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YO-YO CHAMPION MICHAEL NAKAMURA EYES ANOTHER TITLE

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JACL Chapters Honor Day of Remembrance.

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MIS Veteran to Be Inducted in the Military Intelligence Corps Hall of Fame.
Let's Step Up, Donate and Advocate for the P.C.

Greetings from drought-plagued California. For some of you east of us, we hope your spring arrives very soon!

As the P.C. nears to the NCWJP 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, 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 nuclear 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 glance 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 rededicate myself toward resolution when I was introduced to the JACL by my wife, Valerie, and her father, George Yoshinobu, in the early 90s. As I read the P.C., I discovered and was enlightened to find a tool as respected and essential communications vehicle — a lifetime connection to the JACL experience and its roots, especially for those like us living in isolated or rural areas. Today, the JACL is still fighting that battle for us, striving to ensure that ALL people are offered equal opportunity in education, employment, health care, earnings and more.

Now is the time to step up and support the Pacific Citizen. It is 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 stands and positions JACL has taken, especially in the area of civil rights issues.

The P.C. staff has done an excellent job of formalizing a program to facilitate updating the P.C. website digitalizing the social media 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 would bring "outside" 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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

The annual holiday edition (Pacific Citizen, Dec. 12-21, 2014-22, 2015) of this newspaper recently ran a letter from David Unruh, 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 that public discourse is a weight and reputation, we do not feel the ideas expressed therein are in line with the JACL’s mission.

It is the feeling of the NYSC that the kind of insensitivity and ignorance expressed in the column cannot go unchallenged, particularly when those liabilities appear in this kind of platform.

Because the JACL’s executive director has already publicly and family addressed the JACL member? Y N

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DAY OF REMEMBRANCE IS WORTH REMEMBERING

By GHAsheve

W e have a Day of Remembrance event where you live, and if so, do 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 parts of Arizona. Those 120,000 people were sent initially to temporary quarters in place like converted horse stalls at race tracks, and ultimately at one of nine 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 suffered 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 loners on America’s proud history. One way to make sure we remember the interment 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, DOR, was held at the Denver Buddhist temple and featured Sacramento-based theater and filmmaker Stan Tani, 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 at History 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 barracks. Unfortunately because of regulations requiring the exhibit to be wheelchair-accessible, the room is spacious and the floor is smooth and clean. It’s not realistic at all and makes us feel 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 real,” Futz dliges. Along with putting up the sign this year, History Colorado has been a “siting place for Mile High JACL to organize its annual event. As a board member, I was asked to oversee the event and moderate a panel with concentration camp survivors on Feb. 15. More than 200 people (not just JACL) showed up, an unexpected sign that E.O. 9066 is still remembered.

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

>> 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 sponsored and accompanied by a delegation from the JACL, the nation’s oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization.

Endo was born on Jan. 3, 1922, in Seattle, Wash. He was removed from his home with his family and sent to Omori, Calif., about 45 miles south of Los Angeles.

The Endo family was more for 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 Asian American student in his elementary, middle and high schools.

As a recent graduate of Clifton College, Endo worked with the JACL in the 1953 March on Washington and heard Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. deliver his “I Have a Dream” speech firsthand.

Two years later, prompted by the death of his mentor Rev. Jim Reit and with support from JACL, Endo traveled from 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 rare as a minority) Endo published poetry with members of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee and Southern Christians Leadership, as well as demonstrated in the streets of Selma under the direction 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 actively informing the educational system and curriculum. Presently, Endo works as an organizer in Arlington Va., in immigration communities.

THE JAPANESE AMERICAN LEADERSHIP DELEGATION ANNOUNCES ITS 2015 DELEGATES


Ten Japanese American leaders, including JACL’s Priscilla Ouchida, will visit Tokyo and Hiroshima as part of a weeklong tour.

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. Now in its 15th year, the JALD provides opportunities for Japanese Americans to establish and maintain ties to the U.S.-Japan Council (USJC). They will firstly visit Tokyo, where past delegations have typically met with the prime minister, foreign minister and top business executives.

USJC President Irene Hirano Inouye 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 Hardman (Seattle, Wash.), senior attorney, Mieras of Corp.
- Yujiro Inoue (New York, N.Y.), assistant director, global initiative, Asea Brown Boveri
- Toshihide Mineta (Detroit, Mich.), managing partner, management and financial advisory firm, PricewaterhouseCoopers
- Dr. Richard Morimoto (Chicago, Ill.), Bill and Gaye Cook professor of biology, Northwestern University
- Priscilla Ouchida (San Francisco, Calif.), executive director, JACL
- Linda Tsai (Los Angeles, Calif.), senior manager internet, and CSM communications.
- Easton Defense
- Space & Security
- Katsu Takayama (Washington, D.C.), president and CEO, Asian Pacific American Chamber of Commerce & Entrepreneurship
- Tyler Tokishita (Honolulu, Hawaii), vp, external affairs and agency relations, Island Insurance Companies
- Dr. Tracy Tanaka (Chapel Hill, N.C.), senior vp, PARLEX International
- Dr. Robin Yasui (Denver, Colo.), director of geriatric, Denver Health Services
- AUJC Alumni created a network to ensure that “the commitment to strengthening U.S.-Japan relations is maintained.” The JALD began in 2000, and to date, 156 delegates have participated in the program.

