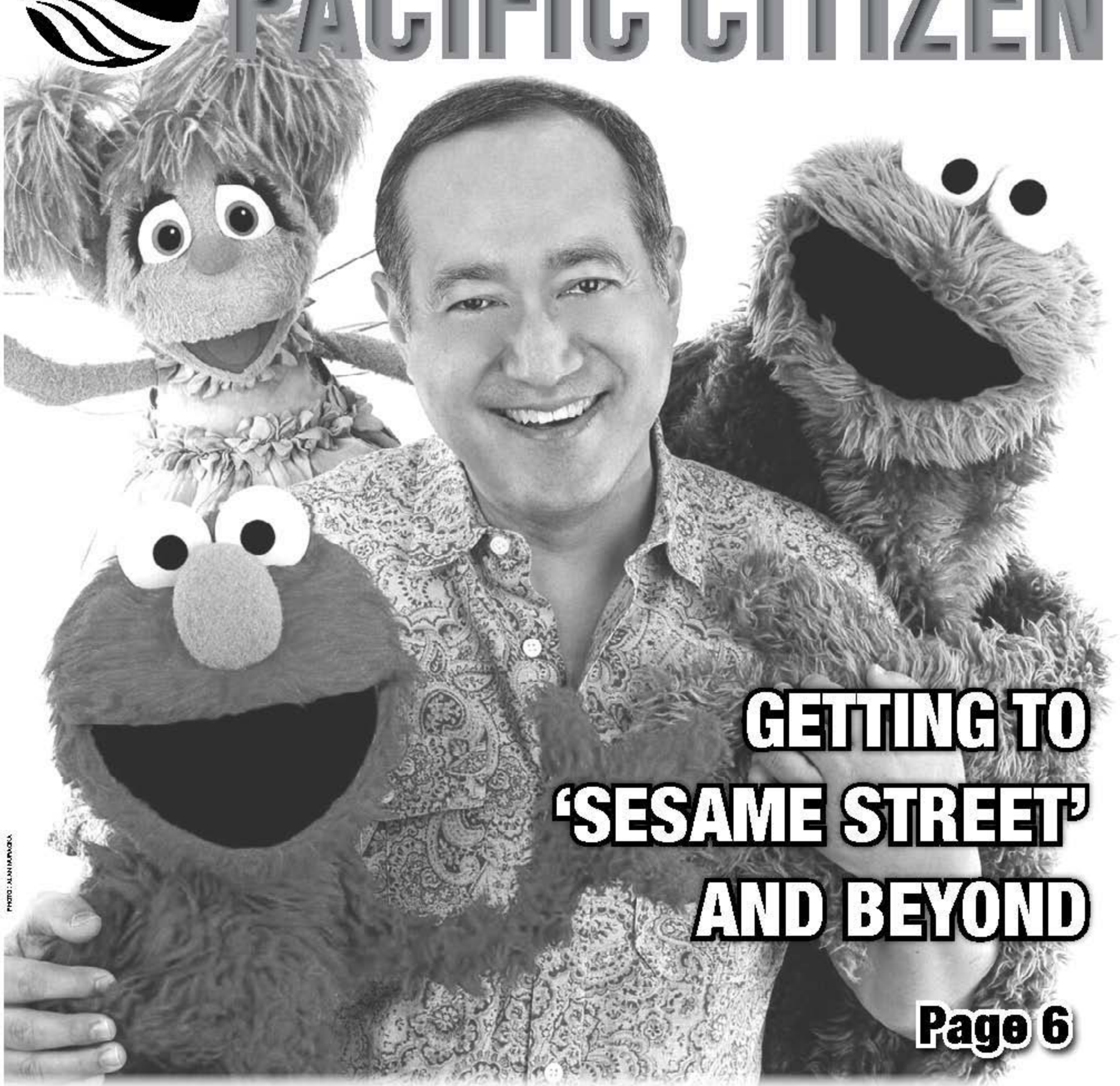




PACIFIC CITIZEN



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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 *Rafu Shimpo* in Los Angeles, 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 reported on stories that were not chronicled anywhere else. Entrusted 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 crackled 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 play. Under the experienced hand of Executive Editor Allison Haramoto and her staff, the P.C. carves out a niche that no else does quite as well.

But the question on everyone's mind is for how long. No one knows how long the P.C., or for that matter the parent organization, JACL, can stay fiscally viable amid a declining membership base. As a chapter president, few things are as sobering as receiving the membership report each month via email 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 neighbor chapter to discuss a potential merger. The discussion went well, and follow-up meetings are in the works.

A veteran journalist once wrote that ethnic 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 86, then it's another good year in the books. What I'm most impressed with the staff is their 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 newsworthy 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.

