P.C.'S SPRING CAMPAIGN: HELP SUPPORT OUR LEGACY

'It's clear that the generosity from our readers does make a difference.'

The Spring Campaign is the Pacific Citizen's annual appeal to its readers to support the newspaper's operations and important projects. For the past few months, this section on Page 2 has given the P.C.'s Editorial Board members an opportunity to submit their cases for support of this endeavor.

The campaign is rolling along at full steam. So, now it's my turn to do my part. And the question I have been asking myself is this: What is the most compelling reason to give to the Spring Campaign?

For me, one of the main reasons why I joined the Editorial Board and why I support the P.C. is my personal connection to the Japanese American newspaper experience. I spent more than two decades working at the San Francisco Examiner, the largest JA daily in the continental U.S. I was there at its peak in the early 1980s, when the paper had a circulation of nearly 25,000 subscribers.

As a writer and editor of the English section, I was part of a staff that worked on stories that were not dominated anywhere else. Entwined with that job, the staff took the opportunity and ran with it. The newspaper was published every day except Sunday because subscribers were delivered their paper by mail. If the postal service was open for business seven days a week, I imagine we would have published an edition on Sundays, too. At the time, I didn't mind having only one day off during the week. And surprisingly, neither did my co-workers.

We all had a keen sense of purpose, and that enthusiasm carried over to the newsroom, which routinely credited with energy and an all-hands-on-deck spirit.

Fast forward to 2015, and the terms and conditions for a community newspaper such as the P.C. are still in place. Under the experienced hand of Executive Editor Allison Horikula and her staff, the P.C. comes out a niche that no one else does quite as well.

But the question on everyone's mind is how long. No one knows how long the P.C., or for that matter the parent organization, JACL, can stay financially viable and a declining membership base. As a chapter president, few things are as sobering as reviewing the membership report each month or receiving a membership fee from national headquarters.

At last count, our chapter had 150 members. A year ago, we had 185. When I joined the chapter board about five years ago, there were more than 400 members on our roster.

Last month, our chapter leadership team met with the board of a neighboring chapter to discuss a potential merger. The discussion went well, and follow-up meetings are in the works.

A veteran journalist once wrote that elite newspapers were inevitably in business to put itself out of business, meaning that through assimilation into the mainstream culture, a paper geared toward a specific group would die from natural causes.

If the P.C. is turning 85, then it's another good year in the books. What I'm most impressed with is the staff's desire to continue serving our long-standing and loyal members. For that reason alone, I'm willing to continue supporting them in any capacity. They work in earnest publishing relevant and noteworthy content twice a month. On the digital front, when I wrote a similar piece a year ago, the P.C. didn't have the resources to have a web presence. Now thanks in part to contributions from the last fundraising campaign, the newspaper has a fully loaded and updated website (www.pacificcitizen.org).

"It's clear that the generosity from our readers does make a difference." So, I close with a humble message that I have made my annual gift to the Spring Campaign. And I hope you will, too.

Sincerely,

John Saito Jr.

John Saito Jr. is a P.C. Editorial Board member and president of the West Los Angeles chapter.

Your donations will help build and preserve a cohesive library of the Pacific Citizen to educate future generations.

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Nikkei Voice

Artifacts Contain Our Cultural History — That’s Why We Have to Preserve Them

By Gil Asakawa

Compared to crimes against humanity like the destruction of ancient relics by ISIS, some people might think that the auction of a personal collection of artifacts from the imprisonment of Japanese Americans during World War II must be a minor controversy. But the auction, which was to be held April 17, was canceled two days before, following an ad-hoc social media and mainstream media campaign that was sparked by our Japanese American community. A Facebook page named “Japanese American History: Not for Sale” gained about 7,000 followers after it was created on April 13. Change.org’s online petition created just a few days before the auction got almost 8,000 people signed on. Critics called the auction unethical and immoral, and almost everyone wanted the collection donated to a museum.

I don’t think the family was greedy. I think they thought they owed our old things of value, and they needed the money. And let’s face it, history is bought and sold every day at auctions and via private transactions — American Indian artifacts, Asian artifacts, the flotations and jerseys of war-time, rise and falls of civilizations, the inexpressible march of progress. But this history is different. The family and auction house misjudged the actual value of these items. They’re the containers for entire families’ history, identity and decades of unspoken emotions. They tell stories about the America of seven decades past. And the auction would have been an unfortunate story about America of today.

Though the media coverage may pass for now, the auction is still on my mind because just last month I visited the Japanese American National Museum in L.A. and enjoyed the pop-cultural richness of its super-successful Hello Kitty exhibit. The collection of exhibits has drawn a huge number of people who wouldn’t normally step into a JA museum because Hello Kitty is so lovable across all cultures.

And JANM did a brilliant thing with the show. Old and young, no matter what ethnicity you walk through the collection of Hello Kitty stuff, there are headed upstairs to the gallery where an amazing exhibit of art work is on display featuring Hello Kitty interpretations by contemporary artists. And when you’ve seen all the cool art, you’ve led right into ... JANM’s signature permanent exhibit about the Japanese American concentration camps. What a powerful way to educate people who may not know anything about our community’s WWII experience!

The auction is still on my mind because I’m one of the volunteer. I am writing a small caption for an artifact from Amache, the concentration camp in southeast Colorado, that will be included in an exhibit next month. A group of anthropology students from Denver University has been digging there for a year now and has cataloged a fascinating collection of items — not necessarily art and crafts made by prisoners, but bits and pieces of their daily lives, like Log Cabin pancake syrup tin, soda pop bottle, piece of cookie, plate, etc. sphera that reveals there was once a city of 8,000 people who lived in a decaying underwater corner of the state.

