JACL National Board Approves Proposed 2017-18 Budget.

Oregon Governor Officially Proclaims March 28 as Minoru Yasui Day.
IT’S LONG OVERDUE: ‘THANK YOU’ TO THE PACIFIC CITIZEN TEAM!

The dedicated new staff put in long hours and showed total commitment to publishing the best paper they could under extremely difficult circumstances. Operating expenses have been reduced by 52 percent since 2012, and much thought and discussion has been invested in the well-being and production of the Pacific Citizen.

The 2017-18 JACL budget, approved by the National Board on April 2, 2016, during its quarterly meeting in San Francisco, includes a reduction of the P.C. staff (which currently only has two full-time editorial employees and two part-time employees), as well as the relocation of the Pacific Citizen office from Little Tokyo in Los Angeles to San Francisco.

The team currently staffing the P.C. will not be moving north to San Francisco, where we “enjoy” some of the highest property prices in the country. Our P.C. staffers have families and lives in Los Angeles, and it will be too high a price to make the move to the Bay Area no matter how much they still want to work at the P.C. and continue on what they have started since 2012.

The JACL National Board did not conduct a financial analysis of what such a move would do to the future of the P.C. Moving the office from Los Angeles could well cost JACL thousands in extra costs, and we must remember that without staff, JACL would need to hire a brand-new one — the time and effort needed to do so could mean that we would once again be without the P.C. for months!

The budget will be a main topic of discussion at this year’s July National Convention. It is time to make our voices heard on behalf of the P.C. to help keep the office in Los Angeles and our staff in place. The P.C. has a plan to reduce its deficit, and the Spring Campaign is a huge part of that plan. This year’s goal is to raise $100,000 because these funds go directly toward saving the P.C. funds that the P.C. uses to pay all of its operational costs such as its rent, printing and mailing — everything that keeps your P.C. coming every two weeks.

We owe this team a huge debt of gratitude and must show our support by contributing to their current Spring Campaign! Write to the P.C. and let them know your thoughts on the National Board’s decision and drag out those checkbooks and write a big check to the Pacific Citizen. I guarantee that you’ll feel a lot better after you’ve done that.

Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,
Jim Duff,
P.C. Editorial Board Rep. for NCWNPD

PACIFIC CITIZEN
PACIFIC CITIZEN
PACIFIC CITIZEN
REIMAGINE EVERYTHING

AARP AND DR. PHIL JOIN FORCES TO HELP YOU REIMAGINE YOUR LIFE

By Ron Mori

It really don’t watch much television, but in recent years, I’ve been watching more online streaming content. It’s a sign of the times and a topic to discuss at another time. I catch Dr. Phil from time to time on YouTube. He’s made a career of giving advice to people about how to live better, happier, more fulfilled lives. How can I switch channels when I might learn something?

If you’ve also watched Dr. Phil McGraw over the years giving advice to people so they’ll reflect, evaluate their priorities and then take action to improve their lives, you know he’s all about finding your “authentic self.”

Now, Dr. Phil is collaborating with Life Reimagined, a subsidiary of AARP, to help people connect to their authentic self with a customized, interactive digital platform. Anyone in a life transition — from a new college graduate working to figure out what’s next in life to the more than 70 percent of people aged 45-65 who say they anticipate some sort of life transition within the next two years — will be able to receive guidance from Dr. Phil through personalized exercises to empower their decisions and spark their new life journey.

“For each one of us is made up of a combination of beliefs, facts, opinions and perceptions,” Dr. Phil said when this collaboration was announced. “I believe that becoming more conscious of your own thoughts and behaviors can purposefully and actively create the life experiences you want. The Life Reimagined team has already created an incredible platform, and I am thrilled to bring my brand to their site to help provide an interactive way for people to experience my approach.”

The center of this partnership is an online course and subscription that harnesses key methods and tools from Dr. Phil’s years of experience and expertise to help people find that “authentic self,” and discover every unique skill and ability they have, however deeply buried it might be. A combination of free and paid original content on the platform will immerse users in a series of challenges that include:

• Reflecting on who you are on the inside
• Seeing how much your outside matches the inside
• Identifying what people, events and choices have affected your concept of yourself
• Identifying where you place responsibility
• Listening to the stories you tell yourself — about yourself — and turn negatives into positives
• Finding freedom from past events by working through a five-step action plan

• Preparing yourself for potential saboteurs
• Committing to being your authentic self

This program can help you figure out what’s next in your life and identify what is needed to pursue those goals and dreams.

The information and engaging programs found on Life Reimagined with Dr. Phil will help people come face-to-face with who they truly are and take control of their lives, in a manner that is extremely direct, and plain-talking, just like Dr. Phil himself.

Life Reimagined, which was launched in 2014 by AARP, is a personal guidance system to help people navigate transitions and pursue their goals, dreams and purpose in life; it is already helping over two million people. The new tools provided by Life Reimagined with Dr. Phil just add supercharged wit and wisdom to the program.

For more information, visit www.LifeReimagined.org/DrPhil.

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.

A YONSEI TRANSPLANTED

SECURITY OR LIBERALISM: THE CHOICE IS YOURS

By Matthew Ormseth

The headlines, death tolls and promises to do better are running into one long, bloody blur as yet another attack struck Europe last week. Islamic State affiliates carried out suicide attacks in the subway system and airport of the European Union’s capital, Brussels, killing 31 people and wounding hundreds more.

A cycle is emerging: an attack, followed by a moment of raw horror. Moments of silence are observed, Facebook profile pictures changed in support of the victims. Addresses from heads of states are delivered, invariably condemning facts, opinions and perceptions, “Dr. Phil said when this

It’s a pathetically narrow vision of the world, but one many of us are guilty of. Facebook made the controversial decision to switch on its Safety Check feature during the Paris attacks, allowing users to notify their Facebook friends that they were OK, but the company had declined to activate the feature during a series of bombings in Beirut just a few days earlier, drawing criticism from the victims of Beirut and across the Middle East. The message, they claimed, was clear: Facebook cares more about French lives than Lebanese ones.