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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 outraged Japanese Americans. A Facebook page named "Japanese American History: NOT for Sale" gained almost 7,000 followers after it was created on April 9. A Change.org 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 owned some 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 flotsam and jetsam of

wartime, rise and falls of civilizations, the inexorable march of progress. But this history is different. The family and auction house miscalculated 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 I just visited the Japanese American National Museum in L.A. and enjoyed the pop-culture richness of its supersuccessful Hello Kitty exhibit. The collection of cuteness has drawn a huge number of people who wouldn't normally step in 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, then are herded upstairs to the gallery where an amazing exhibit of artwork is on display featuring Hello Kitty interpretations by contemporary artists. And when you've seen all the cool art, you're 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 also still in my head because I'm one of the volunteer JAs 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 archeology students from Denver University has been digging there for a year now and has catalogued a fascinating collection of items — not necessarily arts and crafts made by prisoners, but bits and pieces of their daily lives, like Log Cabin pancake syrup tins, soda pop bottles, pieces of crockery, plates, lots of ephemera that reveal there was once a city of 9,000 people who lived in a desolate windswept 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 on a horse 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 Cracker Jack.

>> See ARTIFACTS on page 12

National Youth Summit Focuses on Business Networking and Cultural Heritage

By JACL NY/SC

Japanese American leaders, young professionals, volunteers and a speech and 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 youth summit, organized by Kristy Ishii, Pacific Southwest District JACL youth representative, and Ryan Taketomo, JANM YPN board member, also welcomed JACL National President David Lin, as well as keynote speaker Vanna Novak, CEO and owner of Speak to Persuade.

Novak, who has more than 20 years of consulting experience and is a nationally recognized trainer based in Seattle, gave a presentation on speaking and networking in which she spoke about persuasive presentation skills and offered tips on how to build quality work relationships.

Novak'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 confidence in these spaces as well.

State Farm's Sean Cheng followed Novak'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



Participants trace kato-kiryama and Dr. Curtiss Takada Rooks



Vanna Novak stands before Youth Summit attendees at JANM, where she offered life and career tips to young professionals.

panelists navigated through various aspects of their careers while acknowledging their unique identities and cultural backgrounds. Dr. Curtiss Takada Rooks 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 academia.

Nationally recognized writer/actor/artist/educator trace

kato-kiryama spoke on the significance of staying true to one's self and how every interaction is an opportunity. Other panelists included Craig Tomiyoshi, vice president at I W 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. ■

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 Ryans. JANM satisfies every dimension specified in the draft of the RFP" and that "it's truly fitting that this material will reside in perpetuity at an institution dedicated to sharing the Japanese American experience."

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, M.D., after rioting and 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 ran 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 interracial 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 clichés 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 America," 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 50th anniversary of 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."

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 trans-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



Japanese American internees were honored during a roll call of flags representing all 10 WRA camps.

By Charles James, Contributor

Most of the adults incarcerated at 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.

“Watashi 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.

“Watashi 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 marks 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 remembrance. Why?

As explained by Bruce Embrey, co-chair of the Manzanar Committee, everyone needs to be reminded that “xenophobia and anti-immigrant hysteria, persecution of people of color and with different faiths 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 this year’s recipient of the 2015 Sue Kunitomi Embrey 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 unjustly 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 obasans, ojisan 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. Satsuki Ina, a

Keynote Speaker Dr. Satsuki Ina, a community activist, licensed marriage and family therapist and an award-winning filmmaker



community activist, licensed marriage and family therapist and award-winning filmmaker who has conducted groups for Japanese Americans who, like herself, were children in America’s concentration camps.

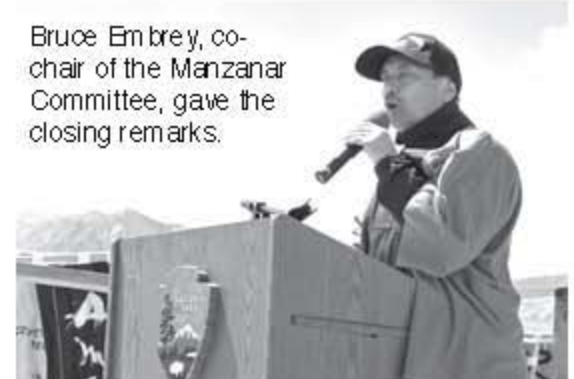
“We are here today on a healing journey to remember and tell the truth of our experience,” she told the gathered audience. “We are here today to claim our history. Watashi wa Manzanar!”

