



PACIFIC CITIZEN



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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 those of you east of us, we hope your spring arrives very soon!

As the P.C. rep from 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, its programs, as well as provides news coverage of the AAPI community which is often absent or lacking in mainstream media.

On a personal note, I grew up in a career military 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-sanctioned 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 rekindle that experience and work toward resolution when I was introduced to the JACL by my wife, Valerie, and her father, George Yasukochi, in the early '90s. As I read the P.C., I discovered and was enlightened to find it serving as a respected and essential communications vehicle — a lifeline and connection to the JA experience and its roots, especially for those living in more 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, marriage and more.

Now is the time to step up and support the *Pacific Citizen*. It is one of the tools and effective means of communication we need in order to continue our struggle to assure 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 activism.



JAMES DUFF

The P.C. staff has done an excellent job of formulating a program to facilitate updating the P.C. website, digitizing the P.C. archives 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, 2014-Jan. 22, 2015) of this newspaper recently ran a letter from David Unruhe, 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 this publication's 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 NY/SC that the kind of insensitivity and ignorance expressed in the column cannot go unchecked, particularly when these liabilities appear in this kind of platform.

Because the JACL's executive director has already succinctly and firmly 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 statements on national unrest in Ferguson and beyond that followed the nonindictment of officer Darren Wilson.

We would like to first debunk the clunky and false equivalence of President Obama's recent Executive Order on amnesty to President Roosevelt's Executive Order 9066, which compelled the mass incarceration of Japanese Americans. The petulance and insensitivity 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 racially profiled and unjustly imprisoned at the hands of law enforcement. Any possible parallels to

the Japanese American internment experience should be presented carefully, emerging from afflicted members within our own community. For anyone (a JACL member or representative) to crudely weaponize our community's most painful experiences, in this manner, is deplorable and beyond tactless. The NY/SC condemns the use of this irresponsible rhetoric in the strongest terms.

If we are set on filtering current events through the lens of the mass incarceration, there are probably more apt comparisons to be made to the modern plight of our black brothers and sisters — it's not hard to imagine our own Nisei community leaders and draft resisters being publicly shamed by white Americans for opposing "due process of law," or being called "race baiters" because they dared question the white status quo that oppressed them.

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NIKKEI VOICE

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE IS WORTH REMEMBERING

By Gil Asakawa

Was there 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 kick 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 initially to temporary quarters in places 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 I think 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 paramount that JAs never

forget that we are one of the blotches 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 years, DOR was held at the Denver Buddhist Temple and featured Sacramento-based therapist and filmmaker Satsuki Ima, whose documentary "Children of the Camps" resonated 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 nice 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 tile 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 grumble, "I don't know what the big deal is, this looks really nice."

But I digress. Along with putting up the sign this year, History Colorado has been a swell place for Mile High JACL to organize its annual event. As a board member, I was asked to emcee the event and moderate a panel with concentration camp survivors on Feb. 15. More than 200 people (not just JAs) 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 Toe Sakamoto and Linda Takahashi Rodriguez. Frank was just out of high school; Toe 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 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 only 23 days after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. Despite his American citizenship, Endo and his family were uprooted from their Los Angeles home and incarcerated in Rohwer, Ark., solely because of their Japanese ancestry.

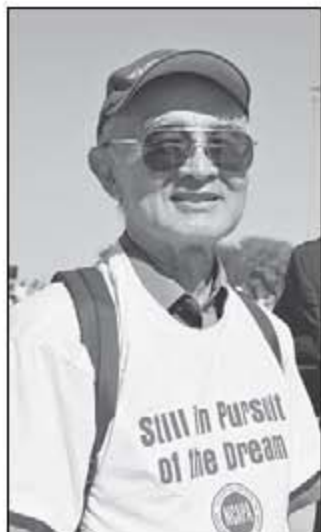
The Endo family was incarcerated for more than two years before moving to Ohio in 1944 with the help of the Quaker-based American Friends Service Committee. The family eventually settled in the Washington, D.C.-Maryland area following World War II, where Endo found himself the lone Asian American student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

As a recent graduate of Oberlin College, Endo marched with the JACL in the 1963 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 acquaintance Rev. Jim Reeb 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 saw as many as five), Endo planned 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 scrutiny of Sheriff Jim Clark and his deputies.

Endo's experience in Selma led the former Harvard Ph.D. candidate to forgo his goal of becoming a history professor and shift his focus toward actively reforming the educational system and curriculum. Presently, Endo works as an organizer in Arlington, Va.'s immigrant 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 a meaningful role in strengthening U.S.-Japan relations across all sectors of society.

The delegates will visit Hiroshima prefecture, where they will participate in a panel discussion sponsored by the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership and the U.S.-Japan Council (USJC). They will then 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 Hashimoto (Seattle, Wash.), senior attorney, Microsoft Corp.
- Yoshie Ito (New York, N.Y.), assistant director, global initiatives, Asia Society
- Toshiki Masaki (Detroit, Mich.), manager, government affairs, Ford Motor Co.
- Dr. Richard Morimoto (Chicago, Ill.), Bill and Gayle Cook professor of biology, Northwestern University
- Priscilla Ouchida (San Francisco, Calif.), executive director, JACL
- Linda Taira (Los Angeles, Calif.), senior manager, internal, and CEO communications, Boeing Defense,

