A NEW CHAPTER
Delegates convened in Las Vegas for the JACL National Convention. A new JACL National Board was installed by the Hon. Norman Mineta (top); JACL Honolulu's David Forman (center) speaks with fellow delegates; and the Hon. Norman Mineta and his wife, Deni, with new JACL National President Gary Mayeda and his wife, Chris.
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I was appalled to read in the Weekly Digest by the JACL that yet again, the JACL is promoting the culture of violence against police officers by featuring the awarding of a scholarship by the National Youth/Student Council to the Black Lives Matter-Los Angeles chapter at the National Convention. How could something like THIS become a HIGHLIGHT of the convention? If anything, it is a TRAVesty not only of the convention, but of what it says of us as a society of human beings in these United States of America. Whatever happened to uphold Asian communities combined. I would think the Japanese American Citizens League is a national organization whose mission is to secure the safety and safeguard the civil and human rights of Asian and Pacific Islander Americans and all communities who are affected by injustice and bigotry. The leaders and members of the JACL also work to promote and preserve the heritage and legacy of the Japanese American Community.

Those who support the Black Lives Matter movement are creating injustice and bigotry toward police officers. What about the civil and human rights of the communities who are the Black Lives Matter group has declared war on? Is it not a civil and human right to be able to return home with their loved ones safe and sound every night after doing their jobs? Is it not a civil and human right to perform one’s job to the FULLEST extent as one is capable of?

This is one of the CLOSEST-knit communities there is that would rival even the close-knit-ness of ALL of the Asian communities combined. I would know being the daughter of a retired sergeant of the California Highway Patrol. ANY loss to be an officer’s life or that of a canine companion who served on the force from ANY agency within the United States, ALL officers and staff feel their loss, their sadness, their pain. This community is also one of the strongest because even in the face of organizations such as THAT that dare stand up AGAINST those who put THEIR lives on the line for YOU EVERY SINGLE DAY, they wake up, go to work and put on that uniform to protect YOU, YOUR FAMILY and your FRIENDS with little to no complaints because THAT is what they do. How much more UNGRATEFUL and DISRESPECTFUL could you be to those MEN and WOMEN serving to protect us!

Not only am I DISGUSTED and DISAPPOINTED with the awarding of the scholarship itself, I am appalled for the REASONS it is being awarded! Those reasons being, “...to an individual or organization that has made strides in an unconventional field, that exemplifies excellence and leadership in community outreach, perseverance, dedication to history, cultural preservation, and social justice informed activism.”

“In an unconventional field?” Well, doesn’t that say enough all in itself. But just to be sure, I’ll spell it out for you. If you followed the law like you are SUPPOSED to, you SHOULDN’T have a problem with the law or police officers. It’s when you DISOBEY an order from a police officer or BREAK the law that you begin to have problems with police officers. If you only COMPLIED, there would be no problem. Instead, we are placing blame on the police officers who are only doing their JOB, and promoting violence against these officers BECAUSE they are doing their job. THIS is most definitely unconventional.

But not this time. There was no mention of the War on Police, not even a moment of silence in honor of the five Dallas PD heroes. Evidently, the cop haters have bullied everyone into silence. I want no part of this. I will continue to defend and honor law enforcement whenever and wherever I can, including JACL functions.

BLUE LIVES MATTER.

Sincerely,

David Unruhe, Placer JACL, Auburn, Calif.

Dear Editor,

I support the Pacific Citizen. I am a senior citizen who always looks forward to the next edition of the Pacific Citizen in my mailbox. What I read is always informative, educational and inspirational. And reading how the few dedicated staff members at the Pacific Citizen publish every edition with the very limited resources they have is nothing less than miraculous.

We have all read or heard about what the future may hold for the Pacific Citizen without adequate funding and support from its members and subscribers, present and new. The 2016 Spring Fundraising Campaign is now ongoing, so please support it to the fullest.

Please consider a large donation that will have a favorable impact on your Tax Return and also provide you with an annual income in the range of 5 percent to 7.5 percent of your donated amount. And, establishing a Legacy Gift Fund in your Living Trust will benefit the Pacific Citizen after the donor’s passing and that amount will also be tax deductible on your annual tax return.

The JACL/Pacific Citizen can provide and assist you with information and preparation of these important documents. Please consider this. And, I am sure we will receive a box of Japanese manju delivered to the winner’s door.

A Concerned Pacific Citizen Supporter

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.”

NAME: _____________________________

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More than ever, your tax-deductible funds will help preserve the legacy of the Pacific Citizen. Donations of $150 or more will be entered in a monthly drawing for a box of “Fugetsu-Do” Japanese manju delivered to the winner’s door.

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I arrived in Las Vegas for the JACL convention with low expectations. I’d been asked to speak on a plenary session about the Pacific Citizen’s future and the sorry state of the newspaper industry. And, I’d been asked to represent the Mile High Chapter in the week’s voting. I worried that the print version of the P.C. might not survive the week, and I worried about JACL’s future.

I’m happy to report that the P.C. will continue a printed version for at least the next two years.

It’s a breath, not a solution. I hope the P.C. — and JACL members who want a print edition — can brace for an inevitable switch to digital-only because it’s simply the way of the future. Maybe technology will make it easier to custom-print copies, or maybe technology will become easier for all members to see the P.C. in a digital form, like a cheap, easy-to-use tablet or smartphone edition.

That wouldn’t be ideal, but it would accept the march of progress. We’ll have this discussion again, and next time, I don’t know that the “print” P.C. can continue much longer.

I also left Vegas feeling much better about the future of JACL because I’ve seen the future of the organization’s leadership in the passion and energy of the National Youth/Student Council.

I’ve written before that I feel JACL has been too focused on our shared community’s past — in particular, of course, the WWII incarceration and concentration camps. That’s an important part of our identity, but I have long felt that the organization’s priorities weren’t inviting to young people.

