Have the Merriest of Holidays
And a Safe and Prosperous New Year
from the
Pacific Northwest
District Council

Officers
Governor
Sheldon Arakaki
Vice Governors
Bill Tashima
Setsy Larouche
Secretary
Paul Tashima
Treasurer
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Eileen Yamada Lamphere
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Puget Sound Valley
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Seattle
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Boise Valley JACL

Chapter Officers and Board Members
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Dean Hayashida
David Hirai
Robert Hirai
Patricia Kauwaguchi
Micki Kauwaguchi
Becky Kawano
Katie Niemann
Janis Ogawa
Sydney Woods
David Yorita

~ Happy Holidays ~

RIVERSIDE

Happy Holidays
Gordon, Rei, and Jennifer Okabayashi
Seasons Greetings
Tony and Beverly Inaba, Lily Taka
Happy Holidays
Doug Urata and Alice Roe
djurata@iol.com
Happy Holidays
William and Nancy Takano

Happy Holiday Wishes
Tim and Aki Caszatt
Happy Holidays
The Kamoto Family

Peace and Joy
James Tsubota

Happy Holidays
Richard and Ann Ikimi, Mike Ikimi, Doug and Reiki Ikimi, Gary and Laurie Ikimi

Happy Holidays
Akio and Helen Yoshikawa

Happy Holidays!
Nikkei Student Union at UC Riverside

House Support
The Harada House
A National Historic Landmark
In Riverside
https://www.premiumhomes.com/
anniversaryandeducationalhistorical
house.association.org

Merry Christmas
Michiko Yoshimura, James and Yoshie Butler

From Congressman Mark Takano
Thank you for all that you do. Let’s make 2016 a great year!

PAID FOR BY MARK TAKANO FOR CONGRESS

ALAMEDA

Season’s Greetings
Alameda JACL

All addresses: Alameda, CA 94501—
TAJIMA, Nori—.............................................1106 Sand Bench Pl (01)
TANIGUCHI, Rev & Mrs Z and Family—...........2305 Pacific Ave (01)
YAMASAKI, Yoko & Katherine—.......................1220 Verandah Ave (01)
YOSHI, Rev & Mrs Mike and Family—.................2213 Baena Vista Ave (06)
Oakland, CA 94666 —
KADOYA, Mas & June —.................................1748-23rd Ave (06)

Elsewhere in California
HANAMURA, Mary —.................................1303 Norvell St, El Cerrito 94530
INOUE, Rose —.................................1409 Kapiolani Rd, San Leandro 94577

HAYAME, Sue —
1838 Walnut Street
Alameda, CA 94501

COOKIE TAKESHITA
1761 View Drive
San Leandro, CA 94577

MAS TAKANO
2600 Otto Drive
Alameda, CA 94501

Dennis & Marsha TSUJIMOTO & Family
2603 Stanislaus Street
Alameda, CA 94501

Kaz/Jeans Sato & Family
975 High Street
Alameda, CA 94501

Joan NARAHARA
106 Garden Rd.
Alameda, CA 94501

Ray Hayame, Bryan & Tracy
2994 Via Bahia St.
Alameda, CA 94502

Season’s Best Wishes
Joyce M. Teroa
550 Centre Ct.
Alameda, CA 94502

Sue HAYAME
1838 Walnut Street
Alameda, CA 94501

Season’s Greetings
NISEI PLASTICS
7721 Oakland St.
Oakland, CA 94621
(510) 838-1857

Season’s Greetings
MAKAWA
Akemi
7852 Surrey Lane
Oakland, CA 94605

Arrl Archi
UCHIYAMA
11233 Kerrigan
Oakland, CA 94605

Season’s Best Wishes
Anna Towata, John Towata Jr. & Family
Nancy Nakayama
8724 Don Carol Drive
El Cerrito, CA 94530

Yas YAMASHITA
2552 - 62nd Ave.
Oakland, CA 94605

Kiyoshi/Tazuko NAITO
1400 Geary Blvd., #2203
San Francisco, CA 94109

Season’s Best Wishes
Joyce M. Teroa
550 Centre Ct.
Alameda, CA 94502

Nancy Nakayama
8724 Don Carol Drive
El Cerrito, CA 94530

PAID FOR BY MARK TAKANO FOR CONGRESS
Happy Holidays!
Melvin/June Aoki

Holiday Wishes
Don & Lorrie Mikuni

Holiday Cheer
Roberta T. Itani
54 Norman Way
Salinas, CA 93906-1347

Happy Holidays
Paul T & Sumi Ichiju
17 San Marcos Ct • Salinas, CA 93901

Season’s Greetings
from
Pam & Phil Durkee

Season’s Greetings
Gary & Mayumi
TANIMURA
& Family
18845 Oak View Place
Salinas, CA 93908

Happy Holiday Greetings
Fumi Urabe
150 Kern St. # 93
Salinas, CA 93905

Mae Sakasegawa
310 Amherst Drive
Salinas, CA 93901

Happy Holidays
Robert & Mary Oka

Seasons Greetings
Hibino Farms
SALINAS, CALIF. 93907

Yamashita Flower Farm, Inc.
2346 Alisal Rd., Salinas, CA 93908
Phone: (831) 422-9381

Happy Holidays!
The Ishii Family
Linden, Janice, Kristy & Brain

SUSAN MIDORI JONES
REGIONAL UNISERV STAFF
SALINAS REGIONAL RESOURCE CENTER
CALIFORNIA TEACHERS ASSOCIATION
928 EAST BLANCO ROAD, SUITE 100
SALINAS, CA 93901
831.783.3300
FAX: 831.783.3311
SANTA CRUZ: 831.429.9495
E-MAIL: smjones@cta.org

Wishing everyone a prosperous & healthy New Year!
George & Janice Higashi

Salinas Valley Chapter

Wishing everyone a healthy 2016
A
s the world in which we live today has been shocked recently by tragedies that
have shocked and saddened us all, recognizing the power of the holiday season to
replenish our souls, rejuvenate our spirits and bring peace to our
hearts and minds couldn’t come at a better time.

This year’s holiday theme is “Peace,” and it reminds me of words of a song
written by Jill Jackson Miller. “Let there be peace on Earth, and let it begin with me.”
Inside this special issue, you’ll find a wide assortment of contributions by writers who have looked within
their own hearts to see what that very word means.

While obtaining universal peace seems impossible when there are so
many in our world who have varying beliefs as to what that truly means.
the answer perhaps does lie in our own ability to look inward and
examine our personal feelings of what type of peace we need in order
to exist wholly and completely each and every day.
As President John F. Kennedy once said of peace, “We must show it
in the dedication of our own lives . . . . Wherever we are, we must all,
in our daily lives, live up to the age-old faith that peace and freedom
walk together.”
The journey begins with us.
As the Pacific Citizen celebrates its 87th year in 2016, the P.C.
continues its own journey to provide you with the stories that matter
most to our community — and you’ll receive your news in print and
digital form. It’s a win-win solution for all of our JACL members and readers.
Consider that P.C.’s own answer to attaining peace.
This issue would not be possible without the endless assistance we get from
all of the JACL chapters that solicited ads for this year’s issue.
Thank you for the important work you do. It is 100 percent appreciated.
Finally, to the P.C. staff, let us forge ahead in the new year
reinvented, at peace and ready to conquer the world one story at
a time.

— Allison Haramoto, Executive Editor
congratulates the 2015 Scholarship Awardees

Hiji Brothers Scholarship
Cynthia Anderson Nicole Golden
Mihoko Kubo Ryan Kurohara
Mondi Nishimori

Dr. Tom Taketa Memorial Scholarship
Kai Yoshinaga

Outstanding Scholar Award
Michael Aochi Jessica Dees
Emily Hara

Season's Greetings
Ventura County Chapter Members & Friends
Bob and Masako Arima
Aiko O. King
John and Carol Asari
Bill & Marian Kita
Charlene J. Falkenstein
Roy and Emi Kodama
Frank and Gayle Fujikoa
Betty Katsura
Frank & Betty Hiji
Jennifer Kuo
Hisao Bob & Hiroko Hiji
Jonathan Kuo
John and Julie Hirakisho
Shig Maeno
Miiko Hiroshima
Yuzu & Gene Matsutusuya
Francis M. Ikayci
Edwin & Marcia Miyasaka
Harry and Janet Kajihara
Ken & Lily Sugimso
Yori and Kathy Kamamori
Jeff and Diana Kurusaki
Roy & Christina Sumino
Betty & George Wakiki
Dorene and Jim Tuskida
Shiga and Rene Yabu
Yas & Claudia Umeda
Ben K. Wada
Donna Nakashima and Family

In Loving Memory of
Fred Hoshiyama

“They say that your first century is the hardest, so I am looking forward to my second century and hope to see you all there at that time.”

-Fred Hoshiyama,
on turning 100 years old in December 2014

Venice-West Los Angeles JACL
The Pacific Citizen has always been JACL’s most visible benefit of membership, especially for members who are away from the Asian American clusters in different parts of the U.S. In many of our communities the PC is the lifeline to our organization. If we cannot easily access the information provided by the PC, JACL membership would have less value.

Although digital is the future of media, few newspapers have found a successful business model to go “all digital.” And in the PC’s case, the demographics of JACL’s membership can’t be ignored. Many of our members are older, and not able to access a website or a mobile device like a cell phone or tablet to get our news.

You, as members, your chapters and districts, contacted both the PC and JACL’s national leadership to express your concerns about the way the decision was made to go all digital, and the timeline that was given for this conversion. Your message was heard.

Although the National Board on Nov. 30 changed its mind about going “all digital” at this time, there are still concerns about the “new” plan. The PC will continue to be printed, and current members will be given the choice to receive either a digital or printed version. New members may not have the option to receive a printed version at all.

We the undersigned, still believe that digital is the future, but JACL as an organization needs to think through the process and timeline to go digital. We believe in the transition to the PC of the future, but more discussion, including input from us as stakeholders, is critical.

We propose a major discussion on the future of the PC and a viable plan for attaining that future be discussed and voted on by the National Council at the 2016 National Convention in Las Vegas. NO changes to the PC nor the process of printing and distributing the PC should be made until after this vote.

We urge you to voice your opinion on this transition and how it should be handled. Please continue to pass along your concerns and opinions to the PC, to your chapter and district leaders, and to the National JACL leadership.

Berkeley Chapter
Contra Costa Chapter
Diablo Valley Chapter
Florin Chapter
San Fernando Valley Chapter
Silicon Valley Chapter
Stockton Chapter
Watsonville-Santa Cruz Chapter

John Saito Jr. - Pacific Southwest District Editorial Board Member
Mas & Marcia Hashimoto - Watsonville-Santa Cruz Chapter
Ken & Ann Yabusaki - Berkeley Chapter
Lamont & Asako Jackson - NCWNP District
Ranko Yamada - Berkeley Chapter
Arleen Mataga - Lodi Chapter
Jim Craig - Placer Chapter
Janet Komoto - Snake River Chapter, Ontario OR
Flora Ninomiya - Contra Costa Chapter Board member
Ben & Fumiko Takeshita
Will Tsukamoto - San Francisco Chapter
Carolyn Adams - Berkeley Chapter
Janice Yamaoka Luszczak
Sharon Ishii-Jordan - Omaha Chapter
Alan Mikuni - President, Fremont Chapter
Gary Mayeda - APAN Chapter/PSW District
Gil Asakawa - Mile High Chapter
Valerie Yasukochi - Berkeley Chapter, NCWNPD Delegate
Thaya Mune Craig - Placer Chapter, Vice Governor NCWNPD
Kai & Sheri Uno - President, Omaha Chapter/MDC
Harold & Ellen Kameya - San Fernando Valley Chapter
Margie Yamamoto - Past Pacific Citizen Editorial Board Chair
Kenneth Oye - Co-President, New England Chapter
Reiko Yoshino - Past Governor, Mountain Plains District Council
James Duff - Berkeley Chapter/PC Editorial Board Rep
Dear Editor,

I was extremely distressed to hear that the National Board had voted to discontinue the print edition of the Pacific Citizen and I am writing to protest this decision.

I am a longtime JACL member from a family that has been active in JACL from its beginning. I myself am a past president of the Chicago chapter. My grandfather was one of the founding members of JACL. My brother was JACL’s Washington representative when redress/reparations was being implemented.

While a print edition has been a convenience to me as a baby boomer who is somewhat technologically challenged, it is an absolute necessity to my 89-year-old Nisei mother who does not own a computer and does not know how to operate one. Our senior citizen members are still a major element in JACL, and it ill serves our membership to cut them off from our national newspaper. Please reconsider this decision.

Sincerely,

David K. Iwamoto
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Editor,

Please cancel my subscription to the Pacific Citizen (P.C.) effective immediately.

As reported with the most recent P.C. issues, with the impending termination of the paper version of the P.C., I no longer have a need for a P.C. subscription.

Today, I am a “Non-JACL Member” subscriber. However, I have been a P.C. reader for nearly four decades. In 1994, I terminated my JACL membership because as I wrote to the P.C. Editor then, I felt the JACL lacked focus, direction and a plan. As I stated in a Letter to the Editor, "There is an adage, 'If you don't know where you are going, any road will get you there.' This characterizes the state of affairs of JACL." At that time, I felt JACL was taking the course of the ship Titanic. It appears that the decision to terminate the paper version of the P.C. just could spell doom for the JACL as well.

Sincerely,

Clarence Ueda

Dear Editor,

I am a Life Member, my wife is a past president of a Thousand Club member, and we’ve supported the P.C. for decades. We will no longer support P.C. despite the fact that contents are worth reading even after Hosokawa’s columns had to stop.

Going digital because of hard copy and related cost reasons, though understandable and acceptable, means that many readers will lose interest. For example, I doubt very much that you or any other P.C. staff read or even know about the publication “ASIAN WISCONZINE.” It originated years ago as a slick-paper, hard-copy monthly magazine distributed via U.S. Postal Department and made available in school, libraries and elsewhere. It had widespread readership in Wisconsin and other parts of the Midwest where Asians and American Americans comprise a small part of the total population. Hard-copy issues became too expensive; therefore, media transformation became necessary, and the publication had to go digital.

Formerly, copies of “ASIAN WISCONZINE” could be shared by students and other readers, so readers far exceeded the number of published copies. The first issue was January 2005, and I think the final hard copy was published in 2010. I have been a volunteer writer for years and continue even though I no longer peruse each monthly issue as thoroughly as I did when it was in hard-copy form.

Heidi Fascial (2006 U.S.-SBA Journalist of the Year for the State of Wisconsin) continues to produce monthly editions despite all financial, publication and other obstacles. Anyone with computer access may read any issue of “ASIAN WISCONZINE” by entering www.asianwisconsin.com/archives.html.

As far as I’m concerned, reading the P.C. on a computer monitor is for the birds. I refuse to read more than a page or two on the monitor and often request and get hard copies of reports from government or other sources when I want to read anything in its entirety.

Sincerely,

Paul H. Kinsuda
Madison, Wis.

Dear Editor,

Thirty-one governors have it wrong, our governor in Washington state has it right.

Governor, you stated that America should continue to accept 10,000 Syrian refugees who need a home. Further, you cited an event in American history when our political leaders succumbed to fear and prejudice and chose an expedient political path, incarcerating more than 110,000 people of Japanese ancestry for no other reason than they looked like the enemy. Ironically, this indefensible action was led by President Franklin D. Roosevelt who declared, “We have nothing to fear but fear itself.”

With current events, we need to be forever vigilant against any similar reactions of fear and prejudice towards Syrian refugees, and rebuke politicians who misguidedly cite the unconstitutional incarceration during WWII as a valid historical precedent. Gov. Inslee, our organizations support your principled leadership and thank you for your honorable stand.

We recognize that your position may not be popular with some people, but it is the right one. Your stance reaffirms our organizations’ goal to “Let It Not Happen Again.”

Sincerely,

Mary Woodward
President, Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community

Bill Nakao,
President, Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial Assn.

Dear Editor,

I Thought It Was Simply a Business Decision, But . . .

Like many other JACL members, I had thought that changing to a digital PDF Pacific Citizen was simply a business decision. I now strongly feel that it SHOULD NOT be simply a business decision. I had not considered the damaging effect that it would have on the morale of our membership, on team-building efforts at the chapter and national levels, as well as affecting our current levels of activism.

The huge outcry of protests against digitization demonstrates that this issue is simply too vital to be entrusted in the hands of just a few well-meaning, results-driven, corporate-mindset officers on the National Board. Prior to any move toward digitization, detailed financial information needs to be made available to all chapter presidents. The effects of digitization need to be studied, including those effects that might not be obvious. Any provisions for hard copies require a well-thought out plan, rather than being treated as an afterthought.

Over Thanksgiving dinner, a former editor of a small newspaper related to me that reporters hope that their articles would result in three actions by their readers: that it would be read, that it would be examined and digested. Finally, that it would cause readers to be motivated to apply what they read.

Until we become more acclimated to electronic media, I posit that we will not read, digest and examine as much as we did, and hence be less inclined to be moved to action with our Pacific Citizen safely stored in our computing device! There is a subtle power in having a printed copy of the Pacific Citizen staring at us from our coffee table! This issue is simply too vital to be left to the power of just a few. Chapters need to have a voice!

Sincerely,

Harold Kameya
PAPER PREFERRED

Member feedback prompts the JACL National Board to keep printing the P.C., along with offering a digital PDF format.

By P.C. Staff

Pacific Citizen is staying printed — for now. Only 58 days after the JACL National Board voted unanimously to end the printed edition of the P.C., the National Board met over a conference call on Nov. 23 to change the P.C. Digital Media plan once more.

JACL National President David Lin outlined the following during the call:

1. JACL will continue printing the Pacific Citizen in its current form.
2. JACL will, in an attempt to reduce print and mail expenses, get as many members as possible to sign up for a digital-only PDF on a voluntary basis. Members with an email on file currently will receive the PDF version of the P.C. so they can test it before they decide their format. JACL will also request emails from members with regular membership mailings.
3. New members will no longer receive the print P.C. as soon as it is feasible.

“In light of feedback and concerns from JACL members,” Lin said, “the best course of action is to continue distributing the P.C. in its current print form. This will minimize disruptions to the current distribution system whether they are perceived or real disruptions.”

Ideas were tossed during the meeting on how to go about collecting member information. Everything from postcard notifications to email messages was discussed as mediums to communicate with members, but a streamlined solution to the distribution plan was not formally agreed on. There is no word yet on when these plans will be finalized.

In regard to membership, VP Planning and Development Chip Larouche clarified that the date for new members who will not receive the printed P.C. is yet to be determined. Benefits to new JACL members today include a hard-copy subscription to the P.C., free admission to the Japanese American National Museum and eligibility for the JACL Credit Union, as well as access to JACL scholarships, internships, fellowships and leadership programs.

In previous years, benefits included discounted Costco memberships, car rental discounts and a group health insurance discount.

Over the years, JACL, like many other Japanese American organizations, has faced changes within the community. Such challenges have included a decline in membership, with still trying to secure and maintain the civil rights of Japanese Americans and other Asian Americans. Newspapers have also struggled to adapt to a changing cultural and political landscape, going digital and losing the hard-copy paper.

Yet after much feedback from readers, JACL members, libraries and other institutions, the P.C. remains printed largely in part because its members are of an older generation. Seniors, mostly, have written letters and called the paper’s office asking to remain printed or terminate their subscription or JACL memberships.

Many have posed the question of whether or not the paper is a service to the community or meant to make money.

Some have written letters stressing that the paper is indeed a service to JACL senior members in the Japanese American community, looking to stay informed. Others have argued that the paper takes away funds from other programs that also serve the Japanese American and Asian American community.

“The paper operates to inform, interpret, provide a service to readers and also entertain,” Executive Editor Allison Haramoto explained. “The paper is a unique service that does all of those things on a national scale for our readers, who are all across the U.S. It better informs citizens or, in this case, JACL members about what the organization is doing with hard news and facts. For many readers, the P.C. is their only link to staying informed with what is going on in the Japanese American community.”

Like any service, cost is vital. Financials based through September faced a significant deficit as revenue was under budget by roughly 11.5 percent, with a few notable underperforming programs, one of which is the Pacific Citizen. Secretary Treasurer Matthew Farrells gave the report and added that expenses were over budget.

For the P.C., the paper relies primarily on earnings from its annual Holiday Issue, its largest fundraiser, as well as Spring Campaign donations to keep operating throughout the year. However, this year’s Holiday Issue financial goal has been impacted due to several contributing factors.

“It has a lot to do with our entire office move during October and November along with the Digital Media Plan that was implemented during the same time,” explained P.C. Business Manager Susan Yokoyama about this year’s Holiday Issue challenges. “Chapters are struggling to find ads amidst worries that the P.C. is only going to be available digitally, we’re struggling to assure our advertisers that the P.C. will still remain, all while trying to execute a Digital Media Plan that reorganizes our entire infrastructure. It’s been quite challenging this year, but we’re doing our absolute best to make our projected financial goals.”

Planning, outreach, design and layout all happen within a six-month window for the paper. Heavy production begins in October of each year. Yokoyama and the P.C. staff are tasked with helping to organize hundreds of individual and business ads.

The 80-page edition will not be available online. JACL members and nonmember subscribers should expect to see their hard copy before Christmas.

For now, JACL members can enjoy a printed copy and a PDF version online. However, future JACL members won’t have an option receive a hard-copy subscription to the P.C. Those members looking for a hard copy would therefore need to subscribe to the paper separately, requiring two payments: one for JACL and one for the P.C.

At this time, Lin is looking to see whether or not it makes sense to offer a new charge or nominal fee for JACL members looking to subscribe to the P.C., thereby eliminating the double membership and subscription.