Space & Security

- Sach Takayasu (Washington, D.C.), president and CEO, Asian/Pacific Islander American Chamber of Commerce & Entrepreneurship
- Tyler Tokioka (Honolulu, Hawaii), vp, external affairs and agency relations, Island Insurance Companies
- Dr. Tracy Tsuetaki (Chapel Hill, N.C.), senior vp, PAREXEL International
- Dr. Robin Yasui (Denver, Colo.), director of geriatrics, Denver Health

JALD 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, 166 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 Takayasu, Lynn Hashimoto, Yoshie Ito, Linda Taira, (second row, from left) Kaz Maniwa (U.S.-Japan Council senior vp), Priscilla Ouchida, Tracy Tsuetaki, Irene Hirano Inouye (U.S.-Japan Council president), (third row, from left) Toshiki Masaki, Robin Yasui, Richard Morimoto and Tyler Tokioka.

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."



Tom Oshidari (left) and Neil Kozuma carry banners as they lead a candlelight walk through the streets of San Jose Japantown.

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 Betsuin. The event was organized by the Nihonmachi Outreach Committee and was emceed by the NOC's Will Kaku.

Drawing on the theme "Stories From the Past, Lessons for Today," Tom Izu, 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 Tokushige, George Yoshioka and Mits Koshiyama continue to inspire Izu today. Izu said that redress was "never meant to be the end of the story, it was meant to be the beginning of a commitment by our community to make our Constitution and Bill of Rights mean something for everyone."

During a 1979 pilgrimage to Tule Lake, where he was incarcerated as a child, Vernon Hayashida wrote a poem, which he read. Titled "From a Sansei," it reflected on the questions his parents and grandparents wouldn't answer, and it ended with under-

standing and "arigato, arigato, arigato" for what they endured.

Kent Carson recounted the experiences of his grandfather, Terry Terakawa, 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 Terakawa's father, including attempting to arrest him while he was in the hospital in an iron lung.

Central to the event was the traditional candle-lighting ceremony. Shakuhachi and koto music accompanied the roll call of the concentration camps and population count,

read by Silicon Valley JACL chapter officer Mariko Fujimoto and the NOC's Reiko Nakayama. San Jose JACL chapter officers Tom Oshidari and Neil Kozuma, as well as members of the NOC, led the group carrying candles through historic Japantown.

Congressman Mike Honda said that although H.R. 442 was signed, after the 9/11 attacks, 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, racism and sexism, and 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 choreographed by artistic director Franco Imperial, who was inspired by the 2002 San Jose DOR event.

In addition to the NOC, the event was sponsored by a number of community organizations, including the San Jose, Sequoia, and Silicon 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 Betsuin; San Jose Peace and Justice Center; San Jose Taiko; South Bay Islamic Assn.; Wesley United Methodist Church; and Yu-Ai 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 Officer Installation on Feb. 15. More than 136 guests attended the annual event in Fresno.

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

Tateishi was also the event's keynote speaker. His comments on "Post 9/11 and JACL's Role" offered fascinating insight into the leadership of JACL following the 2001 terrorist attack. He remembered innocently tuning in his radio on the way to a business meeting and learning of the attack. His immediate reaction was one of shock



Marion Masada and Rev. Saburo Masada

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. Tateishi acknowledged their participation by concluding his remarks with a confirmation of JACL's commitment to advocating on behalf of all groups facing discrimination and hate, saying "If you find yourself in



Participants included (from left) Reza Nekumanesh (Islamic Cultural Center of Fresno), Dr. Sudarhan Kapoor (Human Rights Coalition of the Central Valley), Jeanette Ishii (event emcee) and John Tateishi (honoree).

trouble, call on the JACL. We will be there for you."

The Masada's, now in their mid-80s, 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 turns 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 injustice by our government never happens again.

Shortly after the Day of Remembrance, the Masadas were notified of another prestigious honor: CCDC Governor Roberta Barton 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 the "icing on the cake" 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, the legislative move 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 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 Mitsuye Endo and Yuri Kochiyama. Nagae also specifically honored the women who played an integral role in the redress movement, including Grayce Uyehara and Cherry Kinoshita, as well as Chicago's own Tsune Nakagawa, Chiye Tomihiro and Kiyo 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 grapple with the disturbing legacy of incarceration in the safety of their own community, and older 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 femalecentric 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 docile women society often conjures by assumption and stereotype — they are not curtsying demurely, serving tea with a quiet smile. They are proud, fearsome, 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 honorees 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 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 injus-

tice and taken action for themselves and their community, among them Segie Nishioka, 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 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, 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. ■

YO-YO CHAMPION SETS HIS SIGHTS ON ANOTHER WORLD TITLE

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. 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 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.