This year’s JALD delegates participated in an orientation session on Jan. 30-31 at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles. Little Tokyo. Pictured are (front row, from left) Sach Takayama, Lynn Hardman, Yujiro Inoue, Linda Morimoto, Thomas Morimoto (US-Japan Council senior vp), Priscilla Ouchida, Tracy Tsutsumi, Irene Hirano Inouye (US-Japan Council president), (third row, from left) Toshiki Nakagawa, Robin Yasui, Richard Morimoto and Tyler Tokishita.
SAN JOSE HONORS 'STORIES FROM THE PAST, LESSONS FOR TODAY'

San Jose's DOR event featured Congressman Mike Honda, who shared his perspective on the theme "Stories From the Past, Lessons for Today."

By Christy Chang

More than 250 members of the community came together to commemorate the 35th annual San Jose Day of Remembrance, which was held on Feb. 15 at the San Jose Buddhist Church Betsum. The event was organized by the Nikkei Nennojumon Community Committee and was co-sponsored by the NOC's Will Koshu.

Drawing on the theme "Stories From the Past, Lessons for Today," Tom Kita, executive director of the California History Center at De Anza College, shared stories of three people who dedicated themselves to the redress movement.

The strength and determination shown by Sue Takashima, George Yoshinari, and Mits Kusumakomoto continue to inspire us today. They and others were never meant to be the end of the story; it was meant to be the beginning of a commitment by our community to build our Constitution and Bill of Rights mean something for everyone.

During a 1979 pilgrimage to Utah, where he was incarcerated as a child, Victor Hataya wrote a poem, which he titled "When a Snake." It reflects on the questions his parents and grandparents wouldn't answer and it ended with understanding and "argato argato argato," for what they endured.

Kunitaro Inaba recounted the experiences of his grandfather, Teru Inaba, whose father was a prominent leader in the Japanese American community in Salt Lake City. The story told in the first person, described the FBI's pursuit of Teru's father, including attempting to smear him while he was in the hospital in an iron lung.

Central to the event was the recitation of the traditional candle-lighting ceremony by Shashabashi and Koso. The ceremony included the tolling of the Tanimura gong and drum playing.

The event was held by Silicon Valley JACL chapter officers, members of the NOC's Redi Nakayama San Jose JACL chapter officers, and members of the NOC's board of directors.

Congressman Mike Honda said that although F-40 was signed after the 9/11 attack, there was evidence of racial profiling and thousands were taken into custody. He spoke of the power of sharing personal stories as a way to practice citizenship and fight oppression and racism. He encouraged the audience to learn about other cultures and other religions.

Performances by San Jose Taiko underscored the emotional power of the night. The first song was "Day of Remembrance," which was composed and arranged by artist-director Franco Imperial, who was inspired by the 2022 San Jose DOR event.

In addition to the NOC, the event was sponsored by a number of community organizations, including the San Jose NPO, and San Jose Valley chapters of the JACL, Santa Clara County Asian Law Alliance, Campaign for Justice, Santa Clara County Office of Human Relations, Japanese American Museum of San Jose, San Jose Buddhist Church Betsum, San Jose Peace and Justice Center, San Jose Taiko, South Bay Islamic Association, Wesley United Methodist Church, and Yu Ali Kai.

CCDC'S DOR FEATURES THE DISTINGUISHED AMERICAN AWARDS

JACL's strong advocacy in the aftermath of 9/11 and the organization's continuing role as an advocate in the current civil rights landscape was highlighted at the Central California District Council Day of Remembrance and Ceremony Installation on Feb. 15. More than 150 guests attended the annual event in Fresno.

The event also featured the return of the Distinguished American Awards, which recognize individuals and organizations that have made outstanding contributions to civil rights advocacy. This year's honorees were John Teshima, former JACL national director, who received the Spirit of Justice Award; and Rev. Saburo and Marion Matsuda, who were recognized with the Spirit of Education Award.

Teshima was also the event's keynote speaker. His comments on "Fort 9/11 and JACL's Role" offered fascinating insight into the leadership of JACL following the 2001 terrorist attack. He remembered immediately running to his radio on the way to a business meeting and learning of the attack. His immediate reaction was one of shock as well as a certainty that the rampant fear and hysteria directed at Japanese Americans during World War II would soon be revisited upon Muslim Americans in response to 9/11.

Friends from the Islamic Cultural Center of Fresno were among the guests attending the Day of Remembrance. For the first time, Teshima acknowledged his participation by concluding his remarks with a combination of JACL's commitment to advocating on behalf of all groups facing discrimination and hate, saying, "If you find yourself in trouble, call us, the JACL. We will be there for you."

The Matsuda's, now in their mid-90s, continue to visit classrooms and community organizations up and down the state to share their story of incarceration. They often speak to students outside of California as well. In 2014, they were honored to give 65 presentations. The couple never came down an opportunity to share their story, even if it means traveling at their own expense. They are passionate about educating others as a way of giving back to their community and ensuring that such injustices by our government never happen again.

Shortly after the Day of Remembrance, the Matsuda were notified of another prestigious honor: CCDC Governor Robert Barlow nominated them for Volunteer of the Year in Fresno County. The wonderful news that they were selected to receive a Lifetime Achievement Award as Volunteers of the Year was a "tremendous gift" in a very memorable week.
CHICAGO’S DOR PAYS HOMAGE TO ‘WOMEN WARRIORS’

By Ryan Kuramitsu

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 in 1942. 

