Heroes of My Country

By: Unknown Author

Our Time

CREATING

WHAT CHANGE ARE YOU

A Mother's Take

Commentary

Honolulu Internment Camp
Designated as a National Historic Monument

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

"Honolulu 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 serve 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 Honolulu has finally secured the historic recognition it deserves."

Sen. Schatz worked to help facilitate Honolulu'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 Honolulu Internment Camp's inclusion in the National Park System.

In December 2014, Sen. Schatz joined Carole Hayashino, president and executive director of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, and Jesse Milam, president of the Honolulu JACL, to present Interior Department Sec. Sally Jewell with petitions from more than 6,000 Americans requesting the historic designation of Honolulu.

In 1943, the Honolulu Internment Camp was constructed on Cahu to intern citizens, resident aliens and persons of war. The camp held approximately 380 inmates and 4,000 prisoners of war. Honolulu 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 burdened 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 Patricia Okada said, "I am disappointed by the decision of the Court to enjoinder the DAPA and DAPA initiative. This decision has a chilling effect on the dreams of hard-working families and students and is a step back 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 ensure family stability and economic growth.

In the Asian American Pacific Islander community, an estimated 1.3 million undocumented residents have been living in 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 DAPA and DAPA programs will be able to resume nationwide."
COLLABORATION REMAINS KEY FOCUS OF NATIONAL JAACL IN 2015

National President David Lin stresses the importance of 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 JAACL 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 involved, engaged and motivated to deliver.”

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

In addition, JAACL Executive Director Priscilla Occhialini 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 JAACL 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 Occhialini’s absence, NCWIP 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 $3.56 million. Although the total was down 17 percent from the previous year, the amount was attributable to a larger gain on investments. On a positive note, public support increased from 2013’s $996,928 to $1,645,373 in 2014.

Regarding net income, JAACL 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 Iwata will be retiring at the end of February.

JAACL ended 2014 ahead of budget overall, according to Farella, and aims to improve on a balanced budget over the next few years and improve the PCA’s revenue, as well as general operations and expenses organization wide.

JAACL National was also pleased to announce the hiring of Takahiro Hasegawa as its new fund development manager. Hasegawa, who will be based in Seattle, Wash., will work with Occhialini 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 9,318 total members (10,042 total members, down from 10,699 in 2013) Abe reported that JAACL is trying to provide more benefits to its members and is holding membership webinars to share feedback with the chapter on what might spur an increase in numbers.

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

— P.C. Staff

PROPOSED ESCORTED TOURS & CRUISES SCHEDULED FOR 2015

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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 Office, 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 its time 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 E. 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 premiere 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 American; the Japanese American 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 Moriko Sarafuji said about Executive Order 9066. For more than 10 years, Sarafuji has worked with 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 Chinese Restaurant,” “Creating Hawaii,” and “Barriers to Bridges: Asian American Immigration.”

JACL’s partnership with the Smithsonian is important, as it makes the American story of the Japanese American experience to be shared with a broad national and international audience. The Day of Remembrance program at the Smithsonian draws a capacity audience, many of whom were new to the story,” JACL Executive Director Priscilla Oshida said. “This program, like many held across the nation, opened the door to educating a new generation about what Americans mean even at a time when the rights of citizens are sorely tested. The prominence 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 promises. However, the partnership and further details are expected to finalize within the coming year.

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

“It is wonderful that the Smithsonian is adding some camp artifacts to their collection, and to be able to donate my grandfather’s softball from Heart Mountain to the Smithsonian is an honor,” Hirohara said. “George Hirohara 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 1934 and would have never imagined that his softball would now be on display at an event at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History.”

Hirohara’s grandfather had built a hidden photo darkroom, developing photos and capturing life in Heart Mountain, Wyo. “The Legacy of Heart Mountain” co-produced by Jeff Meahurst and David Olson used many of Hirohara’s photos and stories. The film illustrates the lives of 10,000 Japanese Americans imprisoned in Wyoming 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,” Olson told the Pacific Citizen. “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-crafted wooden archery set in the shape of a cut 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.

Curtis also had the opportunity to view a baseball uniform worn by Tetsu Fujimori from the Saha River War Relocation Center. Fujimori was a teenager when he entered the relocation camp, but the first baseman hoped to express his American identity and citizenship through baseball.

