



THE NATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF THE JACL

Oct. 16-29, 2015

# PACIFIC CITIZEN



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## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR



## A DIGITAL-ONLY P.C.?

Change is inevitable. Digital is the future. The question is, are we ready to go to a digital-only *Pacific Citizen* now? In a few short months?

During its quarterly meeting on Oct. 3, the JACL National Board voted to cease print publication (with the exception of a few issues such as the Holiday and Scholarship specials) and move to an all-digital format of the *Pacific Citizen* beginning in March 2016.

Although the move to digital has been an ongoing debate for years, the call for such action now has only started an even bigger discussion.

I came to the P.C. in 2012 after spending more than 15 years at one of the largest daily entertainment newspapers in the world. I knew what it was like to work for a newspaper that needed to be one step above the rest in terms of technology, content, revenue — you name it.

But then I switched gears entirely and came onboard the P.C. Here, I've developed a whole new appreciation for what I do and who I do it for. General names that meant nothing to me before have now turned into real faces with voices that are truly passionate for this 86-year-old newspaper. You see, the P.C. represents your history. Your life.

But now, all that will change beginning next year. Sure, for many, digital is easier, offers instantaneous fulfillment and, depending on who you talk to, is more "cost effective." But for others, such a change will come at great risk to members of our general readership.

Huge questions remain: How will the P.C. sustain its revenue stream with the move to digital? How will membership and our nonmember subscribers be affected? What plan is in place for those with no computer access? Will there be help for readers to download the PDF versions of the P.C.? Why now?

The P.C. staff, upon direction of the JACL National Board, is tasked with making sure this transition goes as smoothly as possible. Therefore, we would like to hear from you — our readers — about YOUR questions, objections and concerns. You are our most valuable commodity, and you deserve to come first and foremost.

Whatever the cost.

I encourage you to send me a Letter to the Editor or email me at [pc@pacificcitizen.org](mailto:pc@pacificcitizen.org).

Sincerely,

Allison Haramoto, Executive Editor

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☐ YES! I want my paperless P.C.

☐ NO! I want to keep my P.C. as is



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THIS MONTH

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To avoid interruptions in delivery, please notify your postmaster to include periodicals in your change of address (USPS Form 3575)



## YOUTH PERSPECTIVE



## THE DANGER OF A SINGLE JAPANESE AMERICAN STORY

By Ryan Kenji Kuramitsu

The writer Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, in a talk on “the danger of a single story,” shares an early encounter with a college roommate who was shocked to learn that Adichie, an international student from Nigeria, knew how to use the stove. Adichie recounts that her roommate expected the totality of Africa to be “a single story of catastrophe” — one likely replete with images of AIDS, poverty, big game animals roaming wild, grass huts and crumbling cities, children with wide eyes and swollen bellies and corrupt governments fostering bitter wars. The problem with stereotypes, Adichie eventually concludes, is not that they are untrue but that they are incomplete.

As the Palestinian poet Mourid Barghouti has written, it is easy to blur the truth with a simple linguistic trick: One must simply neglect to speak of what happened first. “Start your story with ‘Secondly,’” he explains, “and the arrows of the Red Indians are the original criminals and the guns of the white men are entirely the victims.”

This logic is spectacularly commonplace. The single story — starting our telling in the book’s second chapter — allows the earnest use of phrases like “black on black

crime” while carefully omitting the names of the patriots who designed the ghettos. It allows the praising of Israeli settlements and the condemnation of the slinging of rocks and rockets at the tanks that razed villages in the saga’s prologue.

This is the logic of a single story: extracting a thin thread of circumstance from the wider tapestry of a people’s history and holding the kernel up as gospel. Secondly, starving Africans. Secondly, the arrows of the Native Americans. Secondly, a Palestinian rabbi is crucified by Rome for spreading sedition and fostering terrorism. Secondly, those unpatriotic, disloyal wartime Nisei who didn’t volunteer as soldiers. Secondly, Black rage. “Secondly” permits the leapfrogging past a prologue of occupation, plunder, and concentration camps to divert attention to a red herring plucked from the ocean’s greater context.

Retelling the past in this way is inherently political: Divorce an instance of history from its wider landscape, and one is allowed to maintain a convenient masquerade. The revisionist is permitted to paint Nagasaki and Hiroshima as nothing more than ordinary, unavoidable machinations of war, not as the earth-shattering crimes against humanity they are. One is allowed to complain about the influx of refugees and undocumented immigration into a land that was seized and baptized into an empire by conquest and violence. Historical amnesiacs can genuinely reread Confederate flags as emblems of courage and pride rather

than as symbols representing heritages of white supremacy, treason and rape. Statues raised to slavers and secessionists are happily restored rather than retired as they rust with the passage of time.

This trickery is the essence of why a single story is profoundly dangerous. For Nikkei, not all members of the Japanese American community fit neatly into the concentration/loyalty/liberty model of history as we have grown used to telling it. We are the descendants of both draft resisters and go-for-brokers, Nisei and Japanese nationals. We are of multiracial and monoracial ancestry, and we inhabit a vast spectrum of genders and sexual orientations, all of which should encourage us to push back against our flattening into a single story.

“Show a people as one thing, as only one thing, over and over again, and that is what they become,” Adichie teaches us. We cheat ourselves when we censor or boycott the stories that do not fit nicely within the gatekeepers’ approved markers. We do not need to tone down or ignore the lives of faithful and persecuted draft resisters like Yosh Kuromiya. We do not need to hush the little-known story of Jiro Onuma, the gay Issei who disrupted convenient ideas of Asian family and male respectability by spending his time in camp collecting photographs highlighting the male physique. We certainly do not need to frantically sweep the Mike Masaoka and the Japanese American Citizens League as told by George Takei’s “Allegiance” under the cheerful rubric of Japanese American patriotism.

We must hold space for each of our unique perspectives rather than anxiously demanding that a single story of “the Japanese American legacy” be snapshotted, mummified and delicately retold in a crisp, acceptable way to each succeeding generation. We must insist upon greater airtime for our counternarratives — the hidden perspectives from which we often learn far more than from those stories we already know.

>> See STORY on page 12

## A YONSEI TRANSPLANTED



### IN A WORD

By Matthew Ormseth

America was rocked by another outburst of violence last week when a gunman opened fire at a community college in western Oregon, killing nine people before turning the gun on himself and taking his own life. I won’t throw this piece in with the countless arguments for and against stricter gun control policies; there are enough of those articles swirling about on the web as it is, replete with cyber fistfights in the comments section. What I’m concerned with is the language we use to describe and publicize these accounts of mass destruction because I’ve noticed a disturbing trend.

In this particular incident, along with other recent high-profile shootings such as the Charleston church massacre in June and the 2014 rampage at the University of California, Santa Barbara, the perpetrators have been described as gunmen, shooters, assailants, killers and murderers. Their callousness is well-documented, their sadism beyond doubt. And yet, reporters and journalists have rarely, if ever, called these men terrorists. The word *terrorist* is reserved for a higher echelon of evil, it seems, than mere murder.

Yet when you read the FBI’s definition of terrorism —

“to intimidate or coerce a civilian population; to influence the policy of a government by intimidation or coercion; or to affect the conduct of a government by mass destruction, assassination or kidnapping” — you can’t help but wonder why we don’t call them what they are: terrorists.

The shooter in Charleston, who I’ll refrain from referring to by name, openly espoused white supremacist, Neo-Nazi views, sported flags and jackets emblazoned with the insignias of segregationist governments and chose a black church and black churchgoers as the site of his massacre and his victims. In the 2014 UCSB shooting, the perpetrator posted numerous clips of a videotaped manifesto, in which he calmly laid out his deranged, misogynistic ideology. His target was a sorority at the college campus, and his intended victims were women. Perhaps we don’t reserve the designation of “terrorist” for a certain type of evil. Perhaps we only reserve it for a certain type of people.

Calling the shooters — Caucasian in the Charleston case and half-Caucasian in the UCSB and Oregon shootings — terrorists would strike many Americans as odd. In the Western imagination, a terrorist is inextricably swaddled in the imagery of the Middle East: Kalashnikov at the hip, keffiyeh headscarf, shaggy beards. We think of the Sept. 11 attacks, suicide bombers in Iraq and Afghanistan, the death-dealing legions of ISIS. We don’t think of angry kids taking their parents’ guns to school and killing their classmates as terrorists.

