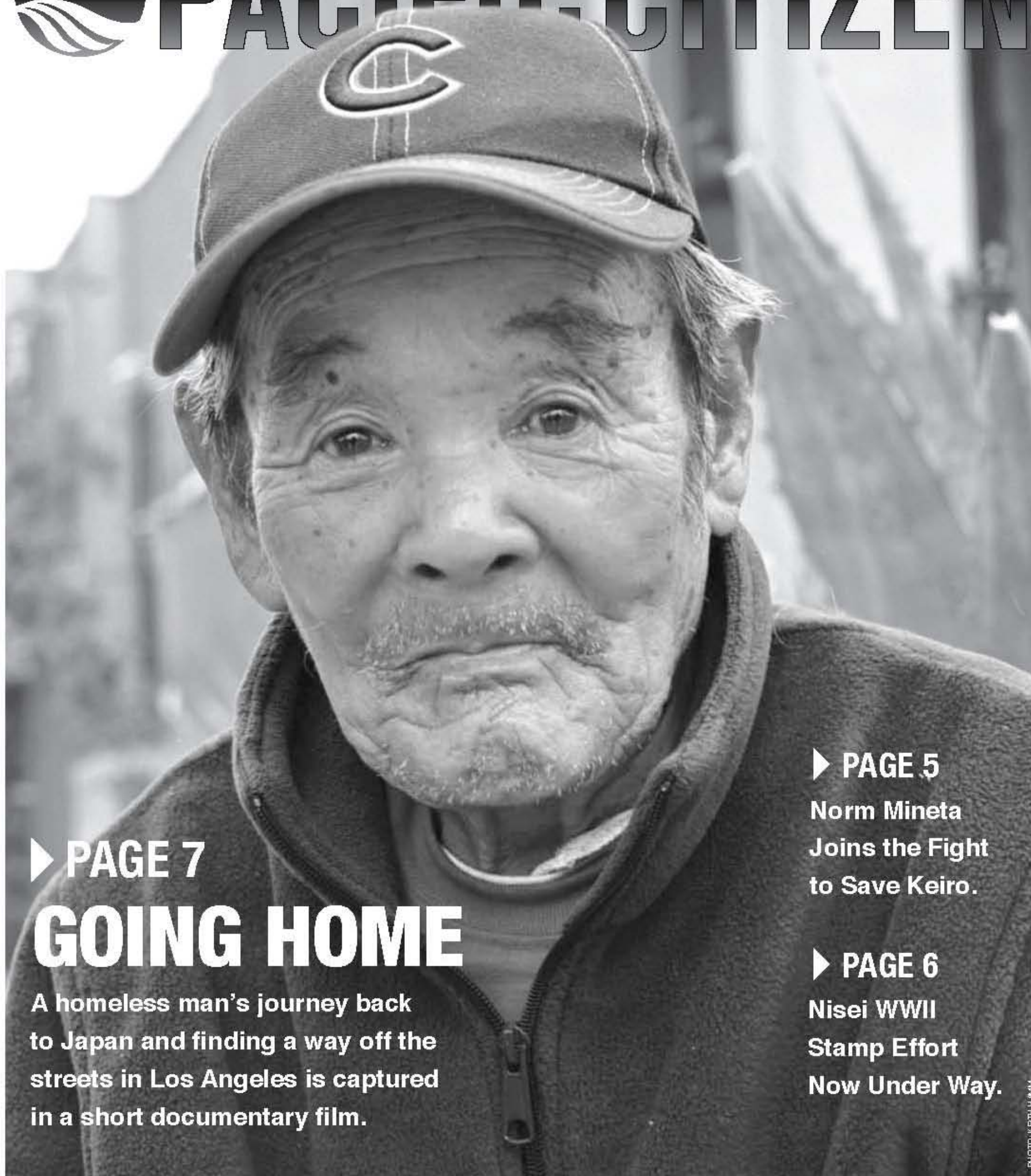




# PACIFIC CITIZEN



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## GOING HOME

A homeless man's journey back to Japan and finding a way off the streets in Los Angeles is captured in a short documentary film.

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Norm Mineta Joins the Fight to Save Keiro.

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Nisei WWII Stamp Effort Now Under Way.

PHOTO: KETH HAMM



# NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN FOR JACL NATIONAL OFFICE

LOS ANGELES — The National JACL Nominations Committee is seeking members who are interested in running for a seat on the National JACL Board of Directors.

The initial filing deadline is Wednesday, May 11. After that date, those wishing to submit their names as candidates must run from the floor of the National Convention and are subject to additional requirements.

The term of office for this election shall be two years covering the 2016-18 biennium.

Positions include National President, National Secretary/Treasurer, Vice President of General Operations, Vice President for Planning & Development, Vice President for Membership,

Vice President for Public Affairs, National Youth/Student Council Chair and National Youth/Student Council Representative.

A description of the officers and their duties can be found in the JACL Constitution and Bylaws.

The process and procedures for those who wish to run can be found in the Nominations and Election Guidelines. A copy of the guidelines and a candidate application form will soon be posted on the JACL website ([www.jacl.org](http://www.jacl.org)).

In every even-numbered convention year, the JACL holds its election of National JACL officers.



This year, the National Convention will be held from July 11-14 in Las Vegas, Nev., at the Monte Carlo Las Vegas Resort and Casino.

For more information on running for office, contact Nominations Committee Chair Kent Kawai at [mkawaiusa@netscape.net](mailto:mkawaiusa@netscape.net).

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**National Director:** Priscilla Ouchida

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Periodicals paid at Los Angeles, Calif. and mailing office.

# JACL ANNOUNCES ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP AWARD PROGRAM FOR 2016



WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Japanese American Veterans Assn. announces its annual scholarship award program for 2016. The scholarships will continue to benefit a range of graduating high school seniors, advanced undergraduate students and postgraduate and professional education students.

Application instructions, forms and other details will be posted on the JAVA website (<https://java.wildapricot.org>) by Feb. 12.

The scholarships include the memorial scholarship honoring the late U.S. Sen. Daniel

K. Inouye's iconic career of military and civilian public service, the Founders Scholarship (named for JAVA's founder, the late Col. Phil Ishio, USAR, his wife, Constance, and his son, Douglas Ishio), as well as other JAVA memorial scholarships, each in the amount of \$1,500.

Descendants of those who served in the 100th Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service as well as descendants of World War II Nisei soldiers from other units are eligible.

Only in the case of the Sen. Inouye scholarship

will applications also be accepted from any past or present member of Hawaii's 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry.

A current member of JAVA whose membership began prior to April 1, 2014, is eligible to apply.

A child of a current JAVA member may also be eligible to apply if the applicant's parent or guardian was a member of JAVA prior to April 1, 2014.

Special consideration will be given to eligible applicants who demonstrate their lifelong commitment to public and uniformed service leadership for the nation, e.g., participating in military commissioning programs while in college.

Applicants should first review published rules and forms available on the JAVA website before making further inquiries.

The final date for receiving applications is April 1. The names of the awardees will be announced at the annual JAVA scholarship luncheon in June.

# PACIFIC CITIZEN

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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## JACL MEMBERS

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1765 Sutter St.  
San Francisco, CA 94115  
(415) 921-5225 or  
[mbr@JACL.org](mailto:mbr@JACL.org)

Allow 6 weeks for address changes.

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





## NIKKEI VOICE

# BUILDING BRIDGES WITH THE MUSLIM COMMUNITY

By Gil Asakawa

**L**ate last year, my wife and I were lucky enough to travel to New York City to see the Broadway musical "Allegiance," starring George Takei. It's a story about the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II, and it vividly and powerfully brings to life the emotional toll of the experience on JAs for generations since then.

Two nights after attending the show and while we were still in New York, the Paris attacks happened. The next day, we had scheduled a visit to the 9/11 Memorial and museum in Lower Manhattan. Like the way "Allegiance" evoked the racial hatred against my community 75 years ago, it was a powerful reminder of the tragedy of Sept. 11, 2001. There's a lot in the museum exhibit about the terrorists who committed the acts and the aftermath that included hate crimes, not just against Arab Americans but also Sikh Americans. I saw a photo of the slogan that someone put up on a banner in the Ground Zero site: "United We Stand."

The rest of the day, I was haunted by the 1970 hit song "United We Stand" by a group called the Brotherhood of Man: "United we stand, divided we fall; And if our backs should ever be against the wall; We'll be together, together, you and I..."

The song was widely played in the days after 9/11, though

most people probably missed the spirit of uniting with Arab Americans and Muslim Americans.

I was proud that JAACL, the Japanese American Citizens League, held a press conference within days after 9/11 to decry violence against Arab Americans. We were the first voices nationally to warn against racial profiling in the wake of the attack because we knew too well the potential disaster that can be sparked by fear and ignorance.

Sadly, the hatred and fear aimed at Arab Americans, Muslims, Sikhs, South Asians and anyone who might represent "the Other" has returned.

After our return from New York, the anti-Muslim buzz was amped up over the plight of Syrian refugees, with some political leaders advocating tougher screening (refugees already go through very stringent screening) or denying them entry, and even comparing the Syrian refugees to what happened to Japanese Americans. Hate crimes against Arab Americans, Muslims and Sikhs have spiked in the last several months.

