API CIVIL WAR VETERANS REMEMBERED

Joseph Pierce, among others, sheds new light on an untold piece of American history.

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EDUCATION MATTERS

Zessar Query Prompts Further Discussion for the NEC

While on a trip to San Francisco recently, Mr. Bill Zessar stopped by JACL headquarters to share his concern and interest in the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II and pose the question he conveys in his commentary that appears in this issue of the Pacific Citizen.

As the National Education Committee of the JACL is in the process of updating both the curriculum guide and its portion of the JACL website, Zessar’s query has prompted a further review and discussion for the NEC.

In 2008, in recognition of the 20th anniversary of the signing of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 by President Ronald Reagan, the Anti-Defamation League created a special section on its Curriculum Connections section of its website that includes an historical overview of the incarceration as well as learning activities. This section of the website also contains video clips from interviews of Nisei who shared their memories and experiences of their time in the camps that were selected from the Densho website.

With Holocaust museums in Skokie, Ill., Atlanta, Ga., and Houston, Texas, all hosting JACL Teacher Training Workshops, perhaps the JACL should follow the ADL and consider reciprocating its education section of its website to partner with the ADL and include a section on the Holocaust.

While there are many parallels between these two events in history, the one that echoes from those who experienced them is their message that it never happen again to any others. That message should never be forgotten or fade from the classrooms.

For comments and/or concerns, contact education@jacl.org.

COMMENTARY

THE HOLOCAUST AND THE INCARCERATION
OF JAPANESE AMERICANS DURING WWII

By Bill Zessar

Should teaching about the Holocaust be followed by teaching about the incarceration of Japanese Americans during WWII? I think it should be.

After WWII, some people argued that the Holocaust was unique — there was something about the German people that allowed the Holocaust to happen. Events during World War II teach us that genocide is not unique to the Germans. Some believe that a Holocaust could not happen in the United States — there is something unique about Americans. Really? Although the incarceration of Japanese Americans was not a Holocaust, it did demonstrate that we are not immune from doing evil.

There are significant similarities between the Holocaust and the internment. Both occurred during WWII. Both involved the imprisonment of entire families — men, women and children — because of religion or race. Both took place after laws were enacted that discriminated against Jews and Japanese Americans (and other minorities).

After the Nazis came to power in Germany, Jews lost their citizenship, were excluded from government jobs, prohibited from becoming judges, lawyers and jurors.

Prior to WWII, a federal statute in the United States stated that the only immigrants who could become citizens had to be white or of African descent. The U.S. Supreme Court in 1922 ruled that the Japanese were not white. Alien Land Laws in California, Oregon and Washington prohibited persons not eligible for citizenship from owning or leasing agricultural land. These laws had a greater impact on Japanese immigrants than on other nonwhite immigrants because many of the Japanese were farmers. Laws in some states prohibited the Japanese from marrying persons of other races and from some trades and businesses.

What these laws did was tell people that Jews and the Japanese were inferior. That set the stage for the Holocaust and the incarceration.

Of course, there is a significant difference. Unlike the Holocaust, we did not have gas chambers, or starve and work internees to death. But those facts do not negate the similarities.

Many, if not most Americans, are only vaguely familiar with the incarceration and are unaware of the psychological harm done to Japanese Americans. We did not physically kill them, but there were ailments and physical and emotional harm caused by the incarceration.

There are benefits to linking the incarceration to the Holocaust. Most school children learn something about the Holocaust. Less are exposed to what happened to Japanese Americans. Many more students will gain knowledge about the incarceration if it is linked to the Holocaust.

If students are only taught about the Holocaust and the other incidents of genocide since WWII, they may think that terrible things like that do not happen in the United States. Although the incarceration was not genocide, it was on the road to genocide and teaches that great evil can happen in our country.

As part of the Jewish Federation of the Quad Cities, Zessar helped organize an event for students and faculty at St. Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa, at which JACL’s Bill Yoshino participated.

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2015 SPRING CAMPAIGN
NIKKEI VOICE

MILE HIGH JACL CHAPTER IS ON A ROLL, AND I’M PROUD

By Gil Asakawa

I f you’ve managed to skip over Marsha Aizumi’s eloquent and often moving columns in the Pacific Citizen, go online and read them. I had the great pleasure and honor of meeting her recently when she came to Denver to speak about her incredible personal family journey, and I was touched by the grace with which she spoke and presented herself — a lot like the way she writes, actually.

Marsha’s journey is one she’s been on with her son, Aiden. Aiden was named Ashley when he was adopted as a girl by the Aizumi family and came out as a lesbian in high school, then later told his mother he realized he’s a man in the body of a woman. Marsha has supported his transition, and the two have written a book, “Two Spirits, One Heart: A Mother, Her Transgender Son, and Their Journey to Love and Acceptance.”

Aiden couldn’t be in Denver, but Marsha had been asked to speak for a group in the mountains of Colorado, and Mile High JACL was fortunate to be able to have her make an extra stop in Denver.

