come remember and honor the Japanese American experience during WWII and EO 9066 for a day of remembrance. The event’s keynote speaker will be Catherine Mitrano, and check-ins began at 9 a.m. Please register ahead of time for the Freedom Walk.

‘American: Exclusion/Inclusion’
New York, NY
April 19
New York Historical Society
107 Central Park West
Visit the exhibit to explore the featuring interviews with April 26 March 15; 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

>>PNW
‘Teoheku Teme’ Screening
Seattle, WA
March 7; 1-3 p.m.
Seattle Art Museum Stimson Auditorium
1400 E. Prospect St.
Cost: Adult $9
In conjunction with the Seattle Asian Art Museum’s exhibit on the Tohoku earthquake, JASSW is hosting a documentary film featuring interviews with activists, volunteers, artists and other people affected by the 2011 earthquake. A discussion on the current state of gender equality in business, comparing the approaches both cultures have taken toward creating a more fair and equal workplace.
Info: Visit www.jassw.info.

23rd Annual Spring Bazaar
Portland, OR
March 16; 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m.
Nichiren Buddhist Temple
2020 S.E. Yamhill
Celebrate spring at the 23rd Annual Spring Bazaar with the Nichiren Buddhist Temple. All proceeds will benefit the temple. Bento meal selections include tonkatsu, chicken donburi, chow mein and tofu donburi. Preorder forms must be submitted by March 10. Prices may vary.
Info: Visit www.nichiren-shu.org or call (503) 608-4656.

>>NCWNP
Opera at the Asian Art Museum
San Francisco, CA
Feb. 26; 7:9 p.m.
Asian Art Museum
200 Larkin St.
Cost: General public $30, members $20
Enjoy a special night of traditional Asian folk songs and Western arias sung by Adler Fellows from the Merola Opera program.

>>PSW
‘Shadows for Peace: For the Sake of the Children’
Orange County, CA
March 18-19; Neon Chapman University
1 University Dr.
Cost: Free
In remembrance of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the Orange Coast Optimist Club will present the program’s exhibit and forum.

This event series will also travel to JANM on March 21.
Info: Contact Richard Fukushima at richard@shadowforpeace.com.

Hello Kitty’s Head Designer
Los Angeles, CA
April 4; 2 p.m.
Japanese American National Museum
100 N. Central Ave.
Cost: General admission $20
Sanrio Tokyo’s Yuko Yamaguchi has been Hello Kitty’s head designer since 1980 and will visit JANM to discuss her work. Yamaguchi will sign copies of the new Hello! exhibitions.
Info: Visit www.janm.org or call (213) 626-0414.

L.A. Ukulele Expo 2015
Los Angeles, CA
April 18; 11:30 a.m.
JACC
244 S. San Pedro St.
Grab your ukulele and join JACC at this year’s expo. This year’s world-record attempt will use the song “Pua i Ka Ua.” Featured will be Grammy winners Tia Carrere and Daniel Ho. All ages are welcome.
Info: Visit www.jacc mse.org or call (213) 626-2726.

Fiesta Matsuri
Los Angeles, CA
May 3; 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
JACC
244 S. San Pedro St.
Fiesta Matsuri combines the Children’s Day celebration of two communities — the Japanese Kodomo no Hi and Dia de los Ninos from Mexico.
Info: Visit www.jacc mse.org or call (213) 626-2726.

>>MDC
Spring Shake!
Niles, IL
March 14; 8 p.m.-12:30 a.m.
White Eagle Banquet and Restaurant
6595 N. Milwaukee Ave.
Cost: Adult Ticket $25
Welcome the new season and dance the night away with JACL Chicago’s 2015 board of directors. The JACL Chicago’s inaugural event will feature Kenny Takaoka and “Husky Love” with DJ Ben Stover’s “Electric Blue Entertainment.”
Info: Visit www.jaclchicago.org or call (773) 728-7117.

Niles, IL Art Center
Memorial to Patriotism
March 14; 8 p.m.-12:30 a.m.
Museum and Library
Cost: Adult ticket $9
This installation includes two rotations of Matsusugatah trays, a type of flat dish with petal-shaped edges from early 18th-century Japanese porcelain. The naturalistic sensibility deeply rooted in Japanese design is on display on both dishes at the exhibit.

69th Annual Japanese American Community Graduation Banquet
Portland, OR
May 3
Mautunenah Athletic Club
1849 S.W. Salmon St.
Cost: Adult $35; free for graduating high school students
This year’s annual banquet is sponsored by 11 Nikkei organizations from the Portland area. Scholarships will also be awarded at the luncheon. The event’s keynote speaker will be Elizabeth Asahi-Sato.
Info: RSVP at larouche@msn.com or call (503) 608-4656.

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Memoriam

Fukulo, Grace Tsugiko, 85, Torrance, CA; Jan. 20, she is survived by her children, Donna (Paul) Ackerman and Stavon (Erin) Fukulo; sisters, June Nakai and Ina (Arthur) Nishiyama; sisters-in-law, Kim Inadomi; she is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc. 6.

Hiromasa, Elhel Sachiyo, Gardena, CA; Jan. 31, she is survived by her children, Nathani and Alton (Michael) Koba; husband, Thomas (Gloria) Shimizu; she is also survived by other relatives.

Honuchi, Paul Sei, 90, Gardena, CA; Jan. 31, he is survived by his wife, Mary Sei; children, Allen (Aiko), Tomo and Kent (Cynthia) Honuchi; gc. 4; ggc. 8.