I was always jealous of the West Coast chapters, which have always had a lot of youth participation. In Denver, a younger generation took over leadership of the Mile High chapter about six years ago, but we haven’t been able to draw in youth since then.

But at the National Convention, the embrace of the next generation of JACLers was palpable, and the influence of their contemporary issues and values were refreshing.

The members of the NYSC were everywhere during the convention, active in their chapters and districts and connecting in groups with other youth. The Youth are the only part of JACL that is increasing membership — a remarkable achievement that bodes well for the future of the organization.

The NYSC is also the most diverse in the history of JACL, which also bodes well for the future.

Their presence at the convention was on full glorious view during the NYSC luncheon, when they gave their Vision Award to Black Lives Matter L.A. The warm, full-throated support for the Black Lives Matter movement was heartwarming for many in the room — I for one believe AAPIs must continue to build bridges with the African-American community — but I could sense some members were uncomfortable.

When the Black Lives Matter representatives had the audience stand and chant with them, some people followed along sheepishly. One member left the room.

On the final day, Kota Mizutani, the newly elected National Youth Representative, moderated a plenary session panel during the National Council Session that focused on a topic that the NYSC is keenly focused on: multiracial Asian Americans and Shinsu-Nikkei, or recent Japanese immigrants.

The panel included Desun Oka, whose master’s thesis was on the subject of Korean comfort women and who is active in Asian justice issues; Curtiss Takada Rooks, a mixed-race professor of AAPI history; Jennifer Kaku, who’s lived both in the U.S. and Japan; and Sarah Baker, who proudly calls herself a “Hapa Shim Samsel.”

The panel discussed the “otherness” of being more Japanese than many Japanese Americans, of “fitting in” as mixed-race Asian Americans. It was a refreshing conversation about the reality of the Japanese American community today: We’re not one homogenous population like we were when JACL was founded.

For this organization to grow, it needs to reach out to new people. Looking at the diversity of the NYSC’s membership and their obvious commitment to JACL, and the energy that binds them together, I left Vegas feeling hopeful about the future of JACL.

Gil Asakawa is a former P.C. Editorial Board Member and Board Chair. He writes a blog at http://nikkeiview.com.

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The month of June is known for graduations, weddings and now, for our family, it is LGBTQ Pride month.

This year, I had the opportunity to celebrate all three. Beginning in May, I attended four University of La Verne graduation celebrations for Aiden; one for LGBTQ individuals and their allies and another for Asian American graduates. I also attended Aiden’s baccalaureate, where he read the Litany of Affirmation, which began with “We are the many songs of this Universe ... And so we have a great responsibility to remember who we are.” The litany ended with “We are makers of peace.” I cried when I heard my son read those words because through all his challenges and pain, I know all he wants to do with the rest of his life is to be his true self and bring greater peace and love into this world.

The final graduation celebration was, of course, the commencement exercise, where our family cheered and we have spoken around the country to so many LGBTQ individuals, their families and straight allies. And I would have missed so much of those amazing moments, if that were the case.

Yes, Aiden took nine years to finish college, but through those years, he has developed the strength, confidence and resilience and the joy I feel is greater than I ever could imagine. I am so grateful for these points in time because there was a time that those moments seemed like they were not possible.

This past weekend, I was in Seattle with Aiden speaking at the Seattle JACL’s FAMILY API LGBT Gathering. Since it was the Month of Pride celebration, Seattle JACL chose to hold this one-day event to bring greater awareness, resources and create a place of community, where individuals and families could share their stories. People were so grateful for the safe space.

We in the LGBTQ community do not take safe spaces for granted. It is a luxury that we are not always able to live in, and so this weekend so many of us who attended appreciated having a place where we could speak from our hearts and feel accepted unconditionally.

I want to thank Sarah Baker for being a leader of this event. She is a Seattle college student who has the heart and spirit of a thousand. She showed me the kind of leaders that are emerging from this generation of young people. Sarah, you give me hope for the world that Aiden will live in.

One day, I dream that I will see those changes in a world that will accept my son not as a second-class citizen but the wonderful man, husband, son, brother and eventually the father that he so wants to be.

Later this week, I am off to Denver to speak to the Mile High JACL. The JACL has been one of our family’s greatest supporters in recent years, along with PFLAG, a national organization that supports parents, families and friends of LGBTQ individuals, and NQAPIA, an API LGBTQ national organization.

Our family is stronger because organizations like these exist and are working tirelessly and fearlessly to bring equality and understanding to all. So, as I reflect on this month, my son’s wedding, my son’s graduation and the various Pride events happening around the country, a warmth fills my heart for our family, our son and our LGBTQ communities’ future. And that makes this month smile.

Marshia Aizumi is an advocate in the LGBT community and the author of the book “Two Spirits: One Heart: A Mother, Her Transgender Son and Their Journey to Love and Acceptance.”
ARTIST KENNY YAMADA RECOGNIZED BY THE WALT DISNEY CO.

Artist Kenny Yamada has been accepted into the Disney Gallery, and on Aug. 20, Yamada will be the gallery’s showcase artist, where he will sign his original prints of Snow White and Pinocchio at the Disneyana Shop on Main Street U.S.A. in Anaheim’s Disneyland theme park.

As a gallery artist, Disneyland and Walt Disney World’s art galleries will sell Yamada’s original art and prints. The Disney Gallery is unique in that it is the only location in the entire park that is considered both the gallery’s showcase artist, where he will sign his original prints of Snow White and Pinocchio at the Disneyana Shop on Main Street U.S.A. in Anaheim’s Disneyland theme park.

The Seabrook JACL chapter recently held its annual Graduates Recognition and Installation Luncheon, where then-JACL Eastern District Governor Michelle Amano (newly elected JACL VP of General Operations) read the JACL creed and installed the officers and board for the coming year.

