

INSIDE! JACL PHOTO SECTION BEGINS ON PAGE 5



THE NATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF THE JACL

July 24-Aug. 6, 2015

# PACIFIC CITIZEN

## 2015 JACL SPECIAL CONVENTION ISSUE

Pictured is aspiring singer James Ozaki's winning photo that he submitted to the National Convention's Instagram "American Dream" contest.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF JAMES OZAKI

**Grant Ujifusa  
Remembers Mike M.  
Masaoka.**

**Page 3**

**JACL 2015 Las Vegas  
Convention  
Highlights**

**Page 8**

**V3con Harnesses  
the Power of  
Technology.**

**Page 9**



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

In his Letter to the Editor (*Pacific Citizen*, July 3-23, 2015), Stanley Karzaki of the New York Chapter wrote that JACL should recognize Mitsuye Endo. In 2014, JACL did just that — the National Council adopted a resolution in support of a Presidential Medal of Freedom for Mitsuye Endo in recognition of her contributions to the release of Japanese Americans from their desolate prison camps. In response to that resolution, JACL has met with the White House, Senators, Congressional members and coalition partners to advocate for an award for Endo.

After meeting with Sen. Brian Schatz, he issued a letter of recommendation along with Sen. Mazie Hirono. Congresswoman Doris Matsui has also taken a strong lead in pushing for the recognition in response to a meeting and Sen. Richard Pan has authored a California state resolution in support of the campaign that is sponsored by JACL. The National Council of Asian Pacific Americans issued a letter co-signed by a coalition of Asian American national organizations.

There is no question that JACL is leading the effort on behalf of a posthumous medal for Endo. JACL has had long ties with the case. In 1942, Endo was one of over 300 employees who were fired from their state civil service jobs solely because they were of Japanese ancestry. When those employees decided to appeal their dismissal, Saburo Kido, then JACL president, approached James Purcell and asked him to take the case. Purcell eventually won the case before the U.S. Supreme Court.

I agree with Mr. Karzaki that the honor is long overdue, and that the contributions and courage of our Nikkei women needs to be recognized.

Sincerely,

Priscilla Ouchida,  
JACL Executive Director

Dear Editor,

I wanted to thank Patti Hirahara and the *Pacific Citizen* for printing the very helpful guide to searching the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) for records of our family's incarcerations.

I first learned of these records when Marisa Louie, an archivist at the San Bruno branch of the National Archives, visited the Tule Lake Pilgrimage and shared with us all a guide to Asian American and Pacific Islander family research at the National Archives. I made an appointment and visited the San Bruno facility where I found many primary resources describing what happened to Japanese Americans on the West Coast. It was a good introduction to the systems of NARA and how to navigate them. For my family's specific records, as Hirahara describes, I needed to travel to Washington, D.C.

A few years later, I made it to the main NARA building on Pennsylvania Avenue. I didn't have a death certificate, but that was alright because after a certain period of time, unclassified records are apparently open to all. I got basic records of my family's incarceration from their WRA files on Pennsylvania Avenue.

However, since my great-grandfather was apprehended by the FBI shortly after the Pearl Harbor bombing, like so many other male leaders of the Japanese American community, his main records were stored in a Department of Justice file in what are called the "WWII Alien Enemy Detention and Internment Case Files." Those are stored separately at a facility in suburban Maryland, and a free shuttle goes between the Washington, D.C., facility and the Maryland facility. The staff was helpful to explain this all to me. Starting early in the morning and leaving plenty of time to go between facilities, if needed, is recommended.

You can order copies of these records online, but nothing compared to holding the original records in my hands. Among other things, I discovered:

- My great-grandfather was arrested at the age of 70 ("height 5'1", weight 110 lbs, retired

nurseryman") by the FBI at the Berkeley Higashi Hongangi Buddhist Temple. The arrest warrant was issued by Francis Biddle, attorney general of the United States, on the grounds that he was an "alien enemy deemed dangerous to the public peace and safety of the United States."

- He was sent to Fort Lincoln, Neb., where our family became very worried for his health (evidenced by letters they sent to the FBI begging for his release).
- After a few months, he was put on "Alien Enemy Parole" and sent to join his wife and four of his five children at Tanforan Assembly Center, which was coincidentally across the street from the current-day San Bruno National Archives.
- The multiple government communications discussing his case always referred to him as an "alien," "enemy alien" or "parolee."
- Banks and flower wholesalers he worked with were asked to testify to his character. While they sent letters, they seem hardly friendly to his cause. In one, the Northern California business owner states, "Most of the Japanese growers were known to me only by their last names. I cannot tell you anything about their Americanization through education, etc., as I know most of the Japanese growers only in a business way, buying and selling flowers." With friends like that, who needs enemies, as they say.



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&gt;&gt; See LETTER on page 12

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## A MOTHER'S TAKE SO PROUD TO BE A JACL MEMBER

By Marsha Aizumi

A trumpet sound signals a text showing up on my phone. It was Wednesday morning, July 15, 2015. Emergency Resolution 2 had passed at the JACL National Convention. ER2 is the resolution advocating for transgender equality and pledging that JACL will be a "vibrant ally to the transgender community." When the notification came through, my son, Aiden, and I were on the phone discussing how he could go down to the convention to lend his support. He was in Las Vegas with his wife, Mary, for a few days of vacation. They both felt that this was an important issue and were prepared to be a visible face and voice in any way possible.

I actually first heard what was happening at the conven-

tion the day before when a Local Leader intern from the Selanoco Chapter sent me a photo of ER2. Later that night, Harold Kameya, president of the San Fernando JACL, included me on an email with Jacce Mikulane, president of the Honolulu chapter. The Honolulu chapter was the driving force behind ER2 and also the progressive chapter that over 20 years before had introduced the resolution to support marriage equality. The San Fernando Valley was also a progressive chapter that was doing a lot of work to support the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) community in Southern California. Harold and his wife, Ellen had been doing this work for over 25 years, so it was fitting that he as SFV president seconded the motion to have Honolulu's

resolution be brought before the delegation for discussion and voting.

When I saw the emails, I asked Harold if it would help the resolution if I flew in the following day. He said that he felt there was enough support. And so I went to bed hoping that my good thoughts and the support of other JACL chapters, who had sponsored LGBTQ events or were planning on doing work on this subject, would bring a positive result in the passage of this resolution.

For me, ER2 was deeply personal. Having JACL, a national API organization, bring this resolution to a positive vote would be a declaration to my family and all API LGBT families that our children are not second-class citizens. It symbolized to me that an organization that I belong to is ready to embrace and be a voice for the transgender community on a national and local level. But most of all, it would send a message to my son and so many other transgender individuals that who they are matters, and JACL will not sit silently while others may push them down, stripping them of their rights.