After the horrible shootings in San Bernardino, Calif., presidential candidate Donald Trump, who'd already said he'd want a database for Muslims, announced he would ban all Muslims from entering the U.S., at least temporarily.

That announcement got my wife and I to talking about how

we can't just sit idly and let this kind of racial prejudice go unchallenged. My wife's parents, grandparents and great-grandparents on both sides were imprisoned during World War II. We fear that such tactics might be used again, even though we should all know better. One conservative commentator published a book after 9/11 urging for the creation of concentration camps for Arabs, after all.

So, we've been meeting with officials of the City of Denver, Colorado's Congressional delegation and representatives of the area's JA, Asian American and Pacific Islander and Muslim communities to organize an event that would include a panel discussion and breakout sessions on topics such as the diversity of Muslims (the largest Muslim population is not in the Middle East, it's in Indonesia), who the Sikhs are and what your rights are if you suffer or witness a hate crime. We want to educate people and break down barriers put up by ignorance and fear.

This event will be just one in a series all year that began with a show of unity, when a group of us participated in the annual Martin Luther King Parade (march and parade) with a large banner proclaiming, "Love Triumphs Over Hate: Japanese Americans and Muslim Americans Unite." The banner got a lot of bystanders stalking and taking photos,

>> See BRIDGES on page 12



## A YONSEI TRANSPLANTED

# A CINEMATIC PERSPECTIVE

By Matthew Ormseth

**I**n recent weeks, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, the organization that hosts the Oscars, has come under fire for its perennial dearth of diversity, only the latest installment of which came in the form of an all-white spread of nominees for this year's awards ceremony. For myself, this controversy has made me examine the relationship between viewing and being, and raised a frightening question: Is it movies that imitate life, or life that imitates movies?

In an essay titled "Fictional Futures and the Conspicuously Young," the late novelist David Foster Wallace argues that forms of mass entertainment like movies and television have "imposed themselves on our generation's psyches for so long and with such power that they have entered into complicated relations with our very ideas of the world and the self."

"Think, for instance," he writes, "about the way prolonged exposure to broadcast drama makes each one of us at once more self-conscious and less reflective. A culture more and more about seeing eventually perverts the relation of seer and seen. Seldom do we think about the fact that the single deep feature the characters share, with each other and with the actors who portray them, is that they are watched... We, the audience, receive unconscious reinforcement of the thesis that the most significant feature of persons is watchability."

If only Wallace had lived to see the explosion of Instagram,

Snapchat and Vine that created, like a second Big Bang, an alternate universe of virtual interaction governed only by the laws of what he coined "watchability."

Social media platforms have taken the messy notions of self created by decades of movie and TV narratives and given everyone and anyone with access to a smartphone a stage on which to enact the story of their lives.

I don't believe I'm being hyperbolic in claiming that for much of my generation, being plays second fiddle to being *seen*.

Downtown Los Angeles' Arts District is overrun on weekends by teenagers and young adults who drive hours to snap pictures of themselves up against the area's murals and tastefully defaced walls, only to jump back in the car again at photoshoot's end.

I would suspect that for many attendees at the Coachella Valley Music Festival, the prospect of dancing to live music in the Sonoran Desert for a weekend is less tantalizing than the prospect of being *seen* dancing to live music on Snapchat, Instagram and Facebook, complete with the coveted Coachella Valley geotag and a caption roughly derivative of either "Coachillin," "Young, Wild and Free" or "Sochella."

L.A.'s newest art museum, the Broad, has witnessed explosive popularity since it opened in September, no doubt thanks to its Instagram and Facebook-friendly installations.

Unlike more traditional art museums that forbid photo taking, the Broad expressly encourages visitors to whip out their iPhones in such selfie-conducive exhibits as the museum's "infinity room."

This preoccupation with being seen doing trendy, sophisticated things in trendy, sophisticated environments is nothing new.

Operagoers in the 18th and 19th centuries were notorious for their disinterest in opera and interest in being *seen* at the opera. Socialites have always frequented certain clubs, restaurants and sports venues with the specific intention of being photographed there.

But social media complicates this age-old phenomenon. It's created an alternate space within which appearing cannot be differentiated from being — within which appearing is being.

Cinema and television, like Instagram, Snapchat and Facebook, blur the line between appearing and being. But sometimes, mass entertainment (which I would argue now includes Facebook, Instagram and Snapchat, alongside television and cinema) steps over that line, into the realm of the real; we, as human beings, direct movies and TV shows, but movies and TV shows have a curious ability to direct the lives of human beings, too.

>> See PERSPECTIVE on page 12



# LYNN NAKAMOTO BECOMES FIRST ASIAN AMERICAN TO SERVE ON OREGON SUPREME COURT

PHOTO: COURTESY OF CHIP LAROCHE



(From left) Setsy Larouche, Justice Lynn R. Nakamoto, Marleen Ikeda Wallingford and Chip Larouche

Salem, ORE. — Membership Chair Setsy Larouche, President Marleen Ikeda Wallingford and Treasurer Chip Larouche from Portland JACL attended the Investiture of Lynn R. Nakamoto to the Oregon Supreme Court as an Associate Justice on Jan. 25 in Salem, Ore.

Justice Nakamoto was appointed to the Court of Appeals in 2011 by Oregon Gov. Ted Kulongoski before being recently appointed by current Gov. Kate Brown as the first Japanese American and Asian American to serve on Oregon's highest court.

Nakamoto replaces Justice Virginia L. Linder, who has retired. The Oregon Supreme Court is comprised of seven elected justices, and Nakamoto will run for election in 2016.

Previously, Nakamoto was a managing shareholder at Markowitz Herbold, a Portland law firm focusing on business litigation for more than 20 years, where she gained

valuable experience in litigating appeals. She was also the vice chair of the Oregon Board of Bar Examiners in 2001 and chair of the Oregon State Bar Affirmative Action Committee in 2006. From 1985-87, she worked at Bronx Legal Services in New York City.

Justice Nakamoto was the Portland JACL chapter president from 1996-97. The Portland Chapter is very proud to have one of its active members now sitting on the bench of Oregon's Supreme Court.

— Chip Larouche and Setsy Larouche, Portland JACL

## VIRGINIA CELEBRATES KOREMATSU DAY FOR THE FIRST TIME



Virginia commemorated its first statewide Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitu-

tion on Jan. 30 in recognition of the late civil rights leader.

Virginia is the sixth state to officially pay tribute to Korematsu, who is remembered for his Supreme Court case that challenged the constitutionality of the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. Virginia joins California, Hawaii, Georgia, Illinois and Utah. Michigan and Pennsylvania are currently considering legislative recognition.

The Virginia State Legislature unanimously passed the resolution, which was drafted by Delegate Mark Keam, a Democrat representing the 35th District (Fairfax County) and the Korematsu Institute, headed by Karen Korematsu, Fred Korematsu's daughter.

During World War II, Korematsu refused

to comply with Executive Order 9066, which incarcerated more than 120,000 Japanese Americans, two-thirds of whom were U.S. citizens. After he was arrested and convicted, Korematsu appealed his case to the Supreme Court, which ruled against him in 1944 but vacated the decision in 1983.

He received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1998, the nation's highest civilian honor.

In a Facebook post, Keam said, "Today, Jan. 30, is the first annual Fred T. Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution in Virginia. Today also would have been Mr. Korematsu's 97th birthday. . . . Fred Korematsu was an American hero whose actions deserve a prominent place in our history. By recognizing his birthday in Virginia — a state that played such a crucial role in drafting our Constitution — we remind future generations of what Thomas Jefferson warned, that the price of liberty is eternal vigilance."

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights has recommended that National Fred Korematsu Day be established as a national holiday. ■

## APAs in the News



### Rev. Dr. Takeo Uesugi, Renowned Landscape Architect, Passes Away

Internationally renowned landscape architect Rev. Dr. Takeo Uesugi, who designed some of the nation's most beautiful Japanese gardens, passed away on Jan. 26 at the age of 75.

The professor emeritus at California Polytechnic University, Pomona, and minister of Tenrikyo Church, designed most notably the James Irvine Japanese Garden at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center in Los Angeles, the Huntington Japanese Garden at the Huntington Library in San Marino, Calif., and the Japanese Friendship Garden in San Diego's Balboa Park.

In 1981, he received the National Landscape Award from First Lady Nancy Reagan at a White House Ceremony for his design of the James Irvine Garden. He was also awarded the Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon, from the government of Japan in 2010.



### Judy K. Sakaki Named New President of Sonoma State University

Judy K. Sakaki, Ph.D., has been appointed president of Sonoma State University by the California State University Board of Trustees. Sakaki will be the university's seventh president and the second female president in its 55-year history when she begins her new position on July 1.

Sakaki, 62, is currently vp of student affairs at the University of California, Office of the President. She succeeds President Ruben Arminana, who is retiring in June. For the past nine years, Sakaki has overseen policies, services and initiatives related to student access, affordability and success for all 238,000 UC students on 10 campuses. She previously served as vice chancellor of student affairs at the University of California, Davis, and vp and dean of student affairs at Fresno State.



