



# PACIFIC CITIZEN



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## LET'S PRESERVE THE P.C.'S ARCHIVE

The *Pacific Citizen* is great. Here's a spring 2015 opportunity to express just how great through 140 characters or less, a few clicks and maybe giving or getting a few dollars.

From April 16-30, I will send out five tweets, each quoting a JACL member's support for the *Pacific Citizen* (and a link to the P.C. Donate page). The individual quoted in the tweet that receives the most likes or retweets will receive a \$25 gift card from me.

### To participate:

- Follow me on twitter at

@LeonaHiraoka (it's a fairly new account — don't judge!).

- Look for my P.C. tweets in the last two weeks in April.
- Retweet or like the posts!
- And help a P.C. fan win the gift card.

### If you'd like to be potentially quoted in one of the tweets:

- Send me a one-sentence tweet on why you value the P.C. and/or why you'd donate to preserve its future.
- Or send an email with the same one sentence to [LHiraoka@integratedmedia.us.com](mailto:LHiraoka@integratedmedia.us.com).

### How else you can participate:

- Please go to [pacificcitizen.org/donations](http://pacificcitizen.org/donations) and contribute (this link will also be in the tweet). Any amount is appreciated. There's a small, dedicated staff working triple duty to create cover-

age for today's *Pacific Citizen*, all to preserve the proud legacy of the P.C. and move the entire enterprise forward in a digital environment. This means they're doing everything from recently launching a new website to digging for dollars to expand the digital archive of 85 years of the P.C.

While the new website is great, it's this archive that has really piqued my interest. The *Pacific Citizen* has published 3,253 editions. The first issue came off the press in 1929, and the stalwart editors published regularly through the Great Depression, World War II and the internment (a historical fact I find amazing), the Vietnam War, the Cold War and on into the 21st century.

The ability to go back through that history — seeing it reported as news instead of history — has to be

preserved. Coverage of Japanese American culture, politics, news and opinion — coverage that would have been lost if left to mainstream media — found a platform in the P.C. during the 20th century. The thoughts and advancements of the community have been chronicled for more than 85 years, and now they need to be preserved through the development of this digital archive.

The P.C.'s unique perspective and reportage should not only be preserved, but it should also be fueled to continue forward. And that means donations. Please join me in sending words of support, and a bit of funding to boot.

Sincerely,

Leona Hiraoka  
EDC PC Board Member

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

The pastor on the plane asked why I was going to Selma. I told him because I support voting rights and wanted to mark the anniversary of a historic civil rights event. He leaned close, confessing, "I'm glad you didn't bring up race."

The problem is, Selma was to a large extent about race. And many of the civil rights issues we face today have a racial component. Therefore, when someone says, "I just see people, not the color of their skin," they are probably implying they treat everyone equally. But by skirting the issue of race, ethnicity and culture, their statement ignores the very real discrimination — from microaggressions to the systemic — that minorities face. What they are really saying is, "I am not comfortable talking about race, so I will

ignore it." And ignoring a problem doesn't make it go away.

In psychology, there is something called an "Implicit Association Test." It asks you to rapidly categorize faces and words as they flash on the screen and measures reaction time as you tap keys to indicate the appropriate category. Sometimes, you're asked to place faces of color and positive words together. Other times, the reverse is true.

For most of the population, by the time the milliseconds are tallied, it's clear: You're quicker to associate images of black and brown faces with negative words. When I took it as an undergraduate psychology major, my results showed I was also biased at an unconscious level, which as a left-leaning woman of mixed ethnicity was not what I expected.

But that's the thing. Racism is no longer as blatantly obvious or pervasive as signs over drinking fountains and lynch mobs. Instead, it's become more subtle, implicit and unconscious. And it remains an intersectional issue, entwined with poverty, gender and sexuality.

Yet, poverty alone cannot explain the sobering statistic a youth leader shared to marchers: Public schools in Selma remain 99 percent African-American. Growing up male still doesn't explain why men of color are disproportionately represented in the criminal justice system. And when it comes to sexuality, as one marcher in Selma said, "back in the '60s, you could get killed for what we did, marching for integration. Decades later, my partner and I still can get killed for who we are."

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## NIKKEI VOICE

# PAYING TRIBUTE TO MIN YASUI, A GIANT OF CIVIL RIGHTS

By Gil Asakawa

History evolves in strange ways. The spotlight of posterity shines bright on some people, while others are left in the shadows, sometimes forgotten.

Minoru Yasui is one of the almost-forgotten, and undeservedly so. In Denver, at least, plenty of people remember his name and revere his memory. That's because at the end of World War II, Yasui settled in Denver and established a rich legacy as an attorney and civil rights advocate, eventually spending almost 30 years running Denver's Community Relations Commission (later renamed Denver's Human Rights Commission), to which he was appointed in 1959.

In Denver, he's a giant of civic engagement and civil rights. Early in his Denver career, he set up shop in the area that had once been a thriving Japantown, and he helped clients of all ethnicities. He kept fighting against the injustice of the concentration camps and lobbied for the Evacuation Claims Act from Congress in 1948, and from 1976-84 served on the JACL's National Committee for Redress.

He was, of course, a lifelong member of JACL, but he didn't just support Japanese American causes.

He was a founder of Denver's Urban League chapter with African-Americans and later helped establish the Latin American Research and Service Agency (an Hispanic civil rights organization) and Denver Native Americans United. He was a natural to head the City of Denver's Community Relations Commission, building bridges to communities of color. He's often credited with preventing the same kind of race riots that engulfed other American cities in the tensest weeks of the 1960's civil rights movement, especially after Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination — he had such a strong relationship with black community leaders that he was able to help keep the peace.

His commitment to civic engagement and volunteerism is his strongest living legacy today. In Denver, every month a ceremony is held where a community volunteer is honored for his or her work within the community. At the end of the year, the monthly honorees are assembled for a luncheon to thank them again, publicly for their volunteerism. The award was established while Yasui was alive and continues to this day under the auspices of the Denver Foundation. The City of Denver named a municipal building for Yasui, and a bust of Yasui looks out over the gardens

at Sakura Square downtown.

So, he's remembered in Denver. But nationally, his legacy is less known, and that's a shame.

Yasui was born and raised in Oregon, and his national act of bravery was in 1942, when, as a young attorney, he protested the curfew, travel restrictions and ultimate evacuation and internment set in motion by President Roosevelt's Executive Order 9066. Yasui walked up and down the streets of Portland, trying to get arrested so he could make himself a legal test case.

Even though he was out past curfew, no one paid him any mind. He walked up to a cop and demanded to be arrested and was told to go home. After walking into a police station and demanding to be arrested, he was finally locked up. He was convicted for breaking the curfew and lost an appeal all the way at the Supreme Court. He was put in solitary confinement and then shipped out to Minidoka concentration camp in Idaho, where he stayed until 1944 when he got a job in Chicago. He left Chicago almost immediately and arrived in Denver.

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## A MOTHER'S TAKE

# LOVINGLY HOLDING SPACE

By Marsha Aizumi

I recently read an article written about a family gathering around their mother as she was dying. I was struck by its vulnerable and loving perspective, but most of all by a concept Heather Plett called "holding space." According to Plett's article, "holding space" is about supporting another human being without "judging them, making them feel inadequate, trying to fix them or trying to impact the outcome." Holding space means "we open our hearts, offer unconditional support and let go of judgment and control."