However, any changes to the cost for membership would need approval by the National Council. Looking ahead, the 2016 annual JACL National Convention in Las Vegas is expected to address those concerns.

The vote to amend the Media Plan was not unanimous unlike the Oct. 3 National Board Meeting in Chicago. There were five yes votes from VP General Operations, VP Planning and Development, VP Membership, MDC District Governor and NCWNP District Governor. Both VP Public Affairs and Secretary Treasurer voted to abstain.
HOLIDAY GREETINGS
GLENN AND LINDA YAMAMOTO

Season’s Greetings from
May, Megan and Matt Nakano
Chicago

Happy Holidays
Tad and Takako, Joyce and Stanley
TANAKA
5427 North Clark St.
Chicago, IL 60640

Happy Holidays
SHARON HARADA

Best Wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year from
Tonio and Paul Doi - Chicago
Laura Murasko and Peter Itzil - Chicago
Tom and Verna Murasko - Honolulu
Grace Kidō - Chicago
In Memory of
Tomoye and Shiro Muraoka
George Itzil
George Kidō
Mizuki and Rifae Doi

Peace on Earth
JASC

Serving the greater Chicagoland community since 1948
Spanning Generations and Bridging Cultures through
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- community heritage & cultural events
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Board President – John R. Sasaki
4427 N. Clark St., Chicago, IL 60640
773.275.0997
www.jasc-chicago.org

Happy Holidays
from
Judy Tanaka
& Cary Wong

Happy Holidays
from
Lisa Sloan

In Memory of
HIRAO “SMOKY” SAKURADA

Koki Abe • Tom Aoki • Akiko Arima • Eliza Chino • Alice Esaki • Sumi Fujihara
Mits Fujishima • Ray Hallowell • Don Hashiguchi • Mickey Harfield
Yusku Higashiguchi • Dick Hirata • Shizue Ishida • Thomas Inagaki • Ikse Itami
Vicky Ito • Penny Kawai • Yoshie Kato • Katsumi Kobayashi • Hide Kikuchi
Ruth Kosaka • Don Kubose • Yurie Kushino • Martha Makino • Bob Masunaga
Shin’ei Rocky Matayoshi • Tom Matsushima • Sueko Matsui • Vi Mizuki
Hirotoshi Mizuno • Giichi Muraki • Miko Murata • Kimiko Nagaiishi
Hiroshi Nakano • Sum Ozaki • Ken Sakai • Nobuko Sato • Ryugo Shimizu
Isao Shimoda • Sets Shimomura • Frances Sugihara • George Sugiyama
Hanako Tanemoto • Kiyoshi Richard Takaki • Masao Takei • Phyllis Takeda
Blair Tanaka • Betty Tanaka • Hikako Tashiro • Lucy Teshima
Jennie Watanabe • Fred Yamaguchi • Kiyoko Yoshimura

In memory of those and other friends and neighbors who raised their families, contributed to their community, served their country, and enriched our lives.

JAPANESE MUTUAL AID SOCIETY OF CHICAGO
2249 W. Berwyn Avenue, Chicago, IL 60625-1118 • 773-997-3902

Happy Holidays
from
Shinyei Rocky Matayoshi

Happy Holidays
from
Ron & Joyce Yoshino

HOLIDAY GREETINGS
Tsune Nakagawa
Chicago

Season’s Greetings
Carol & Bill Yoshino
1924 W. Farrell Avenue
Chicago, IL 60626

HOLIDAY GREETINGS
Ron & Joyce Yoshino
yoshM4@aol.com and yoshin@sbobglobal.net

Season’s Greetings
From the Members of
Chicago Nisei Post 1183
The American Legion

Happy Holidays
from
Ryan and Lynn Harada Murashige

Greeting’s from Livermore, CA

SEASON’S GREETINGS
FROM THE
CHICAGO NIKKEI FORUM
BRIDGING OUR COMMUNITIES

Your source for news and events about Chicago’s Nikkei Community.

www.chicagonikkeiforum.org

find us on Facebook
Lasting Loyalty

'Allegiance' makes its long-awaited debut on Broadway and furthers the dialogue of an oft-overlooked chapter in American history.

By Matthew Ormseth, Contributor

Some stories are harder than others to tell. Perhaps the hardest story of all for Japanese Americans — the story of their forced removal from the West Coast and subsequent incarceration during World War II — found its way onto Broadway and into the national spotlight last month when the musical "Allegiance" opened at the Longacre Theater on Nov. 8.

"Allegiance," billed as "a new musical inspired by a true story," tells the story of the fictional Kimura family, a family portrayed as an amalgam of the manifold Japanese American experiences during the war and incarceration.

Starring George Takei, Lea Salonga, Telly Leung, Greg Wata­nabe, Katie Rose Clarke and Chris­opheren Nomura, the musical first premiered at the Old Globe Theatre in San Diego in 2012; its Broadway debut marks the first time in more than a dozen years that an Asian-led cast has been on Broadway since the 2002 revival of "Flower Drum Song," which also starred Salonga.

In the "Fact or Fiction: Behind Our Story" resource on the musical's website, Sam Kimura, the story's protagonist, is explained to represent "the experiences of several Japanese Americans including George Takei; George's father, Norman Takei; and Ben Kuroki, a decorated World War II tail gunner in the Army Air Force who was perhaps the most famous Japanese American at war's end. Sam is also based on the many personal accounts of Japanese Americans incarcerated during the war and who later served in the U.S. armed forces."

"Allegiance" draws on historical events and facts — the attacks on Pearl Harbor, Executive Order 9066, the creation of the 442nd Infantry Regiment and the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki — in order to weave a backdrop for a story, a story of love, family and sacrifice, but a story that, we must remember, is ultimately fictional.

"Most of the story is true to historical fact," the "Fact or Fiction" section reads. "However, the invention of fictional characters and story moments utilize artistic license for dramatic effect."

The question of how much license an artist should take with historical events, especially events that hold a great amount of traumatic value for those involved, is a question without a definitive answer, and one that every viewer can decide for him or herself.

The JACL voiced its objection to the musical's inclusion of the organization's name and the name of Mika Masaoka in the story, as well as the musical's ambivalent depiction of Masaoka.

"Although most of the characters, which are loosely based on individuals, have fictional names," the JACL's Oct. 7 statement reads, "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."

Greg Watanabe, who portrays Mike Masaoka with compelling ambiguity, responded to the JACL's objection to Masaoka's representation in "Allegiance," saying, "I think 'Allegiance' portrays Mike as someone who is faced with very difficult decisions, who believes with absolute certainty that what he's doing is for the greater good of Japanese Americans. In that way, I think that audiences who've never heard of Mike Masaoka or the JACL will view him as a man who was doing the best that he could."

In "Allegiance," Masaoka is the intermediary between government officials and the Japanese American people, desperately trying to placate Washington's increasingly hostile attitude toward the JA population while struggling to protect the constitutional rights of his people.

However, Masaoka and the JACL incur the disdain of many of the internees in the play, one of whom remarks, "Who put them (the JACL) in charge?" Director Stafford Aria­na's decision to portray Masaoka in a dark, double-breasted suit places him squarely on the side of the faceless Washington functionaries and in stark contrast with the rest of the JAs in the film, clad in their farm-attire blue jeans, flannels and patterned sun dresses.

In the first act of the play, Masaoka makes the controversial decision to press for an entirely Japanese American infantry unit, the now-famed 442nd. "Give us our own segregated unit like the Negroes, and we'll fight harder than any soldier you've got," he tells a stone-faced Washington official. "We'll undertake the most dangerous missions, even if it means certain death."

Masaoka's self-inclusion in the 442nd with the pronoun "we" was certainly a point of ire among those interred; Masaoka was not signing up to fight. Masaoka was not even interred. The hypocrisy of his statement is there for the taking, if a viewer should choose to dwell on it.

But as Watanabe said earlier, he wants to believe that audiences will see Masaoka "as a man who was doing the best that he could," rather than merely interpreting his words and his portrayal in the play as an insult. Masaoka, the JACL's supposed pandering to Washington politics.

Masaoka truly believed he was making the best possible decision in a situation with no right answers, just as Sam Kimura, the story's protagonist, believed he was making the right decision by signing up to fight for a country that had imprisoned him and his family, and just as Frankie Suzuki, Kimura's fellow internee, believed
“Allegiance” is a story about how three different men — Massada, Kimura and Suzuki — with three very different conceptions of duty—pledged their allegiance to a nation in crisis.

The conflict in “Allegiance” between those who enlisted and those who resisted — the so-called “No-No Boys” — is fascinating, and articulates a schism in the Japanese American community’s definition of patriotism that persists to this day. Kimura was willing to fight for his country in the battlefields of Italy. And Frankie — Frankie was willing to fight for his country, too, by resisting the draft, even when his country became disassociated from his government.

“Allegiance” seeks to answer this question: Can a country become dis-associated from its government, or are the two inextricable? When we think of America, we think of the Constitution; we think of civil rights and personal liberties, and we think of our commitments. Commitments to tolerance, equality and the dream of meritocracy. And when a government reneges on those commitments, betrays the promises enshrined in its most venerable documents, and steals the property and the liberty of its own people, a government is quite capable of disassociating itself from its country.

In the play’s culminating scene, a newly returned Kimura, now a decorated war hero, is shocked to see that his sister, Kei, had had a child with Franki, whom he despises for refusing to enlist. Kimura renounces his sister and her new family, and as he leaves, Kei screams after him, “Coward!” Here, the writers of “Allegiance” depict not only conflicting conceptions of patriotism, but of valor, as well. In Kimura’s mind, bravery meant risking one’s life not to.

In light of this year’s Holiday issue theme, we might consider that risking one’s life in battle requires a certain type of heroism, but so, too, does peace, and the decision to live. It requires a certain heroism to fight, quite literally, the terrible and natural urge to fight another. The terrible urge to kill one another.

And when Kimura’s sister denounces him as a coward, one can’t help but feel that Suzuki’s heroism — the heroism of peace, of refusing to fight for a country ostensibly out to defend democracy and liberty while imprisoning its own people at home — is a heroism on par with Kimura’s. Only Kimura’s heroism earned him a Purple Heart and the cover of “Life” magazine, while Suzuki’s earned him a one-way ticket to Tule Lake.

The question of historical fidelity and artistic license mentioned earlier is a contentious one, especially for those who were themselves interned.

“Allegiance”’s writers do play fast and loose with the facts at times for dramatic effect: upon arrival at Heart Mountain, internees are forced to strip to their underwear and sorted into lines with the chillingly familiar cry of “Men to the left, women to the right!” The scene is executive of Auschwitz, and it conjures expectations of gas chambers and crematorium.

While the invention of a love story between Kimura and a white nurse stationed at Heart Mountain is permissible within the boundaries of historically based drama, a greater faithfulness to the true conditions of the camps should have been observed, even at the expense of theatrical effect. These small details matter to former internees, especially as we fast approach the day when we no longer have eyewitness testimony from our own clan and obs-cloan, and have only the narratives — including “Allegiance” — to try to understand what it was like to live in the camps.

But for the vast majority of Broadway-goers, and Americans as a whole for that matter, their knowledge of the incarceration of Japanese Americans is largely restricted to some half-forgotten sidebar in their high school U.S. history textbook. “If the American people knew more of the history of the camps, or more about Japanese Americans, and Japanese American culture (as opposed to Japanese culture), I think one could potentially tell a different story, create a different musical,” Watanabe explained. “But despite the number of history books, Asian American studies and literature courses, documentaries, plays, poems, narrative fiction, even other musicals, the general public still knows nothing about Japanese Americans or their experience of incarceration during WWII.”

For many of those in attendance at the opening of “Allegiance,” the musical was a history lesson on unfamiliar material. Some might argue that the absence of an established, factual historical narrative among the American public creates an even more compelling case for a closer commitment to truth in “Allegiance,” as an unashamed audience would not be able to differentiate between fact and fiction without knowing the facts in the first place.

But “Allegiance”’s actors and writers seek to inspire the show’s viewers through the pathos of a doomed love story and a family’s tribulations, so that they might pursue the truth afterward and try to make sense of one of America’s more shameful chapters in her history.

“I hope that they find it emotionally gripping enough, that they then feel compelled to seek more information, history and stories,” Watanabe said. “Perhaps they’ll even see other Asian American work, understanding that there is another way to view art and history, through an Asian American lens, a Japanese American lens. That our representation and point of view is valid and can be specific and universal at the same time.”

The show’s composer and lyricist, Jay Kuo, who interestingly enough is a former civil rights attorney, explained: “I think it was our hope that people would go out and learn more about what happened to 120,000 of their fellow American citizens and residents. To achieve this, it was vital that we present characters whose lives seemed relevant to the audience and in whom theatergoers could see themselves. When the audience weeps collectively for this family’s reconciliation at the end of the show, we know that we have opened a window in their lives, even though they are of a different race, and of a different time.”

At the show’s conclusion, audience members were in tears. Perhaps they’d already known the difficult story of internment; perhaps they’d had not. Perhaps they’d forget in a matter of hours the grief they felt watching the suffering of the Japanese American people, or perhaps they’d go home and Google E.O. 9066, watch Frank Abe’s “Consent and the Constitution” or read some of the testimonies of those interned. It’s impossible to know what they did that evening. However, Kuo, Watanabe and the rest of the cast of “Allegiance” and its creative team did what they had set out to do: tell a story that furthers the dialogue about this shameful, yet oft-overlooked chapter of American history.
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Happy Holidays
PACIFIC CITIZEN HOLIDAY ISSUE 2015
Growing up in an area where the memory of World War II was still fresh gave Gerome Villain the desire to know more about the individuals who were affected. JACL Education Chair Greg Marutani first encountered Villain this past fall in Bruyères, France, and he remembers his trip fondly.

Marutani met Villain and his young daughter, Tiffany, at the train station in Epinal. From there, Villain took Marutani around and introduced him to others who were also able to speak about the history of Bruyères. Along with Villain, Bernard Hans and his wife, Josiane, took Marutani to the Epinal American Cemetery, where Americans from the 100th Battalion and the 442nd RCT are buried, and provided background information on the location. Villain and Hans are volunteers among a small group in France that lead tours of Bruyères to recount stories of the bravery of the men of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

Marutani believes that the volunteer guides are helpful in bridging cultural connections.

"They were all very open to spending time and sharing stories and filling me in," said Marutani, who visited Europe for the first time in October. "It was a much more memorable trip because they shared information that’s not readily available on any plaque or any signage."

For Villain, his interest in the 442nd and the history of the region began early on.

"I started to be interested about the liberation when I was child, listening [to] my grandparents, neighbors relating to me their war stories," said Villain, who is a native from Fiménil, a small village south of Bruyères that was liberated by the units of the 36th Division. "I began my research about the 141st/36th, and the battle in my village, but also around it and, of course, the story of the Lost Battalion. Little by little, I discovered the story of the 442nd — not only its military story but also what happened to the Japanese American citizens after Dec. 7, 1941." Villain was moved by the stories he found.
"It is very interesting to meet people coming from the USA who want to honor relatives, friends of the 442nd."

— Gerome Villain

"Terrible! Difficult to imagine these boys, fighting here, in the cold, mud, always wet, in the dark, against an aggressive and motivated enemy; meanwhile, their families were in camps! No better way to prove their loyalty!" said Villain. "Later, it motivated me to meet veterans or families and do something for them. It is very interesting to meet people coming from the USA who want to honor relatives, friends of the 442nd."

Inspired by his research, Villain gives tours of the Bruyères area to visitors free of charge and also takes the opportunity to learn from tourists.

"When people ask me for a tour, my first question is to know more about them and their relatives," Villain said. "To know the company, the regiment of their relative is very important. That helps me to plan a special or personal tour for them — memorials of Bruyères and Biffontaine, cities of Bruyères and Biffontaine, the Lost Battalion area, places where Gen. (John E.) Dahlquist passed the 442nd in review on Nov. 12 are places we visit."

Villain’s interest in the 442nd has also led him to visit the National Archives in Washington, D.C. During his two visits there, highlights include seeing tracing paper drawn 70 years ago and handwritten book notes.

"It is the place to go when you are looking for files, maps, records — I discovered there are so many interesting records!" Villain said. "For a second, you can imagine the soldier who [drew or] wrote it maybe under a tent or a [barr] somewhere. These records are very helpful to plan the tours. The liberations of Bruyères, Biffontaine and the rescue of the Lost Battalion is difficult to understand — understanding each troop’s movements day per day is not easy, so I feel very lucky to have [visited]."

His experience in the U.S. and France has made Villain feel grateful for those who came before him.

"If I can add something, I would like to say MERCI to our liberators. Each year, at Bruyères and Biffontaine, there are the commemorations of the liberations of these cities — we don’t forget you, we don’t forget the sacrifice of your brothers in arm fallen for our liberty," Villain said. "Vosgian people love you so much — we know, that if we are free today, it is thanks to you!"

Like Villain, Bernard Hans is another Frenchman that has lent his expertise to travelers. At a young age, Hans began to look into Japanese American history and the history of the liberation of Bruyères.

Hans’ father often spoke of the war, as he was a prisoner of the Germans during a four-year period. "My father was a photographer in Bruyères, and it was his reports I followed. From this way, I attended every year visiting U.S. military groups based in Germany who came for the ceremonies of the liberation and also during the period of contacts between Honolulu and Bruyères," said Hans. "There were ceremonies commemorating on monuments and dinners with luau, Hawaiian dances and performances."

Hans also spoke about the importance of the Bruyères-Honolulu Sister City Assn. At 80 members strong, the primary purpose of the group is to preserve the history and memory of the liberators of Bruyères. The association continues as a bridge of friendship between the two communities, connecting the past with the future. For visitors to Bruyères, he tries to adapt the itinerary to fit their interests.

"There are many strengths of our small town, with the town hall, the place of the monument [of the dead] and the main street," said Hans. "In the immediate vicinity, we also go to the top of the hill of Arvisen to enjoy an observation point on the region, which offers a panoramic view 360 degrees from the tower. We also go in the forest of Helledray, where the American Memorial to the soldiers who died for liberation is located. Twenty-five kilometers of Bruyères, there is also another place of pilgrimage, the memorial cemetery "Quequement" near Epinal. There is a wall of remembrance for those who have no name or those who have not been found."
This memorial, located in the Vosges Mountains, recognizes the brave actions of the 36th Division, the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd RCT.

Yohei Sagami, 442nd RCT, who was the first Nisei soldier killed in France.

A plaque on a tree in the Vosges Mountains pays homage to Yohei Sagami, 442nd RCT, who was the first Nisei soldier killed in France.

Hans tells a number of stories to visitors, but he recounts one in particular regarding the grave of a soldier who died the first day the fighting began at Bruyères.

"Sgt. Tomosu Hirahara was from Hawaii — he was 21 years old. His grave is sponsored by the City of Bruyères. One plaque commemorates this soldier in Bruyères on a square dedicated to him," said Hans. "Many graves of soldiers who are buried in the cemetery are sponsored by the local people. There is an association that takes care of that. Each year on the memorial day, a rose is deposited on all the graves of the cemetery."

Many of the volunteers echo Hans’ sentiment. "It is always a great pleasure to receive friends and families of veterans of the 100th/442nd," said Hans. "We have a duty to them and friends of the association — we make it a point of honor to fulfill this mission."

Gerome Villain is currently assembling a “complete” history of Bruyères and the events that took place in the Vosges Mountains. Those with memorabilia and stories of Bruyères Biffontaine or the rescue of the Lost Battalion are encouraged to contact him at geromevillain@hotmail.fr.

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Ellen and Harold Kameya wish to express our gratitude to the JACL organization and its members for supporting the civil rights of LGBTQ people.

We are pleased to see social, legal and religious changes in our society since 1988, the year that our daughter came out as gay.

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A collection of 17 short stories in two parts, the collection opens in Manzanar during the incarceration of Japanese American citizens and their immigrant family members. Told from the viewpoint of the women, their strength, spirit, compassion and the resilience are traced through their stories from the immigrant to post-war generations.

Short stories by Patricia Takayama

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The theme I was asked to reflect on for this column was “peace.” All I could think of were the wars, strife and hostility currently ravaging our world; finding peace seemed like a difficult task.

I was reminded of a poem by one of my best friends, Emi Lea Kamemoto, which speaks of coming from two families and two countries that have been at war in the past. Emi was able to find beauty and peace in both worlds, and it is my hope that future generations will be able to find peace after the events that we faced in 2015.

Emi is currently a resident of Los Angeles and a member of the JACL National Youth Student Council.

What Would My Grandfathers Say?
By Emi Lea Kamemoto

What would my Grandfathers say
if they knew I saw the Enola Gay Today . . .
Its shining, towering, BULK and BRIGHT, happy name
Seemingly a Mockery of its true purpose.
Would Grandpa say?
“It ended the war.”
“It had to be this way.”

Would Jiichan say?
“War comes at a terrible price.” And
“Had this plane not flown that day, I would have seen MY last day from the Cockpit of my own shining, fiery monster.”

Would they see the Irony of its gleaming facade and Jubilant moniker if they stood here beside me?
One plane, one bomb,
Thousands of lives
Gone
In an instant.
Thousands of lives
Saved
In an instant.

Would they see its proud display here today with Shume?
wit Sadness?
As a tribute to the Glory of War?
Or would they see it as a reminder? A Lesson of the cost of War. One they were both fortunate enough to see the end of.

What emotions would this BLINDING pile of steel evoke?

Grim understanding that it ended a ceaseless war?
Or ANGER that to some this display only serves as a Reminder of a Battle Won.

Of Glory over an Orient enemy.

Do I, as a product of both my Grandfathers’ service to their countries, stand here Unfeeling & confused because I could never choose a side?

In the polished surface I see Lives lost but also Lives saved.
I see the moment that these two men met and shook hands.
Former Kamikaze & Former Army Engineer becoming Family.