I’m on the board of the Mile High chapter, but I wasn’t involved in organizing the event except to help secure some food donations for the evening. The board reached out to local AAPI, LGBT and community activist organizations to help sponsor the event. It was a minirainbow coalition, with PFLAG (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, an organization that Marsha is active with) and One Colorado (a group fighting for gay rights in the state) as well as Facing History (an international group that educates people about racism and prejudice), all standing alongside JACL, OCA, the Denver Asian Pacific American Commission and other Denver AAPI groups. The event was held at the Tri State Denver Buddhist Temple, a hub of the local JA community that is rarely visited by anyone outside the JA or Buddhist community.

The coalition-building and networking between such a disparate audience was a major accomplishment in itself. But Marsha’s presentation, during which she showed a slide show about her son and related the many challenges he had to face, was the highlight. She teared up many times as she shared photos of young Ashley, who refused to wear “girly” costumes and proudly dressed as Zorro for Halloween in one snapshot, and was a “tomboy” and held up her younger brother by the scruff of his T-shirt in another so he wouldn’t slip and fall into the river where they posed.

She emotionally related how Ashley struggled when she reached middle school and the boys she played with stopped hanging out with her and she didn’t feel at home with the girls who became mean and bullying. And Marsha was honest about her own struggles as a parent who had to accept that her expectations for her child needed to change so she could help and support Aiden become the successful married man he is today.

Many in the audience, including me, dabbed our eyes every time Marsha choked up. But by the end, we felt as empowered and awed by Aiden’s bravery in the face of struggle and the strength of his — and Marsha’s — strength of conviction.

>> See MILE HIGH on page 12

National Veterans Network Holds Congressional Gold Medal Dinner

Eric Shinseki, Norman Mineta and Kristi Yamaguchi highlight the importance of the Nisei soldier stories at the San Jose-hosted event.

SAN JOSE, CALIF. — Former U.S. Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki and Olympic Gold Medalist Kristi Yamaguchi were the featured speakers at the Congressional Gold Medal Dinner organized by the National Veterans Network in support of the Congressional Gold Medal Digital Exhibition that is being developed in partnership with the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center and the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History.

The digital exhibit is set to be unveiled next year as the educational counterpart to the gold medal that is presently on display at the National Museum of American History’s “Price of Freedom: Americans at War” exhibition.

While the Congressional Gold Medal was awarded collectively in November 2011 to the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team and members of the Military Intelligence Service, the digital exhibition encompasses the diverse service of more than 31,000 Japanese Americans during WWII.

The digital exhibition is funded in part by the U.S. Department of Interior, National Park Service, Japanese American Concentration Sites Grants Program, Cole Chemical and AARP. The dinner supported the project’s matching grant.

Shinseki was introduced by former U.S. Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta, who also served as U.S. Secretary of Commerce, was a member of Congress for 20 years and the former mayor of San Jose. During his speech, he shared stories of his older brother, Dr. Albert Mineta, who served as a Nisei linguist in the Japan Occupation.

>> See VETERANS on page 9
JACL ENJOYS ROANOKE VOTING RIGHTS RALLY ON SHELBY ANNIVERSARY

ROANOKE, VA — JACL joined more than 300 people from more than 40 organizations at the VRAForToday rally in Roanoke, Va., on June 25 to call for the restoration of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

The rally was held on the second anniversary of Shelby v. Holder, a 2013 U.S. Supreme Court case that eliminated provisions requiring certain states to obtain federal preclearance before changing their voting laws and practices.

The rally took place only two blocks from the office of Rep. Bob Goodlatte, the current chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, who has yet to hold a hearing on proposed voting rights legislation despite public outcry.

JACL Executive Director Priscilla Ouchida was one of a number of speakers at the rally, asking, “When will will the government stop creating barriers to prevent Americans who look like me from voting?”

Ouchida was joined onstage by leaders from a number of civil rights and community organizations, including Asian Americans Advancing Justice, NAACP, League of United Latin American Citizens and Human Rights Campaign.

— JACL National Staff

JACL APPLAUDS SUPREME COURT RULING ON MARRIAGE EQUALITY

JACL applauds the Supreme Court’s recognition of marriage equality on June 26 in the landmark case Obergefell v. Hodges.

In 1994, the JACL was one of the first national organizations to endorse same-sex marriage. During its debate over 20 years ago, JACL advocated on this issue spoke about the need to secure the rights of all Americans in a fair and equal manner.

Noted JACL member and former Congressman Norman Mineta addressed the delegates at the JACL National Convention in Salt Lake City, saying, “Doing what is right is often controversial. Doing what is just is often unpopular. But if we are to remain a viable voice in the national civil rights movement, we cannot back away from our commitments simply because this issue is difficult.”

Since that time, JACL has signed onto multiple amicus briefs in support of eliminating same-sex marriage bans, including Obergefell v. Hodges, the case that the Supreme Court decided June 26.

In a 5-4 decision, the court held that the Constitution guarantees a right to same-sex marriage. The majority stated in part, “No union is more profound than marriage. . . . It would misunderstand these men and women to say they disrespect the idea of marriage . . . . They ask for equal dignity in the eyes of the law. The Constitution grants them that right.”

JACL applauds the court’s recognition of marriage equality that now allows same-sex couples equal access to benefits that have long been denied to them, including healthcare decision-making rights, spousal Social Security, joint adoption of children and veteran spousal benefits.

