Let’s Step Up, Donate and Advocate for the P.C.

Greetings from drought-plagued California. For those of you east of us, we hope your spring arrives very soon! As the P.C. nears the NCWNP District, I am honored to help launch this year’s Spring Campaign for the award-winning Pacific Citizen newspaper. Collectively, this is our opportunity to step up and advocate for the Pacific Citizen, which supports the JACL and its programs, as well as provides news coverage of the API community, which is often absent or lacking in mainstream media.

On a personal note, I grew up in a small Army family. We moved often, and I attended both parochial and public schools in four states by the time I reached high school. Then I had a new experience — the high school I attended in Virginia was segregated. Yes, ALL white. There were no Asians or Hispanics living in the community. I found myself participating in government-sponsored institutional racism. I still recall the bitter glances and feelings emanating from the black families we encountered on a daily basis. I will never forget those feelings.

Luckily, I discovered an invaluable opportunity to realize that experience and work toward resolution when I was introduced to the JACL by my wife, Valerie, and her father, George Yashiroh, in the early 90s. As I read the P.C., I discovered and was enlightened to find articles in a respected and essential communications vehicle — a lifetime and connection to the API experience and its roots, especially for those living in isolated rural areas. Today, I believe that those articles are still being published.

Now is the time to step up and support the Pacific Citizen. It’s in the tools and effective means of communication we need in order to continue our struggle to ensure that everyone is given equal opportunity and access to all America has to offer. I’ve been active in JACL for over 15 years, and I’m proud of the standards and positions JACL has taken, especially in the arena of civil rights solutions.

The P.C. staff has done an excellent job of formulating a program to facilitate updating the P.C. website, digitizing the P.C. archive and moving forward in the social media realm. There is more to come on these issues, and you will see some of those changes in the coming months.

Did you know one of the best options for supporting the P.C. is selling advertising in every issue? This brings "ratable" money into the equation and isn’t dependent on chapters or members. The P.C. gets the ad revenue, and your local chapter benefits from the commission. Sounds like a win-win game plan.

>> See STEP UP on page 12

James Duff

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

The annual holiday edition (Pacific Citizen, Dec. 12-14, 2014, pp. 13, 25) of this newspaper recently ran a letter from David Unroe, who voiced disagreement with the JACL’s recent statements on Ferguson and President Obama’s executive order for immigrant amnesty. The JACL’s National Youth Student Council wishes to collectively respond to the correspondence because, given its publications weight and reputation, we do not feel the ideas expressed therein are in line with the JACL’s values. It is the feeling of the NYSC that the kind of irresponsibility and ignorance expressed in the column cannot go unchallenged, particularly when these liabilities appear in this kind of platform.

Because the JACL’s executive director has already responded and publicly addressed the letter’s historical and legal fallacies regarding immigration in her own response, our aim here is to comment on the letter’s problematic statement on national security in Ferguson and beyond that followed the deadlock of Senator Mark Kirk.

We would like to first define the clear and false equivalence of President Obama’s recent Executive Order on amnesty to President Roosevelt’s Executive Order 9066 which caused the mass incarceration of Japanese Americans. The persistence and inarticulacy inherent to making such a comparison is appalling, particularly given that the audience of this publication is comprised of many survivors, families and descendants of those who have been morally profiled and unjustly imprisoned at the hands of law enforcement. Any parallel to the Japanese American internment experience should be presented carefully and accurately, emerging from affiliated members within our own community. For anyone (whether a member or representative) to casually restate our community’s most painful experiences, in this manner, is deplorable and beyond reckless. The NYSC cannot in good conscience use the word that connotes the stronger terms.

If we are set on filling current events through the lens of the mass incarceration, there are probably many who do not, in fact, consider themselves members and leaders being publicly shamed by white Americans for opposing the process of law, or being called “foolish” because they dared question the white status quo that oppressed them.

>> See LETTER on page 12

Your donations will help build and preserve a cohesive library of the Pacific Citizen to educate future generations
DAY OF REMEMBRANCE IS WORTH REMEMBERING

By GHA Asahwe

We share a Day of Remembrance event where you live, and if so, did you go? If you don’t know about DOR, it’s the annual commemoration of the Feb. 19, 1942, signing of Executive Order 9066 by President Roosevelt. It allowed the U.S. military to designate any area as a sensitive zone and lock out anyone they thought might be a danger to national security.

And those people, as we know today, were the Japanese and Japanese Americans who lived along the West Coast from Washington state down to California and part of Arizona. Those 120,000 people were sent into temporary quarters like converted horse stalls at race tracks, and ultimately at one of time U.S. concentration camps, including one called Amache here in Colorado.

I’ve written before that there’s a danger in dwelling on the wartime imprisonment. It can make it appear as if Japanese Americans suffer from a “victim” self-image. But at the same time, I think it’s important that we never forget that we are one of the hiccups on America’s proud history. One way to make sure we remember the internment experience is by noting the Day of Remembrance every year.

The Mile High JACL chapter holds a DOR event every year. One of the first JACL chapters held at the Denver Buddhist Temple and featured Sacramento-based journalist and filmmaker Shunji Iwai whose documentary “Children of the Camp” was associated with many of the people who attended. The chapter’s DOR events evolved and grew and were held at the University of Denver’s law school for several years.

For the past several years, the event has been held in Denver, Colorado, the very rare history museum in downtown Denver.

It even has a permanent exhibit about Amache with powerful films and a “replica” of a family space in an Amache barrack. Unfortunately because of regulations requiring the exhibit to be wheelchair-accessible, the room is spacious and the floor smooth and clean. It’s not realistic at all and makes being imprisoned at Amache seem like a summer camp. The museum has posted a sign explaining that it’s not realistic, so people won’t grab it. “I don’t know what the big deal is. This looks really lame.”