Congratulations and appreciation were extended to new incoming President Michael Asada and outgoing Co-Presidents Lenore Wurtzel and Sharon Yoshiida, Seabrook JACL president; and Estrella Orta-Contreras, Seabrook JACL vp.

Vineland High School Graduate Estrella Orta-Contreras (center) is congratulated for being selected by Vineland High School for the JACL Citizenship Award for 2016. She is pictured with (from left) Lenore Wurtzel, scholarship chairwoman; Michelle Amano, former JACL EDC Governor and now JACL VP of General Operations; Michael Asada, Seabrook JACL president; and Sharon Yoshiida, Seabrook JACL vp.

HONOLULU — U.S. Rep. Mark Takai, a first-term congressman from Hawaii, died July 20 following a nine-month battle with pancreatic cancer. He was 49.

Takai’s death comes less than a year and a half after he earned his congressional seat; a special election was held in conjunction with the general election on Nov. 8. The winner will serve until Jan. 3, 2017. In the general election, one of the winners of the Aug. 13 primaries will serve a full two-year term, representing the 1st Congressional District.

After Takai announced earlier this year that he would not seek re-election, 10 individuals filed to run for his seat, including former Rep. Colleen Hanabusa. Takai’s office issued a statement on July 20: “Today, Congressman Mark Takai passed away at home, surrounded by family.”

Takai, a lieutenant colonel in the Hawaii National Guard and a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom, was first elected to the House in 2014 after serving 20 years in the Hawaii State House.

He is survived by his wife, Sami Takai, and two children, Matthew and Kaila.

Emperor Akihito Reportedly Considering Retirement

TOKYO — Japan’s Emperor Akihito, 82, has expressed his intention to retire and relinquish his title in the next few years, rather than reduce his duties as he ages, the country’s public TV reported July 14.

Akihito in recent years has referred to his old age and admitted to making small mistakes at ceremonies, and the Imperial Household Agency has suggested reducing his duties, while giving more responsibility to Crown Prince Naruhito, 56.

The NHK report said Akihito has mulling the possibility over the past few years and that his two sons have accepted the idea.

Akihito ascended to the throne after his father, Hirohito, died in January 1989. While abdication is unheard of in modern Japanese history, Akihito has broken with other imperial traditions. He was the first emperor to marry a commoner, Empress Michiko, and surprised the nation in 2013 when he chose to be cremated upon his death.

Nisei Week Prepares for 76th Annual Grand Parade

LOS ANGELES — Emmy Award-winning makeup artist and community leader Kaori Nara Turner (center) has been named the grand marshal of the 2016 Nisei Week Grand Parade and Brittany Ishibashi, who starred recently in “Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Out of the Shadows,” is the parade marshal, officials announced.

This year marks the 76th annual Nisei Week Japanese Festival; the grand parade is set to take place Aug. 14 beginning at 4 p.m.

Tokyo-born Turner became a professional dancer at 14 and established her career in the U.S. after marrying Hollywood makeup artist Bill Turner in 1966. Following a knee injury, Turner became one of the most successful Japanese makeup artists in the film and TV industry. In 2003, she won an Emmy Award for her work on the TV show “Alias.”

Ishibashi has built a consistent career in both TV and film, with feature and guest-starring roles on more than three dozen TV series in addition to her role in the most recent “TMNT” film.

Nisei Week is one of the longest-running ethnic festivals in the U.S.

Mitchell Maki Named Interim President of the Go For Broke National Education Center

LOS ANGELES — Mitchell Maki, Ph.D., a member of the Go For Broke board and a professor at California State University, Dominguez Hills, has been named interim president of the Go For Broke National Education Center, effective immediately.

Having served as president and CEO for six months, Vince Beresford is stepping down from his role to pursue a new opportunity initiated by In-N-Out Burger President Lynsi Snyder. He will continue to work for Go For Broke in a new capacity.

“I am so excited to join Go For Broke National Education Center,” Maki said in a statement. “As a board member, I have been deeply committed to the organization’s mission. During this transition period, I look forward to working closely with the staff in the coming months as we identify a permanent president.”

Maki will lead the organization as it searches for a new president and CEO. He is taking an official leave of absence from CSUDH until the end of the year.

— P.C. Staff and Associated Press
Members and delegates of the JACL National Council gathered in Las Vegas to continue the organization’s ongoing mission to maintaining the civil rights of Japanese Americans and all other victimized by injustice and bigotry. This year’s election saluted the outgoing board and celebrated a newly elected leadership.
JACL ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION

This year’s convention along with the biennial election welcomed a new board and president as the organization faces deep financial troubles and dwindling membership.

By P.C. Staff

Expressing their confidence and concern over the organization’s future, members of the JACL National Council and Board met at the 47th National Convention in Las Vegas from July 10-14.

In the ballroom halls of the Monte Carlo Resort and Casino, delegates from around the country voted to install a new board as well as discuss the next steps in finding a new Executive Director. JACL announced that former Executive Director Priscilla Oschida had resigned on June 14 just weeks before the convention. The new National Board as well as the Personnel Committee is currently reviewing candidates.

Delegates and members elected a new national president, Gary Mayeda, from the Pacific Southwest District. Succeeding David Lin, Mayeda has previously served on the National Board and has been a member for nearly 28 years.

“The JACL is an amazing organization that shows how democracy is well served at every level. From debating resolutions to declaring our resolve for issues that we hold dear to our election process, [it all] affirms that our leaders will guide us forward,” Mayeda told the P.C. “This year, our members gathered to say that the Japanese-American experience is important for history to remember and that our employees are important enough to modify our budget to keep our JACL family together.”