As the nation’s oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization, JACL continues to support full equality for LGBTQ individuals, including the fight against discrimination.

2015 Convention Registration Form

Please provide Registration Information for each convention registrant. Convention registration includes the Sayonara Banquet. The Sayonara Banquet may be purchased A la carte in multiple quantities for family and friends.

1. REGISTRATION

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The early bird registration cut-off date is Friday, June 19th @ 3:00 p.m. PDT. There is no early bird price when purchasing the Sayonara Banquet A la carte.

2. REGISTRANT INFORMATION

Please complete registrant info for each attendee.

Name to appear on Convention materials
Contact Name
Street Address
City
State Zip
Phone Fax
E-mail address
JACL Chapter
Member ID

3. PAYMENT METHOD

- Enclosed is a check for $____\_
- Payable to Japanese American Citizens League \_
- Card Number
- Exp Date (MM/YY)
- Security Code
- Credit Card Billing Address
- City State Zip
- Cardholder Signature

Please mail in completed form to:
Japanese American Citizens League
Attn: Business Manager
755 Summer Street
San Francisco, CA 94115

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https://www.jacl.org/events/convention/
Bringing the Stories of Tule Lake to the Stage

Presented at the Hollywood Fringe Festival in June, the play ‘tells a story that needs to be told.’

By Connie K. Ho, Contributor

We demand to have a voice.”
“Witness our last breaths.”
“Tell them of Tule — tell them of Tule Lake.”

These are just a few of the lines chanted and shouted in “Tulelake,” a play that was presented at the Hollywood Fringe Festival in June and highlights the stories of communities in Tule Lake, Calif.

The impactful work woven together the stories of Japanese Americans, indigenous groups and fishermen. During the three-act play, the audience was introduced to scenes in the Tule Lake Internment Camp (1942-46), arguments among groups related the Modoc War (1872-73) and the negative effects on the fish species in the Klamath River (2002). To keep the story moving smoothly from one time period to the next, the costumes for the show were simple, stylized and free-flowing. Director Blake Williams utilized a mixed-colored palette in the dress, including neutral colors, army green and more stark red, white and black.

Williams’ connection to Tule Lake stems from her family. Her father was a history teacher, and she was raised with a fascination for the lost histories that humanity forgot to tell. When Williams was in college, her father remarried, and she found herself half-Japanese by marriage. Her step-grandmother, Ruth Kinoshita, was interned at Heart Mountain, and she met her husband there.

“The stories she told fascinated me,” Williams said. “So began my fascination with Japanese theater. I was moved by the existential playwriting I was doing as an undergrad.”

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“The stories she told fascinated me,” Williams said. “So began my fascination with Japanese theater. I was moved by the existential playwriting I was doing as an undergrad.”

Williams herself hopes to continue to work on, develop and showcase the play.

“I would love to start in Seattle and tour the West Coast with this show, hitting colleges, the internment camps and museums, telling the story that has been forgotten,” Williams said. “I would love to take the time to finally incorporate the cultural elements. I would love to spend weeks in Tule hiking and creating film and images. I would love to take a group of actors, or a college class, or committed company and finish this story.”

To Williams, “Tulelake” and other plays are essential in bringing the community together.

“I believe in necessary theater, theater that is essential and a mirror into our humanity. ‘Tulelake’ was necessary for me — I have felt like I was supposed to tell its story or no one else would,” Williams said. “The play is not about making the audience feel bad about the past or guilty. It is about inspiring people to think, remember and tell the lost stories of our past. The world is changing, and as I look into my student’s eyes, I wonder how I can make the world a better place.”

Angeline Rangel (center) performs in “Tulelake” at the Complex as part of the Hollywood Fringe Festival.

Photo by Angelica Newton
CIVIL WAR RETOLD
The National Parks Service along with historians and
researchers uncovers surprising new API stories in its
Theme Study on civil rights and American history.

By Tiffany Ujiie,
Assistant Editor

The American Civil War seems to
be all but over. From the days of
removing the Confederate flag
from a public space in South Carolina to the
recent murder of nine members at a historic
black church in that state, America’s national
heritage on the main stage is everything but
a perfect union. Like any war, it created
public discourse on ideas of freedom and new
ways to interpret history.

What comes to mind when we stage the
Civil War in particular is the experience
between blacks and whites on Confederate
and Union sides. Traditional schooling of
often mentions notable figures such as Presi-
dent Abraham Lincoln, Frederick Douglass,
Jefferson Davis and Robert E. Lee to name a
few. It is the experience that makes a
particular curiosity over national sites such as
Gettysburg and Ford’s Theatre, where the
public drives meaning and answers to what
it means to be American.

But in the past few decades, historians
and researchers in partnership with the
National Parks Service have identified at
least 30 unarmed combatants that help
answer that age-old question. But these
58 mostly forgotten American veterans
were African and Pacific Islanders.

In many API’s of the Civil War isn’t a
chapter in American history. In fact, these
men needed from memory even within
their own families. The places attached to
them were displaced like the paperwork
and photographs that reached their existence
even though they never sought for their freedom.

Now, the National Parks Service is working
to tell their stories by extending national park sites
with new ones as part of its Theme Study efforts.