### Rob Fukuzaki Inducted Into the Local Sports Broadcasters Hall of Fame

Rob Fukuzaki, the longtime sportscaster for ABC7 in Los Angeles, was inducted into the Southern California Sports Broadcasters Hall of Fame on Jan. 25 in a special ceremony at the Lakeside Country Club in Toluca Lake, Calif.

Fukuzaki, who has been at ABC7 since 1994, is the first male Japanese American L.A. news anchor. He began his career working for Top 40 radio station KXPW in Hawaii. He then began working for KITV in Honolulu doing sports reporting.

Since joining ABC7, Fukuzaki has immersed himself in community service in addition to his anchor duties, and in 1997, he founded the Heads Up Youth Foundation, which assists disadvantaged L.A. youth.

Fukuzaki's award honors him for his achievement in sports broadcasting. ■

## TAIKO CONCERT TO BENEFIT PILGRIMAGE TO MINIDOKA

SEATTLE, WASH. — The Minidoka Pilgrimage and Seattle University are proud to present the Day of Remembrance 2016 Taiko Concert, which will be held on Feb. 21 at Seattle University's Pigott Auditorium.

The concert will benefit the 14th annual Minidoka Pilgrimage from Seattle, Portland and across the nation to Minidoka Incarceration Camp in southern Idaho.

Minidoka was one of 10 camps where Japanese Americans were imprisoned during World War II. Today, it is a unit of the National Park System.

This year, the event will also feature the "Empty Chair" exhibit, which focuses on Japanese who were forced out of Alaska during WWII. About 200 Alaskan Japanese were affected by Executive Order 9066,

which led to the mass incarceration of 120,000 Japanese Americans during the war.

"Empty Chair" is based on "The Forced Removal and Resettlement of Juneau's Japanese Community" exhibit by Douglas City Museum, and it also features the photos, artifacts and first-person narratives and documents of eight Juneau families.

The free exhibit will be featured in the Paccar Atrium, located directly outside of the auditorium. Other displays will be provided by the Minidoka Pilgrimage, Seattle University, National Park Service and the Minidoka Historical Site. Raffle ticket sales and a general store will be located in the atrium to help support the work of the Minidoka Pilgrimage.

The exhibit hall opens at noon and the concert begins at 1 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for general admission and \$10 for students with identification. To purchase tickets, visit <http://dayofremembrancetaiko2016.bpt.me/>. Identification is required for Will Call tickets, as no actual tickets will be provided.

For questions or more information, email [minidokapilgrimage@gmail.com](mailto:minidokapilgrimage@gmail.com) or call (206) 296-6260.



# NORM MINETA JOINS EFFORTS TO SAVE KEIRO

By P.C. Staff

Former U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta joined the efforts to stop the sale of Keiro's four senior care facilities at a "Speak Out" session hosted by Ad Hoc Committee Save Keiro on Jan. 23 at Centenary United Methodist Church in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo.

"I am proud to be with all of you today and proud to join you in speaking out to save Keiro," Mineta told a crowd of 200. The for-

*'And there just didn't seem to be a good plausible explanation for the closure of Keiro.'*

— Norman Mineta

mer U.S. transportation secretary expressed his concerns about what the change might do to the Japanese American community after hearing about the sale from Ad Hoc Committee member Jonathan Kaji.

"Listening to Jonathan about the process that went on in this issue. The question of what did the community know about why this was being done, more importantly to the residents of Keiro as to why this was being done," Mineta said.

He went on to speak about his experience as mayor in San Jose and as U.S. transportation secretary, dealing with change and fighting for those who needed voices. Mineta served in the Bush and Clinton cabinets. Today, he stands as the highest-profile Japanese American leader.

"And there just didn't seem to be a good plausible explanation for the closure of Keiro," he added.

Change, indeed, is a large topic within the community. Keiro Senior Healthcare points to the changing demographic as well as shifts in health care. As trends show that more seniors are choosing to stay at home, occupancy in the facilities is dwindling.

Despite these observations, the Ad Hoc Committee feels that the lack of transparency of the sale and the conditions are unfair and unjust.

Mineta went on to say that he spoke with Rep. Judy Chu that morning and that he would make

efforts to speak with Attorney General Kamala Harris as well as the Keiro board.

Since his announcement, the Ad Hoc committee held a march in Little Tokyo on Jan. 28, where supporters walked several blocks to the Reagan Building, the L.A. office of the attorney general. There the group of protestors met with Senior Assistant Attorney General Tania Ibanez, where they handed over documents with comments collected at the "Speak Out."

Over the past several weeks, efforts to stop the sale have been joined by groups such as the Martin Luther King Coalition of Greater Los Angeles, members of JACL, the Chinatown Council for Equitable Development and members from the Gardena City Council.

Local leaders like L.A. County Supervisor Hilda Solis also wrote a letter to the attorney general, addressing the possible layoffs of Keiro employees as well as expressing her concerns about the end of culturally sensitive care. Solis joined the movement to stop the sale after listening to local residents.

Like Solis, some are concerned about Keiro's employment stability. Employees were given notices on Jan. 22 that their positions may be terminated after escrow closes. The letter outlines that while current employees will end their jobs with Keiro, Pacifica Companies will offer new employment opportunities. Those who sign the severance and release agreement after the escrow will be paid according to their employment status.

The employer transfer from Keiro to Pacifica Companies comes as part of the sale process approved by the attorney general. No details or dates have been released at this time, however, tensions are rising as the sale procedures are mobilizing.

Keiro has made numerous attempts to meet with Rep. Chu, Rep. Maxine Waters and their respective staff members, following public statements made against the sale of the facilities on Jan. 14. Keiro staff said that no one from the representatives' offices has followed up with Keiro to discuss the facts regarding the sale. Keiro Staff also confirmed that escrow has been postponed with no new updates for a new date. ■

## JACL ANNOUNCES 2016 LEGACY FUND GRANTS PROGRAM

**SAN FRANCISCO** — The Legacy Fund Grants Committee has announced that the 2016 program is now under way. Committee Co-Chairs Jane Katsuyama and Janice Faden invite all chapters in good standing, District Councils and the National Youth/Student Council to submit applications for a Legacy Fund Grant.

Legacy Fund Grants shall be awarded for projects and activities that support JACL's 2015-16 Program for Action, with a maximum award of \$3,000 per proposal.

Completed applications are due April 1. Grant recipients will be announced at the 46th JACL National Convention in Las Vegas, Nev., to be held July 11-14 at the Monte Carlo Resort and Casino.

Fourteen grants were given out in 2015 totaling \$31,650 in awards. The application form has been developed to encourage innovative planning and ensure follow-through. Crucial to this is the requirement of quarterly progress reports to the Legacy Fund Grants Committee for the purpose of monitoring and publicizing all of the selected projects.

The Legacy Funds Grants Committee may consider the following attributes in evaluating each application: the relationship to the Program for Action; potential impact of the project/activity;

capacity of the applicant to implement the project/activity; clarify of the stated goals and objectives; the budget and timeline; and the presence of a unique or specialized program.

The Legacy Fund was established by the JACL National Council on June 20, 1990 at the JACL National Convention in San Diego. Monies were first donated to the fund by members who gave a portion of their redress awards to further the legacy of patriotism and hard-won civil rights that is central to the story of Nikkei in America.

Investment earnings from the fund are used to support general operations; provide a return to chapters and districts in direct proportion to their original contribution to the fund; provide funding for a grants program; and reinvest in the fund for future growth.

The goal of the grants program is to assist chapters, districts and the NY/SC in carrying out projects and activities that are in accordance with the National JACL Program for Action.

*For grant instructions and applications, visit the JACL website ([www.jacl.org](http://www.jacl.org)) and click "Social Justice" on the menu bar. For more information, contact Regional Director Patty Wada at [pwada@jacl.org](mailto:pwada@jacl.org) or call (415) 345-1075.*

### AMERICAN HOLIDAY TRAVEL 2016 TOUR SCHEDULE

Alaska Northern Lights Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida)	Mar 17-23
Anchorage, Fairbanks, Chena Onsen-Hot Springs, Aurora Borealis.	
Japan Spring Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida)	Mar 27-Apr 8
Tokyo, Scenic Train to Shimoda, Lake Yamanaka, Matsumoto, Takayama, Kanazawa, Kyoto.	
Washington DC Holiday Tour (Elaine Ishida)	May 12-17
Mount Vernon, Arlington National Cemetery, Annapolis, World War II Memorial, Smithsonian Institution.	
Grandparents-Grandchildren Japan Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida)	Jun 26-Jul 5
Tokyo, Hakone-Atami, Hiroshima, Kyoto.	
Canadian Rockies-Calgary Stampede Tour (Elaine Ishida)	July 11-19
Calgary, Waterton Lakes-Glacier National Park, Banff, Columbia Icefields.	
Nova Scotia Holiday Tour (Carol Hida)	Aug 10-18
Halifax, Baddeck, Cabot Trail, Charlotte Town, Prince Edward Island, Grand Pre, Lunenburg.	
China Silk Road Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida)	Sep 12-23
Beijing, Urumqi, Turpan, Dunhuang.	
British Landscapes Holiday Tour (Elaine Ishida)	Sep 12-21
England, Scotland, Wales.	
Korea Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida)	Oct 4-17
Seoul, Nami Island, Sokcho, Daegu, Gyeongju, Busan, Cheju Island, Gwangju, Daejeon, Suwon, KBS Drama Center, DMZ Tour.	
New England Autumn Holiday Tour (Elaine Ishida)	Oct 11-18
Boston, Woodstock, Stowe-Vermont, North Conway-New Hampshire, Boothbay Harbor, Kennebunkport-Maine.	
Kyushu-Shikoku Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida)	Oct 27-Nov 9
Fukuoka, Nagasaki, Kumamoto, Ibusuki, Kagoshima, Miyazaki, Beppu, Matsuyama, Kochi, Takamatsu, Shodo Island, Tokushima, Osaka.	
New Orleans Get-Away Tour (Carol Hida)	Dec 12-16
One hotel, City Tour, New Orleans Cooking School-Dinner, Cajun Swamp Tour.	