I remember holding space for my mom when she was dying. I didn't know that a concept like this existed, but I knew that only she was in control of her death, and all I could do was love her while she made the decision on when it was time to let go. Part of this supportive concept came as the result of a doctor telling me that he no longer predicted how long a person had to live because he had come across so many Japanese women who should not have lived past a certain point medically, but continued to do so. My mother had Parkinson's disease for over 20 years and even at the end when a different doctor said that she would not live past 24 hours, she lived for another 30 days. She died the day we brought her home from the hospital. I choose to believe that she wanted to die at home, and so she fought for 30 days to come home. When she got home, she didn't need to



"Still holding space for our parents as we honor them every year. Tak and Jean Ogino, you are still so loved..." said Aizumi.

fight any longer.

Until I read Plett's article, I didn't understand that I had held space for my mom by doing all I could to support her. I loved her every moment we were together, even though I knew that by opening my heart that wide, I would feel the sadness and fear of her dying even more intensely.

And as I recently sat reflecting on her final days, I realized this is also what I did for my transgender son, Aiden. Not so much in the beginning, because I was too afraid to open my

heart and let go of control. But eventually I grew strong enough and less afraid. When I got to the point that I could "hold space" for Aiden, it wasn't easy, but I knew that supporting my son was the only option I would consider.

Although Plett's article included eight tips on how to hold space well, I have chosen to only include four of them as it relates to my son's transition from female to male. Here they are:

**1. Give people permission to trust their own intuition and wisdom.** Since being the mother of a transgender child was foreign to me, I simply needed to trust my intuition and accumulated wisdom from the many years I loved my child. I also needed to trust my son. I listened and made decisions with an open heart. If an occasional misstep was made, I sat down and talked to Aiden to clean up my mistake or misunderstanding. He felt respected, and I felt like a good mother.

**2. Don't take their power away.** There were so many times when fear caused me to want to step in and take over. In the beginning, this is what I did. But that only made my child feel misunderstood, powerless and hopeless. When I learned to truly listen and withhold judgment until I got more information, my relationship with Aiden got better. He felt heard and believed that his voice mattered.

>> See HOLDING SPACE on page 12





(From left) Kyle Abbott, Reiko Iwanaga, Shirley Muramoto-Wong and Robert Handa participated in the Q & A session following the screening of "Hidden Legacy: Japanese Traditional Performing Arts in the WWII Internment Camps" at the Wesley United Methodist Church in San Jose, Calif.

## 'HIDDEN LEGACY' Screening Supports JAMsj Public Programs

A screening of "Hidden Legacy: Japanese Traditional Performing Arts in the WWII Internment Camps" was held on March 21 at the Wesley United Methodist Church in San Jose to support public programs at the Japanese American Museum of San Jose (JAMsj).

The film, which was a 2012 NPS JACS Grant award recipient, features 22 artists from music, dance and drama who were interned in the American concentration camps at Amache/Granada, Gila River, Heart Mountain, Jerome, Manzanar, Minidoka,

Rohwer, Topaz and Tule Lake.

Following the screening, the 150 attendees participated in a Q & A session with Emcee and NBC Bay Area Reporter Robert Handa, filmmaker Shirley Muramoto-Wong and dance choreographer Reiko Iwanaga (also known as Harayagi Reimichi). Participating in a surprise performance was Kyle Abbott on the shamisen, Muramoto-Wong on the koto and Handa on the drums.

The event, which was sponsored by JAMsj, Contemporary Asian Theatre Scene and the Wesley Jazz Ensemble, helped raise approximately \$3,000 in support of JAMsj's Public Programs.

## JAVA Announces Its Annual Scholarship Award Program

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Japanese American Veterans Assn. announces its annual scholarship award program for 2015. Twelve scholarships will be awarded to a range of graduating high school seniors, advanced undergraduate students and postgraduate and professional education students.



Intelligence Service as well as descendants of WWII Nisei soldiers from other units. In the case of only the Sen. Inouye scholarship, applications also will be accepted from any past or present member of Hawaii's 100th Battalion or 442nd Infantry. A current war veteran member of JAVA whose membership began at least one year prior to

April 1, 2014, or his or her child may also be eligible.

As in the past, favorable consideration will be given to eligible applicants who demonstrate their lifelong commitment to public and uniformed service leadership for the nation, e.g., participating in military commissioning programs while in college.

Complete rules and application forms are available on the JAVA website. The final date to submit an application is May 15.

The names of the awardees will be announced at the annual JAVA scholarship luncheon in June.

For more information, visit [www.javadc.org](http://www.javadc.org).

There are different eligibility criteria for each of the three categories. Criteria includes descendants of those who served in the 100th Battalion, the 442nd RCT, the Military

## APAs in the News

### Misao Okawa, the World's Oldest Person, Dies at 117



TOKYO — The world's oldest person, Misao Okawa, died April 1, a few weeks after celebrating her 117th birthday.

Okawa died of heart failure and stopped breathing as relatives and nursing home workers stood by her side and praised her for achieving a long, healthy life, said Tomohiro Okada, an official at her Osaka nursing home.

Okawa, born in Osaka on March 5, 1898, was recognized as the world's oldest person by Guinness World Records in 2013. She lost her appetite about 10 days ago. Until then, she had been eating well, enjoying her daily cup of coffee and her favorite dishes, including ramen, Okada said.

A 116-year-old woman, Gertrude Weaver of Arkansas, is now the world's oldest person, according to Los Angeles-based Gerontology Research Group.

### Tammy Duckworth Announces Her U.S. Senate Bid



CHICAGO — Democratic U.S. Rep. Tammy Duckworth of Illinois announced March 30 she's running for U.S. Senate in 2016, setting up a high-profile challenge to Republican Sen. Mark Kirk's re-election bid.

"I'm running for the United States Senate in 2016 because it's time for Washington to be held accountable and to put Illinois' families and communities first," Duckworth said in a video posted on her campaign website. "I will fight my heart out to represent you with honor and integrity."

Duckworth is an Iraq war veteran who served as assistant secretary of veterans affairs under President Barack Obama. Previously, she was director of the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs after an unsuccessful bid for Congress in 2006.

— P.C. Staff and Associated Press.

## JACL/OCA Washington D.C. Leadership Summit

By Nicole Gaddie

In 1984, a group of JACL and OCA (formerly Organization of Chinese Americans) community leaders, each with varied historical and generational backgrounds, convened in the nation's capital to enter the national policy-making arena.

More than 30 years later, the JACL and the OCA returned to Washington, D.C., for a leadership summit, discovering and developing what it means to advocate in a divided society.

Shortly after their arrival, summit attendees participated and traveled to OCA National headquarters, where they met with Norman Mineta. His accolades stretch the gamut from serving as mayor of San Jose and representing the 13th and 15th districts of California to serving as U.S. Secretary of Transportation and Commerce under President Bill Clinton and President George W. Bush.

Although Mineta's list of accomplishments is long, his belief of individual pride and flourishing are most memorable. "Be proud of who you are," said Mineta as he spoke about being interned at Heart Mountain during WWII.

Over the course of three days, summit participants met individuals from a variety of AAPI and governmental organizations, learning about the state of the American education and immigration system, including senators to lobby the issues in less



(From left) Nicole Gaddie, Jeff Shieh, JR Kuo and Allen Tang in front of the U.S. Capitol Building

than 48 hours.