Staring at this gleaming heap of metal is neither hate nor pride that I feel.
In its shining surface, I see perspective after perspective.
A million faces reflected back at me. Each with its own relation to this war.

I think my Jiichan & my Grandfather Are Proud.
That like they once did, the two parts of myself that hold pride and love for both my countries Shook hands today.

Standing here, beneath the Enola Gay.
They gave me the gift to see past this hulking machine of war To see the lives of the people affected by it.

“To display it is not inherently bad, Emi, my dear.”
“From our actions we shall learn & with our stories we will teach, so that our granddaughters & grandchildren will NOT live in Fear of Giant shadows & a silver Gleaming death.”

Rhianna Taniguchi is an account executive at the Denver Post. She was the 2014 JACL Norman Y. Mineta Fellow.
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Mariko Matsuyama
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Ted & Naomi Muneno
Donald Muneno
Florence Nakamura
Tamako Nishimura
Kathleen Nomura
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Norma Shinoda

John Suzuki
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Mamoru & Ruth S. Yamaoka
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Happy New Year from
KIATS & FUYO ARIMOTO,
the 9 grand and 2 great-grandchildren

Happy Holidays
Peace and Goodwill
Mr. & Mrs.
George & Ruri Sugimoto

Merry Christmas
from the DETROIT CHAPTER

Merry Christmas
and A Happy New Year

Season's Greetings
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Happy New Year from
the members of
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Gladys Endow
Frank Fuji
Kenneth S. Fujita
Michiko Fujita
Tom Fukumura
Barbara Fukuzawa
Jeanne Gray
Lucille Honda
Dave Inouye
Lonny M. Ishihara
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Richard Kitagawa
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Wade & Roxanne Nomura
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### GLA

**BRIDGING GENERATIONS:**

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### PUYALLUP VALLEY

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Chapter Members Wishes Everyone

**“HAPPY HOLIDAYS”**

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- Vice-President: Eileen Yamada Lamphere
- Secretary: Elizabeth Liz Dunbar
- Treasurer: Dudley Yamane
- Membership: Stephen Kitajo
- Scholarship: Elsie T. & Eileen L.

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### TWIN CITIES

**Holiday Greetings from the Twin Cities JACL**

2015 Board of Directors

- Emily Faber-Densley
- Matthew Farrells
- Gloria Kumagai
- Karen Tanaka Lucas
- Zen Matsuda

- Carly Miyamoto
- Dan Motoyoshi
- Lisa Shakerin
- Matthew Walters

Twin Cities JACL Scholarship Committee

(Carol Dean, Sylvia Farrells, Pam Dagoberg, Connie Tsuchiya, Fred Tsuchiya)

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**SEASONS GREETINGS from Intermountain District Council**

- Governor - Jeannette Muska
- First Vice Gov - Janet Komoto
- Second Vice Gov - Karl Endo
- Secretary - Lisa Shakerin-Olson

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS**

- Boise Valley - Robert Hirai
- Idaho Falls - Dale Gawley
- Miles High - Harry Bodishicharta
- Mt. Olympus - Lynne Aramaki & Cherie Usuki
- Pocatello/Blackfoot - Karl Endo
- Salt Lake City - Matt Nakamura
- Snake River - Janet Komoto

Wasatch Front North - Geoff Russell & Sandra Grant
Peace at the Corner of Apathy and Activism: 
A Reflection From the Back of the Class

By Mika Kennedy,
JACL Detroit Chapter

It is 2008, and I am 12 years old. This year, I write a book report on “Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes” (Eleanor Coerr, 1977). I fold a lot of paper cranes. In class we learn, briefly, about World War II. On the classroom iMac — so bingingly round and colorful — we’re required to take a personality quiz:

“Who would you be in Nazi Germany?”

If nothing else, I’m honest with my answers. And I am told that I am not a hero.

I’m told that while I would not have sympathized with Hitler’s regime, I would take no stand against it. I’d be the bad guy. Maybe not in any glaring, visible way, but when it comes to human rights, authoritarianism and apathy aren’t so different. But people will call for an end to authoritarianism, and fight for it. It’s harder to fight apathy because the apathists never show up.

In 2005, I write a poem that compares spring sakura falling from trees to the flight path, in August, of several tons of uranium-235 and tungsten carbide.

“Was this your grandfather?” my teacher asks, of the man in the poem.

Baffled, I tell her no. If he’d been my grandfather, my mother would never have been born. In 1945, my grandfather was a child — his age still single digits — living in Hawai'i. None of my family members were even interned; the U.S. needed the farm labor. The poem I’m writing has nothing to do with me.

In 2009, I’m the kid sitting in the back of American government class doing calc homework instead, busily perpetuating stereotypes that at the time seem true enough that I’m unbothered by them: Asians are good at math. Asians are a model minority. And more critically than I can yet imagine: Asian Americans lack a history of resistance.

“There is no activism in the Asian American community.”

In 2010, I have my first brush with the JACL. David Kawamoto brings UC San Diego’s Nikkei Student Union (NSU) doughnuts, welcoming us as neighbors. We come every year and is always a welcome face. I don’t need to think about the JACL beyond that until 2012, and by then, I’ve eaten many doughnuts.

I’ve been designing cultural programming for NSU for a year, from Japan-U.S. relations to the history of SPAM to internment during World War II. I’ve organized a Day of Remembrance and a trip to Manzanar. I’ve written a historical testimonial drama from the perspective of Setsuko Uno, who was interned at Minidoka.

I’ve learned a lot. And I’ve learned that all of this actually has everything to do with me — I’m JA, I’m American, I’m a citizen of the world.

In 2013, my undergraduate honors thesis focuses on John Okada’s “No-No Boy.” It becomes the writing sample for my graduate school applications. Apparently, the girl who privileged calculus over government class — and in 2012 made the effort to vote absentee primarily because the American School was giving out free ice cream — decided it was a good idea to get a humanities PhD.

In 2014, I’ve written another paper on “No-No Boy,” navigating a literary activism I still don’t understand. I’m also busily wondering why Michigan doesn’t carry pickled ginger in appropriately massive quantities.

I am a long way from home, and being JA means maybe more than it ever did.

March 2014: I’m on my way back from rural West Virginia, where the well-meaning locals still call us “Orientals.” I’ve just totaled an American car and lived to tell the tale. I’ve also been accepted into the pilot run of the Kakehashi Project for Japanese Americans.

By May, I’m in the sky. But what does this have to do with peace?

We spend most of our Kakehashi itinerary visiting Japan’s major Buddhist temples and Shinto shrines.

Once, a friend of mine combated the idea that religion breeds violence by pointing to the Buddhists. I wanted to tell her about the Buddhists that set themselves on fire to protest the war in Vietnam, or the riots in Myanmar, where Buddhist attacks on their Muslim neighbors, and vice versa. Buddhists, like everyone else, have committed a broad spectrum of violence.

But I have no plans to set myself on fire, and I’ve never attended a riot, so I said nothing. (The closest I came to a riot was in 2006, when an Asian girl was assaulted by another student in the middle of choir class. I was reluctant to offer her lawyer a statement; I hadn’t seen anything, I said. And it was true. It was true because I hadn’t turned around.

Maybe I hadn’t wanted there to be a fight. Maybe I was just glad we didn’t have to sing anymore, and guilty for the reason. Whatever it was, 14-year-old me pretended nothing had happened and kept staring straight ahead. Still, the girl ended up on the ground. That much I did know.

Maybe when you’re a teenage girl trying to bring a case for assault, that’s all your witness needs to say: She knew you were on the ground. Maybe that’s the critical difference between your justice and legal denial of your pain.

I don’t remember what I wrote in my statement.

Being in Japan for the first time means learning as much about America as you do about Japan. I don’t mean the traveler’s clichés — high tech toilets and the difference between American ketchup and literally everyone else’s

Hiroshima Peace Memorial, commonly called the “Atomic Bomb Dome,” is part of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park and was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1996.
One month before I left for my trip to Hong Kong, I went to my local library and checked out a book about the history of Hong Kong. I read about the British colonial period, the handover to China, and the development of the economy. I was fascinated by the city's growth and its transformation over the years. I also learned about the political and social changes that have taken place in recent years.

I was eager to learn more about the city and its people. I wanted to see what it was like to live in a city that is so different from the one I grew up in. I was also interested in learning about the culture and traditions that are unique to Hong Kong.

When I arrived in Hong Kong, I was struck by the contrast between the old and the new. The city is full of skyscrapers and modern buildings, but there are also small streets and neighborhoods where life moves at a slower pace. I was impressed by the variety of food and drink available, from street food to high-end restaurants.

I visited many of the city's famous landmarks, including the Peak Tram, Victoria Peak, and the Hong Kong Observation Wheel. I also explored some of the smaller areas, like the Shek Tong Tsui district, which has a more local feel.

Despite the cultural differences, I found that there was a lot in common between Hong Kong and my home city. People were friendly and welcoming, and there was a sense of community and pride in the city. I left Hong Kong with a greater appreciation for the city and its people.
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Peacetime

When Tim Nishimoto and the Murakami family were finally released from wartime confinement and exile, were their homecomings what they longed for? Were those occasions harmonious, or even cordial? Did they feel secure?

By Diana Morita Cole, Contributor

Two months after the Japanese surrendered to the Allies at the end of World War II, Tim Nishimoto, a country chum of my siblings’ past, was released from Heart Mountain prison camp. He returned with his family to live in his former home in Oregon’s Hood River Valley, where my brothers and sisters were born.

This he did amidst all the cheering and celebrating going on across the land because after many years of open warfare in Europe and in the Pacific, it was now, according to the press and our politicians at least, “peacetime” once again.

But was it?

In October 1945, Tim received a homecoming he hadn’t expected. As he explained it, “Once I was back at Odell High School, no one would speak to me, not even the students who knew me before we left — before the soldiers took us away and imprisoned us simply because of the way we looked.

“My old friends felt guilty,” he continued. “I don’t know. But now my father had to sell his produce through the Apple Growers Association to hide our identity. And we had to travel all the way to the Dalles to shop because no proprietor in Hood River would sell to us. When we were in Heart Mountain, at least we were among friends.”

Being able to live among friends. Being able to live quiet, peaceful lives. Being able to live in communities where everyone gets along, where everyone is kind to one another, and no one has to worry about drones flying overhead or the secret police, or the FBI pounding on doors at night, hauling people off to desolate destinations known only to the authorities.

It is this image of tranquility many of us imagine when we think about what the word “peace” should mean. But unfortunately, for far too many, Tim’s experience is the more familiar one.

Yet, as bad as it was for Tim in Hood River, what the Murakami family of Salt Spring Island endured was tenfold worse. They had to wait for the provincial ban against the Nikkei to be lifted in 1949 and then an additional five years before they had enough money to return to British Columbia because they had been driven in destitution.

They returned to the island, hoping to recapture the life they once knew by settling into the house that Katsuyori Murakami had built before the war. But instead, to their shock, they learned their home had been confiscated and sold off by the provincial government without their permission during their expulsion to Alberta.

Forced to buy another house on marginal land, which they had to drain and develop, the Murakami family was soon accosted by the Arch Deacon of the Anglican Church, who advised them against returning to the fold because he didn’t wish to worship in the company of evil people like them. And this happened at the church the family had helped build and where their children had been baptized.

As well as not being allowed to worship freely with her neighbor, Kimiko Murakami’s daughter, Mary, was forced “off island” to find a teaching job because she was told, “No Jap is going to teach our children!”

And when Mary’s brother, Richard, began his auto repair shop on Salt Spring Island in 1959, “No Parking” signs were deliberately posted outside his shop on Rainbow Road to interfere with his livelihood.

People in Canada often tell me the expulsion of the Nikkei from the West Coast of British Columbia was the unavoidable result of war, and some may actually believe that this expedient rationale erases every horror and injustice that was visited upon Japanese Canadians, who were badly mistreated by their government.

The Canadian government not only unjustly imprisoned them and sold off their properties without their consent, but it also even forced Japanese Canadians to pay for their own captivity — this in defiance of the Geneva Protocols of War. Lately, I am sometimes surprised by my disinterest in responding to those who desperately wish to explain away the guilt they feel. And when I am silent, I sense their unease.

It’s not as though I’m at a loss for hypothetical responses of mine don’t begin to include all that they could — like pointing to the white labor riots of 1907 in Vancouver’s Japantown and Chinatown, or the anti-Asian legislation that barred the Chinese, Japanese and Sikhs from trespassing into the bastions of Northern European privilege in Canada and in the U.S.

Yes, we call it “peacetime,” but is it really?

After having learned to practice hate, we humans often find it difficult to replace the primitive urge to destroy “the other” with benevolent feelings of love and compassion.
The sad fact is that seldom following the cessation of formal hostilities between countries can those who were cruelly relegated to the margins of society before and during the war expect to capture the regard they never enjoyed in the first place. It takes more than a declaration of peace to create a just society, especially for those practiced in warfare and whose ruling classes stay rich by creating and selling weapons of mass destruction.

Are we really afraid of conflict and violence? Or do we prefer the call to battle because we fear more the responsibilities of peace: ensuring the thoughtful, responsible and ethical care of our neighbors, friends, countrymen and for everyone else on this Earth?

When a group of Neo-Nazis burned a cross on Hitler’s birthday on the outskirts of London, Ontario, in the mid-1990s, the minister of the local Unitarian Fellowship, Jane Bramadat, married to Angus Bramadat, a Trinidadian of East Indian descent, decided to form an association of like-minded biracial couples in response to this outrage. It became a club. The Seventh World met in the basement of my house and outlined a strategy to combat racism in society.

We shared stories of discrimination our children had endured and together decided to institute an essay-writing contest in the schools, which asked each student to imagine what it would be like to be prevented from using the school drinking fountain because he or she was the only blue-eyed student in the class. The specific ethical dilemmas we asked the children to tackle changed from year to year, but the theme remained the same. “How does it feel to be despised because you look different?” Eventually, our outreach was embraced by the London Multicultural Youth Society, which volunteered to take on the task of administering the contest on a yearly basis, and the essays of the winners began to decorate the walls of city hall for the public to admire each spring. This strategy to combat racism spread throughout other school districts in southwestern Ontario.

In 1999, my husband and I moved to Incline Village, Nevada, on the shining shores of Lake Tahoe, where my husband worked as the library director for Sierra Nevada College. Two years later, I was asked to represent Nevada at the Physicians for Social Responsibility Conference on Landmines, which convened in Washington, D.C.

It was at this conference that a young man from Serbia-Croatia told me he was afraid to walk outside his home, afraid to put one foot in front of the other because he didn’t know whether the pressure of his next step might set off a “toe-popper” that was lying in wait just beneath the ground in front of him.

I also learned about African mothers who felt compelled to tie their children to trees while they tended their crops in order to keep their offspring safe from landmines that were now scattered throughout their fields.

And then finally, I watched a film that documented the bravery of men and women risking their lives to demine large tracts of land in Vietnam.

Why aren’t these stories reported on CNN? Why aren’t they included in our history books? Maybe we should focus less on which side won which battle and more on the experiences of those mothers in Africa, the children burned by napalm and the other less-visible consequences of harm brought about by the hate and economic opportunism that control our world.

For these stories hold more of the truth about who we are and tell us more about what we, as human beings, could do to make our brave new world a good one. Indeed, these are the stories that deserve our attention, merit our discussion, deserve to be documented and understood.

This holiday season as we look forward to the new year, perhaps we could find time to ponder these tales and find in them inspiration to create sound institutional structures that would allow us to live calm, productive lives in a world that values multiplicities, respect and safety, a world that allows everyone to live in a real “peacetime” — one we could sustain far longer than the brief lulls between the centuries of wars that have been our inheritance.

And maybe we could come to understand that what we do to one another, as individuals and as nations, affects everyone and everything on this big blue marble of ours.

Diana Morita Cole, a former JACL scholarship winner, is the author of “Sideways: Memoir of a Misfit,” a story about Cole’s birth behind barbed wires in Minidoka and her family’s subsequent struggle to establish a home in Chicago. She is a recipient of the Columbia Basin Trust and Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance grant. Cole lives in Nelson, British Columbia. Copies of her memoir can be ordered by emailing diana@ diasporapress.net.
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2015 APA NEWS ROUNDPUP

A s 2015 draws to a close, the Pacific Citizen staff looks back at the news headlines that impacted the Asian Pacific American community.

This year marked the 50th anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery Freedom Marches. Japanese American voices were heard as Rago Arts and Auction removed the sale of the largest collection of American concentration camp art, Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe made a historic U.S. visit, a grass-roots effort put an indefinite hold on industrial-scale solar projects threatening Manzanar and the camp art, and the National Board of the JACL voted on Nov. 23 to reverse its decision to transition the P.C. to an all-digital format.

In recent news, the horrific terrorist attacks in France and on U.S. soil in San Bernardino, Calif., have brought to the forefront Islamophobic and anti-immigrant rhetoric directed at the Muslim and Arab communities. In a statement released by the JACL on Dec. 9, “We expect the nation’s leader to uphold our nation’s values and ideals. These statements are guilty of the same mistakes that led to one of the most shameful episodes in U.S. history, one that destroyed livelihoods, entire communities and an ethnic culture,” said JACL Executive Director Priscilla Ouchida. “Leaders should not emulate the lowest points of our history, but strive to provide direction that reflects the best of our democracy.”

“JACL reiterates the need to defend the country’s values and ideals during times of crisis, even when the nation is threatened. The organization continues to support the president’s policy to admit Syrian refugees and to administer the nation’s policies without discrimination based on race, nationality, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age or physical characteristics.”

In our 86th year, the P.C. is proud to continue to deliver news that impacts all Americans.

SMITHSONIAN AND JACL CELEBRATE DAY OF REMEMBRANCE IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Smithsonian National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C., the JACL and the Smithsonian Institution joined together for its annual Day of Remembrance on Feb. 19, an event that also kicked-start the 2017 museum exhibit and the 75th anniversary of E.O. 9066. The program also included a screening of the Emmy Award-winning documentary “The Legacy of Heart Mountain,” and guests were given the opportunity to preview artifacts for the 2017 E.O. 9066 exhibit, which aims to capture the Japanese-American camp experience and share the stories and voices behind the camp walls.

“The program, like many held across the nation, opened the door to educating a new generation about what Americanism means even at a time when the rights of citizens was sorely tested,” said JACL Executive Director Priscilla Ouchida. “The prominence of the Smithsonian elevates the message — a message that is key to protecting the rights of future generations.”

JAPANESE AMERICAN OUTCRY PULLS AUCTION OFF THE TABLE

Thanks to more than 7,000 people online, the battle over removing the largest collection of American concentration camp art ended at the consignor and Rago Arts and Auction withdrew the sale of the items on April 15.

The collection, which was owned by John Ryan and assembled by crafts expert and historian Allen Hendehoff Eaton, consisted of some 450 photographs and handmade artifacts representing a painful period in American history. As news of the largest private WWII Japanese-American incarceration camp art collection surfaced, outcry over the auction sale was sparked by Asian American groups across the country.

The collection was withdrawn after George Takeda contacted Rago Auction during its open house event, calling for the removal of the sale. Takeda confirmed the halted auction on the *Japanese American History: NOT for Sale* Facebook page.

On May 4, the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles announced that it had acquired the collection.

>> See ROUNDUP on page 38
Giving Change

As Keiro Healthcare sells its facilities, a community struggles to define what is best for its seniors.

By Tiffany Ujiye, Assistant Editor

Once there was a tree... and she loved a little boy.
— Shel Silverstein’s ‘The Giving Tree’

Published in 1964, Shel Silverstein’s children’s book was wildly unpopular amongst mothers and some critics. At the time of its release, Americans were watching the Civil Rights Act of 1964 unfold, and President Lyndon B. Johnson was submitting the “War on Poverty” initiative to Congress, which would later help establish federal programs such as Medicare and Medicaid. To put it simply, the era was marked by incredible change.

For those unfamiliar with the story, a boy and a tree meet and begin a lifelong journey together. As the boy matures, the tree provides him shade, fruit and lumber at his request. In doing so, the tree is happy but is reduced to a stump. Because while it’s still shorter than Leo Tolstoy’s “War and Peace,” which boasts 887,287 words, professionals and experts continually discuss and debate over how the plan really operates. Like any literary class, no one can agree, and everyone has something to say. So, therefore, I, even after pouring over pages on pages of facts, figures and graphs surrounding Obamacare, can’t scratch the surface of its complexity. Each interpretation looks at the relationship between hospitals, physicians, nursing homes, community service providers, drug administrators, insurance companies and even makes McDonald’s display how many calories are in its meals so people can make healthier choices.

Oversimplified? Maybe. But for Keiro Healthcare, it’s a web of complications and an opportunity for miscommunication. To interpret the behemoth reform and translate it to Japanese while keeping it simple and digestible is close to impossible.

Keiro Senior Healthcare President and CEO Shawn Miyake explained patiently to me how Keiro “is a symptom of a larger problem.” By this, he means change is the problem. It’s a word everyone from the doctors, concerned community leaders, the Ad Hoc committee charged with attempting to stop the sale to residents living in Keiro’s facilities uses. Change, change and more change.

Miyake and Keiro’s Board of Directors have studied the evolving needs of the Japanese American community. Keiro’s staff and board convened at a Healthy Aging Summit in 2011, discussing the range of options available for Keiro to sustain its culturally sensitive care. Groups like the University of Southern California Davis School of Gerontology and the Japan Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare were among the partners. “The Japanese American community is facing a great deal of change, not just Keiro,” Miyake said. “There are multicultural families that are diversifying the population of Japanese Americans in Southern California. That along with an evolving health care landscape brings a lot of uncertainty and made the decision to sell difficult.”