But questions of Facebook’s First World learning priorities aside, it’s becoming harder after Paris and Brussels for Western heads of state to mitigate their populations’ fear of the Islamic State and downplay the group’s capabilities to strike places once thought near-unsailable.

The Islamic State, once dismissively referred to by President Obama as Al Qaeda’s “JV team,” has shown a tendency to strike “soft” targets — cafes, bars and concert halls in Paris, metro stations and airport departure halls in Brussels — locales deeply embedded in the concert-goings of ordinary people. While Al Qaeda targeted symbols of political or economic might, the Islamic State has declared war on the quotidian.

Last week’s attacks have generated a fresh wave of anti-Muslim sentiment across Europe and the United States. Presidential hopefuls Donald Trump and Ted Cruz are calling for specific policing of Muslim-predominant neighborhoods, blanket bans on immigration from the Middle East, even the creation of a Muslim-specific database to monitor their communities more closely.

There have been calls to increase security in the areas of airports not off-limits to nonpassengers (like the departure hall targeted in Brussels), and increase security in the public transportation networks of large cities around the world. In the aftermath of any attack, leaders will promise that such attacks will never happen again. This, of course, is an impossible claim to stake, but to promise anything less to a hurt and grieving populace would be to wound them even further.

But as European and American officials re-evaluate their security networks after Brussels, we’ll be forced as a society to take a hard look at our collective priorities, and it is my guess that we’ll be forced to choose between security and liberalism.

In light of Brussels and Paris, I don’t think anyone can deny that the majority of the large-scale attacks in Europe and America are perpetrated by groups espousing radical interpretations of Islam.

From an objective point of view and solely on the basis of national security, it would make statistical sense to monitor members of the Muslim faith more heavily than other groups in a populace; it would allow our security apparatuses to allocate more resources and manpower to surveilling those who share a faith — albeit a wildly different interpretation of that faith — with the perpetrators of most of the world’s recent terrorist attacks.

>> See CHOICE on page 12
STOCKTON JACL INSTALLS NEW FRENCH CAMP CHAPTER OFFICERS

Annual luncheon also honors 2016 Scholarship recipients.

French Camp 2016 scholarship recipients (from left) Kyle Asano, Brett Nakashima and Katelyn Nakamura are pictured with Samuel Liang, chapter vp.

French Camp JACL held its 68th annual installation and New Year’s luncheon at King’s House Restaurant in downtown Stockton, Calif., on March 13. Approximately 40 members and their families attended the event.

Stockton JACL President Aeko Yoshikawa installed the following 2016 slate of French Camp Chapter officers: President Dean Komure, VP Sam Liang, Treasurer Karen Nakamura, Secretary Jeannie Matsumoto, Membership Marc Y Wong, Delegate Alan Nishi and Adviser Katy Komure.

The 2016 Harry and Dorothy Ota Memorial Chapter Scholarship was awarded to Katelyn Kimiko Nakamura, a senior at Lincoln High School. Nakamura is an honors student who serves as the Student Trustee on the Lincoln Unified School District Board, representing more than 9,000 students. She is also the founder and president of the WAVES Club (Worth, Achievement, Volunteering, Empowerment and Success), which advocates women’s empowerment. In addition, she is a four-year varsity player and captain of the tennis team and will achieve four “Commitment to Community” awards for completing 100 community service hours each year. Outside of school, she has served for three years as a Youth Deacon at Calvary Presbyterian Church. Nakamura plans to pursue a degree in human biology at either the University of Southern California, the University of California, Davis, or the University of the Pacific.

The 2016 French Camp Chapter Scholarship was awarded to Kyle Kenichiro Asano, a senior at Fremont High School. An honors student, Asano achieved a near-perfect college entrance exam score. He is highly involved in his high school choir, where he serves as choir section leader, singing club officer and performs solos in concerts and musicals. As a result, he was awarded the William Stretch Award twice for his musical aptitude and peer leadership. In addition, he serves as an officer in the Japanese club and has worked with his team on an advanced 3-D printing technology and modeling. He plans to major in mechanical engineering at Santa Clara University.

The 2016 French Camp Chapter Scholarship was awarded to Brett Nakashima, a senior at Lincoln High. An honors student, Nakashima has excelled in sports and community service. He has earned multiple “Commitment to Community” awards for his volunteer work, including service to Calvary Presbyterian Church. He also serves as vp for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and is a member of the Japanese Club. He has played freshwater and JV basketball and is a three-year member of the varsity golf team. Nakashima plans on majoring in business management at Biola University.

The luncheon concluded with all attendees receiving a raffle prize. The next French Camp JACL event will be its annual picnic with Lodi JACL on June 5 at Mickey Grove Regional Park in Lodi, Calif.

FRENCH CAMP JACL held its 68th annual installation and New Year’s luncheon at King’s House Restaurant in downtown Stockton, Calif., on March 13. Approximately 40 members and their families attended the event.

St. John’s Community Dinner and dance was held on March 12 at the Monte Carlo Resort and Hotel in Las Vegas. Nevada, to benefit the 2016 National Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada, May 18-21.

Mississippi Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith was also featured at the dinner.

Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti was among the featured speakers at the dinner.

APAs in the News/News Bytes

Former Los Angeles Undersheriff Paul Tanaka Convicted of Conspiracy

LOS ANGELES — Former Los Angeles County Undersheriff Paul Tanaka, 57, was convicted April 6 of conspiracy to obstruct justice and obstruction of justice in Los Angeles; he now faces potentially 15 years in federal prison when he is sentenced on June 20.

Tanaka, mayor of Gardena, Calif., was on trial for deliberately impeding a 2011 FBI investigation into allegations of brutality within the jail system. Former Sheriff Lee Baca pleaded guilty to a charge of lying to investigators and awaits sentencing in May.

Jurors spent less than two hours deliberating on the case after hearing more than a week of testimony and evidence. Tanaka’s attorney, Jerome Haim, plans to appeal.

George Hofstetter, president of the Association for Los Angeles Deputy Sheriffs’, said in a statement that the verdict now means that the department can move forward now that past “failed leadership” had been revealed in the courts. “With this verdict, the department is rid of the culture that created the corruption,” he said.

