



THE NATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF THE JACL

Nov. 13-Dec. 10, 2015

# PACIFIC CITIZEN

## Honoring the 'Greatest Generation'



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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

The question of the *Pacific Citizen* going digital is understandably a business decision, but for the generations who have supported the JACL, through thick and thin, they are not a technology-driven society.

They have been used to having a paper to read at home before going to work as part of their daily routine, and when I go to homes of seniors, I see the *Pacific Citizen* on a desk or stacked in a pile to show to friends or to keep since they liked an article that was in the issue and wanted to read it again at a later date.

Having the announcement of the *Pacific Citizen* going digital before the end of the year, just when memberships are up for renewal, gives your older members an opportunity to not renew their memberships.

With many things going up these days in price and the *Pacific Citizen* being their only link to the Japanese American community, especially to see who has passed away, this was their last lifeline to their past and a great benefit of their JACL membership.

The timing of this change and converting so quickly may seem a necessity, but if your first quarter shows a loss of membership, then at what cost.

I've been sending our copy of the *Pacific Citizen* to Washington State University to put in the WSU Libraries Collections Section so your copies would be available for students and teachers to have access to it through our Hirahara Family Collection. But in going digital, I would no longer be able to do that.

I've seen the tremendous work the JACL and its chapters have done through the years, but the National Board needs to ascertain the needs of its members by doing a survey before making a decision of national importance on its own accord.

Thank you so much for your consideration for the many seniors who want to continue receiving a printed paper.

Yours truly,

Patti Hirahara

Dear Editor,

I am 92 years old and a proud and longtime member of the JACL. I enjoy reading the *Pacific Citizen* when it is delivered to my home by U.S. mail every two weeks. I am concerned about the new way the *P.C.* is going to be published because I do not know the steps it would take to read the newspaper on a computer. So, I am requesting that you continue to keep the newspaper the way it is.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Shinobu "Doc" Saito,  
San Pedro, Calif.

Dear Editor:

I want my *Pacific Citizen* as is. If the *P.C.* goes paperless, I will NOT renew my membership next year, and I will NOT be making any more donations to JACL.

The only reason I am a member of JACL is to receive the paper copy of the *P.C.*

After reading the *P.C.*, I pass it on to two of my relatives. After they read the *P.C.*, they pass the newspaper on to others.

I do not have a computer at home, and I do not have access to one.

Sincerely,

A JACL Member,  
San Diego, Calif.

Dear Editor,

The National Board of the JACL has decreed that the *Pacific Citizen* will go completely digital. I warn the National Board, "You live by high tech; you can die by high tech."

Onward!

Sincerely,

Mas Hashimoto,  
Editor, Watsonville-Santa Cruz  
JACL monthly newsletter

☐ YES! I want my paperless *P.C.*

☐ NO! I want to keep my *P.C.* as is



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Mail To: *Pacific Citizen*,  
C/O Circulation Dept.  
123 Ellison S. Onizuka St.  
Suite 313, Los Angeles, CA 90012

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## HOW TO REACH US

Email: [pc@pacificcitizen.org](mailto:pc@pacificcitizen.org)  
Online: [www.pacificcitizen.org](http://www.pacificcitizen.org)  
Tel: (213) 620-1767  
Fax: (213) 620-1768  
Mail: 123 Ellison S. Onizuka St., Suite 313  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

## STAFF

Executive Editor  
Allison Haramoto

Assistant Editor  
Tiffany Ujiye

Business Manager  
Susan Yokoyama

Production Artist  
Marie Samonte

Circulation  
Eva Ting

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# EFFORTS TO BUILD THE TANFORAN INTERNMENT MEMORIAL NOW UNDER WAY

Foster City Councilmember and JACler Steve Okamoto is leading an effort to build the Tanforan Internment Memorial, and during a reception on Oct. 31 at the BART station, fundraising for its construction was officially kicked off by the Tanforan Assembly Center Memorial Committee.

The proposed memorial seeks to commemorate the site of the temporary assembly center at the Tanforan Racetrack in San Bruno, Calif., which held nearly 8,000 people, most of them American citizens, before sending them to the more permanent American concentration camps during World War II.

The memorial, which will be located right

outside the gates of the San Bruno Bay Area Rapid Transit Station, aims to permanently mark the site's historic role.

Emceed by Wendy Hanamura, director of partnerships at the Internet Archive, the program also featured San Bruno Mayor Jim Ruane, a keynote speech by Rep. Jackie Speier and a reading by poet Hiroshi Kashiwagi.

Okamoto, who lived in the Tanforan Assembly Center along with his parents and siblings, was only an infant when his family was incarcerated, and as he grew older, gained an understanding of what happened there, with his mother vividly remembering the smell of horse manure, a smell she recalled for the rest of her life. Okamoto addressed the crowd gathered at the reception.

"I am asking all of you to please support the creation of this memorial," he said. "You may donate toward its building because you endured the time here. Or, you will donate because you would like to honor your mom and dad, or maybe obaachan and ojichan. Some will donate because you had friends who were imprisoned here. But what I want all of you to consider when you are ready to write your check is that this memorial represents not just the 8,000 individuals who were imprisoned here but a reminder to all America that this cannot happen again. We almost did it again after 9/11 when there was talk about rounding up all the Muslims and putting them behind barbed wire. No, this memorial represents the 8,000 persons of Japanese descent whose constitutional



A rendered drawing of the Tanforan Internment Memorial. The Tanforan Assembly Center Memorial Committee hopes to have it completed by 2017.



Foster City Councilmember and JACler Steve Okamoto

rights were trampled, violated and ignored. This memorial must honor their memory . . . This must never happen again."

The memorial grew out of an exhibit that has been on display at the station since April 2012. The exhibit features historic photographs captured by the late Dorothea Lange alongside photos by photojournalist Paul Kitagaki Jr. Lange actually captured a photograph of Kitagaki's grandparents, father and aunt in Oakland while they were waiting for a bus that would take them to the Tanforan Racetrack.

Royston Hanamoto Alley & Abey Landscape Architecture and Planning designed the proposed memorial, which features a statue of two children captured in one of Lange's photos, as well as reconstruction

of a horse stable door that will be inscribed with the nearly 8,000 names of those who once lived at the camp.

A smaller plaque is currently located outside the Shops at Tanforan to recognize the internment camp and its history there, but Okamoto is hoping that the larger memorial will finally give Tanforan the long-overdue recognition it deserves.

The Tanforan Memorial Committee is aiming to raise \$1 million to complete the memorial, which they hope to have constructed by the 75th anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066 in 2017.

For more information on the Tanforan Memorial and to learn how to donate, visit <http://www.tanforanmemorial.org>.



## A YONSEI TRANSPLANTED CONSTRUCTION ON CAMPUS: SAFE SPACES

By Matthew Ormseth

Depending on whether or not you're Facebook friends with college students, you may or may not have seen the following status floating around your newsfeed in recent days, one copied and pasted in support of student activists at college campuses rocked in recent days by unrest and bitter debate.

It reads: "To students of color at Mizzou, Yale and all colleges across the nation that experience racism, anti-Blackness, prejudice, cultural appropriation — we, students of color and allies at 'X' University, stand with you in solidarity. To those who would threaten your sense of safety, we are watching. #ConcernedStudent1950 #InSolidarityWithMizzou"

From what I've read, the atmosphere at the University of Missouri, or Mizzou, was deplorably and undeniably racist prior to the student and faculty protests that forced the resignation of the school's president.

A professor claimed she was referred to as an N-word multiple times, not only by students but also by fellow professors, too. White students scattered cotton balls on the lawn in front of the campus's Black Culture Center. Black students and professors recounted specific incidents of being slurred at and spat on.

Something needed to be done; what was needed was a

radical restructuring of administrative policy, starting with the dismissal of its head, President Tim Wolfe.

What disturbs me, though, is my generation's inability to differentiate between the situation at Mizzou and the situation at Yale, exemplified in the lumping together of both incidents in the aforementioned Facebook status.

Students at Mizzou were subjected to vicious, unadulterated racism, and had been for some time. But the situation at Yale is nothing like the one in Missouri.

Prior to Halloween weekend, Yale's administration had circulated an email, one that invariably accompanies the party-conducive holiday on college campuses today, imploring its students to avoid culturally insensitive costumes.

It specifically cautioned against the wearing of black face, turbans and Native American-inspired headdresses.