I’m working with a student who is writing a factual description of a tiny artifact we’ve been assigned, a piece of a man’s rope with parts broken off. The DU team has already done a lot of research and figured out from the shape and the metal alloy that the piece is made of, that it was a toy inside a box of Cereal Jack.

See ARTIFACTS on page 12

National Youth Summit Focuses on Business Networking and Cultural Heritage

By JACL NYSC

Japanse American leaders, young professionals and volunteers and a speech presentation consultant met on April 25 at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles to discuss critical issues on business networking and the influence of cultural heritage.

The event organized by Kristy Ishii, Pacific Southwest District JACL youth representative, and Ryan Takahara, JACL VP board member, also welcomed Vanna Novak, as well as keynote speaker Vanna Novak C.E.O. and owner of Speak to Perfection.

Vanna, who has more than 30 years of consulting experience and is a nationally recognized leader based in Seattle, gave a presentation on networking and networking in which she spoke about personal presentation skills and offered tips on how to build quality social relationships. Vanna’s presentation titled “Art of Influence” and “It’s What You Don’t Say That Counts” involved audience engagement on examples of workplace dynamics and relationships. The presentation also touched on cultural heritage and conditions in these spaces as well.

State Rep. B. Ample Rice, followed Vanna’s presentation, where he delivered a speech on financial responsibility in today’s economic landscape. Cheng advised the young professional attendees to investigate financial planning programs.

A panel discussion was held afterward, in which panelists navigated through various aspects of their careers while acknowledging their unique identities and cultural backgrounds. Dr. Curtis Tadao Takei gave insight from his time on the GATE Millennium Scholar Program Advisory Council, and he shared his thoughts on balancing family, community involvement and professional career in modern.

Nationally recognized writer/actor/academic/trainer kato-kittyman spoke on the significance of staying true to one’s self and how every interaction is an opportunity. Other panelists included Craig Tomimoto, vice president at IW Group and Nikki Kodama, manager of systems engineering and integration at Northrop Grumman Corp.

The event aimed to provide young professionals an opportunity to learn about networking strategies as well as life tools to better themselves and the community.

See NATIONAL on page 12
JANM Acquires Eaton Collection After Social Media Storm

The Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles announced May 4 that it has acquired the Eaton collection of Japanese American concentration camp art, crafts and photography from the Ryan family. The announcement came during JANM’s annual gala, where museum President/CEO Greg Kimura broke the news to guests. The planned auction of more than 400 pieces last month was canceled after social media protests from community members at the Rago Arts and Auction Center in Lambertville, N.J.

According to a statement released by the auction center, “JANM offered compensation acceptable to the Ryan family. JANM satisfies every dimension specified in the draft of the RFP” and that “it’s truly fitting that the Ryans, JANM and the Eaton collection of photography from the Ryan family. JANM and the Eaton collection of photography from the Ryan family.

In Kimura’s announcement at the gala, he told the audience, “We honor the sacrifice of our forebears who suffered to prove their loyalty to the U.S. by ensuring that such Constitutional violations never happen again. I’m very pleased that our museum, Rago Arts and Auction Center and the John Ryan family of Connecticut, which possessed the artifacts, were able to reach an agreement that reflects our mutual interests. We all want to see these items appropriately preserved.” Special recognition was given to actor-activist George Takei for his help in acquiring the Eaton collection. Takei, who was honored at the gala with the museum’s Distinguished Medal of Honor for Lifetime Achievement and Public Service, reportedly was in communication with the auction house hours before the collection was set to go on sale. His efforts, along with others, aided in stopping the sale.

“We have great respect for the Japanese American community who engaged with civility and intelligence with the owners and our auction house,” wrote Miriam Tucker, managing partner at Rago Arts and Auction Center, in a statement. “A lot of energy was generated by the storm surrounding the sale of this collection. We want it to fuel a larger conversation about the marketplace for historical property associated with man’s inhumanity.”

— P.C. Staff

Baltimore Riot Shines Media Spotlight on African American and Asian Tensions

More than 480 people have been arrested since April 23 in Baltimore, Md., after rioting protests erupted following the death of 25-year-old Freddie Gray, who died after sustaining unexplained spinal injuries while under police custody.

According to a report by NPR’s “Morning Edition” broadcast on April 30, the unrest in Baltimore revealed tensions between African Americans and Asians. The report suggested that while the rioting was the result of frustrations against police misconduct, it was also the conflict of African-Americans targeting Asian-owned businesses for destruction.

NPR interviewed a Chinese immigrant storeowner who was sweeping glass in her destroyed business. In her interview, the reporter said “she thought she got along with their customers. She had no idea tensions run this deep.” In another interview in the same story, a black community member expressed his mistrust and frustrations toward the Asian-owned businesses. “I feel like its payback,” he said. “I don’t think it was the most reasonable thing to do, but it was justified.”

Jeff Yang, a columnist for the Wall Street Journal Online and contributor for PRI’s “The Takeaway,” wrote in CNN’s Op-Ed that NPR’s report was “a misleading, hyperbolic and dangerous distraction, one that shifts blame away from the real issues.” Yang wrote that the Asian-owned stores were “collateral damage,” as they make up a portion of businesses operating in economically troubled neighborhoods. The column went on to note that reports like these are “reinforcing the tired narrative of black Asian internecional tension generates heat, but not light.”

“There’s a far more complex and nuanced relationship between these two urban populations,” wrote Yang. “One that is in an ongoing state of evolution and it deserves to be told not buried under cliches and clickbait.”

For Jennifer Lee, sociology professor at the University of California, Irvine, and author of “Civility in the City: Blacks, Jews and Koreans in Urban American,” such media coverage “continues to put minority groups against one another.”

Lee notes that attention is drawn away from larger problems in poor and disadvantaged communities. Structural problems are not identified and bringing heat to an already volatile community “directs blame away from the structures that perpetuate gross inequality and toward individual problems.”