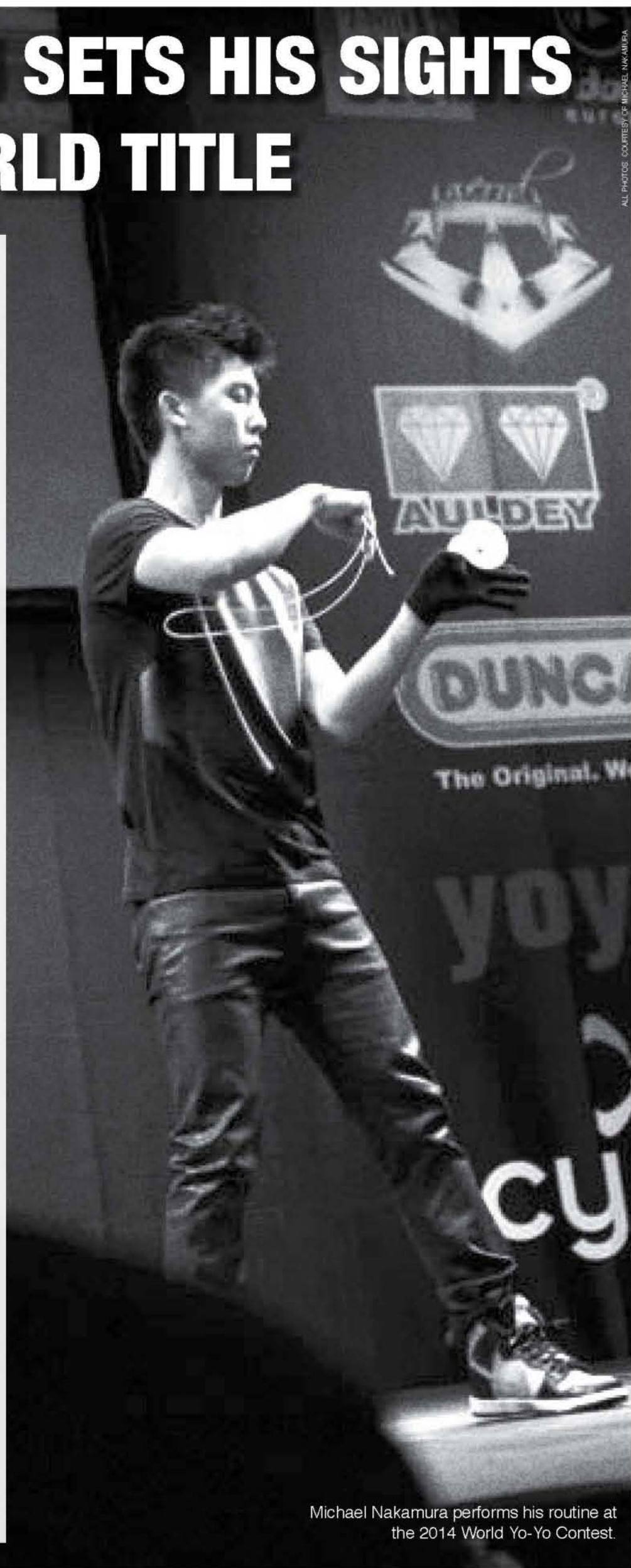
A busy student, Nakamura juggles yo-yo training along with five Advanced Placement courses and karate classes (he's a brown belt). When he's at home, he'll choreograph a routine and practice it over and over again until he feels comfortable. You'll see him with his yo-yos often, including visits to the 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 contests is when we (the competitors) can relax and hang out with each other," said Nakamura, alluding 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'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-yoing, 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 no 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's also currently sponsored by YoYoAddict, who provides him equipment and royalties based off his signature yo-yo model. The company is under his role model, Hiroyuki Suzuki, Nakamura was first inspired to pursue yo-yo more seriously after watching videos of Suzuki, 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-yos. He's since amassed a collection of about 200 yo-yos and, of 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-yos, Nakamura encourages people of all skill levels to try it out. Newbies can start off with basic tricks like walk the dog, trapeze or split the atom. Sites like yoyoexpert.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."



The 2014 Bay Area Classic Yo-Yo Contest



Polaris Tours 2015 Schedule

Apr. 02 ~ Apr. 11
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May. 28 ~ Jun. 06
Jun. 05 ~ Jun. 14
Jul. 12 ~ Jul. 21
Sep. 17 ~ Sep. 26
Oct. 04 ~ Oct. 14
Oct. 08 ~ Oct. 19
Oct. 18 ~ Oct. 27
Oct. 19 ~ Nov. 01
Oct. 22 ~ Nov. 02
Nov. 01 ~ Nov. 11
Nov. 30 ~ Dec. 10

Spring Japan: "Hiroshima, Miyajima, Kyoto, Inuyama, Hakone, Tokyo"
Australia & New Zealand: "Carins, Sydney, Christchurch, Queenstown"
South Korea (East Coast): "Seoul, Jeju, Busan, Gyeongju, Seorak"
Bikkuri Finale 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"
Pacific Coast: "Seattle, Portland, Newport, Gold Beach, San Francisco"
Let's Go Hokkaido: "Sapporo, Sounkyo, Shiretoko, Tomamu, Toyako"
Jewels of Morocco: "Casablanca, Fez, Erfoud, Ouarzazate, Marrakesh"
Autumn Japan: "Hiroshima, Kyoto, Kanazawa, Takayama, Tokyo"
Italy: "Rome, Pisa, Florence, Milan, Venice, Capri, Amalfi Coast, Pompeii"
South Korea (West Coast): "Jeonju, 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 Honouliuli 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, Sacramento, and founder of the Family Study Center. As a licensed psychotherapist specializing in community trauma, she has conducted groups for Japanese Americans 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 the Public Broadcasting System, "Children of the Camps" and "From a Silk Cocoon: A Japanese American Renunciator's Story."

"We're 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 civil 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 Unions 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.