For more information and reservations, please contact:

AMERICAN HOLIDAY TRAVEL

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(CST #200326-10)

Ernest or Carol Hida or Elaine Ishida (Tel: 714-269-4534)



# CHILD OF L.A. ISSEI GROCER HELPS LEAD NISEI WWII STAMP EFFORT

By Wayne Osako,  
Contributor

If you haven't already heard, people across the country are still pushing for a U.S. commemorative postage stamp that would tell the story of the internment camps of World War II and the 33,000 Japanese Americans who enlisted in the U.S. Army despite those camps.

Many people don't realize that this grassroots campaign started in California, and the daughter of a well-known grocery store owner in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo is one of the leaders of the campaign.

Her name is Chizuko "Chiz" Ohira (Akiyama). She turned 88 years old last August. Her father was an Issei pioneer, Masao Akiyama. He owned and operated "KM Akiyama Company," a grocery store near the corner of San Pedro and First streets. Locals in the area who visited Little Tokyo remember the store.

The Japanese American National Museum is home to the video archives of the Masao Akiyama Collection, with portions viewable online through the Discover Nikkei website (<http://www.discovernikkei.org/en/nikkeialbum/albums/282>).

Ohira can be seen as a young girl in the collection. Her father took home movies before the war, and they are preserved at the museum.

Ohira was just 12 years old when World War II broke out. She and her family loaded the buses in front of the old Union Church just down the street from the grocery store, and they were sent to the "Poston One" Arizona internment camp.

Asked why she started the campaign back in 2005 along with her friends Aiko O. King (88) and Fusa Takahashi (88), Ohira said, "We discussed the necessity to carry out the Go For Broke tradition."

"Go For Broke" was the motto of the 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team, which was the segregated unit of mostly Nisei soldiers. The motto meant, "Go for your goal with everything you've got!"

"It's important to remember the veterans because it was a small battalion, and they worked hard to make a lasting impression," Ohira said. "Those guys were great because they were ostracized and still had their own battalion."

The loyalty of the Nisei (the Japanese word to describe Americans born to parents from Japan) was questioned by the U.S. government after the bombing of Pearl Harbor by Japan in 1941. Nisei who enlisted in the U.S. Army were placed in segregated units. Most were in the 100th/442nd, but many were also interpreters, translators and intelligence gatherers in the U.S. Army's Military Intelligence Service. Ohira's late husband, Ted Ohira, was a legendary 100th/442nd member of "H Company."

The Japanese Americans who served are one of the most-acclaimed groups in U.S. military history. The 100th/442nd would become the most-decorated unit of the war



CHIZ OHIRA PROMOTING THE STAMP CAMPAIGN AT AN EVENT IN CAMARILLO, CALIF..

with more than 18,000 medals, 9,000-plus Purple Hearts and 21 Medals of Honor, all earned within just two years of service during the war. The MIS earned a Presidential Unit Citation and were critical in winning the war against Japan. The unit's service is credited with shortening the war by two years. The MIS also served important post-war roles in the Allied Occupation of Japan. Both groups were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in 2011.

"Ted volunteered from Hawaii," Ohira explained. "I think he volunteered because he lived in Honolulu, and he saw the bombing of Pearl Harbor. He and his friends wanted to join the Army after that."

Ted Ohira was only 17 years old — he was under the age requirement to serve in the Army at the time. (As the story goes, he wanted to serve so much that he tricked his parents to sign his enlistment papers.)

Ted Ohira was featured in the 1951 movie "Go For Broke." He can be seen playing the ukulele in the opening scene.

"Ted was good for the troops. He could sing and entertain them," Ohira explained.

He was also a good soldier — Ted Ohira went on to earn a Purple Heart and two Bronze Stars. He fought in five major campaigns during the war, including service in the famed "Rescue of the Lost Battalion," when the 100th/442nd took heavy casualties to rescue 211 men from a Texas battalion that had become surrounded by the Germans.

Ohira and her supporters are relaunching



KM AKIYAMA COMPANY STORE, LOCATED NEAR SAN PEDRO AND FIRST STREETS IN LITTLE TOKYO, LOS ANGELES, CALIF., CIRCA 1940



CHIZ OHIRA (AKIYAMA), CIRCA 1940, IN FRONT OF HER HOME IN BOYLE HEIGHTS, CALIFORNIA.

the stamp campaign to honor veterans like her husband. In addition to co-founders Takahashi, who is also a widow of a Nisei veteran, and close friend King, the campaign coalition includes family members and friends of the veterans, Emmy Award-winning film producer Jeff MacIntyre and George Takei.

National organizations, including the Japanese American National Museum, Simon Wiesenthal Center — Museum of Tolerance, American Jewish Committee and the Organization of Chinese Americans have voiced past support for Ohira's campaign. Prominent organizations are again encouraged to voice their renewed support and join in this coalition.

This month, the campaign is encouraging individuals to contact their members of Congress to sign a new Congressional letter of support that asks the Postmaster General to green light the stamp.

Another initiative will be an online White House petition that will begin on Feb. 19, coinciding with the Day of Remembrance for the internment camps. If the White House petition can generate 100,000 signers within 30 days, an official response will be given from the president or an official from his administration. Although it is not

a guarantee of a stamp, to get the president's attention would be a major success. Signing the petition just requires that the signer be 13 years or older with a valid email address, which must be verified during the signing process.

Watch for the White House petition online beginning Feb. 19. Supporters are encouraged to "like" the campaign's Facebook

page.

The campaign hopes to gather enough support this year to make a push for a veterans stamp to be issued to coincide with the 75th commemoration of Executive Order 9066 and the internment next year, 2017.

The stamp would be the first of its kind to record such an important Asian American story. Very few U.S. stamps have ever even featured an Asian face. None has featured a historical Asian American event. Among the World War II series of stamps to commemorate 50 years since the war, in 1991-95, Japanese Americans (and all Asian Americans) were left out of any depictions of Americans in uniform, despite their prominence in the war.

"I think the stamp is important because it's not just a 'toy' thing," Ohira emphasized. "The stamp is a permanent thing. When people receive letters, they do look at the stamp, right? I think it reaches people at many different levels."

Readers can follow the campaign on its website at [www.StampOurStory.org](http://www.StampOurStory.org), its Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/niseistamp> and on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/StampOurStory>.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF THE JAPANESE AMERICAN NATIONAL MUSEUM, MASAO AKIYAMA COLLECTION



# VIDEO CAPTURES 'THE LIFE OF JAPANESE HOMELESS MAN'

The film captures Mitsuo Miyata as he traverses through an ordinary day in Los Angeles.

PHOTO: KEITH HAMM



MITSUO MIYATA, 89

By Tiffany Ujiye,  
Assistant Editor

Mitsuo Miyata is an 87-year-old Japanese man living in Los Angeles. He grew up in Hitachiota city, a coastal region located in the Ibaraki Prefecture in Japan, just north of Tokyo and south of Fukushima. The village is composed of small orchards and farms. Miyata recalls fond memories in his dreams of picking tomatoes at the edge of these farms at night as a boy.

Now, at 87, he can't remember his dreams because Miyata is homeless.

In a short video directed by Keith Hamm, a filmmaker and photographer based in Los Angeles, the video "The Life of Japanese Homeless Man" follows Miyata on an ordinary day of picking recyclables, eating at McDonald's and moving his shopping cart across the city.

Before he was homeless, Miyata left Japan sometime in the 1970s, and he began working for a Japanese construction company. According to Hamm, Miyata made mention that he helped build several Japanese restaurants in Little Tokyo and also a tearoom.

The construction company went bankrupt, and "he might've been stranded here afterwards," Hamm told the *Pacific Citizen*.

Miyata went on to work as a waiter at a restaurant, but business went sour for the owners, and they were unable to pay him his wages. The financial setback forced him to move out of his apartment of 30 years on 800 Lucille Ave. in Los Angeles after not making his \$420 monthly rent.

"I had to leave everything, I had no choice," Miyata said in broken English in Hamm's video. His thoughts follow into a dialogue and self-reflection about how he arrived at this point in his life.

"Maybe if I had thought carefully there might have been better options," he said. Miyata considered reaching out to friends but later refused, worried that he would be a burden.

"I don't want to be a burdensome person," he had told Hamm. "I want to be as independent as possible."

Today, he keeps to a familiar route, collecting cans in Silver Lake and Los Feliz to earn \$15-\$20 a day.