Chair of the Nominations Committee Kent Kawai announced the completed elections. Those elected to the National Board were:

- Michelle Amano, VP of General Operations (Washington, D.C. Chapter, immediate past EJC Governor)
- Jeffrey Moy, VP of Public Affairs (Washington, D.C. Chapter, reelected)
- Matthew Farrells, VP for Planning and Development (Twin Cities Chapter, immediate past National Secretary/Treasurer)
- Kota Mizutani (National Youth/Student Chairperson)

The candidates above ran unopposed. Appointed board members were:

- Alan Nishi, National Secretary/Treasurer
- Kenji Kuramatsu, National Youth/Student Representative
- Colleen Morimoto, VP for One Thousand Club and Membership Services

Other members sworn in were:

- Michelle Yamashiro, Pacific Southwest District Council Governor
- Janet Komoto, Intermountain District Council Governor
- David Unruhe, Northern California District Governor
- Roberta Barton, Central California District Council Governor
- Betsy Sato, Midwest District Council Governor
- Scott Nakamura, Interim Eastern District Council Governor
- Sheldon Arakaki, Pacific Northwest District Council Governor

The JACL National Council voted on several resolutions regarding civil rights violations on Canadian citizens of Japanese descent, additional operation funding for the Pacific Citizen, and support for a U.S. asylum policy free of racial and religious prejudice. Additionally, a resolution was passed unanimously supporting the establishment of the Tule Lake National Historic Site.

All resolutions were passed, including additional funding for the Pacific Citizen. (For details regarding the financial summary and analysis, please visit Page 7.)

Several plenary sessions were also held, tackling this year’s upcoming presidential election and exploring U.S.-Japan relations with Consul General of Japan in San Francisco Jan Yamada and Minister and Head of Chancery of the Embassy of Japan Takuya Sasaayama. Additionally, a discussion dedicated to the Shin-Nikkei experience opened dialogue between Japanese and Japanese Americans communities as well as everyone in between.

Plenary moderator and former U.S. Secretary of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta facilitated talks over “What’s at Stake at the 2016 Elections.” Sponsored by AARP and the Wallace H. Coulter Foundation, the panel looked at the deep and profound impact of the upcoming election to not just Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders but also for all Americans.

Mineta also included his personal experience and touched on the importance of building a coalition.

“What’s happening in 2016, what’s happening with those issues and how we are engaged with the 2016 elections is critical,” Mineta said before the audience and panelists. “JACL is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization, so we have to keep that in mind, but this is one that requires a full and open discussion by all of us.”

Mineta’s major highlights also included the presentation of the Japanese American of the Bicentennial Award, JACL’s highest public award. The National JACL has presented this recognition to an American of Japanese ancestry at each biennial national convention since 1950. Award recipients this year were Carole Hayashino, Delphine Hiratsuka and Dan and June Kuramoto.

Additional recognition was given throughout this year’s convention, including the Awards and Youth Luncheon. The Awards Luncheon, held on July 13, celebrated the 2016 Legacy Fund Grant Recipients and the George Imazeki Chapter Citizenship Award.

The next National Board meeting is expected to take place in October in San Francisco, Calif., at the National JACL Headquarters.

AMERICAN HOLIDAY TRAVEL

2016 TOUR SCHEDULE

Nova Scotia Holiday Tour (Carol Hida) ............. Aug 10-18
Halifax, Baddeck, Cabot Trail, Charlottetown,
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, Georyungi, Busan,
Cheju Island, Gwangju, Daenon, Suwon, KBS Drama Center, DMZ Tour.

New England Autumn Holiday Tour (Elaine Ishida) .... Oct 11-13
Boston, Woodstock, Stowe-Vermont, North Conway,

Kyushu-Shikoku Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida) ......... Oct 27-Nov 9
Fukuoka, Naha, Kagoshima, 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

312 E. 1st Street, Suite 330 * Los Angeles, CA 90012
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Ernest or Carol Hida or Elaine Ishida (Tel: 714-269-4534)
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COLLABORATION AND COMPROMISE

A call to action for all JACL members and supporters to bolster revenue in the coming biennium.

PHOTO: TIFFANY UJIIYE

Silicon Valley Chapter’s Milo Yoshino speaks to the JACL National Council.

By Milo Yoshino,
Silicon Valley JACL

Amid the speeches, plenary sessions and reports at the recently completed JACL National Convention was the challenge of approving a balanced, reasonable budget for the next biennium.

As most of you know, our delegates traveled to Las Vegas knowing the proposed fiscally conservative budget called for the reduction of two non-PAC full-time equivalent positions and one full-time equivalent position at the Pacific Citizen.

Although a fiscally responsible budget, many delegates expressed concern about the loss of valuable staff and the potential dramatic reduction of the programs we have become proud of over the years.

On Tuesday afternoon, our outgoing Secretary Treasurer, Matthew Farrells, gave an explanation of the proposed budget and opened up the floor for suggestions on how to increase revenue or reduce expenses. He collected the suggestions and convened an ad hoc group of members knowledgeable and/or interested in the financial aspects of the JACL budget process. The intentionally geographically diverse group included members of the National Board, staff and more than a dozen delegates, some with strong personalities and differing financial objectives.

When we met on Tuesday evening, while other delegates were heading off to dinner or one of the hospitality rooms, it became clear that this group was interested in collaboration and compromise as we discussed the effect of losing the full-time employees and methods of increasing revenue so we would not have to lose valuable staff positions.

But we did not want to do this with “pretend money.” We left the session believing we had come up with a short-term solution to preserve the two non-Pacific Citizen staff positions with the fate of the Pacific Citizen full-time position largely dependent on the passage of Resolution 2. That resolution would provide additional revenue for Pacific Citizen operations with a surcharge of up to $25 per year to any member who requests a paper (hard-copy) Pacific Citizen.