“It’s difficult to speak of such things,” Ina continued. “Experts on collective/community trauma say that the human response to such humiliation is to be silent, distort 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 explained the silence of many that suffered during their incarceration as seen in the 1973 book “Farewell to Manzanar,” written by Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston. It is an example, says Ina, “... that internalized the unspoken and accepting the government narrative that was imposed on those incarcerated at the camps.”

Ina continued, “Slowly the language of our experience has been challenged and the narrative of our incarceration has changed. Slowly our words are landing on the true experience of our family’s struggles. The Evacuation to Assembly Centers and transfer to Relocation Centers of alien and non-alien Japanese from the West Coast is now

Bruce Embrey, co-chair of the Manzanar Committee, gave the closing remarks.



More than 1,200 attendees took part in the 46th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage.

recognized as deliberate euphemisms 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 loss, suffering, grief, anger, sorrow. And we claim our strength, resilience, endurance, gini, gaman, gambatte — 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 allies, proudly knowing, I am Manzanar! Watashi wa Manzanar! WE are Manzanar! Watashi-tachi wa Manzanar!”

(Visit www.blog.manzanarcommittee.org for full transcripts of this year’s pilgrimage speeches.)



Alan Muraoka (second from left) with the cast and friends of 'Sesame Street,' including (from left) Christopher Knowings, Nitya Vidyasagar, Ismael Cruz Cordova, Sonia Manzano and Emilio Delgado

Getting to 'Sesame Street' and Beyond

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, with 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 last month 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 Thanksgiving 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 Cosentino and Aaron Sánchez.

"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 familial with us in the best possible way. There's a lot of hugs, there's a lot of thank you's and it's always so gratifying to know that I'm on a show that educates as well as entertains."



Alan Muraoka
"Alan" on "Sesame Street"

'It's amazing to be a part of that legacy.'

— Alan Muraoka



(From left) Muraoka in front of "Hooper's Store" and with famous guest celebrities Jimmy Fallon and Tina Fey



According to Muraoka, 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 30 years on the air, and this year, it was awarded five Daytime Creative Arts Emmy Awards. The honors include outstanding writing in a children's or preschool children's series, outstanding original song and outstanding costume design/styling.

"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 satire that the kids may not get but the adults definitely get and appreciate. So, that's why I think adults and children can watch the show together, and they can each get something out of it," Muraoka said. "For instance, this year, we have a take on 'Game of Thrones,' 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 Janelle Monáe and Pentatonix and award-winning actors such as Jamie Foxx, 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," Muraoka 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 no easy feat for Muraoka to win the role of the proprietor of Hooper's Store. In 1997, Muraoka 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," Muraoka 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 rules about children's theater, and one of them is don't talk down to the kids, don't try to overplay — kids are smart, kids get it. And so I took



Muraoka in front of the White House

that with me to the audition, and it was absolutely to my benefit that I had."