But it did; along with putting up the sign this year. History Colorado has been a small place for Mile High JACL to organize its annual event. A board member I was told to assist the event and moderate a panel with concentration camp survivors on Feb. 15. More than 200 people (not just JACL) showed up, an encouraging sign that E.O. 9066 is indeed remembered.

The panel was moving because we stuck to the theme of “Sharing Our Truths,” and I got our panelists, Frank and El Solomoto and Linda Dohseki Rodgers. Frank was just out of high school; he was in high school, and Linda was just a young child. They along with people in the audience who had also survived the experience, shared stories both funny and sad, and all touching, about life in camp and how the experience colored their lives in the decades since.

>> See REMEMBRANCE on page 12

Japanese American Activist Todd Endo Returns to Selma for the 50th Anniversary of the 1965 Voting Rights Demonstrations

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Todd Endo, likely the last surviving Asian American participant in the 1965 voting rights demonstrations in Selma, Ala., will be returning for the 50th Anniversary Selma Bridge Crossing Jubilee on March 7–8. Endo will be honored and accompanied by a delegation from the JACL, the nation’s oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization.

Endo was born on July 30, 1925, in Japan, but his family was uprooted from their Los Angeles homes and imprisoned in Rohwer, Ark., solely because of their Japanese ancestry.

The Endo family was incarcerated for more than two years before moving to Ohio in 1944 with the help of the Quaker-based American Friends Service Committee. The family eventually settled in the Washington, D.C.-Maryland area following World War II, where Endo found himself the lone Japanese American student in his elementary, middle and high schools.

As a recent graduate of Oberlin College, Endo worked with the JACL in the late 1950s on Washington and helped Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. deliver his “I Have a Dream” speech firsthand.

Two years later, inspired by the death of co-publisher Roy Kim and with support from JACL, Endo traveled to Boston to Selma, Ala., and participated in the 1965 Voting Rights Demonstrations.

One of only a handful of Asian Americans (an article he wrote for JACL’s Pacific Citizen newspaper in 1965 noted that he was one of many) to participate in civil rights protests with members of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee and Southern Christian Leadership Conference, as well as demonstrated in the streets of Selma under the leadership of Sheriff Jim Clark and his deputies.

Endo’s experience in Selma led the former Harvard Ph.D. candidate to forge his goal of becoming a history professor and shift his focus toward studying the educational system and curriculum. Presently, Endo works as an organizer in Washington, D.C., in immigration communities.

The JAPANESE AMERICAN LEADERSHIP DELEGATION ANNOUNCES ITS 2015 DELEGATES

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Ten Japanese American leaders will travel to Japan from March 6–14 as members of the 2015 Japanese American Leadership Delegation program, a weeklong trip dedicated to building people-to-people connections with Japanese leaders. The group of 10 leaders is a subset of the US–Japan Council (USJC)’s 50th celebration program, which is designed to strengthen U.S.-Japan relations across all sectors of society.

The delegation will visit Hiroshima prefecture, where they will participate in a panel discussion sponsored by the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnerships and the U.S.–Japan Council (USJC). They will then visit Tokyo, where part of the delegation has met with the prime minister, foreign minister and top business executives.

USJC President Irene Hirano Imbeau will lead the delegation. The program is sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and organized by the USJC.

This year’s delegates are:

• Lynn Harutsuno (Seattle, Wash.), senior attorney, Mierle of Corp.
• Yujiro Ie (New York, N.Y.), assistant director, global initiative, Asia Society
• Tochiro Murata (Detroit, Mich.), manager, government affairs, Ford Motor Co.
• Dr. Richard Morimoto (Chicago, Ill.), Bill and Gayle Cook professor of medicine, Northwestern University
• Priscilla Ouchida (San Francisco, Calif.), executive director, JACL
• Linda Tafoya (Los Angeles, Calif.), senior manager, internal, and CBO communications, Boeing Defense, Space & Security
• Santiago Takayasu (Washington, D.C.), president and CEO, Asian Pacific American Chamber of Commerce & Entrepreneurship
• Tyler Tokioka (Honolulu, Hawaii), vp, external affairs and agency relations, Island Insurance Companies
• Dr. Tracy Tamada (Chapel Hill, N.C.), senior vp, PAREXEL International
• Dr. Robin Yashi (Denver, Colo.), director of geriatrics, Denver Health

USJC Alumni have created a network to ensure that “the commitment to strengthening U.S.-Japan relations is maintained.” The JALD began in 2000, and to date, 160 delegates have participated in the program.
AWARDS

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**CHICAGO’S DOR PAYS HOMAGE TO ‘WOMEN WARRIORS’**

**By Ryan Kurnamitsu**

Earlier this month, members of Chicago’s Japanese American community gathered at the Chicago History Museum to commemorate the day Executive Order 9066 was signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, the directive that ordered the mass deportation and incarceration of more than 110,000 Japanese Americans. Each year, five local Nikkei advocacy and cultural groups, including JACL Chicago, come together to share in the responsibility for planning and holding this event.

The first Day of Remembrance was inaugurated in 1978 on the Puyallup fairgrounds in Washington, which had served as an incarceration center named Camp Harmony during WWII. That first year, the National Guard provided trucks similar to those used in 1942, and led a caravan that traced the original path followed by some of the camp’s incarcerated. In the nearly 40 years since the event’s inception, Nikkei communities across the country have continued to commemorate this day in a number of novel ways. In Chicago and elsewhere, community members gather annually at solemn ceremonies where music is played, stories are shared, excerpts from the Executive Order and the Exclusion Poster are read and organic community reflection is given space to occur.