Don Nakanishi, Former UCLA Asian American Studies Director, Passes Away at Age 86

LOS ANGELES — Don Nakanishi, 66, a professor at the University of California, Los Angeles, for 35 years and director of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center for 20 years, passed away March 21.

He is survived by his wife, Dr. Marsha Hirano-Nakanishi, and son, Thomas, who posted the news on Nakanishi’s Facebook page: “We regret to inform you as friends of Don Nakanishi that he passed away this afternoon in Los Angeles. In lieu of flowers, please consider making a contribution to the Don T. Nakanishi Award for Outstanding Engaged Scholarship for Graduate and Undergraduate Students at the UCLA Asian American Studies Center or to the Nakanishi Prize at Yale University.”

No details were given regarding Nakanishi’s cause of death.

Born in East Los Angeles, Nakanishi attended Yale University and Harvard University. He went on to become a noted writer and scholar and is credited with helping to make the UCLA Asian American Studies Center the most prominent program of its kind.

President Barack Obama Nominates Judge Merrick B. Garland to the U.S. Supreme Court as APAs Express Disappointment

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Asian Pacific Americans expressed disappointment after President Barack Obama nominated Judge Merrick B. Garland (pictured, far left) to the U.S. Supreme Court. Sri Srinivasan (pictured, near left) was also on the president’s list and would have become the court’s first Hindu and first Indian American to sit on the nation’s highest court if he had been confirmed by the Senate.

Garland, 63, is currently chief judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. Srinivasan, 49, is also a judge on the Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. If confirmed by the Senate, Garland will occupy the seat left vacant by Judge Antonin Scalia, who passed away unexpectedly in February.

The National Council of Asian Pacific Americans’ Christopher Kang said in a statement, “While we are disappointed that President Obama did not nominate an Asian American today, we stand behind his nominee and are confident that when future Supreme Court vacancies occur, Asian Americans will continue to receive this highest level of consideration and that there will soon be an Asian American Supreme Court Justice.”

Said the API Victory Fund’s Shekar Narasimham, “While we are disappointed that an API was not selected, we are pleased that President Obama strongly considered Judge Sri Srinivasan. The API community wants a seat at the table in every venue and truly believes the bench of qualified API candidates deserve consideration for the very next vacancy.”

Honolulu Mayor Bans Public Travel to North Carolina and Mississippi

HONOLULU — Honolulu Mayor Kirk Caldwell announced April 7 that the city joined a growing list of cities banning nonessential taxpayer-funded travel to North Carolina and Mississippi after the two states passed laws that discriminate against gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people. Mayors from across the nation are forming a group called “Mayors Against Discrimination”; leaders from Honolulu, New York, Philadelphia, Washington, D.C., and Tampa, Fla., are joining in on the effort.

Mississippi recently passed a law allowing religious groups and some private businesses to refuse service to gay couples. The North Carolina law prevents specific anti-discrimination rules for gay and transgender people for public accommodations and restroom use.
JACL NATIONAL BOARD APPROVES BUDGET COMMITTEE’S 2017-18 PROPOSED BUDGET

The organization looks to cut programs and staff in hopes of balancing its finances and erasing its current deficit.

By P.C. Staff

The JACL National Board approved the budget Committee’s 2017-18 proposed biennial budget at its April 2 board meeting in San Francisco in hopes to reconcile the organization’s forecasted $400,000 deficit.

Budget highlights included reducing two national staff FTE equivalents in 2017 and 2018, as well as one FTE equivalent from the Pacific Citizen office. Personnel cuts will reduce national staff FTE by 22 percent and 32 percent for the PC. Such cuts look to decrease personnel hours in order to balance the proposed budget.

VP of Planning and Development and Board Committee Member Chip Lanconie explained, “Yes, it is painful to cut FTE in order to balance. In my opinion, it would be irresponsible to leave them in and not pay them. I’ve been doing this now for eight years, we had a few finance committee meetings of how we’re going to make pay roll. If we don’t take that budget to heart, we will get to the point that yes, we have FTE and filling positions but no, we can’t pay them. That’s a highly irresponsible thing to do.”

Many have wondered how the organization has reached such a large deficit and dwindling membership. As JACL enters an election convention in July, candidates will be faced with the current financial situation and tasked with fundraising solutions.

JACL National President David Lin also explained the proposed budget, sharing with meeting members that “we know we need to balance the budget and no other revenue to draw on. This is our job to try and figure out what other options we have. I think we’ve exhausted expense reduction, and it’s painful we have to reduce FTE.”

The proposed budget also includes closing the Pacific Citizen’s Los Angeles office and moving the remaining two FTE employees to headquarters in San Francisco.

However, a financial estimate and analysis of moving PC’s operations to San Francisco as well as the hiring of a new PC staff was not completed before the decision was determined. It is uncertain at this time what the financial impact might be to JACL as an organization.

“I highly suggest that we revisit other options and find alternative and creative ways to reduce the deficit other than moving PC’s operations,” said Executive Director Allison Haramoto in a statement following the National Board’s decision. “Members might be without the PC again, as it would have to start from scratch once more as it did in 2012.”

The National Council is expected to see the proposed budget within the coming months leading to the convention, which is scheduled for July 13-14 at the Monte Carlo Hotel and Resort in Las Vegas Nev.

This year’s convention will also welcome a new national board. Executive Director Priscilla Ouchida also announced plenaries for the convention, including an AAPA Vote and CoFAX sponsored event geared toward civic engagement.

Ouchida is also looking to include Black Lives Matter as an API civil rights issue for a plenary, an advancing justice workshop and a forum for the National Youth Student Council to discuss civil rights racial healing and racial equality.

Other items from the April meeting include JACL’s position on the U.S. Supreme Court Justice nominations. The board will also look into finding a new Comcast representative, replacing Floyd Mura.

Appointed Legal Counsel Member Brandon Bha also announced that he will no longer serve as legal counsel for JACL.