The event was a means of remembering and honoring the incarceration experience had by our Nisei communities. The sentiments expressed, to the effect that “the impact the incarceration experience has had on our families, our community and our country,” 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. It is important because it is intrinsically linked to a responsible furthering of our future. Memories must be honored and grieved and held onto moving forward. 

This year, more than 130 attendees braved the foul 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 Mutsuji Ezudo and Yon Kochiyama. Nagae also specifically honored the women who played an integral role in the redress movement, including Grayce Uyehara and Cherry Kinosita, as well as Chicago’s own Tsune Nakagawa, Chiyu Tomihiro and Kiyono Yoshimura. 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 Nisei history from a refreshingly femalecentric perspective was a needed rebuke to our familiar patriarchal narratives, which generally consign Japanese American women to a secondary role; instead, they are deputized as community leaders, as wives and daughters of “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, acting as primary protagonists. The leaders honored in this year’s Day of Remembrance ceremony aren’t quite the docile women society often conjures by assumption and stereotype — they are not curtsying demurely, serving tea with a quiet smile. They are proud, feisty, inspiring people. They don’t need men to speak for them. They are examples for Nikkei of all genders of which to aspire.

PORTLAND JACL’S DOR CELEBRATES ITS LOCAL NISEI

By Heidi Tolentino

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 Epworth United Methodist Church. Among the distinguished guests in the audience was JACL National President David Lin, who thanked the Nisei for their service and sacrifice to our country.

The program’s keynote speaker featured Linda Tamura, professor emerita of education at Willamette University and a Sansei 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 bequeathed to her is to “Know Your Story.” Tamura said that knowing your story is understanding your own history, which is why 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 others. She gave examples of Nisei who have spoken out against injustices and taken action for themselves and their community, among them Segoe Nishikawa, 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 we 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 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, Joe and Nellie Saito, and the numerous lessons they have 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. Ho, 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.

Nakamura 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 down time 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) can relax and hang out with each other," said Nakamura, adding to the final portion of the competition when all performances have finished.

His parents are supportive of his yo-yo endeavors with his mother Tati, normally accompanying him on the trips to competitions. He's 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-yoer you see — they will 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 together based off his genuine yo-yo skills. The company is under the not-for-profit Hiroyoshi Sumii. Nakamura was first inspired to pursue yo-yo more seriously after watching videos of Sumii, 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 owned, traded, and sold his fair share of yo-yo. He has won a collection of about 300 yo-yos and, at that number, he usually sticks to five to six different yo-yo's for competitions. His normal lineup of yo-yo's 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-yo 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 atom. Sites like yoyospirit.com can walk people through the steps in completing these 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-yoing 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**

- **Spring Japan**: "Hiroshima, Miyajima, Kyoto, Inuyama, Hakone, Tokyo"
- **Australia & New Zealand**: "Canberra, Sydney, Christchurch, Queenstown"
- **South Korea (East Coast)**: "Seoul, Jeju, Busan, Gyeongju, Seoul"
- **Bikini Final Tour with Ken**: "Off the Beaten Track in Kyushu"
- **The Best of Hawaiian Islands**: "Oahu, Maui, Big Island"
- **Scenic Norway**: "Oslo, Lillehammer, Loen, Stalheim, Bergen, Telemark"
- **Japan By Train**: "Hiroshima, Kurashiki, Okayama, Kyoto, Tokyo"
- **Scenic Coast**: "Seattle, Portland, Newport, Gold Beach, San Francisco"
- **Jewels of Morocco**: "Casablanca, Fes, Erfoud, Ouarzazate, Marrakesh"
- **Spring Japan**: "Hiroshima, Kyoto, Kanazawa, Takayama, Tokyo"
- **Italy**: "Rome, Pisa, Florence, Milan, Venice, Caorle, Amalfi Coast, Pompelii"
- **South Korea (West Coast)**: "Jeju, Yeosu, Gwangju, Boseong, Jeju"
- **Islands of Okinawa & Shikoku**: "Naha, Takamatsu, Matsuyama, Kochi"
- **South America Escape**: "Rio de Janeiro, Iguassu Falls, Buenos Aires"

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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, Fullerton, and founder of the Family Study Center. As a licensed psychotherapist specializing in community trauma, she has conducted groups for many who were children in the prison 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 public television as part of the “The Camps” and “From a Silk Crown: A Japanese American Story.”

“We are honored to have Dr. Satsuki 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.”

Added Embrey, “Dr. Ina’s insights and perspective will help illuminate how our community evolved and grappled with the incarceration and being deprived of the American rights not to mention the difficulties of life after camp.”

The Manzanar at Dusk program follows that same evening at the Lone Pine High School auditorium in Lone Pine, which is located approximately nine miles south of the Manzanar National Historic Site.

The program is co-sponsored by the Nikkei Student Union at California State Polytechnic University, 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 Honkohi Internment Camp as a National Park by President Barack Obama.

Honkohi, located in Kiruna, Hawaii, on the island of Oahu, has long been an “overgrown gash” on privately owned land. During World War II, the site was home to an internment camp that incarcerated 500 Japanese American men, women and children.

Honkohi inmates named the camp “Toguchi Dan” (Hill Valley).

