

PACIFIC CITIZEN

New Year's 2016



Inside!

**National Board Members
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LETTERS



Dear Japanese American Citizens League,

Minoru Yasui, a past member of the Mile High Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League in Denver, Colo., was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in November for his courageous stand against our unconstitutional imprisonment during WWII.

The example of Yasui's principled stance has caused us to ask ourselves what he would have thought of the series of unilateral decisions by the JACL National Office to oppose net neutrality, to support the corporate-sponsored TransPacific Trade Pact (TPP) and to convert the *Pacific Citizen* into an exclusively digital publication.

This unilateralism has become such a regular occurrence that a pattern has emerged of the National Office taking high-profile political positions without consultation with the organization's local chapters.

The National Office has compounded this organizational "lapse" by refusing to respond to simple questions by local JACL chapters. For example, the National office has never responded to the Mile High Chapter's reasoned letter inquiring about opposition to Net Neutrality. In that letter, we expressed the consensus opinion of our membership: that opposition to Net Neutrality would ultimately injure the communities who are least able to pay for Internet access while improving services for those who can buy premium data processing plans. Though requested, we were never given the courtesy of a reply.

Our frustration and dismay at this pattern of disregard for the rank and file dues-paying members of JACL by the National Office appears to leave no option except to initiate discussions with JACL Chapters nationwide to promote change at the national level, which will more clearly mirror the intent and philosophy of its constituency.

We expect that before the JACL National Office makes any more major decisions, it will inform the organization's membership and that the National Office will take everyone's concerns into account. We insist that JACL's national policies and proclamations should express a consensus of the JACL's members, not just the political opinions of its national officers.

The future of the JACL as a national organization is at stake; we are continuing to lose membership because the younger demographic that will replenish our diminishing numbers refuse to accept top-down "leadership," insisting instead on direct participation.

The National Office must take whatever steps are necessary to initiate accurate and timely communication with the membership because if the current pattern of nonconsultation and disregard continues, the organization which was once on the leading edge of the social justice movement will collapse as our descendants gravitate to more relevant organizations.

The Japanese American Citizens League must act in a way that not only mirrors our claim to be the oldest and largest Asian Pacific American civil rights organization in the United States, but that also shows a genuine capacity for responsible and responsive leadership to achieve progressive and collaborative change in this country.

We hope for a timely response to these issues, questions and concerns.

Respectfully,

The Board of Mile High Chapter,
Japanese American Citizens League

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

STAFF

Executive Editor
Allison Haramoto
Assistant Editor
Tiffany Ujiye
Business Manager
Susan Yokoyama
Production Artist
Marie Samonte
Circulation
Eva Ting

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The P.C.'s mission is to "educate on the past Japanese American experience and preserve, promote and help the current and future AAPI communities."

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A YONSEI TRANSPLANTED

WE EACH HAVE THE POWER WITHIN OURSELVES TO DO MORE

By Matthew Ormseth

When El Nino visited the Southland last month, it brought Los Angeles to a halt; streets became inadvertent waterways, traffic ground to a soggy standstill and Angelenos grumbled to high heaven about the gall of Mother Nature to interrupt their daily routines. For most of us, the storms were an inconvenience, albeit a major one, but a few weeks ago, I met some people for whom the storms bore life-or-death implications.

In high school, I volunteered with a woman named Rebecca Prine, who distributed food, second-hand clothing and bedding to the homeless in Northeast L.A. But after I left for college three years ago, I lost touch with her. A few days before Christmas, I was in the car, listening to National Public Radio, when a familiar voice floated over the airways. It was Rebecca. NPR was running a story on a project she'd started, a project that had gained terrible urgency in the run-up to El Nino.

Rebecca had convinced a church in Highland Park, Calif., to open its pews at night to the homeless. She was staffing the night-watch herself, organizing the storage of shelter residents' belongings and procuring medical attention, benefits and temporary housing for those in most urgent need of it, all in addition to working her day job as a social worker for L.A. County. A few days after I heard the NPR story, I went to the church-turned-shelter All Saints Episcopal in Highland Park

to see how my old friend was holding up.

A vegan spread of squash, blue-corn cornbread and beans was laid out for the shelter's residents; Rebecca explained to me that the shelter offers dinner every night, prepared entirely by volunteers. During dinner, a local band of sixty-something's set up shop in the cafeteria and played oldies like Chuck Berry's "You Never Can Tell" and Van Morrison's "Brown-Eyed Girl." Someone started dancing, and before long, we were all spinning each other around in a confused, whirlwind marriage of square-dancing, swing and the twist. I didn't know what it was, and it was beautiful.

I wanted to write about this shelter not to offer heartwarming testament to the dogged goodness of the human spirit or to thrust evidence of my own selflessness in your face. Rather, I wanted to write about this shelter to remind you of something I myself was reminded of when I visited, which was that it is well within our power to make life a little less difficult for other people, and a little more happy.

For a while, I was guilty of falling into a certain way of thinking, which shifted the responsibility of helping others from my shoulders and onto vague, abstract things like "the government" and "philanthropy."

I'd think to myself that only something as large and powerful as the government could find housing for the homeless and provide care for their physical and mental

ailments. Only philanthropists, people like Bill Gates and Mark Zuckerberg, could alter the course of a life, as only they had the capital with which to do it.

In a way, that was true — I'm a 21-year-old kid on a student budget. I can't provide anyone with Section 8 housing, a monthly stipend of \$500 or even a trip to the doctor's. I can give my time and my attention, and that's about it.

But my problem was that I hadn't even done that. And seeing my friend, Rebecca, and all she'd managed to do with the few means at her disposal — namely a relationship with a church, an understanding of how to navigate the county's red-tape labyrinth of social services and a little bit of time — was perspective-altering.

I realize that the vast majority of us can't turn a life around singlehandedly. We lack the means, we lack the time and we have our own lives to deal with. At that church-turned-shelter, no one was handed the keys to a new house; no one was cured forevermore of the plight of homelessness.

Tomorrow, they would wake up with many of the same problems — no home, no work, ailing and failing bodies. Some might even argue that Rebecca's efforts made little difference in the long run, that they only batted back the true problems for one more day.

>> See POWER WITHIN on page 13



A MOTHER'S TAKE

I LOVE MOCHI

By Marsha Aizumi

You are probably wondering if this is going to be an article about the New Year's tradition of pounding mochi, or perhaps making the traditional mochi soup called *ozoni*. I have shaped mochi into those soft pillows with sweet beans in the middle, eating the delicious treat (more than I care to count) in between the rice being cooked and pounded. I also make *ozoni* every New Year's Day for my family and have for many, many years.

But this article is not about that kind of mochi. It is about a sweet black-and-white dog that has nestled into my heart and taught me more about being a better human being than I ever thought I could learn from a four-legged bundle of unconditional love and forgiveness.

Mochi is the dog that came into my life after my previous dog was killed by a coyote in my backyard. For those of you who have dogs and love them like I do, you will understand the grief I went through and the reluctance to get another dog. But my son, Aiden, used to come to our house and say, "You need to get another dog because this house feels like a funeral home." He was right, but for months I wasn't ready.

Then one day, Aiden sent us a photo of a dog that looked just like our little Molly. The dog lived about two hours away from us, so I was surprised that my husband wanted to drive that distance to see a dog that may or may not fit into our family. A few hours later, this scared little puppy with big brown eyes looked up at me, and I fell in love.

Little did I know that Mochi would teach me so much

about life. I think with Molly, I was too busy with work and family to notice all the lessons. But now, I see lessons all around me, and she was one of my sweetest teachers.

1) **Mochi always sees me as a loving, supportive person and forgives me when I fall short** — As much as I love this little dog, sometimes I make mistakes. When I step on her tail and find a considerable amount of hair on the floor, after a loud yelp, she does not run away and glare at me as if I have done something purposely to hurt her. She turns right around and comes to me with compassion and openness, as if to say, "I know you didn't mean to hurt me . . . I forgive you and love you." She sees the good in me and assumes nothing less.

I have learned that I do not always see the good in people. I sometimes believe people intentionally want to hurt me or judge me, but Mochi has taught me how easy it is to let go and just see people in a bright and positive light. In 2016, I will look for the good in people.

2) **Mochi creates boundaries for what she needs** — Sometimes she likes to be a lap dog, and other times she needs her space. Sometimes she wants to be around us, and at other times she wants to be in a quiet room alone.

I used to say yes to everything. Today, I am working hard at creating boundaries, so I have time for my husband, my family, my work, my activism and myself. Sometimes it is easy, and other times I struggle, especially with creating boundaries for myself. I feel guilty about saying no,

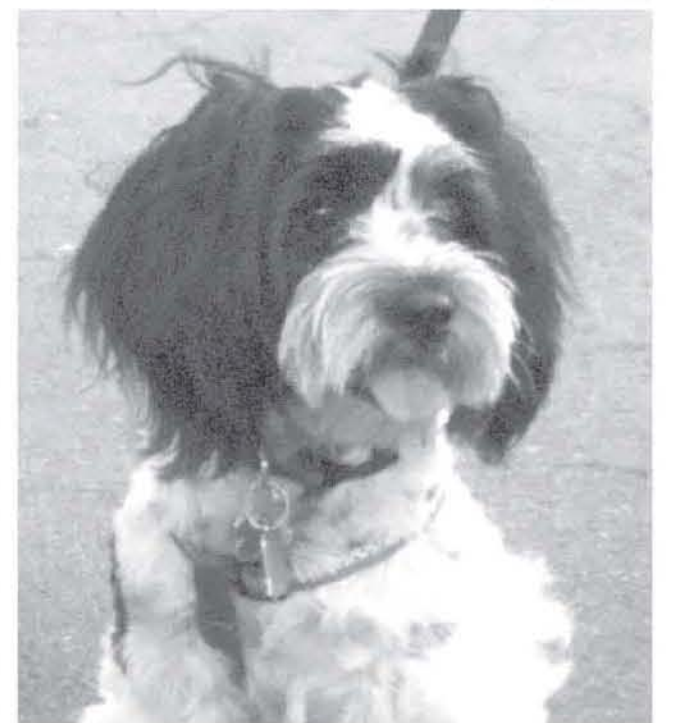


PHOTO CREDIT

Mochi

so instead of taking a nap to revitalize my body, mind and spirit, I take on one more meeting, one more project or one more speaking engagement. In 2016, I am determined to do less, but find ways to bring greater visibility and voice to all my areas. Let me know if you have any ideas!