JACL Responds to Racial Taunts at High School Basketball Game in California

By JACL National Staff

The National Japanese American Citizens League joined with its affiliates, the JACL Northern California Western Nevada Pacific District Council and the JACL Florin Chapter, as well as the Coalition to Support McClatchy Students Against Racism and Bullying in condemning the behavior of some spectators attending a recent basketball game between McClatchy High School and Oak Ridge High School in El Dorado Hills, Calif. During the game, racial taunts could be heard being shouted from the Oak Ridge spectator section including, “Go back to Fiji,” “small eyes” and “why waste.”

As a national civil rights organization, JACL understands the harmful effects of racist behavior. The terms used were not neutral expressions of exasperation. They were terms that were intended to intimidate and intimidate.

These racist terms cannot be stripped from a dark history of discrimination and animosity directed at Asian Americans. Indeed, these are a sad reminder of that past, and beyond being harmful to individuals, the terms designate an entire group.

In our understanding that the superintendent of the El Dorado Union High School District released a statement that included the following, “We are disappointed and saddened by this situation and are working to address the inappropriate behavior.”

Disappointment and sadness only begin to describe the behavior that we believe to be outrageous and unacceptable. National JACL supports the following remedial measures as stipulated by Florin JACL:

1. Holding perpetrators of these actions strictly accountable including a certain public apology by the students.
2. Setting up clear policies, if none exist, covering such racist and bullying starts in school.
3. Firmly enforcing such policies so they have meaning.
4. Steps up diversity training and bullying intervention at Oak Ridge High School plus other schools.
5. Reporting fully to the public by the School and Board on what steps have been taken and will be done to prevent this racist and bullying behavior.
Spam was marketed creatively to American households and offered as a staple for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

Celebrating more than 75 years on a plate, Spam has dominated the world and taken over our dinner plates.

By Tiffany Ujiie, Assistant Editor

Pork shoulder, ham, water, potato starch, sodium nitrite and sugar—these are the ingredients needed to make Spam. This mushy meat square wedged in a tin can packs more than 75 years of history and has carried on an iconic legacy. Much like the hot dog or the pepperoni, Spam has revolutionized American dining since the Hormel Corp. introduced it to grocery shelves in 1937.

Many have since had mixed feelings about the meat wedge. Even Jay Hormel, the son of a wealthy meat-packing house owner from Minnesota, told the New Yorker in a 1945 profile piece that “sometimes I wonder if we should have ...” associated his brand with Spam but would go back by admitting, “Damn it, we eat it in our own home.”

As World War II broke, Spam unleashed across the world and fell into the hands of many American G.I.'s. The can was portable and ready to eat while also giving soldiers much-needed protein for combat. Its shelf life was mysteriously long, but more importantly, it was cheap.

It was despised even by President Dwight D. Eisenhower, as he wrote a letter to Hormel saying: “During World War II, of course, I ate my share of Spam along with millions of other soldiers. I'll even confess to a few unkind remarks about it — uttered during the strain of battle, you understand. But as former, Commander-in-Chief, I believe I can still officially forgive you your only sin: Sending us so much of it.”

In fact, many veterans include Spam in their shared experiences about World War II. It was included in everyday language like “Uncle Spam” when G.I.’s were at food-supply depots, and a G.I. once described Spam as “ham that failed the physical” in a Times article.

“It was the grub G.I.’s loved to grumble about,” wrote Bruce Heydt. “Not because it wasn’t tasty, but because it was always there, sometimes three times a day.”

Hormel admitted to receiving hate mail from American G.I.’s during and after the war. Kept under the “Scumilous File,” Hormel collected the letters of abuse sent to him from around the world. Quoted from the piece, Hormel told the New Yorker, “If they think Spam is terrible, they ought to have eaten the bully beef we had in the last war.”

Which brings many to the playground lunch lore of Spam’s acronym: “Scientifically Processed Animal Matter” or canned cat food.

During the early years of Spam, Hormel’s competitors did use lips, snouts, even ears in their products, giving canned meat a bad rap. However, Hormel saw an opportunity in using pork shoulder, which was an undesirable byproduct of hog butchery as it was extra work to remove the meat. To solve that problem, Hormel invested in a hydraulic press, which squeezed the meat off the bone.
But the secret to Spam’s incredible shelf life is due to its packaging. Food historians point to Julius Zillgitt and his team for discovering how to can pork in a vacuum, preventing the meat from sweating and spoiling inside of the can.

The recipe, however, changed in 2009. Hormel began adding potato starch for a purely aesthetic reason, according to an article in Eater. The jelly layer that forms when the meat cooks would be better taken care of with the starch. The rest is still the same.

In Carolyn Wyman’s “Spam: A Biography,” she wrote “although the pork shoulder in Hormel’s luncheon loafes was filet mignon compared to the lips, tongue and, yes, even pig nose competitors put in the oven they came out with following Hormel’s success, consumers couldn’t tell the difference by their appearance.”

Spam isn’t the most beautiful piece of meat ever offered for dinner to WWII civilians and soldiers. During WWII, Spam’s presence made waves especially in the Pacific, as an entire generation grew up eating it.

As such an essential source of protein, Spam brought creativity to the cooking pan for many Japanese Americans who incorporated it into recipes such as Fried Spam with eggs and rice, Spam fried rice, Spam labo curry rice and more.

Arnold Hiura’s “Rice Bowl Cuisine and Culture,” published in 2009, recorded a countless number of recipes, diving into Spam’s role in Hawaii’s food history.

“Food often played a big role in many of these stories, since it is something that everyone readily identifies with. My friends and I grew up on the plantation and sometimes talked about ‘the old days,’ which included food memories,” Hiura wrote in his book. “More important, we know that food is a reflection of the culture and values that we all identified with.”

Back on the mainland, the 120,000 Japanese and Japanese Americans that were forcibly incarcerated during WWII had their share of Spam, too. In an interview with National Public Radio, Akemi Tamairibuchi spoke about her family’s recipe called the “Wienie Royale.”

Her family was incarcerated at Tule Lake and ate off of tin pie plates in the dreary mess halls. The U.S. Government provided surplus foods like hot dogs, ketchup, kidneys, potatoes and, of course, Spam. What many had at their dinner tables at home were wiped clean during the war and replaced with whatever was available.

