



PACIFIC CITIZEN

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.

HOW TO REACH US
Email: pc@pacificcitizen.org
Online: www.pacificcitizen.org
Tel: (213) 620-1767
Fax: (213) 620-1768
Mail: 250 E. First St., Suite 301
Los Angeles, CA 90012

STAFF
Executive Editor
Allison Haramoto

Assistant Editor
Tiffany Ujiye

Business Manager
Susan Yokoyama

Production Artist
Marie Samonte

Circulation
Eva Ting

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JACL President: David Lin
National Director: Priscilla Ouchida

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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 since 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 suicides 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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NIKKEI VOICE

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

By Gil Asakawa

If 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,



Marsha Aizumi recently spoke in Denver about her incredible personal family journey.

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.

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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, which was held at the Fairmont Hotel in San Jose, Calif., on June 12.

With more than 500 in attendance, Shinseki, a longtime advocate for veterans, was formally thanked for his public service by Lawson Sakai, 442nd RCT, who spoke on behalf of his Nisei comrades and 18 Nisei World War II veterans in attendance.

This was followed by a salute from all veterans in the audience, which was led by Ret. Lt. Col. Jerry Nakashima.

In his remarks, Shinseki accepted the thank you from the veterans as a means to pay tribute to the entire Nisei generation of Japanese Americans who served during the war.

Yamaguchi, who won her gold medal in figure skating in 1992, recounted the story of her grandfather, George A. Doi, who served with great distinction in a nonsegregated

U.S. Army unit during the war.

NVN Executive Director Christine Sato-Yamazaki presented updates on 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 Confinement Sites Grants Program, Cole Chemical and AARP. The dinner supported the



(From left) Bret Hedican and Olympic Gold Medalist Kristi Yamaguchi with Deni Mineta, Secretary Norman Mineta and Secretary Eric Shinseki

project's matching grant.

Shinseki was introduced by former U.S. Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta. 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's Korinne Sugawara, Grace Kim and Craig Shimizu at the Voting Rights Rally in Roanoke, Va.

JACL ENGAGES IN 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 hear-

ing 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 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 Puyallup Chapter Swears in New Board of Officers



A newly elected board of officers was installed during the JACL Puyallup Chapter Scholarship and Installation Luncheon on June 6. The new board was administered their oath of office by Chip Larouche (*far left*), National JACL vp for planning and development. Pictured (*from center*) are President Elsie Taniguchi, VP Eileen Lamphere, Secretary Liz Dunbar, Membership Chair Stephen Kitajo and Youth Representative Bryce Taishi Ikeda. Treasurer Dudley Yamane was not available for the photo.

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 advocates on this issue spoke about the need to secure the rights of all Americans in a fair and equal manner.

Noted JACL member and then-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



JACLers rally for marriage equality at the U.S. Supreme Court in 2013.

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 health-care 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 LG-BTQ individuals, including the fight against discrimination.



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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 weaved 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-great grandmother, Ruth Kinoshita, was interned at Heart Mountain, and she met her husband there.

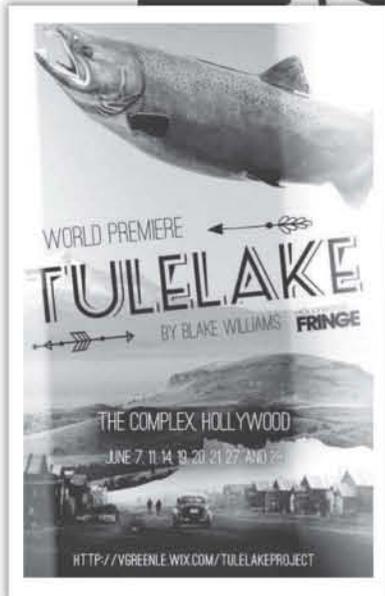
“The stories she told fascinated me,” Williams said. “So began my fascination with Japanese theater. I was moved by the respect, tradition and training that goes into Noh and Kabuki theater forms — I enjoyed playing with stylistic rules that govern Noh and Kabuki and juxtaposing them against the existential playwrighting I was doing as an undergrad.”