After seven years of living on the street, Hamm met Miyata in 2015. Hamm had seen Miyata around the neighborhood for some-

time, wondering what his story was like, where he came from and curious about his age. In a chance encounter, Miyata was picking cans from Hamm's recycling bins, and the two struck up a conversation.

At first, the language barrier proved difficult, and Hamm sought help from the Little Tokyo Service Center. A caseworker from the center began interviews, and Hamm later met families that regularly helped Miyata out with either food or money.

"He's a good man," told a friend of Miyata to Hamm.

During their regular interviews, Hamm learned that Miyata was the same age as his own grandfather. "They're the same age, and I couldn't imagine my grandfather being on the street. I felt like I had to do something."

The parallels don't stop at age, but also their place in history, particularly World War II. Hamm's grandfather lied about his age, telling Navy recruiters he was 16 and was on his way to Japan before the war ended. Like Hamm's grandfather, Miyata was in the Imperial Japanese Army at a training camp but never saw combat as the war ended before his training was completed.

Today, Hamm and Miyata's relationship is friendly and warm. They try and keep in regular contact, especially after the video's release.

"I try to be culturally respectful because I'm treading a line, ensuring that I'm not invading his privacy," Hamm said. The film took more than five interviews with Miyata along with others, involving his friends and community members familiar with Miyata's daily route about the neighborhood.

"We're getting him into temporary housing and starting a crowd funding campaign to help him return to Japan," wrote Hamm on reddit. However, Miyata's health has significantly declined over the years due to a bad leg and other complications.

Hamm spent nearly \$2,000 out of pocket to produce the short documentary, hiring a translator and covering other expenses along the way.

More than \$5,000 out of \$50,000 has been raised in an effort to place Miyata in a permanent living situation. It is his wish also to return to Japan and be reunited with his family. The fund, when placed into a trust for Miyata, would need to support him for the next five to 10 years.

"It's still probably not enough," admitted Hamm.

The campaign has partnered with the Integrated Recovery Network, a homeless advocacy group in Los Angeles that has paid to have Miyata off the street for one month as of Jan. 7. Thereafter, his living situation is uncertain.

"Realistically, assuming he's got another 10 years in him, which I think he could," Hamm added. Miyata would need basic room and board during his time here as social services in Japan works to establish him since he is not an American citizen.

"His only remaining family is a daughter, from what I can gather," Hamm said about Miyata, "since he won't speak about his family much. He's not super close to [her], at least not to the point that he wants to burden her with his care." Hamm adds that she

herself might be struggling financially.

In Miyata's word "to young people, I would say to be serious and work hard. Don't forget to think about retirement and so on."

But for Miyata, saving wasn't an option when living from paycheck to paycheck. His story is indeed unusual in the usual American homeless narrative.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services defines a homeless individual as "someone who lacks permanent housing, who may live on the street, shelter, mission, single-room facilities, abandoned building or vehicle."

There were 610,042 homeless persons according to a survey by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in 2010. Nearly 2 percent of homeless people are Asian American, according to the National Coalition for the Homeless. However, the number is incredibly misleading.

In a report by the Institute for Children, Poverty and Homelessness, Asian families were greatly underrepresented in homelessness statistics when compared to the national figures.

Ed Jew, a former San Francisco Supervisor, explained that perhaps the official estimate is probably lower because of cultural attitudes toward homelessness, a matter of saving face. A similar argument was raised by ICPH about self-reporting among Asian households. In fact, there is little research about Asian homelessness.

In 2010, a study from Multnomah County,

Ore., found that the community had twice the rate of Asian family members in emergency shelter than the general population. The study was part of the Coalition of Communities of Color and Portland State University. Researchers found that the county's Asian population had lower education attainment, held low-skilled jobs and had higher rates of poverty compared to whites.

"I think we need to work toward a society that doesn't allow something like this to happen. Where people aren't treated as disposable and worthless," wrote Hamm.

Such an oversight on Asian and Asian American homeless is in large part due to a lack of reporting, research and awareness. Resources today for Asian American homeless families are limited. Even San Francisco's Chinatown is facing a crisis within the city, as it currently has more than 6,000 homeless Chinese living on the streets.

For Miyata, being a burden is the last thing he wants.

"There's not that many Japanese homeless people are there?" he asks the camera in the film's final minutes. Perhaps not, but his sentiment and attitude toward life is difficult to ignore.

"It is humbling to think about sometimes how fortunate we are in the USA," Hamm writes. "But also how fragile our economic stability can actually be."

*Miyata's crowd funding campaign is open until March 1 on [www.elderstreets.org/campaign/87-year-old-homeless-man/](http://www.elderstreets.org/campaign/87-year-old-homeless-man/).*



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# REIMAGINE EVERYTHING

## WE ALL OWN IT . . .

By Ron Mori

**H**i — “Reimagine Everything” is a column that will appear in every issue of the *Pacific Citizen*. I hope you enjoy it!

Why an ongoing column directed to reimagining everything from someone 54, and who works for AARP? My best response is why not, as I own my age and all that goes along with false assumptions about aging and standing between finding my real possibilities. Almost 20 years have passed since AARP sent its old name — the American Association of Retired Persons — out to pasture because so many of our members are still part of the workforce or starting new chapters in their working lives.

People are living longer, reimagining their life and having a second or third career. Multigenerational households are becoming more common, and modern medicine and technology if adopted can improve our collective quality of life no matter your age. Yes, the perception of what it means to be 50 and older in this country has changed. It's a time when we can proudly own our own age and offer the life lessons we've learned to the next generations, hopefully using new technologies to stay connected and help simplify our lives.

I'll be the first one to say that I'm a “tweener,” meaning that I'm open to new technology and ideas but not as comfortable

as younger people to embrace technology. Some have called me “old school” or “grandpa,” but it's a “me thing,” and I'm slow to adopt. A great example is social media, a great way to shop and stay connected. I do some shopping, banking and communication with my daughter in college, but I still haven't adopted social media like Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, etc.

In fact, I'm afraid of sharing information or pictures under my own name on Facebook. My colleagues all laugh, but it still makes me a bit unsettled to get random “friend requests” via Facebook. I do try out new social media sites that my daughters use, but just when I'm feeling good about the service a new one becomes all the craze. I just can't keep up, so I just use email for my main communications.

However, an AARP article last year talked about not using Gmail, AOL or Yahoo email accounts, which are older, first-generation platforms, and to get a vanity URL, so my emails might eventually come from ron@ronmori.com. I'm not sure I'm ready for that yet, even though I realize it's probably inevitable.

In future columns, I will share useful information on a wide range of topics important to not only people 50-plus, but information for anyone of any age. I only ask that you share my factoids, tips or tools within your network if you

find them helpful.

AARP is a very unique nonprofit. We are a social mission-driven organization with more than 38 million members — and of course, valuable discounts for members, which seem to be what most people focus on when they hear “AARP.”

But AARP is also a treasure trove of information, tools and resources for anyone who's 50-plus. Remember, every Baby Boomer is now over 50, and the first wave of Gen-Xers are, too. So, you can reimagine the common stereotype that comes to mind when you hear “AARP.”

We fight for legislation that will help Americans 50-plus. We are bringing issues such as caregiving to the spotlight at the local, state and national levels. We support organizations across the country that work with 50-plus populations, including Asian American and Pacific Islanders. Speaking of which, I'm a member of the Washington, D.C., chapter of JACL, so I'm a supporter of JACL's mission and already work with AAPI communities.

I look forward to writing for you in the *P.C.* — here's to reimagining everything!

*Ron Mori is a board member for the Washington, D.C., JACL chapter, and manager of community, states and national affairs — multicultural leadership for AARP.*

# THE 47TH ANNUAL MANZANAR PILGRIMAGE SET FOR APRIL 30

**LOS ANGELES** — “Kodomo No Tame Ni: For the Sake of the Children/Liberty and Justice for All” is the theme of the 47th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage, sponsored by the Manzanar Committee, which will be held on April 30 at the Manzanar National Historic Site.

Each year, more than 1,000 people from all walks of life attend the Manzanar Pilgrimage, including students, teachers, community members, clergy and former incarcerated. Planning is under way for the afternoon event as well as for the Manzanar at Dusk program, scheduled that same evening.

Manzanar at Dusk is co-sponsored by the Nikkei Student Unions at California State University, Long Beach; California State Polytechnic University, Pomona; the University of California, Los Angeles; and the University of California, San Diego.

Through a creative presentation, small group discussions and an open mic session, Manzanar at Dusk participants will have the opportunity to learn about the experiences of those incarcerated in the camps. Participants will also interact with former incarcerated in attendance to hear their personal stories, share their own experiences and discuss the relevance of the concentration camp experience to present-day events and issues.

Pilgrimage participants are advised to bring their own lunch, drinks and snacks, as there are no facilities to purchase food at the Manzanar National Historic Site (restaurants and fast-food outlets are located in Lone Pine and Independence, which are nearby). Water will be provided at the site.

Both the Manzanar Pilgrimage and the Manzanar at Dusk programs are free and open to the public.

The Manzanar Committee is dedicated to educating and raising public awareness about the incarceration and violation of civil rights of persons of Japanese ancestry during World War II and to the continuing struggle of all peoples when Constitutional rights are in danger.

Photo: Mark Kirchner. © 2012 Manzanar Committee. All rights reserved.