Efforts to bridge the differences between black and Asian communities have been ongoing for years. For example, Japanese American civil rights activist Yuri Kochiyama was a member of Malcolm X’s “Organization of Afro-American Unity,” working with the group on oppression and injustice during the Civil Rights movement in the 1960s. More recently, the JACL was in Alabama in March to support the opening of the Civil Rights Memorial at the Selma Bridge Crossing. For decades now, advocacy groups have been looking to discuss and relieve long-standing issues between many different cultural and racial communities.

“It’s easier to focus on attention-grabbing anecdotes,” wrote Yang, “rather than the long, hard work of adjustment and accommodation going on within and around communities.”

— P.C. Staff

Prime Minister Abe Addresses Joint Session of Congress

During his weeklong visit to the capital, he offers condolences for WWII dead in historic speech.

By Associated Press

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe offered condolences April 29 for Americans killed in World War II in the first address by a Japanese leader to a joint meeting of Congress, but stopped short of apologizing for wartime atrocities.

Abe came to Capitol Hill after a morning visit to a Washington memorial to more than 400,000 American service members who died in the conflict. His remarks to a packed chamber a day after meeting President Barack Obama were warmly received by lawmakers.

“My dear friends, on behalf of Japan and the Japanese people, I offer with profound respect my eternal condolences to the souls of all American people that were lost during World War II,” he said, prompting his audience to rise in applause.

But he skirted another issue that some U.S. lawmakers had also been urging him to address in what is the 70th anniversary year of the end of war — the sexual slavery of tens of thousands of Asian women by Japan’s military, which remains a sore point with another staunch U.S. ally, South Korea. One of the few dozen surviving Korean victims, Yong Soo lee, 87, was in the gallery to watch Abe’s address.

Instead, the prime minister expressed “feelings of deep remorse over the war.” He acknowledged that “our actions brought suffering to the peoples in Asian countries, we must not avert our eyes from that.” That won’t satisfy his critics, who want Abe to do more than “uphold” the apologies for wartime abuses made by his predecessors.

Democratic Rep. Mike Honda, who invited Yong to attend, said it was “shocking and shameful” that Abe was evading his government’s responsibility over atrocities committed by the Imperial Army against so-called “comfort women” who were forced into sexual slavery.

Since winning election in December 2012, Abe has been a strong advocate of closer ties with the U.S. He vowed to enact legislation by this summer to facilitate closer cooperation with the U.S. military, in support of new U.S.-Japan defense guidelines endorsed by the two leaders on April 28.

Abe said the U.S. and Japan “must take the lead” in completing a 12-nation Pacific trade pact. That got a lukewarm response from Democrats but warm applause from Republicans — reflecting the division in Congress on the issue.

The Japanese leader is a firm supporter of a stronger U.S. presence in the region, both militarily and economically, as China, which in recent years has eclipsed Japan as the world’s second-largest economy, asserts itself as a global power.

Dozens of Japanese leaders have visited the U.S. since the war, but Abe’s invitation to speak to Congress sets him apart from his predecessors. While past Japanese prime ministers — including Abe’s own grandfather, Nobusuke Kishi, in 1957 — have addressed the House, it was the first time for a leader of the East Asian nation to speak to both chambers.

Republican Sen. John McCain said the speech was “a historic recognition of two peoples reconciled with their shared history.” He expressed gratitude for Abe’s recognition of American sacrifices in World War II.

But Jan Thompson, president of the American Defenders of Bataan & Corregidor Memorial Society, which represents U.S. veterans who fought in the Philippines and were forced into slave labor in Japan, expressed disappointment. She said it was “deeply disturbing” that Abe had offered sympathy to victims of a war that Japan started, but did not acknowledge responsibility. Noting that Abe told lawmakers that “history is harsh,” she said she agreed, but added: “History is ultimately harsher on those that deny it.”
Manzanar Committee Commemorates 70 Years Since
the Closing of the Camp at Its 46th Pilgrimage

By Charles James, Contributor

Most of the adults interested in Manzanar, one of 10 American concentration camps that opened in 1942 during World War II, are now no longer alive. The same is true for many of the children. Today, more than ever, the Manzanar Committee realizes the importance of honoring and preserving the memory of the injustices visited upon Japanese Americans in the past so that future generations will be vigilant against the dangers of racism and the threats it poses to the civil liberties of all Americans.

"Washu wa Manzanar: Continuing Our Civil Rights Legacy" was the theme of this year's 46th Manzanar Pilgrimage, which took place April 25 at the Manzanar National Historic Site located in California's Owens Valley.

"Washu wa Manzanar" is Japanese for "I am Manzanar." An estimated crowd of more than 1,200 attended this year's pilgrimage to lay claim to that message.

The first Manzanar Pilgrimage began in 1969. This year marked the 70th anniversary of the camp's closing in 1945 and the Manzanar Committee felt it had an obligation to current and future generations to leave a legacy of strength. Why?

"As explained by Bruce Embrey, co-chair of the Manzanar Committee, everyone needs to be reminded that anti-Japanese and anti-immigrant hysteria, persecution of people of color and with different traits continues to rear its ugly head," Embrey added that "we must remember so that America does not forget. This is our civil rights legacy!"

In his closing remarks at the end of the ceremony during which he also honored the 2015 Pilgrimage Legacy Award, Rev. Paul T. Nakamura, Embrey told the audience:

"You see, remembering is not passive. We must act on our memories. We must stand, today, with all those who face civil rights abuses, stand with those who are unfairly accused or persecuted simply because of their faith, their birthplace or ancestry. We must stand up for others if we are to truly honor the sacrifices of our families of our ancestors, and all the sacrifices they made so that we may pursue our dreams. We must act if we are to be true to our community and true to our country."

This year's keynote speaker was Dr. Satoki Ina, a community activist, licensed marriage and family therapist, and award-winning filmmaker who has conducted groups for Japanese Americans who, like himself, were children in America's concentration camps.