The journey to performing “Tulelake” in the Hollywood Fringe Festival spanned more than a decade. “Tulelake” grew out of a Japanese theater class that Williams took at Humboldt State University as part of her masters in fine arts program in directing.

During that class, she worked with a MFA writing student of Japanese descent; they started writing the “Tulelake” piece in Haiku for their final project and finished the original word piece in 2003. Williams made the decision to put together the show last



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



winter, while also juggling a directing and teaching schedule at San Marino High School in San Marino, Calif.

“The fact that I just finished this show after 13 years of trying is a truly amazing feeling. I’m always proud of my shows, but with ‘Tulelake,’ I felt like I fulfilled a promise,” Williams said.

In January, Williams began by working on the script with her advanced drama class. Once a week, the group would sit in a circle, reading aloud, asking questions and even re-writing parts of the piece. Then, in March, she staged a reading with a group of adults and students. The rehearsal process took place over the next few months in preparation for the performance at the Complex in the Hollywood Fringe Festival.

“The hardest part was fitting the show into the tiny Complex space. I had to make the show even more stylistic to accommodate the Fringe requirements, using fabric as smoke and water and filming intelligent light cues,” Williams said.

The cast was a diverse group, with amateur and professional actors, young and old, those of Asian descent and others of mixed backgrounds.

“I think this play is great — it’s superinformational, and it tells a story that needs to be told. Beforehand, I didn’t know a lot about Tule Lake,” said Jack Nixon, a San Marino High School 2015 grad who will be pursuing a theater studies degree in the fall at Emerson College in Boston. “Upon reading the script, I learned that there was so much that happened there that hasn’t been known by

the public — I thought it would be cool to tell this story and inform people about this tragedy but also the hope.”

The performance was especially meaningful to Pogo Saito, one of the cast members whose family was personally affected by the relocation of Japanese Americans in World War II.

“My dad was at Tule Lake before [staying at Heart Mountain], so I always have an interest to tell that story,” Saito said. “This year, my dad passed away, and I really felt the power of telling the story of someone who can’t tell their story. It was probably one of the strongest moments for me as an actor to realize that.”

Saito believes that the play is important in evoking stories of the past.

“I think we’re like rippling on the pond — if everyone keeps telling this story, it’ll just keep going. We always feel like we’re powerless as one person, but we’re very powerful, and I think that’s a story to tell, and it’ll keep rippling. There are people coming into this room every night, and they don’t know this story and any of these subjects — now they go out into the world knowing these things,” Saito said. “More knowledge is powerful for everyone. It feels like responsible theatre — theatre is part of change, the idea that you put it out there, which creates the catalyst for things to evolve.”

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.”



In order to fit the play into the tiny Complex space and meet Fringe requirements, Williams incorporated stylistic elements using fabric as smoke and water.



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF STEVE PHAN

(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.

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.



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

By Tiffany Ujiye,
Assistant Editor

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

What comes to mind when investigating the Civil War in particular is the experience between blacks and whites on Confederate and Union sides. Traditional schooling often mentions notable figures such as President Abraham Lincoln, Frederick Douglass, Jefferson Davis and Robert E. Lee to name a few. It is their experience that carries a particular currency over national sites such as Gettysburg and Ford's Theatre, where the public draws meaning and answers to what it means to be American.

But in the past few decades, historians and researchers in partnership with the

National Park Service have identified at least 58 unusual combatants that help answer that age-old question. But these 58 mostly forgotten American veterans were Asian and Pacific Islanders.

For many APIs in the Civil War isn't a chapter in American history. In fact, these men receded from memory even within their own families. The places attached to them were displaced like the paperwork and photographs that marked their existence as though they never fought for their freedom.

Now, the NPS is looking to tell their stories by extending national park sites with new ones as part of its Theme Studies efforts.

"Our desire is to ensure that all stories are told. The National Parks Service tells our nation's history though place, and that means identifying new sites and revisiting existing ones is especially important for the API of our country," explained NPS Director Jonathan Jarvis. Jarvis, now in his 39th 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 Manzanar, Minidoka and Tule Lake.