The traditional role call of camps is an annual tradition during the Manzanar Pilgrimage.

A nonprofit organization that has sponsored the annual Manzanar Pilgrimage since 1969, along with other educational programs, the Manzanar Committee has also played a key role in the establishment and continued development of the Manzanar National Historic Site.

The Manzanar Pilgrimage will begin at Noon, and the Manzanar at Dusk program will commence from 5-8 p.m.

Further details about the Pilgrimage and the Manzanar at Dusk program, including bus transportation from the

Los Angeles area, will be announced at a later date.

The Manzanar National Historic Site is located on U.S. Highway 395 in California's Owens Valley, between the towns of Lone Pine and Independence, approximately 230 miles North of Los Angeles.

*For more information about the Manzanar Pilgrimage, call (323) 662-5102 or e-mail 47thpilgrimage@manzanarcommittee.org.*



# OREGONIAN MIN YASUI'S PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM TO BE DISPLAYED IN FEBRUARY

The award, given posthumously by President Barack Obama to the late civil rights activist, will be on display in Salem and Portland.



Min Yasui's (pictured) medal was put on display at the Oregon State Capitol to commemorate the opening of the 2016 Legislative Session.

and spent nine months in solitary confinement during the subsequent legal battle. In 1943, the Supreme Court upheld the military curfew order."

During the awards presentation, President Obama said, "Today, Min's legacy has never been more important. It is a call to our national conscience, a reminder of our enduring obligation to be the land of the free and the home of the brave, an America worthy of his sacrifices."

Yasui is the first Japanese American to graduate from the University of Oregon School of Law and the first to become a member of the Oregon Bar. He was born in Hood River in 1916, and he made national history by challenging the constitutionality of the military curfew imposed on Japanese American citizens in World War II.

Following the signing of Executive Order 9066 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on Feb. 19, 1942, the military imposed a curfew that ordered all German nationals, Italian nationals and persons of Japanese ancestry to remain in their homes between the hours of 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. Yasui believed that the military orders were unconstitutional as applied to U.S. citizens and that the constitutional rights of Japanese Americans would be upheld by the courts.

On March 28, 1942, he walked the streets of Portland to intentionally violate the military curfew, which eventually led to his arrest and trial. He was sentenced to one year in prison and a fine of \$5,000. Yasui appealed his case. He spent nine months in solitary confinement at the Multnomah County Jail as his case wound its way from the lower courts to the U.S. Supreme Court, which in June 1943 ruled that while Yasui did not lose his U.S. citizenship, his rights could be overridden — based on race — in time of war. Yasui was sent to the Minidoka Relocation Center in Idaho, where he remained incarcerated until mid-1944.

In 1981, Yasui was named chair of the Japanese American Citizens League committee on the wrongful imprisonment of Japanese Americans in World War II.

He successfully filed appeals to the district court to vacate his conviction,

but he also requested that the court recognize that the incarceration of 120,000 persons because of their Japanese ancestry was unconstitutional. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the appeal was moot, affirmed the motion to dismiss and dashed the hopes of many. The Yasui case was over.

Yasui died on Nov. 12, 1986, before the Supreme Court heard his case. His final return to Oregon occurred 40 years after he had left, when his ashes were buried beneath a pair of giant cedars in Hood River.

"It was my belief," Yasui once said, "that no military authority has the right to subject any United States citizen to any requirement that does not equally apply to all other U.S. citizens. If we believe in America, if we believe in equality and democracy, if we believe in law and justice, then each of us, when we see or believe errors are being made, has an obligation to make every effort to correct them."

In addition to displaying Yasui's Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Oregon Historical Society also contains extensive manuscripts and artifacts from the Yasui family. Items from the collection will accompany the display of the medal at the OHS.

For more than a century, the Oregon His-



The Presidential Medal of Freedom

torical Society has served as the state's collective memory, preserving a vast collection of artifacts, photographs, maps, manuscript materials, books, films and oral histories.

The Oregon Historical Society's museum is located at 1200 S.W. Park Ave. in Portland. It is open daily from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and Noon-5 p.m. on Sundays. The research library is open on Tuesdays from 1-5 p.m. and Wednesday-Saturday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission is free every day to members and Multnomah County residents; general admission is \$11 and includes access to both the museum and library.

— Additional reporting by Peggy Nagae

PORTLAND, ORE. — The Presidential Medal of Freedom, posthumously awarded to Oregonian Minoru Yasui (1916-86) by President Barack Obama at a White House ceremony on Nov. 24, 2015, will be on display in both Salem and Portland this month.

The Oregon Historical Society is sponsoring the exhibit, in partnership with the Minoru Yasui Tribute Committee and the Oregon Nikkei Endowment.

To kick off the exhibit, the medal was put on display at the Oregon State Capitol on Feb. 1 to commemorate the opening of the 2016 Legislative Session.

From Feb. 2-19, the medal will then be on exhibit at the Oregon Historical Society in Portland.

"Minoru Yasui was truly one of Oregon's most courageous and historic figures," said OHS Executive Director Kerry Tymchuk. "The Presidential Medal of Freedom is a fitting tribute to his remarkable life and legacy, and we are honored that the Yasui family is allowing us to share it with the public."

Created through an Executive Order signed by President John F. Kennedy in 1963, the Presidential Medal of Freedom is bestowed by the president of the United States and is the country's highest civilian award. Yasui, a Hood River native, is the first Oregonian to receive this prestigious honor.

In announcing Yasui's selection, the White House Press Office stated, "Minoru Yasui was a civil and human rights leader known for his continuous defense of the ideals of democracy embodied in our Constitution. Yasui challenged the constitutionality of a military curfew ordered during World War II on the grounds of racial discrimination,

## Polaris Tours 2016 Schedule

Apr. 03 – Apr. 12	Spring Japan: "Hiroshima, Miyajima, Himeji, Kyoto, Inuyama, Hakone, Tokyo"
Apr. 15 – Apr. 24	Paris, Champagne & The French Countryside: Paris, Reims, Colmar, Avignon, Marseilles"
Apr. 24 – May 06	South Korea (East Coast): "Seoul, Jeju, Busan, Gyeongju, Seorak, Pyeongchang"
May 08 – May 22	Bikkuri #1 with Ken: "Misawa, Oriwase Valley, Atsumi Onsen, Kaminoyama Onsen"
May 15 – May 26	German Highlights: "Frankfurt, Cologne, Dusseldorf, Berlin, Munich, Oberammergau"
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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A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

# CALENDAR

## NCWNP

**Asia Pacific Career and Networking Forum**  
**San Francisco, CA**  
**Feb. 17; 4:30-7:30 p.m.**  
**University of San Francisco,**  
**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. The organizations hope to help the art community grow and create connections. Attendees expected are the Asia Foundation, Center for Asian American Media, Hyphen Magazine and many others.  
**Info: Visit [www.usfca.edu](http://www.usfca.edu) or call (415) 422-5101.**

**2016 Films of Remembrance**  
**San Francisco, CA**  
**New People Cinema**  
**1746 Post St.**

The Nichi Bei Foundation presents the fifth annual Films of Remembrance, a one-day film event held in conjunction with the Day of Remembrance. The day is dedicated to commemorating the signing of Executive Order 9066, which forcibly removed 120,000 persons of Japanese American ancestry into American concentration camps during World War II.  
**Info: Visit [www.nichibei.org](http://www.nichibei.org).**

**California Historical Society's Day of Remembrance**  
**San Francisco, CA**  
**Feb. 23; 7-10 p.m.**  
**California Historical Society**  
**678 Mission St.**  
**Price: Tickets \$6.75-\$11.54**

A program commemorating the Day of Remembrance, the anniversary of President Roosevelt's 1942 Executive Order 9066, will be shared and discussed. The speakers for the event had family members incarcerated at Tanforan or Topaz internment camps. They will share their personal stories and current work related to this time in U.S. history. This event is in partnership with the Topaz Museum in Delta, Utah.  
**Info: Visit [www.californiahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.californiahistoricalsociety.org) or call (415) 357-1848.**

**California Legacy Voice Network: JAMsj Workshops**  
**San Jose, CA**  
**March 12; 9 a.m.**  
**Japanese American Museum of San Jose**  
**535 N. Fifth St.**  
 The California Legacy Voice Network has scheduled

professional workshops for teachers and administrators. A special session will be held with guest speaker Karen Korematsu. Korematsu will address four critical areas: California assembly centers, the Japanese American internment, Fred Korematsu's story and the family stories of local Legacy Voices. Preregistration is due March 4.  
**Info: Call Shirley Ota or Judy Tokubo at (408) 294-3138 or email [info@jamsj.org](mailto:info@jamsj.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. Professor Lopez-Calvo will share his research and personal insights into the international case study of Seichi Higashide, a Japanese Peruvian who devoted his life to redress from the American Government. UC Merced will also reveal the Yamato Colony Digital Collection Pilot Project, which is a partnership between Livingston-Merced JACL and UC Merced's Center for Humanities and Library.  
**Info: Contact Janet at [janetf127@gmail.com](mailto:janetf127@gmail.com) or call (209) 631-1933.**