Over the past decade, Japanese American organizations such as Nisei Week and the local basketball leagues have changed their qualifications for who can participate based on ethnic background. The traditional Japanese American family is expanding, and like Miyake said, “That’s not a bad thing.”

The sale will open opportunities for Keiro’s Genki Living Program to combat the community’s growing concern about how to prepare families for caregiving and senior loneliness, as well as many other issues.

“Keiro’s mission has always been to enhance the quality of senior life in our community,” Miyake explained. “After our extensive look into those changes, the decision was made to find a buyer.”

Miyake explained that it wasn’t just any buyer. Pacifica Companies, a private California-based company, has proved with their other facilities that it continues to uphold services to the highest community standards. Pacifica’s Garden Grove location is dedicated to the Vietnamese American community and offers traditional menus with noodles and other cultural programming.

The sale is now expected to close escrow in early 2016 and comes with a list of 12 conditions outlined on Keiro’s website. Conditions include keeping current rents at the retirement home for another year and operate the facilities with the same cultural sensitivity in regards to menus, TV programming, activities, observance of Japanese holidays and library resources. The creation of a Community Advisory Board is also in the works to provide Pacifica community input on the facilities’ services and care.

However, the conditions will lift after five years, at which Pacifica can do as it pleases.

But in good faith, Miyake along with the Board of Directors feels that Pacifica will adhere and respect the Japanese American community’s standard of care.

In good faith is the problem for the Ad Hoc Committee named SaveKeiro. The group challenges Keiro’s claim on a diversifying community, the financial impact of Obamacare and even the price of which Keiro will be sold: $41 million.

Ad Hoc Committee organizer and member Jon Kaji weighed in on Keiro’s transparency during the sale. “Is there an assumption by Keiro leadership that a senior care operator from outside of our community can do a better job of taking our senior citizens? Had Keiro leadership exhausted every possible option before choosing, what many believe, is a step taken only if the corporation is on the verge of bankruptcy?” wrote Kaji in an editorial column.
tries
''Keiro is an extension of family, 'genki living' in our community."

``what the disagreement over Keiro's sale really boiled down to.

sion system, but Paul stepped forward in that regard to the Keiro residents and family.

I met Paul after sending several letters to residents asking them about the sale. I don’t know anyone that actually lives in the Keiro HealthCare system, but Paul stepped forward in a response to my letter, and we met for a couple weeks.

People are upset about the sale, sure," he told me on a bench outside of Keiro’s Boyle Heights facility, which sits above the 101 freeway, looking out toward Downtown Los Angeles’ skyline.

People don’t like change," he said. “Even I don’t like change, but change is always happening.”

Imahara has lived at the retirement home for a little over two years and while often has lived there much longer, he doesn’t consider himself new either.

I would ask him in several different ways to explain to me what others like him were thinking about the sale. Were they concerned if after five years Pacifica didn’t uphold their agreement? Was he personally worried about his quality of life as a senior? Is this change bad?

What I found was that asking an incredibly Buddhist senior whether or not something was good or bad lead to a heavy life lesson. It turned into another head scratcher for me. In fact, he just asked my questions back: “Is anything really good or bad?”

Imahara is 80 years old and very much aware of what is going on within his retirement home and the Japanese American community in Los Angeles. He entered the facility around the same time Keiro began searching for buyers. Today, he’ll tell you he has read the articles, sat in the meetings and doesn’t understand Obamacare — or care for that matter.

He attends weekly essay workshops, takes pottery lessons, teaches Sunday class at Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple in Little Tokyo, tries to walk two miles in the morning and two miles after dinner. I have to call in advance or email him to schedule meet ups because his calendar is robust and busy.

“I would say I’m pretty happy at Keiro,” said Imahara, his smile incredibly warm and reassuring. “I can see the frustration and concern from people outside,” and he draws a long pause before telling me that “room me empty room. If people really needed the retirement home, then why are those empty rooms?”

He took me to the dining hall where he treated me to lunch with other retirement home seniors. At the table, he pointed to a bulletin board on the wall. Marked by a blank paper were the empty seats available for lunch that day. There were about a dozen or so place cards with no faces and names.

If the need for Keiro is as it was so great, then why were those empty seats at lunch that day?

I asked him how Keiro showed that it cared about him, and he laughed, “I do my part to attend Keiro’s classes and programs. I keep myself busy, but you can’t make people participate like you can’t make people live in the retirement home. If they didn’t care, I wouldn’t have a chance to be busy.”

Before living at Keiro, Imahara’s life was anything but a calendar filled with enjoyable activities. Imahara, his parents, David and Mitsue Imahara, and siblings were incarcerated at Tule Lake during World War II. In 1946, the family moved to Hiroshima, Japan, to live with Mitsue Imahara’s family. David Imahara was exonerated that as an American citizen, he was incarcerated. A few months before E.O. 9066 was signed, he had purchased a home and property for his young family. Things were finally turning around for the Imahara’s until they were uprooted like many of the 120,000 Japanese Americans during that time. It made things bit- ter and even dark for the family.

As a kid, Paul Imahara was called the American devil, and growing up impoverished in Hiroshima post-WWII was “difficult” as he would describe it. He wouldn’t elaborate any more.

He eventually married his high school sweetheart, Kazuko. He and Kazuko met in Hiroshima and after Paul enlisted, he brought Kazuko to Tacoma, Wash., where they raised three children at a young age. After his service, he went to college to earn a degree and find a better job. He did his best to care for his family and was even a gardener for a short time, eating his lunch on a curb with a lawnmower as company.

“I knew having an office job would make more money,” he said. “I wanted to provide; I had an ego, too.”

Over the years, he opened his own business, bought a house and sent his children to the University of Southern California, which “was not so inexpensive. I was scared to death the day I personally took a check to campus. I wondered if I could send all three, but I did.”

All in all, Paul Imahara knew a thing or two about caring, but in 2007, Kazuko suffered a severe stroke, leaving her disabled.

“At first, I wondered who was going to take care of me now?” he pointed to himself and looked at me. “For the first time in our marriage, I realized how selfish I was.”

By selfish, he went on to explain that while he did everything that a father and husband should do to care for his family, this new caregiving role was eye-opening.

“I made her take care of me for our entire marriage, and now I had to take care of her,” he said. Early in their marriage, Paul called the shots and Kazuko supported each one of them, but in 2007, that all changed.

He now took Kazuko grocery shopping, errand running and helped her with laundry. These were new responsibilities that he never had, caring for Kazuko in a different way.

“Their visits were a time in Macy’s. We went to go shopping for clothes, and I used to just sit and wait for her to finish. I never touched those circles.” He motioned to show that he was referring to the rotating clothing racks for browsing. It took Kazuko “hours” as Paul would describe it for her to browse and try outfits on.

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PRIME MINISTER SHINZO ABE MAKES A HISTORIC VISIT TO THE U.S.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and his wife, Akie, arrived in Washington, D.C., on April 28 for their historic visit to the U.S. Dozens of JACL members were invited by the White House to attend the official State Arrival Ceremony for the prime minister on the South Lawn of the presidential residence.

At the ceremony, President Barack Obama remarked that the prime minister’s visit was a celebration of “the ties of friendship that bind our peoples.”

During his trip, Abe also made an address to a joint session of the U.S. Congress, the first by a leader from Japan, as well as met with a number of JACL members in Boston, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Washington, D.C.

HONOULULU NAMED A NATIONAL MONUMENT

U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell joined state officials, community leaders and volunteers on March 31 in Honolulu to dedicate the Honolulu National Monument, site of the largest and longest-seized confinement site in Hawaii for Japanese American citizens, resident immigrants and prisoners of war during World War II.

The 155-acre site, located in the Kukui 'ulua near Pearl Harbor, opened in March 1943. In the years following the war, the area became mostly forgotten. However, after years of collaborative efforts by the public and private community partners including the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii and the Honolulu JACL, President Barack Obama established the new monument, which is now part of the National Park System. The site will be managed by the NPS.

SHIMIZU FAMILY SETTLES CLAIM AGAINST SCHOOL DISTRICT

The family of Ronin Shimizu accepted a $1 million settlement from the Folsom/Cordova Unified School District on Sept. 3 for the failure to protect their son from pervasive bullying, which led him to commit suicide at age 12 on Dec. 3, 2014.

School bullies targeted Shimizu with anti-gay attacks for being a male cheerleader, his creative interests and just for being who he was. Shimizu was the longtime target of physical and psychological bullying, which continued even after he changed school. His parents eventually were led to initiate homeschooling.

Following Shimizu’s death, District Superintendent Deborah Bettancourt expressed her condolences and outlined changes she and the district had implemented following the tragedy.

The Shimizu family has founded the organization Ronin’s Voice, which they hope will provide support and assistance to victims of bullying.

SOLAR ENERGY PROJECTS DELAYED INDEFINITELY IN CALIFORNIA’S OWENS VALLEY

In a joint statement, the Manzanar Committee and the Owens Valley Committee announced on Aug. 3 that two industrial-scale solar energy projects that would have had adverse impacts on California’s Owens Valley and the Manzanar National Historic Site have been delayed indefinitely.

On March 12, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power withdrew its proposed 1,200-acre Southern Owens Valley Solar Ranch from the Interconnection Queue for its Inyo-Rinaldi transmission line, which transports electricity through the Owens Valley, south to Los Angeles.

While the SOVSR has been placed on indefinite hold, the proposed solar energy generating facility is not dead, as the LADWP will continue to examine the viability of this renewable project at a later date.

FOUR KEIRO FACILITIES SET TO BE SOLD FOR $41 MILLION TO PACIFICA COMPANIES

In October, it was officially announced that four Keiro facilities — Keiro Retirement Home and Keiro Intermediate Care Facility in Boyle Heights, Keiro Nursing Home in Lincoln Heights and South Bay Keiro Nursing Home in Gardena, Calif. — would be sold to Pacifica Companies for $41 million; escrow is set to close early next year.

In November, an official letter was submitted to California Attorney General Kamala Harris by 16 members of California’s Congress, requesting that the sale be postponed for a public hearing.

Harris approved the sale on Sept. 2. Keiro waived a public hearing on the sale, thereby blocking the community and the facilities’ residents and families from voicing their opinions.

Conditions of the sale require Pacifica to operate the facilities for the next five years in the way Keiro has provided, including its handling of policies and insurance, resident care, Japanese cultural services and number of beds.

ORIgINAL HEART MOUNTAIN BARRACK RETURNS HOME

A barrack originally built at the Heart Mountain Relocation Center was brought home to the National Historic Landmark site in August after the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation rescued it from demolition with the help of a community-wide effort.

The barrack, which was located in Shell, Wyo., was offered to the foundation by Iowa State University, which had been using it for housing at its geology field studies station just outside of Shell. The university had planned to demolish the building to make way for new housing; the HMWF discovered its plans and negotiated a rescue of the building.

Iowa State agreed to donate the barrack at no charge if the HMWF could move it. The HMWF estimated that it would need to raise $140,000 for the move, construction work and ongoing preservation of the structure for public view. The 120-by-20-foot dormitory is one of the more than 450 that housed interned, some for more than three years, at the 740-acre camp.
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Idaho Falls: Dale Cawley
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San Francisco: Haruka Roudebush
San Jose: Tom Oshidari
Santa Barbara: Wade Nomura
Sequoia: Mike Kaku
Sonoma County: Marie Sugiyama
Stockton: Aeko Yoshikawa
Twin Cities: Gloria Kumagai
Ventura County: Joanne Nakano, Ken Nakano
West L.A.: John Saito Jr., Ken Ota
Wasatch Front North: Larry Grant
Washington D.C.: John Tobe
MIN YASUI Awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom

The nation’s highest civilian honor is given posthumously to the civil and human rights leader.

Minoru “Min” Yasui received a posthumous 2015 Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation’s highest civilian award, from President Barack Obama during an official ceremony at the White House on Nov. 24.

Yasui was among 17 distinguished Americans who were selected by Obama on Nov. 16 for their meritorious contributions to the security or national interests of the United States to world peace or cultural or other significant public or private endeavors.

During his remarks, Obama spoke about the diverse list of honorees — some of the country’s most celebrated performers and Hollywood heavyweights, former Major League Baseball greats and civil rights pioneers, among them — and their accomplishments.

“What an incredible tapestry this nation is,” he said. “And what a great blessing to be in a nation where individuals as diverse, from as wildly different backgrounds, can help to shape our dreams, how we live together, help define justice and freedom and love.”

Honor this year were Yogi Berra (posthumous); Bonnie Carroll (posthumous); Bonnie Carroll, Stephen Sondheim, Steven Spielberg, Barbra Streisand, Justice Elena Kagan, Justice Sonia Sotomayor, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Justice Stephen Breyer, Justice David Souter, Justice Clarence Thomas, Justice Antonin Scalia, Justice Samuel Alito, Justice Anthony Kennedy, Justice Neil Gorsuch, Justice Brett Kavanaugh, and President Donald Trump.

Honored this year were Yogi Berra (posthumous); Bonnie Carroll (posthumous); Bonnie Carroll, Stephen Sondheim, Steven Spielberg, Barbra Streisand, Justice Elena Kagan, Justice Sonia Sotomayor, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Justice Stephen Breyer, Justice David Souter, Justice Clarence Thomas, Justice Antonin Scalia, Justice Samuel Alito, Justice Anthony Kennedy, Justice Neil Gorsuch, Justice Brett Kavanaugh, and President Donald Trump.

Obama said that Yasui’s famous legal challenge of the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II helped to shape the nation’s modern understanding of civil liberties.

“During his case, Yasui faced the internment of Japanese Americans with courage and conviction,” Obama said. “And in the end, he lost his case, but he won us all.

“All of us can be done to all of us. IKEWED we had to protest it.”

Yasui was interned at the Minidoka War Relocation Camp as he appealed his case to the Supreme Court. When he lost his case in 1943 (the Court ruled that it was constitutional to restrict the lives of private citizens during times of war), Yasui did not give up. He continued all his life to defend the human and civil rights of all people.

While his conviction was vacated in the 1980s after filing a writ of coram nobis, Yasui passed away in 1986 while appealing the government’s conduct during his case. But his work to fight for reparations and justice for all communities was not forgotten, as reflected in the endorsements for his Medal of Freedom nomination by diverse organizations such as the NAACP, National Council of La Raza, the ACLU, the American Friends Service Committee, the Japanese American Citizens League and the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights.

Yasui’s nomination for the honor was made by U.S. Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii) and bolstered by bipartisan support in both Houses, led by Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) and U.S. Senators from California, Colorado, Hawaii, Oregon, Washington and Wyoming, as well as in the House of Representatives, championed by Rep. Mike Honda of California, along with 25 other representatives endorsing the nomination, including Rep. Greg Walden of Yasui’s hometown of Hood River, Ore.

“Minoru Yasui stood up for what was right at a time of injustice toward Japanese Americans,” said Hirono. “I am proud to have worked with so many passionate advocates in support of this nomination. The Presidential Medal of Freedom to Mr. Yasui recognizes him not only for his courageous stand during the time of the unjust internment of Japanese Americans, but for his lifelong commitment to civil rights and social justice.”

Yasui’s daughter, Holly, upon hearing news of her father’s award: “My sisters and I are deeply honored that our father has been awarded the Medal of Freedom for his profound commitment to the ideal of democracy and justice for all, and the legacy he has left to us. So many people helped with his nomination, all of whom we thank from the bottom of our hearts, but in particular, I want to thank Peggy Nagae, lead attorney for Min Yasui’s coram nobis case and co-founder of the Min Yasui Tribute project. Without her leadership, this process would never have been initiated nor come to fruition. From our first conversations in 2013 about working toward a centennial celebration for Min Yasui until today, Peggy, like my dad, persevered and never gave up!”

“I received news of this event with highly mixed emotions,” said Yasui’s brother, Homer. “I am so pleased and proud that this great honor will be conferred on my older brother by the president of the United States, yet at the same time, I feel bad and sad that Min did not live to receive this award in person...”

He is the one who should have had the privilege of shaking the president’s hand.

Added Yasui’s youngest sister, Yuka: “We are honored that our brother, Minoru Yasui, has been recognized for his fight for the rights of all Americans, not just Japanese Americans. Whenever Min has been gone for nearly 30 years, in many ways he is still with us in the civil rights fight that others are carrying on in his name and in his spirit.”

The awarding of the medal to Yasui comes at a timely juncture, as the “Never Give Up! Minoru Yasui and the Fight for Justice” independent film project is currently conducting a fundraising drive and the Minoru Yasui tribute committee is gearing up for the centennial celebrations to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Yasui’s birth in 2016, which are currently being planned to take place in California, Colorado, Idaho, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah and Washington.

The Presidential Medal of Freedom was also awarded to Fred Korematsu in 1998 and Gordon Hirabayashi (posthumously) in 2012. Mitsuye Endo also has been recommended for a medal.

Since the award was established in 1963, President Obama has awarded more Presidential Medals of Freedom to Asian Americans than all other presidents combined.

For more information, visit the “Never Give Up!” independent film website at www.minoryasuifilm.org and the Minoru Yasui tribute website at www.minoryasuitribute.org.
JACL Applauds Posthumous Presidential Medal of Freedom Recognition for Minoru Yasui

The JACL issued the following statement on Nov. 17.

The Japanese American Citizens League applauds President Barack Obama for awarding the Presidential Medal of Freedom to the late Minn “Min” Yasui for his dedication in fighting for civil and human rights. Yasui challenged the constitutionality of a military curfew during World War II on the grounds of racial discrimination. “JACL commends the president for recognizing Min Yasui, who took a stance on behalf of 120,000 Japanese American men, women and children who were unjustly imprisoned during World War II,” said JACL Executive Director Priscilla Ouchida. “He joins Fred Korematsu and Gordon Hirabayashi, who were previously recognized for their wartime courage. These men and Misuye Endo, whose case led to the release of Japanese Americans, challenged the government’s ability to deny loyal Americans their basic rights. Their cases continue to remind all citizens of this great country of the strengths and fragility of the rights promised by the Constitution.”

Yasui’s commitment to justice and community extended beyond his own. He worked with the African American and Latino communities to help establish the Urban League of Metropolitan Denver and the Colorado Latino Leadership, Advocacy and Research Organization, respectively.

Founded in 1929, JACL is the nation’s oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization. As part of our commitment to social justice and diversity, JACL passed a national resolution in 2014 seeking a Presidential Medal of Freedom for Yasui. JACL is proud of the contributions our leaders have made in the fight for the civil and human rights of all Americans.

JACLers Mobilize Against the Scapegoating of Syrian Refugees and Justification of Concentration Camps

Fuelled by outrage over the scapegoating of innocent Syrian refugees and those justifying it with the World War II concentration camps for Japanese Americans, the Sacramento area community quickly mobilized a news conference on Nov. 19 denouncing it. More than 30 Japanese, Muslim, Christian and Buddhist Americans, including a dozen former Japanese American WWII detainees, quickly gathered at the Buddhist Church of Florin, a site where Japanese American WWII camps were first announced.

In November, several public officials said the following:

- On Nov. 18, Roanoke, Va., Mayor David Bowers proposed that Syrian refugees be excluded like imprisoned Japanese Americans were in WWII.
- Tennessee State House GOP Caucus Chair Glen Casada proposed rounding up all the Syrian refugees and sending them back to a federal immigration center.
- Rhode Island State Sen. Elaine Morgan (R) said “We should set up refugee camps to keep them segregated from our populous.”

Organized by the Florin JACL and Council on American Islamic Relations-Sacramento Valley (CAIR-SV), representatives from the Parkview Presbyterian Church (Rev. Aart van Beek), Buddhist Church of Florin (Rev. Yuki Sugahara), Sacramento JACL (Junice Lusazzak and Rev. Saburo Masada (ret)), Calvary Presbyterian Church (Stockton) spoke out. Basim EI-Karra, executive director of CAIR-SV, and Florin JACL Co- Presidents Andy Noguchi and Marielle Tsukamoto, also made official comments. Noguchi said Bowers’ statement “justifies the exclusion of innocent Syrian refugees fleeing terrorism by the World War II imprisonment of Japanese Americans in American concentration camps.”

Noguchi went on to say that “Japanese Americans and others are fearful that our country is making the same mistake, this time targeting innocent Syrians fleeing terrorism and seeking a safer life. The prejudice, war hysteria and failure of political leadership are being repeated.”

CAIR-SV’s El-Karra shared crucial information for understanding the refugee issue. Of the 800,000 refugees admitted to the U.S. since 9/11, not a single person has been found guilty of terrorism. The U.S. thoroughly investigates refugees from war zones in a two-year process before admitting them.

A dozen Japanese American elders imprisoned or excluded from the West Coast in WWII came out to support the news conference as well, including Stan and Christine Umeda, Utko Kimura, Toshihiko Akita, Judy Miyao, Myrta Hitoomi, Pumme Shimada, Rev. Saburo and MariMarie Marand, Malcolm Iwamoto and Professor Isao Fujimoto. They didn’t want other innocent people to suffer the same fate they had suffered.

People also rallied from the Asian Bar Association of Sacramento, API Rise, API/QSC, former Assembly Member Mariko Yamada, George Waeggler (a WWII era supporter of local Japanese Americans), David Unruhe and Michelle Huey (Northern California JACL District), in addition to many other friends.

Four major TV network affiliates from NBC, CBS, ABC, Fox, and the regional newspaper covered the event.

Sacramento has emerged as a home for Syrian refugees in California. According to State Department figures, since 2012, 63 Syrian refugees have settled in Sacramento, the second-highest number in the state after San Diego.

JACL Supports Resettlement of Syrian Refugees in the U.S.

On Nov. 18, Roanoke, Va., Mayor David Bowers cited the World War II incarceration of Japanese Americans as justification for refusing aid to Syrian refugees. JACL Executive Director Priscilla Ouchida condemned Mayor Bowers’ comments in a statement released by the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans.