"We are here today on a healing journey to remember and tell the truth of our experience," she told the gathered audience. "We are here today to claim our history. Washu wa Manzanar!"

"It's difficult to speak about such things," Ina continued. "Experts on collective community trauma say that the human response to such humiliation is to be silent, distant and diminish the suffering and even to wipe the memory away -- in an effort to preserve some sense of human dignity."

"This is what she said and explained the silence of many that suffered during their incarceration as seen in the 1973 book "Forgetting to Remember," written by Jaene Watanabe Houston. It is an example," says Ina, "that internalized the repression and accepting the government narrative that was imposed on those incarcerated at the camps."

Ina continued, "slowly the language of our experiences has been challenged and the narrative of our incarceration has changed. Slowly our words are being heard on the non-stop experience of our families and their struggle. The Evolution to Assembly Centers and transfer to Relocation Centers of alien and non-alien Japanese from the West Coast is now recognized as deliberate expulsions that made it possible to compromise our most fundamental rights as citizens and as human beings."

Ina explained that "it means WE write our narrative, tell our story using the language of our truth. We claim our losses, suffer, grieve and sorrow and eat, claim our strength, resilience, endurance, grit, human integrity -- we are claiming our Japanese heritage as we go forward in our healing."

At the end of her speech, Ina said: "We will challenge the myth that we are the model minority to be held up to other oppressed people in our society. Instead, we will stand in unity as others proudly knowing, I am Manzanar! We are Manzanar! WE are Manzanar! WE are Manzanar! WE are Manzanar!"

(Visit www.blog.manzanarcommittee.org for full transcripts of this year's pilgrimage speeches.)
For cast member Alan Muraoka, it's an honor to be a part of the history of the long-running children's TV show.

By Connie K. Ho, Contributor

Oh you can be what you want to be, be what you want to see, believe in yourself, just believe in yourself. Go where you want to go, do what you want to do, believe in yourself.” Dressed in a purple sweater and dark colored pants, Alan Muraoka sang the opening lyrics of the upbeat “Believe in Yourself.” He was joined in the song by Muppets Elmo, Abby Cadabby and Cookie Monster, while the trio bopping and swaying along to the music. With a wide smile and charisma to spare, Muraoka made a mark at his first White House Easter Egg Roll earlier this year in Washington, D.C., with the gang from PBS’ “Sesame Street.”

A cast member for the past 17 years, Muraoka has performed with “Sesame Street” at the Hollywood Bowl in Los Angeles, outreach performances in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina, and the Macy’s Taxi at the Macy’s Day Parade in New York City.

“It's amazing to be a part of that legacy,” Muraoka said. “A generation of children have grown up with me and my character so that's pretty amazing and awe-inspiring when you think about it.”

Along with performing with the Muppets, Muraoka also had the chance to do a few book readings with younger kids at the White House Easter Egg Roll. Those in attendance at the event included First Lady Michelle Obama as well as celebrity chefs Chris Cochrane and Alton Brown.

“Sesame Street” has been invited several years to do this, but this was the first time that I was invited to join, so it was a great privilege to do that,” said Muraoka, who is based in New York City and films the show there. “It's always so flattering and humbling, and they're always so appreciative of the work that we do on the show.

Because it's an educational program and an entertainment program, parents feel very very familiar with us in the best possible way. There's a lot of magic, there's a lot of thank you's and it's always so gratifying to know that I'm on a show that makes all of that as well as entertain...”

— Alan Muraoka
According to Murakoa, when “Sesame Street” started in 1969, it was the only show at that time that dealt with educating preschool kids — the program was initially created to help inner-city kids feel prepared for school. “Sesame Street” has won accolades over its 50 years on the air, and that year, it was awarded five Daytime Creative Arts Emmy Awards. The shows include outstanding writing in a children’s preschool children’s series, outstanding original song and outstanding costume design/storyline.

“I think what sets us apart is the writing and ‘Sesame Street’ has always played to two levels — it plays one level to kids, but there’s always a level of social value that the kids may not get but the adults definitely get and appreciate,” Murakoa said. “For instance, this year, we have a take on ‘Chains of Thorns,’ we have a take on ‘Homeland,’ on ‘Star Wars.’ If you’re watching as a kid, you’re not going to get all of the sort of subtleties of the humor, but if you’re an adult watching, you’ll absolutely get it.”

Part of the magic of “Sesame Street” are the segments that feature guest celebrities. A Who’s Who list of Hollywood’s brightest stars have appeared on the show, including comedians such as Jimmy Fallon, Amy Poehler, and Tina Fey; musical acts such as Jennifer Hudson and Pentatonix; and award-winning actors such as Jamie Fox, Anne Hathaway and Lupita Nyong’o.

“I’ve been on the set before with celebrities who have grown up watching the show and when they walk on the set, it’s like they’re coming home again,” Murakoa said. “It’s a place where people have always felt safe, and so there’s something very heartfelt about seeing something that you grew up with as a child.”

It was an easy sell for Murakoa to join the role of the proprietor of Hooper’s Store. In 1997, Murakoa was performing the last Broadway revival of “The King and I” in New York and he received a call from his agent, who told him that “Sesame Street” was planning on introducing a new character who was going to take over Hooper’s Store. He auditioned for the role, ultimately going through four rounds before being offered the part.

“As it panned down, I thought, I think I might actually get this because it was such a great fit for me,” Murakoa said. “I had graduated from UCLA with a theater arts degree, and I did a lot of children’s theater when I was at UCLA. There are tales about children’s theater, and one of them is don’t talk to the kids, don’t try to play up — kids are smart, kids get it. And so I took that with me to the audition, and it was absolutely to my benefit that I had.”