It’s interesting to note, though, that another recent massacre, the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing, was nearly

unanimously declared a terrorist attack by most major media outlets. It might be because the perpetrators of the attack, Tamerlan and Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, were of Middle Eastern origin and adherents of Islam. It might be because the method of the attack — bombs, rather than guns — fit neater into the Western conception of the word *terrorism* than a shooting rampage.

But for whatever reason, the American media did not hesitate to brand the bombing, which killed three bystanders, a terrorist attack. By contrast, the Charleston city police chief declared the 2015 shooting to be a hate crime, but refrained from designating it as an instance of terrorism.

Another incident that comes to mind when examining the rhetoric of mass murder in the media is the crash of Germanwings Flight 9525, in which a German pilot flew his plane into the French Alps, killing himself and the other 149 people onboard. The pilot was described as suicidal; news outlets made much of the pilot’s mental health and history of depression. He was not often called a murderer, no matter that he took 149 unsuspecting lives along with his own.

German detectives found no evidence of political or religious motives on the part of the pilot and declared that they were dealing with simply a case of severe illness, rather than an instance of terrorism. Did they imagine that it might be some consolation to the families of the victims — that their loved ones were lost not in a hijacking by Islamist fanatics, but rather by being taken along, unwittingly, in a lonely and depressed man’s fiery adieu to the world he no longer cared for?

And you might say *shooter, murderer, perpetrator, terrorist* — they’re just terms, just words we use to describe terrible events whose horror remains unchanged, no matter what we decide to call those involved. But that’s not true.

>> See WORD on page 12



# A Paper No More

JACL National Board votes to end the printed edition of the *Pacific Citizen* with an issued letter from National President David Lin.

By P.C. Staff

**A**fter 86 years of publishing social justice and civil rights news for the JACL and the community-at-large, the *Pacific Citizen* will end its official printed legacy.

The *Pacific Citizen* will now transition into an all-digital publication starting March 2016 after a unanimous vote was made during the JACL National Board Meeting in Chicago on Oct. 3.

JACL VP of Membership Toshi Abe was not present; however, the motion still passed with an undisputed vote.

JACL National President David Lin wrote a letter, informing members of the transition and assuring them that based on a review made by the National Board "it was determined that the best course of action for the *Pacific Citizen* and for the JACL as a whole is to transition the *Pacific Citizen* to digital to reduce current and future expenses in a financially sustainable manner."

President Lin's full letter can be found on Page 5.

The plan hopes to deliver issues faster through email with an attached link for the PDF file issues. Outlined procedures on delivering issues to members without access to email or the Internet will be discussed at a future time. At this time, it is understood that resources and expenses to print and mail PDF copies to members will be taken care of by individual JACL chapters.

Members inquiring about the distribution of printed PDF versions of the *Pacific Citizen* are asked to contact their local chapter presidents.

In the approved plan, the *Pacific Citizen* will continue to be published bimonthly, in PDF format, beginning March 2016. Only a few special issues will print and reach mailboxes, such as the annual Holiday Special Issue and the Scholarship issue.

Moving forward, the National Board has asked the *Pacific Citizen* to notify JACL members and nonmember subscribers of this official transition. Instructions also include informing current advertisers of the plan and "reassure them that there will not be any decrease in the number of exposures of their advertisement through this transition," according to Lin.

However, at this time, it is unclear how the digitization of the *Pacific Citizen* will impact JACL membership as well as the paper's advertising revenue. No surveys or research have been conducted to provide data about this decision.

"There is no doubt that there will be an impact on some members who feel that the P.C. is the most important benefit," VP Planning and Development Chip Larouche said. "Some will find it more convenient to have a digital version."

In response, Lin assured the board that "there will be no impact on membership revenue if everything is done correctly." He went on to add that "we collect the names and addresses of those who need printed versions." A person dedicated to contacting subscriber information and tasked to execute an outreach campaign has not been identified at this time.

Other P.C. revenue-generating items that could potentially be affected by this announcement include

paid obituary tributes, donations to keep the printed paper, paid subscriptions — revenue will be a challenge with this new change.

Current advertisers have not commented on whether or not they will continue doing business with the *Pacific Citizen* after the transition. As for nonmember subscribers to the paper, it is unclear what steps and procedures will be taken to ensure a refund.

The *Pacific Citizen* Editorial Board's response is printed on Page 5.

"Letters to the Editor" are highly encouraged and should be sent to [pc@pacificcitizen.org](mailto:pc@pacificcitizen.org) or mailed to the P.C.'s new address in Little Tokyo.

A full report addressing the finances and budget will print in the next issue, Oct. 30, along with reactions and responses to the National Board's vote and President Lin's plan.

During the National Board meeting, other items included JACL National Director Priscilla Ouchida's request for JACL to sponsor the 110th anniversary of the San Francisco Japantown in 2016.

JACL was asked to host an event in support of the anniversary and donate \$1,000 in support of the celebration. A motion was carried and approved as "the staff in San Francisco feel this is important," Ouchida explained. "Because we are part of the community, JACL is the third-largest organization in the area."

Ouchida updated the board on the Smithsonian sponsorship, which stands at roughly \$11,000 received and \$40,000 outstanding. At this time, only a handful of chapters have been contacted about the \$10,000 level donation as fundraising efforts for 2015 come to a close.

A motion was carried to approve taking payment for the Smithsonian from the national reserves.

In addition to the Smithsonian fundraising efforts, JACL National pushes forward in promoting the annual fund drive.

Secretary Treasurer Matthew Farrells gave a financial report, informing the board that net revenue is \$33K below for the period a year ago or down 13 percent over the same period. "Membership income and fundraising are strongest performances," Farrells says. However, expenses are over budget by 13 percent. Contributions, contract servers and travel expenses are standing over budget. General operations are over 17.8 percent as well.

The Finance Committee is looking into recommendations to improve and reduce the deficit.

For the 2017 JACL Convention, the board approved to host it at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C.

Additionally, a motion was carried to authorize VP of Membership Toshi Abe, who was not at the meeting, to initiate the notification of chapters not in good standing in accordance with Article II, Section 5, starting the process of charter validation.

In the Governor's Caucus report, IDC District Governor Jeanette Misaka will end her time on the board as well as PSW District Governor David Kawamoto. PNW District Governor Sheldon Arakaki will be the new Governor's Caucus Chair.

The next National Board meeting is scheduled for Feb. 6, 2016, in San Francisco at JACL's National Headquarters in Japantown.





# JACL NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S LETTER ON THE PACIFIC CITIZEN GOING DIGITAL

*Greetings! It's early October and the cool autumn weather is already here in New Jersey!*

I am writing to inform you about an important decision your National Board made at a meeting

on Saturday, Oct. 3, 2015, regarding the *Pacific Citizen*.

As all of you know, the newspaper industry has been on the decline for years with the advent of online journalism, mobile devices and social media delivering news and information to consumers using a new business model. This trend has resulted in declining readership as well as advertising revenue that were essential in supporting traditional print media as we knew it. At the same time, expenses associated with newspaper production, content creation and distribution have gone up steadily.

Similarly, the *Pacific Citizen*, the flagship communications vehicle for our members and the Asian Pacific American community at large, has incurred significant financial deficits over the years due to the dynamics cited above in addition to our own membership decline. Specifically, the *Pacific Citizen* incurred a deficit of over \$120,000 in 2014 and approximately \$80,000 through July in 2015. Accordingly, if we continue maintaining the status quo on how the *Pacific Citizen* is delivered without any changes, we, as an organization, will be unable to remain financially stable long term.

In 2010, the National Board accepted a *Pacific Citizen* Editorial Board recommendation to transition the *Pacific Citizen* from a printed newspaper to an online one with the target completion date set for 2012. Unfortunately, there were also major staffing changes in 2010 and the plan was ultimately delayed. Subsequently, the National Board accepted a revised plan from the *Pacific Citizen* Editorial Board to extend the target date of going digital to May 2015. At the *Pacific Citizen* Editorial Board's recommendation, the National Board also lifted its hiring freeze in order to approve the hiring of an Associate Editor for the specific purpose of implementing

this digital transition. Time and again, the National Board has demonstrated its willingness to work with the *Pacific Citizen* Editorial Board on this important initiative and make the necessary investment to ensure this digital transition goes as smoothly as possible.