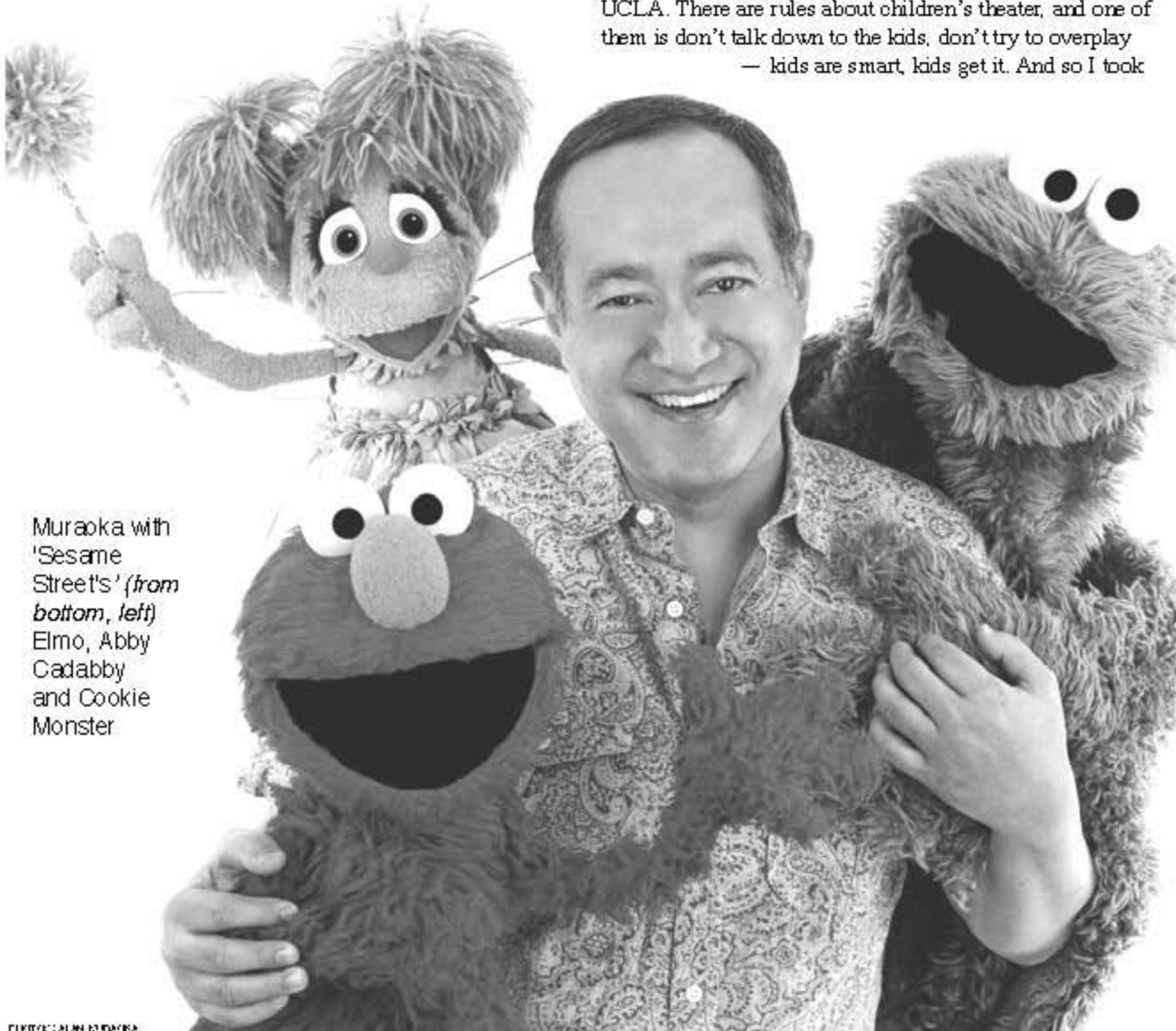
Muraoka's character was still TBD (to be determined) about a month before the crew and cast were going to begin filming. When he went into the writers' meeting, Muraoka expressed hope that the writers would be able to look beyond his ethnicity in developing the character. They ended up keeping the name "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 Toshi or Yoshi — like the audience wasn't smart enough to observe their ethnicity, they had to hammer it home," said Muraoka. "And for me, I'm a fourth-generation Japanese American who grew up in the [San Fernando Valley], and all of my friends and family members were not named Toshi or Yoshi — they had names like Steve or Alan."

When he's not onstage acting or filming, Muraoka 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," Muraoka said. "It's sort of the central meeting place of the neighborhood. It has all of these 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."

Muraoka treasures his multifaceted experience on "Sesame Street" as the show ramps up production on a 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 inclusion," Muraoka 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 intricacies and humor and heart — it's just a great, great joy to be a part of."



Muraoka with 'Sesame Street's' (from bottom, left) Elmo, Abby Cadabby and Cookie Monster

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 Pfannenstiel, site coordinator at Historic Fort Snelling supported the workshop and "closed" 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 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 then appeared early April 24 to set up the morning'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 where volunteers left the facility in its immaculate condition.

The workshop's first panel included Edwin (Bud) Nakasone, who served in the MIS; Lucy Kirihaara, who along with her family was incarcerated in Minidoka; and Sylvia



Participants at the Twin Cities Teacher Training Workshop included (back row, from left) Miki Kirihaara, Gloria Kumagai, Lil Grothe, Sharon Ishii-Jordan, Joyce Miyamoto Faber, Karen Tanaka Lucas, Carolyn Nayematsu, Greg Marutani, Cheryl Hirata-Dulas, Tom Pfannenstiel and (front row, from left) Lucy Kirihaara, Yusef Ali, Sylvia Farrells, Edwin (Bud) Nakasone, Abdisalam Adam and Sally Sudo.

Farrells, whose family was in Hawaii during World War II.

A second panel featured Abdisalam Adam and Yusef Ali, both from Somalia, 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, Dred Scott, married. They also learned how

the fort created an internment camp for the Dakota Indians during the U.S. Dakota War of 1862.