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

“Honkohi National Monument in Hawaii permanently protects a site where Japanese American citizens, resident immigrants and prisoners of war were held captive during World War II,” the White House said in a statement. “Located on the island of Oahu, the monument will help tell the difficult story of the internment camp’s impact on the Japanese American community and the frequency of civil rights during times of conflict.”

Asked Obama, “We’re announcing a new park in my home state, before I was adopted by Illinois, my home state of Hawaii. Honkohi was once an internment camp for Japanese Americans during WWII. Going forward, it’s going to be a monument to a painful part of our history so that we don’t repeat the mistakes of the past.”

National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis echoed the president’s remarks. “At Honkohi National Monument, we will share the stories of those who were unjustly held there during WWII as a reminder to the world about the importance of protecting civil liberties, even in times of national crisis.”

Manzanar Committee Co-Chair Bruce Embrey noted that another Japanese American confinement site would be protected and preserved, strengthening the community’s efforts to tell the story of the unjust incarceration of Japanese Americans during WWII.

“Manzanar, Honkohi and the two other Japanese American confinement sites are immensely important to the full story of Japanese American during World War II. Together, they serve as a monument to the story of what Japanese Americans were subjected to during a time of war and the impact of the internment camps.”

Minidoka Pilgrimage Dates Set for June 25-28

SEATTLE, WASH. — The Minidoka Pilgrimage Planning Committee has announced June 25-28 as the dates for the 37th annual pilgrimage.

In 1942, nearly 12,000 people of Japanese ancestry living in Washington and Oregon, many of whom were American citizens, were removed from their homes and sent to a detention camp near Twin Falls, Idaho.

Former internees, their families and friends from Seattle, Wash., Portland, Ore., and across the nation will make the journey to the former Minidoka Camp in Idaho to learn about internment and ask questions about the Minidoka experience.

The Minidoka Pilgrimage officially begins in Twin Falls, Idaho, on June 25 for dinner. The next day features a full day of educational programming. On June 27, the group will tour the Minidoka National Park Site, followed by small group discussions to learn and share experiences. The pilgrimage concludes on June 29 with a commemorative closing ceremony at the Minidoka National Park Site.

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Also included in the pilgrimage:

• Access to an original barrack building and mess hall
• People will be able to tour portions of both historic camps
• The reconstructed fence is complete. It runs about 1 mile in length from the stone entrance buildings along the North Side Canal to the historic swimming hole. The trail is parallel to the fence.
• New collections storage building completed to house Minidoka collections items at Preservation Forest Field
• Guided tour of the Minidoka National Historic Site by National Park Service staff

As participation is limited, there are two different registration packages for this year’s event. The deadline to register is June 1.

The Salt Lake/Boulder package includes bus transportation from Boulder, Wash., to Twin Falls, Idaho.

The registration fee is $150.

The Boise/Twin Falls package requires participants to provide their own transportation to Twin Falls, Idaho.

The registration fee is $200.

Registration fees include meals and all activities during the pilgrimage. Lodging must be made by each participant. There is also a discount for children under 12 and seniors 75 years and older.

In addition, the Minidoka Pilgrimage and Planning Committee is pleased to once again offer a Senior Scholarship for those who are over 80 years of age and were incarcerated in any of the American concentration camps during World War II.

This scholarship covers the registration fee, hotel and bus costs (round-trip bus transportation from Bellevue College to Minidoka). The committee acknowledges with gratitude and appreciation the Minidoka Remembrance Fund and the proceeds from the 2014 Day of Remembrance Gala Festive for making this scholarship possible.

A Youth Scholarship for youth under age 15 years of age to attend the pilgrimage and serve on the Pilgrimage Committee is also being offered.

All forms and information can be found on the Minidoka Pilgrimage website at www.minidokapilgrimage.org. For other questions or concerns, please email minidokapilgrimage@gmail.com. For those without computer access, please leave your name and address at Dale B. Watanabe at (208) 296-6260 and the forms will be sent via U.S. mail.
**Dick S. Hamada to be inducted in the Military Intelligence Corps Hall of Fame**

The late Dick S. Hamada, Honolulu, Hawaii, has been accepted for induction in the Army's MIS Corps Hall of Fame at Fort Huachuca, Ariz.

The late Dick S. Hamada, Honolulu, Hawaii, has been accepted for induction in the Army's Military Intelligence 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 E. Ashley, commanding general 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 selected 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 raids and Allied troops in guerrilla warfare gathering intelligence and rescuing downed Allied airmen.

In early 1945, Hamada single-handedly saved his battalion at the village of Ke Him Museum. Made up primarily of Kachin troops, the battalion was on the third day of fighting, and Hamada was leading a battalion of Nationalist Chinese troops protecting his left flank. Under intense, concentrated Japanese attack, Hamada's troops began retreating. He went from foxhole to foxhole, exposed to direct enemy fire, exhorting and using his men and recruiting a machine gun himself. The platform held, and the enemy attack was repelled. Hamada's commanding officer, an American, commended his leadership and credited Hamada with saving the entire battalion from "total defeat." Upon hearing the news, Hamada, the entire company and other Japanese Americans were assigned to C93 Detachment 20C 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 island 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.

“Hamada was a true American hero whose exploits were largely unknown 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. “But we were soldiers first, as Dick Hamada and many others demonstrated.”