Cupped with rice, Spam musubi was born as a portable meal for many Japanese Americans even after the war. As such a dish, Spam is a familiar taste of Japanese Americans from the islands or the mainland.

It’s worth mentioning that past the Hawaiian Islands, places such as Japan and Korea saw Spam as life saving. These countries were facing starvation and found ways to incorporate Spam into traditional cooking. For example, in Korea, budae jjigae or “Army Stew” became a staple dish during the Korean War.

In an article from the New York Times, a high-end department store salesman told the paper, “Here, Spam is a classy gift you can give to people you care about during the holidays.”

Today, Spam is available in 45 countries, including places such as China and the Philippines. Some countries consider Spam as a luxury or even a gift for Lunar New Year.

Many are baffled by Spam’s delicacy status abroad, but “instead of saying, ‘Why is it so odd that people in Hawaii or people in Korea or people in the Philippines eat Spam and like it,’ the question is: Why did it become such a big deal?” asks Laudan in Eater. Perhaps it was because mainland Americans saw themselves as unloading Spam on those people over there.”

Today, Spam is on the rise despite being historically complicated. In an article published by CBS News in 2008, food prices have been increasing faster than they’ve risen since 1990. The price of Spam increased as the economy crippled into recession. Sales jumped 10 percent in 2008, and customers continue to purchase their cans even today.

Spam has also found its way into popular food joints as an added remix with other haute dishes. Celebrated Korean American chef and author Roy Choi, famous for his gourmet food truck Kogi, created a Spam Bánh Mì. The Vietnamese sandwich dish wedged with Spam is one of many dishes served by trendy chefs and highbrow caterers.

In 2009, L.A.’s Bunny Dotoe and Jon Shook created a Spam and foi gras loco moco, grabbing the attention of the New York Times and the New Yorker.

Even a Spam Jam, a festival held in Waialua, celebrates Spam annually with more than 24,000 attendees. Dishes such as Spam and corn chowder or Puerto Rican Spam flan find their ways onto plates and into peoples’ memory. This year’s street fest is set for April 30, and proceeds will benefit the Hawaiian Foodbank, the largest nonprofit organization in Hawaii that feeds the needy.

Lombos is also seeing Spam’s return this year with the arrival of a massive Spam can on wheels. The giant can is set to visit the city April 16 and 17 to celebrate 75 years in the United Kingdom. The tour references Monty Python’s sketch “Spamalot,” a musical based on Arthurian legend that launched in 1975 soon after “Saturday Night Live’s” skit “Spam,” which found humor in finding Spam everywhere on the restaurant’s menu.

The hand-siz ed can even has a place in the Smithsonian Museum as well as its own museum in Spamtown, USA, or better known as Austin, Minn., Hormel’s headquarters.

Such an uptick in Spam’s popularity has certainly grabbed Hormel’s attention. Spam’s flavors now include Black Pepper, Jalapeno, Chorizo, Teriyaki, Turkey, Hickory Smoke, Hot & Spicy and Tabasco sauce.

With so many flavors and in so many dishes, Spam is a fixture of American culture as it is also a familiar taste of painful memories for some.

In Wyman’s book, Hormel spokesperson Meri Harris said, “I always tell people that if there is a full in conversation, all you need do is mention Spam, and everyone will have something to talk about all night long.”

In the article from the New York Times, a high-end department store salesman told the paper, “Here, Spam is a classy gift you can give to people you care about during the holidays.”
FORMER INYO COUNTY SUPERVISOR BOB GRACEY TO RECEIVE 2016 SUE KUNITOMI EMBREY LEGACY AWARD

Update: Bus transportation to the Manzanar Pilgrimage from Los Angeles’ Little Tokyo is still available, but seats are going fast.

LOS ANGELES — The Manzanar Committee announced March 31 that Owens Valley native Robert W. “Bob” Gracey has been chosen as the 2016 recipient of the Sue Kunitomi Embrey Legacy Award.

The award, named after the late chair of the Manzanar Committee who was also one of the founders of the annual Manzanar Pilgrimage and the driving force behind the creation of the Manzanar National Historic Site, will be presented at the 47th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage, scheduled for Noon on April 30 at the Manzanar National Historic Site.

Gracey, 87, born in Kearsarge (formerly a narrow gauge railroad station about five miles east of Independence, Calif.), was elected in late 1992 to the Inyo County Board of Supervisors, representing the Fourth District, which includes the Manzanar National Historic Site.

Gracey served only one term, but he made Manzanar one of his top priorities immediately after taking office, most notably, the monumental tasks of the hazardous materials cleanup of the high school and auditorium, one of the remaining original structures at Manzanar, that had been used by the County as a maintenance facility for decades (now a Visitor’s Center), along with the land exchange process that expanded the Manzanar National Historic Site from its original 500 acres to its current 313 acres.

“Those were two huge tasks that Bob took on right after he took office,” said Gann Matsuda, a member of the Manzanar Committee who also served on the Manzanar National Historic Site Advisory Commission from 1992-2002. “He played a major role in the hazard cleanup of the Manzanar High School auditorium and in the land exchange agreement that not only added an additional 313 acres to the site but also allowed Inyo County to build a new replacement maintenance facility.”

Few know of Gracey’s contributions to these projects, work that the first Superintendent of the Manzanar National Historic Site, Ross Hopkins, said was “... far more complicated than anything else I had done in the National Park Service over a long period of time.”

Gracey’s behind-the-scenes work was critical to the success of both projects.

“There are the people who get out in front, carrying the flag in the parade, and then there are those who are just on the fringes of the crowd, but are the ones who really got it done,” said Hopkins, who worked closely with Gracey. “In terms of his work on Manzanar, Bob was certainly one of those people. He got the big picture. He had his finger on the pulse of the projects.

“Bob always had his finger on the pulse of the community, and he worked behind the scenes to grease the skids for me to get things done with County officials,” Hopkins continued. “I was an unknown quantity in Inyo County, and when you come in as a federal employee in a rural area, they look askance at you until you prove yourself.”

Manzanar Committee Co-Chair Bruce Embrey said that Gracey was one of Manzanar’s unsung heroes.