Another workshop highlight came when Nakasone led participants on a special tour of the fort sharing his more 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 oral history videos, 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 Marutani, 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.tcjacl.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. ■

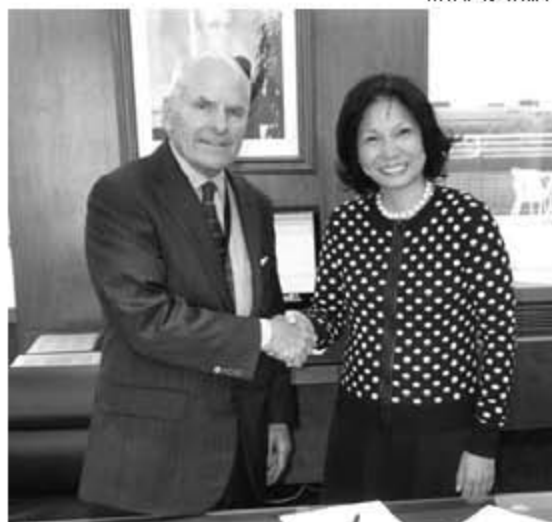
JACL to Collaborate With Smithsonian for E.O. 9066 Exhibition in 2017

WASHINGTON, D.C. — JACL Executive Director Priscilla Ouchida 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 continued resonance 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



The Smithsonian's John Gray and JACL's Priscilla Ouchida sign an agreement for a 2017 exhibition commemorating Executive Order 9066.

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 Jerome 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 Roberta Barton 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



Saburo and Marion Masada were honored by HandsOn Central California for their tireless volunteer community efforts.

Certificate of Achievement and framed watercolor artwork depicting Central Valley agriculture.

The Masadas were also honored in February at the CCDC Day of Remembrance 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 Nakata, WSU

As Washington State University's annual April month-long celebration of Asian Pacific American heritage came to an end, students were given a challenge 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 closing 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 alumnus, and grandfather, George, 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 in Heart Mountain 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 pioneers 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 C. Hirahara Collection of the WSU Libraries Manuscripts, Archives and Special Collections has been a valuable resource for many scholars and people researching their family histories, as well as provides a new photographic resource for documentary and musical producers. The collection also provided the inspiration for the making of the Emmy Award-winning documentary "Witness: The Legacy of Heart Mountain" 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 custodians 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



Patti Hirahara and Washington State University President Elson S. Floyd



Patti Hirahara (center) is recognized by Vichar Phonkumnerdsub and Vanessa Sing, co-chairs of WSU's Asian Pacific American Student Coalition, for her contributions to the organization.

PHOTOS: STEVE NAKATA, WSU

all about."

As a way to foster cultural interaction and understanding at WSU, Floyd recently announced plans 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 devote an entire structure for this purpose," said Floyd. "The architects have been meeting with students and others in the WSU community, and we're very excited that this project is underway."

Hirahara envisions 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 sophomore Jordyn Yahata thought about one of his relatives, a member of the famed 442nd Regimental Combat Team during World War II, and also remembered stories he had heard about the racism his grandfather experienced.

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

Both Yahata and Sing 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 have our stories told here in America, and you are the perfect generation to undertake this task. You are our future and our voice in the years to come."



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Jul. 12 ~ Jul. 21	Japan By Train: "Hirashima, 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, Shirakawa, Tomamu, Toyato"
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Oct. 19 ~ Oct. 27	Autumn Japan: "Hirashima, Kyoto, Kanazawa, Takayama, Tokyo"
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A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

CALENDAR

National

2015 National Convention
Las Vegas, NV
July 13-15
Monte Carlo Resort and Casino
3770 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; 1 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. Space is limited.

Info: Visit www.jaolsandiego.org.

2015 Scholarship Dinner
Riverside, CA
May 17; 5 p.m.

First Christian Church
4055 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@sbeglobal.net or call (951) 784-7057.

2015 San Fernando Valley Hongwanji Buddhist Temple Obon
Arlota, CA
June 27-28

San Fernando Valley Hongwanji Buddhist Temple
9450 Remick Ave.

Celebrate with community members, family and friends at the annual Obon Festival at the San Fernando Valley Hongwanji Buddhist Temple. Enjoy tasty treats and activities over the weekend at the temple. Stay tuned for more details.

Info: Visit www.sfvhbt.org or call (818) 899-4030 or email svvhbt@svvhbt.org.

2015 GVJCI Carnival Matsuri
Gardena, CA

June 27-28; Noon-9 p.m.
Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute
1964 W. 162nd St.

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, yakisoba, imagawayaki, chili hot dogs and rice, tamales, chashu bao, spam musubi, Okinawa adangi, lau lau and shave ice.

Info: Email s_sawai@jci-gardena.org.

NCWNP

Contra Costa Chapter Scholarship Award Luncheon
Albany, CA

May 17; 1-3 p.m.
The Cape Cod
1150 Solano Ave.

Price: \$25
Celebrate this year's scholarship winners with the Contra Costa JACL Chapter. Deadline for a dinner ticket is May 14, and a ticket at the door will be \$30.