I'm sure many of you are asking the question, "Why is this needed? Is this the first step in doing away with the *Pacific Citizen*?" We can assure you that is not the case. On the contrary, we are trying to save and shore up the *Pacific Citizen*, so it can stay financially sound in order to serve the JACL members for years to come. We fully understand the importance of the *Pacific Citizen* to our members, but the difficulty appears when reviewing the overall financial health of the *Pacific Citizen*. Based on that review, it was determined that the best course of action for the *Pacific Citizen* and for the JACL as a whole is to transition the *Pacific Citizen* to digital to reduce current and future expenses in a financially sustainable manner.

Despite all of these grave challenges, our plan is to continue to publish the *Pacific Citizen*, but also make a change in how we deliver it. The vast majority of our members will be receiving an email message announcing the availability of the new issue of the *Pacific Citizen* with a direct link to a Portable Document Format (PDF) file where our members can view the paper online immediately, without the delay of mail delivery. By the way, we know that many of our members are already receiving their chapter newsletters this way. For those members without access to computers, we will devise a way to have the PDF file printed and delivered to them. One more thing: we will continue to publish several special issues a year in newspaper print, such as the Holiday issue and the Scholarship issue, as two examples. To be clear, our members will continue to receive their beloved *Pacific Citizen* at the same frequency, and with speedier email delivery for those with email access.

We also clearly understand that there is a risk in losing the advertising revenues as a result of this transition. The National Board has instructed the *Pacific Citizen* staff to begin discussions with our advertisers on our plan and to reassure them that there will not be any decrease in the number of exposures of their advertisement through this transition.

For the past couple of years, we have stabilized the financials of this organization with the net income exceeding budgeted amounts two years in a row, under the stewardship of your National Board and by the amazing work of the staff. To ensure that will continue to be the case, we need to shore up the financials of the *Pacific Citizen*, hence this National Board made the decision to transition the *Pacific Citizen* to digital, with a strong focus on no changes to our members in receiving the content of the *Pacific Citizen*.

To ensure a successful implementation of this plan, we will be communicating with you using all the channels we have at our disposal, including the *Pacific Citizen*, the JACL Digest, direct mail and district council and chapter meetings. I would also like to personally solicit your support by asking for your email address such that we can ensure that you and your family will continue to receive the *Pacific Citizen* on a timely basis. As it stands now, we plan to go with digital delivery of the *Pacific Citizen* in March 2016.

In closing, I and my fellow board members thank you for the privilege and opportunity to serve on the JACL National Board and we thank you in advance for your support on this important initiative for the JACL!

*David T. Lin*  
David T. Lin  
National President

## LETTER FROM THE PACIFIC CITIZEN EDITORIAL BOARD

The *Pacific Citizen* Editorial Board members listed below are disappointed to learn the recent vote by the JACL National Board on Oct. 3 pushed the move to a digital *Pacific Citizen* in a very short window to commence in March 2016.

The *P.C.* Editorial Board was neither consulted nor informed of the pending vote by the National Board. We feel the time window offered to complete the implementation to digital format is inadequate and are concerned that there is no transition plan in place. The details of how this move to a digital *P.C.* will be accomplished in such a very short time frame is yet to be defined.

We respectfully request the National Board reconsider its vote and allow more time for an effective and successful transition to the digital format. The move to digital doesn't have a business or work plan to ensure, or even improve the odds, of success, digital or print.

There are many details to be considered, including the potential impact on membership, advertising revenue and the final decision on the correct digital format. Input from chapters and membership should be sought, and they should be allowed time to consider the changes and a venue to voice their comments and concerns.

Jim Duff  
NCWNP

John Saito  
PSW

Gil Asakawa  
IDC

## LETTER FROM BERKELEY JACL

At the recent Berkeley JACL Board of Directors Meeting held Tuesday night, Oct. 6, we had an opportunity to discuss at length the decision of the JACL National Board for the *Pacific Citizen* to go completely digital by March 2016. This action by the National Board came as quite a surprise to *P.C.* Editorial Board Members who were notified of this action via email on Oct. 5 by the *P.C.* Following the Berkeley Board's discussion of the issue, the following points were brought up expressing our Board's concerns about pursuing the digital-only option.

- What, if any, surveys, questionnaires and/or studies have been conducted to ask JACL members if they favor the digital-only option?
- Assuming that many, if not most of the current JACL members prefer the hard-copy version of the *P.C.*, pursuing the digital-only option may result in a decrease in membership.
- Based upon the anecdotal evidence provided by the Berkeley Board Members, many senior citizen members prefer the hard-copy version of the *P.C.* and would either have great difficulty or be unable to access a digital version.
- Assuming that many, if not most of the consistent and/or major donors to the JACL are folks that prefer the hard-copy version, pursuing the digital-only option may decrease donations.
- Transferring both the cost and responsibility of providing hard-copy *P.C.*'s to the Chapters is unfair, burdensome and fiscally unsound, assuming that the cost of printing hard copies decreases as the number of copies increases.
- Under the circumstances, assuming this has not been previously undertaken, members should be asked whether they prefer the digital-only option.
- It would seem prudent for the Chapters to know how much money will be saved by changing to digital-only copies.
- If the digital-only option is contemplated, it would seem appropriate to first test, on a limited basis, how well it is received by the membership.
- Finally, under the circumstances, consideration should be given to offering members the choice of whether they prefer the hard-copy or digital version of the *P.C.*

*Thank you,*

Jim Duff on behalf of the Berkeley BOD,  
*P.C.* Editorial Board Rep for NCWNP



# A TALE OF TWO MUSEUMS TEAMING UP FOR A PAIR OF IMPACTFUL EXHIBITS

The work of Ansel Adams, Dorothea Lange, Toyo Miyatake and Miné Okubo are on display at the Skirball Cultural Center in L.A.

By **Connie K. Ho**,  
Contributor

**T**ake a walk back in time with the newest art exhibits at the Skirball Cultural Center in Los Angeles. The exhibit “Manzanar: The Wartime Photographs of Ansel Adams” features 50 photographs by the famous photographer that display the treatment of Japanese Americans at the Manzanar incarceration camp during World War II. Images document life at the camp, including individuals in professional attire as well as individuals participating in various activities such as working in the fields or playing baseball. The Manzanar War Relocation Center was located 220 miles north of Los Angeles and was the first of 10 camps established to detain approximately 120,000 individuals of Japanese descent after the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941. Along with the images by Adams, the exhibition includes work by Dorothea Lange and Toyo Miyatake, as well as publications, artifacts, propaganda materials and artwork on life and conditions at the Central California camp. In addition to the Adams exhibit, the Skirball also has on display “Citizen 13360: The Art of Miné Okubo.” This companion exhibit showcases the work by Japanese American artist Miné Okubo, who detailed the challenges she faced at camp. The exhibition will be shown until Feb. 21, 2016.

**Connie K. Ho** for the *Pacific Citizen* spoke with curators from the Japanese American National Museum and the Skirball Cultural Center to learn a little more about the two exhibits.

**The Pacific Citizen: How did the collaboration come about?**  
**Lily Anne Welte Tomai, Ph.D., a curator of history at JANM:** They reached out to us, and we were happy to lend our collection — they wanted to make sure to get the story complete.

**P.C.: Can you tell us about the exhibits such as the one on Miné Okubo's art?**

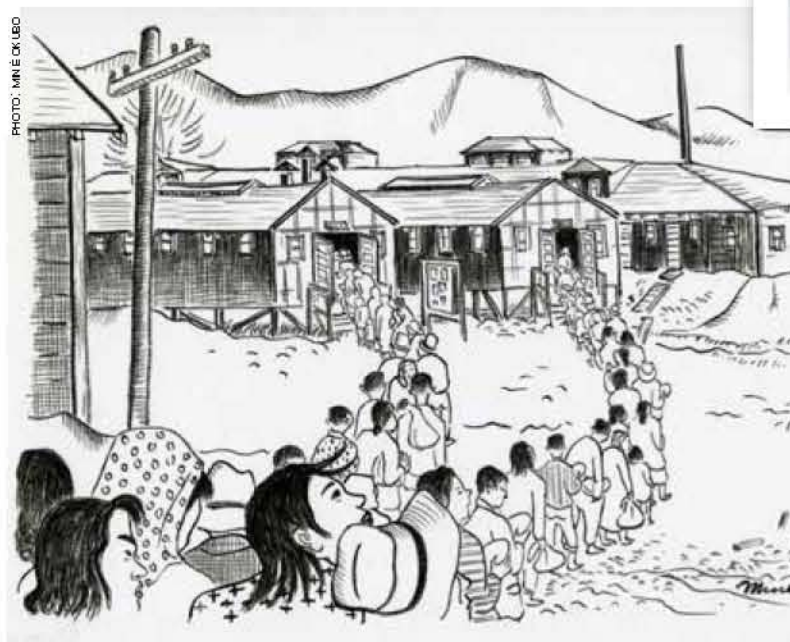
**Tomai:** Each page has about half a page; she drew waiting in line for the mess hall, waiting in line for the bathroom, seeing the winter, walking in the dusty sandstorm. She did the best that she could with the materials that she had, so her drawings — there's a simplicity to them; I think that she captures the harsh reality of the incarceration camps. Her images also capture the day-to-day experiences. She was able to document the things that were invisible, all the stress and trauma of incarceration. Ansel Adams was commissioned to take these photographs, so the pictures are sort of from the perspective of an outsider taking pictures of the incarceration camps.

