



PACIFIC CITIZEN

PRIME MINISTER SHINZO ABE MAKES HISTORIC U.S. VISIT



PHOTO: CHIP LAROCHE

Page 7

**'Women of the
Year' Honored in
Los Angeles**

Page 5

**JACL National Board
Holds Meeting in
San Francisco**

Page 6

***Hibakusha* Visit
Philadelphia to
Educate Public**

Page 8



THE *P.C.* IS OUR FAMILY TREE

are celebrating Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month with festivals, food, art, music, performances, dialogue and much more. Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month is all about our shared collective heritage and the customs and connections that define our multicultural identities, whether Japanese, Chinese, Hawaiian, Samoan, Korean, Taiwanese, Filipino or any of the other amazing cultures along the APA spectrum.

The *Pacific Citizen* is a huge part of our Japanese and Japanese American heritage. Since 1929, the *P.C.* has informed, inspired and advocated for our Issei, Nisei and Sansei ancestors. The *P.C.* staff demonstrates with every issue of this publication their heartfelt commitment to producing

a quality product that continues the tradition of journalistic excellence and service to the Japanese American community. The *P.C.* has forged ahead against all odds to emerge better and stronger than ever. With a new and improved online portal to extend its reach beyond the printed page, the *P.C.* is well-positioned to leap to the next level of excellence.

Have you seen the commercial for one of those online genealogy subscription websites where customers excitedly share how they clicked on a family member's name and discovered a new "leaf" in their family tree? I love their sense of wonder and excitement discovering a parent's name included on a census record or a grandparent's name listed on a ship's manifest. The *P.C.* is our

family tree. Every issue is like one of those leaves, leading to discoveries of history remembered and new history in the process of being written.

Take this opportunity during Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month to support the *P.C.*'s Spring Campaign. Contribute to the campaign in the name of a family member past, present and especially future. By sharing the *P.C.* with others in your family tree through a gift contribution and subscription, you are extending the story of the wider Japanese American community for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Roberta Barton
CCDC Governor and
P.C. Editorial Board Member

May is Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month. The roots of this national observance were cultivated through the efforts of Rep. Frank Horton and such Japanese American icons as Rep. Norman Mineta, Sen. Daniel Inouye and Sen. Spark Matsunaga. The month of May was chosen in conjunction with the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants to the United States in May 1843.

Communities across the nation

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Mike Masaoka Remembered

Dear Editor,

Mike Masaoka will be honored at the Sayonara Banquet during the 2015 JACL Convention in Las Vegas. He would have been 100 years old this year. He passed away in 1991, but his efforts — to show Japanese American loyalty during World War II, to create the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and to enable Issei to become American citizens — continue to benefit all of us.

The tribute to Mike Masaoka will be the opportunity for newer JACL members to learn what he and other JACL leaders accomplished so that JACL can make the claim that "JACL is the oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization in the United

States." JACL would not have survived during World War II without the dedicated work of Masaoka and other pioneer JACL leaders. Their efforts fought overt prejudice and enabled Japanese Americans to regain their place in America and to look upon their Japanese heritage with pride.

Mike Masaoka and my father, Ted Yamada, are my role models. By their example, they taught me the importance of giving back to the community. Mike encouraged my interest in JACL when I moved to the Washington, D.C., area.

He remained my mentor, motivator and inspirational leader as I became involved in activities to preserve the legacy created by Japanese Americans during World War II.

The one important lesson he taught me is "to think outside the box" in both my professional career and work in the community.

In the same spirit, my father taught me to give back to the broader community. As an avid sports fan, he bought the Lodi Crushers, becoming the first Japanese American to own a professional baseball team. With his ownership of a Class A California League baseball team and his participation in civic organizations, he showed his generosity in support of the community.

Come to Las Vegas and join JACL in honoring Mike Masaoka and his accomplishments.

Sincerely,

Gerald Yamada
Vienna, Va.

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A MOTHER'S TAKE

SERENDIPITY

By Marsha Aizumi

Often the most beautiful gifts we receive happen by chance. I believe these gifts happen because we are giving with no expectation of return — we are sharing our hearts unselfishly. Serendipity is defined as “the occurrence and development of events by chance in a happy or beneficial way.” Here is a wonderful example.

At the beginning of May, five of us representing PFLAG San Gabriel Valley Asian Pacific Islanders (API) traveled to the UC Santa Barbara campus for a Queer People of Color conference. We were there to do a panel workshop called “Family: An Asian American Pacific Islander LGBTQ Perspective,” which looked into the challenges and ways our families have navigated this journey of coming out.

It has been difficult for all of us, and some of us are still faced with challenges. As the first and only API chapter within PFLAG, a national organization that supports parents, family and friends of LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer) individuals, we try to be a visible face and voice for the API Community.



PFLAG San Gabriel Valley Asian Pacific Islander members with (from left) Alex and Marsha Aizumi

One of our panelists, the aunt of a transgender nephew, had never spoken in front of an audience like this before. Alex was visibly nervous. In fact, she forced her daughter to come with her on the four-hour roundtrip drive, so she would not be alone.

When Alex walked into the area where the conference was taking place, she saw about 300 chairs set up for the lunch keynote program. She immediately reacted and said, “I hope that isn’t where we are speaking, because if it is, I can’t do it!” I assured her that we would be in a smaller room, so she didn’t have to worry.

After lunch, we walked into our assigned classroom. It had about 40 chairs set up, and I could see Alex was less nervous by the number of chairs, but more nervous by the workshop time drawing near. API young people began to flow in. Three Vietnamese mothers of LGBTQ individuals from Vietnamese Rainbow of Orange County (VROC) also joined us. In the end, we probably had about 35 people.

The workshop began by each of us sharing our story: our families, our challenges and our positive experiences. When Alex began, her voice was quivering. Her anxiety was palpable, and so as the moderator, I interjected that this was the first time Alex was doing something like this and she needed our support. The audience began to clap for her, appreciating the courage, the authenticity and the generosity of this auntie. Ironically, she had come to support her nephew and these LGBTQ young people, but in this moment, they were supporting her.

>> See SERENDIPITY on page 12

CHAPTER SPOTLIGHT: San Benito County

Highlighting the 80th anniversary of the founding of the JACL Chapter

By David Unruhe

The year 2015 marks the 80th anniversary of the founding of the San Benito County Chapter of JACL. The chapter is centered in the Old California Mission town named after St. John the Baptist, better known as San Juan Bautista. San Benito is one of the smallest counties in California, both in terms of size and population, and it is easily overshadowed by adjacent Monterey and Santa Clara Counties. There are only two cities in the county, San Juan Bautista and Hollister, the county seat. It is primarily a farming county.

The history of Japanese Americans in San Benito County is a familiar one. The Issei began arriving in the county in the early part of the 20th century as agricultural workers. Eventually, they married and began families, and then bought farms in the name of their Nisei children.

The peak years for the San Benito Japanese American community were from about 1920-41, when farm ownership was at its highest and there was a Nisei baby boom. In the middle of this time, in the depths of the Great Depression, a need for a community center was recognized. Land on the edge of San Juan Bautista was bought, and the Japanese American Community Hall was built for about \$26,000. Such an undertaking could have only been accomplished by the skill and labor of the Issei, as most Nisei were not old enough to assist with the project.

The hall opened in 1935, the same year that some of the older Nisei founded the JACL chapter. For the next six years, the hall served as a JACL office and meeting place, San Juan



The San Benito County Japanese American Community Hall, which opened in 1935, still functions today as the center of the San Juan/San Benito Japanese American community.