ER2 on the heels of the Supreme Court ruling that same-sex marriages are legal in all 50 states would be such a wonderful affirmation that our country and the API community is moving in the right direction.

>> See PROUD on page 12



## THE CASE FOR MIKE MASAOKA: OVERWHELMING

By Grant Ujifusa

JACL honored Masaoka's contributions to the field of civil and human rights during its Sayonara Banquet at the National Convention. Following is Ujifusa's speech.

I am so happy that the National Council voted unanimously yesterday for the resolution offered by Mas and Marcia Hashimoto to honor Mike Masaoka.

I think this: Because Mike was the father of the 442, he is also the father of JACL as we have known the organization for more than 70 years.

How did this come to be? We need to know because origins matter and mostly determine identity. Let me say that as the No. 1 "inu" in the camps, Mike counseled loyalty — shall we call it *Allegiance*? — to the only country Japanese Americans really had. He then asked young Nisei men to fight and die for that self-same country — one that had grievously betrayed them.

Initially, only 1,256 men volunteered out of the 10 camps, which showed the influence wielded by the vocal anti-inu pro-Japan faction among the internees. Eight hundred were selected to serve. These early few, especially those who were killed in action, proved what we tragically had to prove, and that was Japanese American loyalty to the United States of America. Try arguing, Mr. Redneck politician, with the young man who has come home in a box.

I once asked Mike if he ever lost any sleep about sending young Nisei men to fight and die in Italy and France. He said, "Not a minute. Under circumstances, blood had to be shed." One of his brothers was killed in action, and another was severely disabled.

I also asked Mike if he ever regretted counseling cooperation with government AFTER 9066 came down. He said, "No. They had the guns. We didn't." We need to remember that Min Gordon and Fred were all young bachelors. Mike was like that. He could think and act with clarity and precision.

As a 27-year-old wartime leader in 1942, Mike was already thinking about what our lives were to be like after the war was won and the camps were closed. And what Mike wanted, we soon enough got: acceptance into the American mainstream of a small group of people once as intensely hated and feared as perhaps no other in our country's history. The brutal truth is that the alternative to what Mike wanted was a

Japanese American legacy of no-no.

What happened instead we owe to Mike, to the 442, and I will say to JACL.

Together, I think he, they and we wrote an immigrant story more powerful than that of the Pilgrims at Plymouth Rock. To me, that story — young Nisei men out of the camps dead in Italy and France — gives depth of meaning and the weight of inconsolable tragedy to our being together here tonight, as it has for JACLers for more than 70 years.

Mike was the principal author of the Japanese American story. Which is one reason why we honor him tonight.

As a political leader, Mike was both IQ smart and street smart. And what did we expect of our leader? The answers to two questions, the second usually more important than the first: What should we do and how should we do it?

In the twilight of his life, Mike was an indispensable leader of how we did redress.

Understand that Mike was a big-time problem-solver, as adept at making things happen in Washington, a very strange place, as any lobbyist in town — after 50 years in the trade, he was connected and trusted nearly everywhere.

A conversation I had more than once with Mike after dinner around 9 in the evening: "Mike, the wheels are coming off this thing, in Washington and inside JACL. Let me tell you what Mr. X is up to now. What are we going to do?" Mike would say, "Give me the night to think about it." "But Mike, you don't understand. The wheels are coming off this thing." "Give Me the Night to Think About It."

An example of a big problem Mike solved: In January 1987, Barney Frank told me in his office that he was going to push our bill in a big way. This after years of being bottled up by subcommittee chairmen before him.

But Barney wanted bi-partisan Republican cover on his subcommittee, which meant that he was not going send HR 442 to the full Judiciary Committee and then to the House floor where a vote could be taken unless Pat Swindall, the No. 1 Republican on the subcommittee, would agree to support the bill.

I said, "Barney, this guy is a born-again Christian from Georgia. A really tough get." "I need to have him," Barney said, "and you have to get him."

I called Mike and asked him what to do. He said, "I need the night to think about it." In the morning, he told me to call Dave Brodie, the chief congressional lobbyist of the Anti-Defamation League, and ask to meet with him. Mike said that Brodie had taken many Southern born-again members off to Israel on "fact-finding trips" — also called junkets.

Mike knew that this was one way the Jewish Americans allied themselves with the more numerous born-again. Both a big stake in Israel being taken care of. And so, besides the trips, campaign money was often raised for incumbent Republican politicians in places like Georgia.

I saw Dave in his office at ADL. On his desk, he had a small award, maybe 20 years old, from the JACL. Dave said he would set up a meeting with Swindall.

Dave and I met with Swindall, though I knew that Dave had already talked to him. Swindall was so eager to make sure Dave was happy. . . .

The Republican Congressman from Georgia then told me that he was going to support the bill in Barney Frank's subcommittee. He added that an aide who was half-Japanese was also for the bill, and that helped. On the day of the vote on the House floor, Swindall made a speech supporting Constitutional rights for Japanese Americans, rights he then said should be extended to the unborn.

Mike knew, as perhaps no one else on the planet did, that to get Swindall onboard in Barney's subcommittee, you needed first to travel through Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.

I think Mike Masaoka is the single most-gifted leader we have had in our proud history in America. With nothing more than a shoe shine, a smile and the savvy of his indomitable wife Etsu, Mike got Congress, in his time dominated by Southern segregationist committee chairmen, to agree to Issei citizenship, to the War Brides Act and to the Hawaiian statehood bill. Then there was Mike's indispensable role in the success of HR 442.

*That's what Mike Masaoka did. Now, Tell me. Just exactly what have you done?*

For me, Mike's critics, academics and others supremely confident of their opinions, stand on his shoulders and box him about the ears.

But tonight, Mike, JACL honors you for all you did for JACL, for Japanese Americans, and for our country. I was honored to have known you. Rest in peace.

*For reversing President Ronald Reagan's opposition to HR 442, Grant Ujifusa was knighted by the Japanese government in 2012.*



## JACL NYSC CELEBRATES HR 40 RESOLUTION

By Nicole Gaddie

After returning for the historic anniversary of Selma, JACL Youth Council Members Ryan Kuramitsu (MDC) and Kota Mizutani (EDC) shared their experience with the National Youth Student Council, sparking an interest in solidarity to support the African-American community and support a bill called HR 40.

The bill calls for the formation of a commission to study reparations proposals for African-Americans. Rhetoric for this bill is similar to HR 442, the Japanese American resolution that launched a massive campaign to form a commission studying wartime relocation and internment civilians. Parallels between the two, HR 40 and HR 442, inspired Kuramitsu and Mizutani, along with the NYSC.

For Japanese Americans, HR 442 led to a bill that acknowledged the grave injustice and inhumanity of the Japanese American incarceration and the signing of the Civil Liberties Act in 1988. While the act granted monetary compensation and a formal apology to the victims of the incarceration, HR 40 would not do the same. Rather, it would investigate slavery and provide formal reparation to the African-American community.