The spouse of one of Yale's "masters," faculty members who live among students in the school's residential colleges, wrote an email rebutting, or rather qualifying, the administration's email, in which she questioned the school's attempt to micromanage students' decisions in their personal lives.

The author of the rebuttal was Erika Christakis, a lecturer and expert on child development. She posed the following question: "Have we lost faith in young people's capacity —

in your capacity — to exercise self-censure, through social norming, and also in your capacity to ignore or reject things that trouble you?"

Christakis was *not* urging students to apply blackface or don headdresses and turbans. Instead, she was urging students to exercise their own sense of cultural sensitivity rather than a school-issued guidebook itemizing acceptable and unacceptable costumes.

In my opinion, she made a valid point. But the fact that she voiced any sort of dissent toward an appeal for cultural inclusiveness and sensitivity made it appear, to many students at Yale, as if she were in direct opposition with the email's original message, which simply isn't true.

The backlash to Christakis's comment was shocking. Her husband, Nicholas Christakis, a professor and master of Yale's Silliman College, was accosted by students a few days later in the college's courtyard.

The encounter was captured on video, and it amassed nearly 1 million views on YouTube in two days. In the video, Christakis calmly explains that he does not agree with students' claims that his wife's email sent a hostile and discriminatory message to students of color in Silliman.

>> See **SAFE SPACES** on page 12



# NATIONAL JACL KICKS OFF 2016 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The National JACL announces its National Scholarship and Awards Program for the 2016 academic year. The JACL annually offers approximately 30 college scholarships for students who are incoming college freshmen, undergraduates and graduates, as well as those specializing in law and the creative/performing arts. There are also two student aid scholarships to address the challenge students face in meeting rising tuition costs.

A scholarship program brochure and applications for 2016 can be found on the JACL website ([www.jacl.org](http://www.jacl.org)) and clicking "Youth" on the menu bar. The National JACL Scholarship Program requires that all applicants be a student or individual member of the JACL. Membership under a parent will not fulfill this requirement.

Freshman applications must be submitted directly by the applicant to his/her local chapter, postmarked no later than March 1, 2016. Students who require the mailing address for their chapter may contact JACL Membership Assistant Tomiko Ismail ([tismail@jacl.org](mailto:tismail@jacl.org)) or by calling (415) 921-5225.

JACL Chapters will then have one month to screen the applications and forward their most outstanding freshman applications to the National JACL Freshman Scholarship Committee in San Diego, Calif.

There is no limit to the number of applications a chapter may forward to National for consideration, but it is requested that submissions consist of only the strongest applicants.

Chapters must submit their selected freshman applications to the National Committee must be postmarked no later than April 1 in order to be considered.

Applications for the "other" scholarship categories (undergraduate, graduate, law, creative/performing arts and student aid) are to be sent directly by the applicant to the National JACL Scholarship Committee, c/o Central California District Council, at the following address: 4622 E. Princeton Ave., Fresno, CA 93703. Applications for these categories must be postmarked no later than April 1 in order to be considered.

It is requested that chapters inform their respective youth members and surrounding community organizations of the National JACL Scholarship Program, which can be an opportunity to boost membership for the chapter and stimulate interest in the JACL.

*For more information on the National JACL Scholarship Program, contact Regional Director Patty Wada at [pwada@jacl.org](mailto:pwada@jacl.org) or National JACL VP for Planning and Development Chip Larouche at [clarouche@jacl.org](mailto:clarouche@jacl.org).*

## GEORGE AND SAKAYE ARATANI GRANT APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

UCLA's Asian American Studies Center is pleased to announce that the 2015 Aratani CARE grant applications will be accepted until Dec. 18. Awards will be announced during the 2015 winter quarter. All CARE grants should be completed within a year or less.

The George and Sakaye Aratani "Community Advancement Research Endowment," or Aratani CARE grants, are designed to promote projects that will (1) benefit and advance the Japanese American community, as well as (2) strengthen ties between the Japanese American community and UCLA students, staff and faculty.

Applications that include a campus partner (e.g., faculty, staff, students or alumnae) will be prioritized, as will events or programs where the grantee agrees to make the "Aratani CARE Grant" UCLA's Asian American Studies Center as a co-sponsor on PR and programs.

Nonprofit organizations and qualified individuals are invited to apply for grants that generally range from, but are not limited to, \$1,000-\$5,000.

Past awardees include UCLA's Nikkei Student Union, the Japanese Community Cultural Center, Los Angeles Japanese Chamber of Commerce, the Little Tokyo Historical Society, Kizuna and the JARP Oral History Restoration Project.

*For information about the grant and how to apply, visit the Aratani CARE website at [www.aratanicare.org](http://www.aratanicare.org). Specific questions about the Aratani CARE grant that are not covered on the website may be sent to the Aratani Care Team's email address at [aratanicare@aasc.ucla.edu](mailto:aratanicare@aasc.ucla.edu).*

## APAs in the News



### Tule Lake Protester Mori Tanimoto Passes Away at 95

Mamoru "Mori" Tanimoto, who along with his brother, Masashi, was among the two to three dozen Tule Lake dissidents who lived in Block 42 and were jailed for refusing to answer the loyalty questions that were used by the Army and the War Relocation Authority, passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on

Nov. 3. He was 95.

A longtime resident of Gridley, Calif., Tanimoto and his brother were instrumental in sharing their World War II experiences with the public, specifically the history of Block 42. Tanimoto worked to educate as many people as possible of his experience.

Tanimoto, one of seven siblings born to Hikoichi and Riwa Tanimoto, left for camp on his 22nd birthday. Upon receiving a letter that indicated he was not eligible for service because of his ancestry, Tanimoto refused to answer the loyalty questionnaire on grounds that his constitutional rights had been violated. The Block 42 men were arrested, and he was sent to jail in Klamath Falls, Ore., before being transferred again to Camp Tulelake, which was located 10 miles from the Tule Lake WRA camp. Tanimoto never answered the loyalty questionnaire.

He is survived by his three daughters, two siblings, seven grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.



### Sixteen California Congress Members Request Postponement of Keiro Sale

An official letter has been submitted to California Attorney General Kamala Harris by 16 members of California's Congress, requesting that the sale of Keiro Senior HealthCare Facilities be postponed for a public hearing.

The effort was led by Rep. Judy Chu (*pictured*) of the 27th district. Harris approved the sale of Keiro's facilities to Pacifica Companies on Sept. 2. Keiro waved a public hearing on the sale, thereby blocking the community and the facilities' residents and families from voicing their opinions.

In the letter, it specifically stated, "Given that the role of the Attorney General in the sale of nonprofit entities is to ensure that the sale is in the community's best interest, we urge you to postpone the sale of Keiro to Pacifica Companies until a public hearing is held, and to take into account the results of that hearing before approving the sale of Keiro. This additional step will protect the future welfare and safety of the residents at Keiro and the public's interests."

An Ad Hoc Committee to Save Keiro is currently gathering petitions to stop the sale, and a public Town Hall Meeting is scheduled for Nov. 23 at the Aratani Theatre in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo where questions, issues and concerns can be voiced and answered.



### Asian American-Elected Officials in California Endorse Warren Furutani for Senate

State Senate candidate Warren Furutani (SD-35) announced Nov. 12 that he has been endorsed by nearly every prominent Asian American Pacific Islander elected official in the state and in the 35th district.

Furutani, 67, the former Los Angeles School Board president and assemblyman is running for the 35th Senate District seat against Assemblyman Steve Bradford now that incumbent Isadore Hall is planning to run for Congress. California's 35th Senate District includes San Pedro, Wilmington, North and West Long Beach, Harbor City, the Harbor Gateway (where Furutani lives), Carson and West Carson, Torrance, Gardena, Compton, Lawndale, Lennox, Inglewood and Hawthorne.

Among those endorsing his candidacy are State Controller Betty Yee; State Treasurer John Chiang; Congressmen Mike Honda, Ted Lieu and Mark Takano; State Sen. Dr. Richard Pan; Assemblymembers Rob Bonta, Ed Chau, David Chiu, Kansen Chu, Evan Low, Phil Ting and Das Williams.

If elected, Furutani would become the first Japanese American in the state Senate.



### Terry Hara to Receive Honor From the Consulate General in Japan

Terry Hara, 57, of Long Beach, Calif., will receive the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette from the Consulate General in Japan for "promoting the status of the Japanese American community and promoting friendly relations and mutual understanding between Japan and the U.S.," it was announced by the Japanese government on Nov. 2.