Howakai/Watsonville Buddhist Church, San Benito Gakuen, in addition to various other uses, including a theater for samurai movies. Estimates vary as to the size of the community at any given time, but at its peak, Japanese Americans represented about 20 percent of the total population of the county, with the number closer to 30 percent in the school system.

And then it was all over. Just when it seemed that the country was climbing out of the Great Depression, Japan attacked Pearl Harbor in 1941, and then all of the Issei and Nisei looked like the enemy. Although the Japanese Americans in San Benito County didn’t experience the extreme hatred and overt racism as those in other parts of the state, the hostility was there just the same. By late spring 1942, “all persons of Japanese ancestry” had been forcibly removed from their homes and farms, first to “assembly centers” and later to incarceration centers. The San Benito JACL Chapter continued to function while at Poston, Ariz.



San Benito JACL Chapter President Kurt Kurasaki with historical photographs

The San Benito Nikkei community never recovered from the wartime incarceration. Following the war, a number of families did return to the valley and attempted to restart their lives and their farms, but the numbers never approached those of the prewar years.

In 1985, the chapter helped to organize an event recognizing the 50th anniversary of the founding of the San Benito JACL. Almost 300

people, mostly middle-aged Nisei, attended and reconnected with their roots and old friends. Photographs of this event are proudly displayed in the hall.

In 2015, the hall still functions as the center of the San Juan/San Benito Japanese American community. It’s still on the edge of town (San Juan Bautista hasn’t grown much), and fields of row crops are visible just behind the building. There is no signage on the building, and the street doesn’t get much traffic, so the building is pretty anonymous, but it is well-maintained. The chapter is struggling, like many small, rural chapters, as the Nisei generation passes on, and the Sansei continue migrating to the cities. The number of Sansei farmers can be counted on one hand.

The chapter hosted the May meeting of the NCWNP District Council, and attendees were treated to a delicious tri-tip meal, complete with San Benito chili and chocolate-dipped strawberries for dessert.

2015 JACL NATIONAL CONVENTION

Jane Kurahara and Betsy Young to Receive JACL Presidential Awards

By JACL National Staff

WASHINGTON, D.C. — In recognition of their efforts to locate, preserve and interpret the Honouliuli incarceration site, JACL is honored to announce Jane Kurahara and Betsy Young of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii as the recipients of the 2015 JACL Presidential Awards, which will be given during on July 15 at the JACL National Convention in Las Vegas, Nev.

Kurahara, a retired school librarian, has served as the co-chair of the Hawaii Confinement Sites Committee since its inception in 2005 and was the co-manager of the JCCH Resource Center from 2001-06.

Young is a retired award-winning public school teacher, social studies curriculum specialist and school librarian who also co-managed the JCCH Resource Center from 2001-06.



JANE KURAHARA



BETSY YOUNG

PHOTOS: JAPANESE CULTURAL CENTER OF HAWAII

Their work was instrumental in the creation of the Honouliuli National Monument, which was officially designated on Feb. 19 by President Barack Obama.

For more information about the 2015 JACL National Convention, visit the convention website at <https://www.jacl.org/events/national-convention/>.

First Annual Asian Heritage Jazz Festival Set for June

Versatile pop/soul/contemporary jazz saxophonist Michael Paulo (pictured) is bringing the first annual Asian Heritage Jazz Festival, presented by Apaulo Music Prods., on June 20 to the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center in Los Angeles.

"With my lifelong passion for jazz, I want to host an event unlike any other that focuses on the Asian culture embracing an American art form, jazz," said Paulo, who has also produced the Temecula Wine and Music Festival for the past 10 years. "As America is a melting pot of cultures, it is important in the assimilation of those cultures to embrace things that are uniquely American. It is through this that we can become a part of the mainstream culture. Also, in most instances, Asian Americans aren't readily associated with jazz. The festival aims to change that perception by featuring as many of the best Asian jazz performers here that we can assemble. We will have the biggest lineup of Asian jazz artists ever in the U.S."

Featured artists include Ming Free-



man (keyboards), David Inamine (bass), Danny Jung (saxophone), Jeff Kashiwa (saxophone), June Kuramoto (koto), Rene Paulo (piano), Benny Rietveld (bass), Fred Schreuders (guitar), Kemeya Seward (vocalist) and Pauline Wilson (vocalist).

In addition, the festival will provide a platform to promote and nurture younger artists who deserve wider recognition but have been unable to break into the mainstream world.

"We can also generate opportunities for young up-and-coming talent to gain exposure, play and be inspired by the veteran performers who have had international success. This is what makes us different than the many other jazz festival events in Southern California. I am committed to its success and very excited to launch this event," said Paulo.

The festival will be held at the JACCC's outdoor main stage.

For additional information, email saxhawaii@aol.com and to purchase tickets, visit www.tix.com.

APAs in the News

Former L.A. County Undersheriff Paul Tanaka Indicted for Obstruction



LOS ANGELES — Paul Tanaka, 56, the former Los Angeles County undersheriff and current mayor of Gardena, Calif., surrendered to authorities May 14 after being indicted by a federal grand jury for allegedly obstructing an FBI investigation into corruption and brutality in the L.A. County jails.

The indictment reads a string of orders that Tanaka and former LASD Capt. Tom Carey, who was also indicted, gave during summer 2011 to sheriff's deputies working to conceal from FBI agents the location of an inmate the FBI was using as an informant.

As undersheriff, Tanaka was the second-highest-ranking official in the department. He unsuccessfully ran for sheriff in 2014 and was forced out of the department in 2013 by Baca over criticism regarding the abuse scandal. He was re-elected to four-year terms as mayor of Gardena in 2009 and 2013. He is expected to take a leave of absence.

Tanaka and Carey face charges of conspiracy and obstruction of justice. If convicted, the charges could send both men to federal prison for years. Tanaka entered a not-guilty plea in court May 14.

Mitsuye Endo Recommended for the Presidential Medal of Freedom



WASHINGTON, D.C. — Sen. Brian Schatz of Hawaii sent a letter to President Barack Obama on May 11 urging him to award the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Mitsuye Endo.

After being forcibly uprooted from her Sacramento home and incarcerated during World War II, Endo challenged her detention in a court case that was eventually heard by the U.S. Supreme Court. Despite a government offer to leave camp as long as she did not return to the West Coast, Endo voluntarily chose to remain incarcerated so that her case would continue through the court system. On Dec. 17, 1944, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled unanimously in her favor, finding that the U.S. government could not continue to detain concededly loyal citizens without charges. The ruling made an immediate impact and allowed Japanese Americans to leave the camps and begin returning to their West Coast homes only two weeks later on Jan. 2, 1945.

JACL passed a resolution in support of Endo's nomination at the 2014 National Convention.

— P.C. Staff and JACL National Staff



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'WOMEN OF THE YEAR' HONORED

Five outstanding community leaders are recognized by the Downtown JACL and the Japanese Women's Society of Southern California

By George Toshio Johnston

The audience response part of Rev. KarenFay Ramos-Young's invocation went: "We gather to celebrate life." But with a few changes, it could have been, "We gather to celebrate the 2015 Women of the Year" — and it would have worked just fine.

The May 3 luncheon, held at the Quiet Cannon in Montebello, Calif., and produced by the Downtown Los Angeles Chapter of JACL and the Japanese Women's Society of Southern California, recognized five women and their individual accumulated years of efforts, leadership and service within Southern California's Japanese American community. This year marked the award's 52nd anniversary.