>> See MOCHI on page 13

New Year's Greetings From the JACL National Board



'WE HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO REINVENT THE JACL. LET'S SEIZE THAT OPPORTUNITY.'

By David Lin,
JACL National President

Dear JACLers,

Happy New Year and welcome to the New Year issue of the Pacific Citizen!

It has been my honor and privilege to serve as the JACL National President since July 2012. Leading this prestigious organization for the past three and a half years has been an extremely rewarding experience. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your continued support of the JACL in 2015. JACL distinguishes itself for being the oldest and the largest Asian American civil rights organization in the United States, and our strength is clearly in our members and the broad geographic area represented by our organization.

As I look out into 2016, I see that our organization is faced with a couple of significant challenges — financial shortfall and the future of the Pacific Citizen. By the way, these two issues are intertwined to some extent.

Notwithstanding our continued focus on financial management, our 2015 financial performance has been projected to be significantly below budget. The bulk of the revenue shortfall can be attributed to investment income and the Pacific Citizen. We all know about the turbulent financial market in 2015, and that negatively impacted our results. As for the Pacific Citizen, we have seen a steady decline of its advertising revenues consistent with the general market trend of media advertising shifting away from traditional

media, including newspaper print. It is further validated by corporations moving away from media buys in the Asian American newspaper.

Clearly, any amount of deficit is not acceptable, and the Finance Committee has taken the lead in formulating a corrective course of actions. To that end, the Finance Committee has been working with both the Executive Director and the Pacific Citizen Executive Editor to develop expense reduction plans for 2016. As part of the plan, we should also explore any potential funding sources to ensure we are not leaving anything on the table. With our dedicated staff, I am optimistic that we will figure out how we can best work through these challenges.

On the other hand, there are a couple of bright spots in the organization that I want to highlight. Our membership revenue for 2015 is projected to exceed the budget. That is wonderful news, and kudos to our Membership Coordinator and VP of Membership for their great work. In 2016, we will continue to place great emphasis on membership, for renewing current members and for recruiting new members.

In 2015-16, we continue to execute the exciting youth exchange program, Kakehashi, in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and the Japan International Cooperation Center. We plan to bring a total of 180 youths in eight groups to Japan in this program year. I know that this program was extremely well-received by all youth participants, and it was truly a win-win for the JACL

and for our partners. We look forward to another year of resounding success with this program.

In contemplating about the challenges we face, I cannot help but think of the kanji for "crisis" or 危機. As most of you would know, these two Chinese characters stand for "danger" and "opportunity." I believe that is exactly where we are — the organization is faced with some significant challenges, but these challenges are also opportunities in disguise. If we deal with these challenges in a positive and productive manner by bringing our organization's strengths to bear, we stand to reap the benefits of taking the organization to the next level by making it even better and stronger than we know it today. We have an opportunity to reinvent the JACL. Let's seize that opportunity.

In closing, I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the outstanding work of our staff and the National Board. In my opinion, JACL has one of the most talented, experienced and dedicated staff and National Board of any Asian American community-based organization. They work hard every single day to make JACL a better organization. With that, my heart-felt thanks to the JACL staff under the leadership of Executive Director Priscilla Ouchida and Pacific Citizen Executive Editor Allison Haramoto, and all my fellow National Board members! I also want to thank all of our members and supporters for your dedication and commitment to the JACL. I am grateful for all that you do, and I look forward to an exciting and transformative 2016! ■

THIS YEAR 'WE NEED TO HEED THE CALL FOR ACTION FOR THE NEXT GENERATION'

By Priscilla Ouchida,
JACL Executive Director

As 2015 faded and gave way to 2016, many of the hot potato issues of the past year rolled into the new year. More than ever, the need for the Japanese American Citizens League was apparent as rhetoric surrounding Muslims, Syrian refugees, birthrights and the presidential race dominated the news in 2015. Political candidates and elected officials proliferated statements that the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II was justified, and that similar policies should be applied today to refugees and Muslim Americans. The 2016 election year will require continuing education on these and many other civil rights issues.

In 2015, JACL participated in the 50th anniversary of the march across the Pettus Bridge in Selma, Ala. Even as the fight for voting rights was commemorated, JACL joined efforts to restore provisions that provided voting protections.

In June, I was reminded of a pre-1960s America when JACL joined a rally in Roanoke, Va., to push for the Voting Rights Advancement Act.

Two thousand and fifteen transported me to my childhood as discussions around the table centered on fair housing, immigration and fair wages. In 1957, the City Council voted to "redevelop" Japan-town in Sacramento, Calif. Many families like mine were forced to find new housing after their homes were condemned under eminent domain. My mother came home from house-hunting trips in tears

because all-white covenants prevented her from purchasing a house in many parts of the city.

Current-day barriers are not blatant but have the same impact. In 2016, we can expect challenges to the Fair Housing Act of 1968, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and labor protections.

JACL is positioned to face these issues head-on.

We will continue to develop an exhibit at the Smithsonian National Museum on American History marking the 75th anniversary of Executive Order 9066. The exhibit will open on Feb. 19, 2017, and will educate 5 million visitors about the Japanese American experience. The exhibit is timely — an entire generation has been raised since the "More Perfect Union" exhibit closed at the museum. JACL's partnership with the Smithsonian will be a reminder of lessons of the past.

The civic engagement program that encourages our community to register to vote and participate in the democratic process is well-timed.

First-generation Japanese immigrants were denied the right to vote, and JACL has fought for 87 years to gain full rights of citizenship for Japanese Americans. As many of the rights we take for granted are being tested, it is important that our community voice our views through the ballot box.

JACL continues to develop leadership that will ensure the

organization's future. The JACL Kakehashi program is providing an international experience for young Japanese Americans. Through the program, many students are finding their Japanese roots and developing their identity as Japanese Americans. The program is a permanent program and provides an outstanding opportunity for college-age students to expand their perspectives about the global community.

Two thousand and fifteen ended with a commendation for JACL from the Foreign Minister of Japan. The commendation belongs to the members of JACL. It is the members of the organization that serve over 100 communities across the nation. It is the members of JACL that advocate for equality for all Americans. It is the members of JACL that provide the social fabric of the community.

The new year is shaping up to be a call for action. A call for action to stand up for the rights of others. A call for action to meet with congressional offices and local elected officials. A call for action to vote and encourage others to vote.

The Issei and Nisei worked to make their World War II prisons as normal as possible "for the children." Two thousand and sixteen will be a critical year that will affect the civil rights landscape for years to come. It is a year that we need to heed the call for action for the next generation. ■



'ADAPTATION IS OFTEN NECESSARY TO ENSURE A VIABLE FUTURE IN AN EVER-CHANGING ENVIRONMENT'



By Matthew Farrells
National Secretary/Treasurer

Happy New Year! I wish everyone a healthy and prosperous new year. JACL had a successful but challenging 2015. On one hand, our programming continues to raise the visibility of JACL and deliver on our core competencies of civil rights advocacy and

JA legacy preservation. On the other hand, implementing new programs, which strive to further the mission of JACL, often came at a cost, mainly the unanticipated impact to the budget. In times like these, flexibility is key to capitalize on current opportunities, and effective communication is required when accurately reporting the financial position of the organization.

As we look ahead to 2016, our focus will be on two main components.

First, the biennial budget process will set the priorities of the next biennium with the main goal of approving a budget at National Convention. Second, operating performance must be kept in line with the approved budget for 2016. Given our outlook, these two items may prove to be difficult.

First, as we look toward convention this summer, there is a lot of work that must be done to propose a new biennial budget for 2017-18. The Budget Committee and National Board will be hard at work to ensure critical input is gathered from all stakeholders. Our goal is to build a budget that supports both current and new programs, which meet the needs of our community through 2018. This process ultimately ends with a vote by National Council, which I hope is swift and united.

Second, proactive measures will be implemented

to ensure the organization meets the budgeted revenue and expenditure targets for 2016. This primarily consists of identifying additional revenue streams to supplement our existing income base, as well as cutting expenses where possible. Adaptation is often necessary to ensure a viable future in an ever-changing environment, and I am hopeful that required change will be met with optimism and support.

In closing, I'd like to thank the members of JACL for their vote of confidence in my ability to serve as National Secretary/Treasurer. I owe a big thank you to staff and my fellow colleagues on the National Board for their continued support over the past three and a half years. It's been a great pleasure to serve, and I look forward to working with members, staff and fellow board members to continue to improve the financial stability of our organization for years to come. ■

DIGITAL P.C. . . . FOR THE RECORD!

By Chip Larouche,
VP for Planning & Development

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I'd like to clear up a few things about the effort to bring the *Pacific Citizen* into the digital age. There have been several articles in the *P.C.* including member letters that implied that the National Board wanted to take everyone's *P.C.* newsprint away from them. For the record, we do not!

Headlines like "JACL National Board Votes to Go Paperless" or "Gone Digital" are cleverly written to invoke controversy and emotional response. Again, for the record, here is the exact language of the approved motion from the October 2015 meeting: "Mr. Chip Larouche moved to approve the transition plan for the *P.C.* as presented, understanding that adjustments will be needed as we progress. Mr. Sheldon Arakaki seconded."

Note that the words "understanding that adjustments will be needed as we progress" are an integral part of the motion, but those words never appear in any of the board criticism on this issue.

Bringing the *P.C.* into the digital world is not a new initiative. The Media Plan to transition the *P.C.* to digital distribution was proposed in 2010. At that time, the National Board understood that the revenue stream that supports the *P.C.* was showing signs of weakening, and "business as usual" couldn't continue. That revenue includes the \$12 portion of the membership dues, which is the IRS declared value of the *P.C.* (the rest of your dues payment is tax-deductible to the extent of law) plus other revenue streams unique to the *P.C.* like advertising and donations specifically earmarked for the *P.C.* like the Spring Campaign. There were no specifics in the Media Plan on "how" the newspaper would go digital, but an initial target date of 2012 was set for the *P.C.* staff and its Editorial Board to propose how to do that. That target date eventually was moved to 2014.

When the past Executive Editor decided to sign an exorbitant five-year lease renewal for her office space without board knowledge, these added expenses put the program in financial jeopardy. This action was followed by the hasty resignation of the Executive Editor and the hiring of our current Executive Editor, first as an acting editor and subsequently as a permanent editor. A condition of employment included making progress to bring the *P.C.* to the digital world. In 2014, the Board was asked to remove the hiring freeze for an Assistant Editor, with several specific conditions including transitioning the *P.C.* to digital with a new deadline of August 2015. At the April 2015 Board meeting, a revised Media Plan was distributed to the Board members, which included a two-year delay for going digital. It was not favorably considered.