“Our desire is to ensure that all stories
are told,” The National Parks Service
with our nation’s history through place
and that means identifying new sites and revisiting
existing ones is especially important for
the API of our country,” explained, "NPS Direc-
tor Jonathan Davis. Davis, now in his 5th
year with the NPS, has dedicated much
of his career to the Pacific, where he was
active in the build out and design of many
sites such as Mount Rainier and Oahu.

It is our job to keep those stories alive
so that the places where the values of our
nation were forged are preserved,” Davis
added about API historical sites. (Pictured
like Pearl Harbor and the incarceration
camp of World War II, places like Get-
tysburg and Fort Snelling — [they] will now
carry new meaning, especially for APIs.

While only 56 known, mostly Chinese
Americans fought in the Civil War, their
stories also reflect how far back the struggle
for citizenship extends for APIs.

Stephanie Toohim, NPS associate
director of cultural resources, partnerships,
and science, and the NPS "wanted to reach
down to personal narratives to really under-
stand who was fighting the war. We made a
decision that we needed to do a better job of
telling all American stories including APIs
in the Civil War."

(Above) Steve Phan is currently working at the Hopewell Culture National Historical Park in Ohio for the summer before returning to his graduate studies at Middle Tennessee State University.

(From left) Chief Historian at the Antietam National Battlefield Ted Alexander, Coordinator of Civil War to Civil Rights Card Shively, Steve Phan and Irving May at the Antietam National Battlefield.

PACIFIC CITIZEN
In the 1780s, Chinese immigrants began arriving in territories along the western United States before forming communities on the East Coast by the 1850s.

Researcher Ruthanne Lum McCunn’s book “The Coolie Speaks: Chinese Indentured Laborers and African Slaves in Cuba” chronicles how many Chinese found their way as visitors, missionaries, students, merchants and performers but mostly as slaves in the “coolie trade.”

The term was used during the 1700s to describe those from Asia who indentured themselves as slaves for a few years after arriving in territories along the western coast and likely many more unrecorded that constituted the first Chinese Americans.

Of those thousands, Joseph Pierce perhaps is the most noticeable face as he sits on the cover of the NPS “Asian and Pacific Islanders and the Civil War” handbook.

Pierce arrived in America sometime during the 1850s by ship with Capt. Amos Peck. McCunn in her research found that the Peck family was unusually accepting of Pierce as they taught him to read and write, even allowing him to keep his hair in a traditional Chinese braided queue.

As a teen, Pierce and his brothers were told the bloody stories from the Revolutionary War, but such tales didn’t deter Pierce as he enlisted in the cavalry the first year of the U.S. Civil War on July 26, 1862.

Pierce went on to fight at Gettysburg, earning a promotion to corporal and was given the honor to participate in the Grand Review of the Armies in Washington when the Civil War ended in 1865.

Another API Civil War veteran was Thomas Slyvanus, who sparked McCunn’s book “Chinese Yankee: A True Story from the U.S. Civil War.” Slyvanus was brought to Baltimore, Md., in the mid-1850s as a boy from Hong Kong. He escaped to join the Union Army when the war broke out.

In his first battle, Slyvanus was left partially blind but re-enlisted twice. He survived nine months of imprisonment at Andersonville and rescued his regiment at Spotsylvania. After the war, he married an Irish Woman and had three children in Indiana, where he was identified as “Tom Chinaman,” according to McCunn’s research.

Other API men like Edward Day Cohota continued to serve their country for many years following the end of the Civil War.

Cohota fought in the 23rd Massachusetts regiment in John H. Martindale’s division. He stood in the second line in a battle that killed almost 800 men in just several minutes. Cohota survived the blood bath and even went back to enlist several times over despite his experience.

Cohota, Pierce and Slyvanus’ stories demonstrate the deep history of APIs in America and give much depth and complexity to citizenship.

It is also worth noting that not all Chinese who fought in the Civil War were identified on the Confederacy roll.

Christopher and Stephen Bunker were two of the five known Confederate soldiers with a very unusual story. Christopher and Stephen were cousins born in North Carolina. They were sons of the famous conjoined twins Chang and Eng, who came to America as a circus act during the 1800s.

Their mothers and conjoined fathers adopted the name Bunker in 1839 when they became naturalized citizens. Chang and Eng even went on to become successful entrepreneurs and slave owners in Wilkes County, and it was no surprise that their sons would enlist as Confederate soldiers.

After four years of being wounded and captured, Christopher and Stephen returned to their family’s farm after the war, where they continued to work even after Chang and Eng’s death. Individual stories from Chinese on both Confederated and Union sides add greater depth and new meaning to the Civil War.

For some, APIs and the Civil War extends much further than just the battlefields on the East Coast. Steve Phan, a graduate student at Middle Tennessee State University, drew a connection between his homeland Vietnam and the Civil War and participated in Civil War re-enactments. Like the American Civil War, the Vietnam Civil War tore apart a nation and its families.

Phan’s father served in the South Vietnamese Navy and fled Saigon before it fell to the North Vietnamese, taking his family across the Pacific. The traumatic experience left a hushed silence on Phan’s family.