Info: Call Judy Nakaso at (510) 528-6564 or Yoko Olsgaard at (510) 229-2504 or email yolsgaard@yahoo.com.

Japanese Heritage Night With the San Francisco Giants
San Francisco, CA
May 19; 7:15 p.m.

AT&T Park
24 Willie Mays Plaza
Price: JCCCNC members \$45; Nonmembers \$47

Join the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California to cheer on the San Francisco Giants as they take on the Los Angeles Dodgers. The Giants will be celebrating Japanese Heritage Night by honoring Travis Ishikawa and his breakout performance in the 2014 postseason.

Info: Call (415) 567-5505 or email membership@jcccnc.org.

Eden Township JACL Annual Bazaar
San Lorenzo, CA

June 6 from 3-8 p.m.;
June 7 from Noon-7 p.m.
710 Elgin St.

Price: Free
Eden Township JACL hosts its annual bazaar this year, serving teriyaki chicken, ribs, corn, udon, curry, shaved ice, spam musubi and sushi. Come hungry and join family-friendly games at the event like bingo. A raffle will be held on Sunday at 7 p.m. for the finale.

Info: Call Ron Sakau at (510) 276-0752 or Ed Oda at (510) 538-6380.

EDC

Sushi for Sale
Washington, D.C.
May 13; 6-8:30 p.m.
Warner Bros. Theater
14th Street and Constitution Avenue N.W.

Price: Tickets \$40
How did a Japanese delicacy become an American snack? Through conversation, demonstrations, collections objects-out-of-storage and food and drinks, this program will explore the history of sushi and sushi's status as an American staple. The theater is the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History.

Info: Email americanhistory.apacollection@si.edu.
George Takei at AGLU 2015 Bill of Rights Dinner
Boston, MA

May 21; 6:30 p.m.
Westin Copley Place Hotel
10 Huntington Ave.
Price: \$180

This year's *Bill of Rights* Dinner, hosted by the American Civil Liberties Union, will honor George Takei with the Roger Baldwin Award for his courage and commitment to the principles of liberty and justice for all. Takei is a prominent advocate for equal rights for gay lesbian Americans. The ACLU dinner is open to the public.

Info: Visit www.aclum.org/dinner.

'Sayonara'
New York, NY
July 5-26

Pan Asian Repertory Theatre
520 Eighth Ave.

Tisa Chang directs this reimagining of the epic musical of the U.S. military in post-WWII Japan. The production highlights the all-female Takarazuka dance theater and reveals how compassion and love can heal prejudice.

Info: Visit www.panasianrep.org or call (212) 868-4030.

MDC

Festival of Asian Cultures
Albuquerque, NM
May 9; 10:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
New Mexico Veterans Memorial Park
1100 Louisiana Blvd S.E.

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 Enhancement Trust Fund and New Mexico Arts, with co-sponsors Ta Kin Market and the City of Albuquerque.

Info: visit www.aaanm.us or www.cultureabq.com or call (505) 332-9249 or (505) 293-2322.
Greater Austin Asian Chamber of Commerce
Austin, Texas
May 13; 10-11 a.m.
Asian American Resource Center
435 W. Menomonee St.
Price: Free
Learn about ways to use

Google My Business and Facebook Advertising to engage and communicate directly. Speaker Ricardo Geurrero 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.austinasianchamber.org or call (512) 407-8240.

Hawaiian Party at MBT
Chicago, IL

May 16; 5-8 p.m.
Midwest Buddhist Temple
Social Hall
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@midwestbuddhisttemple.org or call (312) 943-7801.

2015 Chicago JACL Scholarship Luncheon
Skokie, IL
May 17; Noon
Maggiano's Little Italy
4999 Old Orchard Center
Price: \$45

Celebrate this year's scholarship winners at Maggiano's Little Italy restaurant with the Chicago chapter of the JACL. RSVP by May 8 to reserve your table or seat and sponsor a grad. Stay tuned for more details.
Info: Visit www.jaclchicago.org.

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Memoriam

Funakoshi, Fumiye 'Fudge,' 90, Hayden, ID; April 9; she was incarcerated at Minidoka; she was predeceased by her husband, Roy; she is survived by her son, Michael (Peggi); daughter, Joann (Bob); siblings, Tosh, Mizi Saiki, Kaz, Mikki Iseri, Johnny, Jimmy, Michael, Hollie, Patsy Bush; gc: 2.

Go, Jimmy Kanehiko, 93, Ontario, OR; April 15; he was predeceased by his brothers, Tom and Ben; nephew, Keith; he is survived by his wife, Seiko; daughters, Yumi (Felix) Wong and Kimi (Ben) Ebbesen; gc: 4; ggc: 6.