Kimura, Tsutomu Tom, 89, Gardena, CA; Feb. 8, he is survived by his loving wife, Sukiko Kimura; son, Bryan (Mina) Kimura; daughter, Elaine; children, Hitoko Koba; husband, Tatsuo (Stanley) Iwatsuki; children, Kayoko and Yoko (Yukio) Hisakado; sister-in-law, Tamiko Mikasa; brother-in-law, Yukihiro (Tatsuo) Mikasa; half brother, Kayo (Hisako) Matsuoka; half sister, Kayo (Takeshi) Isomoto; also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc. 7.

Kawado, Teruko, 94, Gardena, CA; Feb. 1, she is survived by her daughter, Carol Y. Ito and Alphon S. John Garrett; siblings, Han Koba, Sumi (Mary) Fujimoto and Atsuko Wada; also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc. 7; ggc. 16.

Matsunaga, Rumi Kathleen, 47, Gardena, CA; Feb. 16, she is survived by her father, Richard John "Ferry" Matsunaga; mother, Alice; brothers, Richard (Jane) and Mark (Toru), nieces, Madison Matsunaga; also survived by many uncles, aunts and cousins.

Matsumoto, Kazuko, 84, Gardena, CA; Feb. 10, she is survived by her children, Haruko, Shizuko and Miki; also survived by her mother, Tsuneko (Kazuo) Matsumoto; also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc. 7.

Matsunaga, Masa, 90, Los Angeles, CA; Feb. 6, she is survived by her loving son, Robert (Kylene) Matsuoka; also survived by her husband, Philip; children, Robert and Chikako (Philip) Matsuoka; also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc. 9.

Matsunaga, Masaaki, 87, Los Angeles, CA; Feb. 14, he is survived by his children, Susan and Kirk Nakagawa; also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc. 2.

Nakagawa, Masaei Robert, 87, Long Beach, CA; Jan. 17, she is survived by her cousins, Takemi (Lisa) Matsunobu, Shigemasa and Ikuko (George) Terasawa; also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc. 2.

PLACE A TRIBUTE

“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 per column inch.

For more information, please visit our website, pacificcitizen.org or call (213) 620-1767.
with community education and outreach. We recently launched a Health is Wealth program in order to organize community members around health as it pertains to diet, exercise and home while using a culturally relevant lens and putting individual health in the context of community circumstance.

Taniguchi: What are some of the challenges that you’ve faced as an organization?
Nguyen: Access to capital — specifically farmland. Our success in regards to job creation and food access depends on the ability to grow, which is dependent on available space.

Taniguchi: Why should JACL be invested in your work and success?
Nguyen: We are constantly advocating for the rights and benefits of AAPI farmers nationally. These farmers are often left out of the national discussion in regards to farming benefits and rights.

Taniguchi: What goals do you have moving forward as an organization?
Nguyen: We intend to expand our growing capacity and that begin to increase our job creation potential. In addition, we want to expand our tofu and soy milk making operations to begin to supply to local grocery chains. We also want to expand our community programs specifically Food Justice Collective and Health is Wealth.

Taniguchi: What do you need to achieve these goals?
Nguyen: We need access to more land and additional technical assistance regarding agricultural and cooperative issues.

Taniguchi: Who are some of the partners you’ve worked with or that you are working with now?
Nguyen: We have partnerships with other entities such as Kids Rethink New Orleans Schools, Cajun Americans, Asian Pacific Blackamoors Organizing for Action and Health Forum, USDA, etc.

Taniguchi: How are you engaging youth?
Nguyen: The Food Justice Collective is a partnership between Kids Rethink New Orleans (KRON) and VECCI Farmer’s Cooperative that aims to build a multi-racial youth organizer cohort to deepen understanding and issues of oppression in relationship to land and ownership of food systems. VECCI and KRON aim to develop bonds of solidarity and shared understanding of past experiences that influence our present situation in relation to access to food. This cohort will build both knowledge and skills in individual, community, and cooperative economics and other alternative forms of economies as they move from farm plots, participate in marketing and distribution and serve other forms of connection to land (i.e., medicinal medicine). Through this collective effort youth will engage in intergenerational organizing with farmers, community members and other prominent educators in order to reshape communal hierarchies and build up long-term processes of self-determination. This proposed project contributes to VECCI’s work by connecting young people from New Orleans and Southeast Asia to local food access, job creation and promoting sustainable agriculture through intergenerational organizing.

Taniguchi: What informal education techniques do you use?
Nguyen: We engage in conversation and democratic decision making and therefore engage in a lot of education around cooperative dynamics and organizational dynamics.

Taniguchi: What is something you’re proud of personally?
Nguyen: We have grown, from one staff member to five and from engaging four young people per summer to over 14 multilingual young people for an entire year. We started from backyard scale agriculture to now farming over two acres with commercial tofu and soy milk production.

Taniguchi: How are you engaging the Asian American community?
Nguyen: We are based in one of the most concentrated Vietnamese communities in Louisiana and thus engage the community by recruiting Vietnamese member growers into the

Successful: "The model minority myth and the model minority myth is repeatedly used by those who seek to weaken the collective efforts of Asian Americans in the fight for social justice. Therefore, it is crucial to build programs and opportunities that support genuine community self-determination."

M Illinois Taniguchi is an aspiring social engineer from Hawaii. She currently works for Girl Scouts of Washington, D.C., and was the 2014 JACL Norman Y. Mineta Fellow.

Daniel Nguyen, outgoing construction of MVN CDC's first community farm site.

— end —

HEROES >> continued from page 3