It reads as follows:

A lesson to be drawn from the World War II incarceration of Japanese Americans is the fundamental necessity to defend our country’s values and ideals during times of crisis, even when our nation is threatened. Despite calls to the contrary where numerous state governors and other officials wish to close their borders to Syrian refugees, the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) supports the President’s program, which would allow for the resettlement of Syrian refugees in the United States.

In 1942, all Japanese Americans were deemed to be a security threat, which led to their forced removal from their homes followed by their incarceration in camps in America’s interior. The banishing of Japanese Americans from the west coast caused virtually all the western governors to issue statements proclaiming that Japanese weren’t welcomed in their states except within the confinement of a concentration camp. Today, we praise the lone governor, Ralph Carr from Colorado, who exhibited courage in the face of fear-mongering by welcoming Japanese Americans to his state.

In 1983, a federal commission tasked with investigating the wartime incarceration of Japanese Americans released its findings. The Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians found that the incarceration was caused by race prejudice, wartime hysteria, and a failure of political leadership. It’s important to recognize and name that which may cause us to betray our values and ideals.

The United States has always been a sanctuary of freedom and opportunity for immigrants fleeing oppression and seeking a better life. Today, in the face of threats to our national security, the United States must lead with its values and ideals. We must not succumb to impulses motivated by fear. JACL unambiguously supports a program that allows for the resettlement of Syrian refugees in the United States.
Best wishes in the New Year!

Join us!

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and
Common Ground: The Heart of Community
Ongoing
Salt Lake City Holds Final 2015 Teacher Training Workshop

Through the efforts of Intermountain District Governor Jeanette Misaka and her contacts in the Salt Lake City area, the tenth and final Teacher Training Workshop was held at the Hilda B. Jones Center in the Granite School District on Nov. 13.

Workshop participants including Paul Ross and Charlene Lui from the GSD Educational Equity and Robert Austin, director of social studies from the Utah State Office of Education, in addition to more than 30 teachers, some of whom attended from Wyoming, took part in the day-long event.

Panelists included Misaka, Lily Nakai Havey, author of “Gasa Gasa Girl Goes to Camp” and Ted Nagata, who all shared their recollections of their personal experiences of life in camp. The panelists represented three different camps: Amache, Topaz and Heart Mountain, respectively.

In addition, Rick Okabe, who is a member of the Topaz Museum Board, gave a brief presentation of the work that has been accomplished at the Utah site. He summarized that to date, more than 633 acres of the campsite have been purchased, including the barracks and much of the facilities that were a part of the day-to-day life within the camp.

The teachers also heard from Jane Beckwith, who shared information about the Topaz Museum that has opened in Delta, Utah. She encouraged the teachers to plan a field trip to both the Museum and the campsite. Much like the teachers who attended the New England Teacher Training Workshop a week earlier, the Salt Lake City participants also had a broad awareness of the incarceration, and the questions they posed went beyond the usual ones, such as how much did the government spend on the camps and what impact did the incarceration have on the current (Sansei) generation?

“Jane is a wealth of information about so many of the Issei and Nisei who were at Topaz, and she is responsible for the preservation of the many stories that have been shared with her by those individuals — she is a living encyclopedia about Topaz,” said JACL’s Greg Marutani. “So many of the younger generation owe her a debt of thank you for being able to connect them to their family’s experience in Topaz, especially those who have made a visit to the campsite; given the name of the family, she gladly guides them to the block, barracks and apartment where a part of their family history spent time during World War II, behind barbed-wire fences without being convicted of any crime.”

The Salt Lake City chapter brought many items from its library collection of books and DVDs to the workshop to share with participants, and its members announced to all in attendance that the material would be available for teachers to borrow should any of the items be helpful in integrating the Japanese American experience in the classroom.

The chapter also would make itself available to assist any teacher who might want to have a “primary source” speak to his or her students. Jeannie Serdar and her students at the Hilda B. Jones Center Food Service provided the morning refreshments and lunch, as well as cleaned up after the conclusion of the workshop.

The Teacher Training Workshops were made possible through a grant from the Japanese American Confinement Sites program of the National Park Service.

JACL/OCA 2016 Leadership Summit Applications Now Being Accepted

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The JACL/OCA (Asian Pacific Advocates) Leadership Summit applications are now available for the Feb. 27-March 1 program. The leadership summit will provide an opportunity for emerging community leaders to learn firsthand about current national public policy issues facing the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities.

Participants will have the opportunity to meet with and attend briefings by public officials, key policymakers who serve in Congress, the White House, federal agencies, advocacy organizations and the media. In addition, participants will be briefed on legislative issues affecting AAPI communities and will examine the role Asian Pacific American civil rights organizations such as JACL and OCA play in affecting public policy and pursuing civil rights legislation in the nation’s capital.

Established by the JACL in 1984, the four-day annual program co-convened with OCA Advocate (formerly the Organization of Chinese Americans) in 1994. JACL leaders, advocates and students are encouraged to apply. Applications are available on the JACL website (www.jacl.org) and must be received by Jan. 8, 2016.

For questions regarding the summit, contact your District Governor or JACL D.C. office fellow Merissa Nakamura at mnakamura@jacl.org.

PSW Holds 19th Annual Awards Luncheon ‘Emerging Leaders: Rising Up for Justice’

The PSW District held its 19th annual awards luncheon “Emerging Leaders: Rising Up for Justice” on Nov. 21 at the Gueli Cannon in Montebello. The event honored those who have made incredible community contributions and who have played instrumental roles in the successes of PSW District Programs. Among the honorees were Betty Hung, Sam Miura, Kazuma, Soko Wathlin, Marilyn Tolpin, Nakata, Jennifer Okabayashi, Jean-Paul deGusman (pictured above with PSWD Governor Michelle Yamashiro) and Alice Shigano-Toa.

COMMUNITY
**GIVING >> continued from page 37**

In an effort to help her, Paul began to browse those circles and found a blue blouse with flowers.

“I gave it to her to try on. She took her time, and she opened the door with this big smile on her face. I was so happy to see her smile, and I asked her if she liked it, and she nodded.”

Paul’s new life at 74 years old was to care for Kazuko.

“It didn’t make up for our entire marriage, but I think she was happy,” Paul said. Two years later, she collapsed in front of him and passed away in 2008.

The years after Kazuko’s death, Paul was brokenhearted and also faced a number of health problems, one of which landed him in a hospital, where his youngest daughter, Annie, visited him twice a day. “She would come before work and after,” he said. “She had her own family, you know with kids, but she took care of me, and I don’t know. Annie welcomed me to her home, but I didn’t want to be her burden, an extra person to take care of.”

When Paul talked about his family, it made me think about the Giving Tree and the boy. Would life have been different if Paul had went shopping with Kazuko before her stroke or would Keiro not be for sale had the community been given an extra hearing?

Had the boy said thank you, would the stump still be a stump?

In a roundabout way, I asked Paul if it bothered him that Kazuko’s passing made him understand what care was.

“No,” he said. “It makes no sense to worry about what should have been or will be. It is impossible to be certain about the future, and the past can’t be changed.”

Back in September when I began following the events around Keiro’s sale, I wasn’t sure how to understand the change and the overwhelming reaction from the community.

At a macro level, Keiro’s story was about the larger powers at play with Obamacare and the changing market, but on a micro level, it was about people’s personal narratives and interpretations of what was right.

As Keiro Board Chair Gary Kawaguchi once said before an auditorium of angry seniors, “I would never do anything to hurt this community.”

Likewise, everyone for and against the sale told me the same. Because like Silverstein’s “The Giving Tree,” the sale of Keiro makes us look at ourselves in evaluating what we feel is right or wrong, good or bad.

The story still bothers me, but it has led me to revisit my relationship with my parents and think about how I will care and thank them.

Similarly, the chaos around Keiro’s sale had me evaluating the community and realizing the heart on both sides.

As Shawn Miyake had said previously, “Keiro is a symptom of a larger problem.” The problem is change, and according to Paul Imahara, “Change is neither good or bad.” Because “it’s not that simple, what’s best or right is never simple. Never,” Jon Kaji told me.

**JACL Kicks Off Annual Giving Campaign**

Since it is the holiday season and we are all in the spirit of giving, now is the perfect time to talk about JACL’s 2015 Annual Giving campaign. Thanks to your support, last year JACL raised more than $50,000 through two campaigns. This year, the organization’s goal is $60,000 from this one end-of-the-year fund drive.

Your donations fund essential JACL work in social justice and advocacy. JACL has been on the frontlines this year advocating for vital democratic issues, including marriage equality, due judicial process and condemnation of anti-Muslim and anti-immigrant rhetoric. It has celebrated the declaration of Honouliuli incarceration camp as a national monument and the presentation of the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Min Yasui.

“It’s wonderful to be a part of an organization that works so hard to preserve our community’s history and promote civil rights in this country,” JACL VP of Membership Toshi Abe stated. “I pledge to give $100 for this fund drive and hope that you will join me as we build and shape the future of JACL. If you donated last year and haven’t yet this year, please consider giving now. If you have not given before, this is a great time to do it.”

For more information about the Annual Giving campaign, thank you gifts for donors and to donate, visit www.jacl.org/donate or give the membership department a call at (415) 921-5225.

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**Thanks to you...**

- 31 outstanding students received over $75,000 through our 2015 National Scholarship Program.
- 80 chapters voted unanimously at the 46th JACL National Convention to support HR-40 and the African American community.
- 185 youth will spend eight days exploring Japan through the Kakehashi Project.
- 10,000+ visitors per day will see the exhibit commemorating the 75th anniversary of E.O. 10666 at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History in 2017.

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**GIVE A GIFT TO THE JACL**

And we can keep working together to build these programs and more!

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The Lure of Violence Lies in MEANINGLESSNESS

By Matthew Ormseth

In the wake of the Dec. 2 rampage in San Bernardino, Calif., America has found itself in the grips of a fear the scale and extent of which we have not seen since Sept. 11. It seems every day word of some new, more gruesome and more spectacular atrocity seeps into our newfeeds and onto the front pages of our papers. And now, the locales of some of these atrocities are not in distant Syria, Pakistan or Nigeria. They are in France, the United States. San Bernardino County.

Equally as disturbing is the response of some of our leaders. First, there was the pledge of over two-dozen governors in the wake of the Nov. 13 attacks in Paris to close their doors to Syrian refugees. And now, after San Bernardino, there have been calls to close our borders to all Muslims, indiscriminately.

There have been calls to establish a catalog and watchlist of Muslims in the U.S. Never in my 20 years of life have I seen such brazen racism garner so much support. There’ve always been bigots in America, spouting their hatred in the comment sections of web articles and flinging epithets out of car windows at passersby; racism is not a new phenomenon in this country.

What is new, though, is that the people spewing this hate are doing so at political rallies, cheered on by hundreds of thousands of people. What is new is that their disgusting and callous opinions are being discussed on CNN and MSNBC, rather than on lonely message boards of racist, right-wing forums. What is new is that these people are running for president.

It was especially disturbing for us Japanese Americans when Donald Trump, considered by many to be the current front-runner for the Republican presidential nomination, equivocated when asked whether he would have supported the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II had he been in FDR’s shoes.

“I would have had to be there at the time to tell you, to give you a proper answer,” he said in an interview with TIME magazine. “I certainly hate the concept of it. But I would have had to be there at the time to tell you to give you a proper answer.”

Has Mr. Trump learned nothing from history? Does he mistakenly believe that imprisoning Japanese Americans kept the country safe and helped the U.S. win the war? It’s crucial to remember in such a climate of hysteria that for Islamic extremists like Sayed Farook and Tashfeen Malik, the perpetrators of the San Bernardino attack, their murderous ideology preceded their reading of the Koran, and not vice versa. These people were deranged and consumed with hatred to begin with. Their desire to kill and maim did not arise from their studies of Islam’s holy text; rather, they shored up their pre-existing ideology of hate by picking and choosing verses at will, ignoring the many, many edicts of peace, tolerance and harmony to be found in Islam’s holiest of books.

If they truly were devout, dedicated students of the Koran, they would have found verses that read, “Indeed, Allah enjoins justice, and the doing of good to others; and giving like for like, and forbids indecency, and manifest evil, and wrongful transgression. He admonished you that you may take heed.” Or, “And create not disorder in the earth after it has been set in order, and call upon Him in fear and hope. Surely, the mercy of Allah is nigh unto those who do good.”

If they truly believed that God’s word, inscribed in the Koran, should be the rule of the land, how could they reconcile their plans to murder and maim scores of innocent people with those verses mentioned above? These people are not real Muslims.

I think that perhaps this recent spate of extremist violence in the West is rooted not in religious issues, but in sociological ones. Most of the young men and women born in the West who leave their families in England, France and Belgium to wage jihad in Syria and Iraq worked menial, nondescript jobs.

Many jihadis have cited the listlessness of their lives in the West as their reason for joining the Islamic State. In one of the group’s recruitment videos, Rahul Amin, a 25-year-old Briton killed two months ago in an air strike, said, “All my brothers living in the West, I know how you feel. When I used to live there, in the heart you feel depressed. The cure for depression is jihad.”

We have to ask ourselves why jihad is so appealing to so many young British, Belgian, French and now American men and women.

To a young man whose job offers no occasion for creativity or self-direction, to a young woman whose life seems to be stripped of any vitality, the Islamic State holds a powerful allure. It tells these men and women that they have a chance to make history in re-establishing an Islamic caliphate. It tells them that they can be powerful, feared and loved. And to someone with a dead-end job, whose life is decent without being fulfilling or passionate in any way, Syria must seem to them a place of rebirth and reinvention, where a cashier or a telemarketer or a food inspector can become a deadly, feared avenger.

This is not to excuse those who’ve joined the Islamic State. Millions of people around the world work jobs utterly bereft of pleasure or innovative thinking without ever joining extremist organizations.

Much of life in general is bereft of pleasure and innovative thinking, in my opinion. But I think we need to examine the ramifications of demanding that a certain group or class of people work dead-end jobs. I, for one, derive self-respect from my work. When I feel I’ve written something well, I feel good about myself. How can we ask people to derive self-respect from their work when we ask them to man the deep fryer at McDonald’s, or sell tank tops at Forever 21?

I can recall the summer after my senior year of high school when I worked in retail at a Hollister in my neighborhood mall. My mind would go blank for hours from lack of engagement, my hands folding innumerable pairs of tastefully ripped jeans and striped polos entirely of their own volition.

How can we ask people to derive self-respect from their work when their jobs not only discourage critical and independent thinking but also explicitly forbid it?

In a piece written by New York Times columnist David Brooks titled “How the Lawn,” Brooks professes his prescription for happiness. “Labor until fatigue is in your very bones,” he says, “Persist day after day. Be stoical. Never whine. Think less about the why of what you do than getting it done. Get the column written. Start pondering the next.”

He concludes with, “In the everyday task at hand, for woman or man, happiness lurks.”

Now, this formula is well and good for columnists at the New York Times. Laboring “until fatigue is in your very bones” is sure to be fulfilling and gratifying if your job entails sitting at a desk, being paid to type stories about your feelings (I am fully aware I’m doing just that right now).

The rituals of daily life can be fulfilling and gratifying if your daily life demands creativity and the ability to think independently. But when it doesn’t, life can be very dull. It can be bereft of happiness and, more critically, bereft of meaning.

It’s my guess that young, Western jihadis do not voyage to the caliphate of the Islamic State purely out of religious zeal. They do it also to create and independent thinking but also to be part of a select group. They want to be the featured avenger. They want to be part of a select group of people who work dead-end jobs.

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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Journey to Poston

The writer reflects on a personal journey that cements her own place in history.

By Donna Nakazone, Contributor

I was watching the evening news one day in 1968 when the anchorwoman announced, “The Japanese American community wins a landmark case against the United States government in the unlawful internment of its citizens during World War II. More details after the commercial break.”

That clip shifted me back to 1974 when I was a Cal State college student on the verge of quitting a class that was tied to this piece of news. “I hate my Asian American class,” I complained to another student.

“But you’re Japanese, aren’t you fun,” my well-meaning Caucasian friend pointed out.

“Fun—yes, mean the class or being Japanese?” I asked.

“The class,” she clarified, “Isn’t there a lot to explore?”

“Maybe, but we tend to be very private people and don’t like to spill our guts,” I said.

By the way, my friend’s eyes flashed. I meant she wasn’t getting my point.

“No one ever talks!” I blurted out. “We sit around waiting for the next person to say something. Now it’s not that I have anything against my kind, but do we really need a class for this? The freedom is killing me!”

I bent over laughing. However, I was seriously considering dropping out of the class. I took it to fulfill a Humanities requirement, which I figured was a piece of cake, anyway.

If it wasn’t for an upcoming field trip to visit a World War II Japanese American relocation camp and see Arizona, I might’ve never been there. I would’ve been long gone by Spring vacation, right seeing and fun were the only academics on my mind.

So, early one April morning, five cars caravanned out of Los Angeles, journeying to a tiny border town called Poston. I rode with my class instructor, James, a best friend, Kathy, and a Thai student, Lim, who sat in the back with me.

James shouted over the blaring wind.

I want to see what remains of the camp. A dysfunctional air conditioner and the blaring desert heat forced his passengers to cool themselves with the four windrows down-one as ventilation technique.

He beat up car, a dusty Chevy, was not much comfort either among a few old metal homes laid to rest in the harsh southwest desert.

James bolstered on. “I also want to find a guy named Masao Nomoto. He was confined in the camp during the war and from what I understand is still in the area.”

James pushed up his sliding John Lennon glasses, one side of which was held together by a piece of duct tape. I felt sorry for him. He was a tiny, very shy guy that seemed to need more all over. He always came to class in threadbare pants and an old army jacket that made us poor students look rich—a visual contrast from the rumored wealth his family supposedly held before the war.

We trudged through endless rows of small, squat and shrubs with an occasional mountain or two fucking the desert. The hours gave the passengers ample opportunity to talk. It gave me ample opportunity to comply.

Now, it’s not that I have anything against Japanese. I wished to James, “just growing up in Gardena, I felt like an outcast within my own community.”

My teenage resentment had not been forgotten, nor forgiven, and were a continual sore point of reference.

“My big family was the poor one on the block. Our house stuck out with the broken screened door from too many kids running in and out. Our cluttered yard, an eyesore, compared to the manicured gardens of our neighbors with their perfect little front yards and perfect porp-pon family and porp-pon daughters—I could not compete. And to top it off, it seemed we were the only Japanese family in all of Gardena with eight kids instead of another legible source of embarrassment...none of the other parents liked our other that much!”

Once I started rain, it was a train barreling down the tracks without brakes—I couldn’t stop.

I went on about the subtle class distinction between the mainland Japanese and the Hawaiians. “On Hawaiians-born Kalakaua, were looked down on as a bunch of lowly, crude, beer-guzzling hoodlums who spoke with funny-looking accents and wore gaudy shirts. That’s why I identify with the Mexicans, as a matter of fact, I want to.”

Suddenly, Kathy turned around having heard and said, “But you Hawaiians are so much like Spaniards, with gypsy, gauze eyes!”

“Yeah, I don’t agree with that.”

Kathy’s long hair stood up in the wind like a she-wolf on the attack.

“Your parents and grandparents in Hawaii were not forced into concentration camps like ours. They did not suffer the wartime yellow paranoia, surrounded by fragrant tea propagandas. They were forced out of their homes publicly humiliated as traitors when they were just teenagers and knew nothing of Japan. The only island nation they knew was Royale Heges.”

“Shes fished a Walt Disney from a flyaway hair from her mouth that drifted in from me what I really felt like doing. I suspected Kathy was James’ girlfriend, a plump Yoko Onoshiki alike to his Louis-Jeanian persona. But whatever her political concerns, her passionate calls for justice or perhaps it was the bad hair, nothing could stave off the day in me to join her march. I only felt the ugly adjective inside.

“Maybe you’re right, but I’ll never forget the mistreatment I got from my own peers. The boys threw trash at me, and the girls, man; asking how much my shoes cost, then walk away and say, ‘I couldn’t tell them my mother got it from Kmart. blue-light specials’ in a middle-class, competitive, Budweiser town like Gardena. I was the poor kid, the rundown and we, a neighborhood friend once slipped that her mother said I’d probably end up pregnant in high school. Comments like that still stuck to this day!”

Kathy and I both stopped and turned to James like a referee waiting for his call.

James sat quietly, calmly stoking his pipe, pipe-skull, pipe-skull.

My Japanese companion, Lim, on the other hand, was bring his thumb, trying to suppress a good laugh. Suddenly, Lim stuck his head out the window like a dog, looking, “I want to go to all the crazy American Ono’s Owls!”

“Yeah, my best friend said we’re in madcow country. They might think we’re a bunch of geigis illegal and send us back to Japan!”

“I’m from Thailand,” he declared with pride.

Lim tilted his head back and his eyes like those of a 100-year-old owl.

“Poston was a good 80 miles away. The only things in sight were woods, and a mountain or two,” I can see it because I have eagle eyes!”

Then, as if on cue, a bug flew into his eye.

“Will, Mr. Eagle Eyes, you should have seen that coming.”

I pulled out a little revenge for laughing at someone else’s aggo.

For some unknown reason, Lim and I bonded. This was peculiar because often we’d at ease by aides in the best of the class and not acknowledge or my one word to each other.

I thought he was this weirdo from porcelain, was thin with pale white, unblemished skin any gasha would covet. He also had fine, slender hands that spoke of his privileged background. His real name was Lumpipiphop, but we called him Lim because no one could get through the language barrier without mauling up.

He said generation ago, Chinese immigrants kept their family’s name, then added Thailand-based names to assimilate. However, families of different bloodlines couldn’t share the same surname. So, people created by adding prenom from the father’s family, their maternal parent’s name.