Hamai, Kazuo Joe, 92,



Gardena, CA; April 2; he was predeceased by his wife, Kazuyo Kay; grandson, Troy Akasaka; he is survived by his son, Joe (Janie) Hamai; daughter, Sharon (Jiro) Akasaka; brothers, Hiroshi, Toshiaki and Mitsuru Hamai; sister, Emiko Takamatsu; he is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 3.

Hata, Seiji, 92,



Ontario, OR; April 6; he was incarcerated at Minidoka; he was predeceased by his sisters, Tsugiko and Sumiko; brothers, George and Sabura; he is survived by his wife, Shiz; son, Calvin (Sandy); daughter, Karen; he is survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 5; ggc: 5.

Kajikawa, Sumiye, 92, Torrance, CA; April 4; she is survived by her husband, Sadao "Sam" Kajikawa; daughters, Akemi (Frank) Giovinazzo and Frances (Harry) Fleming; son, Norman (Barbara) Kajikawa; brother,

Ben Yamamoto; brother-in-law, Tadashi Kajikawa; sisters-in-law, Florence Kajikawa, Harue Yamada and Chieko Matsuo; gc: 7; ggc: 5.

Kurata, Kazutoshi Kenneth,



87, Rosemead, CA; April 2; he was a Korean War veteran; he is survived by his daughters, Shirley Kawashiri and Charlene Hatago; brothers, Daniel (Jeannette) and Johnny (Eileen) Arita; sister, Jean (Paul) Hatae; gc: 4.

Masai, John Funio, 88, Carson, CA; April 5; he is survived by his wife, Kay; daughters, Jenni and Mandi; brothers, Yukio, Terry and Hideo (Betty); nieces, Jane Haraga and Reiko (Luis) Martinez; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Nakafuji, Kiyoko, 82,



Gardena, CA; April 9; she is survived by her husband, George Yukio; children, Jerry (Susan), Lori (Brian) Hoshiko and Lari (David) Nitao; siblings, Noriko (Tsuji) Nakafuji and Ray (Jane) Matsuo; gc: 6.

Nishimura, Tazuko, 94, Los Alamitos, CA; April 6; she is survived by her son, Gilbert Mitsuo (Penn); daughter, Jeanne Chizuko (Kenny) Endo; sisters, Kumi Misono and Miki Nakayama; step-sister, Michiko (Minoru) Ikeda; sister-in-law, Eiko Koyama; gc: 4.

Oda, Mitsuya, 71, Westminster, CA; April 8; he is survived by his wife, Kazuko; sons, Harry Homare (Yuko) and Jason Mitsuru; brothers, Tetsuo Oda, Muneo (Sachiko), Tatsuya (Machiko) and Yasuo Oda; gc: 2.

Okamoto, George James, 98,



Monterey Park, CA; April 17; he was a WWII 442nd veteran in the "H" Company; he was predeceased by his wife, Blanche Mitsuyo Okamoto; he is survived by his son, Charles (Cathy) Okamoto; sister, Sue Saiki; gc: 2.

Oshima, Mary Mariko, 97, Irvine, CA; April 18; she is survived by her son, Wayne Kip (Mary) Oshima; gc: 1.

Sakahara, Mariko 'Mari' Shigeta, 97,



Boise, ID; April 3; she was predeceased by her husband, Yoshikazu Sakahara; daughter, Shirley; she is survived by her children, Carol Appleton, Michael (Darlene); Patty (Kerry) Iseri, Debbie (Dean) Briggs, Tina (Jim) Glancey and Robert (Dawn); gc: 13; ggc: 13.

Sato, Satsuko Theresa, 95, Los Angeles, CA; April 20; she was predeceased by her husband, Takeo; she is survived by her children, Chris (Grace), Tom, Yoko, Tim, Rosie and John (Michelle); gc: 9; ggc: 1.

Takehima, Ayame, 101, Los Angeles, CA; April 3; she is survived by her nieces, Ikuko Shimizu, Yoshimi Takehima and

Akemi (Masaru) Sumi; nephews, Bunsho (Pinko), Yuji (Yukiko) and Seiji (Hiroko) Takehima.

Tsuji, Hirotsugu Jim, 88,



Sun Valley, CA; March 24; he was a WWI veteran; he is survived by his wife, Haruko Tsuji; son, Ronald; daughter, Sheryn (Allen) Engel; gc: 1.

Wada, Kayoko, 94, Los Angeles, CA; April 17; she was incarcerated at Heart Mountain; she was predeceased by her husband, Benji; daughter, Susan Kaoru Kamiyama; sister, Yoshimi Ishitani; she is survived by her children, Gayle and Douglas; gc: 3; ggc: 1.