When August 2015 arrived, with no timeline on how JACL would achieve the goal of giving the *P.C.* a digital distribution scheme, the

National President and Secretary-Treasurer, in consultation with the Chair of the *P.C.* Editorial Review Board, presented a transition plan to the National Board at their October 2015 meeting, which provided the *P.C.* staff with a proposed timeline. The motion mentioned above received unanimous support.

While all of this was going on, the financial concerns of the 2010 National Board had become very evident, with the cumulative deficit for the *P.C.* Program going from \$8,612 in 2008 to \$287,039 in 2015.

Since the National Board's primary mission is fiscal responsibility, getting expenses under control is essential.

Soon, each member will receive a mailing from JACL that includes a return postcard that asks you for your email address, and if you still want to receive the newsprint version of the *P.C.*

If my estimate of needing 3,000 newsprint copies of the *P.C.* is accurate, I'm thinking that if each


of those 3,000 members who want to receive newsprint sent a \$50 donation to the annual Spring Campaign, that level of support would do wonders to get the *P.C.* program out of this deficit spiral.

For those of you who might still believe that the National Board has not acted in your best interests, in about 60 days, there will be a call for candidates for all of the elected positions on the National Board. If you really want to make a difference and put your fingerprint on the future actions of the National Board and set the direction for JACL, I would highly encourage you to run for office.

Convention is in Las Vegas again this year. See you there! ■



Happy and Healthy New Year to all our friends!



**NEW YORK
CHAPTER
JACL**

EXPECT 2016 TO BRING ATTENTION TO THE JA COMMUNITY



By Toshi Abe,
VP of Membership

Happy New Year everyone! Our best wishes to you and your family for a healthy and happy 2016.

As many of you know, 2015 was a year full of surprises and disruptions for many of us, and I'd like to address some of them in the space afforded me.

First of all, I want to apologize to our members for the ill-timed decision by the National Board to take our *Pacific Citizen* to an all-digital format. It was disruptive for our members, and we heard you, loud and clear.

For now, your newspaper will continue to be printed and mailed to every member who wants it that way. But the fact remains that our newspaper needs full funding in order to successfully continue on as a publication of the JACL.

In this coming year, the National Board and the National Council will have to decide how to find the funds to keep our award-winning newspaper a vital program of the JACL. One way you can help is to make sure you renew your membership and even consider becoming a premium member of JACL. Another way to help is to take out an ad in the *P.C.* to advertise your profession or business. And, if you have not yet given to either the JACL's annual fund drive or the *Pacific Citizen's* Spring Campaign, you can show your support

by contributing to either campaign. *Domo Arigato.*

Last year also saw our community rise up in opposition to a planned auction of a collection of hundreds of artifacts from the incarceration camps of World War II. These items were originally collected by Allen H. Eaton, a well-known advocate of the Arts and Crafts movement in America.

As you know, the collection was slated to be auctioned off by the Rago Arts and Auction House this past April. The auction was canceled after the intervention of the Japanese American National Museum and one of their prominent board members, George Takei, as well as by the thousands of people, many of them JACLers, who signed the online petition and wrote to the auction house owners.

The Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation was also engaged and was prepared to file a lawsuit to halt the auction. Many of you also posted very heartfelt comments to the Facebook page created by the ad hoc committee Japanese American History Not for Sale.

The statistics from the Facebook page showed that our community's protest was heard and supported by people from around the world. At least 25,000 people, according to Facebook, heard and supported us in our opposition to the sale.

My wife and I were fortunate to be present at the Rago auction house on the evening that David Rago announced the cancelation of the sale. Shortly thereafter, the entire collection was obtained by JANM and is currently being catalogued and restored by their staff.

There is a great deal of interest in having these artifacts

displayed, and a working group has been formed to work with JANM to help determine how best to proceed to accommodate requests to have items circulated for display in camp museums and other places.

The year also saw the Broadway premiere of "Allegiance" after its record-breaking run in 2012 at San Diego's Old Globe Theater. The musical play stars George Takei, Telly Leung and Lea Salonga and is based on Mr. Takei's experiences in camp.

The Masaoka family and JACL have protested the depiction of JACL and Mike Masaoka in the play, and so we went with some trepidation when we saw the show last November in New York.

The producers did make changes to the original production in deference to requests from JACL and others. Seeing the story of our community unfold onstage pulled me in, and it was an emotionally satisfying experience (*I highly recommend that you read Matthew Ormseth's "Lasting Loyalty" article in the Holiday issues of the P.C.*).

The musical just announced that its current run will end on Feb. 14, so if you have been planning to see it, time is running out.

Both the musical "Allegiance" and the cancelation of the Rago auction in 2015 brought added attention to the Japanese American community's story in the mainstream press, and with the current situation with the Syrian immigrants coming to the U.S. to live, I expect 2016 to bring even more attention to our community and the role it has played in the civil rights movement in this nation. ■

ANNOUNCING THE 2016 NATIONAL CONVENTION

By Miyoko 'Miko' Sawamura,
VP of General Operations

Happy New Year JACL members and friends! Thank you for your support and commitment to JACL. May 2016 bring you good health, happiness and prosperity!

I continue to envision JACL's future as a diverse, dynamic and financially stable organization. I also envision JACL's continued success as a major leader in the fight for civil rights and historical/cultural preservation. I foresee JACL continuing to recruit and engage a diverse membership, including our youth, and enhancing our youth activities.

The 2016 National Convention will be held at the Monte Carlo Las Vegas Resort and Casino from July 11-14. The JACL staff is hard at work preparing for our National Convention. We hope you will be able to join us for this engaging convention. Please look for updated information regarding this convention on the JACL website (www.jacl.org).

The 2016 National Convention Committee Chairs are as follows: Ken Kawaii, chair, Nominations; Ron Yoshino, chair, Credentials; Debbie Ikeda, chair, Strategic Plan; Dale Ikeda, chair, Constitution and Bylaws; Paul Uyehara, chair, Resolutions; and Travis Nishi, chair, Awards and

Recognition.

Thank you to these chairs for their commitment and leadership to JACL. If you are interested in becoming a committee member, or would like to volunteer to help at the convention, please contact me as soon as possible.

The 2017 National Convention will be held at the Omni Shoreham Hotel (2500 Calvert St. N.W.) in Washington, D.C., from July 6-9.

The 2017 National Convention will coincide with JACL's collaboration with the Smithsonian Institution's exhibit at the Museum of American History, marking the 75th anniversary of Executive Order 9066. The exhibit will explore the history and impact of Executive Order 9066 and the Japanese American internment during WWII. The exhibit will open on Feb. 19, 2017, for a 10-month run. Over 10,000 visitors a day are anticipated to see the exhibit. This is going to be a powerful legacy project that has the potential to educate millions of visitors from around the world. We strongly encourage everyone to join us for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

The Personnel Committee continues to address personnel/operational matters, including policies and procedures and other health/personnel benefits. The Personnel Committee has agreed to annually review the Personnel Handbook (last updated and adopted April 24, 2014). Thus, the Personnel

Committee has commenced its in-depth annual review. The Personnel Committee is also addressing the review/evaluation of positions and job descriptions, and evaluating the initiation of a salary survey.

I would like to thank the Personnel Committee members for their continued hard work and commitment. The Personnel Committee includes David Lin, president; Priscilla Ouchida, executive director; Brandon Mita, legal counsel; David Unruhe, chair, Governor's Caucus; Carol Kawamoto, Pacific Citizen board chair; our newest member, Allison Haramoto, *Pacific Citizen* executive editor; Stephanie Nitahara, National JACL staff representative; Jenny Hanold, member-at-large; and Gary Mayeda, member-at-large. Matt Walters, business manager, will also be working closely with the Personnel Committee. I want to especially acknowledge Brandon Mita, legal counsel, for his expertise and consultation.

If you have any questions/concerns, please feel free to contact me at msawamura@jacl.org.

Thank you for the honor of representing you as the VP for General Operations. ■



CCDC MARKED A MEMORABLE AND EVENT-FILLED 2015



By Roberta Barton,
Governor, Central California
District Council

Central California JACL was busy in 2015. Our year kicked off with another successful Day of Remembrance event that featured redress pioneer and icon John Tateishi. His powerful story recounting the roots of redress was especially

touching for our Muslim friends in the audience. Many were unaware of the incarceration and redress history. Several individuals approached me afterward to express their appreciation for the JACL's continuing support over the years.

Our future leadership was recognized in the spring at the annual scholarship luncheon. These scholars demonstrate an outstanding commitment to the ideals of JACL and to applying those ideals for the betterment of their communities. It is always an honor and inspiration to witness the amazing accomplishments of our youth.

One of the most memorable activities this year was a spe-

cial trip to the MIS Museum at the Presidio. The CCDC Board treated our local Nisei veterans to a delicious bento lunch followed by a behind-the-scenes look at the MIS Museum that honors their sacrifices at home and abroad. It seems that every month we unfortunately mourn the passing of many of our courageous veterans, which made this trip an especially poignant occasion.

I attended my first-ever JACL National Convention in 2015. It was quite an eye-opening experience, as I learned how much time, energy and dedication it takes from a huge contingent of chapter, district and national members and staff

>> **CCDC continued from page 6**

to execute all the important convention business. I was especially speechless witnessing the passion of our youth leaders. Our future is definitely in GREAT hands!

The year concluded with CCDC sponsoring an exciting exhibit for a new Fresno County Historical Museum at the Big Fresno Fair. The exhibit highlights the contributions of Central California Japanese Americans and lies only steps away from the Fresno Assembly Center Memorial. Through the efforts of volunteer docents, fair goers were educated about wartime incarceration and local Japanese American history. The Museum and our exhibit are permanent additions to be expanded over time.

These are the moments that make me most proud to serve JACL, locally and at the national level. In the Issei and Nisei pioneers who paved the way for

my Sansei generation and in the youth poised to carry the torch for generations afterward, I see the JACL hard at work.