Well, that got me thinking.

“So, Lint, if someone wanted to learn the family’s name, say like Fat. Would he take his contribution and leave Lumpipiphop just hanging?”

Lim rolled his eyes and stuck his head out, “Caw, gawk,”

By late afternoon, our procession slowly entered into town. It was hot and dusty, our canvas carning long shadows that stretched across the smutty dust like weary wagon trains after a long journey.

A little girl stood in the doorway of a weathered but unaided. I imagined she was Native American since Poston was a Colorado River Tube reservation, before and during and after the war.

A few of the camp buildings still remained, surrounding the largest structures, an old dilapidated gym where the college students from California would stay.
Early the next morning, James was up and ready to go. Some of the guys were still laid out on their sleeping bags, snoring on the gym floor when he woke us up. The women slept on the stage, which didn’t irritate the noise coming from below.

James was excited because he located Maico Nishimoto, the person he had been searching for. He was told Mr. Nishimoto owned a vast commercial farm and was willing to meet us.

The farm was another long, hot drive. We waited in a barn until Maico or “Max,” as he called himself now, stood and talked, an cowboy boots and jeans. He started to find so many students staring at him, but James eased the atmosphere with introductions and the reason for our visit. That’s when Kathy dove in with the first question.

“So, Mr. Nishimoto, what was it like to be considered the No. 1 enemy and national threat to the American people?” she asked. Her aggressive militaristic stance reminded me once again:

“I was a teenager,” he answered. “I wasn’t planning to go to war, but I was caught in the crossfire. The families I knew were being murdered and forced into labor. Sometimes, I tried to get out of the compound, but I was captured and tortured. But then, I learned that my village had been purposefully destroyed by the Japanese. That was a turning point in my life. I decided to leave my home, and I never looked back.”

The cowboy suddenly became quiet, sitting uncomfortably on the floor. I wasn’t sure if it was the prying eyes of strangers or the memories of the internment camp that was making him uneasy. I stumbled “war” on my note, closed my book feeling his discomfort and was ready to move on once the country fair was over.

Fun, after all, was the reason I came to Arizona.

When we returned to the gym late that afternoon, I was unprepared to find the gym swarming with activity. A busload of high school students from all over the surrounding areas had invaded “our camp” for a basketball tournament. But the excitement was not only for James. The students had brought their high school friends along on a tour of the gym. It was a perfect way to introduce them to the history of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. It was a moving experience, and it was hard to believe how far we had come.

It was a moment of realization for me. I had never really thought about what it meant to be Japanese American. Now, I was surrounded by people who were willing to listen to my story and learn from my experiences. It was a humbling experience, and I was grateful for the opportunity to share my story with others.

The celebrations continued into the night. A barbeque complete with a fire pit, and a crowd of people sharing their personal stories.

That night, David, a former member of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, visited our camp. He shared his story of survival and resilience. It was a powerful moment, and it reminded me of the strength and courage of the Japanese American soldiers who served during World War II.

I was moved by the shared experiences and the sense of connection that we all felt. It was a moment of unity and hope, and it gave me a newfound appreciation for the sacrifices made by our ancestors.

As the night wore on, I looked up at the stars, feeling a sense of peace and fulfillment. I realized that my journey was not just about me, but it was about the stories of those who came before me. It was a moment of gratitude and remembrance, and it gave me a sense of purpose.

I was grateful for the opportunity to share my story with others and to be a part of this important historical event. It was a moment of reflection and growth, and I knew that it would shape me for the rest of my life.

But, for now, I was just grateful to be alive and to have made it through another day. The end of the day, and the beginning of a new one. I was ready for whatever came next.
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Season’s Greetings
Walter Sato

Portland JACL mourns the loss of Dr. Jim Tsujimura, Past National President, 1980-82

Season’s Greetings
Michelle & Richard Amano

Holidays Greetings
Carol Kawamoto

Holidays Greetings

More Holiday Greetings....

Happy Holidays!
JACLAZ Ladies Group

Henry & Sharon Uyeda
3606 Barley Cr.
San Jose, CA 95127

The Eastern District Council

Wishing everyone a happy holiday season and a healthy & prosperous New Year!
David Lin

Happy Holidays!
David Kawamoto
San Diego, CA

In memory
Harue “Mae” Ninomiya,
a pillar of support in the Portland JACL Community

Mele Kalikimaka
Hau’oli Makahiki Hou
Carol & David Kawamoto

Carol & David Kawamoto
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A HAPPY NEW YEAR

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SEASON’S GREETINGS
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Grant T. Tomioka, Esq.
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4444 Geary Blvd., #201
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Tel: (415) 670-9623 Fax: (415) 933-6197 Email: grantt@earthlink.net

PEACE
Jane Naito & Chris Tomine
Married in 2015
Jane’s New Address: 2491 Sierra Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95825

JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE
SAN FRANCISCO CHAPTER

SEASON/GREETINGS
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JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE
SAN FRANCISCO CHAPTER

ST. LOUIS

Happy Holiday’s
From The
St. Louis JACL
A HEART OF PEACE

By Marsha Aizumi

When I was first approached to write this article about peace, it seemed so overwhelming that I wasn’t sure where to start. Even though these are important topics, I knew I wasn’t going to write about world peace or peace between communities or countries. Writing about environmental peace like Greenpeace wasn’t something I felt passionate about. So, I found myself walking around my home, which I consider peaceful, hoping I could find answers.

I looked through my library of books, thinking a title or two would jump out and say this is the direction for me to write. Nothing spoke to me. Then I began to study the many pictures and sayings I had around my rooms, hoping to find inspiration.

I wandered around uninspired. Finally, I decided that I wasn’t ready to write this piece, and so I gently let go of the idea I had to get clarity in the moment. I trusted that I would find direction soon, released the feeling I had to do it now, and I immediately felt at peace.

That night, I was watching television with my husband. The program was called “Longmire.” He is a sheriff from Wyoming. Sheriff Longmire was interviewing candidates for an open deputy position. One by one, the candidates were narrowed down to only two. I remember I Longmire confessed that he didn’t think he would be hiring anyone for the open position. He was not ready. One of the candidates stormed off in a huff. The final candidate thought the sheriff was not going to hire him because of his past history of struggling with his brother’s murder. He accepted this decision and vulnerably shared the way he found peace in spite of his brother’s death. He said, “Peace is not the absence of conflict. Peace is the acceptance of conflict.”

This concept of acceptance resonated with me. I knew that acceptance of conflict was the direction I wanted to write, but there seemed to be something missing.

Then, I stumbled on a quote from Maya Angelou that said, “Courage is the most important of all virtues because without courage, you cannot practice any other virtue consistently.”

Now, besides the word acceptance, courage was another component of my thoughts on peace.

During all the years of struggle with Aiden, first coming out as lesbian and then transitioning from my daughter to my son, I was faced with conflict all the time.

In the beginning, this conflict brought nothing but fear, guilt, and a sense of not being enough. I was never at peace. But as our journey progressed, I began to trust more and more that I would find the answers or be the person who could handle any situation. I accepted there would be challenges along the way, but trusted that I could find solutions.

Suddenly, peace began to enter my life, but it was a work in progress. In order to maintain this sense of peace, I had to courageously trust and accept myself and others over and over again.

When I saw myself judging others, I had to transform that judgment into trusting that they are on their path, just as I am. When I felt myself judging my thoughts, actions and concluding that I was a terrible mother, I had to step back and recognize all the ways I was a good mother, learn from my mistakes and move forward.

It wasn’t easy. But when I didn’t trust or step up with acceptance, I struggled, worried, and my heart felt at war. A third component of peace was now apparent, and it was trust.

Although Aiden has graduated, is now living in Irvine, where he is finishing up his bachelor’s in business economics. When I worried about him not getting into this university and I judged myself as a terrible mother, I lived with endless feelings of inadequacy. Then I found the courage to consistently trust and accept that he would get into the college of his choice, and he took responsibility.

The most wonderful part of this story is that I could see my son’s feeling of accomplishment, knowing he was the one who achieved the result, not his mother or father. He did it on his own, so the achievement was his alone. In the end, I felt like a good mother because in spite of my fears, I decided to trust him to make the right decisions for him.

My greatest lessons about peace are that I not only have to be courageous over and over again to achieve peace, but I must also have the courage to look at myself and decide what I need to change in order to realize the peace I so desire.

It is so easy to be trusting, accepting, kind and loving when the decisions are simple. But to show up consistently takes courage, especially when I am faced with difficult situations or when I need to change something about myself to make things better.

In the end, I know I can only change my self. I have no control over others. My father, who passed away in 1999, often told me the Serenity Prayer was his favorite quote. For those who are not familiar with this prayer, it goes like this: “God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference.”

So, through all my ramblings and searches and struggles, I have come full circle to these words. . . .

The Serenity Prayer. It is a prayer of peace and a way to bring peace into my life through courageously changing who I am and courageously accepting others as they are. It sounds so simple, but for me, I think it will be something that will be a lifelong journey. But I am at peace with that . . . .

Marsha Aizumi is an advocate in the LGBT community and the author of the book “Two Spirits, One Heart: A Mother, Her Transgender Son and Their Journey to Love and Acceptance.”
A Path to Health and Wellness With Forest Bathing

The practice of shinrin-yoku highlights the positive effects of nature on human health and happiness, ultimately leading to finding one's greatest peace.

By Connie K. Ho, Contributor

Take a walk in the park. Breathe in the fresh air. One might not know it, but these small actions can boost one’s health and well-being. One of the top health and wellness trends in 2015 has been forest bathing. The practice, also known as shinrin-yoku, is based off of the traditions of mindfulness, where individuals take in the forest atmosphere.

SpaFinder, which specializes in the wellness industry, explains that this Japanese concept focuses on quietly walking and exploring the outdoors while keeping one’s senses open to the sounds, scents, colors and “feels” of the forest: the idea is to “bathe” in the forest’s essence, breathing deeply and mindfully. It is rooted in a range of transcultural practices that highlight the positive effects of nature on human health and happiness, and it has become more and more popular as people seek to unplug from their technological devices.

According to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, forest bathing has both mental and physical benefits. Some of these improvements include boosting one’s immune system, lowering blood pressure, reducing stress and increasing energy levels and the ability to focus. Studies have shown that while people breathe in fresh air, they also breathe in phytoncides, airborne chemicals that plants give off; these chemicals help the body respond by increasing the number and activity of white blood cells.

Forest bathing can be helpful for both adults but children as well. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation cites past studies have shown a decrease in attention fatigue for children who spend time outdoors. Researchers are looking into utilizing natural outdoor environments to supplement approaches to managing attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), and forest bathing can be a practice that is inexpensive, accessible and free of side effects.

Even though the practice has increased in popularity this past year, the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries first coined the term shinrin-yoku in 1982. The Tokyo Convention and Visitors Bureau even promotes the practice, directing travelers to visit locations such as Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden, Arisugawa-no-miya Memorial Park, Meiji Jingu Shrine and Yoyogi Park. Following are a few places across the United States where one can find opportunities to partake in forest bathing.

Blackberry Farm, Tennessee

Blackberry Farm, a luxury and hotel resort in the Great Smoky Mountains that is located close to Great Smoky Mountains National Park, is one resort offering forest bathing with its Deep Healing Woods experiences. This luxury hotel and resort, situated on a 4,200-acre estate, has been promoting the practice at Blackberry Farm’s Wellhouse since June 2014. It was inspired by Japanese studies on wellness and offers programs that incorporate tree bathing, including hiking, running, meditation and yoga options.
“[Participants] are able to focus on the five senses, let go of any mental clutter that they might have,” said Amanda Myers, director of wellness for Blackberry Farm. “It’s a very unique experience where we can highlight what we have right in our own backyard.”

Myers notes that the program can be done any time of the year, as each season brings different scenery to refresh one’s inner self.

“When people arrive on our property, it’s pretty consistent that their stress goes down — you’re surrounded by the beautiful mountain views, more connected and grounded, 100 percent in the moment so that your mind doesn’t drift,” said Myers.

Participants also have the opportunity to become more knowledgeable about their surroundings.

“They learn about what’s here in the national park — we ask them to touch this, feel this, hear the creek so that there is a mind-body awareness,” said Myers.

For more information, visit www.blackberryfarm.com or call (865) 984-8166.

The Lodge at Woodloch in Pennsylvania. Named by Travel & Leisure as the No. 3 spa destination in the world, this award-winning destination spa, nestled in Pennsylvania’s lake region, offers guests an extraordinary respite for the mind, body and spirit.

The Lodge offers visitors numerous wellness activities and options. During its Forest Bathing program, master herbalist Nathan Whitmore takes guests on a guided walk. The property, with a private 15-acre lake and 150 woodland acres, is located about 95 miles from New York City and Philadelphia metro areas in the Pocono Mountains.

“The Lodge at Woodloch provides an escape from the real world while grounding each guest in the nature that surrounds us,” said Robert Baldassari, general manager of the Lodge at Woodloch, in a statement. “This location was chosen because of its breathtaking natural beauty and opportunity for activities that truly take in the great outdoors.”

The walks aim to be slow, contemplative and deliberative with a focus on deep breathing and mind-body awareness. In a little under two hours, guests can also learn about the local history and resident flora and fauna. The varying seasons of the Pocono Mountains bring different viewpoints: spring brings flowers and wild berries to the woodlands while fall foliage is a treat during the walks.

“There is growing research that supports the ancient tradition and understanding that spending time in the deep woods has profound healing power. Over time, forest bathing can produce quantifiable changes in the body and mind,” said a representative of the Lodge at Woodloch in a statement. “Plus, the added benefit is that it just feels good.”

For more information, visit www.thelodgeatwoodloch.com or call (800) 966-3562.
COMMENTARY

A POSITIVE PEACE AND THE INTERDEPENDENCE OF ALL THINGS

By Kenji Kuramitsu

This year's Holiday Issue asks, "What is peace?" This question is perhaps especially pertinent in light of all the tumultuous events that have ruptured our concisiveness over the past few weeks, months and indeed, centuries. This year, we have seen terror attacks take place in the United States at the hands of white racists in the form of mass shootings, arson, killings by law enforcement. In my city of Chicago, nearly 3,000 people have been shot so far this year, and children like Tyshawn Lee and Laquan McDonald have been executed by both street gang violence and by police gang action. Abroad, other militant groups who rely on the destruction of civilian life as an operative tool continue to split apart families and nations, threatening global welfare.

Talk of peace, both in a global and personal sense, is an idea that receives wide support. And yet the men who control the prisons and munitions factories cannot be said to be peacemakers. The gun lobby, with its claim that more weapons will lead to less killing, does not actually care for an end to human violence. The politicians and drone lords who profit from war and death-dealing are not legitimately invested in the project of peace, as much lip service as they might expend in its public honor. Theirs is a hollow, diseased sort of peace, by which they simply mean the absence of protest. It is a false peace that emerges from the grave, beckoning the vulnerable into death.

Recent research has revealed that police officers—who some brand "peace officers"—receive, on average, 58 hours of firearms training, nearly 50 hours in defensive tactics and only around eight hours in de-escalation tactics. What can talk of peace mean when we have ordained a generation of persons to enforce an unequal status quo with fundamentally violent tools?

What can "peace" mean when often the term serves to simply mask an economic system that needs to keep humans trapped in prisons, deporting centers, low-paying jobs and dangerous employment in order to function? What can grand treaties and talk of peace mean to those whose bodies are still experiencing war on a cellular level, in the wake of nuclear post-apocalyptic violence?

Against all false definitions of peace, we must insist: la desigualdad social es más violenta que cualquier protesto. Social inequality is more violent than any protest. This is what Martin King was pointing to when he argued that the less visible forms of social destruction are in fact the most severe—that "if the violations of Law by the white man in the slums over the years were calculated and compared with the law-breaking of a few days of riots, the hardened criminal would be the white man."

I am convinced that our society's profoundly anemic view of peace comes from a direful understanding of violence. Streets that look quiet are assumed to be "peaceful," and neighborhood lights with flames and surging bodies are not seen as helping to accomplish lasting peace.

But because poverty is violence, even a calm street on a silent night, in an area without sustainable economic infrastructure, is not peaceable. Because inequality is violence, mansions and yachts, elegant boutiques along Michigan Avenue are not peaceful. Because cutting off human beings from one another is violence, sprawling prisons, riotous fences along borders and gated communities, which are understood to be markers of social order, are themselves terribly violent.

In Washington, D.C., amidst a nest of cherry blossom trees, there is a metal statue created by a Japanese American artist named Nina Akamu. It stands 14 feet tall and features two spiraling red cranes, each mirroring the other in reaching upwards for freedom while being strangled by spoils of razor wire from below. In their struggle for freedom, the two cranes, explains the memorial's website, have a deep "need for communal support and interdependence on one another."

The birds must rely on each other to achieve their liberation, in this moment of crisis more than ever. In our day, we are realizing more than ever a phrase produced by the civil rights era: Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. Environmental analyst Lester Brown, describing what he calls "the new geopolitics of food scarcity," has written on how a simple quick jump in world grain prices in 2007 left more human beings hungry than at any time in world history, and described the related violence and loss of life in Thailand, Egypt, Haiti and Mexico.

In our increasingly globalized world, the dominoes are all closer together. Our fates are more obviously intertwined. This greater proximity brings good and ill: a drought in rice fields in Southeast Asia means starvation and revolution in Egypt; a butterfly flaps its wings in Lisbon and the Caribbean, and the fields of campo poros are burned in a country whose name we cannot pronounce.

To recall the words of Martin King, we are caught up in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny, one that is swirling all around us. Indeed, the carnival of human exploitation that undergirds our "peaceful" lives has startling dimensions.

All talk of peace must start by acknowledging the hidden economies of suffering that enable us to live our lives with this awful, carnivorous ease. It is only when we come to understand our profound dependency on the poor that we will feel a responsibility to clothe those who have sewn our garments, feed those who grow the ingredients destined to constitute our meals, name those who singularly stitch together the electronics on whose screens we have come to filter our lives.

As we move into this annual season of increasingly caffeinated consumerism, it can feel as if the world is in the denial stage of the grieving process. Each Christmas, shopping malls glow and trees sparkle in a dewy spectacle of bright, sugary fluorescence that forces a cheerful countenance as other parts of the world are smoldering. I have seen this eager attitude around dinner tables and on social media feeds, from family and friends who imbibe the glittery drinks and are forced to sweep sadness or loneliness away from the sunny and well-lit parts of our own hearts.

Just as peace is not demonstrated by violent systems that urge the polite acceptance of inequality, peace cannot be wildly pretending to be OK when one's spirit lies battered and bleeding within. Creating peace in our lives can only begin when we admit that we are not even possible outside of the living of others. Peacemaking near and far must begin with acknowledging our radical interconnectedness with all people.

At the heart of it, this Holiday Issue should be about pausing to reflect: on global harmony, on peace in our own lives, on the things that truly matter to us in a world shorn between chaos and glitter. Perhaps the point of a holiday — a holy day — is to point out the fact that all days are holy. All water, all lives, all places, are special and filled with the potential for human flourishing and peace. All hands are important, all bodies are valuable, all water is holy, all places sacred, all days the peaceful tomorrows that we can only together envision. I am wishing wellness and assurance for all of the readers of the Pacific Citizen this season.

Kenji Kuramitsu is the JACL MDC Youth Representative.

Nina Akamu sculpted the Japanese Crane Monument at the National Japanese American Memorial in Washington, D.C.
In these challenging times, we acknowledge and appreciate your donations. We wouldn’t be here without you. It is our readers who inspire us and improve the P.C.

As we quickly approach the new year, the P.C. is struggling to reach its 87th birthday and survive for the next generation of community members, leaders and developers. Help us continue to cover national news, go in-depth with social issues and record the ever-changing Asian American narrative.

We encourage our readers and greatest supporters to continue writing letters to the editor, sharing your thoughts and concerns. Thank you for your support and cheers to the new year.

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Happy Holidays from the Livingston-Merced Chapter

Our documentary, The Merced Assembly Center, Injustice Immortalized, is available for purchase for $20. For more information, contact Janet at Janef127@gmail.com or (209) 631-1933.

The Merced Assembly Center Memorial

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JACI – DC Chapter

Wishes everyone a healthy & prosperous New Year!

WASHINGTON DC

HOUSTON

Happy Holidays & Seasons Greetings from the membership & board of the JACL Houston Chapter!

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JACI Houston Chapter 40th Anniversary 1975-2015
Best Wishes for the Holiday Season!

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Gavin and Margaret
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Roundup of Exhibits
• Pioneers of SJ Japantown
• WW II Assembly Centers and Incarceration Camps
• WW II Military Intelligence Service
• 100th Infantry Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team
• Post WWII Resettlement
• On Common Ground - Heinlenville SJ’s last Chinatown
• Nisei Sports
• Japanese American Agriculture

San Jose JACL
PACIFIC CITIZEN HOLIDAY ISSUE 2015 61
Polaris Tours 2016 Schedule

**April**

- **03 – Apr. 12**: Spring Japan: "Hiroshima, Miyajima, Kobe, Tokyo, Inuyama, Hakone, Tokyo."
- **24 – May 06**: South Korea (East Coast): "Seoul, Injii, Busan, Gyeongju, Seorak, Pyeongchang."

**May**

- **08 – May 22**: Bikini #1 with Ken: "Mitsuiwa, Oniwa/#, Atami-Onsen, Kamimiyama Onsen."
- **15 – May 26**: German Highlights: "Frankfurt, Cologne, Dusseldorf, Berlin, Munich, Oberammergau."
- **22 – May 28**: Southern Charm: "Charleston, Savannah, Jekyll Island, Jacksonville."

**June**

- **30 – Jul. 19**: Japan By Train: "Hiroshima, Miyajima, Himeji, Kurashiki, Okayama, Kobe, Tokyo."