We also have an item from our collection: a suitcase that was donated, a neat 3-D artifact that was carried with a family to Manzanar. The exhibit is also made of artifacts like ID cards, other smaller pieces that can supplement that first-person perspective. Many times, family members will contact us and donate items to the museum. What we do is we ask for a family history — this gives an artifact the story behind it.

**P.C.: How did the exhibit come about?**

**Linde Lehtinen, assistant curator at the Skirball Cultural Center:** Our director called to our attention an exhibition that was put forward by a photographic traveling exhibition. It was a set of 50 photographs by Ansel Adams with some additional material, some magazines from the time, some paintings from former internees. When we showed interest in that exhibition and bringing it to the Skirball, we decided we wanted to enhance it a fair amount in order to really work with our particular mission at the Skirball and really use the resources we had here in and around Los Angeles.

The companion exhibition started as a result of delving into the research on Manzanar and into the history of Japanese American incarceration during World War II — Miné Okubo's book really surfaced for us. We realized that JANM had a collection of original



Young evacuees of Japanese ancestry wait their turn for baggage inspection, Turlock, CA, 1942. Gelatin silver print (printed later). Private collection; courtesy of Photographic Traveling Exhibitions.



Boys Behind Barbed Wire (Norito Takamoto, Albert Masaichi and Hisashi Sansui), 1944. Gelatin silver print. Courtesy of Alan Miyatake, Toyo Miyatake Manzanar Collection.



(Above) Toyo Miyatake, Photographer, 1943. Gelatin silver print (printed 1984). Private collection; courtesy of Photographic Traveling Exhibitions.

Miné and Toku standing with their luggage, Berkeley, California, 1942. Drawing. Courtesy of the Japanese American National Museum, gift of Miné Okubo Estate, 2007.62.

drawings, and we also realized that the archive of Miné Okubo was housed in Riverside at the Center for Social Justice and Civil Liberties. We worked with them to develop an exhibition about the book and its impact and really about Miné Okubo's life and her experience in Topaz and how she captured it through these really remarkable sets of illustrations.

**P.C.: What are some of the highlights?**

**Lehtinen:** One of my favorites is a set of photos we got that are by both Dorothea Lange and Clem Albers, who was also photographing Manzanar in the early days of the camp development. We got these particular prints because they have the word “impounded” written in cursive at the bottom, meaning they were essentially censored. To me, they really say so much in terms of objects as documents, as images, as components of history in that they show that the government intervened in terms of who they were depicting in this particular story and how they wanted to publish them. Dorothea Lange's images were too raw, too revealing in their minds, and it's really fascinating to see that moment of government intervention and censorship.

Another one of my favorites is one of the portraits that Ansel Adams did of a man because it's such a captivating portrait. First, it's really interesting because people aren't used to seeing Ansel Adams' portraits. Everyone's used to seeing the landscapes, and even kind of adjusting to that is a bit of a process. This portrait is cropped so tightly — he looks so directly at the viewer that it's almost confrontational and just haunting even. What we did in the exhibition was that we paired that with original documents we found in UCLA's collection, original authorization forms that he would have signed to allow Ansel Adams to photograph him. That might sound mundane, but there were additional questions asked of him. The first part of the form has the basics with a signature; the second part of the form has some of his background information, which is a barrack number in Manzanar — you see that he went to high school in Los Angeles, wants to be a businessman and studied social science. The third page asked him a series of questions: What were your feelings before the war?

**>> See EXHIBITS on page 8**



Toshi Ito holds her 1946 diploma from Chapman College with her graduation portrait.

# Chapman Alumna Returns to Share 'THE LEGACY OF HEART MOUNTAIN'

At a special screening, Toshi Ito tells of her incarceration experience at Heart Mountain and life after the war.



Toshi Ito (center) along with (from left) Patti Hirahara, Stephanie Takaragawa, Jeff MacIntyre and David Ono



(From left) David Ono and Jeff MacIntyre were given special thank you message boards signed by those that went to this year's Heart Mountain Pilgrimage.

By Tiffany Ujiye,  
Assistant Editor

Now 91, Toshiko "Toshi" Ito returned to Chapman University in Orange County, Calif., for a special screening of the four-time Emmy Award-winning documentary film "Witness: The Legacy of Heart Mountain" on Oct. 1. There in a theater full of students, faculty and community members, Ito told her story on screen and in person about her experience through incarceration and her return to Chapman University after World War II.

"In 1946 when other universities were turning away Japanese Americans, we're proud that it was Chapman that admitted you and gave you the opportunity to finish your degree," said Lemuel E. Day, department chair of sociology at Chapman University. "As the sociology department, we are more honored and proud that you chose us."

ABC7 Eyewitness News Anchor

an unfolding history of interviews with descendants such as Judge Lance Ito, Toshi's son; Brian Kito of Fugetsu-Do Confectionary; and former United States Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta, among many, emerged.

With a visit to the actual campsite, Ono and MacIntyre brought a powerful message of what happens when civil liberties are traded for fear and discrimination.

During a panel discussion that also featured Toshi Ito, Assistant Professor at Chapman University Stephanie M. Takaragawa and Director of the Samueli Holocaust Memorial Library Marilyn Harran, Ono and MacIntyre stressed the importance of these stories so often dismissed in America's textbooks.

"When I was growing up, I didn't know about incarceration and learned about it much later," Ta-

and producer David Ono and Content Media Group's Jeff MacIntyre spent years diving into the largest private collection of more than 2,000 photographs taken at Heart Mountain by George and Frank Hirahara, a father-son duo. From there,

karagawa explained. Takaragawa was involved with the Japanese American National Museum in its formative years and began discussions within her own family history. "After the museum, my family and I were able to talk about it and get other perspectives and use their experience to allow other people to understand what was going on in this moment in American history."

That evening, Toshi Ito carried her 1946 diploma from Chapman College, the former name of Chapman University, along with a photo of herself in cap and gown.

It should have been a celebrated moment in her life after graduating from John Marshall High School in Los Angeles in 1942. As a fresh graduate, Toshi Ito looked forward to college — but her plans were interrupted.

Like many Japanese Americans during WWII who were forcibly removed from their homes by Executive Order 9066, Toshi Ito was placed in an incarceration camp. For her and her family, Heart Mountain camp near Cody, Wyo., was where they were settled with 10,000 others in 467 barracks.

For a while, she attended National College in Kansas City, Mo., and then married James Ito, who was also incarcerated at Heart Mountain. After the war, the Ito's returned to

a changed Southern California, one that was disturbed and unwelcoming. In the film, Toshi Ito spoke about the slashed tires, the vandalism and her own father's suicide upon returning home from the camps. Postwar life was a continued struggle, even outside the camp walls.

"This is a story never told in our schools, and it's still an unknown chapter of this country's history in our textbooks," Ono said. "Jeff and I feel like this film accomplishes something because of people like Toshi. You feel their pain, and they capture you emotionally about what camp life was like. For many, when the war was over, people thought that it was the end of the story. But really that was one of the hardest parts — rebuilding their lives and starting over."

However, Toshi Ito wanted to continue her college career, but opportunity to complete her education was limited because of the anti-Japanese sentiment that was prevalent following the war. But Chapman opened its doors to her, allowing Ito to earn her degree in sociology in 1946 along with nine other classmates.

"The students were so kind to me," Toshi Ito recalled about her time at Chapman.

She would go on to teach kindergarten and second grade for 26 years at Elysian Heights Elementary School in Los Angeles and write a book on her experience at Heart Mountain titled "Memoirs of Toshi Ito: USA Concentration Camp Inmate, War Bride, Mother of Chrisie and Lance Ito."