As Downtown L.A. Chapter Presi-

dent George Kita announced the event's honorees — Kimiko Goya (Okinawa Association of America), Yoshie Hirata (Keiro Retirement Home, Japanese Community Pioneer Center), Martha Nishinaka (Centenary United Methodist Church), Pearl Omiya (East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center) and Nancy Takayama (San Fernando Valley JACL, San Fernando Valley Japanese Community Center, PSWD JACL) — their partisans in the audience of more than 350 broke out in raucous cheers and applause that almost rivaled the 3.8 magnitude earthquake that shook the area a few hours earlier that morning.

Regarding the day's honorees, Kay Inose, president of the 111-year-old Japanese Women's Society of Southern California, said, "I want to thank them for their selfless dedication and service to our Japanese American community."

Introducing the Ginowan, Okinawa Prefecture-born Goya was her daughter, Diane Konishi. Goya worked as a Japanese school teacher for 25 years before retiring in 2011. She has volunteered in the community in many capacities, among them president of the Okinawa Association of America, in addition to overseeing the collection of material and monetary donations for victims of the 2011 tsunami disaster in Japan.

Yoshiko Yamaguchi, speaking in Japanese, introduced the next award winner, the Yokosuka, Kanagawa Prefecture-born Hirata. Hirata retired from JFC Los Angeles in 2000 after working for the company for 17 years. She also has volunteered at Keiro Retirement Home and is currently a member of the board, treasurer and office worker for the Japanese Community Pioneer Center.

The next awardee, Quito, Ecuador, native Martha Nishinaka, was introduced by her niece, 2014 Nisei Week Queen Tori Nishinaka. For more than 10 years, Nishinaka has served as president of the United Method-



(From left) Downtown L.A. Chapter's George Kita, Women of the Year honorees Kimiko Goya, Martha Nishinaka, Yoshie Hirata, Pearl Omiya and Nancy Takayama and Japanese Women's Society of Southern California's Kay Inose

ist Women at Centenary United Methodist Church in Los Angeles, in addition to working as an office manager and director of operations for Pagel Shecter, M.D. At Centenary she plays a key role in leading the service and fellowship group's fundraising activities and efforts to improve the lives of all those in the community.

West Covina, Calif.-born Omiya was introduced before receiving her award by Glenn Nakatani, president of the ESGVJCC. Omiya serves as executive director of the East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center, where she oversees its operations, finances, programs and services. Under her guidance, she provides leadership to more than 25 different programs and classes that are offered at the center, in addition to overseeing a dozen annual events that serve the community. Prior to joining the ESGVJCC, she taught English in Japan through the JET Programme.

Nancy Takayama, the afternoon's final awardee, was introduced by fellow San Fernando JACLer Jean-Paul "JP" deGuzman. Takayama has served as president of

the San Fernando Valley JACL as well as a board member of the JACL Pacific Southwest District before working full time for PSWD JACL in 2012. She also is a member of the Little Tokyo Business Assn. and is involved in the Little Tokyo Community Council. Her passion for cultivating awareness of Japanese American history through preservation advocacy efforts is a driving force behind her volunteer efforts.

In addition to the award — an individualized plaque with a built-in clock — each honoree also received commendations from the California State Assembly, Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti and the Los Angeles County Supervisors.

The benediction was performed by Rev. Mark M. Nakagawa of Centenary United Methodist Church.

Serving on the luncheon committee were Kay Inose, Toshie Kawaguchi, George Kita, Atsuko Lee, Machiko Matsunaga, Rodney Nakada, Nancy Nix, Tomoko Sakurai, Kitty Sankey, Patricia Sookdet, Amy Tambara, Yoshiko Yamaguchi and Kiyoko Yoshiyama. ■



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FULL SPEED AHEAD

Buoyed by corporate sponsorships and successful fundraising efforts, the financial outlook for this year's JACL National Convention looks bright.

By P.C. Staff

The JACL National Board convened Feb. 7 in San Francisco at its national headquarters for its final meeting before heading into this year's annual convention in Las Vegas, Nev.

Thanks in part to successful sponsorships and fundraising efforts to date, the upcoming National Convention, set for July 13-15 at the Monte Carlo Hotel, has already earned enough revenue to sustain itself.

"It's looking really good," said Toshihiro Hasegawa, JACL fund development manager, of the chapter ads and convention partnerships secured thus far. "I'm getting updated numbers as more are trickling in, and I'm expecting the ads to continue to come through."

Major sponsors include AARP, Comcast NBC Universal, JA Health Insurance Services, Southwest Airlines and State Farm.

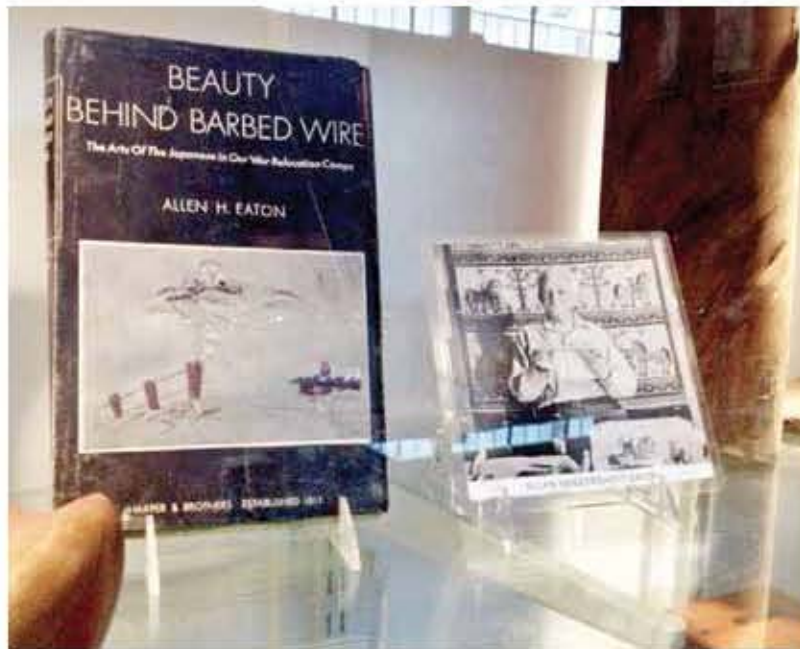
The National Board also discussed the events surrounding last month's conflict over a sale of the largest collection of Japanese American incarceration camp art. Rago Arts and Auction Center in New Jersey and collection seller John Ryan pulled the sale after mounting pressure and protest from the Japanese American community. Curator and folk-art collector Allen Hendershott Eaton began accumulating the 450 pieces of art during his tour of the incarceration camps during World War II as part of an exhibit he had hoped to display in conjunction with his book, *Beauty Behind Barbed Wire: The Arts of the Japanese in Our War Relocation Camps*.

"What we should do now as a board is find a way to better act on movements like these," urged Toshi Abe, vp of membership. Abe was instrumental during the protests and was featured in several news outlets, including a *New York Times* announcement about the Rago Auction's halt of the sale.

At the time of the protests, the JACL National Board, communicating through email exchanges and phone conferences,



The JACL National Board also met to discuss the events surrounding the sale of the largest Japanese American incarceration camp art collection.



A copy of Allen Hendershott Eaton's "Beauty Behind Barbed Wire" was on display at the Rago Arts and Auction Center as part of a lecture and open house event.

was unable to respond to the large outcry as fast as members would've wanted.

JACL Executive Director Priscilla Ouchida released a statement after the sale was removed, but was unable to do so during the protests.

"Historical preservation is part of our action," Ouchida shared with the board. "What I saw was that we tried to take action on a very specific thing, and I was never allowed to intervene." Currently, the executive director does not have the authority to move for-

ward on behalf of the JACL without unanimous agreement from the National Board.