The number of the bill, "40" was chosen to represent the 40 acres and a mule that the United States initially promised to freed slaves. The promise was unfulfilled, and the devastation of slavery lived on in the African-American community.

John Conyers, a representative of the Detroit area and current longest-serving member of Congress, proposed HR 40 in 1989 and continued to bring it to the floor every year thereafter.

Unfortunately, the bill wasn't able to garner enough critical mass from the black community and allies to move forward. And each year, politicians moved away from the aging bill to focus on new problems.

The JACL National Council, known for its civil rights and social justice work, approved a resolution to support HR 40 during July's National Convention in Las Vegas, Nev. The NYSC hopes that the support from the JACL will help move the bill closer to gaining ground on Capitol Hill.

The plan was to present a resolution for HR 40 at the 46th national JACL convention in Las Vegas. If the resolution succeeded, the bill would move one step closer to gaining ground on Capitol Hill. ■

## WEST L.A. JACL ANNOUNCES SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The West Los Angeles chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League announced its scholarship winners recently.

Noah Kojima, a first-year medical student, was awarded the \$2,500 Chiyo M. Hattori Scholarship, which is designated to an outstanding student pursuing an education in medicine. Lisa Takahashi and Justin Yamaguchi were recipients of the Jack Nomura High School Scholarship.

Kojima completed his first year at the David Geffen School of Medicine at the University of California, Los Angeles. The son of Patricia Ihara and Hideki Kojima of Irvine graduated from the University of California, Davis, in 2013 with a degree in biochemistry. Kojima, who plans to pursue a career in internal medicine, has devoted his time to helping the underserved in Africa, Ecuador and Haiti. He is currently spending his summer in India volunteering at a women's health clinic.

Takahashi graduated from Santa Monica High School and was a member of the girls varsity basketball team for two years. The daughter of Miwa Takahashi of Los Angeles and a student of the Japanese



Pictured (from left) are 2014 Miss Western L.A. Lindsey Sugimoto, Patricia Ihara (representing her son, Noah Kojima), Lisa Takahashi, Justin Yamaguchi and scholarship chair Steffi Fukunaga.

language program at the Japanese Institute of Sawtelle, she will attend Keio University in Tokyo this fall.

Yamaguchi graduated from Venice High School and is an Eagle Scout from Troop 764 based out of the Venice Japanese Community Center. The son of Lina and Doug Yamaguchi of Los Angeles, he will attend the University of Washington as a developmental psychology major.

Each high school awardee received \$750. The scholarship is named in honor of the late Jack Nomura, longtime chapter board member.

For more information, contact the WLA JACL at [westlajacl@yahoo.com](mailto:westlajacl@yahoo.com).



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## JACL NATIONAL CONVENTION

PHOTOS:  
TIFFANY UJIYE AND  
CAITLIN HALM

The organization gathers in Las Vegas at the Monte Carlo Resort to reflect upon JACL's future and ongoing role in the fight for civil rights for all people in the United States.

## NATIONAL BOARD

The National Board met before kick-starting the JACL National Convention.



(From left) Gary Mayeda, Patty Wada, John Tobe and David Unruhe



(From left) Meg Mizutani, Stephanie Nitahara and Sharon Uyeda



Minister Tamaki Tsukada of the Japanese Embassy (center) and his staff along with the JACL National Board at a private dinner



Kurt Ikeda



Carol Kawase and David Unruhe



## NATIONAL COUNCIL

Minister Tamaki Tsukada (right) makes an announcement about the Kakehashi Program expansion at the National Council meeting.



Carol Kawamoto and Paul Uyeda



(From left) Matthew Walters, Floyd Mori, Tamaki Tsukada and Noriko Sanefuji



Rob Buscher



(From left) Jessica Asai and Setsy and Chip Larouche





# AAPI LGBTQ PLENARY



Hyacinth Alvaran



(From left) Hyacinth Alvaran, Mia Yamamoto and Bryan Chan on a multigenerational panel, discussing what it means to be Asian American LGBTQs.



(From left) Hyacinth Alvaran and Prisoilla Ouohida



The National Council during a survey



(From left) Christine Chen and Rebecca Apostol

## NYSC



(Center) James Ozaki sings the "National Anthem" after winning the National Convention's Instagram contest.

## CIVIC ENGAGEMENT



Civic Engagement, hosted by APIA Vote, engaged the National Council in voter mobilization.



NYSC Mixer



(From left) Jennifer Okutsu, Allison Yamamoto and Joseph Day



(From left) Sydney Woods and Toshiki Nakashige



(From left) Theo Biokel, Matthew Weisbly and Nicole Gaddie



# SAYONARA BANQUET

JACL hosted a VIP Reception at the Monte Carlo Hotel prior to the start of the Sayonara Banquet.



Prisoilla Ouohida and David Lin



(From left) Sarah Baker, Ryan Kenji Kuramitsu, Kota Mizutani, Kim Delevett, Michelle Huey, Nathan Iwamoto-Fukumitsu, Kurt Ikeda and Stephanie Nihara.



The Hon. Norman Mineta



(From left) Akira Sonomura and the Hon. Norman Mineta



(From left) David Lin with President's Awards recipients Jane Kurahara and Betsy Young



ABC7 News Anchor and "Legacy of Heart Mountain" Producer David Ono



(From left) Kaz Ueyehara, Mia Yamamoto and Traoi Ishigo



Chicago Blackhawks announce Gene Honda



J. D. Hokoyama received the JACL President's Award for his work in education and leadership.



(From left) David Lin and J. D. Hokoyama



(Clockwise from top left) JACL past presidents Ken Inouye, Larry Oda, David Kawamoto, current president David Lin, Floyd Mori, Raymond Uno and Floyd Shimomura



# NATIONAL CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

The National Council proved successful in passing the following resolutions:

**Resolution 1:** Honoring Mike Masaru Masaoka for his leadership and service to the welfare of the Japanese American community.

**Resolution 3:** Recognizing and preserving Japanese American Art by incarcerated Japanese Americans during World War II.

**Resolution 4:** Supporting House Representation 40, establishing a commission to study the institution of slavery in the United States.

**Emergency Resolution 2:** Calling upon the JACL to be an ally to the transgender community.

In its weeklong session, the National Council's agenda included an AARP Workshop by Jennifer Wallace-Brodeur; a Civic Engagement Presentation on voter registration programs, campaign development and voter mobilization by Rebecca Apostol; an in-depth report from the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans by Kelly Honda; a special report on the 2017 Smithsonian Exhibit by Nor-

iko Sanefuji; and a presentation by the Social Security Administration by Marianne Brackney.

National Council members also listened in on a LGBTQ Plenary with Hyacinth Alvaran, Mia Yamamoto and Bryan Chan, who discussed what it means to be Asian American LGBTQs and educated members on understanding current issues.