Following the film screening, University of Massachusetts Prof. Franklin Odo led a panel discussion on Executive Order 9066, explaining why it had taken so long for instances to share their stories with family and friends. Participants included former Department of Transportation Secretary and former Heart Mountain interned Norm Yanagawa, “The Legacy of Heart Mountain” co-producer Omar; former Japanese War Authority Center intern Alice Takemoto; NACI, Memoriely My Parents Talk About the War Years; author Paul Takemoto; and Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation chairman Shirley Higuchi.

In closing a lively panel discussion was presented by former Zhaoi Shon Chang-Kun Yamamoto. As a Japanese American born to parents in North Carolina, Yamamoto 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 American identity and his time on youth in today’s cultural landscape. A standing ovation was given to Yamamoto 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 Association, Patti Hirohara, Terry Koizumi 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 archivist@si.edu.
Audience members had the opportunity to watch "The Legacy of Heart Mountain." Sab Shimone's father handcrafted a wooden astray in the shape of a cat during his time at the Tule Lake War Relocation Center.

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

A Smithsonian representative explained the museum's condition and its missions to guests, educating the public about the Japanese American experience during World War II.

The Smithsonian Museum of American History has hosted and hosted a Day of Remembrance for the past 16 years.
The 46th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage Set for April 25

Los Angeles — “Wakachi wa Manzanar: Continuing Our Civil Rights Legacy” is the theme for the 46th annual Manzanar Pilgrimage, sponsored by the Manzanar Committee and set to take place on April 25 at the Manzanar National Historic Site. Each year, more than 1,000 people from all ages and backgrounds attend the pilgrimage, which includes students, teachers, community members, clergy and former incarcerees. Planning is underway for the afternoon event as well as for the pilgrimage at Duck Camp — co-sponsored by the Nikkei 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 that same evening at Long Beach High School. Through a creative presentation, small group discussions and an open mic session, Manzanar at Duck participants will have the opportunity to share 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 also announced that there is transportation to the pilgrimage from Downtown Los Angeles will be available. The bus will depart at 7 a.m. and arrive at the pilgrimage and assembly point by 11 a.m. It will also take participants to the Interpretive Center at the Manzanar National Historic Site following the afternoon program. The bus should arrive back in Los Angeles at approximately 8:30 p.m. Reservations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. The comfortable fare is $40 per seat, $20 for students and seniors. Complimentary fares are available for those who were incarcerated at any of the former American concentration camps or other camp sites during World War II. Anyone wishing to attend the Manzanar at Duck program that evening should make sure to book transportation arrangements.

Pilgrimage participants are advised to bring their own lunch, drinks and smokes, 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 (713) 662-2162 or email 46thpilgrimage@manzanarcommittee.org.

Upcoming JCCNC Program Focuses on Tule Lake Block 42 Protest

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

Brothers Mamoru “Mor” Yoo and James Tanimoto were among 36 Nisei men from Block 42 who were sent to Klamath Falls jail after they answered “No” on the loyalty questionnaire.

Even before Tule Lake became a notorious reeducation center that imprisoned alleged troublemakers during World War II, the camp was fraught with tension. 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 questionnaire. The protest among the Block 42 men frightened more into compliance with the War Relocation Authority’s orders by registering for the loyalty questionnaire, while misguided Angelenos became more defiant.

Brothers Mamoru “Mor” Yoo and James Tanimoto share their experiences of being among the Block 42 men who were arrested indefinitely without charge and sent to the Klamath Falls jail, from which they imprisoned at Camp Tulelake, a former Civilian Conservation Corps camp.

The program is set to take place on March 7 from 11:00 p.m. at the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California in San Francisco and is co-sponsored by the National Japanese American Historical Society and the UCLA Asian American Studies Center’s Eiji Suyama Endowment, which strives to preserve the history of Japanese American dissent during WWII.

Brothers Mamoru “Mor” Yoo and James Tanimoto were among 36 Nisei men from Block 42 who were sent to Klamath Falls jail after they answered “No” on the loyalty questionnaire.

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 people whose constitutional rights are in danger. A nonprofit organization, it has sponsored the annual Manzanar Pilgrimage since 1969, along with other educational programs. It has also played a key role in the establishment and continued development of the Manzanar National Historic Site.

Further details about the Manzanar Pilgrimage and the Manzanar at Duck program will be announced at a later date. Both are free and open to the public.

The Manzanar National Historic Site is located on U.S. Highway 395 in California’s Owens Valley between the towns of Lone Pine and Independence approximately 230 miles north of Los Angeles. Lone Pine High School is located at 556 S. Main St. in Lone Pine, nine miles south of the Manzanar National Historic Site, across the street from McDonald’s.