"It is our job to keep those stories alive so that the places where the values of our nation were forged are preserved," Jarvis added about API historical sites. "[Places] like Pearl Harbor and the incarceration camps of World War II, places like Gettysburg and Fort Sumter — [they] will now carry new meaning, especially for APIs."

While only 58 known, mostly Chinese Americans, fought in the Civil War, their stories also reflect how far back the struggle for citizenship extends for APIs.

Stephanie Toothman, NPS associate director of cultural resources, partnerships and science, said the NPS "wanted to reach down to personal narratives to really understand 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."



Ruthanne Lum McCunn spent more than 10 years conducting research on her latest book on API Civil War veteran Thomas Sylvanus.

PHOTOS: LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



Albany News ran a story on veteran John Hang from China in 1911 when he tried to prove his worthiness for citizenship.

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 which they'd be free to settle in the New World or return home. McCunn noted that

like African slaves at the time, many Chinese were kidnapped or lured into contracts as slaves and shipped to the New World by traffickers. By the 1800s, there were hundreds of recorded Chinese on the East 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 fought for the Union. Some five Chinese 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



This veteran is believed to be Joseph Pierce.

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 Confederate 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."

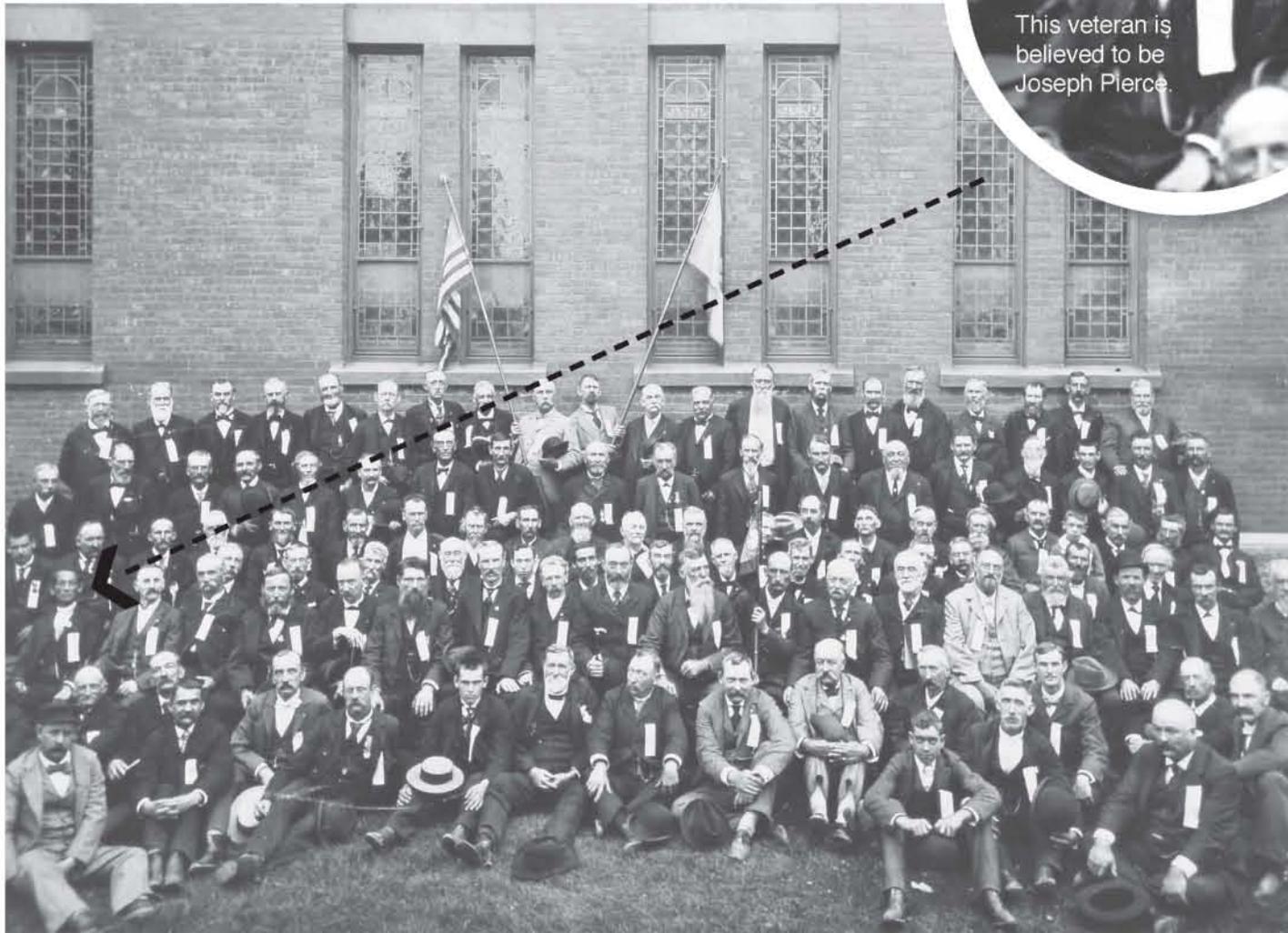
Phan went on to graduate from the University of Northern Colorado in 2012 with a degree in history and participated in his first Civil War re-enactment the following year at the 150th Anniversary of Antietam, where he portrayed Joseph Pierce.