Minister Tamaki Tsukada of the Embassy of Japan was joined by Consul General Jun Yamada after announcing this year's Kakehashi Project would make the program a permanent annual commitment and would double the number of participants to over 180 individuals.

Reports from across the organization included the Program for Action, and the Nomination's Committee presented its future initiatives and provided in-depth summaries to its past achievements.

In concluding the convention, the Sayonara Banquet honored and recognized Mike M. Masaoka for his effort, dedication and service to the Japanese American commu-

nity during redress and post-war activism. Grant Ujifusa and former Cabinet Sec. Norman Y. Mineta gave special reflections on Masaoka, remembering his powerful legacy and work.

JACL President's Awards were given to Betsy Young and Jane Kurahara for their work on preserving the Honouliuli incarceration campaign in Hawaii. J. D. Hokoyama was also honored for his leadership and service as president and CEO for Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics. A special honor was given to Gene Honda, stadium announcer for the Chicago White Sox and the Chicago Blackhawks.

Master of ceremonies David Ono hosted the evening. Ono is an anchor at ABC7 and Emmy Award-winning producer of the "Legacy of Heart Mountain" documentary.

JACL Executive Director Priscil-



(From left) David Kawamoto, Matthew Farrells, Brandon Mita, Carol Kawamoto, Toshi Abe, Jeanette Misaka, David Uhrue, Michelle Amano, David Lin, Jeffrey Moy, Miko Sawamura, Sheldon Arakaki, Chip Larouche, Colleen Morimoto and Roberta Barton at the closing of the Sayonara Banquet.

la Ouchida and National President David Lin have confirmed that the 2016 National Convention will return to Las Vegas, but future plans for 2017 may return to Washington, D.C.

For full 2015 JACL Convention coverage, visit the Pacific Citizen's website at [www.pacificcitizen.org](http://www.pacificcitizen.org).



Members from the Kakehashi Program pose for a photo during the Sayonara Banquet in celebration of the announcement that the program will expand to allow more students to participate.

## AMERICAN HOLIDAY TRAVEL 2015 TOUR SCHEDULE

<b>Europe Holiday Tour</b> (Carol Hida) . . . . .	Sep 21-Oct 2
London, Paris, Bruges, Amsterdam.	
<b>Classical Japan Holiday Tour</b> (Ernest Hida) . . . . .	Oct 1-11
Tokyo, Hakone, Atami, Gifu-Cormorant Fishing, Hiroshima, Kyoto.	
<b>Special Danube River Holiday Cruise</b> (Carol Hida) . . . . .	Oct 11-21
Prague, Danube River Cruising, Vienna, Bratislava, Budapest, Durnstein, Melk.	
MS Amadeus Royal River Cruise Ship.	
<b>Korea Holiday Tour</b> (Ernest Hida) (Postponed to early Oct 2016) . . . . .	Oct 19-Nov 1
Seoul, Nami Island, Sokcho, Daegu, Gyeongju, Busan, Cheju Island, Gwangju, Daejeon, Suwon, KBS Drama Center, DMZ Tour.	
<b>Kenya Safari Holiday Tour</b> (Carol Hida) . . . . .	Oct 29-Nov 10
Nairobi, Amboseli National Park, Mt. Kenya Safari Club, Sweetwaters Tented Camp, Jane Goodall Chimpanzee Sanctuary, Samburu Game Reserve, Game Drives.	
<b>Okinawa Holiday Tour</b> (Ernest Hida) . . . . .	Nov 12-21
Naha, Onnason, Ishigaki Island, Motomote Island, Taketomi Island.	

## 2016 TOUR SCHEDULE

<b>Hokkaido-China Snow Ice Festivals</b> (Ernest Hida) . . . . .	Feb 7-17
Sapporo Snow Festival, Harbin Ice Festival, Beijing.	
<b>Alaska Northern Lights Holiday Tour</b> (Ernest Hida) . . . . .	Mar 17-23
Anchorage, Fairbanks, Chena Onsen-Hot Springs, Aurora Borealis.	
<b>Japan Spring Holiday Tour</b> (Ernest Hida) . . . . .	Mar 26-Apr 8
Tokyo, Scenic Train to Shimoda, Lake Yamanaka, Matsumoto, Takayama, Kanazawa, Kyoto.	
<b>French Riviera Holiday Tour</b> (Baine Ishida) . . . . .	Apr 14-21
Nice, Monaco, Antibes, St. Paul de Vence, Grasse.	
<b>Canyon Country</b> (Ernest Hida) . . . . .	Apr 28-May 6
Scottsdale, Monument Valley, Grand Canyon, Lake Powell, Bryce National Park, Zion National Park, Las Vegas.	
<b>China-Yangtze River Cruise Holiday Tour</b> (Carol Hida) . . . . .	May 11-24
Beijing, Xian, Yangtze River Cruise, Shanghai, Hong Kong.	
<b>Grandparents-Grandchildren Japan Holiday Tour</b> (Ernest Hida) . . . . .	Jun 26-Jul 5
Tokyo, Hakone-Atami, Hiroshima, Kyoto.	
<b>Canadian Rockies-Calgary Stampede Tour</b> (Baine Ishida) . . . . .	July
Calgary, Waterton Lakes-Glacier National Park, Banff, Columbia Icefields.	
<b>Nova Scotia Holiday Tour</b> (Carol Hida) . . . . .	Aug 10-18
Halifax, Baddeck, Cabot Trail, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Western Shore, Grand Pre, Lunenburg.	
<b>China Silk Road Holiday Tour</b> (Ernest Hida) . . . . .	September
<b>British Landscapes Holiday Tour</b> (Baine Ishida) . . . . .	Sep 10-19
England, Scotland, Wales.	
<b>Korea Holiday Tour</b> (Ernest Hida) . . . . .	Oct 4-17
Seoul, Nami Island, Sokcho, Daegu, Gyeongju, Busan, Cheju Island, Gwangju, Daejeon, Suwon, KBS Drama Center, DMZ Tour.	
<b>Kyushu-Shikoku Holiday Tour</b> (Ernest Hida) . . . . .	October/November
Fukuoka, Nagasaki, Kumamoto, Busuiki, Kagoshima, Miyazaki, Beppu, Matsuyama, Kochi, Takamatsu, Shodo Island, Tokushima, Osaka.	
<b>New Orleans Get-Away Tour</b> (Carol Hida) . . . . .	December

**We can assist you with:** Low-cost airfares to Japan, Japan individual or group travel arrangements, Japan Railpass, Tokyo Air/Hotel Special Packages, Cruises, Hotels, Cars, Hawaii arrangements, Individual Tour Packages, Organization/Clubs/Family group tours and cruises arrangements.

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# HARNESSING TECHNOLOGY FOR GOOD AT V3

No topic was off boundaries during the digital media conference.