For more information about the pilgrimage or to reserve a seat on the bus, call (713) 662-2162 or email 46thpilgrimage@manzanarcommittee.org.

KOKUSAI-PACIFICA 2015 TOURS

Mar 31 Spring Japan Classic “Cherry Blossoms” — 10 Days — $8995 — Tokyo, Osaka, Nara, Kyoto, Hakone, Nikko, Nara, Osaka, Kyoto

Apr 10 Tour of Yamato “Dragon, Nagare & Tsurumai” — 10 Days — $8995 — Nara, Kyoto, Okayama, Hiroshima, Yamaguchi, Okayama, Hiroshima, Okayama, Kyoto

May 21 Hiroshima Peace Study Tour — 8 Days — $3995 — Hiroshima Peace Park, Peace Memorial, Peace Memorial Museum, Togo-shi, Hatsukaichi, Hagi, Okayama


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**‘TWICE HEROES’ BOOK OF NISEI VETERANS NOW AVAILABLE FOR JACL MEMBERS**

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. His first book of Manzanar from a book by photographer Ansel Adams that featured photographs taken in the internment camp. Graves had heard of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, but he knew little more than that.

It was not until 2001, when he met 442nd veteran Lawson Saito, 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 making presentations at museum and universities to educate audiences on the meaning and the role of the veterans in the Japanese American experience.

Portraits of 85 veterans grace the oversee pages of ‘Twice Heroes,’ along with dozens of interviews of MS. 100th and 442nd veterans from the Mainland and Hawaii, including the late Sen. Daniel 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 grandparents 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 such feedback, 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 her 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.

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**EDUCATION MATTERS**

**JACL New Mexico Holds Teacher Training Workshop**

A teacher training workshop in Santa Fe, NM, took place on Jan. 30 thanks to the efforts of Jennifer Yezawa 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 Ishi-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 Tsuduiya, who were both children when they spent times in Minidoka, along with their families and nearly 9,000 others who were imprisoned there during World War II. Their recollection of their time spent in the camp with their families was among the highlights for the participants.

In addition, Churchillwell and Yezawa updated everyone about the “Conference in the Land of Enchantment,” a project funded by the National Park Service through the Japanese American Confluence Sites program and the teacher training workshop.

Although the confinement sites in New Mexico (Santa Fe Camp and Lordsburg) were smaller in size when compared to the War Relocation Authority camps, the stories that have been gathered from those who lived through it or 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 Yezawa, Churchillwell and Yamada helped coordinate the chapter’s 2014 workshop in Albuquerque — the snow was at a safe, through a bit wet one.

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

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 molded Kikkoman soy sauce dispenser as familiar as the classic Coca-Cola bottle, has died, company officials said. He was 85.

A former monk, Ekuan crafted a bullet train for Kikkoman Corp. in 1961, winning international popularity for the family-friendly, hand-shaped dispenser and, of course, for the easily brown condiment flavoring many Asian cuisines.

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

Other of his renowned works include the Yamaha VM8 motorcycle, the Komachi bullet train connecting Tokyo and northern Japan, the Narita Express airport liner as well as audio equipment and company logos.

His design originate from the sights of Hiroshima’s devastation after the U.S. atomic bomb dropped on the city 70 years ago. He heard voices of street cars, bicycles and other objects mangled and abandoned, saying they had lied to have been utilized more. He was quoted as saying in a company pamphlet for his Hiroshima exhibit last year.

His design principle was a “demonstration” 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 bomb. But he eventually pursued his career in design. He graduated from the prestigious Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music in 1955 and founded his design studio two years later.

His office, G&H 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.
A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

CALENDAR

>>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/I Inclusion’
New York, NY
April 19
New York Historical Society
107 Central Park West
Visit the exhibit to explore the century-old history of race and immigration between China and the United States. by the 2011 earthquake.
China through its children. All proceeds will benefit the Chinese American experience approaches both cultures
Cost: Free
info: Visit www.nyhistory.org or call (617) 426-6500.

‘Children of Hangzhou: Connecting With China’
Boston, MA
April 26
Boston Children’s Museum
308 Congress St.
Cost: Free
Engage with community members and learn about China through its children.
With the program, and ticket prices include admission to JANM’s “Common Ground” and “Hello!” exhibitions.
Info: Contact Mark Fujikawa at 510) 232-0724 or fujikawa@japantown.org.