Christine Munteanu, assistant program Director with JACL’s Chicago chapter, believes these traditions are key to the spirit of the Day of Remembrance. “The goal,” she explained, “is to meditate on the impact the incarceration experience has had on our families, our community and our country.

It is an opportunity to educate others on the fragility of civil liberties in times of crisis, and the importance of remaining vigilant in protecting the rights and freedoms of all.” In short, remembering the past is important because it is inextricably linked to a responsible furthering of our future. Memories must be honored and grieved and held onto going forward.

This year, more than 130 attendees braved the cold weather and gathered to honor the community’s female compatriots and civic leaders.

Scholar and civil rights attorney Peggy Nagae gave a presentation on Japanese American female leadership called “Women Warriors: From Incarceration to Redress and Beyond,” which touched on the lives of icons and activists such as Mitsuye Endo and Yon Kochiyama. Nagae also specifically honored the women who played an integral role in the redress movement, including Grace Yamaguchi and Cherry Kinoshita, as well as Chicago’s own Tsumi Nakagawa, Chiye Tomihiro and Kiyoch Yoshimura.

According to Munteanu, this tribute was especially meaningful because while some of these women were in the audience, others had died over the years — Yoshimura passed away in December.

Bursts of applause frequently punctuated Nagae’s remarks, as community members of all ages deeply resonated with her presentation. Younger attendees were able to more fully grasp the disturbing legacy of incarceration in the safety of their own community, and audience members were able to celebrate the lives and examples of their friends, mentors and colleagues. For many attendees, this was not an abstract history lesson but their lives on display.

As Chair of the Day of Remembrance Committee and community leader Sharon Hidaka shared, “Peggy’s presentation was powerful and enlightening ... she gave the entire audience an awareness that women in [our] community have long been overlooked.”

This year’s public telling of Nikkei history from a refreshingly femalentric perspective was a needed rebuke to our familiar patriarchal narratives, which generally consign Japanese American women to a secondary role at best, as wives and daughters of the “real heroes.”

But the truth is, our women warriors have led our community from the brink of collapse, from incarceration to redress and far beyond. They have displayed fire and brilliance, acted as primary protagonists.

The leaders honored in this year’s Day of Remembrance ceremony aren’t quite the doile women society often conjures by assumption and stereotype — they are not curtsying demurely, serving tea with a quiet smile. They are proud, feisty, inspiring women. As Nagae put it, “We are not alone in our distress; our women warriors have our back. They have displayed fire and brilliance, acted as primary protagonists.”

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**PORTLAND JACL’S DOR CELEBRATES ITS LOCAL NISEI**

**By Heidi Tolenitano**

In recognition of Day of Remembrance, the Portland JACL board held an Appreciation Luncheon on Feb. 22 to honor its local Nisei at the Multnomah Athletic Club. The luncheon was attended by more than 70 Nisei honorees.

Following an opening welcome from emcee Jeff Selby, the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ron Iwasaki of Oregon Nisei Veterans, followed by an invocation from Rev. Anna Cho of the Episcopal United Methodist Church. Among the distinguished guests in the audience was JACL National President David Lin, who thanked the Nisei honorees for their service and sacrifice to our country.

The program’s keynote speaker featured Linda Tamura, professor emerita of education at Williamette University and a Sansi who has extensively researched and written about the Issei and Nisei generation in her books “The Hood River Issei” and “Nisei Soldiers Break Their Silence.”

In her speech, titled “Lessons From Our Nisei,” Tamura referred to the Nisei as “the bridge” for the Japanese American community, in that they connect the Japanese traditions of their Issei parents with the American culture that is their birthright. Thus, they have many lessons to teach us.

Tamura credited the Nisei with teaching her three valuable lessons. The first is to “Know the Full Story.” As Nisei have taught her to be informed about the past, including all of the different stories that make up Japanese American history. Nisei have reminded her to then educate the public about Japanese American history so that these stories will not be lost. The second lesson Nisei have taught her is to “Know Your Story.” Tamura said that knowing your story is understanding your own history, which is why the Nisei stories are so crucial to helping us understand who the Nikkei community is today. The third lesson is “Share Your Story,” as Nisei have taught her to speak up for herself and for others. She gave examples of Nisei who have spoken out against injustice and taken action for themselves and their community, among them Segie Nishihara, Min Yasui and Lury Sato.

Tamura then asked the audience to find a Nisei and take a “selfie” with them, after which each person was to ask that same Nisei, “What is a lesson we can learn from the Nisei?”

During the activity, I had the pleasure of talking with Bill Matsuda of Portland. He told me that a lesson he can learn from the Nisei is something he learned from the Issei, “Regardless of whatever hardships you face, never give up.” So simple and yet so profound. He modestly told me that his Issei parents were really the ones who had a difficult time. They built a life for themselves and then had it all taken away from them. I asked him about his time in camp, and he told me that he was very young during camp and he felt it was not as hard for him because he didn’t really understand what was happening. His family was first at Tule Lake and then was moved to Heart Mountain. After the war, Mr. Matsuda’s family moved to Ontario, Ore., before returning to Portland. I was so appreciative of his willingness to talk with me and share parts of his story and his wisdom.

The activity was so successful that Tamura had trouble quieting the audience because of the passionate discussions that had surfaced around the room. People were then asked to share what they learned from their Nisei interviews. Individuals spoke about interviewing their family members and tablemates and the lessons that came from the Nisei.