Today, Toshi Ito lives in a retirement community in Los Angeles where she held a film screening of "The Legacy of Heart Mountain" for senior residents. Afterward, she emailed Patti Hirahara about how the residents were left in silence, a few in tears.

"Many did not know about this experience," Toshi Ito told Hirahara. "This is how important this film is not only for the older generation but for students to continue this story." ■



# CLASSMATES CONVENE AT THE MANZANAR 70TH HIGH SCHOOL REUNION

The Class of 1945 gathers in Las Vegas for a remarkable reunion of people sharing a common experience and history.

By Charles James,  
Special Contributor

For two days on Sept. 14 and 15 in Las Vegas, Nev., 175 invited guests attended the 70th Manzanar High School Reunion, which was held at the California Hotel and Casino for the Class of 1945. Sharing in the celebrations were eight graduates of the Class of '55, five classmates from the Class of '43 and nine classmates from the Class of '44. It was a joyous, remarkable reunion of people sharing a common experience and history.

History is largely about people — about the roles and common experiences shared of past events or situations. A shared history of an experience is often remembered in joyous celebration, while at other times it is far more complicated. It may also bring up conflicting emotions — memories of sadness, anger, resentment, confusion or even shame. "Complicated" would likely best describe the emotions and experiences of the approximately 120,000 Japanese American citizens and immigrants of Japanese descent during World War II who were sent to concentration camps and denied their basic human and constitutional rights.

According to Grace (Oda) Anderson, vice chairperson for the 2015 Manzanar Reunion Committee, at least 61 of those attending the reunion were held at the Manzanar Relocation Center. "Many of us were children or other family members [were there]," said Anderson.

In addition to the 22 graduates of Manzanar High School, there were 22 others who attended school at Manzanar and at least three of those attending were born at Manzanar. A number of guests were from other camps. The age range of those attending the reunion ranged from 22 to 99 years old. Most of those attending came from California, but there were also people from Michigan, Nevada, Oregon,



(From left) Alisa Lynch Broch, Mark Hachtmann and Sarah Bone presented materials assembled by the Manzanar National Historic Site Ranger staff.

Texas, Utah and Washington.

Anderson proudly pointed out that "[my] parents met at Manzanar. Mom passed away in 2007, so we have been coming with our dad since 2008. Dorothy (Oda) and I joined the Reunion Committee in 2011. Dad had his three daughters, one son-in-law and two grandchildren there. His granddaughter, Julie, was the MC (for the reunion). His grandson, Scott, and Scott's girlfriend, Molly, were the photographers. Three of our cousins, whose parents were in Manzanar, were also there. The Oda family was well represented!"

Shizuko Fujioka (née Sakihara), a graduate of the Manzanar High School Class of '45, attended the reunion with her son, Robert, and her daughter, Margaret. Margaret Fujioka, the mayor and first Japanese American member of the Piedmont City Council, spoke briefly at the reunion and expressed her gratitude to those attending and for those on the Manzanar Committee that put it all together. Margaret Fujioka noted that her mother has attended the reunions for years and really looks forward to them. Sadly, Shizuko's husband, who often accompanied her, Yoshiro "Babe"

Fujioka, passed away two years ago, but "Shiz" continues to come, accompanied by other family members.

The oldest person attending the reunion was Sechico Hiroyama, soon to be 100 years old. She was sent to Manzanar from Terminal Island when she was 27 years old. Sitting beside her was 87-year-old Harumi Sylvia Yamashita, who as a young girl was also sent to Manzanar from Terminal Island near San Pedro, Calif., which was home to about 3,500 first-



Margaret Fujioka, mayor of Piedmont, Calif., thanked the reunion committee on behalf of her mother, Shizuko, saying her mother looks forward to the reunions all year.

and second-generation Japanese Americans prior to World War II. The FBI incarcerated all of the adult Issei males on Terminal Island on Feb. 9, 1942, and after President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 on Feb. 19, 1942, the rest of the inhabitants were given just 48 hours to evacuate their homes. After the forced evacuation, most would be sent to internment at Manzanar and other internment camps, never to return to the island as the government razed the homes, ensuring that no one could return after the war.

The importance of the Manzanar Reunions can be seen in the sharply diminishing numbers of those attending who were incarcerated during the war. The first reunion was held in Los Angeles on June 18, 1964, when the Class of '44 held a 20th reunion. There were 64 classmates in attendance. In 1974, the Class of '43 joined the class of '44, and it was decided that a reunion would be held every five years. On Sept. 1 and 2, 1984, the first Manzanar All-Camp Reunion was held in Los Angeles. In 1998, due to the ages of its attendees, the committee was asked to plan a reunion on a yearly basis, which it has done for the past 16 years. Most of the reunions have been held in Las Vegas since 1994.

This year's Manzanar Reunion also included many first-time attendees, said Anderson. Socializing was encouraged during the mixer with some ice breaker games, followed by Bingo. An update on the Manzanar site was presented by Manzanar Superintendent Bernadette Johnson. In addition, an informative visual tour of the Manzanar National Historic Site was presented in a slide show by Alisa Lynch Broch, chief of interpretation. Lastly, tribute was paid to the Jive Bombers and past Manzanar Reunion Committee members. Tote bags with commemorative picture frames, back scratchers, "good luck" kaeru and other goodies were given to all attendees.

Concern was expressed about whether or not the reunion will be held next year. In response, the *Pacific Citizen* was told by Grace Anderson that "there will probably be a reunion next year."

Let's all hope so!

EXHIBITS >>  
continued from page 6

What was your life like before the war? He described things like I was friends with Caucasians, we were happy. Postwar, he indicates clearly that he would like to see a society where the actual principles of American democracy are practiced. It's interesting to see a portrait like that paired with real documents where he shared his mind and stated that the real principles of American democracy are not happening — to me, that's really powerful.

We have things like a clip of a home movie that was filmed by a visitor to camp. It's in color, and it's really striking and vivid to see this experience in color. We see most of these images in black and white, but then to see the action shots, to see the children playing, to see women and men move through gardens, things that you wouldn't imagine that were part of this space, this prison camp — it was a life, it was a community, it was a microcity that they were trying to make the best they could because they had to cope and make do and the resilience of the community can come together despite the adversity, another lesson to learn from

and really admire in terms of what they were able to do despite the circumstances.

**What do you think is the impact of these two exhibits?**

**Lehtinen:** Students will be coming to the exhibition to learn from and engage with the materials in the Skirball space. That was a big part of why we wanted to do



Benji Iguchi with tractor, 1943. Gelatin silver print (printed 1984). Private collection; courtesy of Photographic Traveling Exhibitions.

this show — to reach that particular segment of our audience and examine the different lessons we can learn from this history, and how we can apply it to contemporary issues that deal with race, discrimination and immigration.

Our mission is to explore Jewish culture and life and values, especially in the United States. Our second mission is to branch off of that and look into broader issues of social justice and civil liberties that intersect with the Jewish experience but also goes beyond it and explores American democracy and the freedoms we can have in the United States. We found that kinship in terms of our mission and in terms of JANM, in terms of being a cultural center that looks at specific ancestry. The reason that we're doing it at the Skirball is that Jews, as we've learned throughout history, we understand what can happen when a minority is deprived of their rights and their dignity. This event in American history in terms of the incarceration of Japanese Americans really has a special resonance with the Jewish people, too.

I feel privileged to been able to explore this material and present this particular history, which was an incredibly dark and difficult and shameful moment in our history. But to me, it's important that we share it with as many people who can learn from it.



Manzanar Superintendent Bernadette Johnson (center) visits with Shizuko Fujioka (née Sakihara) and her son, Robert, and daughter, Margaret.



## JACL ISSUES STATEMENT ON 'ALLEGIANCE'

As the oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization, the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) is proud of our legacy, the important contributions of our readers and the unique opportunity we have to continue educating people around the world on the Japanese American incarceration experience during World War II and its relevance to civil rights work past and present.

On Feb. 19, 1942, President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, authorizing the forced removal of 120,000 Japanese Americans from their homes and into incarceration camps located in remote locations throughout the country.

This disturbing event, ignoring the principles of due process and equal protection set forth by the Constitution, serves as one of the darkest chapters in American history as well as an important reminder of the need for continued advocacy to ensure that the rights of American citizens are never violated again.