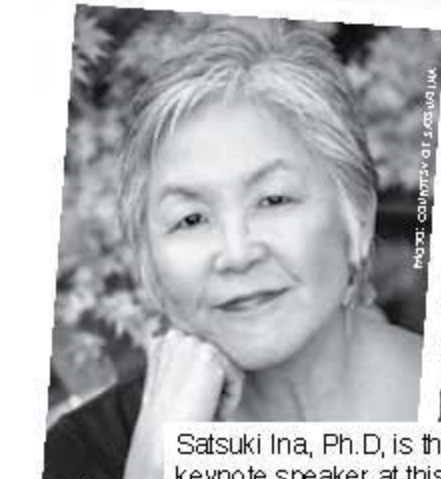
In addition, the Manzanar Committee on Feb. 20 hailed the declaration of the site of the Honouliuli Internment Camp as a National Historic Monument by President Barack Obama on Feb. 19.

Honouliuli, located in Kunia, Hawaii, on the island of Oahu, has long been an "overgrown gulch" on privately owned land. But during WWII, the site was home to an internment camp that incarcerated 300 Americans of Japanese ancestry and 4,000 prisoners of war.

Honouliuli internees named the camp "Jigoku Dani" (Hell Valley).

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

"Honouliuli 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 fra-



Satsuki Ina, Ph.D, is the keynote speaker at this year's Manzanar Pilgrimage.



Satsuki Ina (right) is pictured with her mother and brother at the Tule Lake Segregation Center during World War II.

gility of civil rights during times of conflict."

Added Obama "We're announcing a new park in my home state, before I was adopted by Illinois, my home state of Hawaii. Honouliuli 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 Honouliuli 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," he said.

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.

"The designation of Honouliuli as a national monument is simply tremendous and adds an essential chapter to the story of what Japanese Americans were subjected

to following the bombing of Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941," said Embrey. "The Manzanar Committee applauds the president for designating the Honouliuli National Monument on the 73rd anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066 and for recognizing the violations of Constitutional rights and human rights by President Franklin D. Roosevelt's action."

Embrey continued, "Congratulations and thank you to Carole Hayashino, Jane Kurahara and everyone at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, the Honolulu chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League, archeologists Jeff Burton and Mary Farrell, Hawaii's senators Mazie Hirono and Brian Schatz, Hawaii's congressional delegation Tulsie Gabbard and Mark Takai and everyone else involved in making the Honouliuli National Monument a reality. We are truly encouraged by the addition of Honouliuli to the list of Japanese American confinement sites being preserved and protected by the National Park Service. We sincerely hope that serious efforts will be made to develop the site as an important lesson on civil rights and how fragile they can be."

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 13th annual pilgrimage.

In 1942, nearly 13,000 people of Japanese ancestry living in Washington and Oregon, many of whom were American citizens, were removed from their homes and sent to a desolate concentration 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, share memories 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 28 with a commemorative closing ceremony at the Minidoka National Park Site.

Also included in the pilgrimage:

- Access to an original barrack building and mess hall. People will be able to go in portions of both historic buildings.
- The reconstructed fence is complete. It runs about one 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 Hagerman Fossil Beds.
- 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 Seattle/Bellevue package includes bus transportation from Bellevue, Wash., to Twin Falls, Idaho. The registration fee is \$400.

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 imprisoned in any of the American concentration camps during World War II.

This scholarship covers the registration fee, hotel and bus costs (roundtrip 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 Taiko Festival for making this scholarship possible.

A Youth Scholarship for people over 18 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 with Dale H. Watanabe at (206) 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

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF THE HAMADA FAMILY



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



Brig. Gen. John Magruder (left), deputy director of the Office of Strategic Services, presents Dick Hamada the Soldier's Medal on Jan. 3, 1946, in Washington, D.C., for Hamada's role in Operation Magpie.

The late Dick S. Hamada of Honolulu, Hawaii, has been accepted for induction into the Army's Military Intelligence Corps Hall of Fame at Fort Huachuca, Ariz. Hamada, who passed away in May 2014 at age 92, will be inducted in ceremonies in June, according to a letter from Maj. Gen. Robert P. 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 MIS 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 guerilla raids, gathering intelligence and rescuing downed Allied aviators.

In early 1945, Hamada singlehandedly saved his battalion at the village

of Ke His Mansam. Made up primarily of Kachin troops, the battalion was in its third day of fighting, and Hamada was leading a platoon of Nationalist Chinese troops protecting its left flank. Under intense, concentrated Japanese attack, Hamada's troops began faltering. He went from foxhole to foxhole, exposed to direct enemy fire, exhorting and rallying his men and manning a machine gun himself. The platoon held, and the enemy attack was repulsed. Hamada's commanding officer, an American, commended his leadership and credited Hamada with saving the entire battalion from "total defeat."

Following the Burma campaign, Hamada and other Japanese Americans were assigned to OSS Detachment 202 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 supervisor. 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 Ret. 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 unnoticed 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 initiated a review of Hamada's role in the battle at Ke His Mansam for a possible upgrade to the Bronze Star that Hamada was awarded.

NOTE: Dick Hamada is one of the veterans featured in the new MIS exhibit at the U.S. Army Museum of Hawaii. A grand opening of the exhibit will be held on March 28, 2015, at 9 a.m. as part of the MIS Veterans National Reunion. For more information about the reunion, visit www.misveteranshawaii.com or email Annie Inouye at annienoa@hawaiiantel.net or call (808) 220-5347.

'An American Dream' Premieres at the Seattle Opera

Seattle Opera's main stage season kicks off this August with new productions from the Belonging(s) Project, performing at both Bainbridge Island and the McCaw Hill theaters.