As her talk came to a close, Tamura encouraged us to continue asking Nisei family members and friends to share their stories, and she thanked the Nisei for being our bridge.

I left the event feeling thankful for my Nisei grandparents, Jon and Nellie Saito, and the numerous lessons they’ve taught me over my lifetime; they have truly inspired me. Thank you to all of the Nisei for the sacrifices you have made for us; there are no words to express our gratitude.
High school student Michael Nakamura is preparing to compete in August for another world title at the World Yo-Yo Championship in Tokyo.

By Connie K. Ro, Contributor

All eyes were recently on Michael Nakamura. Second by second, minute by minute, a small crowd began to gather at Weller Court in Los Angeles’ Little Tokyo. With yo-yos spinning in his hand and a razor focus, he kept the crowd captivated as milling tourists attempted to snap pictures of the teen. Nakamura isn’t your average high school student — he’s a yo-yo champion on the road to securing more titles before graduation.

Nakamura began yo-yoing at a young age. He remembers receiving his first yo-yo from his father when he was 7 or 8 years old. He attempted some easy tricks, but then put it aside for some time. It wasn’t until he was 12 that he picked up the yo-yo again and began watching videos on YouTube of yo-yo competitions in Japan. From that time on, he had an intense interest to learn more tricks and, pretty soon, he was making up his own moves and participating in yo-yo competitions.

He entered his first yo-yo contest in 2010. “I think the biggest part of the yo-yo community is how helpful and supportive they are,” said Nakamura, a Southern California native. “It’s kind of a nice mixture — there are sport athletes, math geeks, and everyone can gather around and share the same interest in this one sport.”

Nakamura, who turns 18 this month, spends his downtime developing new tricks, whether that might be in the classroom, at home or out and about. He practices approximately one hour a day, with more time on the weekends. “Once I have a yo-yo in hand, I try to execute the trick and then start from there. It takes a really long time to make it competition-worthy,” said Nakamura, who attends North Hollywood High School. “First, I start with the basic elements, then from there, I kind of add in more stuff that would make it score higher in a contest. Then, as time goes on, I make adjustments to it.”

In 2013, Nakamura was crowned the World Yo-Yo champion in the 4A, otherwise Offstring Division. This year, he’s already won the North American Yo-Yo Championship in Las Vegas and the Pacific Northwest Regional Yo-Yo Contest in Seattle. He’s also planning to attend the World Yo-Yo Championship, which will be held in August in Tokyo.

“There are so many variables, so I usually shoot for top three, do my best and see where I end up,” said Nakamura, who cites traveling and sightseeing as one of the highlights of participating in the yo-yo competitions.

A busy student, Nakamura juggles yo-yo training along with five Advanced Placement courses and karate classes (he’s a brown belt). When he’s at home, he’ll choreograph a routine and practice it over and over again until he feels comfortable. You’ll see him with his yo-yos often, including visits to the supermarket and the mall. He also utilizes his morning commute to practice yo-yoing and find songs for competitions that fit his style, with selections from musicians such as music producer and DJ Zedd.

“I use a lot of electronic music, but I also mix in other songs for slow and fast paces in the routine so I could mix it up in my routine,” Nakamura said.

Much of the time during practices, he’ll video chat with other yo-yo experts from around the world.

“In Japan, they definitely take it a lot more seriously. It’s very organized — everyone has a strict mind-set on what helps them place higher in competitions,” Nakamura said.

During the year, Nakamura participates in multiple competitions leading up to the world championship. The performance consists of two to three minutes of edited music with a choreographed routine. In competition, participants are judged on a number of criteria, including trick difficulty, creativity and uniqueness of the trick. Along with the technical components, the judging panel looks at the performance in terms of choreography, musicality, stage presence and the use of a story line or theme.

Michael Nakamura performs his routine at the 2014 World Yo-Yo Contest.
"My favorite part of the contest is when we (the competitors) relax and hang out with each other," said Nakamura, adding to the final portion of the competition when all the performances have finished.

His parents are supportive of his yo-yo endeavors with his mother Tuti, normally accompanying him on the trips to competitions. He is the oldest son of Japanese and Indonesian immigrants and, apart from competing, Nakamura showcases his yo-yo skills at community events where he demonstrates tricks and teaches other kids how to use the yo-yo.

"Through yo-yo, I've learned to be more approachable to other people," Nakamura said. "Any yo-yo you see — they'll never have the same tricks that they do. They always have their own specific style, so because of how open you can be and how creative, that's kind of what attracted me to it."

He has plans to do yo-yo full-time after graduating high school, but Nakamura is setting his sights on attending college, either majoring in business or engineering. He is also currently sponsored by YoYoAddict, who provides him equipment and sometimes offers him free yo-yo models. The company is under the name YoYoDust. Nakamura was first inspired to pursue yo-yo more seriously after watching videos of Sumai, who is a four-time world yo-yo champion himself.

"His style, how he carries himself onstage — I wanted to bring a similar stage presence," Nakamura said.

With the past five to six years of his life consumed with yo-yo competitions, Nakamura has collected, traded and sold his fair share of yo-yo. He's since amassed a collection of about 300 yo-yos and, at that number, he usually sticks to five to six different yo-yos for competitions. His normal lineup of yo-yos can normally be seen sitting in a bookshelf in his room or laid out in a yo-yo case.

"It's kind of like in baseball, where people have different gloves that they like, maybe different shapes or sizes," Nakamura said. "Yo-yos have different weight distributions and shapes and how they're produced."