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/nhl/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."



PHOTOS: CONNECTICUT STATE ARCHIVE

At the 14th Connecticut Regiment Reunion in 1890, Joseph Pierce was believed to have attended the annual meeting.



2015 Obon Festival Schedule

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

- 5 New York Buddhist Church (NY)
- 11 Berkeley Buddhist Temple (CA)
Ekaji Buddhist Temple (VA)
Oxnard Buddhist Temple
Midwest Buddhist Temple (IL)
Berkeley Higashi Honganji (CA)
Fresno Buddhist Church (CA)
Salt Lake Buddhist Temple
Fresno Buddhist Church (CA)
- 11/12 L.A. Hompa Hongwanji Buddhist Temple (CA)
San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin (CA)
- 12 Monterey Peninsula Buddhist Temple (CA)
- 18 Buddhist Church of Ogden (Utah)
Seabrook Buddhist Temple (NJ)
Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple (CO)
Walnut Grove Buddhist Church (CA)
Buddhist Temple of Alameda (CA)
Buddhist Church of Florin (CA)
Buddhist Church of Marysville (CA)
Buddhist Church of Fowler (CA)
- 18/19 Mountain View Buddhist Temple (CA)
Seattle Buddhist Church (WA)
Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute (CA)
Orange County Buddhist Church (CA)
- 25 Buddhist Church of Parlier (CA)
White River Buddhist Temple (WA)
- 25/26 West Los Angeles Buddhist Temple (CA)
Vista Buddhist Temple (CA)
Los Angeles Betsuin (Higashi Honganji) (CA)
Buddhist Church of San Francisco (CA)
- 26 Spokane Buddhist Church (WA)
Buddhist Temple of Salinas (CA)
Guadalupe Buddhist Church (CA)

- 8 San Mateo Buddhist Temple (CA)
Las Vegas Buddhist Sangha (NV)
- 8/9 Buddhist Church of Sacramento (CA)

HAWAII ISLANDS

JULY

- 3/4 Moiliili Hongwanji Mission (HONOLULU)
Puna Hongwanji Mission (HAWAII ISLAND)
Puna Hongwanji Pahoa-Shibu (HAWAII ISLAND)
- 4 Kohala Hongwanji Mission (HAWAII ISLAND)
- 10/11 Waipahu Hongwanji Buddhist Temple (OAHU)
- 11 Lanai Hongwanji Mission (MAUI)
Paauiolo Hongwanji Mission (HAWAII ISLAND)
- 17/18 Honpa Hongwanji Hilo Betsuin (HAWAII ISLAND)
Jikoen Hongwanji Mission (HONOLULU)
Kahului Hongwanji Buddhist Temple (MAUI)
- 18 Waianae Hongwanji Mission (OAHU)
Honokaa Hongwanji Mission (HAWAII ISLAND)
- 24/25 Koloa Jodo Mission (KAUAI)
Makawao Hongwanji Mission (MAUI)
- 25 Kailua Hongwanji Mission (HONOLULU)
Papaalooa Hongwanji Mission (HAWAII ISLAND)
Kona Hongwanji Mission (HAWAII ISLAND)
- 31-8/1 West Kauai Hongwanji Hanapepe Temple (KAUAI)
Wailuku Hongwanji Mission (MAUI)