In 2010, the Belonging(s) Project began in Puget Sound as a community storytelling with an online repository of videos to make a digital quilt. Each story explores a central question as Sue Elliot, director of education at the Seattle Opera, asks, "If you had to leave home today, what's the one thing that you'd want to take with you?"

This year, the company will premiere an hourlong opera set in Puget Sound during World War II titled "An American Dream," a story inspired by two women: Mary Matsuda Gruenewald and Marianne Weltmann. Gruenewald, a Japanese American author who was incarcerated as a young girl, and Weltmann, a Jewish-German opera singer whose family escaped Hitler's Europe, encounter each other, unfolding a telling story of friendship and colliding histories.

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

Cast for "An American Dream" includes Nina Yoshida Nelson as Hiroko Kobayashi. In addition to her debut this

year with the Seattle Opera, Nelson will perform with the Southwest Florida Symphony as Alto Soloist in Beethoven's "Symphony No. 9."

Other cast members include Morgan Smith as Jim, D'Ana Lombard as Eva, Adam Lau as Makoto Kobayashi and Hae Ji Chang as Setsuko. Conductor Judith Yan and composer Jack Perla will 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 dramatic work from Nabucco (Verdi) and Mary Stuart (Donizetti). Both pieces have never before been seen in Seattle and are part of the Belonging(s) Project.

Other new-to-Seattle productions are "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 family audiences and in-school performances, alongside the Belonging(s) Project.

— Tiffany Ujue

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

By Tiffany Ujue,
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 Sake of the Children, the Hiroshima and Nagasaki Experience" event at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles on March 21.

"This forum will be the largest and most important of its kind," said Doug Erber, president of the Japan American Society of Southern California.

The JANM-hosted program, which will be held in the Tateuchi 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, Nanka Hiroshima Kenjinkai, Love to Nippon, USC Institute of Genetic Medicine Art Gallery, Nanka Yamaguchi Kenjinkai Lantern From the East — Los Angeles and the Los Angeles Nagoya Sister City Affiliation.

"My hope is that this program will educate the community of what's going on," said artist/producer/program committee member Richard Fukuhara. "It echoes what happened in Fukushima and how that event also effected children. We need to really educate the coming generation of atomic history."

After five years of planning, Fukuhara 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 Horsting, a documentary award winner and co-producer of "Citizen Tanouye" and director of Go for Broke's "Harashi Program," as well as Hideo Sakata, founder and director of the Lantern of the East Art Gallery.

Forum speaker Dr. James Yamazaki will share his experience and lifelong effort to understand and document the impact of nuclear explosions on children. The 98-year-old survivor focused his efforts on the children conceived but not yet born at the time of the explosion in 1949. Dr. Yamazaki was assigned as Physician-in-Charge of the United States Atomic Bomb Casualty Commission in Nagasaki.

The forum will also include Tomoko Maekawa, an executive member of the Nagasaki Global Citizens' Assembly for the Elimination of Nuclear Weapons, president of the Never Again Nagasaki Campaign and executive member of the International Exchange Division of Nagasaki Foundation for the Promotion of Peace, and Dr. David Krieger, who has lectured throughout Asia, Europe and the U.S. on issues of peace, security, international law and the abolition of nuclear weapons. Dr. Krieger is president and founder of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, chair of the International Network of Engineers and Scientists for Global Responsibility, chair of the executive committee of the Middle Powers Initiative and founder of the Global Council of Abolition 2000.

Additionally, Dr. Akiko Mikamo will discuss her work as president of the San Diego Worldwide Initiative to Safeguard Humanity and president and medical psychologist at U.S.-Japan Psychology Services in San Diego.

Mikamo is also the author of "Rising From the Ashes," which is based on her father Shinji Mikamo'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. "Shinji never hated Americans as aggressors."

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

To RSVP, email richard@shadowsforpeace.com or call (714) 998-8790.

A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

CALENDAR

>>EDC

17th Annual Cherry Blossom Freedom Walk
Washington, D.C.
March 28; 9 a.m.
National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism
New Jersey Avenue and Louisiana Avenue
Cost: Free
 Rain or shine, come remember and honor the Japanese American experience during WWII and 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.
Info: Visit www.njamf.com.

'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 present, illustrating how the Chinese American experience is part of American history.
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) 426-6500.

>>MDC

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

White Eagle Banquet and Restaurant
6939 N. Milwaukee Ave.
Cost: Adult ticket \$25
 Welcome the new season and dance the night away with JACL Chicago's 2015 board of directors. The JACL Chicago's inaugural event will feature Kenny Takaoka and "Husky Love" with DJ Ben Stover's "Electric Blue Entertainment."
Info: Visit www.jaclchicago.org or call (773) 728-7171.

'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. Nakasone. 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.

>>PNW

23rd Annual Spring Bazaar
Portland, OR
March 15; 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m.
Nichiren 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. Bento meal selections include tonkatsu, chicken donburi, chow mein and tofu donburi. Preorder forms must be submitted by March 10. Prices may vary.
Info: Visit www.nichiren-shu.org or call (323) 262-7886.

Lecture: The Camp Without a Fence
Moses Lake, WA
April 2; 7 p.m.
Moses Lake Museum & Art Center
401 S. Balsam St.
 "Uprooted" curator Morgen Young will present a history of the Japanese American farm labor camp near Nyssa. Learn

about the camp, the Oregon Plan for the forced removal and incarceration of Japanese Americans during the war and the national need for agricultural laborers.
Info: Visit www.uprootedexhibit.com.