For those on the fence about yo-yo, Nakamura encourages people of all skill levels to try it out. Newbies can start off with basic tricks like walk the dog, traverse or split the stack. Sites like joyoexpert.com can walk people through the steps in completing those simple tricks.

"Anyone can learn — the biggest advice is to really stick with it because, in the beginning, it's difficult to get the basics down, but once you get the basics, it's a lot more fun," Nakamura said. "The hard work you put into yo-yo really pays off in the end. Not only do you have a way to push yourself, but there's also competitions and a supportive community to help you out."

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**Polaris Tours 2015 Schedule**

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Educator-Filmmaker Satsuki Ina, Ph.D, to Keynote at 46th Manzanar Pilgrimage

The Manzanar Committee also hails the creation of Honolulu National Monument in Hawaii.

LOS ANGELES — Satsuki Ina, Ph.D., will be the keynote speaker at the 46th annual Manzanar Pilgrimage, sponsored by the Manzanar Committee, which is set to take place at noon on April 25 at the Manzanar National Historic Site in California's Owens Valley.

Born behind barbed wire at the Tule Lake Segregation Center during World War II, Ina, 70, is professor emerita in the School of Education at California State University, Northridge, and founder of the Family Study Center. As a licensed psychotherapist specializing in community trauma, she has conducted groups for older Americans who were children in the internment camps.

Ina has been researching the long-term impact of the unjust incarceration of Japanese Americans for the past 15 years. She also has produced two documentary films on the subject that were broadcast nationally on the subject. She has written a book, "Incorporated:

Los Angeles Times The project is 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.

In addition, the Manzanar Committee on Feb. 20 hailed the declaration of the site of the Honolulu Internment Camp as a National Monument by President Barack Obama on Feb. 19.

Honolulu, located in Hawaii, on the island of Oahu, has long been an "overgrown ghost" on privately owned land. But during WWII, the site was home to an internment camp that incarcerated 500 Japanese Americans and 4,500 prisoners of war.

Honolulu internment camp "Toguchi Dam" (Holl Valley) will also be featured.

By proclamation, President Obama, under authority granted to the president of the United States under the Antiquities Act of 1906, created the Honolulu National Monument, protecting and preserving this site in perpetuity.

"Honolulu National Monument, Hawaii is a house of the Japanese American community,"said Dr. Ina. "We are honored to have Dr. Ina speaking at this year’s pilgrimage," said Manzanar Committee Co-Chair Bruce Embrey. "On the 70th anniversary of the closing of the camps and the end of World War II, it’s an excellent time to have someone with Dr. Ina’s experience discuss the impact of the forced removal on the Japanese American community.

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The Manzanar at Dusk program will feature a performance by the Youth Circle and a slide show of photographs of the Manzanar experience.
Dick S. Hamada to be inducted in the Military Intelligence Corps Hall of Fame

The late Dick S. Hamada, Honolulu, Hawaii, has been selected for induction into the Army's MIS Corps Hall of Fame at Fort Huachuca, Ariz. Hamada, who passed away in May 2014 at age 90, will be inducted in ceremonies in June, according to a letter from Maj. Gen. Robert Ashley, commander of the U.S. Army Intelligence Center of Excellence.

Hamada was one of about 6,000 Japanese Americans who served in the Military Intelligence Service in World War II. Hamada was among a handful of Nisei assigned to Detachment 101 of the Office of Strategic Services, forerunner of the Central Intelligence Agency.

They spent months deep behind enemy lines in Northern Burma conducting clandestine operations, leading native and Allied troops in guerrilla raids, gathering intelligence and rescuing downed Allied aviators.

In early 1945, Hamada single-handedly saved his battalion at the village of Ke Hei Mare. Made up primarily of Korean troops, the battalion was in its third day of fighting, and Hamada was leading a squadron of Nationalist Chinese troops protecting its left flank. Under intense, concentrated Japanese attack, Hamada's troops began to falter. He went from foxhole to foxhole, exposing himself to direct enemy fire, exhorting and urging his men to reorganize and attack. By nightfall, Hamada had ordered the attack to resume and observed the entire battalion from the “front line” and “rear line” positions.

Hamada led the Burma campaign, and Hamada and other Japanese Americans were assigned to C68 Detachment 206 in China.

Upon the conclusion of the war, Hamada returned to Hawaii and worked at the Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard, retiring as a planner and estimator. He was also widely known around the Islands as a baseball and softball umpire.

He was nominated for the Military Intelligence Corps Hall of Fame by Maj. Gen. Arthur Ishimoto, an MIS veteran of World War II who went on to become adjutant general of Hawaii.

“Dick Hamada was a true American hero whose exploits were largely unheralded during his lifetime. His induction into the Military Intelligence Corps Hall of Fame is long overdue and well-deserved,” said Ishimoto, who served in the Philippines and in the occupation of Japan after the war.

“The Nisei were recruited to use our knowledge of Japanese language and culture against the enemy,” said Ishimoto. “We were soldiers first, as Dick Hamada and many others demonstrated.”

Ishimoto has also initiated a review of Hamada’s role in the battle at Ke Hei Mare for a possible upgrade to the Bronze Star that Hamada was awarded.

An American Dream’ Premiers at the Seattle Opera

Seattle Opera’s mainstage season gets underway with the world premiere of the Belonging Project, performing at both Bainbridge Island and the McCaw Hill Theater.

In 2010, the Belonging Project began in Puget Sound as a community storytelling with an online repository of video and text in a digital archive. Each story explores a central question as Sue Eller, director of education at the Seattle Opera, notes, “If you had to leave home today, what’s the one thing you’d want to take with you.”