Hara, a third-generation Japanese American, became the first Asian American deputy chief in the history of the Los Angeles Police Department in 2008. He retired from the LAPD in 2015. He also has been a longtime community supporter, serving on numerous boards including the Japanese Chamber of Commerce of Southern California, Nisei Week Foundation and the Japan-America Society of Southern California.

The conferment ceremony will be held on a later date. Details will be announced. ■



# IT'S ALWAYS IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER AND HONOR OUR SERVICEMEN

By Cherry Tsutsumida Aguirre

To most Japanese Americans, November, the month of Veteran's Day, holds a special meaning and gratitude for the courageous Nisei men and women who served in the United States Armed Services during World War II. This despite the poignant fact that while they were serving, many of their families were being incarcer-



The Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism During World War II honors "those Japanese Americans who endured humiliation and rose above adversity to serve their country during one of the nation's great trials," as well as those held in Japanese American internment camps. A National Park Service site, it was designed by Davis Buckley and Nina Akamu and is located at Louisiana Avenue and D. Street in Washington, D.C. The memorial features a central cast bronze sculpture consisting of two Japanese cranes caught in barbed wire standing amongst a landscaped semicircular granite wall engraved with the names of the 10 internment camps where more than 120,000 Japanese Americans were placed. There are also three panels that feature the names of Japanese Americans who died fighting in World War II, as well as inscribed writings by Japanese American writers such as Bill Hosokawa and quotes by presidents Harry S. Truman and Ronald Reagan.

ated in "war relocation centers" without due process of law. Executive Order 9066, issued by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on Feb. 1, 1942, mandated this and also separated many fathers of these Nisei families for unspecified suspicions.

Only one day after World War II broke out in 1941, hundreds of Nisei draftees already in U.S. Army uniforms were discharged without explanation other than it was the convenience of the government. Of those retained in service, many were disarmed and transferred to menial assignments.

But in a time of war, pragmatism does prevail. A handful of Niseis with a working knowledge of the Japanese were hurriedly trained and flown to the Pacific fronts. Their assignment was to translate captured documents, interrogate prisoners and decipher enemy battle orders and other critical data. Often they were so close to the front lines that they tapped and intercepted enemy orders.

However, the use of most Nisei skills was not the case in the beginning. But on June 12, 1942, 1,315 National Guardsmen were sent to Oakland and designated as the 100th Battalion with the addition of the University of Hawaii Varsity Victory Volunteers.

Sen. Spark Matsunaga once said, "So well did the 100th Battalion perform that the Army accelerated their plans for another unit of Japanese Americans to be designated at the 442nd." It was composed of the 442nd Infantry, the 522 Field Artillery, 232nd Combat Engineer company and others.

Postwar records show that more than 800 Japanese American soldiers who served in the 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service gave their lives in defense of this nation. Their names are accurately engraved for posterity at the National Japanese American Memorial in Washington, D.C., which is within walking distance of the U.S. Capitol building.

Pfc. Sadao Munemori, a young Nisei from California, was honored with America's highest award for bravery, the Congressional Medal of Honor. About 40 years after the end of WWII, Ret. Maj. Gen. James Mukoyama led a committee to review the records of other servicemen with distinguished records in battle during WWII. Thus, 10 more Niseis were awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Happily, of those who survived the war despite injuries, like Rudy Tokiwa (Sunnyvale, Calif.), many came back to become active members of their communities. Col. Harry Fukuhara (San Jose, Calif.), who recently passed away, traveled throughout the United States where he was needed to strengthen the Japanese American communities.

Many veterans, proud of their contributions to the war effort, organized local and national groups like the Japanese American Veterans Assn. (JAVA). The list of veterans underscores how geographically dispersed

Japanese Americans had become. They are no longer concentrated in and around metropolitan areas on the West Coast.

Examples are Sam and Sumi Koide from Dobbs Ferry, N.Y.; Chikaji and Yoneko Tsurusaki from Oak Lawn, Ill.; Jimmie Kanaya from Gig Harbor, Wash.; and Joseph and Tamie Kimura from Cardiff by the Sea, Calif.

It is important to note that when I was working with Congress on various health and civil rights legislation, the Congressmen and Senators would say, "If you want to get into my office, send in a veteran." Many Nisei veterans played important roles as legislative advocates for redress and civil rights, among them Sen. Daniel Inouye, also a Medal of Honor recipient.

The outstanding record of the Nisei servicemen during WWII has been written and made into movies. The loyalty of Japanese Americans during WWII was courageously written in blood by them.

As the possibilities of another foreign combat are again in the news, support and concern for those in the U.S. Armed Forces must remain in our thoughts. Unlike during World War II, those who are serving

today are there not because they were drafted. They are there because as a personal decision, they are willing to do the most challenging and dangerous responsibilities required by this nation.

As this month commemorates their contributions, and those who served through WWII, the Korean War and the Vietnam War, we should all take time to say, "Thanks!"

*Cherry Tsutsumida Aguirre is a writer and the former executive director of the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation in Washington, D.C.*



More than 21,000 men and women served in the 100th Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service during World War II.



**JAVA Honors  
Congressional Gold Medal Recipients  
and  
All Asian Pacific Americans  
Who Are and Have Served**



# FIRST PROGRAM DEDICATED TO POST-9/11 AAPI VETS LAUNCHES

CAUSE begins the Veterans Initiative fellowship program to inspire and build new community service leaders.

The Center for Asian Americans United for Self Empowerment (CAUSE) launched a Veterans Initiative Program on Oct. 13 that is dedicated to post-9/11 active service members and veterans. The flagship program hopes to inspire fellows to continue pursuing public service opportunities outside of the military.

"Many people scratch their heads when we first announced the initiative," CAUSE Executive Director Kim Yamasaki admitted at the program's kick off event last month. "But let me tell you that there is no program that aligns with CAUSE's vision on veteran's initiative."

CAUSE is nonprofit, nonpartisan, community-based organization located in Pasadena, Calif. Its mission is to advance the political empower-

ment of the Asian Pacific American community.

Indeed, the program specifically targeted veterans and service members between the ages of 18-28, addressing a post-9/11 generation. Fellows were accepted into the program after a thorough application process based on their interest in seeking community leadership roles outside of the military. The program was designed for individuals interested in increasing the accessibility to and bring awareness of veteran resources as well as advocating on behalf of the Asian Pacific American veteran community.

According to a special report prepared in 2013 by the National Center of Veterans Analysis and Statistics, Asian veterans had the lowest percentage of using VA health care.

During the kickoff, Yamasaki shared with the audience "that surveys show that over 50 percent of veterans are not aware of how to access or apply for these services." Today, the government offers a wide range of programs, resources and benefits ranging from education to healthcare to employment.

"We launched this program for committed young people helping our community to connect with political and corporate leaders," said CAUSE Board Chair Charlie Woo. "This leadership guidance is to ensure a path of success, and we ask the next generation of leaders to be the connection and bring awareness about the resources and support programs. That way we become more enthusiastic and comfortable with a generation in military service."

From the 2010 National Survey of

Veterans, a total of 1.5 percent of veterans were AAPI compared to .4 percent more than a decade ago.

In an article published in the *American Journal of Public Health*, authors Jack Tsai, Julia Whealin and Robert Pietrzak found that AAPI veterans reported higher socioeconomic status and better mental health but found no difference in health service use or perceived barriers or stigma related to mental health services.

The article concluded that while AAPIs are a small group of veterans, they are the fastest-growing racial and minority group needing attention, suggesting that greater outreach should be encouraged.

For organizations like CAUSE, this growing need strikes at the core of the Veterans Initiative Program's mission.

Over the next nine months, fellows will be provided with valuable tools and resources to enhance CAUSE's program mission. This is the program's first year, and the first class includes Corp. Henry Chan, United States Marine Corps; Jonathan Kim, Active Duty Ensign, United States Army; and Lt. Reservist Wen Lin, United States Navy. The three young men will undergo professional development training as well as issue and policy briefings.

A Veteran Resources Fair for APA service members and their families will be held sometime in 2016 to later showcase the fellows' work and ideas.

Congressmember Ted Lieu (CA-33), who was announced as one of the mentors for the initiative, is looking to help fellows in their leadership development.

"I'm honored to be here on the ground floor as CAUSE launches this," Lieu said. "Hopefully, we will have this program for

many years."

Lieu went on encourage fellows to look for ways to improve veteran suicide prevention efforts, combat homelessness and increase employment rates for returning servicemembers.