Nature and Pattern in Japanese Design Exhibit
Seattle, WA
April 19
Seattle Art Museum
1400 E. Prospect 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.
Info: Visit www.seattleartmuseum.org.

68th Annual Japanese American Community Graduation Banquet
Portland, OR
May 3
Maltunomah Athletic Club
1849 S.W. Salmon St.
Cost: Adult \$35; free for graduating high school students
 This year's annual banquet is sponsored by 11 Nikkei organizations from the Portland area. Scholarships will also be awarded at the luncheon. The event's keynote speaker will be Elizabeth Asahi-Sato.
Info: RSVP at larouche@msn.com or call (503) 698-4656.

>>NCWNP

Golden State Warriors With Berkeley JACL
Oakland, CA
March 19; 7 p.m.
Oracle Arena
7000 Coliseum Way
Cost: Tickets \$45
 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@sboglobal.net for tickets and

more information.
Hidden Legacy + 'Take the JA Train'
San Jose, CA
March 21; 5 p.m.
Wesley 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.jamsj.org or call (408) 294-313.

Happyo Kai
El Cerrito, CA
March 21; 2-4 p.m.
Fairmont School Auditorium
6500 Stockton Ave.
Cost: Free
 Sakura Kai presents this year's Happyo Kai, a biennial student recital. Programming includes taiko, karaoke, hula, ukulele, line dance, flute duet and shigin solo performance with an Obon Dance. At intermission, sales of sushi and wagashi will be available for purchase.
Info: Visit www.sakurakaie.org or call (510) 778-3406.

>>PSW

'Shadows for Peace: For the Sake of the Children'
Orange County, CA
March 18-19
Noon
Chapman University
1 University Dr.
Cost: Free
 In remembrance of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the Orange Coast Optimist Club will present the program's exhibit and forum. This event series will also travel to JANM on March 21. 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 1980 and will visit JANM to discuss her work. Yamaguchi will sign copies of the exhibition catalog following the program.
Info: Visit www.janm.org or call (213) 625-0414.

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) 628-2725.

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 Kodomo 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) 628-2725.

ADVERTISE HERE

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



Memoriam

Akiyama, Harry Stuart, 88, Los Angeles, CA; Feb. 21; he is survived by his children, Carry Sueko (Ricardo) Gonzalez and Rick Akiyama; nephew, Steven Akiyama; niece, Diane Akiyama; he is also survived by many other relatives; gc: 3; ggc: 1.

Higashida, Pauline Hualani, 76, Hilo, HI; Jan. 17; she is survived by her brothers, Thomas Higashida and Dennis (Sharon) Higashida; step-mother, Sumiko Higashida; step-sister, June Mercado; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Izumo, Kimiye, 93, Los Angeles, CA; Feb. 15; she was predeceased by her husband, Hideo; she is survived by her children, Robert, Henry (Cathy) and Judy Izumo; brother, Henry (Kay) Ishikawa; sister-in-law, Mari Ishikawa; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 4; ggc: 3.

Kagawa, Robert Toshiyuki, 94, Gardena, CA; Feb. 13; he is survived by his sons, Rodney (Coco) Kagawa and Robert (Corinne) Kagawa; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 6.

Kodani, Patricia Hatsumi, 72, Hilo, HI; Jan. 31; she is survived by her sons, Ty Kodani and Marc (Sheryl) Kodani; brother, Ronald (Ann) Maesaka; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2.

Kohagura, Yoshiko, 95, Mililani, HI; Jan. 6; she is survived by her daughters, Jane H. Nakayama, Ellen A. Umeda, Charlotte S. Katayama, Myra S. Holt and Gail F. Kohagura; brother, Robert T. Arakaki; sisters, Edna H. Yamashiro and Betty C. Enay; gc: 11; ggc: 26.

Koseki, Ted Toshiro, 94, Los Angeles, CA; Feb. 1; he was predeceased by his son, Dr. Calvin Koseki; he is survived by his daughter-in-law, Frances

Gong; siblings, William (Irene) Koseki and Marjorie Moore; sister-in-law, Mabel (George) Abe; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2.

Matsumura, Isamu, 95, Los Angeles, CA; Feb. 11; he is survived by his children, Henry Matsumura and Joyce (Bill) Brewer; brother, Kazuharu (Takano) Tsubaki; sisters-in-law, Toshiko Matsumura and Dorothy Yoshitaka; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Minoru, Tatsuno, 89, Hilo, HI; Feb. 9; he is survived by his sons, Hugh (Cynthia) Tatsuno and Guy Tatsuno; daughter, Susan Tatsuno; brother, Yutaka "Joe" Tatsuno; sister-in-law, Yoshie Tatsuno; he is also survived by many other nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 4.

Nakagiri, Masaru Robert, 97, Los Angeles, CA; Feb. 14; he is survived by his children, Susan and Kirk Nakagiri; siblings, Shigemi (Donna) Nakagiri, Minako Jane Shintani and June Sueko (Jim) Akioka; brothers-in-law, Mitsuo, Jiro, Frank (Hideo) and Hiroshi (Sumako), Tadashi Roy and Isamu Rick Tsushima; sisters-in-law, Tomiye Mary Nakagiri and May (Keigo) Obata; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Nakagiri, Nancy Fumiko, 65, Los Angeles, CA; Feb. 25; she is survived by her husband, Dan Nakagiri; children, Cindy (Erik) Matsubayashi and Cheryl Nakagiri; mother, Mie Ino; brothers, Stacy (Joyce) and Gary (Louise) Ino; sisters-in-law, Elaine (Sean) McCarthy and Karen (Wayne) Eguchi; brother-in-law, Tommy Nakagiri; gc: 2.