On Wednesday afternoon, after a lengthy and passionate discussion, the National Council passed Resolution 2 as authored by Harold Kameya of the San Fernando Valley chapter. This was the first step toward keeping the current Pacific Citizen staff and production capabilities intact.

The Wednesday evening ad hoc group started with the bad news that our short-term solution from the day before was not viable due to the complex difference between Legacy Fund distribution of earnings vs. distributions in accordance with the endowment spending policy approved in use since February 2007.

It was back to the drawing boards analyzing, discussing and eventually compromising on various revenue sources. The ad hoc group decided that the best solution to amending the budget so we could continue our programs with existing staff positions was to raise revenue as follows:

First, for the next biennium, increase the distribution from the Legacy Fund from four percent to five percent of the endowment value as of the close of business for January 2016.

Second, suggest to chapters and districts that they donate back to national the amount of their chapter and district Legacy Fund distributions for 2017 and 2018.

Third, hold a national fundraising program with a goal of $17,000 in 2017. This will give the incoming National Board and Executive Director freedom to craft a fundraiser appropriate for 2017.

Fourth, in 2018, institute a modest, but long-overdue dues increase.

The second task for the evening was to hammer out the budget amendment regarding the Pacific Citizen now that the National Council had approved the surcharge of up to $25. After extensive discussions, several revenue and expense items were adjusted to amounts the group found to be realistic.

The key factor and eventually the most-discussed assumption on the convention floor the next day was the number of members who would be willing to pay $17 (down from the earlier projected $25) to have a hard copy of the Pacific Citizen mailed to them.

The budget amendment assumes that in 2017, 3,220 members will opt to pay the $17 per year and 2,796 in 2018. If these numbers seem too exact to be assumptions, they are based on the projected number of members we will have in 2017 and 2018 multiplied by the 59.197 percent of the members who returned post cards and indicated they wanted a paper Pacific Citizen.

At the Thursday morning National Council session, after more questions, answers and impassioned discussions on the convention floor, both budget amendments passed by substantial majorities, and the amended budget was approved, keeping intact the national JACL and Pacific Citizen staff positions.

The ad hoc group reminds the membership that these revenue sources are clearly short-term solutions to give you, the JACL members, two years to generate more permanent revenue sources.

One significant revenue source you can have immediate impact on is membership revenue. You can change the trajectory of JACL membership revenue by asking a lapsed member to renew, or ask a friend, neighbor or even a complete stranger to join, or for you to upgrade your membership to Thousand Club, Century Club or Millennium Club.

By the way, all of this can be completed on your computer, tablet or smart phone and a credit card. A simple goal could be to have your chapter end 2016, and then 2017, and then 2018 with the same number of members you started with on Jan. 1, 2016.

GREETINGS FROM THE NEW MDC GOVERNOR

JACL’s MDC district is pleased to welcome new governor Betsy Sato.

“Quite frankly, serving on the JACL National Board was not on my bucket list. I have been chapter president and MDC vice governor, but I had no ambition to be promoted. Now that I am, I am looking forward to being an active member. Having attended my first National Board meeting at the end of convention, I think this is a good time for me to serve. I have been an executive director of a nonprofit and have served on nonprofit boards, both large and small. So, I understand how things are supposed to function when they function well. I have also seen them work not so well. This is where my other skill-sets may come in handy. I am trained as a mediator and conflict resolver. I know it is important to listen and figure out what is really behind the words then move forward to create mutually agreed on solutions. The National Board has several big tasks ahead and will need patience, creativity and good listening skills to complete them successfully.

“I am hopeful that we are ready to meet the challenges and find creative and innovative solutions so that JACL will continue to be a leading organization in the AAPI community and for the forces of justice. Representing the Midwest District is an honor. Some of our chapters may be small, but they’re quite active. At convention, I was able to meet many younger and dynamic leaders from MDC. I look forward to working with them. I hope to see many of you at our MDC Fall Meeting in Detroit on Oct. 14-16.”

— Betsy Sato

TIPS FOR THE WISE CAR BUYER

1. Before you leave home, visit our Auto Center at jacdu.com to find the best deal.

2. Make your way to the dealer and purchase your new car.

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JACL NATIONAL CONVENTION NY/SC RECAP: TO BE THE FUTURE OF THE JACL

By Emi Kamemoto, Kenji Kuramitsu, Kota Mizutani

In every corner of the JACL, we often hear “The youth are the future of the JACL!” While this phrase is straightforward, we occasionally forget to unpack what exactly being the future of the JACL means. As young leaders charged with this task, the National Youth/Student Council (NY/SC) constantly asks itself, “How do we envision the future of the JACL? How do we shape the current and future JACL so that the NY/SC, young civil rights leaders, and JACL members of all ages, can continue to be proud of our work?”

At the 2016 JACL National Convention in Las Vegas, the NY/SC — inspired by the countless leaders who came before us — took on that challenge. For all members who’ve encouraged and supported youth, we’d like to share just some of the many successes the NY/SC and JACL youth accomplished at this year’s National Convention.

Navigating Tools for Change. As an opening activity, the NY/SC hosted a Youth Orientation where all young Convention-goers shared why they came to Convention and learned the tools needed to actively participate in National Council sessions. We welcomed Paul Uyehara, Resolutions Committee chair, to skillfully demystify Robert’s Rules of Order and empower us to represent our chapters and youth communities.

Recognizing Allies, Challenging Ourselves. The Youth Luncheon on Day 3 of Convention was an opportunity for the NY/SC to highlight our accomplishments, acknowledge our allies and supporters, and share our vision for the JACL. Every month, the NY/SC hosts an event in conjunction with the Center for Sacramento History, ISC, and the CSK. This year, the NY/SC organized the Black Lives Matter-Los Angeles Youth Luncheon, where all young Convention-goers shared their experiences of exclusion and acceptance in education. We left that space mutually electrified as Karen charged youth members to utilize the tools the JACL provides in fulfilling our mission to safeguard all communities from injustice and bigotry.