I'm sure that 2016 will be busier than ever. Our CCDC will be well-represented at the Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C., this winter. Our Day of Remembrance will join the national effort to support the Smithsonian exhibit commemorating the 70th anniversary of E.O. 9066 in 2017. District delegates will be out in force at the National Convention this summer with many critical decisions and discussions on the table for their insights and perspectives. We hope to organize another field trip for our Nisei veterans, possibly to one of the national park incarceration sites in California. Of course, we will continue with our annual veteran's observance on Memorial Day.

CCDC will also begin a three-year assignment in 2016 to coordinate

Nonfreshmen National Scholarships. While this task may seem like quite a daunting responsibility, I truly believe it is one of our most important functions. Not too long ago, I was pleased to welcome a former scholarship recipient as a new chapter board member. Supporting our youth is the first step to growing future potential leadership, even if it takes a number of years for a seedling to grow into JACL service.

In my "sophomore" year as a district governor, I want to thank all of my dedicated (and probably exhausted) fellow district board members for helping me "learn on the job." It is often challenging but always rewarding. Your patience with my inexperience has helped me survive this first leadership year without too many battle scars and given me great encouragement.

I also want to encourage the CCDC membership at large to share their concerns and feedback at any time. It is an honor and a privilege to serve you. Thank you for the opportunity. ■

JACL CAN CONTINUE TO STRIVE WITH A TRANSPARENT LEADERSHIP AND A WELL-CONNECTED AND INFORMED MEMBERSHIP



By Michelle Yamashiro, Governor, Pacific Southwest District

明けましておめでとうございます!
Happy New Year! I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season and are ready for this new year! I am excited for what this year has in store for the JACL. As I am still a new governor, I am grateful to the PSW board for the volunteer time they put in to ensure the success of our organization. We have many new board members, and their new outlooks, along

with the experience and wisdom of our returning board members, makes an amazing team!

I am especially grateful to my vice-governor, Marissa Kitazawa. Thank you! The PSW staff as well as Stephanie Nihara (our regional director) have done a lot of great work in 2015. Their efforts have produced powerful programs and the continuous improvement of the PSW.

I look forward to what 2016 has in store for our programming and

community development!

Finally, I am grateful to our members. The PSW is my home district, and I am extremely proud and honored to represent you all. As always, I am open to any suggestions, comments or concerns from our members. It is with a transparent leadership and a well-connected and informed membership that our organization can continue to strive.

Thank you everyone for a wonderful 2015, and here's to an even better 2016! ■

NY/SC LOOKS TO MAINTAIN THE VOICE OF JACL AS WELL AS EMPOWER YOUTH NOW

Happy New Year from the National Youth/Student Council!

We have appreciated the opportunity to serve and represent the young people in JACL in 2015, and we are looking forward to a productive year.

In the past year, our youth board has gathered to perform public service and organize community events, connecting with other young people and young Nikkei on issues that affect us all. We had the opportunity to accompany friends and colleagues to Selma, Ala.; witness George Takei's Broadway musical "Allegiance"; and meet AAPI professionals, such as MSNBC anchor

Richard Lui at NBC in New York.

A year highlight was taking the floor of the JACL National Convention, where we stood in solidarity with black Americans engaging with the U.S.'s legacy of slavery through supporting the legislation HR 40.

This is a critical time for young Japanese Americans as we negotiate our identities, social locations as current — not just "future" — leaders of society. As we explore what directions to move in this year, we hope to faithfully maintain the critical and exceptional voice of the JACL and remember our committed loyalties to all maligned groups.

We are inspired by the recent action of solidarity with Muslims experiencing racial prejudice taken by Asian American communities and hope to explore these issues and their lasting effects.

Wishing all a great year. Please reach out to us. We love connecting with chapters and hearing your thoughts.

Thank you for your commitment to the JACL.

— National Youth Student Council

You can reach the NY/SC Youth Chair at nicolegaddie@gmail.com and Youth Representative at kenji.kuramitsu@gmail.com.

JACL SPEAKS OUT AGAINST ANTI-MUSLIM HATE CRIMES AND DISCRIMINATION

David Lin is the lead speaker at the Dec. 16 rally in Washington, D.C.



By JACL National Staff

More than 60 leaders from the Asian American community gathered at the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism in Washington, D.C., on Dec. 16 to counter recent political rhetoric and express support for Muslim, Sikh, Arab and South Asian American communities. The Japanese American Citizens League also joined a number of AAPI organizations from the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA) to speak out against anti-Muslim hate crimes and discrimination.

"Fear-based persecution of American Muslims and those who are perceived to be Muslim cannot be tolerated," said Priscilla Ouchida, JACL executive director.

Last year, NCAPA member organization South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT) published a report on growing xenophobic political rhetoric and hate violence, which included data and recommendations concerning the hostility against South Asian, Muslim, Sikh, Hindu, Middle Eastern and Arab communities. After senseless terrorist attacks last month in Paris, hateful rhetoric and bigotry against American Muslims has been on the rise. In a 30-day period following the attacks in Paris, more than 45 acts of persecution occurred against American Muslims.

JACL National President David Lin was the lead speaker at the rally, and he emphasized that policies that imprisoned 120,000 Japanese Americans following Pearl Harbor should not be repeated. He continued to say that JACL stands with the Muslim, Sikh, Arab and South Asian American communities because Japanese Americans have been here before.

Also in attendance from JACL were past National President Larry Oda and his wife, Ann; Washington, D.C., Chapter President John Tobe; Executive Director Priscilla Ouchida; D.C. Fellows Merisa Nakamura and Emil Trinidad; and Ron Mori and Amy Watanabe.

"Never again" was the message delivered by JACL and leaders from NCAPA, Asian Americans Advancing Justice, Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, National Asian Pacific American Bar Assn., National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance, OCA Asian Pacific American Advocates, Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund, South Asian Americans Leading Together and the Council on American-Islamic Relations. ■

JACL RECEIVES COMMENDATION AWARD FROM THE JAPANESE EMBASSY

By JACL National Staff

JACL received a commendation award from the Japanese Embassy on Dec. 16 in Washington, D.C. The organization was recognized for all its hard work in advocating for the Japanese American community and for strengthening relations between Japan and the U.S., especially in response to the Tohoku Earthquake, where JACL raised money and established the Japan Relief and Recovery Fund.

An intimate awards ceremony and reception was held in the Japan Information & Cultural Center. National JACL President David Lin received the award from Ambassador Kenichiro Sasae on behalf of the organization. "JACL is proud and humbled for receiving this prestigious award from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan," said Lin. "We thank Ambassador Sasae and Minister Tsukada for their collaboration with the JACL, and we are grateful for their friendship. JACL will continue to do its utmost to enhance the relationships between the United States and Japan."

This is the first year the Japanese Embassy has given out this commendation in an effort to recognize the accomplishments of Japanese Americans. Other organizations that were recognized were the Japanese American Veterans Assn., U.S.-Japan Council and the National



The Japanese American Citizens League was honored with a Commendation from the Embassy of Japan for its work in advocating for the Japanese American community and for strengthening relations between Japan and the United States.

Japanese American Memorial Fund.

Past JACL National President Larry Oda also attended the ceremony.

"On Dec. 16, 2015, I had the honor and pleasure of witnessing the conferment of the Japanese Minister of Foreign Affairs' Commendation Award to the Japanese American Citizens League, Japanese American Veteran's Assn., National Japanese American Memorial Foundation and the U.S.-Japan Council," said Oda. "The Foreign Minister's



JACL National President David Lin, left, accepts the Commendation from Ambassador Kenichiro Sasae.

Commendations are awarded to individuals and groups of outstanding achievements in international fields to acknowledge their contribution to the promotion of friendship between Japan and other countries. The Commendation also aims to promote the understanding and support of the Japanese

public for their activities.

"It was an impressive ceremony that highlighted the contributions that each of the organizations have made to perhaps the most important bilateral relationship in the world," Oda continued. "The award was an acknowledgement of the effort and success of what we have achieved to build this relationship at a person-to-person level. I am profoundly grateful to Ambassador Sasae for orchestrating this auspicious recognition."

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CAMPAIGN SEEKS HELP TO HONOR NISEI VETERANS THROUGH MEMORIAL STAMP

Efforts are currently under way to forever recognize Nisei soldiers and their sacrifices.

By Wayne Osako, Contributor

The World War II internment of Japanese Americans has been in the national spotlight after some politicians reacted to the events of recent terrorist attacks with suspicion of all Muslim immigrants, even going as far as to call for new internments. In the wake of these events, three Nisei women from California are pushing for a U.S. commemorative postage stamp featuring the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism During World War II.

The Memorial, located near Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., tells the story of the internment and the 33,000 Japanese Americans who responded to wartime hysteria and prejudice against them by enlisting in the U.S. Army and serving with great valor. JACL members are being asked to help in this revived effort.

"If cartoon characters can get a postage stamp, we certainly can get a stamp that honors the inspiring story of these Americans," explained Fusa Takahashi, one of the campaign's founders. "Many people don't know the Nisei soldiers' story. The government took away their rights and imprisoned them behind barbed-wire fences, yet without hesitation, they stepped up to serve their country and became one of the most-decorated units in history." Her late husband, Kazuo Takahashi, served in the U.S. Military Intelligence Service during the war. *Nisei* is the Japanese word for the American-born children of immigrants from Japan.

The stamp campaign's founders are Takahashi, 88, of Granite Bay, Calif.; Aiko O. King, 88, of Camarillo, Calif.; and Chiz Ohira, 87, of Gardena, Calif. Takahashi and Ohira are widows of Nisei veterans. King is a longtime member of the JACL Ventura Chapter. "We are trying hard to get this done while at least some of the Nisei veterans are still around,"

King explained. "There aren't many left."

In October 2015, the U.S. Postal Service upgraded the ladies' proposal to "under consideration" status, which is the final step before a stamp is issued. But hundreds of other proposals are also in the same category waiting to be issued, making the last step perhaps the most difficult. Many stamp subjects that are "under consideration" never are realized. So, the ladies and their supporters are doubling all efforts now.

The trio started the Nisei World War II Stamp Campaign in 2005 with the help of many JACL members. It began with a stamp proposal focusing solely on the Nisei veterans. But in 2007, the trio learned of an internal policy that is not on the Postal Service's public list of stamp selection rules. The hidden rule prohibits new stamps from directly honoring military units and veterans groups.

After years of trying to get the Postal Service to change this policy without success, last year the ladies decided to compromise and work within the government's framework. The campaign's supporters are now pushing for this Memorial stamp instead of a prohibited veteran-focused stamp.