By Connie K. Ho,  
Contributor

From smart phones to Oculus Rift, no topic was untouched or off boundaries for techies and geeks alike to discuss at the V3 Digital Media Conference (V3con) — all for the purpose of determining resolutions in issues such as breaking the bamboo ceiling as well as working through language and culture barriers. Presented by the Asian American Journalists Assn., Los Angeles, and held at the Japanese American National Museum from June 26-27, the fourth annual conference highlighted conversations of ethnicity and race as well as the power of storytelling and technology in bringing communities together.

The weekend kicked off on Friday with an opening-night reception, with catering by Panda Restaurant Group, Coca-Cola, Kirin and Pop'd Up, as well as a musical performance by Priska, who sang a few of her original songs.

Those in attendance included honorees Dao Nguyen of BuzzFeed, Randall Park of the hit ABC TV show "Fresh Off the Boat" and Joe Zee of Yahoo Style. They were recognized for making a mark in their respective fields, and all three made remarks about their personal journeys in the various areas of entertainment, fashion and online media.

"One thing I feel really lucky about is that I'm able to work at a company like BuzzFeed that truly, truly embraces diversity" said Nguyen, who discussed the collaborative culture at the company and her experience penning posts such as "27 Signs You Were Raised by Asian Immigrant Parents," which have garnered millions of views and attracted a global readership. "The more diverse of a workforce that we have at BuzzFeed, the bigger audience that we can attract and the



Hundreds of attendees gather for the V3con opening night reception at the Japanese American National Museum.



(From left) Tanzila Ahmed, Andrew Ti and Ann Friedman participate in a podcasting panel at V3con.

bigger impact that we can have — one of the reasons I think people love coming to the site is that they can learn about other experiences that they may not have had, and it's part of the reason of our big success."

Local celebrities could be seen throughout the audience, including Forrest Wheeler of "Fresh Off the Boat," David Ono of ABC7 and Richard Lui of MSNBC. After the presentation of awards, attendees had the opportunity to mingle and take photos with the honorees. Guests also were given gift filled with boxes of Green Tea Pocky and coupons from companies such as Equinox and General Assembly.

On Saturday hundreds of attendees arrived to take part in the daylong digital media conference. The schedule consisted of a mix of workshops and panels focused on areas like podcasting, live streaming with apps

like Periscope, blogging, smartphone photography and comics. Professionals from journalism, social media, community organizations and other industries gathered to share their experience and visions with like-minded individuals.

One of the panels, "Checking Multiple Boxes: Discussing Being Two Others," focused on individuals of multiracial backgrounds, highlighting the intersections of identity, gender and ethnicity. Sonia Smith-Kang of Mixed Up Clothing, Clayton Yeung of Nielsen and riKu Matsuda of the L.A. County Commission on Human Relations served as panelists, while KTLA 5's Frank Buckley acted as moderator. Many of the speakers noted the importance of joining nonprofits and looking at ways to get a diverse group of voices heard.

"I try to support Japanese American organizations whenever I can," said Buckley, whose father is Caucasian and mother is Japanese. "In terms of story coverage, every day it's my job as the gatekeeper, the last guy, to try to make sure we get everything right and not just with regards to diversity."

Another session featured Patrisse Cullors of #BlackLivesMatter and writer/editor and *Pacific Citizen* columnist Gil Asakawa. The two led a dialogue about creating a social movement, providing recommendations for grassroots groups on mobilizing with social media. They also spoke about the importance of building bridges between communities of colors.

"One of the first groups of people to write an open letter about the Black Lives Matter movement was folks in the Asian American community who wrote a really beautiful letter that essentially said we apologize for not having your backs all those years, and we're going to do better — it was this beautiful, beautiful statement of solidarity," said Cullors, who described the work of Asian for Black Lives and other allied groups in Los Angeles.

To Cullors, the Black Lives Matter movement should appeal to a spectrum of indi-

viduals.

"We've [got to] try to build this conversation as a central conversation for all racial groups, not just black groups because anti-black racism impacts everyone on this planet," Cullors said. "Until we deal with this issue of anti-black racism, there will still be issues of race and poverty and mass incarceration, war on drugs, and all these things are literally all shaped by anti-black racism. I think our work in a lot of ways is how do we shape the conversation."

Asakawa also chimed in on the importance of building a network that supports these types of issues.

"You're keeping the conversation alive, whereas in the Asian community there has been hashtag activism, some of it has even gotten some traction like Not Your Asian Sidekick hashtag and Cancel Colbert, which was almost like a joke one. And they have gotten attention but they tend to be about the person who started that and it wasn't something that grew into an organization, a network, a movement, so it's interesting," Asakawa said. "I'd love to see something in the Asian community that takes issues of our identity and makes it into something that can be replicated."

Apart from attending some of the programs, attendees had the opportunity to enter social media bingo, a challenge to tweet images from around the conference. Photos on the V3con social media feed ranged from goofy shots inside the Nielsen photo booth to selfies with V3con steering committee members. With the social media game sponsored by McDonald's, participants had the opportunity to win an Apple Watch Sport. Charles Lam, a staff writer from the O.C. Weekly, was the lucky winner. He had a positive experience during the weekend conference.

"V3 was great. You put so many faces to names and meet so many new people. The level to talent hosting panels and just mingling is ridiculous," Lam said via email. "Anyone who wants to be part of the APA press community should attend."



(From left) Randall Park, Dao Nguyen and Joe Zee accept their awards at the the V3con opening-night reception.



Priscilla Liang (stage name Priska) performs at the V3con opening-night reception at the Japanese American National Museum.



A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

# CALENDAR

## NCWNP

**Contra Costa JACL Oakland Athletics Game Night**  
Oakland, CA  
Aug. 8; 1 p.m.  
Oakland Coliseum  
7000 Coliseum Way  
Price: Adults, \$18; Children under 12, \$12

Come and join the Contra Costa JACL to root on the Oakland Athletics. Collect a free T-shirt and come early to have a chance to receive player autographs and photos.

**Info:** Call Judy Nakaso at (510) 528-6564 or (510) 333-7425.

**'White Light/ Black Rain'**  
San Jose, CA  
Aug. 23; 3 p.m.  
San Jose Japantown  
Jackson Street  
Price: Free but reservations recommended

The San Jose JACL and the South Bay Area Hiroshima Kikkei Jin Kai are presenting a screen of Steven Okasaki's award-winning documentary "White Light/Black Rain: The Destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki."

**Info:** Contact Komo at komoevents@gmail.com or call (408) 418-6266.

**35th Japantown Kimono Day**  
San Francisco, CA  
Sept. 14  
Kinokuniya Building  
1581 Webster St.

Put on a kimono and join the annual kimono celebration in Japantown.