So, did we see the future of the JACL at work during the convention? Did we challenge the JACL to be the civil rights organization that current and future JACL members can be proud of? Absolutely.

As guests of the JACL, Shamell Bell and Jan Williams graciously took time out of their busy schedules to accept the award at the Youth Luncheon. In selecting Black Lives Matter-Los Angeles, we hope to show our community the importance of the Japanese American voice in addressing the anti-black racism that affects all communities of color. Inspired by JACL’s history of enlightening the country to the injustice of mass incarceration and institutional racism, the NY/SC understands that we must acknowledge the work of those that consciously protest systemic violence.

NEW TV DOCUMENTARY ON OLYMPIC CHAMPION WEIGHTLIFTER TOMMY KONO DEBUTS AS RIO GAMES BEGIN

The inspiring life of one of the greatest modern Olympic athletes is now available to the world in a new documentary released in advance of the 1952 Olympics in Helsinki, Finland.

Surprisingly, Kono won gold, and he did it again in 1956 in Melbourne. He then competed in the 1960 Olympics in Rome, where he earned a silver medal. Kono also excelled in bodybuilding competitions — he won the Mr. Universe title three times and Ironman Mr. World once.

As a teenager, Schwarzenegger watched Kono compete in Europe, and he became such a fan that he placed a photo of Kono on his bedroom wall and shortly thereafter followed his idol’s path to international fame. Kono noted that people asked him if he knew Schwarzenegger. “Do I know Arnold?” he recalled in the documentary. “Arnold knows me!”

The friendship Schwarzenegger developed with Kono became lifelong, and Schwarzenegger has also said that without Kono’s inspiration, he wouldn’t have come to America, nor become a political leader or worldwide boxoffice superstar.

“The Tommy Kono Story,” a collaboration with the Center for Sacramento History, is the first documentary film for its ISC, is also home to an annual Tommy Kono competition. In addition to national public TV exposure around the Rio Olympics, the production team plans to enter the documentary in several film festivals.

Fundraising for the Future. The NY/SC is extremely grateful for all those convention attendees who supported the 2016 NY/SC Sweepsakes Fundraiser, our largest fundraiser of the year. With the generous support of contributors and our sponsors — Southwest Airlines, MGM Resorts and State Farm — the NY/SC successfully raised nearly $6,000. The proceeds will go toward funding NY/SC initiatives in the State of Nevada.

Thank you all for the continued support of the NY/SC! A Space for Reflection. As the National Convention came to a close, the NY/SC hosted a brainstorming and educational Youth Closing session with Karen Korematsu, executive director of the Fred T. Korematsu Institute. Among other topics, the youth shared experiences of exclusion and acceptance in education. We left that space mutually electrified as Karen charged youth members to utilize the tools the JACL provides in fulfilling our mission to safeguard all communities from injustice and bigotry.

This is, indeed, what it means for the youth to be the future of the JACL.
COMING OUT

The author recounts lessons learned on her journey toward self-discovery.

By Diana Morita Cole, Contributer

fter I published my book "Sideways: Memoir of a Misfit" in 2015, an old friend from Ontario asked why he was only learning about my birth in a concentration camp now when we had known each other for more than 40 years.

My husband and I had emigrated to Canada in 1958 from Chicago when the Great White North was absorbed with its own struggle for identity—which we found bewildering but were forced to accept as what defined this young colonial country. Shortly after our arrival in Toronto, the Globe and Mail published a story about a violent clash between the French and English in Quebec and called it a racial conflict.

Racial conflict? My husband and I wondered what the reporter was talking about.

In '69, after receiving terrorist threats, the Toronto Transit Commission shut down the subway system. A disruption took place just before the FLQ Crisis, which has since been renamed the "October Crisis."

This euphemistic new name deftly disguises the horror that unfolded over October, November and December as Pierre Trudeau and the Quebec government desperately negotiated with two separate cells of the homegrown separatist paramilitary group Front de libération du Québec that had abducted a British diplomat and killed Canada's then-Minister of Labour.

Prime Minister Trudeau invoked the War Measures Act, now called the Emergency Planning Order, and we quickly learned to tread carefully in our new land. Plain-clothes officers from the RCMP knocked on our door and asked if we had smuggled stereo equipment into Canada. When we produced the receipts and paper work to show that we had imported our new stereo legally, they warned, "You better think about who your friends are!"

After that, my husband and I knew that our status as landed immigrants was provisional—and precarious. Not only were we fearful due to our tenuous legal status, I, personally, felt further restrained by the narrow establishment perspective that carefully discounted the mistreatment and the expulsion of the Nikkei from its history books.

Within the dull, derivative landscape of Toronto, I quickly spotted the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre and the Ontario Science Centre, designed by the brilliant Canadian architect Raymond Moriyama.

While inside the Victorian stone edifice where I was studying, teachers would often ask me to explain why I spoke English so well, as if they were in awe of the alarming number of "strangers" arriving in their city.

How was I to explain my upbringing in an ambiance as frosty as that?

Back then, the only satisfying Canadian narrative for me was "Evangeline: A Tale of Acadie," an epic poem about another expulsion, contrived by the British in 1755.

As startling as the parallels may have been to what was done to the Nikkei in British Columbia during WWII, the expulsion of the Acadian settlers from Nova Scotia took place too long ago for it to have currency in the Anglophone world where I now lived.

Decades later, in 1982 (a year after "Obasan" was published), Acadian youths in Nova Scotia rejected my son as did the English-speaking children at the school in Yarmouth where we transferred him, hoping he might find refuge there.