AUGUST

- 1 Waiialua Hongwanji Mission (OAHU)
- 7/8 Pearl City Hongwanji Mission (OAHU)
Lihue Hongwanji Mission (KAUAI)
Lahaina Hongwanji Buddhist Temple (MAUI)
- 15 Kamuela Hongwanji Mission (HAWAII ISLAND)
- 21/22 Mililani Hongwanji Mission (OAHU)
- 29 Aiea Hongwanji Mission (OAHU)
Honohina Hongwanji Mission (HAWAII ISLAND)

AUGUST

- 1 Reedley Buddhist Church (CA)
Buddhist Church of Oakland (CA)
Tacoma Buddhist Temple (CA)
San Luis Obispo Buddhist Temple (CA)
Buddhist Temple of San Diego (CA)
Oregon Buddhist Temple (OR)
Placer Buddhist Church (CA)
- 1/2 Stockton Buddhist Temple (CA)
Gardena Buddhist Church (CA)
Palo Alto Buddhist Temple (CA)



Dylan Uyeda participates in last year's dances during the San Jose Buddhist Church Obon.

'ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICA' With Robert Handa

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 are 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 Cerussi 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



PHOTO: COURTESY OF ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICA, NBC BAY AREA

Featured on "Asian Pacific America With Robert Handa" was a segment on the documentary "Hidden Legacy — Japanese Traditional Performing Arts in the WWII Internment Camps." Pictured (seated, from left) are Reiko Iwanaga, "Hidden Legacy" producer Shirley Muramoto-Wong, director/host Handa and (back row, from left) producer Lance Lew and Robert Wong of Murasaki Prods.

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.

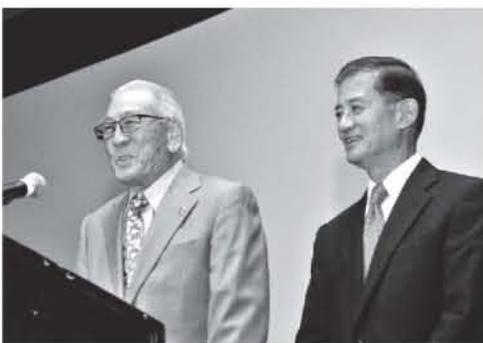
On the show's future, Handa and Lew have many people recognizing them at community events, thanking them and the station for the coverage they see on "Asian Pacific America." The duo hopes to expand in the future but are careful not to lose sight of their original mission.

"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 Lew@nbcuni.com.

To see photos and clips from the show, visit "Asia Pacific America's" Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/asianpacificamerica>.

VETERANS >> continued from page 3



Lawson Sakai, 442nd RCT veteran (left), thanks Secretary Eric Shinseki on behalf of Nisei veterans.



Secretary Eric Shinseki (center) with Nisei veterans at the Congressional Gold Medal Dinner

The emcee for the event was NBC Bay Area's Michael Inouye. Smithsonian Board Member Robert Johnson also welcomed the guests. The dinner's co-chairs were Floyd Mori, Mari Watanabe and Michael Yaguchi. Reiko Iwanaga and Pamela Dunnett of At Your Request served on the dinner committee.

The dinner successfully reached its fund-

ing goal for the digital exhibition, but to ensure the successful completion of the project and its future success, additional support is welcomed. Donations to support the maintenance and accompanying national programs for the Congressional Gold Medal digital exhibition are still being sought.

For further information or to donate, visit www.nationalveteransnetwork.com or email info@nationalveteransnetwork.com.