Education was one of the more notable topics during meetings with policy makers and advocates. The All Students Count Act was introduced by Rep. Mike Honda (D-San Jose) in 2014. The bill calls on federal government to be more specific and segmented about race, gender and disabilities of students in grades K-12.

Rep. Honda's bill could drastically improve education.

White House briefings, panel discussions and a brief visit with other senators were part of the program.

Nicole Gaddie is the National Youth Council Chair of the JACL.



## JALD Completes Tour in Japan and Engages With Japanese Leaders



JALD Executive Director Priscilla Ouchida visited Japan last month to discuss important alliances between the U.S. and Japan.

The 2015 Japanese American Leadership Delegation (JALD) successfully concluded its trip to Japan from March 6-14 that included a visit with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. The delegation discussed the Prime Minister's upcoming trip to the United States in the meeting, which was the highlight of a program that included discussions with HRH Princess Takamado of the Japanese Imperial Family, members of the Japanese Diet, meetings with business leaders and heads of Japanese corporations and a symposium on aging.

The delegation, led by U.S.-Japan Council President Irene Hirano Inouye, included



(Above) Priscilla Ouchida along with other delegates focused on addressing issues with aging Japanese and Japanese American populations.



(From left) Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Priscilla Ouchida

JALD Executive Director Priscilla Ouchida, Microsoft attorney Lynn Hashimoto, Yoshie Ito of the Asia Society, Toshiki Masaki of Ford Motor Co., Dr. Richard Morimoto of Northwestern University, Boeing's Linda Taira, ACE CEO Sach Takayasu, Tyler Tokioka of Honolulu-based Island Insurance Companies, Tracy Tsuetaki of Parexel International and Dr. Robin Yasui of Denver Health.

In meetings, the delegation discussed and acknowledged the important alliance that has developed over the past 70 years between the U.S. and Japan, as well as recognized the role Japanese Americans have played in building a strong bilateral relationship between the countries. There also was focus on collaborative efforts to address issues associated with aging Japanese and Japanese American populations, as well as promoting student and other people-to-people exchanges.

The trip coincided with the fourth anniversary of the March 11 triple disaster in Japan. The group visited Hiroshima and Tokyo and learned about issues relating to atomic survivors, aging, economic ties between Japan and the United States, economic strategies for Japan and an initiative to increase women in the workforce.

The trip was sponsored by the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs to provide an opportunity for Japanese Americans to deepen their understanding of Japan.

Since the JALD began in 2000, 166 delegates have participated in the program to date.

## Infamous Ramen Festival Returns to SoCal

Despite last year's disastrously overcrowded festival, Yokochō Ramen Assn. returns with a first-ever championship competition and better lines

By PC Staff

There's nothing quite like the unforgiving San Gabriel Valley sun, long lines and steaming hot bowls of ramen. Ramen Yokochō Festival was indeed a noodle slurping frenzy at Santa Anita Park in Arcadia, Calif., on March 28-29, where a champion was crowned for the first time.

The weekend-long festival was home to shops from around the country, including Shin-Sen-Gumi (L.A.), Urban Ramen (L.A.), Jujuya (L.A.), Men Oh (San Francisco/L.A.), Ramen Champ (L.A.), Kaido (Las Vegas) and Kamitoku (Hawaii).

A majority of shops served pork-based dishes, with a few exceptions, such as Urban Ramen's spicy miso ramen and Tatsunoya's shrimp creation.

Guests from Japan included Osaka Ramen Collabo, which offered its shrimp tonkotsu for a seafood and pork remix. The collaboration brought a strange but unique concoction of lobster and seafood broth, bacon, spinach, garlic, onion, parsley and pepper. While not one's usual bowl of ramen, it drew one of the longest lines at the festival — an estimated 20 minutes was the minimum wait time to grab a bowl.

Wakamusha also made an appearance, offering a new ramen trend from Japan called the "Bai Tang" ramen, a silky chicken broth soup. Kyushu's Tatsunoya also was on-hand, serving up its signature tonkotsu ramen. The shop is known for using only a pork head for the broth, which is then simmered for 20 hours.

Last year, Tatsunoya dominated stand sales at both the L.A. and San Francisco festivals. The previous festival, held at the Torrance Cultural Arts Center, sold more than 50,000 bowls. Within hours of opening, the wildly popular event reportedly opened a table for guests to submit complaints, as stands were closing well before the end of the festival.

To improve on past experience, those wanting to avoid long lines this year were able to purchase pre-event express tickets for an extra fee.

While the competition was a close

call between noodles and bowls, only U.S. participants were eligible to compete.

This year's competition winners were Shin-Sen-Gumi's Satsuma tonkotsu ramen, an exclusive bowl made for the festival cooked with veggies and loaded with umami. Ramen chef Koumotsuke Ine represented Shin-Sen-Gumi, accepting both the trophy and the grand prize Delta Airline tickets.

Kaido with its shirori tonkotsu ramen came in second place, and Men Oh with its Tokushima tonkotsu ramen came in third.

Notable chefs included Jujuya's Mako Tanaka, formerly of Chino's on Main and Spago, and Grand Central Market in Downtown Los Angeles' Eggslut chefs Alvin Cailan and Nathan Asamoto.

Ramen Yokochō was established in 2013 and is the largest ramen festival in the U.S., bringing vendors from across the country as well as overseas. The Southern California-based ramen mecca doesn't have any future days locked, but there are talks of hosting another festival before the end of this year. Stay tuned for more details!



(Above) Osaka Ramen Collabo's pork and seafood ramen was a fan favorite this year.

(Above) L.A.'s Shin-Sen-Gumi won first place at this year's Ramen Championships.



# GETTING THE SCOOP ON GOODNESS

PHOTO: TITAN 11. 14


Kansha Creamery serves up homemade ice cream like its signature Mr. Universe, a vanilla ice cream scoop with caramel and oatmeal cookies, giving customers their sweet tooth fix while also giving back to the Children's Hunger Fund.

There is nothing vanilla about Kansha Creamery, where simple ice cream conquers world hunger and cravings.

*By Tiffany Ujije,  
Assistant Editor*

**K**ansha Creamery sits at the corner end of a shopping plaza on Torrance's bustling Western Avenue and 186th Street. Inside the South Bay shop are a few tables and cushioned chairs, as well as one wall decorated with a few pictures frames but not much else. Beside the register and front counter sits a large freezer, a treasure chest of flavors.

Here, siblings Elaine, 24, and James, 20, Marumoto opened their first ice shop together earlier this year without any business experience, no capital, plenty of skepticism and a scoop of ice cream.

"When you want to achieve something you just have to take a leap of faith and keep going," Elaine Marumoto says. For many years, James Marumoto made ice

cream from his kitchen at home for family and friends as a sort of hobby. What was a casual "what-if" conversation between siblings turned into lines of people at 9 p.m. on weeknights, waiting for a scoop of James' once-hobby ice cream creations.

Today, the shop serves anywhere from eight to 10 flavors daily. Favorites include House Vanilla, Matcha, Earl Grey and Dairy-Free Chocolate Sorbet. Everything inside the treasure chest of a freezer is homemade using local organic ingredients as is expected these days.