Originally founded in 1929, the JACL strives to secure and safeguard the civil rights of all communities affected by injustice and bigotry, in large part by reflecting upon and educating others on our own history.

As an open and inclusive Asian Pacific American civil rights organization, it is not difficult to find a myriad of opinions of the work and positions the organization has held, especially regarding the World War II incarceration.

In such a tumultuous period of time, the feelings of those affected and their positions on what the JACL could have or

should have done cannot be understated.

But with wartime hysteria creating rampant and violent racism, it is also not hard to understand how a relatively young organization and its leaders would have done whatever they could to navigate an impossible position with the best interest of their members and the community in mind.

"Allegiance," which originally debuted in San Diego in 2012, is a fictional musical inspired by the life of George Takei, who also stars in the performance opening on Broadway next month.



Performing "Allegiance" in San Diego were (from left) Lea Salonga, Telly Leung, George Takei and Paul Nakauchi.

The JACL appreciates the effort by Mr. Takei to bring the story of the imprisonment of Japanese Americans during World War II to a wide audience. However, it is important to keep in mind that this musical is an artistic interpretation of events that provide a backdrop for a love story.

Although most of the characters, which are loosely based on individuals, have fictional names, the JACL is disturbed by the play's use of the names of the Japanese American Citizens League and of Mike Masaoka. The JACL is concerned that by using actual names, audience members may forget that they are watching a historical fiction.

The JACL hopes that those who see "Allegiance" will see this as the start of a conversation, and an opportunity to be better educated on this horrific event, consider the implications of how this struggle has affected the Japanese American community and recognize how it may relate to issues within their own community.

These considerations are the reason the JACL has been a staunch supporter of all those affected by discrimination, such as our positions on LGBTQ rights or our support of Arab American, Muslim American and Sikh American communities in the wake of September 11th.

We invite anyone interested in learning more to access the resources available on our website and work with us to ensure such a tragic event is never repeated.

"Allegiance," which features George Takei, Telly Leung, Lea Salonga and Greg Watanabe, opens on Broadway at New York's Longacre Theatre on Nov. 8; previews began Oct. 6.

## KEIRO HOLDS COMMUNITY MEETING TO DISCUSS UPCOMING SALE

In response to public outcry, Keiro Senior HealthCare representatives address the public at Nishi Hongwanji Temple.

More than 400 community members, most of whom were wearing red, gathered inside the gym at Nishi Hongwanji Buddhist Temple in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo on Oct. 15 to attend an open meeting discussion with members of Keiro Senior HealthCare.

Holding signs of protest in red marker bearing the words "SAVE KEIRO," participants, led by the Ad Hoc Committee to Save Keiro, had the opportunity to directly voice their concerns regarding the sale of Keiro's facilities.

The four facilities in question — Keiro Retirement Home and Keiro Intermediate Care Facility in Boyle Heights, Keiro Nursing Home in Lincoln Heights and Keiro Nursing Home in Gardena — are set to be sold to Pacifica Companies for \$41 million; escrow is set to close early next year.

Earlier this month, Keiro and Pacific formally agreed upon conditions approved by the Attorney General. Conditions of the sale require Pacifica to operate the facilities for the next five years in the way Keiro has provided. Upon the sale, Keiro Senior HealthCare will continue to operate as a nonprofit organization.

The protest group began Sept. 9, and it has only grown from there. To date, the group has gathered nearly 2,000 signatures of supporters against the sale.

Representatives from Keiro, Pacifica and Aspen (future operator of the nursing homes and ICF) were present along with Keiro CEO Shawn Miyake and Chair of the Board Gary Kawaguchi.

Audience members were asked to write their questions on pieces of paper and were told to wait until the panel had finished its presentation before being allowed to speak.

Miyake again reiterated the board's decision to sell Keiro, citing that with the Affordable Care Act, patients have no choice but HMOs, which is cutting the chance that they will be able to live at Keiro. In addition, the demographics of the Japanese American community are changing as well.

"What's important for us is that the transition goes as smoothly as possible for residents, family members and your wonderful volunteers," said Tyler Verdieck of Pacifica. "We're here to listen to what's important to you."

But for Ad Hoc Committee Spokesman Jonathan Kaji, "This group will take whatever means necessary — legal means, administrative means — to stop this sale."

The committee is hoping that the attorney general will be able to postpone the sale and require a public hearing.

Keiro representatives encouraged the audience to send questions by email to [planningforthefuture@keiro.org](mailto:planningforthefuture@keiro.org).



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A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

# CALENDAR

## MDC

**Aki Yoru Fundraiser Dinner**  
**Omaha, NE**  
**Oct. 30; 6:30 p.m.**  
**Mt. Fuji Inn Restaurant**  
**7215 Blondo St.**  
**Price: \$35, kids 12 and under free**

Join the Omaha JACL chapter for its fourth annual Aki Yoru Fundraiser Dinner.  
**Info: Call Mike Lewis at (402) 399-0872 or email [mjlewis8@cox.net](mailto:mjlewis8@cox.net).**

**Inspiring the Future of Asian and Pacific Islander Public Health**  
**Chicago, IL**  
**Nov. 2; 8-10 p.m.**  
**McCormick Place Convention Center**  
**2301 S. Martin Luther King Dr.**

The Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology is hosting a students and young professionals "Meet & Greet."  
**Info: Visit <http://www.apicaucus.org/>.**

**Midwest Asian American Student Union Leadership Summit**  
**West Lafayette, IN**  
**Nov. 20-21**  
**Stewart Center**  
**128 Memorial Mall**  
 The Midwest Asian American Student Union Leadership Summit (MAASU LS) is offering students a chance to learn from experienced APIA community leaders.  
**Info: Visit [www.boilerlink.purdue.edu](http://www.boilerlink.purdue.edu).**

## PNW

20th Annual Japanese

**American New Year Celebrations Mochitsuki**  
**Portland, OR**  
**Jan. 31**  
**Portland State University**  
**1825 S.W. Broadway**  
 Portland's annual Japanese New Year celebration has been going on since 1996.  
**Info: Visit [www.mochipdx.org](http://www.mochipdx.org).**

## NCWNP

**Tanforan Assembly Center Memorial Reception**  
**San Bruno, CA**  
**Oct. 31; 11 a.m.**  
**San Bruno BART Station**  
**1151 Huntington Ave.**  
 The Tanforan Assembly Center Memorial Committee, in cooperation with BART, is hosting a reception to celebrate the commencement of a capital campaign to raise funds to create and install a Tanforan memorial.  
**Info: Seating is limited. Please RSVP to Steve Okamoto at [steve.okamoto@gmail.com](mailto:steve.okamoto@gmail.com).**

**Advancing Our Legacy: 2015 Annual Fundraising Dinner**  
**Oakland, CA**  
**Nov. 6; 6-9 p.m.**  
**Peony Seafood Restaurant**  
**388 Ninth St.**  
 The Asian American and Asian Diaspora Studies (AAADS) will be hosting a fundraising dinner that aims to advance the legacy of AAADS. The evening will focus on the importance of the studying of Asian Americans and API culture.  
**Info: Visit <http://aaads.berkeley.edu>.**

**Nathan Aweau Benefit Concert**  
**San Francisco, CA**  
**Nov. 6; 7:30 p.m.**  
**Japanese Cultural and Community Center of**

**Northern California**  
**1840 Sutter St.**  
**Price: General tickets \$40; VIP \$65**  
 Join the JCCCNC for an intimate evening with Hawaii's Nathan Aweau.  
**Info: Call (415) 567-5505 or visit [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com).**

## EDC

**East Meets West: Manhattan Luxury Real Estate Connect**  
**New York, NY**  
**Nov. 2; 8 a.m.-5 p.m.**  
**Waldorf Astoria New York**  
**301 Park Ave.**  
 The Asian Real Estate Association of America, New York Manhattan is hosting a networking event to bring together those working from "the East and those in the West."  
**Info: Visit [www.areaa.org/nymanhattan](http://www.areaa.org/nymanhattan).**

**Strategy Forward: 2015 TCG Fall Forum on Governance**  
**New York, NY**  
**Nov. 7-8; 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m., 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**  
**Convene Conference Center**  
**32 Old Slip**  
 The Asian American Arts Alliance will be organizing the 2015 TCG Fall Forum on Governance with additional help from the Theatre Community Group.  
**Info: Visit [www.tcg.org](http://www.tcg.org) or email [dberkshire@tcg.org](mailto:dberkshire@tcg.org).**