“I know it’s a cliché, but Bob is really an unsung hero,” he said. “Bob exemplified the ideal of public service. What he did was essential to making the dream of the Manzanar National Historic Site a reality. We truly are pleased to be able to thank Bob for his vision and honor him for all of his hard work on behalf of the Manzanar National Historic Site.”

In addition to the afternoon event, the Manzanar at Dusk program will feature that evening should0 arrive back in Los Angeles at approximately 8:30 p.m.

Reservations are being accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. The nonrefundable fare is $40 per seat, $30 for students and seniors. Complimentary fares are available for those who were incarcerated at any of the former Manzanar-style confinement sites during World War II.

Anyone wishing to attend the Manzanar at Dusk program that evening should make other transportation arrangements.

Pilgrimage participants are advised to bring their own lunch, drinks and snacks, as there are no food 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.

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.

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.

Both the Manzanar Pilgrimage and the Manzanar at Dusk program will be free and open to the public. For more information, or to reserve a seat on the bus, call (323) 662-5102 or send an email to 47thpilgrimage@manzanarcommittee.org.

FORMER INYO COUNTY SUPERVISOR BOB GRACEY TO RECEIVE 2016 SUE KUNITOMI EMBREY LEGACY AWARD

Former Inyo County Supervisor Bob Gracey will receive the 2016 Sue Kunitomi Embrey Legacy Award at this year’s 47th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage.

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 be able to interact with former incarcerated attendees to hear their personal stories, to share their own experiences, and discuss the relevance of the concentration camp experience to present-day events and issues.

The Manzanar Committee has also announced that bus transportation to the Pilgrimage from Los Angeles’ Little Tokyo is still available.

The bus will depart at 7 a.m., arriving at the Pilgrimage at approximately 11:30 a.m. It will also take participants to the Visitor’s Center at the Manzanar National Historic Site following the event. The bus should arrive back in Los Angeles at approximately 8:30 p.m.

Bus reservations are being accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. The nonrefundable fare is $40 per seat, $30 for students and seniors. Complimentary fares are available for those who were incarcerated at any of the former Manzanar-style confinement sites during World War II.

Anyone wishing to attend the Manzanar at Dusk program that evening should make other transportation arrangements.

Pilgrimage participants are advised to bring their own lunch, drinks and snacks, as there are no food 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.

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.

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.

Both the Manzanar Pilgrimage and the Manzanar at Dusk program will be free and open to the public. For more information, or to reserve a seat on the bus, call (323) 662-5102 or send an email to 47thpilgrimage@manzanarcommittee.org.

MANZANAR VISITOR CENTER ANNOUNCES NEW HOURS

The Manzanar National Historic Site Visitor Center is now open from 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. daily. The center, which features 8,000 square feet of exhibits as well as a bookstore operated by the nonprofit Manzanar History Assn., will also be screening the award-winning film “Remembering Manzanar” every 30 minutes from 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. daily.

“After setting a record for visitation in 2015, I am pleased to announce that we will be keeping the visitor center open until 5:30 p.m.,” Superintendent Bernadette Johnson said.

Visitors arriving between 9 and 10 a.m. can visit Block 14’s barracks and mess hall to learn about the personal experiences of individuals, families and communities incarcerated at Manzanar. Exhibits feature extensive photos, documents and quotes illustrating the challenges and changes people faced at Manzanar. Because the site itself is open from dawn to dusk, visitors can drive a three-mile self-guiding tour or explore the historic site on foot. They can also see a number of gardens and ponds built by Japanese Americans to beautify the dusty ground around their barracks and mess halls. Visitors can also explore century-old orchards from the prewar town of Manzanar.

Manzanar National Historic Site is located at 5001 Hwy. 395, six miles south of Independence, Calif. Admission is free.

For further information, call (760) 878-2194, ext. 3310, or visit www.nps.gov/manz or explore “ManzanarNationalHistoricSite” on Facebook and Instagram.
OREGON GOVERNOR OFFICIALLY DESIGNATES MARCH 28 AS MINORU YASUI DAY

More than 300 participants also take part in the inaugural “March for Justice,” retracing Yasui’s historical walk in 1942.

PORTLAND, ORE. — Oregon Gov. Kate Brown signed House Bill 4009 on March 28, officially recognizing the date as Minoru Yasui Day. The bill, which was unanimously approved by both Houses of the Oregon Legislature, will forever commemorate the day that Yasui violated the military curfew in order to initiate his test case.

The day began with filming at the Oregon Historical Society, where final touches are being made to the documentary film “Never Give Up! Minoru Yasui and the Fight for Justice.” A 30-minute work-in-progress screening of the documentary will be shown at the Minoru Yasui Symposium “Inspiring Action and Igniting Justice” on April 23 in Portland. (For more information, visit http://oregonnikkei.org/activities.htm#symposium.)

Family and friends then witnessed the signing of HB 4009 by Gov. Brown at the World Trade Center in Portland. The signing was attended by nine members of Portland JACL in addition to key elected officials and members of Yasui’s family.

Following the signing, participants then adjourned to the Oregon Nikkei Endowment (ONE) to take part in the first Minoru Yasui Day “March for Justice.”

Organizers handed out buttons and signs in preparation for the six-block walk from Yasui’s first law office in the former Foster Hotel to the former site of the Portland Police Headquarters — the route Yasui took when he deliberately violated the discriminatory military curfew in order to initiate his test case. Yasui was arrested and jailed for nine months at the Multnomah County Jail.

People of all ages participated in the march, which totaled more than 300 people, including Yasui’s daughter, Holly Yasui; longtime Portland activist and centenarian Nobuko Masuoka; Connie Masuoka, president of the board of the Oregon Nikkei Endowment; Oregon Rep. Brian Clem (sponsor of the Minoru Yasui Day bill); June Arima Schumann, Min Yasui Tribute project administrator; and Hood River Middle School teacher Sarah Segal along with 17 of her students, many of whom participated in the video letter supporting the nomination of Minoru Yasui for the Presidential Medal of Freedom last year and gave testimony in the Oregon state legislature in support of the Minoru Yasui Day bill last month.