"Being absent was a statement," Ouchida said. "We need some kind of resolution that would act under the Program of Action."

JACL also did not respond to the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation civil action complaint against Rago Arts. The complaint was released publicly but was never officially filed.

A JACL committee is expected to form in order to draft a resolution that would allow the executive director the power to intervene on behalf of the board. Details of the resolution's specifics are expected to be released before the National Convention, where it will be put to the National Council for approval.

"The events surrounding the auction ex-

posed some of the processes that we need to address and change," JACL National President David Lin said. "We didn't do as well, and we could've done better. As a board, we can institutionalize better steps in preparing for future matters like this."

Special acknowledgement was given to NCWNP Regional Director Patty Wada and Abe for their work and dedication in handling the in-pouring of media inquiries and community action concerning the auction.

Ouchida's report also included a push to remove California's AB 246 legislation, which will amend the existing hate crime law for peace officers.

Other efforts from the national office include the Schatz Resolution concerning the National Museum of American People and native Hawaiian colonists, the "Find Your Park" campaign, changes in the travel reimbursement policy for staff and officials and a resolution for new account signatories. ■

PRIME MINISTER SHINZO ABE VISITS THE U.S.

JACL members are invited by the White House to be a part of the historic weeklong visit.



President Barack Obama greets Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at the White House.

By JACL National Staff

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and his wife, Akie, arrived in Washington, D.C., on April 28 for their historic visit to the United States. Dozens of JACL members were invited by the White House to attend the official State Arrival Ceremony for the prime minister on the South Lawn of the presidential residence. Chip Larouche, JACL vp of planning and development, traveled with his wife, Setsy, from Portland, Ore., to join the well-wishers.

"My wife, Setsy, and I were honored to be part of this historic ceremony," said Larouche. "Both President Obama and Prime Minister Abe eloquently highlighted in their speeches the lasting and essential bonds that Japan and the United States enjoy, and it's heartwarming to know that JACL has had an important role in promoting and maintaining many important elements of that bond."

At the ceremony, President Barack Obama remarked that the prime minister's visit was a celebration of "the ties of friendship that bind our peoples," and he referred to "growing up in Hawaii... home to so many proud Japanese Americans."

JACL Executive Director Priscilla Ouchida and her daughter, Elissa Ouchida, attended the official State Dinner held on April 28 in the East Room of the White House.

Two hundred guests, including former JACL National Director Floyd Mori, Hawaii Gov. David Ige, U.S. Ambassador to Japan Caroline Kennedy and U.S. Sen. Mazie Hirono, enjoyed the meal prepared by White House chefs and guest chef Masaharu Morimoto. Invitees were the first to use the newly delivered White House china dinnerware featuring a Kailua-blue trim designed by First Lady Michelle Obama. The opulent dinner was festooned with ceiling-hugging floral arrangements of cherry blossom branches, peonies and orchids and a simple pair of cherry blossom-decorated chopsticks at each place setting. Stars from "Jersey Boys," which received an award for best foreign film in Japan, performed for the

evening's guests.

Ouchida remarked, "The visit was as much about the friendship between Japan and Japanese Americans as about the close ties that exist between the U.S. and Japan. At every level, there was an effort to ensure Japanese American participation."

Sen. Hirono of Hawaii provided members of JACL with highly coveted tickets to Abe's address to a joint session of the United States Congress, the first by a leader from Japan. JACL Legal Counsel Brandon Mita, Washington, D.C., Chapter President John Tobe, former National President Floyd Shimomura, Daniel K. Inouye Fellow Craig Shimizu, Janice Faden and Georgette Furukawa-Martinez were among those who witnessed the speech.

Abe delivered his speech in English, and he acknowledged the late Sen. Daniel Inouye, who he said "symbolized the honor and achievements of Japanese Americans." Sprinkled with humor and stories, Abe also spoke of deep remorse over World War II, stating, "Our actions brought suffering to the peoples in Asian countries. We must not avert our eyes from that." The prime minister also cited previous statements with a pledge to "uphold the views expressed by the previous prime ministers in this regard." He offered, "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."

Said Shimomura: "It was an awesome experience watching from the gallery as Prime Minister Abe made his historic speech to Congress. I was especially proud when he praised the late Sen. Inouye and the contributions made by Japanese Americans."

During his trip, Abe also met with a num-



Miko Sawamura, JACL vp of general operations, with Prime Minister of Japan Shinzo Abe at the Fairmont Hotel in San Francisco.



(From left) Elissa Ouchida, former U.S. Ambassador to Japan Walter Mondale and JACL Executive Director Priscilla Ouchida



Gathered before Prime Minister Abe's speech before Congress are (from left) Floyd Shimomura (past JACL national president), Craig Shimizu (Daniel K. Inouye Fellow), Janice Faden (D.C. Chapter), John Tobe (president, D.C. Chapter) and Brandon Mita (JACL legal counsel).

ber of JACL members in Boston, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Washington, D.C.

Kenneth Oye, president of New England Chapter, met twice with the prime minister during his visit to Boston, and said, "The meetings with Prime Minister Abe were surprisingly substantive. Secretary of State John Kerry

hosted Prime Minister Abe at his home on Louisburg Square. My conversations with the prime minister and his delegation covered Asian international political relations, the management of risks associated with nuclear power, regenerative medicine and synthetic biology and the pitching staff of the Boston Red Sox. At MIT, New England JACL Chapter member Richard Samuels and I were joined by Joichi Ito, Susumu Tonegawa, Suzanne Berger, Robert Langer and Fiona Murray on a faculty panel on innovation. The prime minister's remarks were sharp and to the point. Most surprising — a bunch of us long-winded MIT faculty actually managed to keep our remarks to two minutes each!"

Miko Sawamura, JACL vp of general operations, who attended a dinner in San Francisco hosted by Consul General Masato Watanabe at the Fairmont Hotel, said, "It was an honor to attend the dinner held in honor of His Excellency, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Mrs. Abe. The event was

exhilarating. Prime Minister Abe is charismatic and has a great sense of humor. It was such an honor to meet Prime Minister Abe at the dinner. I was able to thank him for his leadership and commitment to U.S.-Japan relations and for taking time to meet with the community.

"To know that Prime Minister Abe spoke of change to 'empower women so they can get more actively engaged in all walks of life' was especially meaningful," Sawamura continued. "Japan aims to increase the proportion of women in management positions to 30 percent by 2020. As a member of the Japan-sponsored 2007 Japanese American Leadership Delegation, I am excited that both the U.S. and Japan will continue to strengthen and actively promote people-to-people ties, including 'efforts to increase student, research and legislative exchanges.' Prime Minister Abe called the U.S.-Japan alliance 'an alliance of hope.' I am hopeful that our communities will continue to join together 'toward an alliance of hope.'"

HIBAKUSHA VISIT PHILADELPHIA

Noriko Sakashita, Kazuhiro Yoshimura and Shigemitsu Tanaka have devoted their lives to telling their personal A-bomb stories in order to educate the public about the dangers of nuclear weapons.

By Hirotoshi Nishikawa and Toshi Abe

Three *hibakusha* (victims of the atomic bombings on Hiroshima and Nagasaki) stopped in Philadelphia on April 29 to share their personal World War II experiences and then continued on their way to New York to be present at the opening of the United Nations Non-Proliferation Treaty Review.