>>PNW
‘Tezoku Tome’ Screening
Seattle, WA
March 7; 1-3 p.m.
Seattle Art Museum Stimson Auditorium
1400 E. Prospect St.
Cost: Adult ticket $9
In conjunction with the Seattle Asian Art Museum’s exhibit on the Tohoku earthquake, JASSW is hosting a documentation 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 15.
Info: Visit www.nichiren-shu.org or call (503) 698-4666.

>>NCWNP
Opera at the Asian Art Museum
San Francisco, CA
Feb. 25; 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@shadowsforpeace.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 Yoko Yamaguchi has been Hello Kitty’s head designer since 1980 and will visit JANM to discuss her work.
Yamaguchi will sign copies of the exhibition catalog following the program, and ticket prices include admission to JANM’s “Common Ground” and “Hello!” exhibitions.
Info: Visit www.janm.org or call (212) 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 word-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.jacceo.org or call (212) 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.jacceo.org or call (212) 626-2726.

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**In Memoriam**

Fukuto, Grace Tsugiko, 85, of Torrance, CA; Jan. 29, she is survived by her children, Donna (Paul) Aoki and Stavon (Elin) Fukuto; sisters, June Nakaai and Ira (Arthur) Nishiyama; nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 6.

Hirotama, Elhel Sachiy, 79, Gardena, CA; Jan. 31, she is survived by her daughters, Nathlyn and Atten (Michael) Kobayashi; son, Thomas (Gloria) Shimizu; she is also survived by other relatives; gc: 7.

Hirochi, Paul Sei, 90, CA; Feb. 6, he is survived by his wife, May Bli; children, Ellen (Alan) Tomoda and Kiki (Cynthia) Hirochi; gc: 4; ggc: 6.

Kimura, Tsutomu Tom, 80, Cerritos, CA; Feb. 9, he is survived by his loving wife, Saeko Kimura; son, Bryan (Mina) Kimura; daughter, Elaine (Kim) Kimura; sisters, Setsuko Kobayashi, Tatsumi (Stanley) Iwasaki and Kyoko (Yukiko) Hisakado; sister-in-law, Tamiko Mikasa; brothers-in-law, Yuichi (Enos) and Ken (Jessica) Mat; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 7.

Kawate, Barbara Shizuye, 102, Los Angeles, CA; Feb. 6, she is survived by her loving sons, Harvey Y. (Jane Kilko) and Ronald T. (Chong S.) Kawate; gc: 1.

Kobata, Risc, 92, Gardena, CA; Jan. 31, she is survived by her children, Dennis (Jan Tokumura) Kobata and Frances (Dave) Fujii; stepchildren, John Kim and Margaret (George) Peterson; siblings, Peiko (Harold) Kobata, John Hagio, Joyce (Chisato) Kubo, Frank (Lolita) Hagio and Kathleen (Max) Ishii; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 3; ggc: 10.

Kubo, Yuiko Lily, 84, Cerritos, CA; Jan. 16, she is survived by her children, Karen (Tom) Akashi, Tracy (Ron) Okubo, and Greg Kubo and Kevin (Mary) Kubo; gc: 7.

Kawada, Teruko, 94, Gardena, CA; Feb. 1, she is survived by her daughters, Carol Y. (Bob) and Aileen S. (John) Garrett; siblings, Han Kobata, Sumi (Kyo Anna) Fujimoto and Eiko Wada; she is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 7; ggc: 16.

Mikasa, Romi Kathleen, 47, Gardena, CA; Feb. 16, she is survived by her father, Richard Johnson; her mother, Alice; brothers, Richard (Jane) and Mark (Terri); nieces, Madison Mikasa; she is also survived by many uncles, aunts and cousins.

Matsuzaka, Kuzako, 84, of Torrance, CA; Apr. 17, she is survived by her children, Takumi (Lina) Matsuzaka, Shizuko (Paco) Shigemasa and Ikuko (George)

Kawahara, she is also survived by many other friends and relations.

Matsumura, Isamu, 95, Los Angeles, CA; Feb. 11, he is survived by his children, Hirono Matsumura and Joyce (Bill) Braver; brother, Kazuharu (Takako) Kubota; sister-in-law, Toshiko Matsumura; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Matsushita, Miki, 80, Costa Mesa, CA; Jan. 23, she is survived by her children, Betty (Joe) Messina, Virginia (William) Bellas, James (Patricia) Yokohama, John (Patty) Maya; sister, Namiko Nii and Yoshiko Seo; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 7; ggc: 10; ggg: 1.

Mike, Mike Michishita, 86, of Torrance, CA; Feb. 6, she is survived by her children, Hisako Muyi and Mikako Mikasa; gc: 8.