Honored guests included Congressmember Grace Napolitano (CA-32), Los Angeles City Controller Ron Galperin, Director of Community Relations of the Southern California Gas Company Neena Master, City of Los Alamitos Councilmember Warren Kusunoto, Los Angeles Community College District Trustee Mike Fong, Garvey School District Board President Henry Lo, San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District Boardmember Thomas Wong and Los Angeles Community College District Personal Commissioner David Iwata.

Brig. Gen. Mark Tby, South Pacific Division Commander of the US Army Corps of Engineers, closed the program with a keynote speech. Tby encouraged the first fellow class of the program to "be the leader you wish you always had. If you do that, you can't go wrong."

In his remarks, Tby also shared his thoughts on passion, seeking mentorship, championing diversity of thought, engaging others, developing relationships and being humble, as well as gave insight into his own career path and personal experience, highlighting the key ingredients for success and community development.

In closing, Yamasaki concluded, "I am absolutely humbled that even after and during their military careers, our fellows still continue to aspire to hold civic leadership roles outside of the military. Today, we not only thank our fellows for their public service but for their continued public service."



CAUSE's Veterans Initiative Program, dedicated to post-9/11 service members and veterans, hopes to inspire fellows to pursue opportunities.

## JAPANESE AMERICAN WWII SOLDIERS STAMP CAMPAIGN LAUNCHES

'They Deserve a Stamp' initiative urges the USPS to approve a stamp design, honoring the most-decorated military unit in U.S. history.

Stamps tell a lot about parcels, packages and letters. Information on the tiny proof of payment can include the letter's origin, whether it's first class or express, as well as reflect the country's national identity. Perhaps, the last point is especially important to a new campaign that is urging the United States Postal Service to approve a commemorative stamp to honor World War II Japanese American soldiers.

While the new initiative titled "They Deserve a Stamp" isn't the first attempt to nominate this special group of veterans, organizers hope that this is the last effort to approve a stamp.

According to the U.S. Postal Service's guidelines, the office "welcomes written suggestions for stamp subjects that help portray the diversity of the American experience for a worldwide audience."

Approved stamp designs include Elvis Presley, penguins, the "Harry Potter" book characters and a list of vegetables, to name a few. This raised the question of why hasn't

there been a stamp issued for Japanese American WWII military units? It's a group made up of roughly 33,000 Japanese American soldiers with more than 18,000 total military awards, 9,486 Purple Hearts, 30 Distinguished Services Crosses and 21 Medals of Honor.

"They fought for freedom abroad when their own government imprisoned their families at home. A stamp is the least we owe the brave Japanese American Soldiers of World War II," wrote the "They Deserve a Stamp" initiative campaign on its website. "The fact it's been denied this long is up to us to change," and the group is asking individuals to help support the push "to make history for a group who helped write it."

In February 2012, the Japanese American Veterans Assn. (JAVA) proposed that the USPS issue a commemorative stamp series. Then-JAVA president Gerald Yamada sent a letter to Chairwoman Jean Pickler Firstenberg of the Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee, who was in charge of reviewing and

approving proposals.

Yamada wrote in his letter that "this stamp series would be for military groups that have been awarded the Congressional Gold Medal for their service during World War II and would include the Nisei Soldiers made up of the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service."

However, the stamp was never approved, and the effort continues today.

Emmy Award-winning filmmaker Jeff MacIntyre learned about the effort and quickly joined in the campaign by creating a video for the initiative in partnership with Go For Broke.

The Nisei veterans "deserve this honor, and we need to rally in support for this cause," MacIntyre said. "This is an opportunity to educate those who many not know the Japanese American story because it is an American story."

USPS criteria for stamps include designs that "help portray the diversity of the



The effort continues today for the USPS to officially issue a stamp honoring Nisei veterans who served in WWII military units.

American experience" and subjects that "had significant impact on American history or culture." This begs the question as to how the Nisei veterans do not meet those specific conditions.

While there are 11 eligibility guidelines for all stamp recommendations, the initiative feels that this group of veterans passes the test.

Those who are interested in supporting the "They Deserve a Stamp" effort can visit [www.theydeserveastamp.org](http://www.theydeserveastamp.org) to be part of the campaign.



# HONORING OUR DISAPPEARING 'GREATEST GENERATION'

By Scott McGaugh

Seventy-one years ago this month, Jim Okubo stood in the snow at the end of a densely forested ridge in the Vosges Mountains of eastern France. He was part of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. One of 16 million Americans who defended our nation in World War II. He was part of America's "Greatest Generation."

Regrettably, we are losing 500 of them every single day. Every three minutes, we lose a national treasure from World War II. Each is irreplaceable, and some are unique. Certainly, the legacy of the 442nd RCT is emblematic of not only the "Greatest Generation" but also of the American spirit.

Following Pearl Harbor, our vengeful nation incarcerated more than 100,000 Japanese American citizens only because of their ethnicity. They were sent to desolate internment camps after they were evicted from their homes, pulled out of school and forced to leave their businesses and family heirlooms behind — all to make the West Coast "secure." Yet, less than a year later, President Franklin Roosevelt authorized the creation of the 442nd RCT.

It was to be a unit of young Japanese American men, many of whom volunteered from behind barbed wire. They volunteered for an army combat unit that would be commanded only by white officers in a segregated military. America was stunned to see more than 11,000 Japanese Americans volunteer, given the way their country had treated them and their families.

Even more remarkably, the 442nd became the most-decorated unit of its size in World War II. Time and again, it was assigned some of the toughest battles in Italy



(From Left) San Diego residents Mas Tsuida and Frank Wada both were members of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in World War II. They were honored at the USS Midway Museum's 70th anniversary celebration of the end of World War II in August.



On Oct. 5, 2010, the Congressional Gold Medal was awarded to the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, the 100th Infantry Battalion and Nisei serving in the Military Intelligence Service.

who earned the Medal of Honor in World War II did not receive it until 2000. Their nominations had been downgraded to a lesser medal during the war. More than five decades later, it often was a widow who accepted the Medal of Honor on her husband's behalf — including Mrs. Okubo.

President Harry Truman might have been talking to the entire "Greatest Generation" when he welcomed the 442nd home in 1946:

"You are to be congratulated on what you have done for this great country of ours. I think it was my predecessor who said that Americanism is not a matter of race or creed, it is a matter of the heart."

"You fought for the free nations of the world along with the rest of us. I congratulate you on that, and I can't tell you how very much I appreciate the privilege of being able to show you just how much the United States of America thinks of what you have done."

"You are now on your way home. You fought not only the enemy, but you fought prejudice — and you have won. Keep up that fight, and we will continue to win — to make this great Republic stand for just what the Constitution says it stands for: the welfare of all the people all the time."

We should always honor the "Greatest Generation." While we still can, we should shake the hand of every member we meet.

*Scott McGaugh is the marketing director of the USS Midway Museum and a New York Times bestselling author. He is working on a book about the 442nd, "Honor Before Glory." For more information, visit [www.scottmcgaugh.com](http://www.scottmcgaugh.com).*

and France, leading some to think it was regarded as little more than "cannon fodder" as their casualties rose. Ultimately, more than 18,000 men in the 442nd earned more than 18,000 medals for valor, including 21 Medals of Honor, 588 Silver Stars, 5,200 Bronze Stars and more than 9,500 Purple Hearts.

The legacy of the 442nd and all Japanese Americans who served in World War II reflects the American spirit. They were taught by their elders to serve in a spirit of *kuni no tame ni* (for the sake of our country). They served in a spirit of *gisei, giri, meiyō, hokori and sekinin*. Sacrifice, duty, honor, pride and responsibility. They rose above a hysterical America and

stood tall as American citizens. Today, too few of them remain so that we may show our respect and offer our thanks.

Jim Okubo, a medic, was one of those young men. A medic in the 442nd, he was part of a remarkable rescue of 275 trapped soldiers in the Vosges. The 442nd succeeded after other rescue battalions had failed. The 442nd suffered more than 600 casualties in five days... before Okubo and the others continued on in the winter push toward the German border in November 1944.

We cannot offer Jim a personal measure of thanks. He died in a car accident in 1967 after becoming a dentist. Thirty-three years after his death and 56 years after this remarkable mission, Okubo was awarded the Medal of Honor for his role in the rescue. But we still have the opportunity to thank those "Greatest Generation" members who are still with us.