People from all walks of life “walked the walk” in honor of Yasui’s courageous act of resistance in 1942.

In addition, the Min Yasui Project has received grants from the Idaho Humanities Council and Humanities-Washington for screenings of the 30-minute work-in-progress. It will be shown at the Minidoka Pilgrimage on June 24, along with a reading by Heath Hyun of a monologue entitled “EO9066” and a panel consisting of Hyun, Segal (who has developed a curriculum on Yasui) and Holly Yasui.

On June 25, a screening of the 30-minute work-in-progress will also be shown at the Wing Luke Museum in Seattle, along with Hyun’s monologue and a panel consisting of Tom Ikeda, founder of the Densho Project; Lori Bannai, Korematsu Center for Law and Equality at Seattle University; and Devon Abdallah, Arab American Community Coalition.

In other news, the Smithsonian Institute’s National Portrait Gallery is in the process of reviewing two original photos of Yasui for its collection, which may be acquired for its permanent collection next month if approved. And the Colorado Supreme Court recently named a conference room after Yasui and mounted a plaque in his honor, describing him as “one of Colorado’s fiercest defenders of the rule of law.”

For more information, visit the “Never Give Up!” website at www.minoruyasuitribute.org and the Minoru Yasui tribute website at www.minoruyasuitribute.org.

Polaris Tours 2016 Schedule

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, Sеorak, Pеyoеngchang*
May 08 - May 22 Bikkuri #1 with Ken: Misawa, Oirase Valley, Atsumi Onsen, Kaminoyama Onsen*
May 15 - May 28 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, Kurashi, 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, Shirakawago, 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 National Park, Jaipur, Mumbai, Cochin*

More than 300 participants took part in the inaugural “Min Yasui March for Justice,” including (from left) Connie Masuoka, Oregon Rep. Brian Clem, George Nakata, Hood River Middle School students Michelle Kinoshita and Jorge Chavez, Holly Yasui and June Arima Schumann.
NCWNP

APIQ Homecoming:
A Conference for LGBTQ+, API and their Allies
Sacramento, CA
April 16, 9 a.m.-6 p.m.
Sacramento State
University, University Union
600 J St.
The API Queer Sacramento Coalition welcomes all to register and attend a first-of-its-kind API LGBTQ+ convening in the Sacramento area.
Info: Email apiqsc@gmail.com.

PSW

Tuesday Night Project
Los Angeles, CA
April 19; 7:30-10 p.m.
Aratani Theatre Courtyard
Tuesday Night Project is an American grassroot organization dedicated to bridging communities by providing programming and interactive spaces for people to connect through artistic expression and strong, creative community partnerships.
Info: Visit www.tuesdaynightproject.org or email contact@tuesdaynightproject@gmail.com.

32nd Annual Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival
Los Angeles, CA
April 21-28
Locations vary
Visual Communications, the nation's premier Asian Pacific American media center, brings the Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival this year with a series of special event screenings and select encore favorites. Many films will have a chance for audience members to participate in a Q&A session with filmmakers and actors.
Info: Purchase tickets at www.vconline.org/festival.

MDC

Off the Menu: Asian American Film Screening
Lafayette, IN
April 20; 6 p.m.
Purdue Memorial Union
101 N. Grant St.
Join the Asian American and Asian Resource and Cultural Center for a screening of "Off the Menu: Asian American." followed by a special Q&A session with director Grace Lee. The film explores the foods that reflect the culture of Asian American Pacific Islanders.
Info: Visit www.union.purdue.edu or call (765) 494-8800.

NCWNP

Japanese American Discussion Group
Oakland, CA
July 23; 6:30-7:30 p.m.
California Genealogical Society and Library
2201 Broadway, Suite LL2
Price: Nonmembers $5
Join the California Genealogical Society as President Linda Harms Okazaki opens an informal discussion about Japanese emigrants.
Info: Call (510) 663-1358.

MDC

Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans Leadership Awards Dinner
Maplewood, MN
May 20; 5-8 p.m.
Maplewood Community Center
2100 White Bear Ave.
Price: Varies $30-$125
Please join the Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans for its 15th Leadership Awards Dinner. The evening will commemorate Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month, honoring the accomplishments and contributions Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have made to the state of Minnesota and across the nation.
Info: Visit www.mn.gov/capm or call (651) 757-1740.

PNW

Heritage Talk
Salem, OR
April 26; 3-5 p.m.
Deepwood
1116 Mission St. E.
Price: General admission $5
Join the Oregon Nikkei Endowment for its fourth Heritage Talks Series presented by Russell Yamada.

EDC

‘Out of the Desert: Digitizing the Archive of Japanese American Internment’
Wellesley, MA
April 14; 4:30-6 p.m.
Wellesley College, Pendleton E. Building, Room 339
Price: Free
Courtney Sato and Corey Johnson will discuss their development of a digital version of “Out of the Desert: Resilience and Memory in Japanese American Internment,” an exhibit curated by Sato at the Yale University Library earlier this year.
Info: Visit www.news.yale.edu or call (203) 432-1345.

Brookline Cherry Blossom Festival
Wellesley, MA
April 30; Noon-4 p.m.
Brookline High School
115 Greenough St.
The Brookline High School Japanese Program and the Genki Spark present this year’s Brookline Cherry Blossom Festival. Enjoy a day of taiko drumming, food, games and music.
Info: Contact brooklinecherryblossom@gmail.com.

ICD

Nihon Matsuri
Salt Lake City, UT
April 30; 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Courtyard Salt Lake City
1100 S. 300 W.
Price: Free
All are welcome to celebrate and enjoy a performance by Taikoza. Highlights will include numerous food booths, crafting stations, a fashion show, mochitsuki, exhibits, tea ceremonies, ikebana viewing and karate demonstrations.
Ikeda, Donald Shigeo, 78, Gardena, CA; March 22; he was a U.S. Army Veteran; he is survived by his wife, Beverly Ikeda; sons, Clifford (Kelley) and Rodney (Tomoko) Ikeda; brother, Kenneth (Jane) Ikeda; gc: 3.