Beware, as flavors change weekly. Currently, Salted Caramel and Mint Chip are on rotation at the shop and are only available for a limited time.

With new brands and parlors such as Camela, Jeni's, Quenelle Scoops and Sweet Rose in Los Angeles — all boasting premium ingredients and eccentric menu

items — Kansha Creamery calls back to the simple and classic ice cream flavors. At first glance, the scoops here seem a little too simple and maybe even boring, but customer favorites like Mr. Universe prove otherwise.

This cosmic creation churns out the deep dairy flavors from the cream with a small vanilla note, proving to be neither too sweet nor too rich. Inside are generous pieces of oatmeal cookie and a gentle caramel ribbon, evading the faux-syruplike texture that caramel can sometimes have.

Be sure to make the most out of "Treat Yourself Tuesday" for a double scoop at \$3.75 or triple at \$5.50. Otherwise, regular prices start at \$3.75 for a single and \$5.50 for a double. Different flavors for multiple scoops is allowed, and customers can purchase flavors by the pint for \$9. Waffle cones are an extra 75 cents.



Currently, Matcha Parfaits are available for \$7.25, a steep price for a sundae, but rest assured, each cup is a stacked heavenly layer of whipped cream, Matcha ice cream, anko (red bean), corn flakes, shiratama (mochi), matcha jelly and matcha syrup.

Other menu items have included Lemon Tart, made from lemon curd and shortbread crumb. A customer had brought in a sack of lemons from home and the rest was history. While the flavor was short-lived, many customers continue to return asking for more.

Flavors and sundae combinations come and go. While some like House Vanilla are a guaranteed scoop, many flavors are on rotation, depending on which organic and fresh items are available that day. At Kansha Creamery, the menu items are spontaneous, balancing together the weather and ingredients.

"Everything is planned pretty much last minute," James admitted. Together, he and Elaine visit local farmers' markets, picking fresh ingredients and whatever else the weather might call for. There isn't a designated menu calendar.

With ingredients in hand, the mix-ins are added to the cream, a silky smooth dairy product from Straus Family Creamery, which is based in Marshall, Calif. The batches are left to sit over night until the next morning, where they are then churned with care and patience, incorporating as much air as possible in between folds to create a better texture. Finally, the batches are then left to sit for another night inside the freezer before being served the following day to customers.

"We don't make crazy ice cream to show off what we can do," James explained. "But we do strive for a solid ice cream with integrity for the customer's joy. We don't do much — Mother Nature does most of the work."

Flavors like bacon bourbon butterscotch dubbed the "Bacon on the Rocks" might occasionally find its way onto the menu, but that's as wild as it gets.

The shop's name "kansha" is the Japanese word for "gratitude," reflecting the creamery's mission to give back to those in need. According to Elaine and James, the shop's true mission is to give back to charity groups such as the Children's Hunger Fund.

As a result, 50 cents from every purchase made at Kansha Creamery is donated to charity. From the beginning, Elaine and James were inspired by ice cream's ability to bring people together and create sweet moments. For them, harnessing that simple goodness was just as important as sharing their success with those in need.

Back in 2013, they wanted to give back to charities but were having trouble doing so with the multiple jobs they carried.

Elaine was a private piano instructor, babysitter, housekeeper and waitress, while James worked at multiple restaurants and a bakery. Neither had a business background. In fact, James dropped out after his freshman year at Narvon High School in 2010, and Elaine's time at the Berklee College of Music in Boston was short-lived before returning home to finish her AA at Los Angeles Harbor College in Wilmington, Calif.

At first, friends and family were doubtful and even worried about the duo's business idea. The brother-sister team had trouble finding funds and were denied several small business loans by banks. Even after working multiple jobs for two years, they didn't have enough funds to cover the business' initial startup costs.

*'Whatever blessings we receive, we want to impart that on others.'*



(Above) Matcha Parfait made with layers on layers of homemade goodness.



(Above) A moment captured almost 15 years ago of the brother-sister duo.

Then last year, their parents, John and Michiko, agreed to loan Elaine and James enough to open their business.

"Of course they were nervous at first," Elaine said. "But they had faith in us." But perhaps more importantly, they've been able to continue giving to charity groups.

"We wanted the name to encompass our purpose, giving thanks to what good can come out of our ice cream," Elaine said. "Whatever blessings we receive, we want to impart that on others."

Prior to opening the creamery, both siblings volunteered on farms through the World Wide Organization for Organic Farmers (WWOOF), learning about agriculture and the people behind their ingredients. It was during this time that they had an opportunity to work and learn simultaneously on produce and dairy farms.

"We weren't expecting to do so well, especially so early on," Elaine admitted. "But we've been able to pay rent, pay our parents back slowly and give back to charity."

Now, Elaine and James have just one job, making ice cream and giving back to those in need at Kansha Creamery.

**Follow Kansha Creamery on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/kanshacreamery](http://www.facebook.com/kanshacreamery) or on Instagram at [kanshacreamery](https://www.instagram.com/kanshacreamery) to see the shop's latest flavors before they're gone! Visit the shop at 18515 Western Ave., Torrance, CA 90247, for a scoop or several of goodness or call (310) 953-7110 for more information and business hours.**



(Above) Elaine and James Marumoto at their new store as they serve scoops during the afternoon heat.



(Above) James Marumoto scoop the Mr. Universe flavor from the freezer that doubles as the daily menu.

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May. 06 ~ May. 19	Bikkuri Finale Tour with Ken: "Off the Beaten Track in Kyushu"
May. 28 ~ Jun. 06	The Best of Hawaiian Islands: "Oahu, Maui, Big Island"
Jun. 05 ~ Jun. 14	Scenic Norway: "Oslo, Lillehammer, Loen, Stalheim, Bergen, Telemark"
Jul. 12 ~ Jul. 21	Japan By Train: "Hiroshima, Kurashiki, Okayama, Kyoto, Tokyo"
Sep. 17 ~ Sep. 26	Pacific Coast: "Seattle, Portland, Newport, Gold Beach, San Francisco"
Oct. 04 ~ Oct. 14	Let's Go Hokkaido: "Sapporo, Sounkyo, Shiratoko, Tomamu, Toyako"
Oct. 08 ~ Oct. 19	Jewels of Morocco: "Casablanca, Fez, Erfoud, Ouarzazate, Marrakesh"
Oct. 18 ~ Oct. 27	Autumn Japan: "Hiroshima, Kyoto, Kanazawa, Takayama, Tokyo"
Oct. 19 ~ Nov. 01	Italy: "Rome, Pisa, Florence, Milan, Venice, Capri, Amalfi Coast, Pompeii"
Oct. 22 ~ Nov. 02	South Korea (West Coast): "Jeonju, Yeosu, Gwangju, Boseong, Jeju"
Nov. 01 ~ Nov. 11	Islands of Okinawa & Shikoku: "Naha, Takamatsu, Matsuyama, Kochi"
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# Pete Hironaka Leaves Lasting Legacy Upon Retirement



Pete Hironaka was a cartoonist for the *Pacific Citizen* for more than 53 years, illustrating humorous and vibrant messages to readers from across the country and around the world.

By Ron Katsuyama, VP for Public Affairs  
Japanese American Citizens League

Following is a reprint of an article that was originally submitted to the *Pacific Citizen* on Nov. 20, 2010. A longtime contributor to the P.C., Pete Hironaka passed away on March 25, 2015, at the age of 87.