**(Re) Collecting the Vietnam War: An Asian American Literary Review**  
**New York, NY**  
**Asian Pacific American**

**Institute at New York University**  
**Nov. 11; 7-9 p.m.**  
**8 Washington Mews**  
 The editors and contributors of the *Asian American Literary Review's* "(Re) Collecting the Vietnam War" will be answering questions about the many issues involved in that special issue.  
**Info: Call (212) 998-3700.**

**Philadelphia Asian American Film Festival**  
**Philadelphia, PA**  
**Venues Vary**  
**Nov. 12-22**  
 The PAAFF has emerged as the premier Asian American film festival on the East Coast, featuring more than 60 films. This year's program includes discussions with filmmakers and special programs on food, music and culture.  
**Info: Visit [www.paaff.org](http://www.paaff.org).**

## PSW

**APAC's 'Night of the Round Tables'**  
**San Diego, CA**  
**Nov. 3; 5-8 p.m.**  
**Jasmine Seafood Restaurant**  
**4609 Convoy St.**  
 The Asian Pacific American Coalition (APAC) will host an event discussing the local elections and issues for the San Diego community.  
**Info: Email [Jason@jasonpaguio.com](mailto:Jason@jasonpaguio.com) or call (619) 796-4321.**

**Lecture and Book Signing 'San Jose Japantown: A Journey'**  
**Los Angeles, CA**  
**Nov. 7; 2-4 p.m.**

**Japanese American National Museum**  
**100 N. Central Ave.**  
 Curt Fukuda and Ralph Pearce, authors of "*San Jose Japantown: A Journey*," will be on hand to present their book and talk about the history and stories behind the legacy of San Jose's Japantown.  
**Info: Call (213) 625-0414 or visit <http://www.janm.org/events/>.**

**Immigration Screening Workshop — Lancaster Division**  
**Lancaster, CA**  
**Nov. 14; 10 a.m.-1 p.m.**  
**Lancaster United Methodist Church**  
**918 W Ave. J.**  
 The Asian Americans Advancing Justice, Los Angeles Division, is hosting an "Immigration Screening Workshop" for those in need of immigration legal assistance.  
**Info: Email [immrelief@advancingjustice-la.org](mailto:immrelief@advancingjustice-la.org) or call (213) 241-8885.**

**Asian American Expo 2016**  
**Pomona, CA**  
**Jan. 16-17; 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.**  
**Fairplex Pomona**  
**1101 W. McKinley Ave.**  
 The Chinese Overseas Marketing Services Corp. expo will host a number of products related to business services and finance sectors from leading exhibitors. Come out and learn more at this event.  
**Info: Call (909) 623-3111. ■**

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**FOR MORE INFO:**  
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 (213) 620-1767





# In Memoriam

**Akiyama, Ryoji, 84;** Monterey Park, CA; Oct. 3; he is survived by his wife, Yoko; daughters, Yayoi (Kevin) Christiansen and Megumi (Stephen) Lemons; he is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2.

**Amano, Jean C., 81;** Montebello, CA; Sept. 30; she is survived by her sons, Dennis (Leanne) and Brad Amano; sister, Mable (Yukio) Urushibata; gc: 3.

**Enomoto, Fusako, 95;** Whittier, CA; Oct. 11; she is survived by her son, Yo (Setsuko) Enomoto; sister, Matsuko (Masao) Iriyama; sister-in-law, Tokiko Tabata; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2; ggc: 3.

**Hori, Saburo, 97;** West Covina, CA; Oct. 9; he was predeceased by his wife, Lillian Hori; he is survived by his children, Kay Keiko (Ronald) Wornell, Joyce Shizuko (Gregory) Pratt and John Arthur (Margaret) Hori; gc: 6.

**Kamo, Doug, 65;** Vale, OR; Sept. 29; he was predeceased by his parents, Tom and Kimiko Kamo; he is survived by his wife, Bonnie; son, Thomas (Victoria); daughter, Samantha; brothers, Ray and Gary (Nancy) Kamo; gc: 3.

**Kobayashi, Fumiko Frances, 94;** Torrance, CA; Sept. 28; she is survived by her sons, Mark V. (Bella) and Ross W. (Sharon) Kobayashi; sister, Sue Nakasone; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 5.

**Kushi, Ritsuyo, 89;** Los Angeles, CA; Sept. 27; she was predeceased by her husband, Masato Kushi; daughter, Kyoko Sato; she is survived by her son, Takashi (Yumi) Kushi; she is also survived by many relatives here and in Japan; gc: 3.

**Matsuda, Michiya, 51;** Hacienda Heights, CA; Sept. 24; he is survived by his wife, Mayuu Matsuda; son, Glenn Michiya; step-children, Michele Ann and Jake Salazar; brothers, Kinya (Mayumi) and Tatsuya (Hisae Arai) Matsuda; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

**Morikawa, Misao, 90;** Mission Viejo, CA; Sept. 18; she is survived by her children, Mikio (Debbie) Morikawa, Janet (Dave) Iamizaki and Paula (Joey) Lunn; she is also survived by other relatives; gc: 6; ggc: 2.

**Muranaka, Akira Johnny, 88;**

Fountain Valley, CA; Sept. 17; he is survived by his family; step-children, Nathan (Debbie) and Sky Yoshimura; sister, Chiye (Shoji) Wada; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

**Naito, Mitsuo 'Mitts,' 83;** Boise, ID; Oct. 6; he was incarcerated at Poston; he was a veteran of the U.S. Army; he is survived by his wife, Joyce; children, Sidney, Tamiko, Holly, Mark and Parry; gc: 9; ggc: 1.

**Nakagawa, Mary Mariko, 89;** Monterey Park, CA; Sept. 22; she is survived by her sister, Nancy Hamamoto; nieces, Karen (Don) Reuser, Judy (George) Mayekawa, Sandy Hamamoto and Wendy (Marcelino) Hamamoto-Blanco; grandnephews and grandnieces, Stephanie, Ryan and Kimberly Mayekawa, Kyle and Sarah Reuser and Blanke Blanco; she is also survived by other relatives.

**Nakahara, Eiji, 77;** Monterey Park, CA; Sept. 23; he was incarcerated at Gila and was also a veteran of the U.S. Navy Army; he is survived by his siblings, May Teruyo Nakahara, Mary Shizuyo Muraoka, Grayce Sugiyu Ohasi, Ted Susumu Nakahara, Selma Eiko Yoshida and Jane Masayo Kurushima; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

**Nakanishi, Thomas, 77;** Honolulu, HI; he was a veteran of the U.S. Army; he is survived by his wife, Beatrice Sunae Nakanishi; sons, Darren Nakanishi and Duane Nakanishi; daughter, Dana Nakanishi; brother, Peter Nakanishi; sisters, Bernadette Nakanishi and Aileen Schroffner, Veronica Tanikawa, Thelma Miyashiro; gc: 4.

**Oka, Shirley Majorie, 61;** Palos Verdes Estates, CA; Sept. 13; she was predeceased by her mother, Yukie Florence Sakamoto; she is survived by her husband, Robert Melvin Oka; children, Russell and Jaclyn Oka; siblings, Ron (Kathy) Sakamoto and Arlene (Richard) Camacho; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

**Okamura, Nobuo, 86;** Pacific Palisades, CA; Oct. 5; husband of Yoko Okamura; survived by his children, Michael Hironobu (Denise) Okamura; he is also survived by many other relatives.

**Tojo, Ellen Nobue, 89;** Torrance, CA; Oct. 2; she is survived by her children, Rand (Frances) Tojo and Nann Gima;

she is also survived by six sisters and many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2; ggc: 4.

**Saito, James Osamu, 93;** Los Angeles, CA; Sept. 23; he was predeceased by his wife, Kathy; he is survived by his children, Eric (Lily), Brian (Stacy) and Steven (Deborah) Saito; sibling, Terry (E. Y.) Mori; sister-in-law, Mary Shimizu; he is also survived by many other relatives; gc: 6; ggc: 4.

**Sakoi, Masaru, 86;** Boise, ID; July 1; he was incarcerated at Gila; he was a veteran of the U.S. Army; he was predeceased by his parents, Haruichi and Kinuyo; sisters, Kiyo Fujimura and Sue Matsushita; he is survived by his wife, Sachi; son, Jeff Sakoi; daughter, Kaye Woods (Kelly); sisters, Shiz Hata, Chi Wakagawa, Tomi Kuga (Tad); gc: 4.