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

**Notes:** Dick Hamada is one of the veterans featured in the new MIS exhibit at the U.S. Army Museum of Hawaii. A joint commissioning of the exhibit will be held on March 28, 2015, at 5:30 p.m. of the MIS Veterans National Reunion. For more information on the reunion, visit www.nveteransweek.com or email Anime Image atanime@kaboviall.net or call (808) 220-5547.

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**An American Dream’ Premiers at the Seattle Opera**

Seattle Opera’s mainstage season will open off the August with new productions 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 to make a digital quilt. Each story explores a central question as Sue Eiler, director of education at the Seattle Opera, notes: “If you want to leave home today, what’s the one thing you’d want to take with you?”

This year, the company will premiere an hour-long opera set in Puget Sound during World War II titled “An American Dream.” A story inspired by two women, Mary Matsumoto Chinoura and Marione Wattman Chinoura, a Japanese American author who was incarcerated as a young girl, and Weisbrodt, a Jewish-German open singer whose family escaped Hitler’s Europe, encounter each other, unfolding a telling story of friendship and surviving hatred.

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

Set for “An American Dream” includes Nina Yoshida Nishizawa and Mitsu Koyanagi. In addition to her debut this year with the Seattle Opera, Nelson will perform with the Salt Lake City Symphony at the Boston Symphony Orchestra’s Symphony No. 2.

Other performances include Marnie Smith as Jim, D’Anna LaPointe as Eva, Adam Lai as Makoto Koyanagi and Hao Chang as Satoko, Conductor Judith Yang and composer John Polifke will collaborate to make 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 dramatically flawed Nabori (Wendy) and Marilyn Stuart (Cassandra). Both pieces have never been seen in Seattle and are part of the Belonging Project.

Other new-to-Seattle productions include “The Marriage of Figaro” “The Pearl Fishers” and “The Flying Dutchman” which will debut as main stage performances.

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

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**Forum and Art Exhibit Begins Discussion on the Atomic Bomb’s 70th Anniversary**

By Tiffany Uyehara, Assistant Editor

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

“The forum will be the largest and most important of its kind,” said Doug Entel, president of the Japanese American Society of Southern Californians.

The JANS-hosted program, which will be held in the Tawakumi 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, Nagoya Auditors Association president of Go for Broke National Education Corporation, and the Japanese American National Museum.

“My hope is that this program will educate the community about what’s going on,” said artist/producer/project committee member Michael Kaneko. “It shows what happened to us and how that event also affected children. We need to really educate the coming generation of atomic history.”

After five years of planning, Fukurbu hopes that the forum and exhibition will address the ongoing effects of atomic weapons on the people of Japan and the world.

Program committee members include Robert Horning, a documentary award winner and co-producer of “Birch Bayou” and Executive Director of the U.S. Navy Institute, as well as Hiroyuki Sakata, founder and director of the U.S. Navy Institute, as well as Hiroyuki Sakata, founder and director of the U.S. Navy Institute.

Fukurbu, a former member of the Nagasaki Fire Department, will share his experience and lifelong effort to understand and document the impact of nuclear explosions on children. The 95-year-old survivor focused his efforts on the children concerned but not yet by the bombing.

In Dr. Yamaomi’s experience, as a participant in the United States Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission in Nagasaki.

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The forum will also include Tomoko Masakawa, an executive member of the Nagasaki Global Citizens’ Assembly for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, president of the Ne-Yo Asagi Nagasaki Camp and executive member of the International Exchange Division of Nagasaki Foundation for the Promotion of Peace, and Dr. David Krueger, who has lectured throughout Asia, Europe, and the U.S. on issues of peace, security, international law, and the abolition of nuclear weapons.

Dr. Krueger is president and founder of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, chair of the Nuclear Weapons Ban International Education and Research Institute, and chair of the executive committee of the Middle Powers Initiative and founder of the Global Council of Abolition 2000.

Additionally, Dr. Aldo Milano will discuss her work as president of the San Diego World Peace Initiative to Safeguard Humanity and president and medical psychologist at U.S. Japan Psychology Services in San Diego.

Milano is also the author of “Rising From the Ashes,” which is based on her father Shiro Milano’s experience.

“He was on top of his house roof with nothing to shield him at only 1,200 meters from the hypocenter in Hiroshima on Aug. 6 1945,” she said. “Shiro never lived American as aggrieved.”

While no further engagements have been made, Fukurbu hopes to carry the forum and an exhibit to other venues.

To RSVP, email richard@shadowforpeace.com or call (714) 296-8790.

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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 WWII and E.O. 9066 for a day of remembrance. The event’s keynote speaker will be Catherine Mitrano, and check-ins begin at 9 a.m.
Please register ahead of time for the Freedom Walk.

'American: Exclusion/Inclusion'
New York, NY
April 19
New York Historical Society
Museum and Library
107 Central Park West
Visit the exhibit to explore the century-old history of trade and immigration between China and the United States. This narrative begins from the late-18th century to the early 18th-century Japanese porcelain. The naturalistic sensibility deeply rooted in Japanese design is on display on both dishes at the exhibit.
Info: Visit www.nyhistory.org or call (212) 873-3400.

'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. The program is designed to nourish understanding, knowledge and appreciation for contemporary China in Boston’s Sister City, Hangzhou.
Info: Visit www.bostonchildrensmuseum.org or call (617) 426-6000.