And that is critical, given how our military is "disappearing" in many ways. Less than one percent of America serves in uniform. The military's share of the national population hasn't been this low since the 1930s. Not since the Revolutionary War has a war like what we've fought in the Middle East been waged with an all-volunteer force. Yet, the overwhelming share of our country has no personal

stake — no family member — in the uniformed defense of our nation.

As we lose more "Greatest Generation" members each day, we become more detached from our military. In 1988, 40 percent of Americans had a parent who served in uniform. By 2010, it had fallen to 18 percent.

Most grandparents today were born after World War II. A 45-year-old today (meaning nearly all parents) has no personal recollection of Vietnam. Military service and loss on the battlefield no longer are part of the American people's mosaic.

This extends to the highest reaches of government. Only about 20 percent of Congress has served in the military, compared with 60 percent in 1969. For the first time in 80 years, all four of our nation's candidates for president and vice president in 2012 had no military experience.

In other ways, the military is disappearing from the American landscape. More than half of military housing complexes of at least 5,000 residents have been eliminated in the last decade. Over the past 20 years, nearly 100 military installations in America have been closed.

And so it is critical that we pause to honor the "Greatest Generation" and say thank you at every opportunity. For some, we have waited far too long.

Twenty Japanese Americans



The 442nd Regimental Combat Team was the most-decorated unit for its size and length of service in the history of American warfare. Twenty one of its members were awarded Medals of Honor.



## FILM REVIEW: 'RITE OF PASSAGE'

By Gerald H. Yamada

Recently, I was invited to a screening of "Rite of Passage," a documentary on the complex legislative strategy that led to the enactment of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 (aka "Redress" or "HR 442").

I found the documentary to be seriously flawed in that the DVD fails to recognize that it was the emotional connection that President Reagan had with a 1945 ceremony in which he participated to honor a 442nd Regimental Combat Team (RCT) soldier killed in action that made Redress a reality for the Japanese American community.

The DVD also fails to give any credit to the two individuals who changed President Reagan's mind, which resulted in the president signing HR 442 into law.

One of the most insurmountable obstacles facing the proponents of the Redress legislation was how to win over President Reagan, who had announced two years earlier that he would veto the legislation if it were passed by Congress.

The DVD concludes that "what changed President Reagan's mind is a mystery." In fact, there is no mystery.

The decisive strategy that changed the president's mind was developed by Grant Ujifusa who was the strategy chair of the JACL Legislative Education Committee,

which was formed to support the efforts to pass the Redress legislation.

Ujifusa knew that President Reagan, as an Army captain, had participated in 1945 in awarding the Distinguished Service Cross to the family of Sgt Kazuo Masuda, a member of the 442nd RCT who was killed in action in 1944.

The town fathers of Fountain Valley, Calif., refused to allow Masuda to be buried in its cemetery until Gen. "Vinegar" Joe Stilwell personally intervened, resulting in Sgt Masuda being buried there after the award ceremony that took place on the porch of the Masuda family home.

Ujifusa felt that if President Reagan could be reminded of his participation in the ceremony honoring Sgt Masuda, he might change his mind.

Ujifusa recruited the help of his friend, then-New Jersey Gov. Tom Kean, who used a special line of access for Republican governors to send the president a letter from June Masuda, dated Nov. 19, 1987, reminding him of the day that he participated in the ceremony honoring her brother.

During the fall of 1987, Gov. Kean spoke face to face with the president on several occasions to urge him to reconsider and sign HR 442. The strategy worked.

In a Feb. 14, 1988, meeting with Ken Duberstein, Reagan's chief of staff, Ujifusa was informed by Duberstein that the

president had changed his mind and would sign the legislation.

About the same time, Gov. Kean received a call from President Reagan informing him that he read June Masuda's letter, remembered the events related to Kaz Masuda, changed his mind and would now sign the Redress legislation.

The president signed the Redress legislation on Aug. 10, 1988. Just before signing HR 442 into law, the president fondly reminisced about the award ceremony for Sgt Masuda and expressed the nation's gratitude for the 442nd RCT saving the Texas "lost" battalion.

The president referred to the 442nd RCT's pursuit of "the ideal of liberty and justice for all" to be a part of "the American way."

The DVD fails to give Sgt Masuda and the other Nisei soldiers who all served with valor during WWII the credit for the success of HR 442 that is owed to them.

The significant roles that Ujifusa, Gov. Kean and June and Sgt Masuda played in changing the president's mind are not included in the DVD, although Ujifusa and Gov. Kean were interviewed for the DVD.

The DVD's narrative is factually flawed by failing to give credit to Ujifusa and Gov. Kean for their contributions. Rather, the DVD misdirects the narrative by creating a false "mystery" by asking whether the president watching the 1955 film "Bad Day

at Black Rock" or a meeting with Sen. Alan Simpson might have changed the president's mind.

Ujifusa was awarded the Order of the Rising Sun Award in January 2012 for reversing President Reagan's opposition to HR 442. The DVD appears to challenge the judgment of the Consul General of New York, the Japanese Foreign Ministry, the Japanese prime minister and the Japanese emperor that Ujifusa and his efforts were the critical factor in changing President Reagan's mind.

Finally, "Rite of Passage" fails to present a fair and balanced approach in concluding that Mike Masaoka, a JACL wartime leader, suggested that Japanese Americans be "branded or stamped" in order to participate in a farm release program in the Midwest during WWII.

The DVD relies on JACL minutes from a special emergency meeting held in March 1942 reporting on the Tolan Committee Hearings on the West Coast.

The DVD does not state that Masaoka denied this allegation in 1988. Nor does the DVD include the finding released in the Lim Report, published in 1990, that analyzed the same JACL minutes and found that it could not definitely conclude that Masaoka made the suggestion.

By simply stating its own conclusion based on its reading of the JACL minutes and without any further analysis or supporting evidence, the DVD presents its biased view on a disputed point not relevant to a documentary on Redress. ■

## JANM PERMANENT COLLECTION ADDS HENRY SUGIMOTO PAINTINGS



Henry Sugimoto Self-Portrait in Camp, 1943

LOS ANGELES — The Japanese American National Museum has added 240 oil paintings and more than 200 watercolors by artist Henry Sugimoto to its permanent collection, thanks to a donation by the artist's daughter, Madeleine.

The donation also included diaries, woodblocks and woodblock

prints, artist tools and dress designs. These items join numerous other Sugimoto paintings and artifacts that had previously been gifted or loaned to the museum.

JANM's collection now encompasses more than 700 works of art by Sugimoto, spanning his entire career. This is the largest collection of paintings in the JANM collection.

"The Japanese American National Museum is honored to be the permanent home for Henry Sugimoto's collection," said Greg Kimura, president and CEO of JANM. "The collection spans his entire career, from prewar to his incarceration to the postwar era. Henry was a talented artist before being unjustly locked up with 120,000 other Japanese Americans behind the barbed wire of an American concentration camp. That experience dramatically affected his work. Now JANM will be able to share his art and legacy for generations to come."

Said Madeleine Sugimoto: "It is important to me that my father's work be properly cared for and made accessible. I could think of no better place than the Japanese

American National Museum to steward the art and artifacts of his career and life."

The first gift of Sugimoto's work was made to JANM by Madeleine Sugimoto and Naomi Tagawa in 1992. It consisted primarily of 142 oil paintings. In 2000, Madeleine Sugimoto loaned the museum additional paintings, sketchbooks, woodblock prints, letters and other items. That loan has now been converted to a donation.

In 2001, JANM presented "Henry Sugimoto: Painting an American Experience." It was the first museum retrospective of the artist's work and featured more than 100 paintings along with photographs, sketchbooks and other archival materials related to Sugimoto's life and career.

Prior to World War II, Sugimoto's career was thriving. Influenced by French Post-Impressionists, he primarily painted landscapes and city scenes. Mexican muralists such as Jose Clemente Orozco and Diego Rivera were also among Sugimoto's influences, as were European and Japanese artists he encountered during a two-year stay in Paris.

But once he was incarcerated in the wake of the bombings of Pearl Harbor, both his style and subject matter were forever altered.

During and following the war, Sugimoto depicted the indignities he and his fellow inmates suffered in a narrative and figurative style that was unique to the artist.

Sugimoto died in 1990 at the age of 90.

The recently acquired items are still in the process of being inventoried, according to the museum. Once that process is completed, qualified scholars will be able to request access to selected items by appointment. ■

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## EDUCATION MATTERS



The New England JACL welcomed 32 teachers and distinguished guests to its Teacher Training Workshop, which was held at Boston University.