The three *hibakusha*, Noriko Sakashita from Hiroshima, Japan, and Kazuhiro Yoshimura and Shigemitsu Tanaka from Nagasaki, Japan, each spoke to a hushed audience at a packed meeting room at the University of Pennsylvania's Houston Hall. There the trio told their personal stories to some 100 people, including students as well as many members of the general public. Sakashita, Tanaka and Yoshimura have devoted their lives to telling their personal A-bomb stories in the belief that it is the most effective way to educate the public about the dangers of nuclear weapons. Prof. Frank Chance provided two-way translations throughout the program.

Sakashita was with her mother at the time of the 1945 atomic blast. She remembers walking with her mother as they attempted to return home and the many people they had to pass who were crying for help. Her mother spent the rest of her life feeling great guilt for her futility in not being able to help the many injured who were beyond help.

Yoshimura remembered the terrible suffering of the victims and recalled seeing

how flesh melted from the victims as a result of the heat emanating from blast.

Thousands of *hibakusha* died directly from the effects of the radiation, which also resulted in cancer, infertility and birth defects among survivors. The black rain that fell soon after the blast was such that people who survived wished they had died immediately.

All three speakers spoke of being stigmatized and castigated by society. Sakashita also thought that her fiancé would reject her when he found out she was a *hibakusha*. Instead, he told her that he knew she was a *hibakusha* and that it did not matter to him. He told her that his father said to him, "If she is a survivor, that means that she is a special person. And being special, that makes her worthy of being married to you."

Tanaka shared artifacts with the audience, including a sample of ceramic roof tile that showed bubbles on the side exposed to the extreme heat generated by the A-bomb blast. He also shared aerial photos of his city before and after the bomb blast.

Dennis Morikawa, the Embassy of Japan's Honorary Consul General in Philadelphia, delivered the event's opening remarks and gave his thanks to the audience. Rob Buscher, a board member of the JACL Philadelphia Chapter, introduced the panel and also gave his own personal testimony.



Dennis Morikawa (left), Embassy of Japan's Acting Consul General in Philadelphia, and Rob Buscher, Philadelphia Chapter JACL board member

Buscher's great-grandparents immigrated to the United States in the 1920s from Hiroshima, and many of his family's relatives perished on Aug. 6, when the first atomic bomb dropped on that city. For Buscher, the word *gaman*, which refers to "enduring the unbearable with patience and dignity," applies to the *hibakusha*, whose strength and resilience inspired many of them to devote their lives to spreading a message of peace throughout the world.

The many organizations and individuals who were able to contribute to this event included Buscher, Frank and Linda Chance, William Gardner, the Harmony for Peace Foundation, Philadelphia Chapter of the JACL, Japan America Society of Greater Philadelphia, Fariha Khan, Nihon Hidankyo, Christian Morssink, Hiro and Sumie Nishikawa, Madame Saito, Tomoko Torii, Andy and Pat Toy, Kyoko Toyama,



(Above) Hibakusha panelists (from left) Shigemitsu Tanaka, Noriko Sakashita, and Kazuhiro Yoshimura



Detail of a nuclear non-proliferation banner from Kobe, Japan

UPenn Asian American Studies Program, UPenn Center for East Asian Studies and Keijiroh Yamaguchi.

Thanks were also extended to the entourage accompanying the three *hibakusha* in their travels through the U.S., which includes Junko Gushi, Sumiko Hatakeyama, Eiichi Honda, Tamie Kameda, Keizo Kodera, Sachiko Matsumoto and Chieko Wada. ■

SNAKE RIVER JACL HOLDS ITS 70TH ANNUAL GRADUATION BANQUET

The Snake River Chapter of the JACL held its 70th annual graduation banquet on May 4 at the Four Rivers Cultural Center in Ontario, Ore., to honor eight graduating high school students of Japanese descent and present scholarships and leadership grants.



Bill Imada (center) is pictured with Snake River scholarship recipients (from left) Erin Tanaka, Courtney Mio, Nicole Matsumura and Brian Heleker.

The event's keynote speaker was Bill Imada, who was born in Ontario and lived on the Oregon Slope as a child. Imada is the founder of IW Group, a full-service marketing and public relations agency with offices in Los Angeles, New York and San Francisco.

This year's scholarship recipients included Ontario's Nicole Matsumura (\$3,000) and Erin Tanaka (3,000); Fruitland's Ben Hinatsu and Courtney Mio (\$2,000); Payette's Brian Heleker (\$2,000) and Keely Larimer; and Nyssa's Jacob Huffman and Jade Takehara.

Leadership grant honorees, who were each awarded \$400, included high school juniors AJ Breidenbach of Ontario, Kate Nishizaki of New Plymouth, Paige Takasugi of Wilder and Mika Takatori of Parma. ■

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ANNOUNCEMENT

The NYSC is happy to announce, in collaboration with the *Pacific Citizen*, a new space for the JACL youth to be heard and share their voice.

The space will act as a platform for youth to submit articles and columns published on both the printed edition as well as the *Pacific Citizen* website.

For more information and pitch submissions please contact Nicole Gaddie (nicolegaddie@gmail.com) or Michelle Yamashiro (myamashiro@jaci.org) or Tiffany Ujiye (tiffany@pacificcitizen.org)

BERKELEY JACL AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS AND HONORS PIONEER RECIPIENTS

The Berkeley JACL Chapter awarded scholarships to six high school seniors as well as presented Pioneer Awards to James Duff Jr. and George Yoshida (posthumously) during its May 3 awards luncheon, which was held at Spenger's Fresh Fish Grotto in Berkeley, Calif.

High school honorees included Kenji Israels, Yumi Kobayashi, Tomiyuri Lewis, Brittany Nakamura, Eric Ota and Robert Schneider.

Israels, a senior at Albany High School, was awarded the Bea Kono Memorial Scholarship. Israels will enter the University of California, Merced, in the fall as an environmental engineering major. Among his many accomplishments, he served as president of the Hapa Club and placed first in the U.S. International Duo Piano Competition, as well as played with the Oakland Youth Orchestra.

Kobayashi, also a senior at Albany High School, was awarded the Dan/Kathleen Date Memorial Scholarship. She will enter Occidental College as a diplomacy and world affairs major. Active in her high school's basketball and track and field teams, Kobayashi was also recognized by the North Coast Section as a member of the "Distinguished Scholastic Team" and served as her high school's student body secretary/treasurer.

Lewis, who attends Asawa SOTA High School in San Francisco, will enroll at the University of California, Los Angeles, as a human biology and society major. She is active in her high school's technical theater costume production, where she designs

and produces original costumes for school musicals, in addition to being the founder and president of Live to Love Volunteer Club, which is designed to involve youth with the arts.

Nakamura of Oakland's Skyline High School, will attend Whittier College as an undeclared major. As a member of the Oakland Kiwanis' Key Club, she participated in several volunteer activities, in addition to assisting the East Bay Buffaloes with the Special Olympics Track Meet and was involved with the Oakland/Fukuoka Sister City Assn. Nakamura is currently active in the Buddhist Church of Oakland, where she serves as the organization's co-president.

Ota of Athenian High School in Danville, was awarded the Terry Yamashita Memorial Scholarship. He will attend the University of California, Santa Cruz, where he plans to major in computer science. He was active in several programs at his high school, among them the cross-country and track and field teams, and served as a freshman orientation counselor. Other extracurricular activities included volunteer work at the Sakura Kai Senior Center.

Schneider of Rio Lindo Adventist Academy in Healdsburg, will attend the University of California, Davis, as a pre-physician's assistant major. Schneider plays cello as part of the school's orchestra, which also performs at several churches in California. He also has served as a four-year volunteer counselor at the Redwood Creek Camp.