**September**

- **05 – Sep. 17**: Great Canadian Rail Journey: "Toronto, Jasper, Lake Louise, Banff, Victoria, Vancouver."

**October**

- **21 – Oct. 29**: Ecuador: From the Andes to the Amazon: "Quito, Otavalo, Papallacta, Banos."
- **27 – Oct. 07**: Portugal In Depth: "Lisbon, Oporto, Viseu, Evora, Algarve."
- **16 – Oct. 28**: Autumn Japan: "Hiroshima, Miyajima, Himeji, Kyoto, Kanazawa, Takayama, Shirakawa-go, Tokyo."
- **27 – Nov. 07**: Discovering Poland: "Warsaw, Krakow, Wroclaw, Gdansk."
- **30 – Nov. 10**: The Best of Kyushu: "Fukuoka, Nagasaki, Kumamoto, Ibusuki, Kagoshima, Miyazaki, Beppu."

**November**

- **27 – Dec. 14**: Icons of India & Dubai: "Dubai, Delhi, Aga, Ranthambore Natl Park, Jaipur, Mumbai, Cochín."

**December**

- **01 – Dec. 03**: Eastern Caribbean Holiday Cruise: "Miami, San Juan, St. Thomas, Grand Cayman, Costa Rica, Havana, Bahamas."

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**AMERICAN HOLIDAY TRAVEL**

**2016 TOUR SCHEDULE**

- Alaska Northern Lights Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida) ....... Mar 17-23
- Anchorage, Barrow, Chena, Ona Hot Springs, Anchorage.
- Japan Spring Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida) ............... Mar 27-Apr 8
- Tokyo, kanazawa, Takayama, Lake Yamanaka, Miyajima.
- French Riviera Holiday Tour (Elaine Ishida) ............. Apr 14-21
- Nice, Monaco, Antibes, St. Paul de Vence, Cannes.
- German Highlights: "Frankfurt, Cologne, Dusseldorf, Berlin, Munich, Oberammergau."
- Southern Charm: "Charleston, Savannah, Jekyll Island, Jacksonville."
- New England Autumn Holiday Tour (Elaine Ishida) .... Oct 11-18
- Barcelona-Sicily Holiday Tour (Elaine Ishida) ............. Oct 27-Nov 6
- Northern British Isles River Cruise (Carol Hida) ............. Nov 26-Dec 3
- Amsterdam, Bruges, Brussels, Paris, Montmartre, Versailles, Chartres, Rouen, Cherbourg, St. Malo, Bodyou.
- New Orleans Get-Away Tour (Carol Hida) ............. Dec 12-16
- New Orleans, City Tour, New Orleans Cooking School-Dinner, Cajun Swamp Tour.

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WAR and PEACE and HEROISM

By Gil Asakawa

I was saddened to hear of the passing of George "Joe" Sakato, a Denver resident who was a World War II hero, a veteran of the famed 442nd Regimental Combat Team/100th Battalion that fought in Europe during World War II. He was 94 years old.

"We were fighting prejudice in the States . . . and fighting the Germans in Europe," he told Denver news anchor Adele Arakawa in a 2013 profile.

The last time I saw Joe (he preferred that everyone call him Joe) was during the annual Japanese American community's Nisei Veterans' Memorial Day Service at Fairmount Cemetery, where a memorial to Nisei veterans was built earlier this year, so I don't think any of us expected him to show up this year.

But shortly after the speeches began, there he was, with his daughter at his side. As always, Joe got special recognition during the memorial service.

In 2014, my wife, Erin, and I helped Corky Lee, a New York-based photographer who calls himself the "undisputed unofficial Asian American Photographer Laureate" (the title fits), meet and photograph Joe for his collection of notable Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. We met Joe and Leslie at the Nisei War Memorial, and he pointed to a name, Saburo Tanamachi, on the WWII section of fallen heroes.

Joe often told the story of how his friend, Saburo, died in his arms after being shot by a Nazi soldier during the harrowing battle to rescue the "Texas Lost Battalion" in the forests of France in the waning days of the war. The 442nd, mostly Japanese Americans, suffered 800 casualties to save 200 Texans who were hopelessly trapped. When his friend inexplicably stood up and was killed, Joe became enraged and charged up the hill, where he killed 12 Germans, wounded two and captured four.

Every time Joe told that story, he choked up as if the memory was from just yesterday. It was for that battle that he was honored with the Medal of Honor.

He was the only member of the 442nd who had received the medal in a ceremony with President Bill Clinton, half a century after his heroic actions.

He was also included last year on a commemorative stamp from the U.S. Post Office celebrating Medal of Honor recipients.

Anyone who knew Joe will miss his inexpressible spirit and good humor. With Joe's death, another Nisei hero has passed on. But we should remember all of them for their heroism and honor their memory as Japanese Americans move forward into fourth, fifth and even sixth generations.

We owe them a debt of gratitude for what they accomplished in the past, to help bring peace to the world and help our community thrive today and in the future.

Marking Joe's passing during this holiday season, I can't help but jumble together my concerns over the recent mass shootings including the unfolding tragedy of the San Bernardino killings that are related to terrorism, and the way many lawmakers are fighting to keep out Syrian refugees and how one Virginia mayor even evoked Japanese American wartime incarceration as the model for treating Syrians.

I was fortunate to see a performance of George Takei's musical "Allegiance" on Broadway the same week the mayor made his remarks. The musical, a powerful moving story about the Japanese American incarceration and its damaging effects on families and friendships, was inspired by Takei's own life — his family was imprisoned when he was a boy.

Takei had the best possible response to the mayor's ignorance: He invited the mayor to see "Allegiance" and understand the nature of patriotism and of bravery, and the complex decisions Americans have had to make to prove our bravery and find both personal and national peace.

I fear for peace because our country is so divided and angry and fearful. I fear that the spirit of America of 1942, when so many in our community were sent to concentration camps, is in the air today.

For all our sakes, I hope not.

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A Happy New Year
2016
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Year of the Monkey

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Hope and Peace
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Roy & Alice, Lance, Mona & Brandon, Scott, Sheila, Spencer & Mallory

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Gratitude & Cheers
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**Mom & Dad, thanks for making me a lifelong fan.**  
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**Love, Kai**

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Waichi & Jane Ouye  
Loved & sacrificed for their children,  
great grandchildren & great grandchildren

**Emily Murase, Neal Taniguchi**  
and their daughters Junko & Izumi  
thank the JACL community for helping  
to re-elect Emily to the San Francisco Board of Education  
Where she now serves as President,  
and wishes you the very best of the holiday season.  
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Love, Ashi (WOOF)  
Rusty/Hana (MEOW)  
Val & Jim (PEACE!)
Happy Holidays
Vera & Eric Kawamura

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Hiraga-Stephens Family

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

In Honor of
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Kimiko Matsumoto and Family

Season’s Greetings
Susan & Aaron Muranishi

Kudos & heartfelt thanks to Maxine & Al Satake for their selfless & timeless efforts towards the furtherance of Berkeley JACL’s civil right goals!
OBITUARIES

Toshiko Shimoura
Feb. 28, 2015
Shimoura, Toshiko K., 88, Detroit, Mich. Shimoura was the former president of the JACL Detroit chapter and a member for more than 60 years. She was a dedicated community member and was also recognized for the promotion of Japanese culture in the United States receiving the Foreign Minister's Commendation from the government of Japan in 2014. Shimoura was born and raised in Fremont, Calif., and attended Michigan State University and the University of California, Berkeley. During World War II, she was incarcerated at Tophaz Camp.

She was a professor and writer of the art of Japanese flower arrangements. Shimoura also was a founder member of the Detroit chapter of the JACL.

Shimoura was preceded by her husband, James Shimoura, son; and survived by her children, James, Steven and Susan Han.

Akira, Tobio, 91, Honolulu, HI, Nov. 9, he was a U.S. Army veteran as well as a JACL member. He is survived by his wife, Mame Toyama; son, Kei (Cheryl) and wife, Toshiro; daughter, Lynn T. (Kazuko); grandchildren, Toshiro; brother, Jack (Joan) and wife, Elizabeth; sister, Mary T. (Haruo) and wife, Haruo; and nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Higa, Keith Yokko, 48, Honolulu, HI, Dec. 23, he is survived by his wife, Elizabeth; son, Bryan; daughter, Jessica; parents, Richard and Masa, brothers, Lance and Craig; sister, Karole; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Hoshiba, Fred Yuchio, 79, Cleveland, CA, Nov. 30, he is survived by his son, Matthew (Letty) and wife, Elizabeth; daughter, Bell (Denni) and husband, Thomas; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Fujimoto, Gregory Masanobu, 94, Los Angeles, CA, Oct. 30, he was a veteran of WWII, he is survived by his wife, Nozomi Fujimoto; children, Carla and Kathy Fujimoto; and nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Fujimoto, Schnoro, 90, Honolulu, HI, Nov. 20, he was a U.S. Army veteran, he is survived by his wife, Yoko; son, Clifford, daughter, Emiko Tanaka; grandkids, Cheryl and Harry; and nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Fujita, Fumio, 79, Honolulu, HI, Nov. 24, he is survived by his wife, Toshi; son, David (Juliette) and wife, Nancy; daughter, Irene (Bryan) and husband, David; grandchildren, Matthew, Daniel and Grace; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Kubota, Rose Yoshiko, 91, Honolulu, HI, Nov. 17, she was preceded by her husband, Minoru Kubota; children, Thomas and wife, Mary; sister, Maria; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Kurakazu, Abe, 100, Honolulu, HI, Nov. 9, he was preceded by his wife, Yuko; children, Steven (Sue) and husband, Steven; James; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Kuroki, George Shigeru, 95, Carlona, CA, Nov. 16, he was survived by his daughter, Christine (Tom), son, Jeffrey (Patsy) and nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Masa, Hideko Kay, 86, Huntington Beach, CA, Nov. 14, she is survived by her children, Dennis (Michelle) and Dean and wife, Tonya; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Murakami, Tadashi, 93, Torrance, CA, Nov. 22, he was a veteran of WWII, he is survived by his wife, Nani; children, Richard and Carl; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Murakami, Charles Koyori, 100, Honolulu, HI, Nov. 9, he is survived by his wife, Sadako; children, Richard and Ronald (Carol); nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Murakuma, Jirou, 88, Torrance, CA, Nov. 26, he is survived by his wife, Masa; children, Dan (Vicki) and husband, Bill; dumbbells and wife, Linda (Dale); nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Nakakihara, Steven, 93, Honolulu, HI, Nov. 10, he is survived by his wife, Mary; children, Steven and wife, Janet; brothers, Lance and Craig; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Nakamura, Dori Sumi, 81, Monterey Park, CA, Nov. 19, she is survived by her son, Todd; and nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Nakamura, Benny, 92, Los Angeles, CA, Nov. 15, he is survived by his wife, Yukiko; children, Steven and wife, Judy; and nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Nakamura, Carol, 85, Honolulu, HI, Nov. 27, she is survived by her children, Steve, Alvin (Elizabeth) and wife, Nancy; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Nakamura, Chuck, 98, Honolulu, HI, Nov. 22, he is survived by his wife, June; children, Ron and Linda; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Nakamura, Donald, 82, Honolulu, HI, Nov. 17, he is survived by his wife, Eileen; children, David, Anthony and Brian; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Nakamura, Helen, 82, Los Angeles, CA, Nov. 9, he is survived by his children, Bill (Shirley) and husband, Bill; and nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Nakamura, Jack, 92, Honolulu, HI, Nov. 15, he is survived by his wife, Gloria; children, Nancy and husband, Bill; son, David; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Nakamoto, Ronald, 75, Torrance, CA, Nov. 18, he is survived by his children, Ronald (Dawn), Ronald (Susan) and husband, Todd; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Nakamura, Nancy, 85, Honolulu, HI, Nov. 14, he is survived by his children, Jeff and wife, Myrna; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Nakamura, Ted, 77, Honolulu, HI, Nov. 14, she is survived by her children, Jeff and wife, Myrna; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Nakamura, Ken, 70, Torrance, CA, Nov. 17, he is survived by his children, Allen (Susan) and husband, Allen; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Nakamura, Eugene, 90, Los Angeles, CA, Nov. 24, he is survived by his children, John and wife, Bill; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Nakamura, Robert, 88, Los Angeles, CA, Nov. 9, he is survived by his wife, Shirley; children, Ingrid and husband, Jack; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Nakamura, Lawrence, 88, Los Angeles, CA, Nov. 11, he is survived by his children, Ingrid, Steven and wife, Nancy; sons, Lance and Craig; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Nakamura, Wayne, 70, Torrance, CA, Nov. 12, he is survived by his wife, Shizue; children, Wayne and wife, Karen; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Nakamura, Richard, 78, Torrance, CA, Nov. 24, he is survived by his wife, Carolyn; children, Michael and wife, Karin; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Nakamura, Marilyn, 79, Torrance, CA, Nov. 21, she is survived by her children, Mark and wife, Carol; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Nakamura, Linda, 79, Torrance, CA, Nov. 24, she is survived by her children, Mark and wife, Carol; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Nakamura, Bruce, 79, Torrance, CA, Nov. 24, he is survived by his wife, Marla; children, David and wife, Debra; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Nakamura, Barry, 78, Torrance, CA, Nov. 21, he is survived by his wife, Marilyn; children, David and wife, Debra; nieces, nephews and other rela
Willy Kazzu Suda  
Nov. 14, 2015

Willy Kazzu Suda was born on July 2, 1919, in Fresno, Calif. He was the first of two sons of Zenpro and Akiko Suda. Willy passed away peacefully on Saturday, Nov. 14, at the age of 96, surrounded by his wife, children and grandchildren in the beautiful home he built. Willy married Lily Kusakabe in 1949, and during their 66 years of marriage, they had four children, nine grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Willy graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1941, with a Bachelor's Degree in Engineering. He then enlisted in the U.S. Army during World War II and has a family history in the military. In 1941, he was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal for his military service. During the war, he served as a translator and interpreter for the Japanese government. After the war, he worked as a consultant for the U.S. government and served as an interpreter for the United Nations.

He is survived by his wife, Hiroko; his sons, John (Kiko) Suda, Gary (Marsha) Suda, and Wendy (Yoshi) Suda; his daughter, Ann (Terry) Suda; his grandchildren, Michael, John, and Alex; and his great-grandchildren, David, Ryan, and Jack.

A celebration of Willy's life will be held later this month. The family would like to extend their deepest gratitude to the many friends and family members who have supported them throughout the years. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the American Red Cross or the Salvation Army.

Nisitaka, Richard Takamatsu  
Nov. 2, 2015

Richard Takamatsu was born in Honolulu, Hawaii, on May 23, 1929, to George and Fumiko Takamatsu. Richard passed away on November 2, 2015, in Los Angeles, California, following a long illness. He was survived by his wife, Marjorie; his two children, Jonathan and Karen; and his two grandchildren, Sarah and Ethan.

Richard graduated from Occidental College in 1950 and Harvard Law School in 1952. He served as a captain in the U.S. Army in Korea during the Korean War. After the war, he returned to California and practiced law in Los Angeles. In 1965, he was appointed as a judge of the Los Angeles County Superior Court, where he served until his retirement in 2000.

Richard was a member of the board of trustees of Occidental College and a member of the board of visitors of Harvard Law School. He was also active in the Asian American Bar Association and the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL). He was a member of the boards of directors of the Japanese American National Museum and the Los Angeles Asian American Bar Association.

Richard was a devoted family man and a dedicated community leader. He will be deeply missed by his family, friends, and colleagues. Contributions in his memory may be made to the Asian American Bar Association or the Japanese American National Museum.

OBITUARIES

Dr. Hitoshi Tamaki  
Feb. 28, 2015

Tamaki, Dr. Hitoshi, 97, Plymouth, PA; July 3, 2015. Tamaki was born in Hokkaido, Japan, on October 8, 1917. He was a former JACL Muscleteer Fellowship Chair and Millenium Club member. He died of cancer at his home in Plymouth, PA; July 3, 2015.

Dr. Tamaki was a former member of the JACL Board of Directors and a founding member of the JACL Millenium Club. He was also a member of the JACL advisory board and a former member of the JACL political action committee.

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Happy Holidays from Union Bank.
This annual report covers programs and projects of the Japanese American Citizens League from July 2014 to July 2015.
Message from the President

It is my pleasure to share with you the 2014–2015 issue of the JACL Annual Report and I hope you will find this report to be useful and informative. We started publishing this report three years ago in an effort to enhance communications with our members, constituents, funders and the general public. I believe that we are achieving the objective as this report highlights our successes and many of our key programs. In summary, I am proud to say that this past year was marked by many positive changes and we have made significant progress towards making JACL a stronger and a better organization.

First, I wanted to thank the National Council for re-electing me to the position of the National President in July 2014. It has been a great honor and privilege to serve in this capacity since July 2012 and I am grateful for placing your trust and confidence in me to lead this premier American civil rights organization.

At the Japanese American Citizens League, we have come a long way since our beginning in 1929 as an organization fighting for the interests of Japanese Americans. With over 100 chapters around the country and approximately 100,000 committed members, JACL has continued to adapt to the changing social and political environment to fight for the rights of not only Japanese Americans, but for all Asian Pacific Americans and groups in need of a voice.

JACL has made great strides in the past year, both externally and internally. Within JACL, we continued to explore and develop innovative programs that would be relevant to our members; we revamped and updated our infrastructures, in the forms of both physical assets and online assets; and we examined and implemented processes to further improve our financial reporting capabilities and overall transparency.

One such initiative that I would like to highlight is the Kakehashi Program. Kakehashi is a youth exchange opportunity JACL offers with financial support provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and the Japan Foundation. During this past year, we brought close to 100 youth in 4 groups to visit Japan. We received nothing but the most complimentary feedback on how invaluable this experience was to JACL participants. I am so pleased that JACL was selected to offer this opportunity to our youth and to further the relationship between the people of United States and Japan. I am also delighted to report that we will not only continue, but expand, the Kakehashi Program in 2015–2016 with over 180 participants!

Externally, JACL has always been at the forefront of advancing the cause of the AAPI community through a variety of education programs and working with elected officials and other civil rights organizations on a number of initiatives. Unfortunately, we also continued to see acts of intolerance against AAPIs in politics, in media and in our society, often based upon outdated stereotypes or general ignorance of our heritage and culture. JACL must remain vigilant in identifying and responding to such incidents not only to stand up to racial intolerance, but also to show others that we will not idly sit by when our heritage is denigrated. JACL must continue its adherence to the fundamental principles of social justice and civil rights that the organization was originally founded on, through advocating for equality and fairness for AAPIs and for all Americans.

Our national organization is run by a small team of dedicated and hard-working individuals who have made advancing JACL’s mission their primary goal. Members of our National Staff and Pacific Citizen Staff are the ones who work hard on a daily basis to keep the organization moving forward and I am grateful for their hard work and commitment to JACL. At the same time, JACL is only as strong as its members, so I encourage all of you to get involved in our organization and make a difference for your chapter and your community. It has truly been an honor and a privilege to serve as your National President and I am equally grateful to the National Board for their hard work and collaboration.

In the following pages, you will find detailed information on our national organization, regional offices, and our major accomplishments over the past year. I am extremely proud of what we have done and I know that we are capable of reaching even greater height through your hard work, dedication, and commitment to JACL. I look forward to working with all of you this coming year!

Sincerely yours,

David T. Lin
National President

JACL District Councils

The Japanese American Citizens League consists of nearly 100 chapters nationwide and in Japan. These chapters are divided geographically into seven district councils, each of which is headed by a District Governor. The national organization is guided by the National Board, which consists of elected officers and District Governors.

**Pacific Northwest (PNW):**
- Alaska
- Gresham-Troutdale
- Olympia
- Portland
- Puget Sound Valley
- Seattle
- Spokane

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- Florin
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- Honolulu
- Japan
- Lodi
- Marin County
- Marysville
- Monterey
- Petaluma
- Placer County
- Reno
- Sacramento
- Salinas Valley
- San Benito County
- San Francisco
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- Sequoia
- Silicon Valley
- Sonoma County
- Stockton
- Watsonville
- Santa Cruz
- West Valley

**Central California District Council (CCDC):**
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- Fresno
- Livingston-Merced
- Parlier
- Reedley
- Sanger
- Selma
- Tulare County

**Intermountain District Council (IDC):**
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- Idaho Falls
- Mile High
- Mount Olympus
- Pocatello-Blackfoot
- Salt Lake City
- Snake River
- Wasatch Front North

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- Dayton
- De Kalb
- Hoosier
- Houston
- Omaha
- St. Louis
- Twin Cities
- Wisconsin

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- Philadelphia
- Seabrook
- Southeast
- Washington, D.C.
Our National Organization

For more than 80 years, JACL has been at the forefront in championing the fight against racism and discrimination. Founded in 1929, JACL continues to address emerging civil rights issues. JACL is a contemporary organization with a rich history and pursues the ongoing mission of promoting social justice and diversity.

For more information about JACL programs and membership, please visit www.JACL.org or contact one of our regional offices:

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1765 Sutter Street
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  - Pacific Northwest Regional Director

- **Vacant**
  - Pacific Southwest Regional Director

- **Pacific Citizen Membership Coordinator**
  - Stephanie Nishihara

- **Membership/Data Entry**
  - Tomiko Ismail

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**Vision**

Aware of our responsibilities as the oldest and largest Asian Pacific American civil rights organization, JACL strives to promote a world that honors diversity by respecting values of fairness, equality, and social justice.