Our son was a unique victim of the two cultural forces of intolerance that Hugh MacLennan illuminates in his literary work "Two Solitudes" and which B.C. poet Earle Birney knocks in "Can. Lit."

We French and English never lost our civil war endure it still a bloody civil bore

These antipathies were what defined the Canadian national dialogue, stifling other voices.

Then in 1994, our collective attention was shifted from the standoff at Oka and the killing of the unarmed CHIPPEWA Native Dudley George by the Ontario Provincial Police.

In London, Ontario, where we lived at the time, a woman deserted her family and took the "Red Path" as my Unitarian minister described our mutual friend's departure: "Barbara was a survivor of the residential school system, but she didn't know until a few months ago."

In London, I also learned about the life of David Suzuki, who, like our son, attended Central Secondary School after the Suzuki family was forced to leave British Columbia.

I recall Dr. Suzuki flying away all the way from Vancouver to debate the "research" findings of Dr. Philip Rushton, who theorized the size of the human male reproductive organ correlated inversely with IQ. Based on his findings, whites were superior to blacks, and Asians were superior to whites.

None of Rushton's colleagues at the University of Western Ontario dared, but Suzuki disputed Rushton's ideas publicly. The debate, which was broadcast in 1989, has since been uploaded to YouTube, where it may be viewed today.

Ideas were percolating. The national conversation was opening up to entertain alternative realities than just what we knew in the familiar European polemic. But still, it remained a challenge for me to find a way to insert my story into the Canadian narrative.

I felt encouraged when the redress movement in both the United States and Canada resulted in simultaneous apologies and symbolic payments for the loss of human rights the Nikkei endured during and after the war.

By 2011 when I set down to write my memoir in Nelson, which is nestled in the Kootenay mountain range where many Canadian Nikkei were interned, things had changed.

I was now retired, living in the province where Canadian scholar and activist Roy Miki had for more than a decade been advocating "Asiacy: Making Space for Asian Canadian Writing" and decrying the limitations of multiculturalism as public policy, and where Kirsten Emiko McAllister had compared the New Denver Nikkei Internment Memorial Centre to Auschwitz in her thesis "Terrain of Memory: A Japanese Canadian Memorial Project."

Writing my memoir has forced me out of the psychological hiding place where my old friend in Ontario first found me. Telling my own story gave me a reason in June 2016 to return to Minidoka where I was born—a no-man's land I had never felt any desire to see again.

During the Legacy Session, I had the good fortune to read to the other pilgrims the story of my brother's job delivering telegrams while he was held captive in Minidoka. This story was well-received—which was very encouraging for me as a writer.

But my biggest take-away from the pilgrimage was the recovery of that palpable feeling of trust I knew while growing up in an ethnic community in Chicago. I felt no hesitation in asking a stranger whom I had just met to deliver the money I'd collected for the Campaign for Justice to my sister in San Jose, just because they both lived in the same city.

Traveling back to Nelson, I asked another stranger, whom my husband and I met by chance in a park, to deliver a copy of "Sideways" to the Idaho State Historical Society in Boise. "Both the money and my memoir found the way to their respective destinations.

Learning to trust again was a healing I never expected. I recall the words of Hanako Wakatsuki, who sits on the board of the Friends of Minidoka. She calls herself a pilgrimage junkie.

"Each one has its own personality, but Minidoka’s my favourite," she said.

When I asked why, she said, "Because it’s warm, like family."

Kay Endo (left) and Richard Oba in front of what was once a tarpapered barric used to “house” Japanese Americans

PHOTOS: WAYNE H. COLE
NCWNP

Nihonmachi Street Fair
San Francisco, CA
Aug. 6-7; 11 a.m.-6 p.m.
San Francisco Japantown
Considered the melting pot of
street fairs, this annual event
celebrates the many cultures
in San Francisco. Join the
city to experience and watch
amazing performances,
art, music, food and
demonstrations.
Info: Visit www.sfjapantown.
org.

‘Fall Seven Times, Get Up
Eight: Japanese War Brides’
Screening
San Jose, CA
Aug. 20; 1-3 p.m.
Japanese American
Museum of San Jose
525 N. Fifth St.
The Japanese American
Museum of San Jose will host
a special screening of “Fall
Seven Times, Get Up Eight:
Japanese War Brides,” in
addition to a special Skype
discussion that will be held
with director Lucy Craft
Shigematsu. The film is about
the resiliency of three women
who immigrated to the U.S.
as wives of American military
stationed in Japan after WWII.
Info: Visit www.janmsj.org or
call (408) 294-3627.

Kimochi San Mateo Benefit
Dinner
San Mateo, CA
Aug. 27; 5-8 p.m.
College of San Mateo
1700 W. Hillsdale Blvd.
Welcome Kimochi’s latest
extension at the benefit
dinner. Program emcees
include Wendy Tokuda and
Mike Inouye, plus a silent
auction and reception. RSVP
by Aug. 12.
Info: Contact Debbie Yee
and Jessica Tran at dyee@
kimochi-inc.org or by phone
at (415) 931-2294.

PSW

2016 NAAAP Convention
Las Vegas, NV
Aug. 11
Cesar’s Palace
3570 S. Las Vegas Blvd.
Price: Convention passes
$195-$545
Join the National Association
of Asian American Professionals as it hosts
its annual summit and
recruitment convention.
The event will also include
leadership workshops and
panels for Asian professionals.
Info: Visit www.naap
convention.org/2016.

2016 Cause Leadership
Academy Graduation
Pasadena, CA
Aug. 12; 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
KPCF Crawford Family Forum
474 S. Raymond Ave.
Join elected officials,
community leaders, local
press and families as the
Center for Asian Americans
United for Self Empowerment
(CAUSE) celebrates the
commencement of its
Leadership Academy interns.
Lunch will be provided as
part of the program.
Info: Visit www.causesa.
us or call (626) 356-9838.