This year, the company will premiere one-hour operas set in Puget Sound during World War II titled “An American Dream,” a story inspired by two women, Mary Matsuda Kusunoki and Masayuki Watanabe, Crewe, a Japanese American author who was incarcerated as a young girl, and Watanabe, a Jewish-German opera singer whose family escaped Hitler’s Europe, encounter each other, unfolding a tale of friendship and shedding burdens.

Their struggles to maintain a sense of place in the Pacific Northwest during a period of historical turmoil aim to stir up the audience.

The Seattle Opera will also launch the Flight Project, a multiyear series of programs and events for families and school students.

“For An American Dream” includes Nita Yehida Nelson as Hinano Kobayashi. In addition to her debut this year with the Seattle Opera, Nelson will perform with the Seattle Symphony Orchestra in Beethoven’s Symphony No. 2.

Other cast members include Edgardo Sumaylo, D’Arna Lomax as Etsu, Brian L. S. Nakamura as Hiroshi Nakamura and Ivan Humm as Kei. Conductor Judith Yan and composer John Pery will take their Seattle Opera debut this year as well.

Audio excerpts and a synopsis can be found on Seattle Opera’s website.

Along with “An American Dream,” the company’s season will include a dynamic world premiere by Peter Von and Mary Stuart (Ung Koe,) both have never before been seen in Seattle and are part of the Belonging Project. Other new-to-Seattle productions are “The Marriage of Figaro,” “The Pearl Fishers” and “The Flying Dutchman.”

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For RSVL, email richard@seattleopera.com or call (206) 443-2244.

FORUM AND ART EXHIBIT BEGINS DISCUSSION ON THE ATOMIC BOMB’S 70TH ANNIVERSARY

By Tiffany Utida, Assistant Editor

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the atomic bomb dropping on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, sparking discussion and remembrance at the “Shadow for Peace, for the Souls of the Children, Hiroshima and Nagasaki Experience” event at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles on March 21.

“First forum will be the largest and most important of its kind,” said Doug Ether, president of the Japanese American Society of Southern California.

The JAMN-held program, which will be held in the Tel Aviv Democracy Forum at 2 p.m., preceded by an art exhibition at 1 p.m., is presented by the Orange Coast Optimist Club, Japan America Society of Southern California, Angels Hiroshima Memorial Committee, and the U.S. Consulate-General in Los Angeles.

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**>>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 the War and the national need for agricultural laborers.
Info: Visit www.njaamtm.org

**>>PNW**

23rd Annual Spring Bazaar
Portland, OR
March 19; 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Niihiron Buddhist Temple
2026 S.E. Yamhill

Celebrate spring at the 23rd Annual Spring Bazaar with the Niihiron Buddhist Temple. All proceeds will benefit the temple. Bento meal selections and gelato will be available for purchase.
Info: Visit www.niihiron-shu.org or call (360) 652-7085.

**>>NCWNP**

Golden State Warriors With Berkeley JACL
Oakland, CA
March 19; 7 p.m.

Oracle Arena
7000 Coliseum Way
Cost: Tickets $48

Only a few tickets left for the Berkeley JACL Night at the Warriors. The game is scheduled against the Atlanta Hawks, with seats above center court. Game time is 7 p.m. Please join the Berkeley JACL for a night at Oracle Arena.
Info: Contact Mark Fujikawa at (510) 232-0724 or fujikawa@sblobal.net for tickets and more information.

Hidden Legacy + 'Take the JA Train'
San Jose, CA
March 21; 8 p.m.

Weley United Methodist Church
656 N. Fifth St.

The museum's public programs Contemporary Asian Theater Scene and the Wesley Jazz Ensemble join forces this year for an evening of traditional Japanese performance art. The event will also feature a screening of "Hidden Legacy: Japanese Traditional Performing Arts in the World War II Internment Camps."
Info: Visit www.jamsj.org or call (408) 294-313.

Happoii Kai
El Cerrito, CA
March 21; 2-4 p.m.

Fairmont School Auditorium
6500 Stockton Ave.
Cost: Free

Sakura Kai presents this year's Happoii Kai, a biennial student recital. Programming includes taiko, karaoke, hula, ukulele, line dance, flute duet and shigin solo performance with an Oboe Duo. At intermission, sales of sushi and wagashi will be available for purchase.
Info: Visit www.sakurakais.org or call (510) 778-3466.

**>>PSW**

'Shadows for Peace: For the Sake of the Children'
Orange County, CA
March 10-19

Nooon
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 JANNM on March 21. Forum speakers include Tomoko Maekawa, Dr. David Krieger, Dr. Akiko Mikamo and a video interview of Dr. James Yamazaki.
Info: Contact Richard Fukuhara or call (213) 628-2725.

**>>MDC**

Spring Shake!
Niles, IL
March 14; 8 p.m.-12:30 a.m.

White Eagle Banquet and Restaurant
6899 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 Takao and "Huskly Love" with DJ Ben Stover's "Electric Blue Entertainment."
Info: Visit www.jaclchicago.org or call (773) 720-7171.

'Minnesota's Secret WWII Weapon: Japanese Americans in the Military Intelligence Service' Photo Exhibition Opening Ceremony
St. Paul, MN
May 17; 1 p.m.

Historic Ft. Snelling Visitor's Center
200 Tower Ave.

This event is in partnership with the Minnesota Historical Society. The keynote speaker will be Brig. Gen. Paul Nakasone. The photo exhibition will run from April 30-July 5.
Info: Visit www.historicftsnelling.org or call (612) 720-1171.

Nature and Pattern in Japanese Design Exhibit
Seattle, WA
April 19; 12:30 p.m.