Pete Hironaka's cartoons have resonated with *Pacific Citizen* readers for more than 53 years. On May 24, 1957, Pete began a series of thoughtful messages and points of view. His initial publication was prompted by Mike Masaoka's *Washington Newsletter* column that raised concern about an apparent decline in public recognition of the supreme sacrifices of Nisei soldiers during WWII. Since then, other themes are identifiable: the value of kindness and compassion and a need for advocacy on behalf of the "underdog" or "outsider" due to cultural insensitivity or bigotry. Perhaps these are best understood with awareness of his humble beginnings, first in Sacramento, then in Salinas, Calif.

Born to Issei parents who eked out a sharecroppers' living near Sacramento, Pete was the second oldest of what would become a family of six children. When Pete was 6, the family moved to Salinas to take advantage of better farming opportunities. Pete fondly recalls one of his earliest experiences in the Salinas schools. His first grade teacher gathered her colleagues to marvel at a sketch he had made of a pretty blonde-haired classmate.

However, with a growing interest in sports, obligatory farm chores and dedication to schoolwork, Pete temporarily abandoned his drawing activities. But future developments would prove that he was "hooked" into drawing at an early age, needing only awareness of opportunities during his later high school years for his dormant talent to re-emerge.

Perhaps recognizing Pete's latent abilities, his father talked him into taking a college-prep curriculum at Salinas H.S. With hard work and a bevy of A's, he seemed poised in preparation for entry into a prestigious university.

However, Pete's life path suddenly took an unexpected turn. Following Pearl Harbor, Executive Order 9066 and a temporary stay

in squalid conditions at Pinedale, Pete's father accompanied him, his older sister and his four younger siblings (including an infant) on a train headed toward the unknown. It turned out to be Poston, the WRA's makeshift city of crudely and hastily built barracks in the heart of Arizona desert. Pete's mother was unable to return from a visit to Japan, and she died before any opportunity for family reunification.

Pete later wrote about the conditions at Poston: "The sun, which we cursed so often, again begins to beat down on us. Day by day the mercury rises. Again the rattlers and scorpions come out of their hiding places to 'play' with us. The ever-buzzing mosquitoes begin their nightly rounds. It was summer in Poston."

Beginning his sophomore high school year at Poston, Pete enrolled in auto and machine shop, mechanical drawing arts and crafts, and whatever "electives" he needed to keep his full-time student status. Life was as easy as it was aimless at this time in Pete's life, and he often meandered from mess hall to the baseball field and back.

Then came Joan Smith (later Mrs. Joan Smith Bodein). She promptly implemented a policy of beginning-of-year interviews with each of her Core Studies students. A life-changing meeting ensued. "Pete, this is ridiculous," she began. More pointedly, "You're just drifting through school . . . You CAN go (to college) if you try hard enough and set your mind to it!" The rest is history. Pete became valedictorian and was accepted to Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, sometimes referred to as the "Ivy League" school of the Midwest.

Pete describes his impressions upon leaving Poston to enroll at Miami: "... it was like Dorothy leaving Kansas in black and white and arriving in Oz in Technicolor." But all was not viewed through rose-colored glasses. Not knowing how he would be treated, Pete recalls the trepidation he felt

upon entering a barbershop and the relief from anxiety upon completion of his haircut and razor shave.

Most importantly, we can appreciate significant social advances in American society as Pete reflects upon his feelings of triumph upon experiencing at least this level of acceptance. Pete muses with humor upon a later revelation that his barber had assumed he was among the royalty from Siam who had just enrolled at Miami University.

But Pete appreciates the genuine kindness shown by people like Journalism Professor Gilson Wright, advisor to the college newspaper that published Pete's editorial cartoons, and staff who helped him find odd jobs, including the one washing dishes alongside members of what was to become an illustrious football team.

Now, returning to the discussion of Pete's more than five decades of P.C. cartoons. Wherein lies his motivation? Perhaps it springs from his deep appreciation and loyalty to those people and institutions that reflect the best in our sometimes flawed human nature and the desire to celebrate these values with others.

When Pete heard that Mrs. Joan Smith Bodein would be vacationing with her husband in California, he went out of his way to arrange a meeting so that he could finally tell her that she was the best, most caring teacher he ever had. And his loyalty to Miami University and pride in his alumnus status remains unwavering in innumerable ways. (Beginning this year at 2-1, having lost only to No. 4-ranked Florida, Pete's exuberance was palpable as he gleefully announced that the Miami Redhawk football team had just won more games than they did in all of last season.)

JACL's core values are also very dear to Pete, and his artistic talents permit their expression with unparalleled eloquence. His cartoons resonate through his powerful use

of irony (e.g., consider his illustration of various execution devices at the "Museum of Crime Deterrents" with a sardonic-looking visitor holding a bloody dagger and thinking out loud, "Wonder what that word 'deterrent' means?"), subtle sarcasm (e.g., consider the depiction of Lincoln holding his 2nd Inaugural Speech in 1865, wherein he exhorts citizens to work for a just and lasting peace, juxtaposed with an observer in 1965 exclaiming, "We need more time . . ."), delightful exaggeration (e.g., I like the one about a messenger reporting to JACL Headquarters that "There seems to be a serious difference of opinion in some of our provinces to the East, as Philadelphia Phillies and Cincinnati Reds fans in samurai dress face off menacingly each side gathered behind their respective banners), and classic satire (e.g., my favorite is his depiction of a D.A.R. member who, after having read about a Mexican-American boy holding the U.S. flag views the USMC War Memorial sculpture of marines raising the American flag during the battle of Iwo Jima and exclaims, "Oh dear! I hope they're all 100 percent Americans!")

Pete leaves a lasting legacy through his art, which conveys JACL's values of democratic processes and social justice. These penetrate deeply into our consciousness, reminding us of all that has been right with efforts on behalf of our organization.

1 These, and other quotes, are taken from *Pete Hironaka's Report from Round-Eye Country: A Collection of Sketches, Both Verbal and Visual, by a Transplanted American!* (1981). Dayton, Ohio: Graphic Concept Center. For information about this book write to: Pete Hironaka, 3208 Braddock St., Dayton, Ohio 45420.



# FINAL REFLECTIONS FROM SELMA

By Kota Mizutani

In case you missed it, JACL representatives were in Selma last month to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 1965 Voting Rights Marches. Under the leadership of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the Selma marches were in protest of continued institutional barriers to voting registration despite the passage of the Voting Rights Act.

There was much to contemplate and discuss during the weekend's events, but perhaps the most significant questions on our minds were, "Are things actually better now? Have we actually made racial progress or was the blood, sweat and tears of Selma movement leaders and foot soldiers in vain?"

From the foot of the infamous Edmund Pettus Bridge, President Barack Obama sought to answer these questions in a harrowing speech regarding the importance of the Voting Rights Marches in 1965. He noted that despite the many parallels between civil rights injustices of today and the brutality faced by protesters 50 years ago, the United States has made significant strides to eliminate institutional racism and discrimination.

On this specific point, I would have to agree with the president. Indeed, though Voter ID laws today are a significant breach of civil rights yet to be tackled, our society has come far in confronting discrimination in our legal codes. Social justice activists and leaders have achieved remarkable victories over segregationists and discriminatory statutes.