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**Mission**

The Japanese American Citizens League is a national organization whose ongoing mission is to secure and maintain the civil rights of Japanese Americans and all others who are victimized by injustice and bigotry. The leaders and members of JACL work to promote cultural, educational and social values, and to preserve the heritage and legacy of the Japanese American community.
DEFAMATION

JACL monitors and responds to incidents of defamation and hate crimes that occur throughout the United States. JACL co-chairs the Asian Pacific American Media Coalition (APAMC) and serves on the executive committees of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights (LCCCHR) and the National Asian Pacific American Councils (NAPAC).

JACL responded to a number of incidents in 2014-15, including:

• JACL responded to remarks by Justice Clarence Thomas in the Obergefell v. Hodges same-sex marriage decision where he commented on notions of dignity by saying that those held in internment camps did not lose their dignity. Executive Director Priscilla Ouchida responded that the internment was "tantamount to the destruction of a community, a culture and an entire system of constitutional protections ... There is no dignity in inequality."

• JACL reiterated its position that the Department of Homeland Security end the family detention program for women and children seeking asylum in the U.S. JACL condemned the building of new facilities at Detention Center 14 in Texas, which resembles the World War II-era camps for Japanese Americans. In its statement, JACL said, "Korematsu and Arrenda must not be remembered as we remember Manzanar, Heart Mountain, and Tule Lake."

• JACL issued a statement on the Ferguson, MO decision in the death of Michael Brown saying, "JACL is deeply troubled by the grand jury's failure to indict Officer Darren Wilson. We support those who are working tirelessly to reform a broken system." The statement went on to explain that the legal system often rationalizes police brutality and fails to value black and brown lives.

• JACL issued a statement about the HBO series from Australia, South from Tonga, in which a white actor in brown makeup and wig depicts Jonah, a young Tongan man. Numerous scenes in the series were mocked or misrepresented. Tongan culture and customs. The series was eventually dropped.

• JACL issued a statement challenging General Wesley Clark for suggesting internment camps for "radicalized" individuals. In its statement, JACL said, "The threat of terrorism is real, but we must remain circumspect about the responses we pursue.

The apology to Japanese Americans says that we owe it to ourselves, to our own sacred obligation to the dead, to the faithful who went down a path that jeopardized the rights of Americans."

• JACL issued a statement on affirmative action in response to a lawsuit filed against Harvard University by a group called Students for Fair Admissions. JACL reiterated its support for affirmative action, saying, "It is clear that protecting African American and Pacific Islander Americans benefits from affirmative action. Portions of the Asian Pacific American population, including Southeast Asian, Pacific Islanders, and recent immigrants, experience significant educational disparities and benefit from race-conscious admissions policies that account for the unique obstacles faced by these groups."

CART CASES

Conde-Vidal v. Armendariz (1st Cir. 2015)

This case challenged Puerto Rico's marriage ban, a state constitutional amendment that defines marriage as exclusively between one man and one woman. JACL joined an amicus brief filed by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights on behalf of a coalition of organizations. The brief provided evidence supporting the arguments that segregation continues to generate social harms whereas integration combs benefits that accrue both to individuals and to society.

Obergefell v. Hodges; Tanco v. Haslam; Deboer v. Snyder; and Bourke v. Beshear (U.S. Supreme Court, 2014)

This case focused on Dallas, Texas, where over a period of years a housing agency reinforced renter segregation by consistently approving affordable housing only in African American neighborhoods. The U.S. Supreme Court reviewed a key provision of the Fair Housing Act questioning whether it prohibits unfair practices that purposefully exclude or harm people based on race, ethnicity, religion, family status, or other characteristics covered by the standard of "disparate impact." JACL joined an amicus brief filed by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) and the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights on behalf of a coalition of organizations. The brief provided evidence supporting the arguments that segregation continues to generate social harms whereas integration combs benefits that accrue both to individuals and to society.

These cases challeged state constitutional amendments in Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, and Tennessee that define marriage as exclusively between one man and one woman. JACL joined a coalition signing onto an amicus brief filed by ADL that recounts how the U.S. Supreme Court has long rejected the argument that religious and moral disapproval can be used to justify discriminatory laws targeting disadvantaged groups.

Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Craig (Colorado Court of Appeals, 2015)

The complainants in this case, a gay couple, were denied the opportunity to order a cake for their wedding reception. The Colorado Civil Rights Division held that this constituted sexual orientation discrimination in violation of the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act, a finding upheld by the Colorado Civil Rights Commission. Masterpiece Cakeshop appealed the Commission's ruling to the Colorado Court of Appeals, arguing that enforcing the nondiscrimination law was unconstitutional under the Free Exercise Clause and the compelled speech doctrine. D.C. joined an amicus brief submitted by ADL urging the court to affirm the Commission's decision and reject arguments that religious or moral disapproval is a legitimate basis for discrimination.


In light of JACL's history and the incarceration experience during World War II, JACL joined other AAPI organizations in an amicus brief contesting the use of military tribunals on non-citizens and urging the court to apply a strict scrutiny level or review for the Military Commissions Act.

2015 JACL/OCA D.C. LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

JACL and OCA - Asian Pacific American Advocates partner every year to co-direct the JACL/OCA leadership summit in Washington D.C., an intensive three-day civil rights and advocacy seminar that introduces emerging Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) leaders to public policy advocacy strategies.

In 2015, twenty-six participants from across the nation visited Congressional offices to advocate for immigration and education policies relevant to the AAPI community. They also met with former Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta, attended a White House briefing with the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (WHIAAPI) staff, ate dinner with Doan Tho, Senior Advisor of WHIAAPI, and took part in a speaker series with Congressman Mark Takano and Mike Honda.

INTERNSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

College students and recent graduates have the opportunity to work in the areas of public service, public policy, and advocacy via JACL internships and fellowships in Washington D.C. Fellows and interns in the JACL Washington, D.C. office work on a wide variety of policy issues, advocacy efforts, and JACL National programs and projects. The Mike M. Masaoka Congressional Programs Fellowship provides Fellows with the unique opportunity to gain first-hand experience in the policy-making process as members of a Congressional staff.

Kelly Honda
Daniel K. Inouye Fellow
Karineen Suagasawara
Norman Y. Mineta Fellow
Theo Bickel, Grace Kim
OCA Interns

CAMPUS OUTREACH

JACL Campus Outreach Program visits campuses nationwide to present workshops on topics of interest to young Asian Americans. In 2015, JACL presented a workshop on Multiracial Identity at the Midwest Asian American Student Union Conference (MAASU) at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. A workshop on anti-Asian sentiment, titled "When Hate Hits You" was presented to students at Creighton University as part of a Day of Remembrance commemoration.

BRIDGING COMMUNITIES

The Bridging Communities Program brings together high school students from the Japanese American and Mexican American communities to help them understand the consequences of intolerance and the need for strong community partnerships. Students in Bridging Communities examine the similarities between the World War II incarceration experience of Japanese Americans and the post-9/11 experience of Muslim Americans by visiting Japanese American incarceration camps and satellite sites. Bridging Communities is co-sponsored by the National Park Service Japanese American Internment Sites Grant Program.

Sixteen students traveled to Little Rock, Arkansas, as part of the 2015 Bridging Communities program. They learned of the struggles faced by African Americans at Little Rock Central High National Historic Site, where courageous African American students enrolled in the newly integrated school. Afterwards students viewed artifacts made by incarcerated Japanese Americans at the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, and heard the story of Richard Yoda, a Rohwer internee and resident of Little Rock. Finally participants explored the site of Rohwer Relocation Center outside of McCrory, Arkansas.
TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAM

JACL LEGACY FUND GRANTS

Established in 1990 by JACL National Council, the Legacy Fund provides grants up to $5,000 for projects or activities that support the organization’s Program for Action. Funding for the grants are provided by revenues from approximately $5,000,000 donated to the Legacy Fund by individuals who were incarcerated in the World War II camps.

In 2015, a record number of fourteen projects were awarded grants to increase youth participation, foster collaboration with diverse community groups, and build broader awareness of and appreciation for Japanese American history and culture. In 2015, through the National Park Service Japanese American Confinement Sites (JACS) Grant Program, JACL conducted teacher-training workshops in Phoenix, AZ; Santa Fe, NM; Houston, TX; Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN. Two additional workshops were scheduled for 2016. Boatner Park in Lake City, UT.

- The JACL National Youth/Student Council (NY/SC) will engage with JACL youth and college professionals nationwide, support District Youth Representatives, and increase the visibility of the NY/SC in all JACL districts through a series of NYSC retreats.
- The Philadelphia Chapter is supporting Good Luck Soup Interactive, a virtual community and interactive website that highlights the Japanese American and Japanese Canadian post-WWII experience.
- The Pacific Southwest District Council’s project will serve to provide a positive and inclusive experience for 15 Japanese American college students who identify as LGBTQ and are allies for LGBTQ justice.
- The Peppin Valley Chapter will focus on improving the chapter’s operational infrastructure by supporting the development of technological communication and providing training to sustain it.
- The San Diego Chapter will support a documentary, Never Forget, which commemorates the 70th anniversary of the end of WWII and focuses on the veterans of the 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team and Military Intelligence Service, the chapter will also revive its annual Gala.
- The Seattle Chapter will create a well-designed website which will enhance marketing and communication for the chapter.
- The Snake River Chapter’s arboretum structure will provide trial shade in the rehabilitation of the second largest Japanese garden in Oregon.
- The Washington D.C. Chapter will engage community members in the maintenance of the National Japanese American Memorial and will educate them about the history of the Memorial and the Japanese American experience.

KAKEHASHI

In 2014, JACL sent eighty-five Japanese American undergraduate and graduate students to Japan through the Kakehashi Project, hosted by the Japan Foundation. Participants traveled to Japan in May, July, and October, exploring cities and taking part in various cultural activities to facilitate cross-cultural understanding. Kakehashi participants also met with Japanese professors, students, business and political leaders to learn about U.S.-Japan relations.

At the 2015 Convention in Las Vegas, Minister Tsukada of the Embassy of Japan announced that the Kakehashi Project would be made an annual program. Minister Tsukada also announced that the total number of participants would increase to 186, and opened the program to non-Japanese Americans. In 2015, JACL is coordinating seven nine-day trips with the Japan International Cooperation Corporation (JICE) in the winter of 2015 and spring of 2016.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

JACL works to preserve the heritage and legacy of Japanese Americans and to ensure that the diverse experiences of the American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities are included in American history.

- JACL opposed the auctioning of over 450 crafts and artifacts made by incarcerated Japanese Americans by Bago Auction House. Bago had acquired the historic artifacts from a descendant of Allen H. Eaton, a folk art expert who opposed the wartime incarceration of families that donated the items to Eaton with the mutual understanding that the items would be for public educational purposes. After strong community outcry, the artifacts were withdrawn from public auction.
- JACL advocated on Capitol Hill for the National Park Service Japanese American Confinement Sites (JACS) Grant Program, which provides funds to preserve and interpret World War II Japanese American incarceration camps. Thirty-eight members of Congress signed onto letters in support of securing $2.9 million in funding for the JACS Grant Program.
- JACL attended a number of All Camps summits, which bring together a number of leaders representing the World War II incarceration sites, as well as the community stakeholders working to preserve and interpret the Japanese American incarceration experience.

JACL is working to leverage All Camps summits to share training workshops in Washington, D.C. in 2015 to strengthen those relationships and build capacity through the sharing of resources, information, and best practices.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

JACL launched a campaign to increase civic engagement among Japanese American and underrepresented AAPI communities. JACL partnered with Asian Resources Inc. and My Stories House to organize the JACL Get Out the Vote (GOTV) campaign in Sacramento County, California. Students made over 42,000 phone calls to Sacramento residents encouraging local Japanese, Vietnamese, South Indian, Hispanic, and Laotian voters to participate in the 2016 midterm elections. Additionally, all JACL members were called in an effort to encourage full voter turnout for the elections and provide resources to assist in the voter registration process.

JACL partnered with Asian & Pacific Islander American Citizens (APAAV) during the 2015 Convention to provide workshops on increasing civic engagement. More than 125 JACL representatives from over forty-five chapters participated in presentations on voter mobilization, campaign plan development, and effective voter registration programs.

NATIONAL YOUTH/STUDENT COUNCIL

The National Youth/Student Council (NY/SC) is composed of dedicated students and young professionals from each of JACL’s seven districts. The mission of the NY/SC is to raise awareness of AAPI issues and to engage and develop young leaders who can create positive community change. The NY/SC envisions a national network of collaborative young leaders and allies with the collective power and passion to make change happen.

The NY/SC plans and implements several Youth Leadership Summits throughout the year with sponsorship from State Farm and Southwest Airlines. These summits provide educational opportunities for young people to grow their skill sets and learn about new advocacy issues. Held in Cortes, CA; Los Angeles, CA; Washington, D.C.; Seattle, WA, Topics ranged from the LGBTQ, Asian American community, social stereotypes, networking, and inter-communal racial identity.

NY/SC Members:
- Nicole Gaddie National Youth Chair
- Michelle Yamashiro National Youth Representative
- Macy Elliott CCDC Youth Representative
- Kota Mizutani AAPI Youth Representative
- Charles Aoki IDC Youth Representative
- Nathan Iwamoto Fukushima NY/SC Youth Representative
- Michaela Ishino NY/SC Youth Chair
- Remy Hidaka NCWNP Youth Representative
- Retino Hidaka MDC Youth Representative
- Kenji Kuramitsu IDC Youth Representative
- Michelle Hue NCWNP Youth Representative
- Beth Uno MDC Youth Representative
- Sarah Baker PWY Youth Representative
- Kristy Ishii PSW Youth Representative
- Mary Caddick Member-At-Large
- Kurt Ikeda Member-At-Large
- Emil Lee Kamemoto Member-At-Large

JACL 2015 NATIONAL CONVENTION LAS VEGAS • MONTE CARLO RESORT JULY 13-15
ART OF GAMAN

Sponsored by JACL, the Art of Gaman continued its national tour by bringing the exhibit to Houston, TX in February of 2015. The Art of Gaman features over 120 artifacts, tools, artwork, photographs, and furniture and lies viewers to experience the concept of gaman, “to endure the seemingly unbearable with patience and dignity.”

JACL and AARP sponsored an opening program for the Art of Gaman at the Holocaust Museum Houston on February 3, 2015. The reception featured a screening of ABC7 Los Angeles news anchor David Ono’s Emmy-winning documentary. The Legacy of Heart Mountain. The Art of Gaman will be on display in Houston until September 20, 2015.

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE


VOTING RIGHTS ACT RALLY

JACL partnered with the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights to advocate for the restoration of the Voting Rights Act. JACL visited over twenty Congressional offices in support of restoring voter protections weakened by the 2013 United States Supreme Court decision Shelby v. Holder. JACL marched for these key provisions in 1965, and the passage of the historic Voting Rights Act entrenched minorities across the United States. JACL joined over 300 people from more than 25 community and civil rights organizations in Roanoke, Virginia, for Representative Bob Goodlatte, Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, to hold a hearing on restoring the Voting Rights Act.

HONOLULU

JACL held its 46th National Convention on July 15-19, 2015, in Las Vegas, Nevada with over 300 people in attendance.

Delegates passed four resolutions, including one sponsored by the NVJSC supporting Home Resolution 40. The resolution calls for Congress to establish a commission to study the institution of slavery in the United States and make recommendations on appropriate remedies. JACL is the first membership-based Asian American civil rights organization to support Home Resolution 40.

JACL continued its support of the lesbigay, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer/questioning (LGBTQ) community with the passage of an emergency resolution calling upon JACL to be an ally to the transgender community. Other resolutions passed recognized the leadership and service of Mike Manosa to the Japanese American community, and honored the importance of artifacts created by incarcerated Japanese Americans during WWII.

The Convention featured two plenary sessions on relevant current issues a LGBTQ plenary that shared the personal experiences of a multidisciplinary, multi-ethnic panel from the Asian American LGBTQ community and presentation from AARP on Braille communities. Chapters participating in the Civic Engagement Campaign attended training sessions by Asian & Pacific Islander Americans Vote (AAPI-Vote) on the importance of voting for Asian American and Pacific Islanders and effective voter registration campaign tactics.

Highlights of the 2015 Convention included a youth mixer and Karaoke reunion to promote youth engagement, and an exclusive screening of the animated film Minions.

PRIME MINISTER ALBINO VISIT

JACL members participated in a number of events commemorating the first official state visit of the Prime Minister of Japan, Shinzo Abe, to the United States. Over one hundred JACL members welcomed the Prime Minister at the official White House State Arrival Ceremony, where President Obama and Prime Minister Abe delivered speeches highlighting the deep friendship between Japan and the United States.

JACL participated in events and meetings with the Prime Minister in Boston, MA; Washington, D.C.; San Francisco and Los Angeles, CA, and witnessed Prime Minister Abe’s historic address to a joint session of Congress. JACL Executive Director Priscilla Ono addressed the official State Dinner with President Obama and Prime Minister Abe.

Selma

JACL made history in March 2015 when a JACL delegation traveled to Selma, AL, to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the 1965 demonstrations that led to the passage of the landmark Voting Rights Act. JACL’s delegation brought together a multigenerational group, including Todd Endo, who participated in daily marches to the courthouse in 1965 to push for racial equality and the right to vote.

On the 50th anniversary of the historic march across Pettus Bridge, Kota Mizutani and Kenji Kurahashi joined Todd Endo and a torch was passed from one generation to another. The JACL delegation then joined a contingent of over 70,000 people for the remembrance of the Pettus Bridge crossing.

Scholarships: 2014 Recipients

JACL offers scholarships for college freshmen, undergraduate and graduate students as well as scholarships for law, creative and performing arts students, and those in financial need.

2014 FRESHMAN SCHOLARSHIP AwarDS

FRESHMAN

Harry & Olive Kanemitsu Memorial Scholarship - Calvin Endo, Philadelphia JACL
Paul & Kathleen Ohtani Memorial Scholarship - Emily Inouye, French Camp JACL
Paul & Kathleen Ohtani Memorial Scholarship - Alybelle Yasuda, Serra River Valley JACL
Mr. & Mrs. Yukio Matsuno Scholarship - Daniel Suzuki, University of Santa Cruz JACL
Mr. & Mrs. Hanamura Lena (Kiyo) Memorial Scholarship - Martin Eng, West Orange JACL
Shigeki “Shige” Umemoto Memorial Scholarship - Eric Langewiesche, Roanoke JACL
Patrick & Gail Hirokawa Memorial Scholarship - Kayla Unomoto, Sacramento JACL
Sam & Jerry Kato Reba Memorial Scholarship - Sydney Kazahaya, Sacramento JACL
Sam & Karen Kato Reba Memorial Scholarship - Seth Kangal, Philadelphia JACL
Don & June Ujigane Memorial Scholarship - Megan Ingram, Puyallup Valley JACL
Honorary Katsuko Mushakiro Scholarship - Kelli Tedrow, Young Cohort JACL

2014 SCHOLARSHIP Awards: UNDERGRADS, GRADS, LAW, ARTS, STUDENT AID

UNDERGRADUATE

Harry & Olive Kanemitsu Memorial Scholarship - Hana Yashiro, Wisconsin JACL
Staglin “Stagy” Hohokum Memorial Scholarship - Marissa Kaneshiro, South Bay JACL
Kensuke Kato Memorial Scholarship - Megan Irwin, High School JACL
Dr. Thomas & Yuka Takahashi Memorial Scholarship - Kristin Yang, Chicago JACL
Aiko Tani Endo Memorial Scholarship - Toshima Tom Watan, New York JACL
Sakata Kids Memorial Scholarship - Nicole Hamasaki, Torrance JACL
Kiyoko & Yona Akimoto Memorial Scholarship - Garrett San, Fresno JACL

GRADUATE

Harry & Olive Kanemitsu Memorial Scholarship - Sayaka Shimizukawa, High School JACL
Dr. Masa & Yuko Tanaka Memorial Scholarship - Alexander Lin, Hawaii JACL
Murasaki Yamao Memorial Scholarship - Christine Montem, Chicago JACL
Dr. Kaneko Sonoda Memorial Scholarship - Kimiko Aoyagi, Stockton JACL
Megumi & Shumiko Itoh Memorial Scholarship - Peter Tanigami, Seattle JACL

2014 SCHOLARSHIP Awards: PACIFIC ISLANDER STUDIES

Undergraduate

Mr. & Mrs. Tanaka Memorial Scholarship - Taela Kugahara, Chicago JACL
Tani Endo Memorial Scholarship - Toshima Tom Watan, New York JACL
Dasa Tani Endo Memorial Scholarship - Toshima Tom Watan, New York JACL

GRADUATE

Mr. & Mrs. Tanaka Memorial Scholarship - Taela Kugahara, Chicago JACL
Yonezawa Memorial Scholarship - Dr. Choyce Sasaki, Chicago JACL

2014 SCHOLARSHIP Awards: NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

National Undergraduate Scholarship - Dr. Choyce Sasaki, Chicago JACL
National Graduate Scholarship - Dr. Choyce Sasaki, Chicago JACL

2014 SCHOLARSHIP Awards: AMERICAN CIVIL RIGHTS LEADERSHIP

Earl Warren Scholarship - Dr. Choyce Sasaki, Chicago JACL

2014 SCHOLARSHIP Awards: UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS

University Undergraduate Scholarship - Hawaii JACL
University Graduate Scholarship - Hawaii JACL

2014 SCHOLARSHIP Awards: DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARSHIPS

Distinguished Undergraduate Scholarship - Megan Hasegawa, Puyallup Valley JACL
Distinguished Graduate Scholarship - Megumi Ito, Portland JACL

2014 SCHOLARSHIP Awards: MENTORING SCHOLARSHIPS

Mentoring Undergraduate Scholarship - Megan Hasegawa, Puyallup Valley JACL
Mentoring Graduate Scholarship - Megumi Ito, Portland JACL
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Hitoshi Toh Tamaki
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