Murakoa’s character was still TBD (to be determined) about a month before the story and cast were going to begin filming. When he went into the writers’ meeting, Murakoa expressed hope that the writers would be able to look beyond his ethnicity in developing the character. They ended up keeping the name “Alan” for his role.

“At that time in the ‘90s, if there was an Asian on TV, even if you were completely Americanized, they were called names like Yosh or Yoshi — like the audience wasn’t smart enough to observe their ethnicity; they had to homogenize home,” said Murakoa. “And for me, I’m a fourth-generation Japanese American who grew up in [San Fernando Valley], and all of my friends and family members were not named Yosh or Yoshi — they had names like Steve or Alan.”

When he’s not creating singing or filming, Murakoa takes on directing projects and is also currently working on a book highlighting his experience on “Sesame Street.”

“I really wasn’t interested in writing a pure autobiography — the idea is to do something about Hooper’s. I’m the third owner of Hooper’s Store, and there is a great legacy and history that needs to be told about the store as well,” Murakoa said. “It’s sort of the central meeting point of the neighborhood. It has all of those core values of community that I think sort of represents a microcosm of the world at large, the idealized world at large that we all hope a community should be.”

Murakoa treasures his multifaceted experience on “Sesame Street” as the show ramps up production on its new season.

“We’re filming season 46 right now and it’s great to be an Asian American representative on a show that’s all about inclusivity,” Murakoa said. “I feel very safe here because it’s not like they’re saying, ‘Alan is an Asian character, so we have to write him a certain way.’ They write for me as a human being with foibles and insecurities and humor and heart — it’s just a great, great joy to be a part of.”

Murakoa with “Sesame Street” (from bottom, left) Elmo, Abby Cadabby and Cookie Monster

*From left* Murakoa in front of “Hooper’s Store” and with famous guests celebrities Jimmy Fallon and Tina Fey.
EDUCATION MATTERS

TWIN CITIES JACL HOLDS TEACHER TRAINING WORKSHOP

From their initial commitment to host the Teacher Training Workshop to its conclusion, Education Committee volunteers from the Twin Cities JACL Chapter handled all of the April 24 event's details with efficiency and commitment, much like the soldiers who attended the Military Intelligence School at Fort Snelling.

Tom Phamnerr, site coordinator at Historic Fort Snelling, supported the workshop and ensured the facility so that the chapter could set up wherever they needed and the teachers in attendance would be able to focus on the day's important sessions.

The chapter's entire cadre of volunteers appeared the day before the workshop to set up the space with a number of displays created by the chapter's Education Committee that are used whenever they are invited to make a presentation at a school or various social studies conferences.

They arrived early April 24 to set up the museum's refreshments and handle the registration table, and they managed the breaks with plenty of snacks and coffee for the teacher participants, followed by a catered lunch. Clean-up duties commenced at the end of the day when volunteers left the facility in its immaculate condition.

Tom's special guest for the JACL's Wartime Exhibit (Bob Nakasone, who served in the MIS, Lucy Khithara, who along with her family was incarcerated in Minidoka, and Sylvia Forrelli, whose family was in Hawaii during World War II).

A second panel featured Abdullah Adam and Yusef Ali, both from Sacramento, who offered their community's experiences following the Sept. 11 attacks. They acknowledged the significance of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 and how the JACL worked to get it passed in Congress and eventually signed by then-President Ronald Reagan.

The teachers also viewed a short film about Historic Fort Snelling, where a slave, David Scott, remained. They also learned how the fort created an internment camp for the Delaware Indians during the U.S. Indian War of 1862.

Another workshop highlight came when Nakasone led participants on a special tour of the fort sharing his personal experiences with the group while he was stationed there during the war.

Before the teachers left the workshop, they received the JACL Curriculum Guide, a DVD containing excerpts of interviews from Densho's extensive and history video, a copy of the JACL terminology handbook, the MIS Curriculum Guide assembled by the Twin Cities Chapter, and they were among the first to see the MIS Photo Exhibit that originated from the National Japanese American Historical Society.

According to Greg Mannino, one of the workshop's facilitators, "The Twin Cities Chapter, in particular the Education Committee volunteers, demonstrated their organizational skills and their commitment to ensuring as many educators as possible in the state have the opportunity to learn about the MIS, which in turn will bring the story of incarceration into view."

He added, "The chapter's website (www.jacl.org) has an exceptional education component."

This Teacher Training Workshop was made possible through a grant from the Japanese American Confinement Sites of the National Parks Service.

JACL to Collaborate With Smithsonian for E.O. 9066 Exhibition in 2017

WASHINGTON, D.C. — JACL Executive Director Priscilla Cuclides met with John Gray, director of the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History on April 24 to sign an agreement for JACL to collaborate with the museum on a 2017 exhibition commemorating the 75th anniversary of Executive Order 9066.

Signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1942, E.O. 9066 led to the incarceration of more than 120,000 Japanese Americans during World War II.

The exhibition will feature original objects and documents and will explore how E.O. 9066 shaped the lives of Japanese Americans during the war and its continuing influence throughout the community.

Set to be displayed in the Smithsonian's Albert H. Small Documents Gallery, the exhibition is scheduled to debut on Feb. 19, 2017, and will remain on view through November of that year.

— JACL National Staff

HandsOn Central California Honors Saburo and Marion Masada for Their Volunteerism

A lifetime of sacrifice, service, and education aptly describe the contributions of Saburo and Marion Masada. For many years, the "dynamic duo" has crossed California, and beyond, to share their story of incarceration in the Poston and Manzanar concentration camps during World War II with churches, schools, and community groups.

On April 15, the Masadas were honored by HandsOn Central California with a special Lifetime Achievement Award for their volunteer service. Central California District Council Governor Robert Burton nominated the Masadas on behalf of the JACL.