"We support the Memorial stamp because the Nisei veterans are at the heart of the Memorial's story," said Takahashi. "It also has the best chance to become a stamp soon."

Takahashi and King are childhood friends from the small California farm town of Cortez, near Turlock, Calif. Both were incarcerated at the Granada (Amache), Colorado internment camp. They saw their peers enlist in the Army from camp, but some never returned. They kept in touch over the years and started their campaign after visiting the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles.

>> See STAMP on page 13



PHOTO: WAYNE OSAKO

Interviewer Robert Horsting talks with stamp campaign founders Fusa Takahashi, center, and Aiko O. King in Los Angeles, Calif., on Dec. 20, 2015. The women discussed honoring the Japanese American veterans through a National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism commemorative stamp.






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FUNDRAISING FOR 2017 SMITHSONIAN EXHIBIT MOVES CLOSER TO GOAL

WASHINGTON, D.C. — JACL Executive Director Priscilla Ouchida announced fundraising for the 75th Anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066 Smithsonian Exhibit moved closer to its goal of \$150,000 thanks to a generous donation of \$10,000 from Joyce and Ron Yoshino of JACL Chicago.

Other donations include \$1,000 from Snake River JACL Chapter and \$200 from Dale Kawata. In addition, \$10,000 from Sacramento JACL Chapter, \$10,000 from Chip and Setsy Larouche and \$1,000 from Miyako Kadogawa, for a total of \$32,200. The Pacific Northwest District has pledged an additional \$10,000 for the exhibit.

Donors of \$10,000 or more will receive two round-trip vouchers from Southwest Airlines to attend the opening of the exhibit, which is scheduled to debut on Feb. 19, 2017, at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History (NMAH) in Washington, D.C.

Persons interested in contributing to the 2017 Smithsonian Exhibit, please visit www.jacl.org/donate/.

BROADWAY'S 'ALLEGIANCE' CLOSES ON FEB. 14

NEW YORK — "Allegiance," the Broadway musical inspired by George Takei's real-life experience in a Japanese internment camp during World War II, will have its final performance on Feb. 14 at the Longacre Theatre, producers announced Jan. 7.

The musical, which stars Takei along with Lea Salonga and Telly Leung, began previews on Oct. 6 and officially opened on Nov. 8. At the time of its closing, "Allegiance" will have played 37 previews and 113 regular performances. Producers have also announced that a national tour and international productions are in the works.

"Bringing 'Allegiance' to Broadway was not only a labor of love for our entire creative team and this company of extraordinary artists, but it was also a work with deep commitment to social relevance and impact. We are so proud to have brought George Takei's very personal family history to the stage and — in the process — to have surfaced a chapter of history that was painfully unknown to so many," said the musical's producers in an official statement. "By its last performance, 'Allegiance' will have been seen on Broadway by approximately 120,000 people, a number that eerily echoes the number of Japanese Americans who were directly impacted by the events that inspired our musical, and whose rights were trampled in the name of pure fear and intolerance. We look forward to continuing to share this essential story — more relevant than ever, given today's headlines — and this moving score with theatergoers across the country and around the world for many years to come."

"Allegiance" had its world premiere in a record-breaking engagement at San Diego's Old Globe Theatre in 2012. ■

'RIGHT OF PASSAGE' REBUTTAL

By Sreescanda,
Writer/Researcher, 'Right of Passage'

Following is a rebuttal statement to Gerald Yamada's film review of the documentary 'Right of Passage' (*Pacific Citizen*, Nov. 13-Dec. 10, 2015).

As the writer and researcher for "Right of Passage," I am compelled to offer the following rebuttal to Mr. Gerald Yamada's letter, "Setting the Record Straight: DVD Right of Passage is Factually Flawed." What are raised as "flaws" are quite clearly addressed onscreen with documented proof.

IT IS ABSOLUTELY a mystery why President Reagan signed HR 442 because it is naive to think that one of the most fiscally conservative presidents would sign a nearly \$1.6-billion spending bill on the basis of "an emotional connection" and/or a brief conversation in a limousine with a state governor. Washington politics is a little more complicated, and the film tries to capture the intricate confluence of so many factors — lobbying, personal relationships, fiscal considerations, backroom deals, power shifts, political reality and blind luck — to get a bill passed and signed by any president.

Mr. Yamada asserts we did not adequately acknowledge Kazuo Masuda. The film begins and ends with a tribute to Kazuo Masuda, plus we attribute that it may have been ONE of the reasons that changed President Reagan's mind. Later in his article, Mr. Yamada writes we did not give the 442nd Regimental Combat Team due justice. Their contribution is acknowledged **no less than nine times** throughout the film — from naming the bill HR 442 to how they helped procure support in Congress, from speeches on the floor of the House, which, Rep. Barney Frank says discredited any argument about the patriotism of Japanese Americans, to President Reagan's acknowledgement when he signed the legislation.

Mr. Yamada asserts that we did not use interviews with Mr. Grant Ujifusa and Gov. Tom Kean — both are featured prominently in the film.

Mr. Yamada states Ujifusa's strategy changed President Reagan's mind. We examined about 10,000 documents from presidential libraries of Carter to Reagan, including the Mike Masaoka Collection, Edison Uno papers, JACL minutes from 1942 on, NCRR documents, Aiko and Jack Herzig Collection, National Archives, Library of Congress and many, many more, like Ujifusa's letters/writings/emails/articles. Plus, we conducted 32 interviews inside and out of the Beltway. Everyone's account of their participation was fact-checked and presented with documented evidence — which appears onscreen. We found no documented evidence Ujifusa was "the" guy who got the president to sign, rather Ujifusa was "one of many." True, Ujifusa wrote letters to the White House, but official seals indicate they reached no higher than upper mid-level staffers. There is no proof any of his letters ever reached President Reagan.

With regard to June Masuda's letter dated Nov. 1987 (which was authored by Ujifusa according to multiple sources), an internal memo shows that the White House knew about President Reagan's participation in the 1945 ceremony as early as 1985 (shown onscreen). So, the letter was no big revelation, even if it was delivered by Gov. Kean. Clearly, President Reagan forgot about it because he credits Ms. Rose Ochi for reminding him about what he said after the 1945 ceremony. Documented proof is shown onscreen that Ochi was able to get to President Reagan's personal counsel. There are several internal communications between President Reagan and his speech writers mentioning Ochi's letter, not the Ujifusa-authored Masuda letter.

Yes, Gov. Kean engaged President Reagan in a brief conversation between campaign stops in the limousine, but

White House Chief of Staff Ken Duberstein (who is featured in the film) credits Sen. Alan Simpson (a personal friend of President Reagan — they watched movies together) for bringing up the camps with the president more than once. As deputy leader of the GOP, Sen. Simpson met with President Reagan twice a week. Duberstein is without argument a credible source — someone who had daily contact with President Reagan.

As regards to why President Reagan withdrew his veto:

1) Rep. Frank (who is Ujifusa's friend) says he threatened the White House that George Bush might lose the Asian American vote in California in 1988 as a reason why President Reagan withdrew his veto. There is no reason to question Rep. Frank's integrity.

2) Duberstein said President Reagan insisted on budgetary compromises . . . which were made. So, it was more than just an "emotional connection."

3) In a diary entry, on Feb. 9, days before he withdrew his veto, President Reagan writes about watching "Bad Day at Black Rock," a mystery about a Japanese farmer who was incarcerated and whose son in the 442nd saves Spencer Tracy. President Reagan was a huge movie buff and Tracy fan — who is to say that did not soften his position.

4) Gov. Kean states that you had to capture President Reagan's heart AND mind — the former was accomplished by Gov. Kean, Sen. Simpson and the memory of his 1945 encounter with the Masudas; the latter by the budget compromises, political reality, his legacy and Ken Duberstein's assertion that the president believed in "redressing a wrong."

We are not disputing that Duberstein and President Reagan called Ujifusa and Gov. Kean to inform them that the president was going to sign the bill, but that neither changes the trail of facts that preceded those calls nor conflicts with the timeline in the film. So, in the end, we don't know if one or all of them contributed to President Reagan's decision. IT IS A MYSTERY — I'm sorry, but Mr. Yamada's simplistic reasoning why Reagan signed the bill just does not hold water. Politics is a complex business.

Finally, as for the charge of the "unfair" representation of Mike Masaoka, we credit him as the brilliant strategist who masterminded the Redress effort in Washington. But Masaoka was a complicated man who made controversial statements/decisions during World War II. The "branding and stamping" reference is part of the minutes from a JACL meeting in 1942. It is un-redacted, and we procured it from the Mike Masaoka Collection in Salt Lake City, Utah. All the pages are presented onscreen, clearly showing he did in fact suggest it. He may have denied it 50 years later, but presented no evidence he was misquoted. He did not even redact it from his own papers in his own collection.

The documentary, we think, successfully captures the arduous journey of Redress. Various people contributed in different ways at critical times. It was NOT WON by a HANDFUL.

I came into this project as an outsider who knew nothing of the internal community politics. I followed the document trail, including only those interviews/statements that could be authenticated with black-and-white proof unless the source (like Norm Mineta, Barney Frank, Mike Lowry, Ken Duberstein, Alan Simpson, Jodie Bernstein, Angus Macbeth) was above reproach. Even then, I tried to support their assertions with documents.

I believe that "Right of Passage" is not factually flawed but sets the record straight about certain myths perpetuated as facts for the last 30 years. I am willing to stand behind my writing and research . . . and am happy to debate anyone on facts, not rumor, innuendo and undocumented assertions.

Sreescanda is writer/researcher of the documentary 'Right of Passage.' Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Pacific Citizen.

U.S. REPRESENTATIVES PRESSURE ATTORNEY GENERAL TO STOP KEIRO'S SALE

More than 300 people attend a press conference in L.A. to stop the sale of the facility to for-profit Pacifica.

By P.C. Staff

Congresswomen Maxine Waters (D-Gardena) and Judy Chu (D-Monterey Park) joined Save Keiro on its efforts to stop the sale of the non-profit Keiro Senior HealthCare at a press conference at the First Southern Baptist Church on Jan. 14.

Save Keiro, the ad hoc group committed to stopping the sale, along with more than 300 people crowded the church and demanded that state Attorney General Kamala Harris stop the sale of the facility to for-profit Pacifica. Escrow is expected close in the coming months.