## NEW ENGLAND JACL HOLDS TEACHER TRAINING WORKSHOP

With the weather offering the opportunity for people to enjoy one more weekend of a warm fall day, 32 teachers attended a Teacher Training Workshop on Nov. 7, which was organized by the New England Chapter of the JACL.

The workshop took place in a classroom at Boston University's School of Education with the assistance of Chris Martell. Among those to arrive early to help set up and register the teachers were JACL New England Co-Presidents Marie Yamamoto and Ken Oye, as well as Mieko Kamii.

The group was also privileged to have Dr. Yutaka Kobayashi in attendance at the workshop as well. Kobayashi was in the Tanforan Assembly Center and later Topaz Relocation Center but was fortunate to be assisted by a Quaker group that arranged for him to leave camp and attend Alfred College in New York.

During the workshop, Yamamoto, while only an infant during the war, related some of the stories that her parents, mostly her mother, shared with her about their experiences during WWII.

Tom Shikashio was only 5 at the time of World War II and resided then in Firth, Idaho, with his family. He did not spend time in one of the camps, but he did share his recollections of what it was like to experience life during that period as someone from the "outside" of the camps.

Oye also shared valuable insights about the redress movement and the eventual passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988

that included an apology to those individuals impacted by Executive Order 9066 and the \$1.2 billion "fine" that resulted in \$20,000 in restitution for each individual affected.

"This was one of the most diverse groups of teachers that included high school teachers, as well as faculty from middle school and elementary levels," said Sharon Ishii-Jordan, one of the workshop's two facilitators. "The teachers represented a variety of fields, such as U.S. history, world history, American government and English, which added to the challenge of how best to incorporate the topic into their diverse curricula."

Commented Greg Marutani, who served as the other facilitator, "The teachers asked questions during the workshop that had not been raised before, resulting in the need for further investigation and eventual responses."

The facilitators also offered special appreciation to Martell for securing the classroom and handling much of the background details of the event and Kamii, who graciously handled the registration desk and numerous behind-the-scenes details that helped to ensure a successful flow of information to the participants during the workshop.

The JACL's final Teacher Training Workshop will next be held in Salt Lake City. The event there will mark the conclusion of the workshops, which were made possible through a grant from the Japanese American Confinement Sites program of the National Park Service. ■

## MIN YASUI POSTHUMOUSLY RECOGNIZED WITH THE MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BUSINESS AWARD

Minoru Yasui has been posthumously recognized with the Martin Luther King Jr. Business Award in Denver, Colo., by the Asian Chamber of Commerce in "celebrating content of character," the organization announced on Oct. 22.

A selection committee chose Yasui, along with six other recipients, for his "exemplary social responsibility in adherence with the ideal of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr."

Yasui worked with the Denver Commission on Community Relations for more than 20 years, the last 16 as its executive director, on behalf of diverse communities, not only Asian American but also black, Latino, Native American, religious minorities, immigrants, youth, senior citizens and low-income people. He was also chair of the JACL National Redress Committee until his death in 1986.

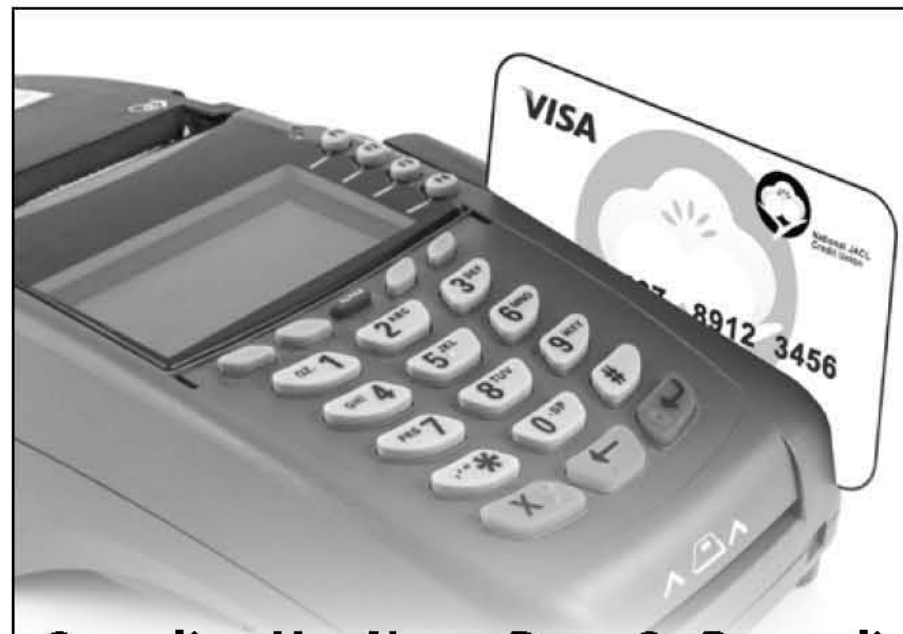
Clarence Low, president and CEO of the Asian Chamber of Commerce, was instrumental in the nomination of Yasui for the award. "I am honored to have presented Mr. Yasui's work and legacy to the committee and am so proud of his recognition," Low said. Reflecting on Yasui's own words, Low continued, "We are born into this world for a purpose and that is to make it a better place."

Yasui's daughter, Holly Yasui, who is currently living in Mexico and the co-founder of the Minoru Yasui Tribute project, is deeply appreciative of the award.

"This award is very meaningful to me and my family since it recognizes my father's ground-breaking cross-cultural work in defense of the civil liberties of all people, in the context of honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., whom he greatly admired."

The Martin Luther King Jr. Business Award will be presented at the organization's annual banquet on Jan. 15 at the Marriott City Center Hotel in Denver. Yasui's niece, Robin Yasui, will accept the award on behalf of the family.

"This award is a wonderful way to start the centennial year," said Robin Yasui, who is also organizing a celebration for the 100th anniversary of her uncle's birth in October 2016. "Minoru Yasui spent his life fighting for the protection of constitutional rights for all Americans. Although he is best known for his work righting the wrongs suffered by Japanese American citizens during World War II, he spent 40 years in Denver fighting for the civil rights of all Americans, regardless of race, creed or color. We are so honored that his work is being recognized with this award." ■



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A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

# CALENDAR

## NCWNP

**San Francisco APILO/  
AABA Clinic**  
San Francisco, CA  
Nov. 25; 5:45-8 p.m.  
**UC Hastings School of Law**  
100 McAllister St.

The Asian American Bar Assn. in the Greater Bay Area is hosting its monthly clinic with the Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach. The clinic serves to ensure that low-income Bay Area residents receive free legal information and advice from AABA volunteers.

**Info:** Visit <http://www.aaba-bay.com>.

**Accent Reduction Seminar**  
Sunnyvale, CA  
Dec. 5; 9 a.m.-4 p.m.  
**Ovient Inc.**  
440 N. Wolfe Road

Ovient will host a seminar to help those looking to improve the clarity of any accent in their speech, helping to reduce misunderstandings in communication. The program will also help teach proper word encoding and help participants correctly apply the correct levels of American speech intonation, allowing professionals to communicate effectively.

**Info:** Email [info@ovient.com](mailto:info@ovient.com) or call (408) 524-1649.

**Kimochi Silver Bells:  
Arts, Crafts and Food Fair**  
San Francisco, CA  
Dec. 12; 10 a.m.-4 p.m.  
**St. Mary's Cathedral**  
1111 Gough St.  
**Price: Free**

Don't miss this one-stop shopping event for all your holiday gifts at the annual Kimochi Silver Bells event. This all-day event will feature Asian- and Pacific Islander-themed arts, crafts and foods from more than 90 vendors. Vendors include the Soap Nymph, Jade Chocolates, Beefy & Co., Pigs Fly, Sente, Patricia Jeong and Totally Oishii.

**Info:** Visit [www.kimochi-inc.org](http://www.kimochi-inc.org), call (415) 931-2294 or email [kimochikai@kimochi-inc.org](mailto:kimochikai@kimochi-inc.org).

## PSW

**Second Annual APIDC Gala**  
Los Angeles, CA  
Nov. 21; 5-9 p.m.  
**Cicada Restaurant**  
617 Olive St.

Asians and Pacific Islanders With Disabilities of California (APIDC) is celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) and its role in the advancement of rights of people with disabilities. The gala will also raise support for the APIDC's programs, which include educational seminars, trainings and other programs.