Miyake, Perry Yoshiko, 90, Los Angeles, CA; Mar. 20, she is survived by her children, Alice, brothers, Richard (Jane) and Mark (Terri); nieces, Madison Mikasa; she is also survived by many uncles, aunts and cousins.

Nakagin, Masako Robert, 87, Torrance, CA; Feb. 14, he is survived by his children, Susan and Kirk Nakagin; siblings, Shigem (Donna) Nakagin, Minako Jane Shimizu and June Joel (Al) Nakagin, brother-in-law, Mikio, Jerry, Frank (Kiko) and Hiroshi (Shinko) Tada; Roy and Isamu Rick Tadashin, sister-in-law, Tomiye Mary Nakagin and May (Rigo) Obata; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Nishimura, Harumi, 72, Los Angeles, CA; Feb. 7, she is survived by her children, Richard Masa and Cheryl Kacuto; she is also survived by many brothers, sisters, nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Sakai, Harue, 94, Northridge, CA; Feb. 13, she is survived by her children, Jack (Junko) Sakai, Tomoko (Tsutomu) Matsuoka and Yoko (James) Hishimura.

Shishido, Daniel Mochidaira, 78, Nampa, ID; Jan. 30, she is survived by her wife, Karen; sons, Don (Patricia), Charles (Jane); daughter, Karen, and a grandson, Larry. She was preceded by his parents, Isamu and Kane; gc: 2.

Tanaka, Misao Akio, 89, Long Beach, CA; Feb. 6, she is survived by her sister, Helen Tashihara; nephew, Wesley (Lisa) Kahara; nieces, Pamela Karatas, great-nieces, Erin and Rachel Kahara.

Yakushi, Tsutomu George, 80, Cerritos, CA; Jan. 20, she is survived by his son, Calvin (Julo) Yakushi; daughter, Karen (Stanley) Ishii; gc: 5.

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**ASAKO TOKUNO**

Sept. 4, 1923-Jan. 28, 2015

Tokuno, Asako, 91, Sacramento, Calif. Born in Richmond, Calif., to Torayzaki and Kenzai Matsu, pioneers in the nursery business. She graduated from Richmond High School in 1941, then attended the University of California, Berkeley, until relocation in May 1942. In December 1943, she met Shirō Tokuno in the Topaz Relocation Center, memories of which she shared in the acclaimed Ken Burns' documentary "The War." They married in 1945 and spent 65 years together.

She was a collaborator on the texts of the Oral History Project and a longtime member of Park View Presbyterian Church. In December 2009, she received an honorary degree from the University of California, Berkeley.

She enjoyed playing the piano, sumi painting, golf and travel. She was survived by her sister, Kenzai Matsu and Junko Tomura; children, Kenneth, Shira (John), Anthony (Norma), Riki (Darla) and Marjorie; gc: 9.

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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 funded. 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 AAH 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 begin to increase our job creation potential. In addition, we want to expand our tofu- and soybeans-growing operation to begin to supply to national 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 practices.

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, Citrus America, Asian Pacific Islander American Health Forum, USDA, etc.

Taniguchi: How are you engaging youth? Nguyen: The Food Justice Collective is a partnership between Kids Rethink New Orleans Schools (KRON) and VECEI Farmer's Cooperative that aims to build a multiracial youth organizer cohort to deepen understanding and direct action for the improvement of food systems. VECEI and KRON aim to develop hands-on skills and shared understanding of past experiences that influence our present situation in relation to food. This cohort will build both knowledge and skills in both leadership, money management, and cooperative economics and other alternative forms of economies as they engage form field, participate in menu planning and distribution and involve other forms of connection to land (i.e., medicinalherbs). Through this collective effort youth will engage in intergenerational organizing with growers, community members, and other prominent educators in order to promote consensual decision and build upon long-term processes of self-determination. This proposed project contributes to VECEI’s work by connect the young people from New Orleans and New Orleans East toward increasing local food access, job creation, and promoting sustainable agriculture through intergenerational organizing.

Taniguchi: What informal education techniques do you use? Nguyen: We engage in continuous and democratically decided leader development 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 one or four bilingual young people for an entire year. We started from backyard scale agriculture to new farming over two acres with commercial tofu and soybeans 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 this community by recruiting Vietnamese member growers into the

**Mt. Rainier is an aspiring social engineer from Hawaii. She currently works for Girl Scouts in Washington, D.C., and was the 2014 JACL Norman Y. Mineta Fellow.**