**Info:** Register at sfkimonoday@gmail.com.

## PSW

**'Curating the State of Art: Diversity Inspires Creativity Inspires Tech'**  
Los Angeles, CA  
July 28; 7 p.m.  
Japan Foundation  
5700 Wilshire Blvd  
Suite 100

**Price:** RSVP in advance  
Miyuki Tanaka invites all to learn about the National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation in Japan and the ways it is connecting individuals to the world and the future.

**Info:** Visit [www.jflale.org](http://www.jflale.org) or call (323) 761-7510.

**'Compassion and Charity and Chocolates: The Nisei Soldier Contribution to Rebuilding Japan'**  
Los Angeles, CA  
Aug. 8; 2 p.m.  
Japanese American National Museum  
100 N. Central Ave.

**Price:** RSVP in advance

The panel discussion will center on the role of mostly Nisei Military Intelligence Service soldiers and their part in rebuilding Japan after the war. MIS veterans will discuss the duties of the Nisei soldiers and how their acts of kindness and charity toward the Japanese people helped to heal the country.

**Info:** Visit [www.janm.org](http://www.janm.org) or call (213) 625-0414.

**'Never Forget' Gala**  
San Diego, CA  
Sept. 19; 3 p.m.  
Mission Valley Marriott  
8757 Rio San Diego Dr.  
Price: Single ticket \$125  
The San Diego JACL chapter invites all to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II, honoring veterans of the 100th and 442nd Regimental Combat Team, the Military Intelligence Service and all Nisei WWII veterans and their families.

**Info:** Call Robert Ito at (619) 954-7017 or email [Robert@itogirard.com](mailto:Robert@itogirard.com).

## EDC

**Book Talk 'Daughters of the Samurai'**  
Boston, MA  
Aug. 8; 2-3 p.m.  
Boston Museum of Fine Arts  
465 Huntington Ave.  
Price: \$10

Janice Nimura discusses her book, a true story about five young girls sent by the Japanese government to the U.S. in 1871 to learn Western ways and return to help nurture a new generation to lead Japan. Please order tickets in advance. The book talk will be held in the Mabel Louise Riley Seminar Room 156.

**Info:** Visit [www.mfa.org/](http://www.mfa.org/)

**programs/lecture/daughters-of-the-samurai.**

**Lowell Southeast Asian Water Festival**  
Lowell, MA  
Aug. 15; 5-9 p.m.  
Lowell Heritage State Park, Esplanada and Sampas Pavilion  
500 Pawtucket Blvd.  
Price: Free

Celebrate the cultural heritages of Southeast Asian communities in Lowell at the annual festival. This waterfront celebration will include special blessings, food, crafts, performances and competitive boat races.  
**Info:** Visit [www.lowellwaterfestival.com](http://www.lowellwaterfestival.com).

**'Allegiance'**  
New York, NY  
Nov. 8  
Longacre Theatre  
220 W. 48th St.

George Takei's "Allegiance" is a dramatic musical that tells the story of siblings Sammy and Kei Kimura, a brother and sister. Together, they face the challenges and struggles of the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II.

**Info:** Visit [www.allegiancemusical.com](http://www.allegiancemusical.com).

## MDC

**Chicago Nikkei Picnic**  
Chicago, IL  
Aug. 1; 11 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Bunker Hill Forest Preserve; Grove 3  
W. Harts Road  
Price: Free

The Nikkei community welcomes all to share in a day of games, food, sports, sunshine and fun memories. Please bring a dish big enough for your family and a little more to share with everyone at the community food table buffet. The picnic organizers will provide a roast pig, hotdogs, hamburgers and beverages. Grills and charcoal will be available but are limited.

**Info:** Visit [www.jaclchicago.org](http://www.jaclchicago.org).

**60th Annual Ginza Holiday Festival**  
Chicago, IL  
Aug. 7-9  
Midwest Buddhist Temple

**435 W. Menomonee St.**  
Price: Benefit donation \$7  
Ginza Holiday has been sharing Japanese food and culture for the past 60 years and has become a major neighborhood festival.  
**Info:** Visit [www.ginzachicago.com](http://www.ginzachicago.com) or call (312) 943-7801.

**Art Event and Musical Evening Presented by New Mexico JACL**  
Albuquerque, NM  
Sept. 19; 5:30-9 p.m.  
1701 Fourth St.  
Price: Free

The evening will showcase internationally renowned artist and photographer Patrick Nagatani and other artisans such as Betty Hahn, Wendy Kawabata, Takashi Murakami, Yoshiko Shimano, Shira L'Heureux and many others. New Mexico Taiko will also make an appearance at this special evening of art and music.

**Info:** Visit [www.nmjacl.org](http://www.nmjacl.org) or call (505) 883-5320.

**Aki Matsuri 2015**  
Albuquerque, NM  
Sept. 20  
National Hispanic Cultural Center  
1701 Fourth St.  
Price: \$5 donation

Join the New Mexico JACL chapter in its annual Aki Matsuri celebration supported in part by an award from New Mexico Arts. This year's theme is "Mukashi Banashi: Japanese Folk Tales," which features dancing, storytelling and other activities related to popular ancient folk tales passed down for generations.  
**Info:** Visit [www.nmjacl.org](http://www.nmjacl.org) or call (505) 883-5320.

## PNW

**25th Anniversary Celebration of the Japanese American Historical Plaza**  
Portland, OR  
Aug. 2; 4-5 p.m.  
Japanese American Historical Plaza  
2 N.W. Naito Pkwy.  
Price: Ticket prices may vary.  
Support the Oregon Nikkei Endowment as it honors all those who were instrumental in creating and maintaining the Japanese

American Historical Plaza. Actor and activist George Takei will be the keynote speaker, with musical performances by the Minidoka Swing Band.  
**Info:** Visit [www.oregonnikkei.org](http://www.oregonnikkei.org) or call (503) 224-1458.

**70 Years After Hiroshima and Nagasaki**  
Portland, OR  
Aug. 6; 6 p.m.  
Japanese American Historical Plaza  
2 N.W. Naito Pkwy.  
Price: Free

Sponsored by the Oregon SPR, Portland JACL, Oregon Hiroshima Club, Oregon Buddhist Society, the event welcomes a day of remembrance and reflection on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.  
**Info:** Visit [www.oregonpsr.org](http://www.oregonpsr.org).

**Nikkei Community Picnic**  
Portland, OR  
Aug. 16; Noon-5 p.m.  
Oaks Park  
Oaks Park Way and S.E. Tacoma Street  
Price: Free  
Celebrate the summer season at the Nikkei Community Picnic, celebrating Japanese heritage. Please bring a side dish to share with others.  
**Info:** Contact Connie Masuoka at (503) 243-3291.