Yet to me, President Obama's true answer to this complex question of progress or regress did not lie in that section of his speech. The most critical analysis of how our society has not changed came during this segment:

"As we commemorate [the Voting Rights March protesters'] achievement, we are well-served to remember that at the time of the marches, many in power condemned rather than praised them. Back then, they were called Communists, half-breeds, outside agitators, sexual and moral degenerates,



(From left) Kota Mizutani, Ryan Kuramitsu, Todd Endo and Korinne Sugawara in Selma, Ala.

and worse — everything but the name their parents gave them. Their faith was questioned. Their lives were threatened. Their patriotism was challenged."

We are well-served to remember, indeed. The core impact of the president's argument here is that in 1965, the protests, demonstrations and expressions of anger and frustration by the black community was seen as unjustified. To strong segregationists 50 years ago, the protests were a challenge to societal norms and white supremacy. To a large number of neo-liberals, the protests were unnecessarily aggressive. Even to some well-to-do blacks, the disruptive nature of the protests was seen as "counterproductive." By the standards of equality of that time, the protesters were disrupting the peace and undoing justice. Retrospectively, however, they were changing — and, hopefully, we can all agree that they were improving — the meaning of "justice" to be what we interpret justice to mean today.

Though perhaps seemingly inconsequential ("Of course people back then didn't like what the civil rights activists were doing!"), the impacts of this observation are immense

and often ignored in discussions on race and protest today. First, justice as defined by law should not be based on predetermined or "traditional" normative standards or interpretations. Second, adapting and changing our interpretations of justice inherently requires the disruption and conscious departure from status quo understandings of justice as defined by law.

Unfortunately, it appears that society has yet to fully grasp this concept. A day after President Obama spoke, out-going Attorney General Eric Holder took the podium at the historic Brown Chapel in Selma and delivered some of the commemoration's most powerful words. During his speech, Holder noticeably repeated two crucial phrases pointing to the parallels of minority marginalization during the 1960s and minority marginalization today: "Paying for the necessary documents to vote" and "An unnamed young black man." The former statement references the striking similarity between poll taxes in the 1960s and Voter ID laws today, while the latter mirrors the death of Jimmie Lee Jackson, an unnamed black man killed by Alabama police, with recent killings of unnamed black men by police.

There are many who would eagerly point out the major differences between the catalyzing events and circumstances of the 1960s and today. These arguments, decrying current protests and movements as "unnecessarily aggressive," "unproductive" and "unjustified," echoes the same mind-set that opposed civil rights activism 50 years ago.

Ultimately, the answer to our overall questions is that while our country has made great strides in combating racism and discrimination, we are becoming increasingly complacent with norms of justice that may not, in fact, be just. We must remember to challenge accepted understandings of morality in our search for equality.

*Kota Mizutani is a sophomore studying political science and ethnic studies at Brown University. He currently serves as the EDC Youth Representative and Treasurer for the National Youth/Student Council.*



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A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

# CALENDAR

## >>EDC

**'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](http://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](http://www.bostonchildrensmuseum.org) or call (617) 426-6500.**

**The Traveler's Eye: Scenes of Asia Lecture**  
Washington, D.C.  
May 2; Noon  
Arthur M. Sackler Gallery  
1050 Independence Ave. S.W.  
**Cost: Free**  
Join Senior Associate Curator of Japanese Art Ann Yonemura as she looks at woodblock prints, illustrated books and paintings that depict the Tokaido. Yonemura will describe the travels of different social classes and the scenic routes taken by Hiroshige, Hokusai and other artists.  
**Info: Visit [www.asia.si.edu](http://www.asia.si.edu) or call (202) 633-1000.**

**'Sayonara'**  
New York, NY  
July 5-26  
Pan Asian Repertory Theatre  
410 W. 42nd St.  
This historical musical of U.S. military in post-WWII

Japan will be directed by Lisa Chang. The all-female Takarazuka dance theater production dives into the human spirit during a time of cultural collisions.  
**Info: Visit [www.panasianrep.org/index.shtml](http://www.panasianrep.org/index.shtml) or call (212) 868-4030.**

## >>PNW

**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](http://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](mailto:larouche@msn.com) or call (503) 698-4656.**

**'Ai Weiwei: Circle of Animals/Zodiac Heads'**  
Portland, OR  
May 23  
Portland Art Museum  
1219 S.W. Park Ave.  
**Cost: Adults \$15, college students and seniors \$12**  
The installation of Ai Weiwei's pieces consists of a dozen gold-gilt bronze sculptures representing the animal symbols from the traditional Chinese zodiac.  
**Info: Visit [www.portlandartmuseum.org](http://www.portlandartmuseum.org) or call**

(503) 226-2811.

**Asian American and Pacific Islander Community Roundtable**  
Tacoma, WA  
June 25  
Asia Pacific Cultural Center  
4851 S. Tacoma Way  
The White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders Region 10 Inter-agency Working Group invites the community to learn about critical federal programs and discuss key issues facing the AAPI community.  
**Info: Visit [www.asiapacific-culturalcenter.org](http://www.asiapacific-culturalcenter.org) or call (253) 383-3900.**

## >>NCWNP

**2015 Northern California Cherry Blossom Festival**  
San Francisco, CA  
April 11-12, 18-19  
San Francisco Japantown  
1610 Geary Blvd.  
**Cost: Free**  
Japantown celebrates its 48th Cherry Blossom Festival this year. It is expected to be the second-largest festival outside of Washington, D.C. Join the celebration this year and watch the Grand Parade on April 19.  
**Info: Visit [www.sfjapantown.org](http://www.sfjapantown.org) or call (415) 567-4573.**

**38th Annual Nikkei Matsuri**  
San Jose, CA  
April 26  
San Jose Japantown  
Jackson Street  
**Cost: Free**  
Enjoy a full day of authentic Japanese food, performing arts, live taiko performances, cultural exhibits and family activities at this year's Nikkei Matsuri. Activities include Japantown's Farmer's Market, a 5K walk and run, Yu Ai Kai's Health Fair and children's crafts at Wesley Methodist Church hosted by Suzume No Gakko.  
**Info: [www.nikkeimatsuri.org](http://www.nikkeimatsuri.org).**

**2015 OCA National Convention**  
San Francisco, CA  
July 2-5  
Hilton Union Square  
333 O'Farrell St.  
**Cost: Registration prices may vary**

This year's annual convention hopes to feature thought-provoking workshops, plenaries that address hot-button issues and events that honor those who empower the community for change. The theme "Unifying Asian Pacific Islander America" looks to embrace diversity and build solidarity in the fastest-growing racial demographic in the United States.  
**Info: Visit [www.oceanational.org](http://www.oceanational.org) or call (202) 223-5500.**

## >>MDC

**Welcome Reception for the Duo YUMENO Recital**  
Chicago, IL  
April 19; 2 p.m.  
Ravenswood Fellowship  
United Methodist Church  
4511 N. Hermitage Ave.  
**Cost: Adults \$20, seniors and students \$10**  
The program will feature traditional Japanese as well as contemporary music from Duo YUMENO, recipients of the Aoyama Music Award for their fusion of classical Japanese and Western music.  
**Info: Visit [www.duoyumeno.com](http://www.duoyumeno.com) or call (773) 561-2610.**