This year's awards were notable, garnering more than 100 nominations two years ago, there were just over 20 nominations. Friends and fans of the Masadas attended the awards luncheon to show their appreciation for all the time and energy that the couple donates each year visiting schools and other groups to ensure the lessons of incarceration are remembered and never repeated. In recognition of their service, the Masadas received a special Congressional Certificate of Achievement and framed watercolor artwork depicting Central Valley life.

The Masadas were also honored in February at the CDCR Day of Recognition with a Distinguished American Award for the Spirit of Education.
WSU STUDENTS RESEARCH AND SHARE THEIR FAMILY HISTORIES

As part of the university’s celebration of Asian Pacific American heritage, students were given the opportunity to preserve their ancestral history.

By Steve Nakano, WSU

A Washington State University’s annual April month-long celebration of Asian Pacific American heritage came to an end, students were given a chance to begin to research their family’s roots as well as document and preserve their history to share with future generations.

The challenge came during a keynote address given by Patti Hirahara as part of the Asian Pacific American Student Coalition’s annual ceremonies on April 27. WSU donor Hirahara, of Anaheim, Calif., shared with students why in 2010 she gifted to WSU more than 2,000 photographs taken by her father, Frank, a 1958 WSU alumus, and his family—while they were incarcerated in the Heart Mountain Relocation Center during World War II.

“In making this donation, many families finally became aware of who had taken their family photographs and for some, received a piece of history that they never knew existed,” Hirahara told the crowd. “I have been told that the Hirahara collections will be a legacy for my family but it is also a tribute to the brave Japanese-Americans who came to this country many years ago. My family’s artifacts have become a vehicle to help other Japanese families tell their story.”

The George and Frank Hirahara Collection of the WSU Libraries Manuscripts, Archives, and Special Collections has been a valuable resource for many scholars and students researching family histories, as well as providing a new photographic resource for documentary and visual producers. The collection also provided the inspiration for the making of the Emmy Award-winning documentary “Witness: The Legacy of Heart Mountain,” which was used in the world premiere of the new American musical “Allegiance” and was shown at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History in February.

At WSU last fall, the collection also provided the foundation for an unprecedented semester-long focus on the Japanese incarceration.

The morning after delivering her speech, WSU President Elson S. Floyd welcomed Hirahara into his office and shared how appreciative he was that her family entrusted WSU to be the custodian of such an important historical collection.

“We’re very grateful to you for allowing us to preserve this history in a way that will benefit people for generations to come,” said Floyd. “For me, this collection is an excellent reminder that we need to always treat one another with humanity, dignity, and respect—that’s what it’s all about.”

As a way to foster cultural interaction and understanding at WSU, Floyd recently announced plan to build a new Multicultural Center on campus that will provide a place where students, faculty and staff can immerse themselves in different cultures by attending classes and seminars there, as well as enjoy diverse visual and musical arts in the new facility.

“It is important that we can develop an entire structure for this purpose,” said Floyd. “The architecture has been meeting with students and others at the WSU community and we’re very excited that this project is underway.”

Hirahara envisioned the new building as a place where students can gather to share their own histories and cultures with the larger Pullman community.

After the speech, WSU alumnus Jordan Yataoka thought about one of his relatives, a member of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team during World War II, and then narrated stories he had heard about for decades. His grandfather experienced.

Senior Vanessa Ying shared how her grandparents emigrated from China to the United States and decided to change their last name to one that would be more plausible to Americans at that time.

Both Yataoka and Ying said they were inspired to keep developing their family histories.

“You may find that you are holding a very significant piece of history to fill in the gaps of your Asian American roots here in America and of those of your ancestors,” Hirahara told them. “We need to take the initiative to leave our stories told in America, and you are the first generation to undertake that task. You are our future and our voice in the years to come.”

Patti Hirahara (center) is recognized by WSU President Elson S. Floyd and Vanessa Ying, co-chair of WSU’s Asian Pacific American Student Coalition, for her contributions to the organization.
A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

CALENDAR

National

2015 National Convention
Las Vegas, NV
July 13-15
Monaco Resort and Casino
7770 Vegas Blvd South
Price: Varies
Join JACL for the 2015 National Convention in Las Vegas and receive a special discount on tickets to the Blue Man Group. For each person registered, $25 will go toward funding the National Youth Student Council. Reserve your room early for a special convention room rate.
Info: Visit www.jacl.org/2015convention/

PSW

‘Addressing Suicide in the Japanese American & LGBTQ Communities: A Panel Discussion’
San Diego, CA
May 16; 11 p.m.
UCSD Medical Center Hillcrest
200 W. Arbor Dr.
Suicide is a growing problem in all communities and is even more common amongst LGBTQ persons. This panel and program will be an opportunity to start the education and discussion regarding how to address this serious problem — its prevention, intervention, consequences and impact. Panelists include Debra Kawahara, Michael Takamura, Syed Imam and Mitsuo Tomita. RSVP by May 13.

2015 Scholarship Dinner
Riverside, CA
May 17; 5 p.m.
First Christian Church
4065 Jurupa Ave.
The Riverside JACL Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce five scholarship recipients for 2015. Through the generosity of the Sugi family, it will be presenting the Anna Sugi Memorial Scholarship this year. The recipients will be presented with their awards at the annual potluck dinner.
Info: Contact Michiko Yoshimura at my141@sgobglobal.net or call (961) 784-7057.

2015 San Fernando Valley Obon
San Fernando Valley Buddhist Temple
6950 Remick Ave.
June 27-28
Celebrate with community members, family and friends at the annual Obon Festival at the San Fernando Valley Buddhist Temple. Enjoy tasty treats and activities over the weekend at the temple. Stay tuned for more details.
Info: Visit www.sfvbht.org or call (818) 899-4030 or email sfvbht@sfvbht.org.