## PSW

**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 Day of Remembrance luncheon. Keynote speaker Noriko Sanefuji, assistant curator at the Smithsonian Institution, will make a presentation on the museum's new exhibition that will commemorate the 75th anniversary of Executive Order 9066, which authorized the World War II incarceration of 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry.  
**Info: Email [tsnishi@aol.com](mailto:tsnishi@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 hosts this festival to promote underrecognized Asians and Asian Americans working in the film industry. The event will showcase nearly 100 of the best short films submitted involving Asian and Asian Americans in many different roles.  
**Info: Email [info@asiansonfilm.com](mailto: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 address issues facing the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities. Members will have the opportunity to learn about common issues and opportunities from community experts and leaders. Multiple panel discussions, skill- and capacity-building trainings and networking receptions are included.  
**Info: Email [conference@advancingjustice.org](mailto:conference@advancingjustice.org).**

## 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 will host the Lunar New Year Gala, marking the Year of the Monkey. This dinner celebration will bring together hundreds of Asian American community leaders to ring in the new year.  
**Info: Email [keng@csmius.com](mailto:keng@csmius.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 this academy that is dedicated to providing programs for team

building, leadership development and networking. The academy will also discuss key issues that will aid the NAAAP.  
**Info: Visit [www.naaap.org](http://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." The program will also include an in-depth discussion of the struggle and justice of the community. The Chicago Japanese American Council, Chicago Japanese American Historical Society, JACL Chicago Chapter, Japanese American Service Committee and the Japanese Mutual Aid Society of Chicago sponsor the event.  
**Info: Call (773) 273-0097.**

## 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. is hosting this annual convention and trade show that will offer educational programs and speaker presentations. The association hopes to give visitors a better view of the industry and provide information on the latest in products and services.  
**Info: Email [info@aahoa.com](mailto:info@aahoa.com) or call (404) 816-5759.**

## EDC

**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 that will provide space for artists to engage with community members and share narratives on their experiences. Scheduled panelists 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 Attorney Gen. Mark Herrig. The summit's theme, "Moving Forward," hopes to continue progress in the Asian business landscape.  
**Info: Call (804) 344-1540.**

**Studio Ghibli Film Showing**  
**Cambridge, MA**  
**Feb. 26**  
**Kendall Square Cinema**  
**1 Kendall Square**  
 Studio Ghibli's "Only Yesterday" will screen at the Kendall Square Cinema for one week. Written and directed by Studio Ghibli co-founder Isao Takahata ("The Tale of the Princess Kaguya"), "Only Yesterday" is set in 1982 and tells the story of 27-year-old Taeko, who is unmarried and lives in Tokyo.  
**Info: Visit [www.landmarktheatres.com/Boston](http://www.landmarktheatres.com/Boston).**

**Day of Remembrance: Kimi Maeda's 'Bend'**  
**Brookline, MA**  
**Feb. 26-27; 8 p.m.**  
**Puppet Showplace Theater**  
**32 Station St.**  
**Price: Adult \$15**  
 NE JACL's Day of Remembrance will host the performance and reception of Kimi Maeda's "Bend." Maeda is a theater artist that uses sand, shadow and projection to tell stories. "Bend" tells the true story of two Japanese American men who were incarcerated during World War II. Many of Maeda's performances deal with memory, home and trans-cultural identity.  
**Info: Visit <http://www.puppetshowplace.org/bend>.** ■

## ADVERTISE HERE

Events in the calendar section are listed based on space availability. Place a 'Spotlight' ad with photos of your event for maximum exposure.  
**FOR MORE INFO:**  
**[tiffany@pacificcitizen.org](mailto:tiffany@pacificcitizen.org)**  
**(213) 620-1767**



# IN MEMORIAM

**Baba, Tomiko, 89,** Los Angeles, CA; Jan. 1; she was predeceased by her husband, Hiroshi Baba; she is survived by her daughters, Joyce (Jeff Duke) and Grace (George) Baba-Kopchok; sister, Shizuko Fujimura; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 1.

**Kato, Shohichi, 90,** Gardena, CA; Jan. 4; he was predeceased by his wife, Hisako; brothers, Stanley, George and Jerry; sister, Yayoi; he is survived by his daughter, Kathy (Kirk) Miya; daughter, Susan Kato; sister, Misuko Inouye; gc: 2.

**Kikuchi, David, 58,** Camarillo, CA; he was predeceased by his mother, Tama Kikuchi; he is survived by his wife, Karen Kikuchi; sons, Daniel and John Kikuchi; father, Francis Kikuchi; siblings, Thomas (Stephanie) Kikuchi, Joyce (Stanley) Sumi, Linda (Andrew) Shimoda and Susan (Brian) Kanegawa; he is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives.

**Kiuchi, Toshiko, 89,** Monterey Park, CA; Jan. 2; she is survived by her loving daughter, Tracy Kiuchi; sister, Fumiko Nakamura; nephews, Kazuo Nakamura and Roy (Jean) Matsunaga; nieces, Ryuko (Shigeji) Kawa and Mayumi (Glenn) Shiira; she is also survived by other relatives.

**Hashida, Paul Masashi, 88,** Glendale, CA; Jan. 2; he is survived by his nephew, Mark (Dema) Tajiri; niece, Susan Tajiri.

**Hata, Shiz, 88,** Ontario, OR; Nov. 29; she was incarcerated at Gila River; she is survived by her husband, Seiji.

**Kame, Robert Satoru, 83,** Los Angeles, CA; Jan. 4; he was a Korean War veteran; he is survived by his brothers, Don Eishiro (Pyong Cho) and Ralph Masami Kame; sister, Michiko (Pete) Furuta; sister-in-law, Kazie Kame; he is also

survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives.

**Kajihara, Bill Kenichi, 76,** Watsonville, CA; Nov. 29; he was incarcerated at Poston; he was predeceased by his siblings, Takeshi, Teruko, Eiji and Setsuko; he is survived by his daughter, Kimberly Kajihara (Tod), daughter-in-law, Jee Eun; siblings, Yasuko (Shig) Eddow, Don Kajihara (Robin), Sandra (Don) Toshii and Bob (Suzu) Kajihara; gc: 3.

**Katayama, Charlie Tatsuo, 87,** Riverside, CA; he was predeceased by his first wife, Joan; second wife, Miyuki; sister, Jane Watanabe; brother, Joe Katayama; he is survived by his sons, Brian (Renee) and Dean (Jill) Katayama; daughter, Ako (Dale) Murphy; sister, Yo (Dick) Miyoshi; brother, Mack Katayama; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2.

**Kasai, Taro, 93,** Gardena, CA; Jan. 9; he is survived by his wife, Fumiko; children, Jolene, Douglas and Dave (Patti) Kasai; sister, Midori Yoshimura; gc: 2.

**Lee, Kikuko, 90,** Gardena, CA; Jan. 9; she is survived by her daughter, Barbara (Wayne) Hirabayashi; sons, William "Bo" (Kathy) and Larry (Debbi) Lee; gc: 5; ggc: 2.

**Maeda, Michael George, 65,** Ontario, OR; Jan. 13; he is survived by his wife, Juanita Chavez; mother, Kay Maeda; children, Michael, Kristia, Andrew and Max; siblings, Marie (Greg) Ruhland, Bob (Leslie Maeda), Cathy (Roger) Yasuda, Tom (Karen Swan), John (Lisa) and David (Debra Thompson); aunt, Sachi Maeda; cousins, Frank, Dick, Gay, Donna, Lonnie, Dan and Joanne; gc: 1.

**Matsumoto, Hiroshi Charles, 99,** Hacienda Heights, CA; he is survived by his sons, Masuo Howard (Masako), Nobuo Thomas (Yoshie),

Masami Brian (Lynn) and Kiyoshi Fred (Marlee) Matsumoto; cousin, Shigeo (Eiko) Takeyasu; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

**Nakagawa, Helen Yaeko, 89,** Temple City, CA; Jan. 30; she is survived by her son, Wayne Nakagawa; daughter, Janet (Kent) Miyamoto; gc: 2.

**Nakagawa, Sam Isamu, 95,** Irvine, CA; Jan. 1; he is survived by his sons, Derek (Caroline), Bryan (Candice) and Kevin (Eileen) Nakagawa; gc: 6; ggc: 2.

**Nakatani, Yachiyo, 96,** Costa Mesa, CA; Jan. 1; she was incarcerated in Tule Lake; she was predeceased by her husband, David Kiyoshi Nakatani; she is survived by her children, June Kim, Betty Nakatani, Nancy Kunst and Glenn (Jean) Nakatani; gc: 7; ggc: 6.

**Nerio, Fujie, 95,** Chino, CA; Jan. 18; she is survived by her children, Katsuji (Satomi) Nerio, Masako (Fujiya) Yoshimura; Yoko Saxon and Joe Y. Nerio; gc: 8; ggc: 8.

**Nishida, Shiro, 89,** Torrance, CA; he is survived by his wife, Atsuko; children, Yuko (Paul) Chan, Hitomi (Glenn) Nishinaka, Norikazu (Tami) Nishida and Takashi (Kris) Nishida; he is also survived by other relatives and friends; gc: 13.

**Oda, Kazumi, 96,** Gresham, OR; Jan. 7; he was a WWII 442nd RCT veteran; he was predeceased by his wife, Leiko; stepson, William Lee Nakamura; brother, Tosh

Oda; brother-in-law, Art Higashi; he is survived by his son, Ronald Lee Oda; sister, Miki Higashi; sister-in-law, Tamiko Nakamura.