Seattle Art Museum
1400 E. Pquesol St.
Cost: Adult ticket $9

This installation includes two rotations of Matsugatani dishes, 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.

68th Annual Japanese American Community Graduation Banquet Portland, OR
May 3

Maltunomah Athletic Club
1849 S.W. Salmon St.
Cost: Adult ticket $56; free for graduating high school students

This year's annual banquet is sponsored by 11 Niikei organizations from the Portland area. Scholarships will also be awarded at the luncheon. The event's keynote speaker will be Elizabeth Asahi-Sato. RSVP at larouche@msn.com or call (503) 698-4656.

Los Angeles, CA
April 7; 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 JANNM to discuss her work. Yamaguchi will sign copies of the exhibition catalog following the program.
Info: Visit www.jannm.org or call (213) 626-0414.

L.A. Ukulele Expo 2015
Los Angeles, CA
April 18; 11:30 a.m.

JACCC
244 S. San Pedro St.
Grab your ukulele and join JACCC 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.jaccc.org or call (213) 626-2725.

Fiesta Matsuri
Los Angeles, CA
May 3; 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

JACCC
244 S. San Pedro St.
Fiesta Matsuri combines the Children's Day celebration of two communities — the Japanese Kocomo no Hi and Dia de los Ninos from Mexico. Celebrate the growth, happiness and success of the children for a day of workshops and activities designed for kids of all ages. Fiesta Matsuri engages families with culture and community in a collaboration to promote understanding among a diverse group of people.
Info: Visit www.jaccc.org or call (213) 626-2725.
**Memoriam**

Akaiyama, Harry Stuart, 88, Los Angeles, CA; Feb. 21, he is survived by his children, Carry Sakai (Glenda) Gardner and Rick Akaiyama, nieces, Steven Akaiyama, nieces, Diane Akaiyama; he is also survived by many other relatives; gc; gq: 1.

Higashida, Pauline Huatani, 76, Hiro, HI; Jan. 17; she is survived by her husband, Thomas Higashida and their children, Ann Higashida and Rhiannon Higashida; stepmother, Sumiko Higashida; stepfather, June Mercado; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Izumo, Kimaye, 93, Los Angeles, CA; Feb. 15, she was preceded by her husband, Hiroshi, she is survived by her children, Robert, Henry, Kazu and Judy; his brother, Henry (Kay) Isikawa, sister-in-law, Mimi Isikawa; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 4; gq: 3.

Kagawa, Robert Toshitoki, 94, Gardena, CA; Feb. 13; he is survived by his wife, Rodney (Coco) Kagawa and their children, Robert and Jules; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 6.

Kohara, Patricia Tatsumi, 72, Hiro, HI; Jan 31; she is survived by her husband, Yo Kohara, they were married for 50 years; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2.

Koizumi, Yasuo, 90, Millen, HI; Jan. 8, she is survived by her children, Julia H. Sakai, Ellen A. Umura, Charlotte S. Katozawa, Myra S. Holt and Bill F. Kohara; her brother, Robert T. Arikawa; sisters, Edna H. Yamashita and Betty C. Ensay; gc: 11; gq: 25.

Koseki, Ted Toshiro, 94, Los Angeles, CA; Feb. 1; he was preceded by his son, Dr. Calvin Koseki; he is survived by his daughter-in-law, Francis Gong; his sons, William (Terry) Koseki and Mark Ohi; nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 9.

Matsunaga, Hana, 91, Los Angeles, CA; Feb. 9; she is survived by her children, Robert, Karen (Masa and Yon) Eto, her grandchildren, Trinita and Grace, her nieces and nephews; gc: 8.

Matsuzaka, Kiyoshi, 80, Los Angeles, CA; Feb. 15, she is survived by her children, Kiyoshi and Yoko, her grandchildren, Keiko and Fumiko, her nieces and nephews; gc: 6.

Morimoto, Etta, 96, Los Angeles, CA; Feb. 15, she is survived by her children, Brian and Leann, her grandchildren, Brian, Leann; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 6.

Nakamura, James, 101, Los Angeles, CA; Feb. 13, she is survived by her children, Ronald and John, her grandchildren, Jeff, Ed, David, and Sue, her nieces and nephews; gc: 8.

Nakatsuru, Sakaye, 91, Los Angeles, CA; Feb. 8, she is survived by her children, Miki, Toshi (Miki) Tsukamoto and Wendy (Miki) Tsukamoto; her nieces and nephews; gc: 5.

Nakatsuru, Sakaye, 91, Los Angeles, CA; Feb. 8, she is survived by her children, Miki, Toshi (Miki) Tsukamoto and Wendy (Miki) Tsukamoto; her nieces and nephews; gc: 5.

Nishimoto, Norman Nobuo, 86, Los Angeles, CA; Feb. 15; he was preceded by his wife, Helen Nishimoto; he is survived by his children, Nobuo and Yoko, his nieces and nephews; gc: 6.

Nitta, Kazuo, 92, Vancouver, WA; Jan. 31, she is survived by her children, Eiko (Jeffrey) Masuda, her nieces and nephews; gc: 4.

Nitta, Kazuo, 92, Vancouver, WA; Jan. 31, she is survived by her children, Eiko (Jeffrey) Masuda, her nieces and nephews; gc: 4.

Oyama, Roy M., 91, Caldwell, ID; Jan. 10; he is survived by his children, Shirley and Beverly, his grandchildren, David and Joel, his nieces and nephews; gc: 3.

Sakuma,为进一步, 79, Honolulu, HI; Jan. 12; she is survived by her children, Grace and Kay, her nieces and nephews; gc: 9.