2015 GVJCI Carnival Matsuri
San Lorenzo, CA
June 6 from 3-8 p.m.;
June 7 from Noon-7 p.m.
Come out and support Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute’s most popular fundraising event. Activities include jingle board, pachinko, basketball, bingo, a raffle, martial arts demonstrations and a photo booth. Also, don’t miss out on delicious foods such as udon, cold somen, teriyaki, hot dogs and rice, tamales, pachinko, basketball, bingo, and is even more common Activities include jingle board, pachinko, basketball, bingo, a raffle. A raffle will be held on Sunday at 7 p.m. for the finale.
Info: Call Ron Sakase at (510) 276-0752 or Ed Oda at (510) 538-6130.

EJC

Sushi for Sale
Washington, D.C.
May 13; 6-8:30 p.m.
Warner Bros. Theater
14th Street and Constitution Avenue N.W.
Price: Free
Join the community for a day of music, dance, food, activities and vendors. Funding for this event is in part by the City of Albuquerque Urban Enrichment Trust Fund and New Mexico Arts, with co-sponsors Ta Kim Market and the City of Albuquerque. Info: Visit www.waaam.us or www.cultureabq.com or call (505) 322-9249 or (505) 293-2322.

Greater Austin Asian Chamber of Commerce
Austin, Texas
May 13; 10-11 a.m.
Asian American Resource Center
430 W. Mancham St.
Price: Free
Learn about ways to use Google My Business and Facebook Advertising to engage and communicate directly. Speaker Ricardo Guerrero is chief buzz generator of Social Media Dynamo and a pioneering, award-winning social commerce marketer for the creation of Dell Outlet Twitter Program. Reserve a seat, as space is limited.
Info: Visit www.business.austinatnachamber.org or call (512) 407-8240.

Hawaiian Party at MBT
Chicago, IL
May 16; 5-8 p.m.
Midwest Buddhist Temple
435 W. Menomonee St.
Price: Adults $30; children under 12 $15
Join MBT for an evening of authentic Hawaiian entertainment provided by Pesi Mauga and his Royal Polynesian Revue. This family-oriented show features Hawaiian dance, singing, ukulele accompaniment, flaming knife tosses and authentic Hawaiian shave ice.
Info: Email office@midwestbuddhisttemples.org or call (212) 943-7891.

2015 Chicago JACL Scholarship Luncheon
Skokie, IL
May 17; Noon
Magniago’s Little Italy
5999 Old Orchard Center
Price: $45
Celebrate this year’s scholarship winners at Magniago’s Little Italy restaurant with the Chicago chapter of the JACL. RSVP by May 8 to reserve your table and sponsor a grad. Stay tuned for more details.

Advertisement

Events in the calendar section are listed based on space availability. Please contact ‘Spotlight’ ad with photos of your event for maximum exposure.

FOR MORE INFO: tiffany@pacificcitizen.org (213) 620-1767
Funakoshi, Fumie "Fudge," 90, Hayden, ID; April 9, she was incorporated at Mililani; she was predeceased by her husband, Roy; she is survived by her son, Michael (Peggy), daughter, Joann (Bob), siblings, Tosh, Midl Sakai, Kaz, Miki Io, Johnny, Jimmy, Mike, Holle, Patsy Bush, gc: 2.

Go, Jimmy Kamehiko, 83, Ontario, OR; April 15, he was predeceased by his brothers, Tom and Eun; nephew, Keith; he is survived by his wife, Sakiko; daughters, Yuril (Paul) Wong and Kim (Eun) Eibusen, gc: 4, gc: 5.

Hamai, Kazuo Joe, 82,

Gardena, CA; April 2, he was predeceased by his wife, Kacuyo Kay, grandson, Troy Aikasa; he is survived by his son, Joe (Jamie) Hamai, daughter, Sharon (Joe) Aikasa, brothers, Hiroshi, Yoshiko and Michi Hamai; sister, Emiko Takamatsu; he is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 3.

Hata, Seiji, 92, 

Ontario, OR; April 8, he was incorporated at Mililani; he was predeceased by his sisters, Tsugiko and Sumiko, brothers, George and Saku; he is survived by his wife, Shizuko, son, Calm (Sandy), daughter, Karen; he is survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 3, gc: 5.

Kajikawa, Suniyae, 82, Torrance, CA; April 4, she is survived by her husband, Sadako "Sam" Kajikawa, daughters, Akemi (Rank) Giovanzato and Frances (Harry) Fleming, son, Norman (Barbara) Kajikawa, brother,

Kamoshita, Kazushichi Kenneth, 87, Rosemead, CA; April 8, he was a Korean War Veteran, he is survived by his daughter, Shirley Kamoshita and Chalene Hatagi; brothers, Daniel (Jeanette) and Johnny (Eileen) Ariga; sister, Jean (Paul) Haboe, gc: 4.

Masui, John Fusio, 88, Carson, CA; April 6, he is survived by his wife, Kay, daughters, Jenni and Murid, brother, Yuko, Terry and Hideo (Betsy) niece, Jane Hara and Fela Luai Martinez; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Nakatufi, Kiyoko, 82,

Gardena, CA; April 9, she is survived by her husband, George Yuki; children, Jerry (Susan), Lor (Jhun) Hoshiko and Lani (David) Nitah, nieces, Niki (Tsu) Nakatufi and Ray (Jane) Masuko, gc: 6.

Nishimura, Izuko, 94, Los Altos, CA; April 6, she is survived by her son, Gilbert Masuo (Penny), daughter, Jeanne Iwatako (Kenny) Emoto, sister, Kumi Morito and Mine Nakajima; step sister, Michiko (Michi) Ito, step sister, Kori Kyo, gc: 4.

Oda, Mitsuyo, 71, Westminster, CA; April 23, she is survived by her husband, Kazuko, son, Harry Homane (Yuki) and Jason, brothers, Tatsuro, Yohiro, (Shig) Oda, gc: 4.