Today, Keiro serves more than 500 residents, making it the largest nonprofit healthcare organization dedicated to the Japanese American community.

Over the past several months, Waters' office has worked to bring attention to Keiro's sale to the Attorney General. In response, Harris said while she could not legally stop the sale, her office could facilitate a mediation between the three parties: Save Keiro, Pacifica and Keiro.

The discussion hopes to create dialogue between the groups but will lengthen the escrow process.

Some among the ad hoc committee feel the mediation is unacceptable, while others welcome the offer.

The progress made by Save Keiro comes after the open support and press conference held by Waters and Chu.

"We must continue to speak out against this sale, its one-sided terms and lack of transparency," said Waters. "We must continue to advocate for the rights of those elderly Japanese American residents whose voices have yet to be fully heard."

Waters is worried that Pacifica will raise rents and will not serve properly the Japanese American community. After the five-year transition, Pacifica is not required to extend the same level of care nor support Keiro's current programs.

"As a member of Congress with the South Bay Keiro Nursing Home in my district, I feel a sincere responsibility to assist

the elderly and the low-income seniors in the fight for justice and fairness," Waters added.

Both Waters and Chu addressed three points to the coming of the sale that were troubling for them. First, no public hearing was held regarding the proposed sale.

Chu added that "print does not count, and 60 meetings do not count" as a means to notify the community. "Uprooting them now, without even holding a public hearing is wrong, and I am committed to reversing this sale."

Second, the sale doesn't require Pacifica to extend the same level of cultural significance currently offered to residents at Keiro. The terms also don't ensure that current programs are protected. Therefore, if the sale were to go through, these services could be gone.

Lastly, the sale terms do allow for a potential increase in fees.

"This increase could potentially render Keiro facilities unaffordable for many of the current low-income Japanese Americans the centers were designed to serve," Waters said.

While Keiro is more affordable than other facilities like Hollenbeck Palms, which is located just a few blocks away from Keiro Retirement Home in Boyle Heights, it's not geared for specifically low-income Japanese Americans.

Keiro representatives confirmed that prices for the retirement home facility are market price and not subsidized. The health care provider has accepted Medi-Cal for the nursing home, but those cases are limited.

Even still, as an important establishment for SoCal Japanese Americans, people aren't lining up to live on Keiro's campuses.

Applications to the retirement home have fallen over the past decade as more Japanese Americans are choosing to stay at home or live in facilities closer to their families. Rent increases for the retirement home and the increase in care costs were not part of the reason for why fewer Japanese Americans are applying.

"Whether the sale goes through doesn't change the need to get Sean (Miyake, Keiro president and CEO) and the board out," said Save Keiro member Mo Nishida. "Keiro is a part of JA identity, it's part of our community."

However, a solution on how to stop the sale is still unclear. Neither a formal solution to sustain Keiro's facilities nor a business model on what would change for the nonprofit to remain competitive in the changing healthcare landscape has been determined.

Due to federal reform, remaining sustainable will only grow more difficult as insurance companies offer lower reimbursements for care.

Some have argued that if the sale doesn't go through, the programs geared toward lower-income Japanese Americans won't be launched.

The sale is expected to support community outreach programs, said Miyake. These programs are designed to address senior isolation, meal plans and ride shares in hopes of supporting Japanese Americans that can't afford to enter Keiro's brick-and-mortar facilities.

ly that "throwing the residents out without a say is taking away our voice. The community should decide if we want Keiro, and to not give us that opportunity is an injustice." ■



Happy New Year!

From Intermountain District Council

IDC

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NJAMF CONNECTS WITH CONFINEMENT SITES USING DIGITAL STORIES

By Helen Yoshida



Washington, D.C., has many memorials, but the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism in World War II is the only one that commemorates the incarceration of 120,000 Japanese Americans and their families with panels representing 10 confinement sites in the remote places of Arkansas, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Utah and Wyoming.

To bolster the connection between the Memorial and these remote places of incarceration, the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation is in search of high school students, under the direction of their history teachers, to research one of the 10 confinement sites and create 10 digital stories conveying the unique aspects of each confinement site and capturing the backgrounds of those incarcerated there.

NJAMF will provide financial support covering travel and expenses for qualified students to attend a two-and-half-day digital storytelling workshop at the 2016 Heart Mountain Pilgrimage from July 28-30.

Located near Yellowstone National Park, Heart Mountain is one of 10 camps that incarcerated Japanese Americans and their families. Selected students will have the opportunity to tour the site of the original camp, which includes original structures, an honor wall and a world-class Interpretive Center, as well as work with Emmy Award-winning filmmakers Jeff MacIntyre and David Ono to learn how to create a digital story. From researching oral and written histories and writing the video narrative to learning the videography, this process will provide a profound educational opportunity for all students involved.

At the conclusion of the workshop, some of the stories will be aired during a banquet dinner on July 29. Follow-up work will also be conducted by these filmmakers, which includes postproduction of students' digital stories. Once the stories are finished, they will become the center of a companion website that ties back to the websites of each confinement site. In concert with the interactive website, an app will be developed for use by visitors to the Memorial.

Cal Shintani, chair of the NJAMF, said the Memorial "symbolizes sacrifices that were made by thousands of Japanese Americans and their families and attracts visitors from around the world. By creating these digital stories to accompany the Memorial, we hope to give them and online viewers a greater understanding of this dark chapter in our nation's history."

The NJAMF has identified the review committee, which includes Shintani, Shirley Ann Higuchi, a NJAMF board member, and Beth Kelley, administrator for the NJAMF.

The NJAMF realizes the importance of this central monument to the far-reaching histories of Japanese Americans and their families. In addition to tying it and the nation's capital to these desolate areas, this project deepens the connection between the confinement sites and Los Angeles through MacIntyre and Ono. MacIntyre, owner of Content Media Group, and Ono, ABC7 Eyewitness News reporter, are well connected within the Los Angeles Japanese American community and have a special connection to the younger generation.

Higuchi notes that "this is an opportunity for the younger generation to learn more about this story, which continues to be relevant today, and personally interview the Nisei who are still able to talk about their experiences. With state-of-the-art technology and the online presence of these digital stories, future generations of Americans can share this part of U.S. history."

Although there will be a significant push to recruit students from the Washington, D.C., area, the application will be open to high school students across the nation that have an interest in the Japanese American incarceration experience or civil rights.

For more information on how to apply for this experience, contact Beth Kelley at NJAMFstudentproject@gmail.com. Applications are now being accepted, and the submission deadline is March 1, 2016.

TULE LAKE COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES 2016 PILGRIMAGE DATES

The Tule Lake Committee has announced that the dates for the 2016 Tule Lake Pilgrimage will be July 1-4. Pilgrimage information and registration forms will be posted online at the committee's information website (www.tulelake.org) on Feb. 19.

This year's pilgrimage, "Our Hallowed Ground," is the 21st pilgrimage to Tule Lake and will honor those imprisoned at the civil rights site of protest and sorrow — where Japanese Americans who said "No" to America's injustice were segregated and punished for their dissent.

Thanks to the all-volunteer work of the Tule Lake Committee, the registration fee is \$475 per person. For those on fixed incomes or students, the fee is \$325. For former Tule Lake internees, 80 years of age or older, the fee is \$250. Grants are also available to assist with the registration fee.

The registration fee is all-inclusive and covers charter bus transportation, lodging, meals and all activities during the four-day pilgrimage.

Pilgrimage participants travel together in deluxe chartered buses that will depart from Berkeley, Portland, Sacramento, San Francisco, San Jose, Seattle and Union City.

Accommodations are at the Oregon Institute of Technology in Klamath Falls. There are two housing options: standard double-occupancy dorm rooms

that are included in the registration fee, or the four-bedroom/four-person air-conditioned suites that add an extra charge of \$50 per person, making the registration fee \$525. However, these suites are further from the main activity building and have no elevators; a limited number of ground-level suites are handicapped accessible.

Activities over the four-day pilgrimage include a tour of the Tule Lake concentration camp site and a memorial service. Intergenerational discussion groups and open forums provide

an occasion to learn, share experiences and help heal the multigenerational wounds of the incarceration. The final night's closing cultural program is open to the public and will be held at the Ross Ragland Theater in downtown Klamath Falls.

Given the growing interest in the Tule Lake Pilgrimage, registration is expected to close quickly.

In recent pilgrimages, spaces fill within the first two weeks of registration.

Registration should be completed as soon as possible. All forms should be completed and mailed with check payment only.

For those without Internet access or for more information, contact Hiroshi Shimizu at (415) 566-2279 or (415) 317-2686 or email shimizu@pacbell.net.



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May 22 – May 28	Southern Charm: "Charleston, Savannah, Jekyll Island, Jacksonville"
Jun. 10 – Jun. 24	The Scandinavian: "Copenhagen, Stockholm, Lillehammer, Bergen, Oslo"
Jul. 10 – Jul. 19	Japan By Train: "Hiroshima, Miyajima, Himeji, Kurashiki, Okayama, Kyoto, Tokyo"
Sep. 05 – Sep. 17	Great Canadian Rail Journey: "Toronto, Jasper, Lake Louise, Banff, Victoria, Vancouver"
Sep. 30 – Oct. 10	Ecuador: From the Andes to the Amazon: "Quito, Otavalo, Papallacta, Banos"
Oct. 05 – Oct. 16	Portugal In Depth: "Lisbon, Oporto, Viseu, Evora, Algarve"
Oct. 16 – Oct. 25	Autumn Japan: "Hiroshima, Miyajima, Himeji, Kyoto, Kanazawa, Takayama, Shirakawa-go, Tokyo"
Oct. 27 – Nov. 07	Discovering Poland: "Warsaw, Krakow, Wroclaw, Gdansk"
Oct. 30 – Nov. 10	The Best of Kyushu: "Fukuoka, Nagasaki, Kumamoto, Ibusuki, Kagoshima, Miyazaki, Beppu"
Nov. 27 – Dec. 14	Icons of India & Dubai: "Dubai, Delhi, Agra, Ranthambore Nat'l Park, Jaipur, Mumbai, Cochin"

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POWER WITHIN >> continued from page 3



All Saints Episcopal in Highland Park, Calif.

Yet for a night, the residents had a warm place to sleep, out of the rain. They had a hot meal and live music with which to enjoy it. They had company. And I would argue that for them, it made a great deal of difference. For a night, it made all the difference in the world.