**Olympia Obon Odori**  
Olympia, WA  
Aug. 8; 5-9 p.m.  
5th and Legion  
Price: Free  
Olympia celebrates its annual Bon Odori Festival with street dancing and delicious foods. Japanese folk dances, taiko drumming exhibitions, food vendors and family activities will be available.  
**Info:** Contact Bob Nakamura at (360) 556-7562. ■

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

**FOR MORE INFO:**  
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# Memoriam

**Higashi, Fumiko, 93**, Long Beach, CA; June 14; she was predeceased by her husband, Akitoshi; she is survived by her son, Akio Steven (Cheryl) Higashi; sister-in-law, Ayako Higashi; she is also survived by many nieces and nephews; gc: 2; ggc: 2.

**Imamura, Yaeko, 80**, Gardena, CA; June 27; she was predeceased by her siblings, Georgia (Spencer) Matsui, Yoshiye (Benny) Kato and Toshikazu Yamauchi; she is survived by her sister, Mie Yamauchi; brothers, Jimmie, Jack and Mas Imamura.

**Inashima, Osamu James, 92**, Woburn, MA; June 6; he was a MIS veteran in WWII; he was predeceased by his wife, Mary; he is survived by his children, John Harvey Inashima, Jamie E. Inashima and Cindy (Joseph) Custer.

**Ito, Henry Chiyoharu, 90**, Los Angeles, CA; June 2; he is survived by his wife, Setsuko Ito; sons, Seiji (Debie) and Michael Kenji (Sheila) Ito; daughter, Sayuri (Hiroshi) Mikami; sister, Elsie Ito; Madison; gc: 9.

**Joko, Tadashi, 80**, Los Angeles, CA; July 13; he was predeceased by his son, Jack Joko; he is survived by his wife, Doris; children, Michael (Yessenia), Susan (Gregg) Masada and Alex (Nicole); brother, Bob; siblings-in-law, May (Dato) Nagafuchi and Kazuki (Hiroko) Nakano; gc: 6.

**Kawai, Kiwako, 82**, Fullerton, CA; July 15; she was predeceased by her husband, Kiyoshi Pete Kawai; she is survived by her children, Irene (Bruce Ide) Kawai, Bobby (Sharon) Kawai, Stan (Leslie) Kawai, Jane (Wayne) Uyeta and Joanne (Marshall Liu) Kawai; gc: 6.

**Kiriyama, Rinko, 87**, Los Angeles, CA; June 2; she is survived by her husband, Taketo Kiriyama; daughters, Carol (Herb) Morita and Lorraine Hisayo

(Steven) Okuhata; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 4; ggc: 2.

**Matsuda, Miyuki, 87**, Culver City, CA; June 27; she is survived by her sons, Dale Minoru and Jeff Tsuyoshi (Karin Wang) Matsuda; brother, Mitsuo (Keiko) Koyama; sister, Miyeko Yamamoto; sister-in-law, Kiyoko Koyama; she is also survived by many nieces and nephews; gc: 2.

**McNeely, Jane Hideko, 91**, Thousand Oaks, CA; July 7; she was incarcerated at Heart Mountain; she was predeceased by her daughter, Cheryl Anne McNeely; she is survived by her children, Billy Gene McNeely Jr., Elizabeth Jane Murphy and Roberta Lea McNeely; gc: 7; ggc: 7.

**Miyamoto, Ichiro, 91**, Oudahay, CA; May 27; he is survived by his wife, Kagako Miyamoto; children, George Miyamoto; Megumi Kihara; Douglas, June and William Miyamoto; brothers, Tom and Ron Miyamoto; sister, Shirley Ige; gc: 8; ggc: 5.

**Miyamoto, Roy Chokichi, 94**, Sun Valley, CA; July 7; he is survived by his wife, Mollie; daughters, Patti (Eric) Yamamoto and Susan Miyamoto; gc: 2.

**Morimoto, Yoriko, 82**, Brea, CA; June 27; she was predeceased by her husband, Kazuo Morimoto; she is survived by her children, Michael (Frances), Kathi (David Lee), Randall (Sherry), Glenn (Kim) and Stacy (Patrick Eng); sisters Ikiko Toyofuku, Mariko Ishimaru and Rikiko (Ronald) Matsubara; sister-in-law, Bonnie Nii; she is also survived by many nieces and nephews; gc: 12; ggc: 2.

**Nakagawa, Minoru, 96**, Tacoma, WA; March 12; he was a MIS veteran awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor; he is survived by his wife, Toyoko; daughters, Elsie (David) Murakami, Jill (Robert) Nakamura and Lynne (Ken) Tanino; gc: 4; ggc: 4.

**Ninomiya, Jack Katashi, 98**, Long Beach, CA; June 10; he is survived by his daughters, Sharon (Raymond) Sugiyama, Marsha (John Wills) Sheldy and Kathryn Ninomiya; sister, June Inagi; gc: 2; ggc: 1.

**Nishimura, Dennis M., 69**, Montebello, CA; July 13; he was predeceased by his son, Brian Nishimura; he is survived by his wife, Nancy J. Nishimura; daughter, Aileen Nishimura; he is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives.

**Nishimura, Roy Kazuo, 95**, Pasadena, CA; June 28; she is survived by her husband, Yutaka Chigashi; son, Steven; brother-in-law, Itsuto (Shizuko) and Mamoru (Tetsuko); sister-in-law, Suemi Miyamoto; she is also survived by other relatives; gc: 1.

**Okuma, Jun, 89**, San Juan Capistrano, CA; June 26; he is survived by his sisters-in-law, Tomiko and Miyoko Okuma; nephew, Gary Okuma; he is survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives.

**Sadamori, Gary, 62**, San Francisco, CA; July 12; he was predeceased by his parents, George and Mitzi Sadamori; he is survived by his wife, Marceline; sisters, Sharon Fujimoto (Rev. Dennis) and Michelle Sadamori; he is also survived by other aunts, uncles and cousins.

**Shiraki, Attado Spud, 92**, Los Angeles, CA; June 29; he was a 442nd WWII veteran; he is survived by his wife, Hinako Trea; sons, Jedsen (Nancy), Jamie (Mika) and JC (Liz) Shiraki; daughters, June (Mike) Miyamoto and Jocelyn (Don) Tahara; gc: 9; ggc: 6.

**Sugita, Toyoji, 91**, Monterey Park, CA; June 27; he is survived by his wife, Lilian Fusaye Sugita; he is also survived by other relatives.

**Tanaka, Gerald 'Jerry' Minoru, 76**, Montebello, CA; July 8; he is survived by his wife, Nancy Tanaka; daughter, Stephanie

(David) Chang; son, Jay (Rhonda) Tanaka; brothers, Frank and Tad (Eva) Tanaka; sisters, Merijane (Ronald) Chalmers and Sally (Al) Takata; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 4.