**Ogawa, Mosanori 'Mosa,' 94,** Boise, ID; Jan. 27; he was a WWII Army veteran who served in the 515 Paratroops Infantry; he is survived by his wife, Judi Ogawa; children, Ed, Don, Jeff Zmuda (Cheryl), June, Kapri Zmuda and Wendi Zmuda-Scott; brothers, Tak, Tom and Ken (Yuki); sister-in-law, Ida Ogawa, in-laws, Gene and Phyllis Pullman, Herm and Jan Pullman, Kathe and Dave Spangenberg; gc: 8; ggc: 6.

**Osumi, Joan Yuriko, 58,** Placentia, CA; Jan. 1; she is survived by her siblings, Karen M. (Mark) Hoffman and Dennis T. Osumi.

**Sakamoto, Frank, 90,** Denver, CO; Dec. 12; he was incarcerated at Tulare and Gila River camps; he was president of the Chicago JACL Chapter and JACL Midwest Governor; he is survived by his wife, Toshiko; son, Randall (Tomoko) and Glenn David (Christine Darr); sister, Mari Sakamoto; he is also survived by other family and friends; gc: 3.

**Siu, Donald Edward, 65,** Glendale, CA; Jan. 20; he is survived by his mother, Virginia Siu; brothers, Michael and Wayne.

**Tanaka, Gus, 92,** Ontario, OR; Dec. 14; he was a U.S. Army veteran; he is survived by his wife, Teruko "Teddy"; children, Maja (Cordel Berge), John (Ann) Tanaka and Susie

(Larry Nielson); brother, Karl; gc: 5.

**Tanaka, Sally Sadaye, 95,** Monterey Park, CA; Jan. 1; she was predeceased by her husband, Bob Tanaka; she is survived by her daughter, Karen Tanaka; she is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives.

**Tsutsui, Beatrice Sumiko, 72,** Montebello, CA; Jan. 2; she is survived by her husband, Takashi Tsutsui; daughter, Jill Yoshiko (Dean) Terada; sisters, Sadako Hashimoto, Kazue (Ronald) Tsukayama and Hiroko Gokan; brother, Asami (Lei) Kaya; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

**Ujiye, Frank H., 94,** Los Angeles, CA; Jan. 15; he was incarcerated at Heart Mountain; he is survived by his wife, Laura; sons, Cary and David (Taryn); gc: 2.

**Umezawa, Grace Hideko, 94,** Sherman Oaks, CA; Jan. 16; she is survived by her brother, George; sister, Dorothy; step-son, Michael; she is also survived by 14 nieces and nephews; gc: 2.


**Urashima, Mary Kimiyo, 88,** Laguna Woods, CA; Jan. 9; she is survived by her husband, Harold Hideto; daughter, Colette Urashima (Glen) Nagami; gc: 1; ggc: 1.

**Ushiyama, June Fujiko, 86,** Van Nuys, CA; Jan. 15; she was incarcerated at Rohwer; she is survived by her sons, Randall Ushiyama and Garrett (Diana) Ushiyama; daughter, Cindy Ushiyama (Robert Hanson); gc: 2. ■

## 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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## A TRIBUTE TO CHALLENGER'S ELLISON S. ONIZUKA

Los Angeles' Little Tokyo paid tribute to fallen U.S. astronaut Lt. Col. Ellison S. Onizuka on the 30th anniversary of the Challenger space disaster on Jan. 28, 1986.

Onizuka, who was serving onboard as a mission specialist, perished when the Challenger exploded minutes into its mission, killing all seven crewmembers, including Christa McAuliffe, a high school teacher.

Onizuka became the first Asian American and first person of Japanese ancestry to reach space after he successfully flew onboard Space Shuttle Discovery in 1985.

In December, it was announced that the Astronaut Ellison S. Onizuka Space Center, located inside Kona International Airport, will be closing at the end of March after 30 years of business. The center will be replaced by a new gateway to an airport renovation.

The center features displays of space shuttle missions, lunar landers, videos from inside the International Space Station as well as memorabilia from Onizuka's life.

Onizuka's brother, Claude, who is chairman of the board, said that the center has



PHOTO: SUSAN YOKOYAMA

welcomed nearly 22,000 visitors each year.

After much consideration, the board decided it did not have the funds to afford a new building.

## BRIDGES >> continued from page 3



PHOTO: GIL ASAKAWA

Gil Asakawa was among a group of participants that took part in the annual Martin Luther King Marade (march and parade). The banner incited conversations among bystanders, and groups of Muslims and Jews even joined the group during the event.

and groups of Muslims and Jews joined our group. I'm going to cover this topic at the Mile High JACL's annual Day of Remembrance event (which marks the day that President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, which paved the way for the concentration camps) with a presentation about anti-Asian movements and JA incarceration followed by a panel discussion with JAs, Muslims and Sikhs.

I'm glad that once again, JACL was among the AAPI organizations that made a public announcement supporting the Muslim com-

munity late last year. I urge Japanese Americans, who know too well the sting of decades of hate crimes and racism, to reach out to the Muslims where you live and plan events to help introduce them to people who only see them through the filter of fear and prejudice.

*Gil Asakawa is a P.C. Editorial Board member and former Board Chair. He is AARP's AAPI Marketing Communications Consultant, and he blogs at [www.nikkeiview.com](http://www.nikkeiview.com). A new revised edition of his book, "Being Japanese American," was published in August by Stone Bridge Press.*

## PAUL TERASAKI REMEMBERED

Renowned scientist, activist and community leader Dr. Paul Ichiro Terasaki died Jan. 25 at the age of 86. Terasaki and his family were incarcerated for three years at Gila River during World War II; he later went on to become a pioneer in organ transplant methods.



Active in the Japanese American community, Terasaki sponsored several student educational trips to Japan. Throughout the years, he was also involved with the Japanese American National Museum, the U.S.-Japan Council and the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center.

His experiences during camp remained with him throughout his career. Shortly after the war, Terasaki was admitted to the University of Illinois at Navy Pier as a premed student. In 1948, he was accepted to the University of California, Los Angeles. During his time at UCLA, Terasaki earned three degrees and received a postdoctoral fellowship in London, where he worked under Sir Peter Medawar, a Nobel Prize winner. In the years following, Terasaki also won the prestigious Medawar Prize, named after his mentor, from the Transplantation Society.

In 1969, Terasaki officially established the UCLA Tissue Typing Laboratory, where he worked until his retirement in 1999. He also became a respected researcher, publishing more than 900 scien-

tific articles. Following his retirement, he continued in medicine, supporting and creating the Terasaki Foundation Laboratory, which is dedicated to researching organ transplant rejections and failures.

In addition to his work in science and medicine, Terasaki donated more than \$58 million to UCLA; he began with a \$10 contribution in 1972. The donations helped

develop the Terasaki Life Science Building and the Paul I. Terasaki Chair in Surgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA. Other contributions have helped the UCLA International Institute, Paul I. and Hisako Center for Japanese Study and supported faculty chairs in U.S.-Japan relations.

As a champion to the community, Terasaki's ground-breaking work changed transplant medicine and opened opportunities for many in the Japanese American community.

He is survived by his wife, Hisako; children, Mark, Keith (Cecilia), Taiji (Naoko) and Emiko (Daniel) Cook; grandchildren, Mayumi, Paul, Kazuo, Susie, Kenta and Miya; and brother, Richard Terasaki.

*A funeral service was held on Feb. 6 at First United Methodist Church of Santa Monica in Santa Monica, Calif. An additional memorial service is scheduled to take place at UCLA's Royce Hall on March 6 at 11 a.m.*

## PERSPECTIVE >> continued from page 3

Movies and TV shows create well-worn narratives that, like gullies directing run-away water, we are only too eager to fall into. How many teenagers (or adults, for that matter) gave up on a relationship because it wasn't quite "Notebook"/"The Fault in Our Stars" level?

Furthermore, we tend to see our lives as one great drama being performed for an invisible audience. We live out the fantasies taken from our favorite movies and TV shows hoping our invisible audience is as awed and impressed as we were when we first saw the scene played out onscreen. As such, we are not happy in the act itself, but rather in being observed in the act.

Think, for a moment, about something as simple and primeval as fashion. When you look in the mirror and decide you rather like what you're wearing, are you looking at yourself from your own perspective, or from an imaginary panel of judges external from your own person?

The pride and confidence we feel when we're dressed up — is that anything more than the anticipation of approval, praise and envy in the eyes of others? Imagine the rest

of Earth's population was wiped out overnight in some catastrophe, yet you, and only you, survived somehow. Would you bother dressing up? Would you care how you looked? I wouldn't, which tells me that something like fashion offers no happiness intrinsic in the act itself.

It's my belief that mass entertainment encourages us to take a third-person, rather than first-person, perspective toward our lives.

It's as if we're watching ourselves go through our daily routines from a cinematic, external vantage point, rather than experiencing it first hand.

We seek to entertain, move and awe our imaginary audience, but when we manage to do it by re-enacting bits and pieces of the movies dearest to our hearts, the happiness doesn't last — it was never there in the first place, because it was never our own.

*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.*