“It wasn’t something we talked about,” explained Phan. “But when I started to learn about the American Civil War and when I witnessed my first re-enactment as a kid, I began to understand what had happened in America and tried to make sense of what had happened in Vietnam.”

Phan went on to graduate from the University of Northern Colorado in 2012 with a degree in history and participated in his first Civil War re-enactment the following year at the 150th Anniversary of Antietam, where he portrayed Joseph Pierce.

In an essay for the NPS’ handbook and Theme Study, Phan wrote of his experience at the re-enactment where “my preconceived notions on acceptance by the Civil War community have been replaced with gratitude for the openness and friendly support I have encountered.” He went on to write that “the discovery of Asians participating in the war provided an opportunity to represent people of color during that period.”

API soldiers in the Civil War tackled many things: identity, citizenship, freedom and patriotism. They also gave perspective to those like Phan and context for projects like the NPS’ Theme Studies. The struggles met by Pierce, Cohota and Slyvanus continue and carry discussions on what it means to be American.

“That’s why context in these stories is so important in understanding the struggle for citizenship and identity today,” McCunn explained about the struggles of expanding American history. “In order to make sense of why API history remains relatively unknown, you have to look at how it all began.”

Learn more about the National Park Service Theme Studies at www.nps.org/whl/learn/themestudiesintro.htm and read more about API soldiers in the Civil War by purchasing the NPS handbook at www.eparks.com and type in “Asians and the Pacific Islanders and the Civil War.”
Obon, an annual Japanese Buddhist custom to honor the spirits of one’s ancestors, has evolved into a family holiday that is celebrated each summer, primarily in July. Traditionally, lanterns are hung to guide ancestors’ spirits back home, delicious food is enjoyed and bon odori dances are performed to pay homage to families’ loved ones. Following is a tentative schedule of various Obon celebrations across the nation and in Hawaii.

### JULY

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Dylan Uyeda participates in last year’s dances during the San Jose Buddhist Church Obon.
The Bay Area airs a first-of-its-kind TV program to highlight diverse Asian American communities.

By Patti Hirahara

Being the only show of its kind in the top sixth-largest TV market in the U.S. where one in four residents is of Asian descent, "Asian Pacific America With Robert Handa" highlights diverse Asian American communities in the greater San Francisco Bay Area by giving Asian newsmakers, events, community accolades, youth perspectives and performers a showcase to be featured.

According to show host Robert Handa, the reason for creating the show had many aspects. "NBC Bay Area/KNTV approached me about returning to the station, and I had said I would like to produce and host a talk show on the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities as well as work for the news department," he said. "The station's President/General Manager Rich Cerusi and VP of News Jonathan Mitchell said that NBC Bay Area was interested, not only to bring me onboard but because the station already had connections to those communities and they wanted to strengthen those bonds."

Handa began his broadcast news career three decades ago with KNTV as an intern, then later as a senior producer. He recently won a 2015 Bay Area Emmy Award as part of the NBC Bay Area 11 p.m. evening newscast team for Best Newscast - Large Market. The award-winning broadcast journalist also has worked for KTVU-TV, KPIX-TV and KQED-TV.

The weekly half-hour "Asian Pacific America With Robert Handa" show airs on Sunday on NBC Bay Area KNTV Channel 11 and Channel 3 on cable at 5:30 a.m. and on COZI-TV Channel 186 at 6 p.m. It is the creation of host and show director Handa and Lance Lew, director of community marketing at NBC Bay Area as well as a producer on the show.

The duo had previously worked together at KPIX, and this was a wonderful opportunity for Handa and Lew to utilize their knowledge of community contacts and volunteers to create the series.

Each show is taped on Thursday evenings following the 6 p.m. news at NBC Bay Area studios in San Jose, Calif., and features three guest segments and a live performance. The show is then aired the following Sunday.

"Scheduling a show of this type is never easy. The only slot that could be created for our show would be the lead-in to the Sunday NBC weekend 'Today' show, but we've stuck to our mission of covering issues and communities without worrying about overall ratings," Handa said. "We have been pleasantly surprised to see a steady, building audience since our debut in September 2014."

Mitchell, Handa acknowledges, also was a driving force in bringing the show to the audience. Most public affairs shows depend heavily on being recorded and watched later, which allows them to be measured in the ratings.

"Ratings of about 15,000-20,000 homes might not be much for local mainstream TV shows, but for us, it's a positive trend. Community groups are also spreading the word through social media," Handa said.

On the show's future, Handa and Lew have many people recognizing them at community events, thanking them and the station for the coverage they see on "Asian Pacific America." The duo hopes to expand in the future but are careful not to lose sight of their original mission.

"The most gratifying part for me is that we are the first show of its kind targeting under-represented communities," Handa said. "We have done shows that might seem or are not easy to push for mass appeal but are important to this community. We can explore very interesting cultural topics that just don't fit into traditional news such as how Japanese baseball developed in internment camps, promoting Hidden Legacy - Japanese Traditional Performing Arts in the WWII Internment Camps,' a documentary that shows the efforts to keep traditional Japanese art and culture alive in the internment camps, as well as programs that foster young inventors and entrepreneurs. We also try to have a live artistic performance such as music or dance on every show. This is not an easy task in a TV studio, but I believe it adds a crucial and entertaining element that people usually only get at festivals."