**Sasaki, Kimiko, 94;** Los Angeles, CA; Oct. 10; she is survived by her children, Dennis Sasaki and Patsy (Gary) Yamamoto; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2; ggc: 4.

**Shibata, Fumiko, 97;** Long Beach, CA; Oct. 5; she was predeceased by her husband, Hiroshi; son, Robert Shigeyuki; she is survived by her daughter, Lily Hiroko Masuno; son, Shingo William (Keiko) Shibata; she is survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 6; ggc: 9.

**Shimazu, Marian, 89;** Los Angeles, CA; Oct. 7; she was predeceased by her husband, Yoshio Shimazu; she is survived by her children, Kirk Shimazu and Cathy (David) Yee; she is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2.

**Uyekubo, Ruby Toshiko, 95;** Santa Monica, CA; Sept. 29; she is survived by her son, Gerry Akira (Cassie) Uyekubo; daughters, Reiko Kawai and Aiko (Robert) Mitchel; gc: 7; ggc: 7.

**Yamamoto, Joseph Mitsuo, 92;** Torrance, CA; Sept. 28; he is survived by his wife, Mitsuko H. Yamamoto; sons, David T. (Lisa) and Arnold H. Yamamoto; sis-

ters, Sumie Shima and Sugako S. Yamamoto; he is survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 4; ggc: 3.

**Yano, Masakazu 'Mas,' 92;** Ontario, OR; Aug. 4; he was predeceased by his wife, Harumi; son, David; he is survived by his children, Ron Yano, Betty (Yano) Goding and Dick Yano; brothers, Teruo, Shero and Hesa; gc: 9; ggc: 3.

**Yoshida, Masatoshi 'Mas,' 79;** Torrance, CA; Oct. 5; he was a veteran of the U.S. Army; he is survived by his sisters, Toshiko Loaiza, Fujino (Toshikazu) Miyata and Suzume Yoshida; nieces and nephews, Perry Yoshida, Yumi (Eric) Saiki, Bruce and Alan Shigyo and Christine (Michael) Mason; he is also survived by grandnieces, grandnephews and other relatives.

## TRIBUTE

### SHIZUE PHYLLIS FUJINAKA



Shizue Phyllis Fujinaka passed away on Sept. 24, 2015, from complications related to a head injury suffered during a fall. She was comforted by her family during the time of her hospitalization and passing.

Shizue was born in Stockton, Calif., on Aug. 24, 1925. The fifth of six children, she grew up on a farm on Bouldin Island. In 1932, following the passing of her mother at age 39, the children were moved to Japan

to live with their uncle, while their father and older brother stayed to run the farm. Four years later, the children were reunited with the family and continued farming in the Delta. Then in 1942, the family was uprooted and interned to the War Relocation Camp in Rohwer, Ark. She attended Rohwer High School, where she played the clarinet in the high school band and graduated in 1944. Following the end of World War II, the family moved back to California. There, she married Keiji "Kay" Fujinaka on March 27, 1949. Together, they started their own farming operation in Lodi. With her steadfast and unwavering support, they developed a successful row crop and vineyard farming operation. Along the way, she was an active member of the Lodi Buddhist Church, serving on numerous committees and even being a Cub Scout Den Mother. She was a devoted wife for 60 years until her husband's passing in 2009. She enjoyed listening to music from Japan, which played constantly in her house. She also attended weekly Tai Chi classes in Stockton and Lodi, where she enjoyed the company of fellow participants. To the end, she was devoted to her family, especially the grandchildren. "Obachan" always greeted them with a smile and snacks. She was a perfect example of the phrase, "Gaman" or perseverance, which characterized the Nisei generation. She overcame all obstacles in life without ever once complaining. To her, she lived a complete and happy life. She will be greatly missed, but never forgotten.

Shizue is survived by her sons, Glenn (Robin) and Steve (Barbie) Fujinaka. Grandchildren, Michael, Lindsay Graham (Tyler), Marisa, Christie and Trevor. Sisters, Tamaye Nakano and Yone Yookoji.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Kinzo Ichiki and Waka Watanabe, brothers Stanley and Kinji, sister Miyo Tanaka, and husband Keiji.

The family would like to thank Dr. James Hoff & Staff, Joyce Edwards, caretaker Meg Punao, and the NSICU nurses at UC Davis Medical Center for their care and support. A private family service is planned in Lodi. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in her name to the Lodi Buddhist Church at 23 N. Stockton St., Lodi, CA 95240 or a charity of your choice.

## 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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## STORY >> continued from page 3

Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the Lutheran pastor and theologian who was executed during World War II for his part in plotting to assassinate Adolf Hitler, wrote from prison: "We have for once learnt to see the great events of world history from below, from the perspective of the outcast, the suspects, the maltreated, the powerless, the oppressed, the reviled — in short, from the perspective of those who suffer."

There are many in and outside our community who would start our tale with the word "Secondly," insisting the official

narrative is the only one, that we must stop attempting to see the great events of Nikkei history "from below." There is a danger in this approach. Their logic is rooted in a great fear: a worry that if we depart from the established, popular ways we engage in storytelling our incarceration, then whatever "lessons" our history has to offer will lose their potency.

But the irony is that only bearing the awful plurality of all our stories together can we begin to approach what we call "the Japanese American experience." Affirming the humanity of those who burn American flags does not somehow cancel out the bravery of those who waved them in battle for a country that incarcerated them. The atrocities committed by the Empire of Japan do not invalidate the war crimes

committed by the United States or Germany — Bataan does not lessen Nagasaki does not lessen Dachau. We need to hear it all because it is, collectively, our world's wartime story.

In critically examining how we talk about our own history, we speak back against the ways we are continually stereotyped, shoo-homed, and otherwise stripped of our complexity. In affording the untold perspectives a seat of privilege, we insist upon our full right to nothing other than our own bristling, contradictory humanity — that our lives defy simple categorization, and are always more than just a single story.

*Ryan Kenji Kuramitsu is the JACL MDC Youth Representative.*

## WORD >> continued from page 3

As the years pass and these tragedies recede into memory, we remember some more vividly than others. We remember the ones we call "terrorist" attacks. The sad truth is, last week's shooting at Umpqua Community College will largely be forgotten by those not directly involved or affected, lost in the sea of mass shootings that occur on such a regular and terrible basis in America.

But the Boston bombing has not been forgotten, even if last week's shooter in Oregon killed more than three times as many people as the Tsarnaev brothers.

Terrorists frighten America far more than rampage shooters, and when we realize this, we realize that it does, after all, make a great deal of difference who we call a terrorist and who we call a shooter.

In his speech following the Umpqua shooting, President Barack Obama said, "I would ask news organiza-

tions [to] tally up the number of Americans who've been killed through terrorist attacks over the last decade and the number of Americans who've been killed by gun violence, and post those side-by-side on your news reports. We spend over a trillion dollars, and pass countless laws, and devote entire agencies to preventing terrorist attacks on our soil ... and yet we have a Congress that explicitly blocks us from even collecting data on how we could potentially reduce gun deaths. How can that be?"

The answer? While over 10,000 Americans die from firearm-related causes every year within the U.S. border, 3,030 Americans have died on U.S. soil as a result of terrorist attacks from a 12-year period of 2001-13, 2,997 of whom were killed in the Sept. 11 attacks.

While President Obama's remarks were aimed more at the considerable portion of Congress lodged firmly in the gun lobby's pocket, perhaps his remarks have some meaning in this context as well.

We expend staggering amounts of resources and manpower on counterterrorism, but fail to adequately regulate the sales of the weapons wielded in terrible massacres like

Columbine and Sandy Hook, and now Umpqua.

And it's because we're far more afraid of the Muslim terrorist than the white one, or the half-white one, armed with perfectly legal guns bought from the neighborhood gun shop, even if the Muslim terrorist is killing far fewer of us than the native son.

Regardless of the perpetrator's religious or political motives, death is death, and killing is killing, and mass murder intimidates and coerces the civilian population to return to the FBI's definition of terrorism and affects the conduct of a government by mass destruction.

It's time we recognized these shootings for what they are — terrorism — and the shooters for who they are — terrorists — and denude these words, words with real, palpable effect over popular imagination and opinion, and, consequently, the formation of policy and legislature, of racial and religious connotation.

*Matthew Ormseth is currently a student at Cornell University majoring in English. He seeks to give an honest portrayal of life as both a university student and member of the Millennial generation.*

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