Duff and Yoshida (posthumously) were presented with the chapter's Pioneer Award, which honors those with the vision,



Pictured are (from left) Paul Nakao (co-president), Brittany Nakamura, Eric Ota, Yumi Kobayashi, Kenji Israels, James Duff Jr. (Pioneer Award), Tomiyuri Lewis, Michael Oguro (co-president) and Cole Yoshida (Pioneer Award for George Yoshida).

compassion and energy to lay a foundation for building the Japanese American community into the active and vibrant one it shares today, as well as linking past leaders with future ones.

Duff has served as the Berkeley Chapter's president, in addition to being a team member of the JACL National Convention Constitution and Bylaws Committee. He most recently was appointed as the *Pacific Citizen* Editorial Board representative for the Northern California Western Nevada Pacific District.

Yoshida, whose award was accepted on his behalf by Cole Yoshida, was honored for the many years he spent inspiring generations of Asian American musicians with his passion as a musician and mentor. He was well

known for organizing and playing drums in his local 17-piece swing band known as the "J-Town Jazz Assemble." A lifelong educator, he remained active by also leading East Bay seniors in exercise as part of the Berkeley Nikkei Seniors and JSei programs.

In closing, the chapter also recognized longtime major sponsors Union Bank (Cassandra Vincent), Wells Fargo Bank (Jonathan Shindo) and memorial scholarships donors such as the Beatrice Kono family (George Kono), the Terry Yamashita family (Reiko Nabeta) and the Dan/Kathleen Date family (Gail Yamamoto).

Scholarship Committee members included Mark Fujikawa, Vera Kawamura, Michael Oguro, Neal Ouye, Al Satake, Sharron Sue and Ron Tanaka (chair). ■



Portland scholarship recipients included (top row, from left) Madeline Masog, Justin Kwong, Euri Kashiwagi, Kayla Hondo, Mina Yamasaki and Braden Yokota and (front row, from left) Sophia Kawata, Meredith Loy, Abigail Matsushima, Madison Lamont, Naomi Sakaguchi, Zack Ragozzino and Julius Shellmire.



Emi Hirsh

Portland Japanese American Graduation Banquet Honors 14 Students

The Portland Japanese American community held its 68th annual Japanese American Graduation Banquet on May 3, and this year, 14 high school seniors from within the Portland metropolitan community were honored for their academic achievements as well as their artistic talent and extracurricular activities.

The tradition of the Japanese American Graduation Banquet began in 1948 when Misao Hayashi, wife of Rev. Francis Hayashi of the Epworth Methodist Church, held a reception for the local Japanese American graduates at the Broadway Theater, where the students also watched the movie "Go for Broke" featuring Van Johnson.

This year's graduate honorees included Emi Hirsh of Grant High School, who was awarded the Shokookai of Portland Scholarship. She is a member of the Portland Youth Philharmonic.

Additional winners included Madeline Masog of Scappoose High School, recipient of the Yoshiko Kennedy Scholarship; Justin Kwong of Cleveland High School, recipient of the Mabel

Shoji Boggs/State Farm Scholarship; Euri Kashiwagi, also of Cleveland High School, who was awarded the Henryoji Buddhist Art Award; Kayla Hondo of Southridge High School, who received the Art and Teri Iwasaki Scholarship; Beaverton High School's Mina Yamasaki, recipient of the Hide Naito Scholarship; and Braden Yokota, a student at Jesuit High School, who was awarded the Tsuya Minamoto/Veleda Club Scholarship.

Also honored were Sophia Kawata of Clackamas High School, who received the Alice Sumida Award; Meredith Loy from Oregon Episcopal High School, who won the Portland JACL-Kiyoko Yumibe Scholarship; Abigail Matsushima from Grant High School, who not only was presented the Nisei Veterans' Athletic Trophy but also won the Matt Masuoka Scholarship; Lake Oswego High School's Madison Lamont, who was awarded the Gresham-Troutdale JACL Scholarship; Tigard High School's Naomi Sakaguchi, recipient of the Lt. Roger T. Okamoto Scholarship; Zack Ragozzino of Lake Oswego High School, who was presented with the Satsuki Azumano Scholarship; and Julius Shellmire from Grant High School, who received the Alice Sumida Award. ■

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 Student Youth Council. Also, reserve your room early for a special convention room rate.
Info: Visit www.jacl.org/2015convention/.

PSW

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 two-day event. 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.

Info: Call (310) 324-6611 or email s_sawai@jci-gardena.org.

Camp Musubi
Los Angeles, CA
July 13-17
Japanese American Cultural and Community Center
244 S. San Pedro St.
Price: \$275

Camp Musubi is a weeklong day camp that teaches middle school-aged youth about Japanese American heritage through fun activities. The program aims to spark interest in the Japanese American culture and community, while participants learn from community and college-aged leaders. JACCC members can also save \$25 for registration fees. Space is limited.

Info: Visit www.campmusubi.org or email at campmusubi@gmail.com.

NCWNP

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's annual bazaar will offer such food options as 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 Sakaue at (510) 276-0752 or Ed Oda at (510) 538-6380.

Congressional Gold Medal Fundraising Dinner
San Jose, CA
June 12; 6 p.m.
Fairmont Hotel
170 S. Market St.
Price: Ticket prices vary

The National Veterans Network is sponsoring a dinner to honor Gen. Eric K. Shinseki, former U.S. Secretary of Veteran Affairs. Proceeds from the dinner will support the Smithsonian's upcoming Congressional Gold Medal Digital Exhibition, which highlights stories of Japanese American soldiers from WWII. Special guests will include Norman Y. Mineta and Kristi Yamaguchi.

Info: Visit www.nationalveteransnetwork.givezooks.com/events.

OCA 2015 National Convention
San Francisco, CA
July 2-5

Hilton Union Square
333 O'Farrell St.
Price: Ticket prices vary
 This year's theme, "Unifying Asian Pacific Islander America," will feature thought-provoking workshops, plenaries that address important issues and events that honor those who empower the community of change. OCA is an advocacy organization that is committed to evolving and expanding within the dynamic APA communities and beyond.

Info: Visit www.oceanational.org.

EDC

Book Discussion With Mako Yoshikawa
Brookline, MA
May 23; 6:30 p.m.
Brookline Booksmith
279 Harvard St.
Price: Free

Novelist and Emerson Prof. Mako Yoshikawa will be featured in this book discussion, which will examine her 24-essay collection of women writing about their fathers. An essay by Maxine Hong Kingston is also included in the discussion.

Info: Visit www.brooklinebooksmith.com/events or call (617) 566-6660.

Cherry Blossom Festival
Mattapan MA
May 23; 6:30 p.m.
Mattapan Branch of the Boston Public Library
1350 Blue Hill Ave.

Join the free "Sakura Matsuri" or Cherry Blossom Festival this year at the Mattapan Library. Enjoy onigiri and other delicious Japanese treats and take photos in a yukata. Guests will also have a chance to make their own cherry blossom prints, participate in kana practice and enjoy many other fun crafts.

Info: Visit www.bpl.org or call (617) 298-9218.

'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

'Last Days in Vietnam' Film Screening
Austin, Texas
June 6; 1-3 p.m.
Asian American Resource Center
8401 Cameron Road

'Last Days in Vietnam,' a 2015 Academy Awards nominee for best documentary feature, dives into April 1975 during the final days of the American involvement in the Vietnam War. With the lives of thousands of South Vietnamese hanging in the balance, the decision to decide who would go and who would leave is investigated.

Info: Visit www.austintexas.org or call (512) 974-1700.