**Midwest Buddhist Temple Hawaiian Party**  
Chicago, IL  
May 16; 5-8 p.m.  
Midwest Buddhist Temple  
435 W. Menomonee St.  
**Cost: Adults \$30; children under 12 \$15**  
Authentic entertainment provided by Pesi Mauga and his Royal Polynesian REvue will be there. Don't miss a night of Hawaiian dancing, singing, a ukelele performance and fire tossing with family and friends.  
**Info: Visit [www.midwestbuddhisttemple.org](http://www.midwestbuddhisttemple.org) or call (312) 943-7801.**

## >>PSW

**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."  
**Info: Visit [www.jaccc.org](http://www.jaccc.org) or call (213) 628-2725.**

**Amache Friends Reunion**  
Las Vegas, NV  
April 28-29  
Golden Nugget Hotel and Casino  
129 E. Fremont St.  
**Cost: Prices may vary**  
The Amache Historical Society invites family, community members and friends of those who were incarcerated at the Amache Concentration Camp in Colorado to this year's reunion.  
**Info: Call Irene Furuya at (626) 794-3036.**

**2015 Manzanar Reunion**  
Las Vegas, NV  
September 14-16  
California Hotel and Casino  
12 E. Ogden Ave.  
The Manzanar Reunion Committee is inviting all to attend and join the annual reunion this year. Stay tuned for more details and program highlights.  
**Info: Contact Cherry Uyeda at (805) 643-4417 or Grace Deguchi at (310) 968-1666.**

**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.  
**Info: Visit [www.jaccc.org](http://www.jaccc.org) or call (213) 628-2725.**

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# Memoriam

**Fujita, Mary, 92**, Los Angeles, CA; March 16; she is survived by her children, Carol and Richard (Kathy); sister, Fumi Huromiya; sister-in-law, Grace Fujita.

**Fukunaha, Yoneji "Yo", 89**, Los Angeles, CA; March 10; he is survived by his wife, Carolyn; children, John (Sandy), Steven (Roann) and Carol; gc: 4; ggc: 1.

**Gondo, Michiko, 87**,



Torrance, CA; March 4; she was predeceased by her parents, Matasuke and Chiyo Iida; siblings, Haruko Mary Miyamoto and Tomomi Tom Iida; she is survived by her husband, Raymond Tokushi Gondo; children, Stewart Alan (Janet) and Barbara Ann; siblings, Hiroyuki Roy (Florence) and Tatsuo Harry (Yoshie); gc: 1.

**Hotta, Sachiko J., 91**, Los Angeles, CA; March 17; she was predeceased by her husband, Kiyoharu; she is survived by her children, Debbie (Aki) Kotomori, Cindy (Craig) Ogawa and Dean Hotta; gc: 7.

**Ikuta, Gregory Dean, 58**, Marina Del Rey, CA; February 21; he was predeceased by his brother, Russell Ikuta; he is survived by his mother, Pearl M., sister, Barbara; sister-in-law, Marta; niece, Sandra (Octavio) Castello; nephew, Andrew.

**Ishii, Jimmy Masanobu, 77**, Denton, TX; January 13; he is survived by his wife, Maria; daughter, Suzuko; son, Elichiro.

**Kaminishi, Ronald M., 71**, Santa Ana, CA; March 23; he was a US Army Veteran; he

is survived by his sons, Kevin and Kurtis Kaminishi; daughter, Lauren Biedebach; sister, Janice (Thomas) Ashimoto; nephew, Jason (Fara) Ashimoto; niece, Kristin Ashimoto.



**Kishi, Kent Y., 53**, San Gabriel, CA; March 1; he is survived by his sister, Susan Kishi-Lew; nephews, Warner and Everett; nieces, Katherine and Ellie; brother-in-law, Jerry; also survived by other nieces, nephews and other relatives.

**Kunihuro, Lester Koji, 59**, Irvine, CA; March 27; he was predeceased by his parents, Florence and Muts; he is survived by his wife, Desiree; siblings, Karl and Kathy; also survived by other family and friends.

**Nagano, Tsutomu, 72**, Rosemead, CA; March 21; he is survived by his wife, Kazuko; daughter, Miwa Kubota.

**Nishimura, Katsuichi, 83**, Northridge, CA; March 16; he is survived by his wife, Ikuyo; son, Glenn Kenji; daughter, June Motoko; brother, Katsumi (Eiko); sister-in-law, Fukuko; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

**Sakamoto, Michael Seiji, 76**, Gardena, CA; March 24; he was predeceased by his parents, Seki and Shizue; brother, Roy Seigo; he is survived by his sisters, Jane Kazumi Sakamoto, Amy Tsukokawa and Hisaye JoAnn Kuroda.

**Tani, Masao Tom, 93**, Monterey Park, CA; March 4; he is survived by his wife, Sadako;

sons, Robbie (Roxanne) and Alvin Tani; daughter, Linda (David) Okino; gc: 4.



**Tokeshi, Ayako, 80**, Los Angeles, CA; March 15; she is survived by her sons, Jimmy (Sally Kim) and Jon (Emily London) Tokeshi; sister, Kazuyo (Isao) Matsushita; sister-in-law, Sadako Sasaki; gc: 4.

**Tokunaga, Harue, 98**, Mission Hills, CA; March 10; she is survived by her children, Allan Hideki, Michiko Kus and May Wood; gc: 7; ggc: 4.

**Tonooka, Ben Yukio, 90**, Torrance, CA; March 20; he is survived by his daughters, Sharon (Keith) Harada, Sandie (Dennis) Yamauchi, Joyce (Glen Tanaka) and Janis Tonooka; gc: 6; ggc: 2.

**Wada, Jack Masaru, 89**,



Torrance, CA; March 23; he is survived by his wife, Peggie Akiko; children, Elaine (Mickey) Yokoyama and Jack Wada Jr.; sister, Jean Tabata; sister-in-law, Toshiko Kobayashi; gc: 5; ggc: 6.

**Watanabe, Susumu, 97**, Gardena, CA; March 20; he is survived by his wife, Akie; children, Stan (Ann) Watanabe and Nancy (Kevin) Murray; sister, Chiye Kajikawa; gc: 3.

## TRIBUTE

### PETE HIRONAKA



HIRONAKA, Pete K., age 87, of Kettering, Ohio, passed away on Wednesday, March 25, 2015. He was born in Sacramento, Calif., and graduated in 1951 from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. Pete worked as an artist for the Dayton Daily News, a longtime editorial cartoonist for the *Pacific Citizen* and a commercial artist for E.F. MacDonald and for many Dayton-area companies and advertising agencies. He was an active member of the Japanese American Citizens League chapter in Dayton. Pete enjoyed golfing, painting, cartooning and children, especially his grandchildren. Preceded in death by his spouse of 60 years, Jean, and four sisters and one brother, Pete is survived by son, Stan (Laurie) Hironaka, daughter, Cathy Hironaka, grandchildren, Kate and Peter Hironaka, and sisters, Miyo Yamada, Shirley Sato, and Agnes Deguchi. Familygreeted friends from 4 p.m.-6 p.m. on Thursday, April 2, 2015, at Routsong Funeral Home, 2100 E. Strop Road, Kettering. A memorial service was held following the visitation at 6 p.m., also at the funeral home. Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.routsong.com](http://www.routsong.com).