**Tofukuji, Frank Takashi, 93**, Gardena, CA; June 21; he was a WWII veteran; he is survived by his wife, Sumiko Tofukuji; children, Dean (Laura), Warren (Card), Wayne (Marchia) Tofukuji; gc: 8; ggc: 6.

**Ujiye, Loretta Shigeko, 87**, Los Angeles, CA; July 16; she was

predeceased by her husband, Arthur; she was survived by her children, Baron (Maria) Ujiye, Diane (Stan) Sawa; Gail (Randy) Honda and Susie Bubbert; sisters, Helen Saito and Nancy Perkins; sisters-in-law, Tsuruko Takeuchi, Frances Yanase and Masako Ujiye; she is survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 5; ggc: 7.

**Uyematsu, Jim, 92**, Watsonville, CA; June 11; he was predeceased by his wife, Mary; he is survived by his son, Alan (Gayle) Uyematsu; daughter, Kathy Leslie; gc: 4; ggc: 1.

## TRIBUTE

### DR. HITOSHI THOMAS TAMAKI



Dr. Hitoshi Thomas Tamaki of Plymouth Meeting, Pa., passed away on July 3, 2015, at his residence. He was 97 years old. Born in Eatonville, Wa., on Oct. 7, 1917, to the late Seichi and Tora (Sasaki) Tamaki.

He served as the president of the Philadelphia Chapter of the JACL, receiving the distinguished Ruby Pin, which is awarded by the National Board to JACL members who have made unique and exceptional contributions entailing great personal sacrifice.

Dr. Tamaki is survived by his wife of over 64 years, Marion A. (Miyazaki) Tamaki; his four children, Dwight T. (Patricia) Tamaki, Gregory H. (Julia) Tamaki, Karen T. (Philip) Buescher and Drew S. Tamaki; his brother, Tetsuo "Ted" Tamaki; his sister, Shizue "Sue" Sasagawa, and nine grandchildren. Along with his parents, he was preceded in death by his sisters, Shigeko Yoshiwara, Chiyoko Koiwai and Yoshiko Nagahashi.

Memorial donations may be made to the Tamaki's Scholarship Fund at the University Puget Sound, Tacoma, Wash.

### ALICE WAKE SAKAI

Alice Sakai was born Alice Haruko Wake in Reedley, Calif., on Dec. 27, 1918. She, along with five sisters and two brothers, grew up on a farm, where they learned the virtues of hard work and dedication. In 1942, the Wake family was sent to a wartime relocation camp in Poston, Ariz. After the internment, she met and married Tom Y. Sakai in September 1945, and they settled in Indio, Calif. In Indio, Alice dedicated herself to maintaining a household and caring for four growing boys while supporting the family produce business. She and her husband, Tom, were active members of the Indio Methodist Church. Following her husband Tom's passing in 1971, she managed the produce business until her retirement in 1988. During that time, she continued to actively support the church and numerous service organizations in the Coachella Valley. Her dedication to serving the local community and making a positive difference in people's lives is an inspiration to all who knew her. In 2001, she moved to the Regent's Point community in Irvine, where she resided until her passing. She is survived by her four sons, Tom, Leland, Les and Stan, eight grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and four of her siblings.

Memorial services to celebrate and honor her life were held in Irvine, Calif., and Indio, Calif. The Indio service was held at Coachella Valley Cemetery on July 21. The Irvine service was held on July 23 at Regent's Point, Fellowship Hall.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Shepherd of the Valley United Methodist Church (Indio), University United Methodist Church (Irvine), Habitat for Humanity or the Alzheimer's Foundation.

## PLACE A TRIBUTE

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

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## LETTER &gt;&gt; continued from page 2

These were all fascinating details that helped me, 70 years later, form a mental image of what my family members went through in those chaotic years.

After digging through government memos and letters describing my great-grandfather in rude, dismissive and simply incorrect terms, I stumbled on the kicker: a letter written by the man himself. My heart thumped loudly in the hushed research room as I learned that my great-grandfather had written directly to Harold L. Ickes, Secretary of the Interior, in March 1945. I had never read anything he had written, and now I was reading them as preserved by the U.S. government he was protesting.

"My son offered his life to the U.S. as a U.S. soldier, yet his family members, by the virtue of our Japanese ancestry, were driven off by the Armed Forces from our legal residence. After our business was destroyed, we have been in a barb-wired fence enclosure for three long years . . . (my son) offered his life to the country, whose chief executives nullified civil rights of his brother and sisters and threatened their lives."

This was amazing to discover. I returned to California with a USB drive full of electronic copies of these precious records, and a renewed appreciation for a man I never met but who launched our family's American journey and faced such challenges in his struggle to build a simple business and raise a family.

I asked a friend who has a Ph.D. in American civil rights history what he thought I should do with what I found. He said, "Frame that letter and put it on your wall so you never forget your great-grandfather's bravery."

Great idea — I did that and also emailed the documents to my relatives. Finding our family's NARA records was a life-changing experience. I recommend it highly to all of our Japanese American family and thank the *Pacific Citizen* for sharing this important information.

Sincerely,

Nina F. Ichikawa,  
Berkeley, Calif.

## PROUD &gt;&gt; continued from page 3



Honolulu JACL's Jacoe Mikulanec and his chapter were a driving force behind ER2.

During the early years when I was in the closet, I was so afraid for my child. I feared that Aiden would be a target for something that was neither a choice or what others call a lifestyle. I also feared that Aiden would lose hope that he could ever live truthfully and authentically. For years, I saw the light in his eyes growing dimmer each day. When our children lose hope, the pain of that hopelessness drives them to take their own lives. Our family was lucky. . . . Through all his struggles, Aiden chose to live. I believe ER2 will help not only API transgender families and their children but also lesbian, gay and bisexual families, as well, knowing that JACL will be an organization that will fight for them.

After I received the news that ER2 had passed,

I got a call from the Local Leader intern, Staci Lu-Nguyen, who originally texted me a copy of ER2. She said, "There is someone you might want to talk to standing by me." It was Jacoe Mikulanec. As I started to thank Jacoe for his determination, his perseverance and his leadership on ER2, a sudden wave of emotion rushed over me. Here was a person I had only met briefly a year ago, who stood up and spoke out for my son and all transgender individuals and their families. Here was a person when initially turned down by the resolution committee due to a procedural concern, found another way for his voice and his chapter's voice to be heard with the support of other JACL chapters and Chip Larouche, who suggested that the resolution be brought to the floor for consideration. As I thanked Jacoe, I was choking on my words because I felt so much gratitude for his heart that didn't give up and his voice that didn't stop speaking.

To all the chapters and individuals that rallied together for this resolution, I hope you know the message you sent to families like ours and children like my son. I hope you will continue your work on LGBT issues and call upon me if I can help in any way. I am now filled with more passion and determination to show up and be a voice for all of our families and children. What you have done through ER2 will inspire my work for years to come. I am so grateful for each of you. . . .

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



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