JACL Project: Community! Day Camp
Chicago, IL
July 20-22, 27-29;
10 a.m.-Noon
JACL Chicago Office
5415 N. Clark St.
Price: Free

JACL's free summer camp program for children ages 7-9 is back! More than six half-day sessions over two weeks will give campers an opportunity to learn about Japanese American culture and history. The program will use different cultural activities and crafts to encourage participants to learn about the importance of tolerance and diversity.

Info: www.jaclchicago.org or email Christine Munteanu at cmunteanu@jacl.org or call (773) 728-7171.

PNW

Family: API LGBTQ Gathering
Seattle, WA
June 13; 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
North Seattle College

9600 College Way North
Price: Free

Everyone is invited to the free all-day conference "Family: An API LGBTQ Gathering" for LGBTQ Asian Pacific Islander youth, their families and allies. Among the event's sponsors is the JACL Pride Foundation. Keynote speakers include Marsha and Aiden Aizumi.

Info: Call Sarah Baker at kittingen@gmail.com or call (206) 696-6691.

Spring Bazaar
Portland, OR
June 25-28
Minidoka National Historic Site
Price: Free

Complete an order form for take-out meals by May 24. Options include Mar Far Chicken and Shumai Bento or Inarizushi. Don't miss the bake, plant and craft sale as well!

Info: Call (503) 232-5253.

Minidoka Pilgrimage
Jerome, ID
July 20-22, 27-29;
10 a.m.-Noon
JACL Chicago Office
5415 N. Clark St.
Price: Registration fees may vary
 Join the 11th annual pilgrimage to the former Minidoka Camp. Participants will learn and share experiences about the incarceration camp. Program activities include access to an original barrack building and mess hall, guided tour through the historical site, a closing ceremony and other activities. Registration deadline is June 1. Youth and senior scholarships are available.
Info: Visit www.minidoka-pilgrimage.org or email minidokapilgrimage@gmail.com.

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Events in the calendar section are listed based on space availability. Place a 'Spotlight' ad with photos of your event for maximum exposure.

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In Memoriam

Aoki, Alice Fumiye, 92, Lakewood, CA; April 30; she is survived by her husband, Jimmy Shinichi; sons, Jim and Tom.

Chomori, Margaret Chyeko, 88, Torrance, CA; April 30; she is survived by her daughters, Karen (David) Uyekawa, Janice (Bob) Tamehiro and Susie (Kenny) Nozawa and Teiko Uyekawa; siblings, Misao Chomori and Hank (Chizuyo) and George (Betty) Oka; brothers-in-law, Ben (Jeanne) and Raymond (Michiko) Chomori; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 3.

Ezaki, George Kiyoshi, 91, Gardena, CA; March 12; he is survived by his son, Gregory (Jan) Ezaki; daughter, Cheryl (Ernest) Hanaoka; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 5; ggc: 3.

Fujii, Gertrude S., 97, Los Angeles, CA; April 28; she is survived by her sisters, Arlie Gildner and Dora (George) Uyeno; sister-in-law, Mary Sugioka; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Ikemoto, David R., 60, Torrance, CA; April 29; he is survived by his wife, Arlene K. Ikemoto; children, Dawn (Mike) Ikemoto-Kim, Kristin (Brian) Ishida and DJ Ikemoto; mother, Mildred Toshiko Ikemoto; siblings, Paul (Yoko) Ikemoto, Lynn (Robert) Hirano and Sharon (Casey) Spencer; he is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 7.

Kasamatsu, George Takeo, 96, Monterey Park, CA; April 27; he is survived by his wife, Tamiye "Tami"; son, Ken (Bonnie); daughter, Jayne (Gideon) Young; sister, Frances Ushiro; sister-in-law, Noby Kasamatsu; brother-in-law, George Oda; he is also survived by many other relatives; gc: 5.

Kawasaki, Kimiko, 94, Los Angeles, CA; April 23; she is survived by her sons, Harold Morishige (Mary Ann) and

George (Cecilia); brother, Makoto Takenaka; she is survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2; ggc: 3.

Kimura, Kiyoko, 92, Fountain Valley, CA; April 15; she is survived by her children, Yumi (Kenneth) Kato and Fune (Douglas) Kato; she is also survived by other relatives here and in Japan; gc: 4; ggc: 2.

Kobara, Helen Yukiko, 93, Watsonville, CA; April 4; she was incarcerated at Poston, Ariz.; she was preceded in death by her husband, Shoichi Kobara; she is survived by her sons, Bruce and Gordon Kobara; daughter, Patt Takeuchi; gc: 6.

Kurachi, Takayo, 78, Carson, CA; April 16; she is survived by her husband, Sam Kurachi; son, Bradley Kurachi; daughters, Karin (Thomas) Webster and Joy (Shoji) Tachiyama; sister, Yoshie Tachiki; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 5.

Kusumi, Sumiko, 88, Chatsworth, CA; April 30; she is survived by her sons, Chris, Dave (Rowena) and Glenn (Emi) Kusumi; daughter, Robin (Rickey) Shindo; brother, Minoru (Nancy) Shigezane; sister, Yuriko Fukui; sisters-in-law, Any Nagata, Eji Hori and Emi Shigezane; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 6; ggc: 2.

Nakagawa, Seigo, 89, Gardena, CA; March 31; he was a WWII veteran; he is survived by his wife, Florence Nakagawa; son, Alan (Gayle) Nakagawa; daughter, Sharon (Walter) Saka; sister, Betty (Joseph) Kuroda; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 5; ggc: 2.

Nagamine, Hidekichi Ben, 86, Los Angeles, CA; April 24; he was a veteran of the Korean Conflict; he is survived by his wife, Hisako Nagamine; daughters, Georgene (Randy) Salisbury, Janice (Frank) Quon and Ellen Nagamine; sister,

Yachiyo (Edward) Monarrez; sister-in-law, Yoko Isobe; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2.

Nakamura, Darlene Yoko, 84, Monterey Park, CA; March 23; she is survived by her grandnephew, Satoshi Hirota; brother, Makoto (Haruko) Fukui.

Narasaki, Shizuko, 93, Santa Ana, CA; April 21; she was predeceased by her children, Tommy and Roy (Nancy) Narasaki; sister, Betty Yano; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 4; ggc: 5.

Miya, Tomio, 81, Seal Beach, CA; April 26; he was a veteran; he was predeceased by his son, Scott Miya; he is survived by his wife, Eiko Miyo; children, Janice (Denver) McClellan and Kris (Amanda) Miya; brother, Hisami Miya; sister, Fumiko Matsumoto; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 3.

Mori, Tomiye, 91, Downey, CA; April 27; she is survived by her son, Daniel (Mary) Mori; daughters, Kathryn (Philip) Costello, Janice (Ronald) Dirksen and Karen Mori; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 7; ggc: 8.

Morita, James Yoshio, 95, Torrance, CA; April 3; he is survived by his wife, Fusako Morita; children, Ann (Michael) Shima and Barry (Diane) Morita; sister-in-laws, Hatsumi Morita, Milti Okazaki and Eileen Takemoto; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 4.

Sakamoto, Mitchell Shoichi, 62, Los Angeles, CA; April 10; he is survived by his children, Shawn and Tai Sakamoto; mother, Bonnie; sister, Carrie (Allen) Otani; gc: 3.

Sakamoto, Yoshie, 90,

Los Angeles, CA; April 28; she is survived by her son, Garrett Sakamoto; daughters, Lynn (David) Kay and Karen (Jeff) Ly; sister, Mary Hokoda; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 7; ggc: 2.