Shiro, Tatsuo, 93, Los Angeles, CA; Apr. 2, he is preceded by his son, Ken Shiro, his nieces and nephews; gc: 3.

Tanabe, Mariye, 91, Los Angeles, CA; Feb. 10; she is survived by her husband, James, her nieces and nephews; gc: 3.

Takemoto, George S., 96, Murrieta, CA; Feb. 15, he is survived by his children, Allen, Carol and Sharon, his nieces and nephews; gc: 7.

Takemoto, George S., 96, Murrieta, CA; Feb. 15, he is survived by his children, Allen, Carol and Sharon, his nieces and nephews; gc: 7.

Toshiba, Yuzuru, 89, Los Angeles, CA; Feb. 16, he is survived by his children, Donald and Phillip, his nieces and nephews; gc: 8.

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**Tribute**

**Douglas Shigeo Iwamoto**

A native of Salinas, Calif., Doug had a large family that he loved unconditionally. He was an active member of the Buddhist Church of America, where he served as president for two terms. He also served as president of the Buddhist Temple of America.

Doug was preceded by his father, Saburo Iwamoto, and his mother, Yoko Iwamoto. He is survived by his children, Mark Iwamoto and Sarah Iwamoto. He is also survived by his grandchildren, 13 in total, and great-grandchildren, 5 in total. Doug is survived by his wife, Yoko Iwamoto, and his nieces and nephews, all of whom he adored. He leaves behind a legacy of love and compassion that will be remembered for generations to come.

His family, friends, and community mourn his passing and celebrate his life. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, February 21, at the Buddhist Church of America in Salinas, Calif., where he served as president for two terms. The service will begin at 10 a.m., followed by a reception at 11 a.m. in the church's community hall.

The family asks that donations be made to the Buddhist Church of America, P.O. Box 123, Salinas, Calif. 93901 or to the Salvation Army, 200 S. Main St., Salinas, Calif. 93901.

**Frances F. Sugai**

Frances F. Sugai, age 86, died Feb. 11, 2015. Beloved wife of the late Ray. Loving mother of Pauline (Bill) Hase, Toshiko (Ted) Sugai and Alaine (Tom) Hay. Devoted grandmother of Morgan, Bryan, Sarah, Robert, Matthew and Elizabeth. Dear sister of Masako, Mary and the late Mary Tanaka, Joe, John, Max and Sam. Service was on Saturday, Feb. 21, at Christ Church of Chicago, 6047 N. Rockwell, Chicago, IL 60639. In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to Christ Church of Chicago or the Salvation Army Community, 9520 N. Ashland, Chicago, IL 60640.

**Pacific Citizen Obituaries**

March 6-12, 2015
LETTER >> continued from page 2

To suggest that black Americans do not have legitimate reasons to protest racial disparity in policing and the criminal justice system isn’t just a matter of ignorance; it’s a form of legacy. When we speak of the ongoing oppression of black men and women in this country, we are not appealing to abstract theories of philosophy and politics, but to established history and experience. As the American Psychological Association has long maintained, racial prejudices are deeply rooted in the psyche of white Americans. A phenomenon that continues to have concrete, deadly results when it comes to interactions between law enforcement officers and young people of color.

Because these well-documented and severe inequalities persist in policing and the justice system, the recent appointments of Mike Brown, Eric Clapton, Tamir Rice and dozens more cannot be so neatly divorced from the murder of Emmett Till, Harriet Lee Johnson and all those who perished under the heavy yoke of the lynching tree. Criminal only speaks to a portion of the policy debate that continues to play out in the media and in the courtroom, and even if it is not as extreme or as violent as the recent executive actions, the deep roots of the issues continue to be the root of the problem.

The issue of with a plethora of socio-economic barriers, black men’s liberties are commodified by name, an anti-white conspiracy between the Executive Branch and right wing leaders, and local government is guided by Mr. Unroe offers a thin addition at the end of his polemic. My opinions are in complete alignment with the mission, principles and goals of the Japanese American Citizens League.

Finally, the article concludes, “Justice has been served. Justice is not vengeance, and vengeance is not justice.”

Cheap terminology aside, the NYTSC remains convinced that true justice has been served in communities like Ferguson, and unarmed black and white police forces rarely use lethal force and don’t keep black police force in rural communities. Because a government comprised of democratically elected representatives is ultimately accountable to us, its citizens, expressing our frustration through protest is not some newfadon designed to make us seem like a better place, nor is it to serve the larger American experience. Rather, we believe that collectively engaging in social action is the true mark of a socially conscious citizen.

One of the reasons why the youth are so passionate about working with the JACL is that it is an organization committed to civil engagement and activism — particularly on issues that do not appear to directly affect the Black community. Not only have we presented and fought for justice, but we have continued to support the redress movement and battled incarceration, but as our executive director, Pia Chi Giudice, mentioned in her response, we have long engaged on issues like marriage equality, we have freed the immigrant and ensured their rights; we have spoken up in defense of our Arab American and Muslim American neighbors when it was unpopular, and we continue to foster programs that encourage dialogue between our respective communities.

We join with others’ struggles because we understand that our community’s freedom is cheap without a common purpose, for our neighbors. As Dr. King taught, “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.”

We believe this to be true. Our eyes, therefore, go to the plight of those suffering in Ferguson and beyond, and to those in rural and urban communities across the country who are growing under the weight of white violence and the constant threat of deportation. In yearning for an understanding of the root of all struggles for human dignity and social justice, we wholly reject any attempts to morally reassign or intentionally distort the lived realities of our communities.

Sincerely,

The NYTSC