"Asian Pacific America" is always looking for new topics and interesting guests. Guests are booked at least six weeks in advance. Anyone with an event or idea that can be featured on the show is encouraged to email the background information to Lew at LanceLew@nbcsan.com.

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*CONGRATULATE THE 2015 SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS IN THE PACIFIC CITIZEN

SPACE RESERVATION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 4, 2015

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Susan Yoneyama at 213.620.1767 or busorg@pacificcitizen.org
A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

CALENDAR

National
2015 National Convention
Las Vegas, NV
July 13-15
Menton 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. Reserve your room early for a special convention room rate.
Info: Visit www.jacl.org/2015convention/

NCWNP
‘China Today: Society and the Individual’ Panel Discussion
San Francisco, CA
July 18, 1:30-3:30 p.m.
Asian Art Museum Samsung Hall
200 Larkin St.
Price: $15 adults, $10 seniors and students
Join moderator Tom Gold, a professor at the University of California, Berkeley, in examining China from a sociopolitical perspective.
Info: Visit www.asianart.org or call (415) 581-3500.

2015 Nikkoland Festival
Oakland, CA
July 20-21
Buddhist Church of Oakland
826 Jackson St.
Price: Free
The Buddhist Church of Oakland invites all to its annual bazaar and festival, which will feature fun games, bingo, a silent auction and a raffle.
Info: Contact Jon Takaguchi at office@ooj.com or call (510) 832-5988.

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PSW
‘Before They Were Heroes’ Reception
Los Angeles, CA
July 12, 9:30 a.m.
Japanese American National Museum
100 N. Central Ave.
JAMM members at the Director’s Circle, President’s Circle and Chairman’s Circle levels are invited to have a first preview of the new exhibition “Before They Were Heroes: Japan’s World War II Images.”
Info: Visit www.jnnn.org or call (213) 620-0414.

AARW Summer Grill-Off BBQ
Watertown, MA
July 18, 3-6 p.m.
Arsenal Park
480 Arsenal St.
Price: Free
Join members of the Asian American Resource Workshop community in celebrating summer with its annual grill-off. Community groups will be competing with their grilling skills.
Info: Email Caryn kanai at caryn@aarw.org or visit www.aarw.org.

Lowell Folk Festival
Lowell, MA
July 24-26
Downtown Lowell
Gorham Street
The Lowell Folk Festival is the oldest folk festival in the country. Enjoy a weekend of music, art, food and fun.
Info: Email Caryn kanai at caryn@aarw.org or visit www.aarw.org.

MDC
‘The Sugar/Islands’ Exhibit
Chicago, IL
July 5, 6:50 p.m.
DePaul Art Museum
935 W. Fulton Ave.
Price: $5 for JASC members and $10 for non-JASC members
Rich paintings by Laura Bob, a nationally acclaimed painter, will be on display. The exhibit will feature a variety of featured exhibits.
Info: Visit www.jaocen.org for tickets.

Extraordinary Orchids & Exotic Plants Featured at Westminster Mall
Westminster, CA
Aug. 7-9
Westminster Mall
1025 Westminster Mall
The Newport Harbor Orchid Society hosts the Summer Exotic Plant and Orchid Festival this year with a variety of featured exhibits.
Info: Visit www.jnesc.org or call (949) 263-3049 for reservations.

Maldon Japanese Garden
Families Sundays
Glencoe, IL
July 19, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
Chicago Botanic Garden
1000 Lake Cook Road
Drop by the Maldon Japanese Garden at the Chicago Botanic Garden for hands-on activities.
Info: Visit www.chicagobotanic.org or call (847) 935-5440.

JACL Project: Community!
Day Camp
Chicago, IL
July 20-22, 27-29;
10 a.m.-Noon
JACL Chicago Office
6416 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.
Info: Visit www.jacclchicago.org or email Christine Munteanu at cmunteanu@jacl.org or call (773) 728-7171.

Chicago JACL Golf Tournament
Glencoe, IL
July 23; 9:30 a.m.
Glencoe Golf Club
621 Westley Road
Price: $30 per golfer
Join the Chicago chapter of the JACL in its annual golf tournament. Costs include a round of golf with a cart and meal following the tournament.
Info: Visit www.jacclchicago.org or call (773) 728-7171.

Nikkel Community Picnic
Chicago, IL
August 1; Noon
Bunker Hill Forest Preserve
Grove 3
W. Harts Road
Price: Free
Come share a day of games, food, sports and sunshine with the Chicago chapter of the JACL. The picnic is potluck style, and dishes brought should be enough for your family.
Info: Visit www.jacclchicago.org or email Bob Takagi at rmtalltree@gmail.com.

2015 Heart Mountain Pilgrimage
Cody and Powell, WY
August 21-22
Heart Mountain Interpretive Center
11817 Harbour Pointe Blvd.
Mukilteo, WA
Price: $50 for non-JASC members
For more information, call (206) 374-0180.