Okamoto, George James, 98, 

Montebello Park, CA; April 17, he was a WWII and Korean War veteran, he was predeceased by his wife, Blanche Miyoshi Okamoto; he is survived by his son, Charles (Cathy) Okamoto; sister, Sue Sakai, gc: 2.

Oshima, Mary Hanako, 97, Irvine, CA; April 19, she is survived by her son, Wayne Kip (Mary) Oshima, gc: 1.

Sakahara, Mariko "Mai" Shugeta, 97, 

Beverly Hills, CA; April 17, she is survived by her wife, Mariko, daughter, Erika (Richard) Fuller, brother, Tadashi (Masa) sister, Tokuko Kusuma, gc: 1.

Tsujii, Hirotsugu Jim, 88, 

Sun Valley, CA; March 24, he was a WWII veteran, he is survived by his wife, Hikaru Tsujii, son, Ronald, daughter, Sharyn (Allen) Engel, gc: 1.

Wada, Kiyoko, 94, Los Angeles, CA; April 17, she is incorporated at Haul Mountain, she was predeceased by her husband, Benji, daughter, Susan Kacu Karaijima, sister, Yoshimi Ishihara, she is survived by her children, Gaye and Douglas, gc: 3, gc: 1.

Watanabe, Masakiyo, 77, Lakewood, CA; April 17, he is survived by his wife, Masako, daughter, Erika (Richard) Fuller, brother, Tadashi (Masa) sister, Tokuko Kusuma, gc: 1.

Yamashita, Mutsuko, 100,

TRIBUTE

THEODORE KIYOSHI ONO

Theodore Kiyoshi Ono, resident of Kensington, Calif., passed away at his home on Feb. 26, 2015. Ted was born on June 22, 1921, in Oakland, Calif. He attended Fresno High School and U.C. Berkeley, but his studies there were cut short due to Executive Order 9066 (Relocation of Japanese Americans). Ted left the Bay Area and enlisted at Washington University in St. Louis, Mo., where he received his B.A. in economics. Ted was an Army veteran, serving as Captain in the Counter Intelligence Corps during the Korean War, 1945-52.

Ted married Barbara F. Ono in 1945, and after resigning his commission, they settled in Berkeley, Calif. Together, they opened the Ono Restaurant, which he and Barbara ran for 40 years, finally closing in January 1994. In 2000, Ted received his honorary degree from U.C. Berkeley. When he was not traveling worldwide, Ted continued to be an active member in the Alhambra Kiwanis Club and the "CAL Nisei Lunchers" Classes of 1945.

Ted was preceded in death by his loving wife, Barbara. He is survived by daughters, Caroline Ono and Kathryn Ono, son, Peter Ono, and grandson, Gavin Rice. A memorial service will be held on May 9 for family and close friends.

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 $250 per column inch.
ARTIFACTS >> continued from page 3

It was found in front of the entrance to the Yokoyama family’s single-room barracks. The family had a mom and dad, two daughters, and a son. It’s easy to imagine the mom eating a box of Crackers Jack and eagerly opening the packet with the man on a horse. He played cricket in the dirt in front of the family’s room, the granoo camp, and tried to make his life as normal as possible, like the other prisoners. Sometimes, along the line, it got lost, or dropped, or maybe it slipped from playing, and was left behind.

The tiny fragment of a near-produced toy is a key to an entire life, and yet it matters and resonates with history. Of course the handmade arts and crafts of camp life mattered. Of course people would protect if you tried to auction off the collection of such artifacts to the highest bidder. What were they thinking?

UPDATE: On Saturday, May 2, the Japanese American National Museum announced that, with George Takei’s help, it has acquired the Eaton collection of concentration camp artifacts. It’s great news for not just the JA community but also Asian Americans who had protected the proposal auction.


Solar Energy Plants Near Manzanar on Hold

Two proposed photo-voltaic (PV) solar energy plants in close proximity to the Manzanar National Historic Site in Inyo County, Calif., have been dropped—af least for now—much to the relief of the project’s opponents. The Manzanar Committee, the Owens Valley Committee and the National Park Service, which operates the historic site, strongly opposed the plan to build a solar ranch adjacent to the former American concentration camp site.

The 200 megawatt Northern Power Independence, LLC Solar Project group has dropped its application with the County of Inyo Planning Department after a recent change in the county’s general plan imposed restrictions on solar energy development.

The 1,200-acre, 200-megawatt solar power plant proposed by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, known as the Southern Owens Valley Solar Project, has been placed on hold for basically the next 10 years. (The announcement, made at the 46th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage on April 25 by Manzanar Committee Chair Bruce Embrey drew applause and cheers from the crowd in attendance there.)

When contacted for comment after the project east of Manzanar was removed from the California Priority Queue Transmission List on March 15, LADWP spokesperson Amanda Parsons said that the department “reserves the right to renew exploration into the SCVSP [Southern California Vascular Solar Project] at a later date. LADWP will continue to examine the viability of this renewable project for a commercial operation date estimated to be between 2024-27.”

With California Gov. Jerry Brown recently announcing a 40 percent state renewables goal by 2030, and later possibly increasing the mandate to as high as 50 percent, it would appear that the LADWP appears to be keeping its options open for future development.

— Charles Jameson, contributor

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

The April 17-30 issue of the Pacific Citizen shows a watercolor by Estelle Ishigo on page 7.

Mr. Ishigo studied at Otis Art Institute in Los Angeles, and while at Heart Mountain she drew and painted activities at the camp. She also played violin in the camp band.

What I consider most wonderful about Estelle Ishigo was that, as a Caucasian, she chose to follow her husband, Arthur Shigeo Ishigo, to camp.

Sincerely,

Betty Kishoni Neher
Bonitaire, Calif.