## TRIBUTE

### TAEKO JOANNE ONO IRITANI



Taeko Joanne Ono Iritani of Sacramento, Calif., died on March 19, 2015, following a stroke. She was 85.

Joanne was born in Bakersfield, Calif., in 1929 to immigrants from Japan. Her family farmed on rented land east of Bakersfield. At age 12, she was forcibly removed with her family by the U.S. government to Poston Relocation Center in Arizona. From May 1942 until World War II ended in August 1945, they and 17,814 other people with Japanese ancestry lived behind barbed wire and under armed guard.

She received degrees from Bakersfield Junior College, U.C. Berkeley, and CSU, Bakersfield. She was a special education teacher for nearly 30 years. Joanne married Frank Iritani in 1956. They raised three children in Bakersfield and retired to Sacramento.

Joanne and Frank were leaders in the Japanese American community. They published "Ten Visits," a manual on how to find the often obscure sites of the 10 internment camps. Joanne was selected to represent the people who were interned at Poston Camp at the groundbreaking in Washington, D.C., of the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism During World War II. Over the last 23 years, she helped develop and led scores of Florin JACL "Time of Remembrance" programs educating 5th grade students about the internment, the importance of civil rights and the U.S. Constitution. She spoke around the country. She collected oral histories of people affected by those events for the Japanese American Archive Collection at CSU Sacramento.

Joanne is survived by her children, Susanna Iritani Minard and her husband, Richard Minard Jr., of Bow, N.H.; Ken Iritani and his wife, Lesley, of Sacramento; and Bonita Iritani and her husband, Jon Hussey, of Chapel Hill, N.C. She was predeceased by her husband, Frank, her brother, Yoneo Ono, of Fresno then Redding, CA, and her sister, Tomi Monji, of Atascadero then Seal Beach, CA. She also leaves her brothers Joe Ono of Hilo, HI, and Tak Ono of Bakersfield, CA, and six grandchildren: Alden Minard, Daniel Iritani, Kevin Iritani, Jacob Iritani, Marisa Iritani and Alex Hussey.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on April 11 at Centennial United Methodist Church in Sacramento with lunch following.

Joanne's wishes are that memorial donations may be made to: Centennial UMC, 5401 Freeport Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95822; Florin JACL Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 292634, Sacramento, CA 95829-2634; or the Iritani Scholarship Fund, Centennial UMC, 5401 Freeport Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95822.

## 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.

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## MIN YASUI >> continued from page 3

Today, the names that come to mind of people who fought the injustice of Japanese American internment are Gordon Hirabayashi and Fred Korematsu, two other men who fought imprisonment all the way to the Supreme Court. Both those men had their convictions overturned in the 1980s, but Yasui died in 1986 while awaiting a decision from the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, which subsequently dismissed the appeal after Yasui's death.

Both Hirabayashi, who moved to Canada in 1959 and lived there until his death in 2012, and Korematsu, who passed away in 2005 after becoming the "face" of the three men, were awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award given by the United States.

Yasui has not received the honor, and he is almost forgotten as a voice against the injustice of internment. So, his daughter, Holly, is now making a documentary and a theatrical script about her father that's largely funded by the Mile High JACL (of which I'm a board member).



Min Yasui in his CCR office

And a Min Yasui Tribute Committee (with which I'm involved), which includes Holly and other family members as well as friends across the country, has helped to nominate Yasui, via Congress members including Hawaii Sen. Mazie Hirono and California Representative Mike Honda, for a Presidential Medal of Freedom, so that Yasui can complete the triangle of honorees alongside Hirabayashi and Korematsu.

That would give Colorado one more reason to celebrate this most significant of Asian American heroes, and Denver one more reason to remember a giant who walked and worked amongst us for decades, quietly and without fanfare. He deserves the fanfare now.

*Gil Asakawa is a P.C. Editorial Board member and former P.C. Board Chair. He is AARP's AAPI Marketing Communications Consultant, and he blogs at [www.rikkeview.com](http://www.rikkeview.com). A new revised edition of his book, "Being Japanese American," will be published in June by Stone Bridge Press.*



Aiden and Marsha Aizumi

## HOLDING SPACE >> continued from page 3

aside made all the difference.

**4 Allow them to make different decisions and have different experiences than I would.** Holding space means respecting my child's differences and recognizing that those differences may lead them to make choices that I would not make. When I hold space, I let go of control and honor these differences. A couple of examples come to mind for my son. The first was when he wanted to have "top surgery," which would remove his breasts. Initially I was reluctant to support this decision because I was thinking like a woman and mother, not like an individual trying to align his physical body with how he thought and felt. I also remember the time Aiden wanted to leave college for one year to do a program called "Public Allies." I was afraid that leaving school he would never return. But that was not the case. Both of these decisions I was initially not comfortable with. But I asked questions to understand better and trusted my son. In the end, these two decisions have helped to mold the confident, social justice and hardworking advocate Aiden is today.

This past weekend, I had dinner with a friend who said his parents seem oblivious to what is just around the corner for them

as 72-year-old-plus individuals who are dealing with various health issues. In spite of their age and health, they are having the time of their life, he went on to explain. He said he used to go through their pantry and throw out all the things they shouldn't eat.

Today, he doesn't do that. He probably wished that they exercised more. He doesn't nag them. Years ago, this man and his parents didn't speak for 10 years because of the judgment, control and conditional love that was placed on their relationship. Today, he loves them with his whole heart and has

a wonderful relationship with them. He is holding space for the decisions they are making for the remainder of their lives.

Holding space is not always easy, whether it be for an aging parent or a lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender individual, but it is a way to show our unconditional love, respect and support. And isn't that what we want those we love to feel?

*Marsha Aizumi is an advocate in the LGBT community and the author of the book "Two Spirits, One Heart: A Mother, Her Transgender Son and Their Journey to Love and Acceptance."*

**3 Keep ego out of it.** Being the parent, I felt I knew what was best for my son. But the truth is, he had been doing research both online and talking with other people for years. He had better and more information than I did. So, when I let go of the fact that I should know better, our communication grew stronger. I learned from him by asking questions, not in an "interrogation way," but in a "wanting to understand" way. And when I didn't take things personally, but tried to look at things more objectively, my feelings didn't get hurt and my responses were not so reactive. Our relationship got better. Putting my ego

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## LETTER >> continued from page 2

Fighting against racism doesn't mean you need to march in a rally. In fact, I'd say that's the glamorous side of things. Being a marcher in Selma was akin to the collective high experienced at a music festival, where you exist as one part of a unified whole. It was where I raised my voice, pumped my fist in the air and felt a kinship with the strangers around me. It was an once-in-a-lifetime event, which meant that afterwards, when I wasn't one of tens of thousands, it was back to the smaller, sometimes quieter battles.

Progress for most of us begins simply, where your words acknowledge that while people are different, those differences don't make them lesser or

greater than others. It means the end of saying things like, "We're all just human." It's moving toward phrases like what I used in the classroom: "We all bring unique strengths and backgrounds, and I'm excited to see we're so diverse." It's opening up dialogues, even when they're painful. As a country, we've overcome a lot. But the fight for civil rights still continues, and it can start by a collective opening of the eyes and seeing that color still does make a difference.

Sincerely,

Korinne Sugawara,  
JACL Norman Y. Mineta Fellow