Watanabe, Masakiyo, 77, Lakewood, CA; April 17; he is survived by his wife, Yumiko;

daughter, Erika (Richard) Feller; brother, Tadakiyo (Masako); sister, Tokuko Kuruma; gc: 1.

Yamashita, Mitsuko, 100,



Alhambra, CA; April 2; she is survived by her daughters, Joyce Hyskell, Joan (Michael) Adams, Charlene (Bill) Stakee, Charlotte Okada and Roberta (Jonathan) Brown; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 7; ggc: 11.

Yokota, Miyo, 94, Hermosa Beach, CA; April 18; she was predeceased by her husband, Paul; grandson, Grant Nagai; sister, Aiko Yoshimura; she is survived by her children, Daniel, Stanley, Eileen (David) Sugimura and Marilyn Yokota; brother, Paul (Kathy) Saito; gc: 3.

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 enrolled at Washington University in St. Louis, Mo., where he received a BA in economics. Ted was an Army veteran, serving as Captain in the Counter Intelligence Corps during the Korean War, 1944-52.

Theodore married Barbara F. Ono in 1945, and after resigning his commission, they settled in Berkeley, Calif. Together, they opened the Gift Basket, which he and Barbara ran for 42 years, finally closing in January 1994. In 2009, Ted received his honorary degree from U.C. Berkeley. When he was not traveling worldwide, Ted continued to be an active member in the Albany Kiwanis Club and the "CAL Nisei Lunchers, Classes of '39-'43."

Ted was preceded in death by his loving wife, Barbara. He is survived by daughters, Carole 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 \$20/column inch.

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ARTIFACTS >> continued from page 3

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

This tiny fragment of a mass-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 matters. Of course people would protest if you tried to auction off the

collection of such artifacts to the highest bidder. What were they thinking?

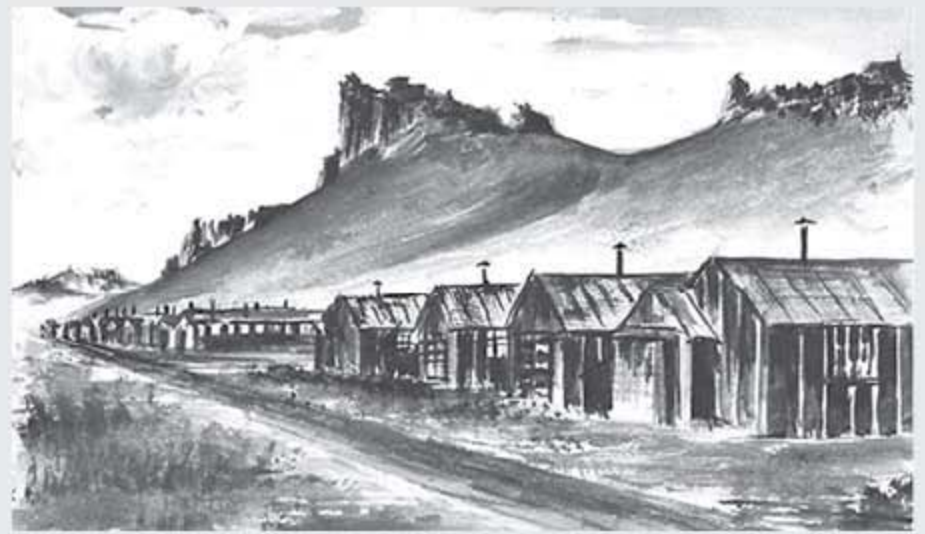
UPDATE: On Saturday, May 2, the Japanese American National Museum announced that, with George Takei's help, it has acquired the Eaton collection of concentration camp artifacts. It's great news for not just the JA community but also Asian Americans who had protested the proposed auction.

Gil Asakawa is a P.C. Editorial Board member and former Board Chair. He is AARP's AAPI Marketing Communications Consultant and blogs at www.nike-keiview.com. A new revised edition of his book "Being Japanese American" will be published in June by Stone Bridge Press.



An aerial view of Camp Amache

LETTER TO THE EDITOR



Estelle Ishigo's watercolor art work from Heart Mountain during WWII was part of the Rago Auction collection.

Dear Editor,

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

Mrs. 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 Shigeru Ishigo, to camp.

Sincerely,

*Betty Kikumi Meltzer
Beaumont, Calif.*

Solar Energy Plants Near Manzanar on Hold

Two proposed photovoltaic (PV) solar energy plants in close proximity to the Manzanar National Historic Site in Inyo County, Calif., have been dropped, at least for now, much to the relief of the projects' 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 Northland 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 Co-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 responded that the department "reserves the right to renew exploration into the SOVSR 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 James, contributor



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