Nakatsumi, Harry Hisahiro, 86, Carson, CA; Feb. 7; he is survived by his children, Kenneth (Sylvia), David (Debra), Craig Nakatsumi and Linda (Dale) Kishi; gc: 3.

Nakatsuru, Sakaye, 91, Los Angeles, CA; Feb. 6; she is survived by her sister, Misako Fukushima; she is survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Nishimoto, Norman Nobuo, 96, Los Angeles, CA; Feb. 3; he was predeceased by his wife, Helen Nishimoto; he is survived by his nieces and nephews, Michiko Okada, Sumiko (Tad) Kamigaki, Shigeo Okada, Tsutomu (Elaine) Okada and Reiko Okada.

Nitta, Hakuzo, 92, Vancouver, WA; Jan. 31; he was a 442nd and MIS veteran; he was predeceased by his wife, Eiko Ellen Uchimura Nitta; he is survived by his children, Kenneth (Heather Beecher) Masahiro, Cynthia Kaoru (Jeffrey Roe) Nitta and Sono Obuchi; nephew, Jeffrey; niece, Katharine; gc: 3.

Oyama, Roy M., 91, Caldwell, ID; Jan. 1; he is survived by his sister, Chizuru Katherine Hirai; sons, Terry (Kathleen), Alan and Greg (Laraina).

Sakuma, Wallace Yukito, 79, Honolulu, HI; Jan. 12; she is survived by her sons, Wallace Y. and Kip M.; daughters, Patricia Chinsato, Colleen K. Lee, Deborah M. Fukuda and Sheila S. Higa; gc: 9.

Takemoto, George S., 91, Murrieta, CA; Feb. 21; he is predeceased by his son, Glenn Takemoto; he is survived by his wife, Florence; son, David Takemoto; daughters, Carol Takemoto, Keiko (David) Usui, Miki (Ted) Masumoto and Karen Takemoto; step-son, Leslie Doi; step-daughter, Sandra (Rod) Lau; sister, Yeiko Imamura; gc: 7; ggc: 5.

Tomita, Toshiyuki Glenn, 89, Los Angeles, CA; Feb. 18; he is survived by his children, Derek (Joan), Kurt (Gaye), Mark (Joanne) and Grant (Stacy) Tomita; brother, Yoshinori (June) Tomita; brother-in-law, Yoshimi

(Yuki) Shiraki; sisters-in-law, Toni and Nako Tomita; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 8.

Yamashita, Tommy, 91, Glendora, CA; Feb. 13; he was an Army veteran of the 441st Counter Intelligence Corp; he was predeceased by his wife, Leiko; parents, Seikichi and Samo; brothers, Sakan, Shigeru and Kiyoshi; sisters, Ritsuko Higo and Sumiko Yamashita; he is survived by his brother, Takashi (Molly); sons, Thomas

(Jadine), Ronald (Gayle) and David (Melinda); daughter, Susan (John) Harada; gc: 9; ggc: 2.

Yoshioka, Chiyoka, 100, Placentia, CA; Feb. 23; she was predeceased by her husband, Frank Kazue Yoshioka; daughter, Judy Kiyohara; son, Robert Yoshioka; daughter-in-law, Sue Yoshioka; she is survived by her children, Jean Minako (Yukio) Tanaka, Bill Yoshioka and Frances (Doug) Nuttall; gc: 7; ggc: 12.

TRIBUTE

DOUGLAS SHIGEO IWAMOTO



A native of Salinas, Calif., Doug was surrounded by his family 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. Ever the caregiver, he helped comfort his family and friends during his fight with cancer.

He left for college but returned to Salinas in 1971 when his father became ill. From that point, he contin-

ued farming green onions under the SEICO label, adding employment with Oshita, Inc., and Matsui Nursery. He moved on to start Iwamoto Farms and grew for various companies throughout the Salinas Valley, including Tanimura & Antle. Partnering with Mark Mitani, they joined in Summit Seeds, Commission Street and other various agriculture ventures in Salinas. Together, they formed MKM Farms, Inc., with an opportunity to grow and process ready-to-eat vegetables. Doug had many passions. As an active member of the Buddhist Temple of Salinas, he grew into leadership roles with the Buddhist Churches of America, where he served as president for two terms.

Doug was preceded by his father, Saburo Eddie Iwamoto, and sister, Setsuko Iwamoto. He is survived by his mother, Mary Iwamoto of Salinas, CA; wife, Joann; and daughter, Staci (Manuel) Tapia of Garden Grove, CA; grandchildren Emily and Mateo Tapia; son, Scott (Carissa) of Encinitas, CA; son, Jason Fukushima of Pasadena, CA; and our beloved four-paw companion, Jack. Doug is also survived by his sisters, Caryl (Roy) Suzuki of Las Vegas, NV; Barbara (Ken) Tanisawa of Burlingame, CA; and sister-in-law, Janet (John) Lew of Tucson, AZ; and numerous nephews, nieces, aunts, uncles, cousins, and countless friends.