Shibata, Miyoko, 93, Los Angeles, CA; April 30; she is survived by her husband, Toshio George Shibata; sons, Robert Hiroshi (Pat), Raymond Fumio (Sharon) and Royce (Terry) Shibata; daughter, Lynn Harumi (Rich) Tambara; brother, Masami (Kyoko) Miyagishima; she is also survived by many nieces and other relatives; gc: 7; ggc: 2.

Sumida, Yukio, 95, Monterey, CA; April 19; he was a veteran of 442nd Regimental Combat Team; he was a producer for the Nisei WWII veteran documentary "Beyond Barbed Wire"; he is survived by his son, Ray (Betsi) Sumida; daughter, Ann (Doug) Tsuchiya; gc: 3; ggc: 6.

Takaki, Lilly Yuriko, 88, Torrance, CA; April 25; she is survived by daughters, Kathleen (Glenn) Madokoro and Teresa (Robert) Matsushima; daughter-in-law, Jaimee Itagaki; sister-in-law, Terrie Kaneko and Merle Kaneko; sisters, Mary (Minoru) Koida, Midori (Kaneko); companion, Hurley Ueda; gc: 4; ggc: 2.

Takata, Buddy Tomizo, 86, Hawthorne, CA; April 30; he was incarcerated at Heart Mountain Camp during WWII; he was predeceased by his siblings,

Robert and June Takata; he is survived by his wife, Grace Kayko Takata; children, Janet M., Valerie Tomi (Victor) and Kenneth (Karina) Takata; siblings, Bes Nakamura, Mary Ando, Thomas Takata and May Takata; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2.

Tanouye, Isao, 86, Rolling Hills Estates, CA; April 25; he was an Army veteran; he is survived by his wife, Susie Tanouye; daughters, Patti (Mike) Bast and Tracey (Mike Takahashi) Tanouye; sister, Sumiye (George) Ota; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and relatives; gc: 1.

Wada, Emiko 'Emie,' 89, Wilsonville, OR; May 8; she was predeceased by her husband, Shigo; daughter, Sharon Spencer; brothers, Glen and George Morioka; she is survived by her son, Mark (Robin), daughter, Stephanie (Eric) Fifer; gc: 7; ggc: 3.

Yamagata, Haruki, 96, San Gabriel, CA; May 2; he is survived by his wife, Toshiko; son, Takehiro (Mieko) Yamagata; daughters, Keiko Lin and Tomiko (John) Higuchi; gc: 8; ggc: 2.

Yamamoto, Tsuneyo, 95, Los Angeles, CA; April 24; she is survived by her son, Masaaki (Yoko) Yamamoto; daughter, Akiyo (Ken) Imoto; sister-in-laws, Eiko Maeda and Kimiyo Maeda; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 6.

TRIBUTE

LILLY YURIKO TAKAKI



July 7, 1926-April 25, 2015; Lilly Yuriko (nee Kaneko) Takaki, 88, of Torrance, CA, passed away peacefully on April 25, 2015. She is survived by daughters, Kathleen (Dr. Glenn) Madokoro, Newport Beach, CA; and Teresa (Dr. Robert) Matsushima, Torrance, CA; daughter-in-law, Jaimee Itagaki, Los Angeles, CA; four grandchildren, Adam, Teddy (Diana) Madokoro, Ann (Alex) Chiu, Paul (Monica) Matsushima; two great-grandchildren, Mazzy

Lily Chiu and Martin Nobu Matsushima; a sister, Rulie Yamamoto, Torrance, CA; two sister-in-laws, Terrie Kaneko, San Jose, CA, and Merle Kaneko, Chicago, IL; and many nieces and nephews. She was predeceased by her son, Russell Takaki, Los Angeles, CA; sisters, Mary (Minoru) Koida, Milwaukie, OR, Midori Kaneko, Yanai, Japan; brothers, Hiroshi (Dorothy) Kaneko, Chicago, IL, Roy Kaneko, Chicago, IL, and Harry Kaneko, San Jose, CA. Special thanks go to her loving caregivers, Rafael & Lourdes Sison & Ivi Pitts of Brent Wood Villa, and most of all, to her devoted companion, Hurley Ueda, Gardena, CA. A gravesite burial service will be held at the Green Hills Memorial Park on Saturday, June 6, 2015, at 11 a.m. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Lilly's memory to the Gardena Valley Baptist Church, Nehemiah Fund. www.fukui-mortuary.com (213) 626-0441

PLACE A TRIBUTE

'In Memoriam' is a free listing that appears on a limited, space-available basis. Tributes honor your loved ones with text and photos and appear in a timely manner at the rate of \$20/column inch. Contact: tiffany@pacificcitizen.org or call (213) 620-1767

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SERENDIPITY >> continued from page 3

Our workshop was well-received, and there were many tears throughout our presentation. Some in attendance said it was an emotional workshop just seeing parents who were supportive of their LGBTQ children and hearing about some of the feelings their moms or dads had to overcome.

Oftentimes, LGBTQ children do not understand the depth of fear, sadness and shame that parents have to confront in order to move into an unconditional loving and accepting space. Recognizing these barriers often brings more compassion and understanding into the hearts of the LGBTQ children. I always tell the LGBTQ kids that parents need to be encouraged by our children ... for it is often our children that help us through this journey with their love.

The next day, I received a thank-you email from Alex. In it, she said,

"The event made me realize lots of things that I wasn't aware of. It's funny that I thought I was supporting my nephew by speaking in public, but I ended up getting more support than I realized I needed. Most importantly, on our way home, my daughter opened up and said a lot of things that were on her mind. I always thought we were close and she could tell me anything, but I was wrong."



Aizumi (second from left) with members of the Vietnamese Rainbow Moms

She was afraid of hurting my feelings and kept quiet. ... I'm very glad I forced my daughter to come with me and forced myself to speak in public. It was terrifying but so worth it!!"

I have always believed we model best for our children by being our most courageous and authentic selves. At the QPOC conference, Alex modeled stepping into

an area of fear and uncertainty with vulnerability, honesty and courage ... and that gave her daughter permission to do the same. What a beautiful example of parenting at its highest level. What a beautiful gift to give to your child.

NOTE: If you or anyone you know needs support on API LGBTQ issues, please visit PFLAG SGV API at www.sangabrielvalleyapiflag.com or email me directly at maizumi8888@gmail.com. We have a wonderful network of API parents of LGBTQ children that are ready and willing to support you and provide you with resources. You are not alone.

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

EDEN TOWNSHIP AWARDS COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP



Edén Township scholarship honoree Connor Uomoto

Edén Township JACL held its annual scholarship luncheon on May 3 at the Edén Community Center, with a number of chapter board members and Edén Youth Group members in attendance.

Scholarship honoree Connor Uomoto, with his parents Mike and Joy, is a graduate of Moreau Catholic High School and will be entering California State University, Fullerton, in the fall, where he plans to major in business with an emphasis on marketing.

He was an eight-year member of the Edén Athletic Club

before making the football team at school. He was also a member of the Edén Youth Group, serving as its social director his last year.

Uomoto received the Kitayama Family Memorial Award, which was initiated at the chapter by longtime members Tom and Heidi Kitayama. Tom Kitayama, who passed away in 2007, was the first and longest-serving mayor of Union City, Calif., and as part of the Kitayama family, he started the Kitayama Brothers Nursery, one of the few nurseries still providing floral

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*Studies conducted at University of Northern Colorado (2014) and Oldenburg Horzentrum (2013) showed that Speech Reception Thresholds (SRT) in cocktail-party situations improved up to 2.9dB for wearers with mild to moderate hearing loss using the latest BestSound™ Technology with Narrow Directionality, compared to people with normal hearing. This corresponds to over 25% improvement in speech understanding.