PNW
Japan-American Society 56th Annual Golf Tournament
Mukilteo, WA
July 17, 11 a.m.
Harbour Point Golf Course
11817 Harbour Pointe Blvd.
Price: Registration fees may vary.
Join the Japan-American Society in its annual golf tournament. Other activities include a raffle, with proceeds from the tournament supporting Japanese American Social Services and Education Programs.
Info: Visit www.jaccc.org or call (206) 274-0180.

SAM Camp
Seattle, WA
July 20-24; 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Asian Art Museum, Alford Room
1300 First Ave.
Price: $50 a week or $12 a day
For children entering grades 1-5 in fall 2015. Join in on this summer session for a full day of creating capsules, masks, collages, paintings and portraits with SAM campers.
Info: Visit www.seattleartmuseum.org

Japanese Treasures Upscale Resale
Please come to our boutique sale, featuring gently used Japanese items, such as dishes, toys, clothing, art, books, dolls, etc.
Saturday, July 18: 1 p.m.-4 p.m.
St. Matthew’s United Methodist Church
1360 Wendy Drive, Newbury Park
Info: For more information, call 805-492-0146 or email tiffany@pacificcitizen.org.

For more info:
April, 2015
July 10, 2015
We welcome YOUR donations of Japanese items for our fundraiser!
Ashoka, Yoshimi, 84,
Los Angeles, CA; June 22; he is survived by his husband, Masaki Ashoka; sisters-in-law, Toshiko Komasu, Tamiko Shiji and Ayako Nuncani; brother-in-law, Masato Yoshihara; she is survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Fukuda, Yuiko Betty, 87,
Mission Hills, CA; June 12; she was predeceased by her husband, Ted Hiroshi Fukuda; she is survived by sisters, Yoshiko (Tokunori) Takahashi and Louise Tanaka; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Hamaguchi, Lui, 94,
Los Angeles, CA; May 18; she was predeceased by her husband, Masakazu Hamaguchi; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 4; ggc: 8.

Hasegawa, Tomoyuki, 87,
Los Angeles, CA; May 27; he was predeceased by his parents, Ginjirō and Yuki Hasegawa; brothers, Wataru and Jim (Fujio) Shinichi; sister, Eruko; he is survived by his sisters, Miyako Tachiki and Katsuyo (Taka) Tanaka; brother, Norito (Joyce) Hasegawa; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Hata, Harry Shizuo, 91,
Los Angeles, CA; June 15; he was predeceased by his parents, Frank and Naoe Hata, and his wife, Dorothy Setsuko; he is survived by his wife, Mitsu; children, Chris (Ron) Nakagawa and Kirk (Kathy) Miyano; granddaughters, Jennifer (Kaz) and Kaitlin (Ryan) Tanaka; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Kiku, George, 85,
Los Angeles, CA; June 6; he is survived by his wife, Yuki (Bill) Kikuno; children, Jean (Tom) Sokai, Emily (Kerry) Teshima, and David (Eve) and Colin (Katie) Kikawa; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 3.

Kikuno, Taka, 96,
Los Angeles, CA; June 8; he is survived by his wife, Nancy Miyia; children, Hannah, Kiku Takeda, Mass, kazu and Tomo Miyia; he is also survived by his children, Vickie (Ron) Nakagawa and Kirk (Kathy) Miyia; sisters, Fumiko Matsubara and Toshiro Harada; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 3.

Mori, John M., 96,
Monterey Park, CA; June 22; he is survived by his wife, Nancy Miyia; children, Judi (Ron) Tanaka, Judy (Nori) Kikuno, and Jocelyn (Don) Tahara; gc: 9; ggc: 6.

Nagami, Masanori, 88,
Monterey Park, CA; June 23; he is survived by his wife, Dorothy Setsuko; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2.

Teraoka; daughter, Janice Teraoka; he is also survived by his sisters, Nancy Shizuko Nogami and Dorothy Sachiko Reed; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Nishisaka, Chiyoko, 83,
San Pedro, CA; May 19; he is survived by his children, Laura (Russell) Nashida, Vince Nishisaka and Kelli (Dan) McFarlan; sisters-in-law, Yuri Nishisaka and Reiko Aino; brother-in-law, Mas Mizushima; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 3.

Shimoda, Sam I., 95,
Chicago, IL; May 19; he is survived by his wife, Minh, children, Amy (Len) Dasilva and Sue (Andy) Nagaki; gc: 5.

Shimozawa, Fumiaki Bill, 95,
Los Angeles, CA; May 30; he is survived by his wife, Koko, children, Kaoru Todd and Lynn (Eve) and Colin (Katie) Kikawa; gc: 6.

Shiraki, Attado Spud, 92,
Los Angeles, CA; June 29; he was a WWII veteran; he is survived by his wife, Hinako; sons, Jedsen (Nancy), Jamie (Mika) and JC (Liz) Shiraki; gc: 6.

San Gabriel, CA; June 23; he was predeceased by his wife, Akira; she is survived by her son, Gary Satoshi (Joy) Yoshihara; daughters, Ann Michiko Yoshihara, Nancy Akemi Yoshihara and Kathryn Shinobu (Robert) Fujisaki; sister, Hiroko Taniuchi; gc: 2; ggc: 4.