>>PNW

White Eagle Banquet and Restaurant
6899 N. Milwaukee Ave.
Cost: Adult ticket $26
Welcome the new season and dance the night away with JACL Chicago’s 2015 board of directors. The JACL Chicago’s inaugural event will feature Kenny Takaoka and “Husky Love” with DJ Ben Stover’s “Electric Blue Entertainment.”
Info: Visit www.jaclchicago.org or call (773) 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 M. Nakosone. The photo exhibition will run from April 34-July 5 and Aug. 25-Oct. 21.
Info: Visit www.historicfortsnelling.org or call (612) 726-1171.

>>NCWNP

Golden State Warriors With Berkeley JACL
Oakland, CA
March 19; 7 p.m.
Oracle Arena
7000 Coliseum Way
Cost: Tickets $45
For a night at the Oracle Arena. Please join the Berkeley JACL for a night at the Oracle Arena.
Info: Contact Mark Fujiwara at (510) 232-0724 or fujiwara@sbcglobal.net for tickets and more information.

Hidden Legacy + 'Take the JA Train'
San Jose, CA
March 21; 5 p.m.
Weley United Methodist Church
566 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.janm.org or call (212) 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 Matsuiri
Los Angeles, CA
May 2; 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
JACCC
244 S. San Pedro St.
Fiesta Matsuiri combines the Children’s Day celebration of two communities — the Japanese Kocomono 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 Matsuiri engages families with culture and community in a collaborative to promote understanding among a diverse group of people.
Info: Visit www.jaccc.org or call (213) 626-2725.

»PNW

23rd Annual Spring Bazaar
Portland, OR
March 18; 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m.
Nihonmura Buddhist Temple
2025 S.E. Yamhill
Celebrate spring at the 23rd Annual Spring Bazaar with the Nichiren Buddhist Temple. All proceeds will benefit the temple. Benno meal selections include tonkatsu, chicken donburi, chow mein and tofu donburi. Preorder forms must be submitted by March 10. Prices may vary.
Info: Visit www.nihonmura-shu.org or call (503) 698-4656.

>>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 $26
Welcome the new season and dance the night away with JACL Chicago’s 2015 board of directors. The JACL Chicago’s inaugural event will feature Kenny Takaoka and “Husky Love” with DJ Ben Stover’s “Electric Blue Entertainment.”
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Info: Visit www.historicfortsnelling.org or call (612) 726-1171.

>>PSW

'Shadows for Peace: For the Sake of the Children'
Orange County, CA
March 10-19
Noon
Chapman University
1 University Dr.
Cost: Free
In remembrance of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the Orange Coast Optimist Club will present the event’s program and forum. This event series will also travel to JANM 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 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 Yuko Yamaguchi has been Hello Kitty’s head designer since 1998 and will visit JANM to discuss her work. Yamaguchi will sign copies of the exhibit catalog following the program.
Info: Visit www.janm.org or call (213) 625-0414.
Memoriam

Akiyama, Harry Shuntaro, 88, Los Angeles, CA, Feb. 21, he is survived by his children, Carry Sato (Yasuo) Konishi and Rick Akiyama, nephew, Shiloe Akiyama; he also is survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; pg. 3, obit 1.

Higashida, Pauline Hatalani, 76, Hi, Hi, Jan. 17, she is survived by her brothers, Thomas Higashida and Patricia Higashida; stepmother, Sumiko Higashida; stepfather, June Marcelli; she also is survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Izumo, Kimay, 63, Los Angeles, CA, Feb. 15, she was preceded by her husband, Hodo; she is survived by her children, Robert, Henry (Carin) and Judy (Nemo); brother, Henry (Kay) Ishikawa; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; pg. 6, obit 2.

Kawabata, Robert Toshikichi, 94, Saitama, CA, Feb. 13, he is survived by his sons, Rodney (Coco) Kawabata and Robert (Carmen) Kawabata; he also is survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; pg. 6.

Kodani, Patricia Hatalani, 72, Hi, Hi, Jan. 31, she is survived by her sons, Tyrone Kodani and Marc (Sherry) Kodani; brother, Ronald (Amy) Malpass; she also is survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; pg. 6.

Kohara, Yoshiko, 85, Millen, Hi, Jan. 30, she is survived by her daughters, Jane H. Kohara, Ellen R. Umeki, Charlotte S. Kohara, Mary S. Hatt and Gail Kohara; Kohara; her brother, Robert T. Kohara; sisters, Edna H. Yamashiro and Betty C. Ensay; pg. 11, obit 6.

Koseki, Ted Toshihiko, 94, Los Angeles, CA, Feb. 1, he was preceded by his son, Dr. Calvin Koseki; he also is survived by his daughter-in-law, Frances Masayo and his sons, Dale Koseki, William (Diane) Koseki and Mayumi Moore; sister-in-law, Mabel (George) Hagi; she also is survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; pg. 6.

Matsumura, Isamu, 95, Los Angeles, CA, Feb. 8, he is survived by his children, Kiyohika Matsumura and Joyce (Bill) Breuer; brother, Kazuo Matsumura; sister-in-law, Tsuko Matsumura and Dorothy Yoshinaga; he also is survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; pg. 3.