A Celebration of Life was held on Wednesday, March 4, 2015, at 11 a.m., at Calvary Monterey, 3001 Monterey-Salinas Highway, Monterey, CA, with a reception that followed. A private burial will be at Yamato Cemetery in Salinas, California.

Arrangements by Struve and Laporte Funeral Home. Online condolences can be made at www.struveandlaporte.com.

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 \$20/column inch.

Contact:

tiffany@pacificcitizen.org
or call (213) 620-1767

FRANCES F. SUGAI

Frances S. Sugai, age 85, died Feb. 11, 2015. Beloved wife of the late Ray. Loving mother of Patti (Albert) Hara, Mark (Josephine) Sugai and Arlene (Tom) Hayn. Devoted grandmother of Megan, Bryan, Sarah, Patrick, Matthew and Elizabeth. Dear sister of Masa Yano and the late Mary, Thomas, Lily, Joe, Kiyoshi, Paul and Sam.

Visitation was on Saturday, Feb. 21, at Christ Church of Chicago, 6047 N. Rockwell, Chicago, IL 60659. In lieu of flowers, memorials can be sent to Christ Church of Chicago or Bethany Retirement Community, 4950 N. Ashland, Chicago, IL 60640.

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STEP UP >> continued from page 2

could be targeted around chapter events (Scholarships, Obon Festivals, etc.) with ads submitted from local chapter supporters.

Chapters can highlight activities by placing their own ads for similar events. Contact P.C. Business Manager Susan Yokoyama for additional information. Also, stories can be published in the main body of the P.C. at no charge. Events with a photo are highly valued — be sure to include a photo of the previous year's event, and you may get it published. Go get those new ads for every issue — the P.C. and your chapter will both benefit!

Another way to help is a direct donation from you personally to the P.C. These funds are used for everything the P.C. needs — from paper to postage. Achieve the "Wall of Fame" status in support of the P.C. with a donation of \$200 or more.

Please encourage your chapter to make a donation to the P.C.'s Spring Campaign. Our Berkeley Chapter recently made a \$500 donation. I challenge every chapter to match or exceed that amount in support of the P.C.

Sincerely,

James Duff
NCWNP P.C. Editorial Board Rep
Berkeley Chapter

LETTER >> continued from page 2

To suggest that black Americans do not have legitimate reasons to protest racial disparities in policing and the criminal justice system isn't just distasteful 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 conjecture, but to established history and science. As the American Psychological Assn. has long maintained, racial prejudices are deeply rooted in the psyches 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 slayings of Mike Brown, Eric Garner, Tamir Rice and dozens more cannot be so neatly divorced from the murders of Emmett Till, Jimmy Lee Jackson and all those who perished under the heavy yoke of the lynching tree. One need only speak with a survivor of the policies carried out under Jim and Jane Crow terrorism to realize that throughout recent history, the American government has frequently operated not as a democracy but as a regime of oppression — the direct effects of which continue to be felt today.

The letter closes with a pastiche of racially charged buzzwords: black "race

baiters" are condemned by name, an anti-white conspiracy between the Executive Branch, civil rights leaders and local government is hinted at. Mr. Unruhe offers a thin addendum 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 tautologies aside, the NY/SC remains convinced that true justice has been perverted in communities like Ferguson, and wherever else predominantly white police forces unfairly police and enact violence upon marginalized communities. Because a government comprised of democratically elected representatives is ultimately accountable to us, 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 action 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 civic engagement and activism — particularly on issues that do not appear to directly affect the Nikkei community. Not only

have we protested and fought for justice, fostered the redress movement and battled incarceration, but as our executive director, Priscilla Ouchida, mentioned in her response, we have long engaged on issues like marriage equality; we welcome the immigrant and defend her 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 comprehensive freedom for our neighbors. As Dr. King taught us, "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, to those in rural and urban communities across this country who are groaning under the weight of white violence and the constant threat of deportation. In appreciating the intertwined nature of all struggles for human dignity and social justice, we wholly reject any attempts to casually malign or intentionally distort the lived realities of our neighbors.

Sincerely,

The NY/SC

REMEMBRANCE >> continued from page 3

There was depression. Alcoholism. A lack of privacy in the camps. Boyfriends. Escaping and lying about being Navajo to try and enlist in the Army. The huge JA community in Denver in the immediate postwar years, which filled the local school yearbooks for two 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 take if they were told they had two weeks



PHOTO: GIL ASAKAWA

Linda Takahashi Rodriguez, Toe Sakamoto and Frank Sakamoto (standing) share stories of their internment experience at the Denver Day of Remembrance event.

to pack only what they could carry, to be taken to a concentration camp. That's what families had to discuss 73 years ago, after all. And, attendees were able to watch incredibly evocative home movies from Amache that were just recently donated by a family that had been imprisoned there. The images flickered on the giant screens while 1940s hits and Japanese songs that many internees would have remembered played over the sound system. Sushi and Japanese snacks were donated for the occasion, and many people stayed after the panel to seek out people who had been interned to hear 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 American 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/>.

Gil Asakawa is a member of the Pacific Citizen Editorial Board and the author of "Being Japanese American." He blogs about Japanese and Asian American issues at www.nikkeiview.com, and he's on Facebook, Twitter and lots of other social media. He also is AARP's AAPI Community Marketing Communication Consultant.

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