Tribute to Judith D. Tanaka, 84,
Los Angeles, CA; June 25; she is survived by her husband, John; children, Richard, Peter and David; she is also survived by her many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

TRIBUTE

MOLLIE T. FUJIOKA

Mollie T. Fujioka, age 90, passed away on June 18, 2015. She was very active in her church, past JACL president, involved in educating our youth on the internment and civil liberties. She is survived by her daughter, Donna Fujioka, wife of George Guillermon, granddaughter Kimiko Fujioka Guillermon, son David Fujioka, husband to Laura Fujioka, and grandsons, Jacob and Nicholas.
**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

Dear Editor,

This is in re to the article in the P.C., dated May 15-June 4, 2015 (page 4), “Mitsuye Endo Recommended for the Presidential Medal of Freedom.” It is wonderful that Mitsuye Endo is being recommended by Sen. Schatz for this award but sad that if awarded it will be done posthumously.

She was the litigant in the Ex parte Endo 323 U.S. 283 (1944), a writ of habeas corpus case that freed 120,313 Japanese Americans out of America’s concentration camps. There is more to this article, which needs to be known.

In the article, it states that “she was given a government offer to leave the camp” but refused and remained incarcerated in Tule Lake and later in Topaz to better her case.

She was also encouraged by JAACL leaders of that time to drop her case but refused to do so. It must have been a psychological burden for her to know just who was for and against her, in addition to agonize as to the outcome of her case.

It was over a three-year wait when her case was decided after it went from one court to another. The U.S. Supreme Court finally found in her favor. However, President Roosevelt put a hold on the announcement until after his four-term presidential election was assured.

In another newspaper, Sen. Schatz was quoted as saying that President Roosevelt rescinded E.O. 9066 on Dec. 17, 1944, one day prior to the court announcement.

This was not the case.

The only thing that was announced was the lifting of the exclusion act, which forbade Japanese from going to the West Coast to include Nisei serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

The act became effective Jan. 2, 1945. It was in fact President Ford who rescinded E.O. 9066 on Feb. 16, 1976. It was also President Ford on Jan. 19, 1977, who pardoned and restored the American citizenship of Iva Toguri, the so-called “Tokyo Rose,” who was just one of the other roses. She was at the wrong place at the wrong time when a reporter wrote a negative story about her. She was a disk jockey playing music with no propaganda agenda involved.

In addition to taking the rap for the other Tokyo Roses, there were other life tragedies she faced. She spent six years in a federal penitentiary based on perjured testimonies of two Japanese citizen witnesses for the prosecution. While in prison, she was notified of her mother’s passing. She also lost her husband, Felipe D’Aquino, who was banned from ever entering the U.S. as well as losing her baby due to her weakened physical condition.

Both Mitsuye Endow and Iva Toguri sacrificed and showed courage in different ways, in different places and in different situations. They are the true women heroines in our Nikkei history and should at this late time be recognized and honored by the National JACL.

Sincerely,

Stanley N. Kozaki
New York Chapter JACL

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**MILE HIGH >> continued from page 3**

Today as I write this, the media is focused on the news from the U.S. Supreme Court that same-sex marriage bans are now ruled illegal. There is already in the air a zeitgeist, a cultural moment that reveals that attitudes about LGBTs are changing: Gay characters are not as rare in Hollywood depictions as they once were; shows such as “Transparent” introduce viewers to the challenge that face transgender people; and Bruce Jenner’s coming out and transition to Caitlyn Jenner has been a beacon for trans gender people even as it’s a psychological burden for her to know just who was for and against her, in addition to agonize as to the outcome of her case.

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Sincerely,

Stanley N. Kozaki
New York Chapter JACL

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**CAMP MUSUBI OFFERS NEW CHANGES FOR 2015**

Camp Musubi has something new for summer 2015. To make the Japanese American heritage youth camp more accessible to Southern California families, it will now be a two-day camp with one night sleeper camp in Little Tokyo from July 17-18. In addition, the camp will be open to students entering fifth grade in the fall through eighth grade.

Now in its 14th year, Camp Musubi’s goal is to spark interest in Japanese American culture, history and community through hands-on activities, workshops and teambuilding games. Campers will learn about Little Tokyo’s 130-year history and current campaigns to maintain a Japanese American presence.

In addition to ice breakers and camp games, Friday’s activities will include a camper favorite: the Little Tokyo Scavenger Hunt, shibori (Japanese tie-dying) T-shirt making, a Fukushima support art project with the Akabeko Project, furikake popcorn making, guest speaker/filmmaker Marissa Kitazawa and late-night obake (ghost) stories.

Saturday’s schedule will include an odori workshop led by community artist Nobuko Miyamoto about “Sadako and the 1,000 Cranes,” a lunchtime Asian American history lesson using food, an activity led by Sustainable Little Tokyo, mochi making and a camp culmination family potluck.

The camp will run from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., and the fee is $125. Campers will be spending the night at Centenary United Methodist Church; girls and boys will be sleeping in separate areas and supervised by Camp Musubi staff, counselors and volunteer parents who have been cleared through background checks.

JACC membership and sibling discounts are available. The registration deadline is July 10.

To register, visit www.campmusubi.org. For more information, contact Camp Musubi Director Tony Osumi at (310) 295-7981 or visit www.campmusubi.org.

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