Minoru, Tatsuo, 89, Hi, Hi, Feb. 8, he is survived by his sons, Hugh (Cynthia) Tatsuo and Ody Tatsuo, daughter, Susan Tatsuo, brother, Yukio (Joe) Tatsuo; he also is survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; pg. 4.

Nakagiri, Masami Robert, 97, Los Angeles, CA, Feb. 14, he is survived by his children, Susan and David Nakagiri; brother, Genn (Saugi) Nakagiri; granddaughter, Misako Jane Shin; and niece and nephew, Yutaka and Yoko Shin; he also is survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; pg. 1.

Nakagiri, Nancy Fumiko, 65, Los Angeles, CA, Feb. 15, she is survived by her husband, Don Nakagiri; children, Cindy (Erik) Matsubayashi and Cheryl Nakagiri; mother, Misako Nakagiri; brothers, Sticky (Joyce) and Gary (Julie) Lowe; step-in-laws, Steve (Sue) McNair and Karen (Vyan) Eguchi; she also is survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; pg. 6.

Nakatsuka, Harry Hisashi, 86, Cerritos, CA, Feb. 7, he is survived by his children, Kenneth (Shirley), David (Debra), Craig Nakatsuka and Linda (Debbie) Kahi; pg. 3.

Nakatsu, Sakaye, 91, Los Angeles, CA, Feb. 8, she is survived by her sister, Misako, her children, Tatsuko, Kyrish and Koichiro; she also is survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; pg. 6.

Nishimoto, Norman Nobuo, 96, Los Angeles, CA, Feb. 13, he is preceded by his wife, Helen Nishimoto; he is survived by his nieces and nephews, Michiko Okada, Gary (Taki) Kamagari, Shige Okada, Tatsuno (Eileen) Okada and Reiko Okada.

Nitta, Hakuko, 92, Vancouver, WA, Jan. 31, he was a 442nd and MIS veteran, he was preceded by his wife, Eiko (Elaine) Nitta; he is survived by his children, Kenneth (Esther Breecher) Masuhara, Cynthia Kaoru (Jeffrey) Hoyt and Natsuko Negishi; he also is survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; pg. 3.

Oyama, Roy M., 91, Caldwell, ID, Jan. 13, he is survived by his children, Chieko Wolf, Zane, Karen, Terry (Kathleen), Allan and Greg (Laurana)

Sakura, William Yukito, 79, Honolulu, HI, Jan. 12, she is survived by her sons, Wallace Y. and Kip M.; daughters, Patricia Ohashi, Colleen L. and Deborah M. Fukuoka; she also is survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; pg. 9.

Tagakusa, George G., 81, Millville, CA, Feb. 10, he is preceded by his son, Gien Takaflusa; he is survived by his wife, Florence; daughter, David Takaflusa; granddaughter, Cindee; grandson, Ted Takaflusa; he also is survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Takemoto, George S., 91, Millville, CA, Feb. 21, he is preceded by his son, Gien Takemoto; he is survived by his wife, Florence, sons, David Takemoto, daughter, Cindee Takemoto; she also is survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Tomita, Yoshikichi Glenn, 89, Los Angeles, CA, Feb. 16, he is survived by his children, Debra (John), Kurt (Gary), Mark (Yanne) and Grant (Stacy) Tomita; brother, Yoshinori (June) Tomita; brother-in-law, Yoshimi (Yuki) Shirai; sisters-in-law, Tami and Nako Tomita; he also is survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Yamashita, Tommy, 91, Glendora, CA, Feb. 18, he was an Army veteran of the 442nd Battalion (Beechwood) Co. he was preceded by his wife, Lea; parents, Sekichi and Sumo, brothers, Shishio, Tsuru, sisters, Fumiko and Tolme Yamashita; he also is survived by his brother, Takeno (Milt) and his children, Thomas (Latte), Ronald (Gaye) and David (Makina), daughter, Susan (John) Harada.

Yoshida, Chiyoko, 100, Palos Verdes, CA, Feb. 23, she was preceded by her husband, Frank Kazuo Yoshida; daughter, Judy Yoshida; son, Robert Yoshida; daughter-in-law, Sue Yoshida; she also is survived by her children, James Minato (Miki) Tanaka, Bill Yoshida and Frances (Doug) Nutall; pg. 7, obit 12.

TRIBUTE

DOUGLAS SHIGEO IWAMOTO

A native of Salinas, Calif., Doug was surrounded by family and friends when he went home to the Lord on Feb. 23, 2015. Although he practiced Buddhism all of his life, he accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior on Feb. 9, 2015, and was baptized on Feb. 15, 2015. Doug’s optimistic and calm manner remained with him until the end. He leaves his parents, his brother and sister’s families and friends during his fight with cancer.

He left for college but returned to Salinas in 1971 when his father became limited, and employment with Cethyl, Inc., and Matsui Nursery. He moved on to start Iwamoto Farms and grew for various companies throughout the Salinas Valley, including Tamaki & Ando. Partnering with Mark Milam, they joined in Summit Seeds, Commission Street and other various agriculture ventures in Salinas. Together, they formed KMK Farms, Inc., with an opportunity to grow and provide ready-to-serve legumes. Doug had many passions. As an active member of the Buddhist Temple of Salinas, he grew his leadership role with the Buddhist Churches of America, where he served as president for two terms.