**Info:** Email [johnho.APIDC@gmail.com](mailto:johnho.APIDC@gmail.com).

**2015 KACCOC Gala**  
Garden Grove, CA  
Dec. 4; 5:30-9:30 p.m.  
**Embassy Suites Anaheim South Hotel**  
11767 Harbor Blvd.

The Korean American Chamber of Commerce of Orange County hosts its annual gala in hopes of creating strong networks and relationships amongst its members.

**Info:** Call (714) 638-1440 or email [info@kaccoc.com](mailto:info@kaccoc.com).

**'Taking Risks, Changing the Game'**  
Las Vegas, NV  
Jan. 28-29  
**The Venetian Hotel**

33555 S. Las Vegas Blvd. The Asian American Business Development Center brings this event that encourages Asian American businesses to be more active on issues that affect them in government. Major themes will come together at the Roundtable Idea Labs, offering new ways to advance businesses and development.

**Info:** Call (212) 966-0100 or email [info@aabusinessroundtable.org](mailto:info@aabusinessroundtable.org).

## EDC

**Philadelphia Asian American Film Festival**  
Philadelphia, PA  
Nov. 12-22; 6-11 p.m.  
**International House of**

**Philadelphia**  
3701 Chestnut St.  
**Price: Tickets vary**

The Philadelphia Asian American Film Festival welcomes its eighth annual film festival this year. Over 11 days, the festival will include 20 film screenings, speaker panels, cooking events and special events. Each will highlight guests from today's most popular Asian American filmmakers, actors and directors.

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

**ASPIRE Forum: Who Am I?**  
Boston, MA  
Nov. 14; 1-5 p.m.  
**Simmons College**  
300 Fenway

The Asian Sisters Participating in Researching Excellence (ASPIRE) hosts this forum event to inspire Asian American female students in high school and college. The evening hopes to engage guests on a number of topics regarding their identity and improve their coping skills, self-confidence, mental and career outlook.

**Info:** Email [info@girlsaspire.org](mailto:info@girlsaspire.org).

**VACC Career Connect 2015**  
Richmond, VA  
Dec. 9; 5:30-7:30 p.m.  
**Genworth**

6620 W. Broad St., Bldg. 3 The Virginia Asian Chamber of Commerce hosts this career event to bring unique opportunities for Asian professionals and entrepreneurs to obtain professional growth and connections.

**Info:** Email [aabac@aabac.org](mailto:aabac@aabac.org) or call (804) 502-8081.

**China Studies Speakers Series 'Cognitive Attunement in the Zhuangzi'**  
Washington, D.C.  
Jan. 25; 5-7 p.m.  
**InterculturalCenter (ICC) in the Embassy of Mongolia**  
2883 M St. N.W.

The SFS Landegger Program in International Business Diplomacy will host a China Studies Speakers Series with Georgetown University and Harold D. Roth.

**Info:** Visit [ibd.georgetown.edu](http://ibd.georgetown.edu).

## MDC

**'Services \$ Samosas' NAAP Cincinnati**  
Blue Ash, OH  
Dec. 1; 5:30-8:30 p.m.  
**Matthew 25 Ministries**  
11060 Kenwood Road

The National Association of Asian American Professionals Cincinnati hosts this community service event in relation to "Giving Tuesday." The event is being held in accordance to a global day dedicated to giving back.

**Info:** <http://cincy.wp-naap.org/>.

**CAAL Ignites: Education and Economics**  
Saint Paul, MN  
Dec. 14; 8-10 a.m.  
**Metropolitan State University**  
700 Seventh St. E.  
**Price: Free**

Asian American leaders and institutional decision-makers will meet to understand and explore education and economics with Asian Minnesotans. Last year, the Coalition of Asian American Leaders (CAAL) engaged more than 300 Asian Minnesotan leaders who informed and prioritized issues on education and economics.

**Info:** Visit [www.metrostate.edu](http://www.metrostate.edu) or call (651) 793-1300.

**Asian American Executive Networking 2015**  
Chicago, IL  
Dec. 15; Noon-2 p.m.  
**110 W. Illinois St.**  
**Price: Free**

The Asian American Executive Network hosts this holiday networking event to bring together Asian American executives to offer support in dealing with professional challenges in both the corporate and entrepreneurial worlds.

**Info:** RSVP at [www.aan12152015.eventbrite.com](http://www.aan12152015.eventbrite.com).

## PNW

**Washington State China Relations Council Annual Banquet**  
Seattle, WA  
Dec. 3; 5:30-9 p.m.  
**Four Seasons Hotel Seattle**  
99 Union St.

The Washington State China Relations Council is set to host its 36th annual banquet, which will celebrate innovative, sustainable and expanding global leadership. Notable speakers include Gary Locke and Wu Lebin.

**Info:** Call (206) 441-4419 or email [info@wsorc.org](mailto:info@wsorc.org).

**20th Annual Japanese American New Year Celebrations Mochitsuki**  
Portland, WA  
Jan. 31

**Portland State University**  
1825 S.W. Broadway Portland's annual Japanese New Year celebration has been going on since 1996. The goal of Mochitsuki is to celebrate tradition by sharing Japanese and Japanese American culture.  
**Info:** Visit [www.mochipdx.org](http://www.mochipdx.org).

**33rd Annual Lunar New Year Gala Celebration 2016**

**Chicago, IL**  
Feb. 6; 5-9 p.m.  
**Hyatt Regency Chicago**  
1st E. Upper Wacker Dr. The Asian American Coalition of Chicago will host a Lunar New Year Gala themed "Envision, Enlighten and Empower."  
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# In Memoriam

**Asato, Tetsuo T., 90**, Torrance, CA; Oct. 21; he was a WWII 442nd veteran; he is survived by his wife, Dorothy Asato; daughters, Laura (Dean) Tofukuji and Becky Seo; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 3; ggc: 3.

**Iwamoto, Akio, 87**; Monterey Park, CA; Oct. 2; he is survived by his wife, June Iwamoto; son, Darell (Elaine) Iwamoto; daughter, Deborah Iwamoto; brother, Masami (Aiko) Iwamoto; gc: 5.

**Minami, Masako, 92**, Torrance, CA; Oct. 18; she is survived by her nieces and nephews, Carol (Dancan) Sato, Karen Mayeda, Joyce Mayeda (Tom) Jones, Janice Mayeda and Susan Mayeda (Eric) Johansen; great-nieces and nephews, Alyssa Sato, Joshua, Jenna Mayeda-Jones and Charlie Johansen.

**Nakagawa, Charles Niro, 96**, Gardena, CA; Oct. 30; he was

a WWII MIS veteran; he is survived by his daughters, Susan (Jimmy) Tanimura and Cheryn (Keith) Kovach; brother, Jack Shiro (Sachi) Nakagawa; sister-in-law, Yoko Nakagawa; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 4; ggc: 4.

**Nakayama, Grant, 63**, Los Angeles, CA; Oct. 24; he was predeceased by his brother, Steven; he is survived by his parents, Toshio and Rose; sisters, Janet (Brad) Fujikuni, Carol (Todd) Inatomi; niece, Lauren Fujikuni; nephews, Jared and Jason Fujikuni; he is also survived by many other relatives.

**Okimoto, Arleen, 72**, Sacramento, CA; Sept. 17; she was incarcerated at Tule Lake; she was predeceased by her parents, Kazuma and Fusako Fujita; she is survived

by her sons, Derrick (Liou), Darrin (Ann), Dean and Donnie (Anh) Okimoto; brother, Robert (Joann) Fujita; sisters, Margaret Fujita and Nadine Fujita (Gregg) Roh; she is also survived by many friends and family; gc: 4.

**Sameshita, Nobu 'Sam,' 89**, Torrance, CA; Nov. 6; he was predeceased by his wife, Angela Aiko; siblings, Masanobu Samashima, Yuriko Tabata and Akira; he is survived by his children, Michael (Judy), Margaret (David) Lamdagan and Steven; he is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives.

**Sugano, Sumie Sue, 93**, Los Angeles, CA; Oct. 17; she is survived by her children, Carol Mizuno and Pat Emiko, Norman (Maya) and Ted (Cindy) Sugano; siblings, Ken Kuroiwa and Shirley Sayama;

sister-in-law, Tomoko; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 9; ggc: 10; gggc: 5.

**Tamaki, John Carl 'JT,' 53**, Los Angeles, CA; he is survived by his mother, Anna Mae; brother, Paul Frank; sister, Mary Ann (Clint) Tamaki-Green; nephew, Ian Minoru; uncle, Dick Sakamoto; aunts,

Noby Okamoto, Rose Uyeno, Molly (Bob) Nakasaki and Sue Fujino; he is also survived by many other relatives.