It is within our ability to help one another in some way. I know I am straying dangerously close to the brink of sentimentality here, but I was inspired by

what I saw at that shelter. Philanthropy isn't just for philanthropists.

For some, help might mean donating money; for others, it might mean donating a few hours a month. It might just mean being kind to someone else. And it isn't just the homeless that need help; we're all in need of it. We rely on each other for our happiness and misery. If we each did only what was in our power to do, no more and no less, fewer people would be hurting, and life might seem a little brighter.

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.

MOCHI >> continued from page 3

3) **And when Mochi needs something, she will ask** — When it is time for our walk, she comes over to me and looks into my eyes, like, "Are you ready to go?" When she wants to play, there she is with a toy in her mouth. Sometimes I am in the middle of doing something, so she waits patiently, but she doesn't leave my side. If I forget she is there, she will rock back and forth on her paws, as if to say, "I am still here."

I have gotten better at reaching out for support, but it is still hard. Recently, a friend and I were talking, and I asked him how does he do it. He is working for a huge nonprofit and travels a lot. He says, "When I can't do something, I try to recommend someone who can. This way, I don't feel guilty, and they get more visibility for their work." In 2016, I see myself finding a large group of supportive people who can take on the work I don't have the capacity to do, thereby building up the number of individuals who can move our work for family acceptance forward and also get visibility for their work.

4) **Mochi is always happy to see me and comes out to greet me almost every time**

I return home — Mochi does not take my presence for granted. I never realized how welcoming it is to come home and find someone that is excited to see me. When I see her running out of whatever room she was in with her tail wagging, it is almost like she is saying, "Okaeri, okaeri, okaeri" . . . which means "welcome home" in Japanese.

In 2016, whenever anyone walks through my door, I will jump up and welcome them into my home, especially my husband, who I never want to take for granted.

Today, I am a better person because Mochi has showed me ways to be more selfless and generous, more loving and compassionate and more grateful and forgiving. Mochi doesn't try to be anyone but herself, and she only sees the best in me. Mochi . . . I hope I live up to be the person that you see in me. You have given me a beautiful reputation to live up to . . .

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."

STAMP >> continued from page 9

"I had a few classmates and friends who were killed in action," Takahashi said. "When Aiko and I visited the museum, they had a nice display about the Nisei soldiers, but I felt the story needed to be told to a broader audience. I later read the Eric Saul speech, 'America at Its Best,' and it convinced me we needed to do something. We thought of the stamp."

Historian Eric Saul's famous speech was originally presented at a reunion of the veterans, and in it, he outlines the motivations and the extraordinary accomplishments of the Nisei veterans.

Takahashi and King gathered with supporters on Dec. 20, 2015, in Los Angeles at the University of Southern California. There they discussed the campaign and its plans for a stamp to honor the veterans through the Memorial. The ladies were also interviewed on camera at a USC studio to document their 10-year campaign and ask for support. Parts of the interview will air on the campaign's website (www.NiseiStamp.org) this year.

The campaign began at the grassroots level. The trio first got their friends, family and local communities to sign petitions and send letters of support. They also linked up with many JACL members, and it grew to be a nationwide effort. Six state resolutions of support for the stamp were passed in Arizona, California, Hawaii, Illinois, Oregon and Washington. The Japanese American Veterans Assn. also offered help. JAVA friends from the U.S. joined with French citizens to create a successful petition and letter-writing campaign for the stamp in Bruyeres, France, where Nisei soldiers liberated towns during the war. Past letters of support came from Congress in 2009 and from numerous national organizations including the JACL National Board and the Simon Wiesenthal Center. Actor-activist George Takei voiced his support in 2007.

While the Postal Service has looked at the proposal a few times, it has yet to issue any stamps in response.

Currently, campaign organizers are seeking a Congressional Letter of Support asking the postmaster general to green light the stamp. The public is also encouraged to contact Representatives and Senators in Congress to sign the letter. The goal is to circulate it in both houses on Capitol Hill this spring. In addition, JACL members can organize locally to contact their Congress members.

After hearing campaign founder King talk, documentary producer Jeff MacIntyre was intrigued by the Nisei stamp campaign and decided to help. King stood up and spoke about the campaign after a 2015 August screening of one of his films at the Oxnard Library in California. MacIntyre set up his own website (www.TheyDeserveAStamp.org) to further the campaign's efforts. MacIntyre shares the goal of honoring the veterans on a stamp.

Through the combined efforts of supporters nationwide, the campaign members are working hard to see it to completion.

"It is our hope that, through the stamp, we can educate the American public about the unique heroism, sacrifices and accomplishments made by the Nisei soldiers," said Takahashi.

The U.S. Postal Service is under the Executive Branch of government, with the president at the top.

Asked if she thinks President Barack Obama might help, Fusa replied, "If I could talk to the president, I would tell him the same thing as I told the postmaster general in a letter. It is not a complicated story, but it is very compelling and very unique in its nature. I actually did write President Obama in 2009, but I am still waiting for a response. I am sure it probably never even

made it to his desk."

Perhaps the president and the postmaster general will hear the new call to action this year with the campaign's revived efforts. The ladies and their supporters are doing

their best to make that happen.

For more information, please visit www.NiseiStamp.org or the Facebook page at www.Facebook.com/NiseiStamp.



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A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

CALENDAR

NCWNP

Fred Korematsu Day Program and Teacher Workshop
San Jose, CA
Jan. 30; 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Japanese American Museum
San Jose

535 N. Fifth St.

The California Legacy Voices Teacher Workshop will celebrate Fred T. Korematsu Day with a presentation by Karen Korematsu, daughter of Fred Korematsu.

Info: Email publicprograms@jamsj.org or call (408) 284-3138.

Asia Pacific Career and Networking Forum
San Francisco, CA
Feb. 17; 4:30-7:30 p.m.
University of San Francisco's McLaren Conference Center
2130 Fulton St.
Room 250

Price: Free

The University of San Francisco Master of Arts in Asia Pacific Studies program will host a forum for network peers and organizers.

Info: Visit www.usfca.edu or call (415) 422-5101.

PSW

2015 Ventura County JACL Installation
Thousand Oaks, CA
Feb. 7; 11:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.
Los Robles Greens
Golf Course

299 S. Moorpark Road
Price: \$30 per person

Help celebrate the installation of the 2016 Ventura County JACL board members. Guest speakers include Brian Moriguchi, former president of SFV JACL, L.A. County Sheriff and president of the Professional Peace Officers Assn.

Info: Call Anne Chilcott at (805) 492-0146 or email venturacountyjacl@hotmail.com.

CCDC-JACL Annual Installation Banquet and Day of Remembrance Luncheon
Fresno, CA

Feb. 21; Noon-1 p.m.
Pardini's
2257 W. Shaw Ave.

Welcome the new CCDC board at the annual luncheon and Day of Remembrance luncheon. Keynote speaker Noriko Sanefuji, assistant curator at the Smithsonian Institution will make a presentation on the museum's new exhibition.

Info: Email tnishi@aol.com or call (559) 281-6497.

Asians on Film Festival
Los Angeles, CA
March 10-13; 1:30-7 p.m.
Japanese American National Museum

100 N. Central Ave.

In partnership with "Asians on Film," the Japanese American National Museum will host a festival to promote underrecognized Asians and Asian Americans working in the film industry.

Info: Email info@asiansonfilm.com.

2016 Advancing Justice Conference: Empowering Asian American and Pacific Islander Communities 2016 and Beyond
Los Angeles, CA

March 30-31; 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
The Westin Bonaventure Hotel & Suites
404 S. Figueroa St.

The Asian American Advancing Justice Conference will convene in order to address issues facing the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities.

Info: Email conference@advancingjustice.org.

CCDC

Day of Remembrance Banquet
Merced, CA

Feb. 20; 5-6 p.m.
900 Martin Luther King Jr. Way
Merced County Fairgrounds
Pavilion Building

Price: \$45 per person

Join the JACL Livingston-Merced Chapter for a Day of Remembrance Banquet with a special presentation by Professor Ignacio Lopez-Calvo of the University of California, Merced.

Info: Contact Janet at janetf127@gmail.com or call (209) 631-1933.

IDC

33rd Annual Lunar New Year Gala Celebration 2016
Chicago, IL

Feb. 6; 5-9 p.m.

Hyatt Regency Chicago
151 E. Upper Wacker Dr.

The Asian American Coalition of Chicago is hosting the Lunar New Year Gala, marking the Year of the Monkey. The AACC will also be hosting a dinner celebration to bring together hundreds of Asian American community leaders and guests as well.

Info: Email keng@osmius.com or call (312) 391-8809.

2016 National Leadership Academy

Denver, CO
Feb. 18; 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Double Tree by Hilton Hotel
Denver
3203 Quebec St.

The National Association of Asian American Professionals will host an academy dedicated to providing programs for team building, leadership development and networking.

Info: Visit www.naaap.org.

Day of Remembrance 2016
Chicago, IL

Feb. 21; 2-4 p.m.
Chicago History Museum
101 N. Clark St.

Price: Free

This year's Day of Remembrance program will feature Mitchell T. Maki, co-author of the book "Achieving the Impossible Dream: How Japanese Americans Obtained Redress."

Info: Call (773) 273-0097.

EDC

Lunar New Year Celebration
Brooklyn, NY
Jan. 31; 3-5 p.m.
Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts

2900 Campus Road

The Brooklyn Center for Performing Arts is partnering with Nai-Ni Chen Dance Company in this celebration of Chinese arts and culture for the new year.

Info: Email press@michelle-tabnickcommunications.com.

Asian Arts Initiative: Community Engaged Panel and Asian American Artist Social
Philadelphia, PA

Feb. 13; 3-6 p.m.

Asian Arts Initiative
1219 Vine St.

The Asian Arts Initiative hosts this discussion event. In addition, the event will provide space for artists to engage with community members and share narratives on their experiences. Panelists will include Daniel S. Wang, Emily Chow Bluck and Daniel Tucker.

Info: Call (215) 557-0455.

Seventh Annual Virginia Asian Business Legislative Summit
Richmond, VA

Feb. 18; 9:30 a.m.-11:30 p.m.

Virginia General Assembly Building, Downtown Richmond
910 Capitol St., 4th Floor,
West Conference Room

The Virginia Asian Chamber of Commerce is hosting its annual summit, which will address issues affecting AAPI communities. Some of Virginia's top government leaders will convene here, including Gov. Terry McAuliffe and Atty Gen. Mark Herring.