Kiyohara, Taekishi ‘Tak,’ 90, Anaheim, CA; March 27; he was predeceased by his brothers, Akira and Ronnie Kiyohara; he is survived by his wife, Aiko Kiyohara; children, Alan (Lisa), Gary (Melody) Kiyohara and Julie (Julio) Rivera; siblings, Isao Kiyohara and Mary (Lucey) Yamagata; gc: 3; ggc: 3.

Kudo, Kazue, 91, Los Angeles, CA; March 15; she is survived by her children, Michael Kudo, Tim (Laura) Kudo, Sandi (Strong) Gail and Jim (Jim) Monemary; sister-in-law, Lily Kamibayashi; Myoko Kudo and Tomi Kudo; gc: 3; ggc: 2.

Morii, Junice Teiko, 98, Gardena, CA; Feb. 26; she is predeceased by her husband, Torao Morii; she is survived by her children, Christopher Morii and Jeanie (Heizaburo) Okawa; gc: 5; ggc: 8.

Nakamura, Ronald Takashi, 72, Fountain Valley, CA; Feb. 22; he is survived by his wife, Arline Nakamura; children, Curtis (Stephany) Nakamura and Traci (Wes) Toyofuku; grandchildren, Beatrice Mayellani, Glen (Patricia) Nakamura and Gail (Robert) Higasiyama; brother-in-law, Tom (Carol) Kudow; gc: 6.

Nakashima, Teruko ‘Terry,’ 91, Los Angeles, CA; March 20; she was predeceased by her husband, Ichohaka; son, Dale (Vicky) Nakashima; she is survived by her children, Lynn (Rey) Avalos and Ken (Lori) Nakashima; gc: 4; ggc: 2.

Sakatani, Katsumi, 90, Torrance, CA; March 24; he was predeceased by his sister, Yuki Okabayashi; he is survived by his wife, Mary Atsuko; sons, Richard Alan (Olive), William Douglas (Mary Ann), Robert Lewis and Michael David (Christine) Sakatani; daughter, Susan Lianne (Michael) Castro and Patricia Lynn (Russell) Bankson; brothers, Tomomi (Setsuko) and Bacon Sakatani; sister, Kay Yamaoka; brother-in-law, Tak Okabayashi; gc: 12; ggc: 2.

Tatsumi, Yukio, 95, Long Beach, CA; March 13; he was predeceased by his wife, Chiyo, daughter, Sachiko Jeanie Nakashima; he is survived by his son, Mel; son-in-law, Jerry Nakashima; gc: 2.

Tsuji, Kyotaro ‘Kyo,’ 83, Gardena, CA; March 27; she is survived by her sons, Russell and Steven; and daughters, Marilyn (Caleb) Hoehyama and Cindy (Kaz) Nakamoto; gc: 11; ggc: 3; gggc: 2.

URBAN STEEPLECHASE
The family invites you to wear casual attire on the day of the service.

For more information, www.tsujimortuary.com or (213) 626-0441.
By Eileen Yamada-Lamphere, Puyallup Valley President

The Puyallup and Seattle JACL chapters attended the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Washington's annual Tomodachi fundraising luncheon at Seattle University on March 24.

Tomodachi means friend in Japanese, and with that spirit, the JCCCW brought together community and corporate partners to reflect on the past year and look toward the future, as well as honor the contributions of individuals and groups that have promoted and celebrated Japanese or Japanese American culture and community. The event was attended by former Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta, Eileen Yamada Lamphere, Sarah Baker, Bill Tashima and Toshi and Toshie Okamoto.

The master of ceremonies for the luncheon was Lori Matsukawa, one of the founding families of the JCCCW. Also in attendance was Karen Yoshitomi, executive director of the JCCCW. The event also featured entertainment by Michaela Kasumi, who performed a traditional Japanese dance titled “Chidori.”

In attendance at the Tomodachi luncheon were (back row, from left) Tom Kometani, Frank Sato, Elsie Taniguchi, honored guests Deni and Norman Mineta, Eileen Yamada Lamphere, Sarah Baker, Bill Tashima and (front row, from left) June Sato and Toshi and Toshi Okamoto.

This year, Tomodachi awards were presented to former Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta and the Mitsubishi Aircraft Corp. The award functions as the objective products of statistical analyses. The U.S. and the EU belong to a tradition of liberalism that stretches back for centuries. Liberalism is a vague term, one that is overused and frequently misused, but it translates roughly to a commitment to tolerance and a respect for personal liberty. A society so concerned with its security that it polices one religious or ethnic group more heavily than others cannot call itself liberal; it has respected neither its commitment to tolerance nor the personal liberties of its members.

As evidenced by Trump and Cruz’s vision of a society obsessed with risk-assessment, a society as a whole in greater danger. Such a society might be safer from radical terrorists, but it would be endangered by radical bigotry. The resilience of the people of Brussels in the wake of last week’s attack has shown the Islamic State to be a colossal waste of resources, and place the society as a whole in greater danger. Such a society could be safer from radical terrorists, but it would be endangered by radical bigotry.

Our society can survive bombings and rampages, but it cannot survive a dissolution of liberalism like the one proposed by Trump and Cruz. A society that fundamentally mistrusts some of its members because they share a faith with terrorists would collapse on itself. It would breed a culture of fear and virulent intolerance whose long-term effects would outstrip those of any suicide bombing in terms of inflicting grievous harm on the nation.

The Islamic State does not pose an existential threat to the U.S., but a plan to profile and spy on Muslim Americans does.

We’d have to scrap our societal bedrock — documents like the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, holidays like Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the mythos of Lincoln the Emancipator.

Our government must do all it can to prevent another attack on American soil, but it must do so constitutionally, without bias and in accordance with the liberal tradition.

Respecting the American precept of equality in the eyes of the law might endanger our society’s security; it’s possible that profiling and monitoring those who share a religious or ethnic affiliation with the majority of the perpetrators of these attacks would uncover more plots and make for a safer society. But maintaining such a precept of inequality in the eyes of the law would do far worse than threaten our safety — it would threaten our society’s existence as we know it.

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.