**Tani, Stephen Fumio, 86**, Hermosa Beach, CA; Oct. 30; he is survived by his wife, Eriko Tani; daughters, Christine Tani and Lana (Daniel) Sofer; he is also survived by many other relatives; gc: 1.

## TRIBUTE

### JOHN MOTOI TAKEUCHI



John Motoi Takeuchi Sr. passed away on Oct. 13, 2015, two days before what would have been his 93rd birthday. The eldest of five children, John was born in 1922 to Japanese immigrants Gihei and Sato Takeuchi in Alameda, Calif. In the wake of Japan bombing Pearl Harbor, Japanese Americans were forcibly removed from the West Coast. The family was first held at the Tanforan Assembly Center and then at the Topaz Internment Camp in Utah. In

1943, John was released from camp to study at NYU and the Pratt Institute School of Architecture in New York. Returning to the San Francisco Bay Area after graduating, John met and married Miyuki "Mickie" Iwahashi. Together, they raised three children — John Jr., Mark and April.

In 1970, after working for UC Berkeley as a campus architect, John had the opportunity to work on a brand-new campus for Sangamon State University (now University of Illinois at Springfield). John subsequently held architecture jobs at universities in Louisville, Kentucky and Richmond, Va. As an architect, he was a great admirer of Frank Lloyd Wright. He enjoyed collecting various forms of artwork, including pastel, acrylic and oil paintings, as well as metal and wooden sculptures; each piece was priceless to him. After Mickie passed away in 1997, John, now retired, returned to the Bay Area to be closer to his siblings. He settled in the retirement community of Rossmore in Walnut Creek, Calif., where he pursued his many interests and volunteer activities. He was very proud of his grandchildren, Aaron and Chase, who were born to April and husband Jeff Walbert in 1997. John followed their development, visited them yearly and even sponsored their student exchange trip to Asahikawa, Japan. In the meantime, John met Gloria Morita from El Cerrito. John and Gloria traveled the country together, visited their respective children and grandchildren and enjoyed each other's company. Earlier this year, John accepted that his failing health required him to move into assisted living. His children and their spouses, John Jr., Mark and Anita, and April and Jeff, are grateful for all the support John received during his final months from his brother, Roy, and wife Hannah, Gloria and her daughter, Barbara.

The memorial service will be held at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 22, at Sycamore Congregational Church UCC, 1111 Navellier St., El Cerrito, CA 94530. A reception will follow. Donations may be made to the Japanese American Citizens League, Sycamore Congregational Church in El Cerrito or a charity of your choice.

## TRIBUTE

### MAMORU 'MORI' TANIMOTO



Mamoru "Mori" Tanimoto, 95, born July 9, 1920, in Gridley, Calif., died Nov. 3, 2015, in Yuba City, Calif. Survived by daughters, Naomi Lopes (Steve), Sharon Kuroda (Gary), Pennie Bissell (Dennis); sister, Eva Kojima; brother, Jim Tanimoto; 7 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews. Preceded in death by his wife, June; granddaughter, Jenna Kuroda; sister, Shizuko Matsumoto; brothers, Mike, Jack and George. Upon

returning to Gridley from their incarceration at Tule Lake Internment Camp, he and his brothers, Jim and George, the Tanimoto Brothers, pioneered the kiwi business in the United States. Memorial service on Saturday, Nov. 28, 2015, at 1 p.m. at Marysville Buddhist Church in Marysville, Calif.

### ROBERT 'BOB' KINGI SAKAGUCHI

Robert (Bob) Kingi Sakaguchi was born in Brighton, Colo., on July 18, 1946. Bob and his sister, Joyce, grew up on the family farm and attended Brighton High School. Bob was an active and accomplished athlete. Bob enlisted in the Air Force, then attended the University of Colorado, graduating with a civil engineering degree. He was employed by the Colorado Department of Transportation, served as major of Broomfield, was active in the Brighton Japanese American Assn., also the Japanese American Citizens League, had daughters Tracy, Tammy and Kristen, married Deborah Daniell Sakaguchi in 1995. Bob is survived by his wife, Deborah; his sister, Joyce Sakaguchi Phillips (Rich); daughters, Tracy, Tammy (Gerald Sellers) and Kristen (Brian Filizetti); and grandchildren. He will be missed by many relatives and friends.

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## SAFE SPACES &gt;&gt; continued from page 3

A student then explodes into a profanity-riddled tirade, screaming that Christakis's job is "not to create an intellectual space — it's to create a home." The student finishes by telling Christakis that he "should not sleep at night." "You are disgusting," she tells him, before storming off camera.

In a now-deleted editorial published by the *Yale Daily Herald*, a student wrote, "I have had to watch my friends defend their right to this institution. This email and the subsequent reaction to it have interrupted their lives. I have friends who are not going to class, who are not doing their homework, who are losing sleep, who are skipping meals and who are having breakdowns."

Now, let me get something straight — I've had to defend my peers and my school from older family members who liken today's college students to infants and today's colleges to glorified daycare centers, and I bristle at the media's dismissal of student activism as mere temper tantrums.

But when I read this student's editorial, I groaned. To the editors at "Fox News" and the *Weekly Standard*, this is their equivalent of buying a can of Coke from a vending machine and having two fall out. Or 200. I could only imagine how gleeful they must have been, especially when they arrived at the line that reads, "I don't want to debate. I want to talk about my pain."

Much has been made in recent months of the concept of a "safe space," a space on college campuses where students feel comfortable being themselves, whoever that self might be — female or male, white or black, Asian or Latino, gay, straight or trans.

Many students of a racial or sexual minority feel that they lack this "safe space," that many universities are safe spaces for straight white male students alone.

But is this mythical "safe space" a real place? Does it exist anywhere in the world — even for,

yes, those who are white, straight and male?

Certainly students of color have a far more difficult experience in college than their Caucasian classmates; certainly students of any minority are exposed to incidents of harassment and discrimination that their white peers are spared from. But isn't this increasingly vocal demand for a "safe space" a Holy Grail quest of sorts?

Isn't the idea of a "safe space," a place where we can be ourselves without pretense or fear of being found out, something we all hope to find in our lives, regardless of our ethnicity, gender or sexuality?

How many white college kids, or white people in general, actually feel that they can be entirely and exclusively themselves, all the time? I think everyone wants to find his or her own "safe space," but I'm not sure if anyone ever does.

I think that the Yale incident illustrates a desire common amongst my generation to legislate sensitivity. We see this in appeals for "trigger warnings" — disclaimers given by professors before addressing potentially upsetting issues or material — and we see this in the uproar following Christakis's email.

Christakis urged Yalies to discuss cultural appropriation and prejudices amongst themselves, rather than hoisting up and hiding behind edicts handed down from above.

In an open letter published in response to Christakis's comments, students wrote, "We were told to meet the offensive parties head on, without suggesting any modes or means to facilitate these discussions to promote understanding."

Do these students, at or above the legal age of adulthood, really need a grown-up from the school's administration to bring the offending and the offended parties together to "facilitate" a discussion about why a particular costume is insensitive?

Dialogue is an essential aspect of the university experience — through dialogue, we come into contact with viewpoints we would otherwise have never considered, and our intellectual horizons are broadened. Dialogue allows us to teach our classmates as well as learn from them.

What the protesters at Yale want is a lack of dialogue, because they've confused a disagreement of opinion with a personal attack.

In the video of the encounter at Silliman College, Nicholas Christakis tells protestors, "I am sorry for causing you pain. That's different than the statement that I'm sorry for what I said. There's a fundamental difference between the two, guys."

When a student tells Christakis he should be sorry for what he said because his wife's email was offensive to him, Christakis asks him, "Who gets to decide when it's offensive?" Another student replies, "Me — when it hurts me."

Some people might be tempted to write off the whole incident as a big temper tantrum gone viral. But I think it's emblematic of the distorting prism of narcissism through which many of my classmates see the world.

When somebody says something I don't agree with, they should be censored. They should be labeled as a bigot; they should be cursed at and called disgusting. My comfort and emotional well-being is the single most important item on my school's agenda, even at the expense of intellectual stagnancy.

Don't you remember? The job of university faculty is not to create an intellectual space. It's to create a home. It's to create a safe space, a space safe from meanness, safe from criticism and discourse and, ultimately, a space safe from learning.

*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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