Info: Call (804) 344-1540.

MDC

2016 Asian American Hotel Owners Assn. Annual Convention and Trade Show
Nashville, TN

March 29-April 1; Noon-11 p.m.
Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center
2800 Opryland Dr.

The Asian American Hotel Owners Assn. will host this annual convention and trade show, offering educational programs and speaker presentations.

Info: Email info@aahoa.com or call (404) 816-5759.

PNW

Mochitsuki 2016
Portland, OR
Jan. 31; 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
Portland State University

1825 S.W. Broadway
Celebrate the Year of the Monkey with Japanese American traditions at the Mochitsuki Community Festival. Experience family-friendly hands-on activities and demonstrations and performances.

Info: Visit www.boxoffice-tickets.com.

Seattle Asian American Film Festival
Seattle, WA
Feb. 19-21
Northwest Film Forum
1515 12th Ave.

The Seattle Asian American Film Festival will host its 14th annual film festival to celebrate Asian American films. The festival will showcase feature-length and short-format films with special emphasis on filmmakers from the Pacific Northwest.

Info: Visit <http://seattleaaff.org/2016/>.

ADVERTISE HERE

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FOR MORE INFO:
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In Memoriam

Harada, Hideo, 93; Ontario, OR; Dec. 15; he was an Army veteran; he is survived by his wife, Ruth; daughter, Donna (Alvin) Sasaki and Marvin (Gail) Harada; gc: 3; ggc: 3.

Ikeda, Margaret, 94, San Diego; Sept. 5; she was a teacher at Poston; she was predeceased by her husband, John; sister, Beatrice; brothers, Joseph and John; she is survived by her son, Paul (Frances) Arakawa; gc: 2.

Matsubu, Helen Haruko, 79, Fruitland, ID; Dec. 4; she was incarcerated at Manzanar; she was predeceased by her husband, Tom; parents, Kunio and Frances Takemoto; she is survived by her children, Kirk Matsubu, Francine Matsubu, Tracey (Doug) Wade, Ben Matsubu and Jeff (June) Matsubu; niece, Tara; great-nephew, Axel; gc: 4; ggc: 1.

Shimojima, Connie Kaneyasu, 95, Ontario, OR; Jan. 9; he was predeceased by his wife, Gloria Shimojima; he is survived by his son, Pat (Mary Ann) Shimojima; daughters, Lynn (Larry) Hettick, Gail (Marvin) Harada, Edie (Sam) Hinds and Peggy Nakamura; gc: 3; ggc: 2.

JERRY ENOMOTO

Jerry Enomoto, a two-time past JACL National President, died at age 89 in

Fontana, Calif. Enomoto was incarcerated at Tule Lake with his family during World War II. He went on to work for the California Department of Corrections and was later appointed U.S.

Marshal of the Eastern District of California. During his time as JACL National President, Enomoto led the Legislative Education Committee, pushing the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.

LOIS MIYEKO SHIMOMURA



Lois Miyeko Shimomura, age 92, passed peacefully on Dec. 8, 2015, in Woodland, Calif.

Lois was born on Feb. 22, 1923, in Turlock, Calif. Her parents were Waiichi and Kikuyo Morimoto, emigrants from Japan. She was the sixth in a family of six children. She had three older brothers, George, Albert and Harry, and two older sisters, Florice and Florence. Her father, Waiichi, died in a tractor accident in 1923, the year she was born. Her mother, Kikuyo,

married Sam Shiojiguchi, a good man who helped raise the family. Lois graduated from Livingston High School in 1941.

In 1945, Lois married Ben Shimomura in Denver, Colo. She and Ben were interned in Amache, Colo., along with others of Japanese ancestry during the second World War and met while working together in the motor pool.

After the war, Lois and Ben returned to Ben's hometown of Winters, Calif. They farmed, raising apricots and almonds. They had four children: Sam Shimomura, Floyd Shimomura, Susan Shimizu and Linda Don. Lois enjoyed spending time with her family, especially her many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Lois was predeceased by infant grandson, Matthew Don; and is survived by her husband, Ben Shimomura; and sisters-in-law, Lois Morimoto and Harumi March. She is also survived by her four children: Sam (Patricia) Shimomura, Floyd (Ruth) Shimomura, Susan (Grant) Shimizu and Linda (Richard) Don; and grandchildren: Mark (Jamie) Shimomura, Brian Shimomura, Lisa Shimomura (Malcolm Quon), Craig Shimizu, Tim Shimizu, Stacy Don (Mike Maben) and Stephanie Don (Lukas Fend); and great-grandchildren: Reina Shimomura, Ryan Shimomura, Ben Quon, Russell Quon, Peyton Mayben, Julian Fend and Dylan Fend.

A private memorial service for family will be held in January.

KIMIYE NAKAO



Kimiye Nakao passed away peacefully on Dec. 6, 2015, in Pleasanton, Calif., with her family by her side. Kimi was born Kimiye Kubo to parents, Goroku and Taka Kubo in Tacoma, Wash., and was the youngest of five children. Kimi and her family were sent to the Tule Lake internment camp. She was predeceased by her husband of 40 years, Joe Toshio Nakao, in 1983. She is dearly missed by her children, Aki (Emi) Nakao,

Kay Okamura, JoAnn Mow and Paul Nakao; grandchildren, Jeffrey (Cheryl) Nakao, Michelle Okamura, Hilary (Harry) Miranda and Greg Mow. Additionally, Kimi leaves behind 7 great-grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Kimi worked for many years at Goehring Meat Company in Lodi, Calif., as their payroll clerk. She retired in 1990. After living in Thornton for 30 years, she and Joe moved to Elk Grove in 1976. She continued to live in Elk Grove until 2000, when she moved to Berkeley to be closer to her children. Upon retiring, Kimi was able to travel to Japan, Washington, Hawaii and the East Coast, and she enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She also did clerical work at Monterey Market part-time and learned to text on her cellphone in her late 80s to keep active and relevant.

A memorial service was held on Monday, Dec. 21, at 11 a.m. at the Buddhist Church of Sacramento on Riverside Drive, with a reception at Fortune House immediately following the service. Donations in her name may be made to Hope Hospice, 6377 Clark Ave., Suite 100, Dublin, Calif., or at the HopeHospice.com website, in lieu of flowers.

TRIBUTE

FRANK MASARU TOKIRIO



Frank Masaru Tokirio passed away peacefully at the age of 94 on Nov. 9, 2015. Frank was an Auburn, Wash.-born Nisei and WWII Veteran who served in the U.S. Military Intelligence Service. He then married and settled in the Venice/Culver City area to raise his family. Frank had a daily morning ritual of walking over 10,000 steps. He worked for over 25 years as an Analytical Chemist for the City of Los Angeles. After retiring, he moved up to Alameda, Calif., where

he continued his daily walks.

He is survived by his loving wife of 68 years, Sachiko Ruth; sister, Hisa Sue Miyake; daughter, Kathy (Mike) Leong; son, Carey (Vicki) Tokirio; grandchildren, Erin (Sunny) Leong-Chan; Misha (Sebastien) Leong-Renaudin, Erica and Toni Tokirio; and great-grandson, Masden Chan.

We will all carry his broad smile, positive attitude and great sense of humor in our hearts always.

Memorial services were held at Chapel of the Chimes, 4499 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, Calif., on Mon. Dec. 28, 2015, at 10 a.m.

Oakland.chapelofthechimes.com

MARY HARUKO OTA

Mary Haruko Ota passed away on Nov. 25, 2015, at home in Arlington, Va.

Born in Berkeley, Calif., the third child of Heihachi and Yae Oda, she was christened Haruko, or "spring girl," and called Mary. Her parents arrived from Hiroshima days after the San Francisco earthquake and helped form Berkeley Buddhist Temple.

A Russo-Japanese War army veteran with the sumo moniker Yama Arashi (Mountain Storm), Heihachi became an egg distributor and consulted with Bishop Sasaki in San Francisco for the new Berkeley temple. Mary had three brothers: Masami, Hayaji and Kanki.

She studied koto, loved her brothers' songs and Russian River camping. At 12, Mary wore her favorite red kimono and geta from a Tokyo aunt to illustrate Daughter of the Samurai by Etsu Inagaki Sugimoto.

After her father's stroke, Mary was a part-time maid in high school. At 15, Mary met Hajime "Jim" Ota, a Cal freshman from Imperial Valley, who later studied in Michigan.

While corresponding with Jim, she cared for Heihachi, until his passing in 1941.

In April 1942, Mary went by train and bus to Lawton, Okla., to wed a soldier: Jim.

Mary served as a senior officer's family maid at Fort Sill and in Alabama, during Jim's 442nd Regiment training.

At Fort McClellan, Mary worked for Brigadier Gen. Wallace Coleman Philoon, who pushed to court-martial 21 Kibei recruits for internment protests in spring 1944.

In July 1944, Jim accompanied Mary to see her family in Topaz Relocation Center in Utah and his sister, May Sakai, at Manzanar in California. Mary said goodbye to Jim as he left Mississippi for war.

In Topaz, Mary lived with family and had a son, Steven, who died in April 1945. Jim consoled Mary by letter: "Steven took my place."

"I learned the importance of family. Without family, life is very lonely. A family cares for each other," Mary said.

After the war, they had a son, Loren, in Michigan. They moved to Washington, D.C., where Jim joined the Agriculture Department in Beltsville, Md. When a landlord chastised Loren's tree climbing, Mary said, "I'm raising a boy, not a pansy."

They settled in East Pines, Md., and camped with two sons at the Delaware shore. Mary often made raisin or chocolate oatmeal cookies and teriyaki hot dogs.

Mary worked as an administrative assistant at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, supporting the first lunar landing, and for the Energy, Agriculture and Health and Human Services departments.

She enjoyed relatives and friends, including members of the Oda, Ota, Haratani, Ushijima, Kagehiro, Ouchida, Sonoda, Takagi, Clippinger, Hori, Cole, Duquette, Ohata, Sakai, Lieber, Walther, Berthold, Okamoto, Minami and Kawamoto families.

Survivors include her sons and their wives, Loren and Jacqueline of Rocky Mount, N.C., and Alan and Yoko of Arlington, Va., and grandchildren, Nathan and Mana, both in California. Service will be in Berkeley Buddhist Temple, with inurnment in Sunset Mausoleum.

PLACE A TRIBUTE

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

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