Doug was preceded by his father, Saburo Eido Iwamoto, and sister, Saburo Eido Iwamoto. He also was preceded by her brother, Mayumi Iwamoto of Salinas, CA, wife, Joan, and daughter, Miki. The late June Tanaka, CA, and sister-in-law, Janet (John) Lewis of Tucson, AZ, and numerous nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins, and counts Endors.

A Celebration of Life was held on Sunday, March 1, 2015, at 11 a.m., at Valley Monterey 2001 Monterey Highway, Monterey, CA, with a reception that followed. A private burial will be at Yamato Cemetery in Salinas, California.

Arrangements by Struve and Bertram Funeral Home. Online condolences can be made at www.stroeferstruve.com.

TRIBUTE

FRANCES F. SUGAI


Visitation was on Saturday, Feb. 21, at Christ Church of Chicago, 5847 N. Orchard, Chicago, IL 60659. In lieu of flowers, memorials can be sent to Christ Church of Chicago or Bethany Presbyterian Community, 1920 N. Ashland, Chicago, IL 60614.

PLACE A TRIBUTE
‘In Memoriam’ is a free listing that appears on a limited, space-available basis. Tributes honor your loved ones with text and photos and appear in a timely manner at the rate of $200 per column inch.

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FUKUIC MORTUARY
Pacific Citizen March 6, 2015 11
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To suggest that black Americans do not have legitimate reasons to protest racial injustice in policing and the criminal justice system isn’t just detrimental ignorance; it’s historical amnesia. 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 economics, but to established history and science. As the American Psychological Association has long maintained, racial prejudices and biases 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 persons of color.

Because these well-documented and severe inequalities persist in policing and the justice system, the recent actions of Mike Brown, Eric Garner, Tamir Rice, and thousands more cannot be so neatly divorced from the murder of Emmett Till, Harriet Tubman and all those who participated under the heroic polity of the Jim Crow South. Many people in the police called out under fan and false crowd terrorism to realize that throughout recent history, the American government has frequently operated not as a democracy, but as a regime of repression — the direct effect of which continues to be felt today. The deaths of people with a partial or complete buzzwords “black lives matter” are condemned by none, as the racist oppression between the Executive Branch and rights leaders and local government is limited. Mr. Unruh offers a thin addition to the end of his polemic. My opinions are in complete alignment with the mission, principles and goals of the Japanese American Citizen League.

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

Cheap tactics aside, the NYSC remains convinced that true justice has been perpetuated in communities like Ferguson, and whereas else premeditated white police force unfairly police and protest violence upon marginalized communities. Because a government comprised of democratically elected representatives is ultimately accountable to its citizens, expressing our frustration through protest is not somehow anathema to what it means to be a good American. Nor is it foreign to the Japanese American experience. Rather, we believe that collectively engaging in social justice is the true mark of a socially conscious citizen.

One of the reasons why we, the youth, are so passionate about working with the JACL is the organization’s commitment to ever-striving rest and socialism — particularly on issues that do not appear to directly affect the West Coast community. Not only have we persisted and fought for justice, but also the redress movement and balanced representation, but as our executive director, Michelle Ochida, mentioned in her response, we have long engaged on issues like marriage equality, an unveiled the immigrant and defend her rights; we have spoken up in defense of our Asian American and Muslim American neighbors when it was unpopular, and we continue to favor 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 comprehensive freedom for our neighbors. As Dr. King taught us, “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are not a separate minority struggling for our rights, but a majority struggling for the rights of all.”

We believe this to be true. Our eyes, therefore, go to the plight of those suffering in Ferguson and beyond. And while social and urban communities across the country who are growing under the weight of white violence and the constant threat of deportation. In appreciating theinhuman nature of all struggles for human dignity and social justice, we wholly reject any attempts to externally assign or intentionally distort the lived realities of our neighbors.

Sincerely,

The NYSC

REMEMBRANCE >> continued from page 3

There was deprivation. Alienation. A lack of privacy in the camp. Boyfriends. Reaching and lying about being Navajo to try and enlist in the Army. The huge IA community in Denver in the immediate postwar years, which filled the local chapter yearbooks for decades.

The conversation was framed by a warm-up exercise where everyone in the audience was asked to discuss with each other what they would have done if they were told they had two weeks to pack only what they could carry, to be taken to a concentration camp. That’s what families had to do 73 years ago, after all. And attendees were able to watch incredibly evocative home movies from Anachoe that were just recently donated by a family that had been previously there. The images flickered on the giant screen with P-A-C-K and Japanese songs that many interviewees would have remembered played over the sound system. Suzuki and Japanese movies were donated for the occasion, and many people stayed after the panel to speak with people who had been interested in more of their stories.

This is an important day to remember. It helps us not forget the injustice of imprisonment that shattered so many Japanese Americans lives, and it helps us be vigilant so that such an injustice won’t ever happen again. Hopefully.

NOTE: The Smithsonian Institution, which hosted a DOR event on Feb. 19 in Washington, D.C., also displayed an exhibit of artifacts from the World War II internment camps. They’re looking for more artifacts from life in the camps during World War II. For more information, contact them at http://americanhistory.si.edu.

Gill Asakawa is a member of the Pacific Citizen Editorial Board and the author of “Being Japanese American.” He blogs about Japanese American issues at www.asakawa.com, and he’s on Facebook, Twitter and lots of other social media. He also is AARPAAPAPI Community Marketing Communication Consultant.