Polaris Tours 2015 Schedule

Jul. 12 ~ Jul. 21	Japan By Train: "Hiroshima, Kurashiki, Okayama, Kyoto, Tokyo"
Sep. 17 ~ Sep. 26	Pacific Coast: "Seattle, Portland, Newport, Gold Beach, San Francisco"
Oct. 04 ~ Oct. 14	Let's Go Hokkaido: "Sapporo, Sounkyo, Shiretoko, Tomamu, Toyako"
Oct. 08 ~ Oct. 19	Jewels of Morocco: "Casablanca, Fez, Erfoud, Ouarzazate, Marrakesh"
Oct. 18 ~ Oct. 27	Autumn Japan: "Hiroshima, Kyoto, Kanazawa, Takayama, Tokyo"
Oct. 19 ~ Nov. 01	Italy: "Rome, Pisa, Florence, Milan, Venice, Capri, Amalfi Coast, Pompeii"
Oct. 22 ~ Nov. 02	South Korea (West Coast): "Jeonju, Yeosu, Gwangju, Boseong, Jeju"
Nov. 01 ~ Nov. 11	Islands of Okinawa & Shikoku: "Naha, Takamatsu, Matsuyama, Kochi"
Nov. 30 ~ Dec. 10	South America Escape: "Rio de Janeiro, Iguassu Falls, Buenos Aires"



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A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

CALENDAR

National

2015 National Convention
Las Vegas, NV
July 13-15
Monte Carlo Resort and Casino
3770 Vegas Blvd. South
Price: Varies
Join JACL for the 2015 National Convention in Las Vegas and receive a special discount on tickets to the Blue Man Group. 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
825 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 officeboo@gmail.com or call (510) 832-5988.

PSW

'Before They Were Heroes' Reception
Los Angeles, CA
July 12, 9:30 a.m.
Japanese American National Museum
100 N. Central Ave.
JANM 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: Sus Ito's World War II

Images."
Info: Visit www.janm.org or call (213) 625-0414.

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

J-Town Jazz Club and Dan Taguchi Big Band
Los Angeles, CA
July 25, 2 p.m.
Aratani Theater
244 S. San Pedro St.
Price: \$50 Special VIP, \$25 orchestra and \$20 balcony
In the J-Town Jazz Club, a group of Japanese Americans return to Little Tokyo after three years in camp to find that the place they called home had become "Bronzeville."
Info: Visit www.jaoco.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.nhosinfo.com.

EDC

Japanese American Veterans Assn. Quarterly Luncheon
Falls Church, VA
July 11, 11:30 a.m.
Harvest Moon Restaurant
7260 Arlington Blvd.
Price: \$18
Reservations are recommended beforehand. JAVA is a fraternal, patriotic, educational and historical organization with the purposes of preserving and strengthening comradeship among its members.
Info: Visit www.javade.org.

AARW Summer Grill-Off BBQ
Watertown, MA
July 18, 3-6 p.m.
Arsenal Park
485 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 Carolyn at carolyn@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 Carolyn at carolyn@aarw.org or visit www.aarw.org.

MDC

'The Sugar/Islands' Exhibit
Chicago, IL
July 8, 5:50 p.m.
DePaul Art Museum
935 W. Fulton Ave.
Price: \$5 for JASC members and \$10 for non-JASC members
Rich paintings by Laura Kina and haunting photographs by Emily Hanako Momohara illustrate a unique examination of worker migration and settlement from the islands of Okinawa to the islands of Hawaii.
Info: Call (312) 263-3049 for reservations.

Malott Japanese Garden Family Sundays
Glencoe, IL
July 19, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
Chicago Botanic Garden
1000 Lake Cook Road
Drop by the Malott Japanese Garden at the Chicago Botanic Garden for hands-on activities.
Info: Visit www.chicagobotanic.org or call (847) 835-5440.

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.
Info: Visit www.jaclchicago.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: \$85 per golfer
Join the Chicago chapter of the JACL at its annual golf tournament. Costs include a round of golf with a cart and meal following the tournament.
Info: Visit www.jaclchicago.org or call (773) 728-7171.

Nikkei 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.jaclchicago.org or email Bob Takagi at rntalltree@gmail.com.

2015 Heart Mountain Pilgrimage
Cody and Powell, WY
August 21-22
Heart Mountain Interpretive Center
1539 Road 19
Price: Registration fees may vary
At this year's Pilgrimage, all 10 confinement sites will be represented.

Info: Register at www.heartmountain.org or call (307) 754-8000.

PNW

Japan-American Society 55th 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 at its annual golf tournament. Other activities include a raffle, with proceeds from the tournament supporting the Japan in Schools (JIS) and JAASW business and cultural education programs.
Info: Visit www.jaasw.org or call (206) 374-0180.

SAM Camp
Seattle, WA
July 20-24; 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Asian Art Museum, Alford Board Room
1300 First Ave.
Price: \$50 a week or \$12 a day
For children entering grades 1-5 in fall 2015. Jump 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

ADVERTISE HERE

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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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: 1pm - 4pm
St. Matthew's United Methodist Church
1360 Wendy Drive, Newbury Park
(corner of Wendy and Potrero Rd).

For more information, call 805-492-0146 or email: venturacountyjacl@hotmail.com

We welcome YOUR donations of Japanese items for our fundraiser!



In Memoriam

Asaoka, Yoshimi, 84, Los Angeles, CA; June 22; she is survived by her husband, Masaki Asaoka; sisters-in-law, Toshiko Komatsu, Tamiko Shiji and Ayako Nunotani; brother-in-law, Masato Yoshihara; she is survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

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

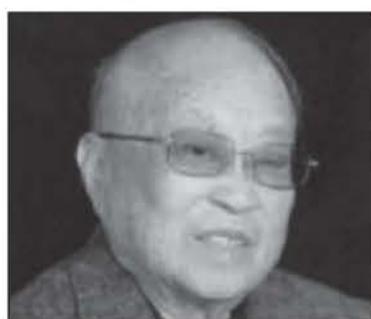
Hamaguchi, Luiko, 94, Laguna Hills, CA; May 18; she was predeceased by her husband, Masakazu Hamaguchi; she is survived by her sons, Glenn (Gail) and Ronald Hamaguchi; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 4; ggc: 8.

Hasegawa, Tomoyuki, 87,



Camarillo, CA; June 15; he was predeceased by his parents, Ginjiro and Yuki Hasegawa; brothers, Wataru and Jim (Fuji) Shunichi; 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,



Gardena, CA; May 27; he is survived by his wife, Mary Hata; sister, Mary Jane Ikeda; brother, Ted Hata; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Kaku, Richard, 93, San Gabriel, CA; June 15; he is survived by his daughter,

Pat (Larry) Naritomi; brother, Chuck Kaku; sister, Sachi Kaku; gc: 2; ggc: 4.

Kayano, Ray Shigeru, 102, Chicago, IL; March 29; he was predeceased by his wife, Marion Teruyo Kayano; he is survived by his daughter, Diane (Rev. Peter) Hata; gc: 2.

Kikawa, Yoshiteru Gary, 94,



Monterey Park, CA; June 10; he is survived by his daughter, Laura (Bill) Kikawa Gordon; sons, Brent (Eve) and Colin (Katie) Kikawa; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 3.

Kikuno, George, 85,



Los Angeles, CA; June 8; he is survived by his wife, Tamie Kikuno; daughters, Jean (Tom) Hommes, Linda (Brad) Kobayashi and Kathy (Ramon) Montoya; brother, Kensaburo Kikuno; sister, Ruriko Kanda; gc: 4.

Kurihara, Jiro Pete, 90, Gardena, CA; May 19; he was a 442nd veteran; he is survived by his son, Michael (Arlene) Kurihara; sister, Lorraine Suzuki; brother-in-law, Arthur Sakakura; sisters-in-law, Emie (Shuichi) Obata and Michiko Sakakura; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Ogami, Jack H., 92, Seattle, WA; June 15; he was a MIS and 442nd veteran, receiving the Congressional Gold Medal for his service and was a former Snake River chapter president of the JAACL; he is survived by his wife, Mitsu; children, Chris Hutchinson, Marie Young, Jack Jr. and Roger; sister, Teruko Sasaki; gc: 6; ggc: 2.

Matsubara, Hiroshi, 90,



Torrance, CA; June 19; he was predeceased by his wife, Shizue Matsubara; he is survived by his children, Kaoru Todd and Lynn Sachiye Matsubara; he is also survived by other family members here and in Japan.

Matsui, George, 100, Los Angeles, CA; June 23; he was predeceased by his wife, Yuki Virginia Matsui; he is survived by his children, Gerald Matsui and Calvin Matsui; gc: 4; ggc: 6.

Miya, Hisa, 88, Los Angeles, CA; June 28; he was predeceased by his wife, Nancy Miya; siblings, Hanako Ito, Kiku Takeda, Masa, Kazu and Tomio Miya; he is survived by his children, Vickie (Ron) Nakagawa and Kirk (Kathy) Miya; sister, Fumiko Matsumoto; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 4.

Mori, John M., 96, Monterey Park, CA; June 22; he is survived by his son, Robert Mori; daughters, Judi Mori and Linda (Yuki) Ozaki; sister, Miyo Yasui; brother, Henry Mori; gc: 5; ggc: 9.

Nagami, Masanori, 88, Monterey



Park, CA; June 17; he is survived by his wife, Dorothy Setsuko

Nagami; brother, Henry (Sanaye) Nagami; sisters, Nancy Shizuko Nagami and Dorothy Sachiko Reed; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Nishisaka, Chiyoko, 83,



San Pedro, CA; May 19; she is survived by her children, Lori (Russell) Nishida, Vince Nishisaka and Kelli (Dan) McFarlain; 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, Mary; children, Amy (Len) and Sue (Andy) Nagaki; gc: 5.

Shimozawa, Fumiaki Bill, 95, Los Angeles, CA; May 30; he is survived by his wife, Koko; daughter, Keiko Niesi; he is also survived by other relatives; gc: 3.

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; daughters, June (Mike) Miyamoto and Jocelyn (Don) Tahara; gc: 9; ggc: 6.

Teraoka, Sasuke, 94, Los Angeles, CA; June 3; he is survived by his wife, Fumiko; son, Gary (Bessie) Teraoka; daughter, Janice Teraoka; he is also survived by other relatives.

Teshima, Lucy K., 94, Chicago, IL; May 30; she was predeceased by her husband, Roy; she is survived by her children, Robert (Michiko), Donald (Naomi) and Dennis (Pamela) Teshima; siblings, Tats Ogata, Bessie Shigekawa, Phyllis (John) Takekawa, Hiroshi Matsushita and Akira Matsushita; gc: 5.

Yoshida, Hiroko, 70, Los Angeles, CA; June 15; she is survived by her daughter, Julie Yoshida; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Yoshihara, Toshiko, 90,



San Gabriel, CA; June 23; she was predeceased by her husband, 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 Taniguchi; sister-in-law, Sachiko Yoshihara; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2.

TRIBUTE

MOLLIE T. FUJIOKA

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

PLACE A TRIBUTE

'In Memoriam' is a free listing that appears on a limited, space-available basis. Tributes honor your loved ones with text and photos and appear in a timely manner at the rate of \$20/column inch.
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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 JACL 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 fourth-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 Endo 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. Kanzaki,
New York Chapter JACL

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 transgender people even as it's a flashpoint for haters. Haters will continue . . . social change takes a long time, as the African-American civil rights struggle proves. Just when we might think we're "post-racial," a tragedy like Charleston happens. The phrase "Black Lives Matter" is as current today as it might have been in 1965 if social media hashtags existed back then.

So, the gay rights struggle has reached a huge milestone, and I'm delighted for that. But the journey isn't over for gays and lesbians, and I bet Marsha and Aiden and their family still face challenges to come.

Add to the LGBT equation the critical layer of being Asian — our cultural values bring complexities to our sexuality just as they do to every other aspect of our lives and careers.

I'm glad I got to meet Marsha, and I thank her for her writing and speaking out. I look forward to meeting Aiden someday.

And, importantly, I am very, very proud to be a board member of Mile High JACL. The chapter is doing important advocacy work in the Colorado legislature with immigrant rights and health care, and we also recently brought Los Angeles arts activist and poet Traci Kato-Kiriyama to Denver to teach a full room about how to tell their personal stories. Mile High is kicking butt, and I'm honored to be involved.

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

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 a one-night sleepover 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 team-building 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-dye) 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.

JACCC 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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