‘One Night Only: The Future
Is Bright’ Fundraiser
Los Angeles, CA
Aug. 20; 5:30 p.m.
East West Players
David Henry Hwang Theater
120 Judge John Aiso St.
East West Players, the
nation’s largest producing
organization of Asian
American artistic networks,
announces its fundraiser
event. The program will
introduce new Artistic Director
Snehal Desai.
Info: Visit www.eastwest
players.org or call
(213) 625-7000.

Origami Workshop
With Paul Jackson
Los Angeles, CA
Aug. 21; 11:30 a.m.
Japanese American National
Museum
100 N. Central Ave.
“Above the Fold” artist
Paul Jackson will lead a
hands-on workshop that
gives participants a taste
of the unique folding and
cutting techniques used in
works seen in the exhibition.
No origami experience is
necessary.
Info: Visit www.janm.org or
call (213) 624-0414.

Asian American Journalism
Association of San Diego
Anniversary Fundraiser
San Diego, CA
Sept. 25; 3:30 p.m.
NBC 7 Studios
9660 Granite Ridge Road
Newport and learn about
storytelling from top Asian
American on-air talent and
reports with a tour of NBC7's
new station in Kearny Mesa.
The Anniversary Fundraiser
will grant scholarships to
Asian American journalists.
Program speakers include
Dr. Sharon Suh and Rev.
Kaneko with traditional
Japanese koto and shamisen.
Info: Visit www.janm.org or
call (213) 624-0414.

PSW

NSW

LSW

WSW

MDC

New Mexico Asian Family
Center 10th Anniversary
Celebration
Albuquerque, NM
Aug. 27; 6 p.m.
Albuquerque Garden Center
10120 Lomas Blvd N.E.
Price: $35
The New Mexico Asian
Family Center turns 10 and
will celebrate by recognizing
distinguished community
leaders and partners.
The evening will also highlight
Asian and Pacific narratives
and stories with dinner and
entertainment.
Info: Call (505) 717-2877 or
visit www.nmrafc.org.

Aki Matsuri
Albuquerque, NM
Sept. 18
National Hispanic Cultural
Center
1701 Fourth St. S.W.
The annual Albuquerque-based
Japanese Fall Festival
(Aki Matsuri) welcomes the
new season with the New
Japanese American Citizen's
League in part supported
by the New Mexico Arts
Department of Cultural
Arts and the National
Endowment for the Arts.
Festivity activities include
food and games for all ages.

MDC

PNW

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Festivity activities include
food and games for all ages.
Aihara, George T., 97, Santa Cruz, CA; May 31; he was incarcerated at Poston Camp; he is survived by his wife, Yoko; sons, Dean and Byron; he is also survived by many nieces and nephews and other relatives.

Animoto, Marian Sachiko, 80, Monterey Park, CA; July 21; she is survived by her husband, Seibo; son, Alan; daughter, Diane (Bemie) Vlach; sister, Lillian Yamauchi; brother, Joe Nanya; gc: 5.

Baishiki, Midori Barbara, 92, Sacramento, CA; June 1; she was predeceased by her husband, Sadao; brother, Bob Yokoi; sisters, Mineko Yamaguchi, Clara Takeda, Sally E. Ogata and Yukie Yokoi; grandson, Sei Baishiki; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Chikawa, Haruo, 92, La Palma, CA; July 17; he was a U.S. veteran; he is survived by his daughter, Karen (Bob) Kunihara; sister, Hideko Ichikawa; gc: 1.

Kubota, George Setsuo, 79, Apts, CA; April 25; he was predeceased by his parents, Richard Yutaka Kubota and Kin Kubota; brother, Edward; sister, Agnes; he is survived by his wife, Joyce; children, Eric (Karen), Kelley and Garrett (Lily); sister, June; gc: 4.

Kushi, Kazuye, 95, Long Beach, CA; May 26; she was survived by her daughters, Jeanne McGarvey, Carol (Oliver) Pena and Annette Faye (Bob) Alperin; sister, Tomiko Shibata; gc: 6; gcg: 5.

Masuda, Lily Yuriko, 92, Fountain Valley, CA; July 5; she is survived by her husband, Masao; daughter, Denice, son, Marvin (Donna); sister, Frances; gc: 1.

Miyata, Yoshinari, 89, Piedmont, CA; June 3; he was predeceased by his wife, Mary; he is survived by his niece, Nancy Yamada; grandnephews, Kyle and Casey Mizokami.

Nagassawa, Masaru Richard, 92, Gardena, CA; July 3; he was predeceased by his wife, Hanako; he is survived by his sons, Roy and Richard (Tracey Banning) Nagassawa; daughter, Linda (Brian) Terai; gc: 2.

Nakaguchi, Shizuyu, 91, Baldwin Park, CA; July 13; she was incarcerated at Poston Camp during WWII; she was predeceased by her husband, Hitotada; siblings, Mary Yamane and Ted Muragishi; she is survived by her daughter, Peggy (Dennis) Morikami; siblings, Misako (Akira) Kadonaga and Kay (George) Ohno.

Nakamura, Tsuya, 91, Rowland Heights; July 11; she is survived by her husband, Tsunemi; she is survived by her children, Shochi (Sherri) Nakamura, Akemi Nakamura, Yuko (Tomi) Jimbo and Grace Nakamura; brother, Yoshio (Yoko) Morikawa; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 6; gcg: 4.

Nomura, Shocho, 97, Sierra Madre, CA; July 13; he was incarcerated at Gila during WWII; he was predeceased by his son, Robert Nomura; he is survived by his wife, Florence; daughters, Ann (Dale) Nomura-Freyberger, Nancy Nomura and Lynn (Kevin) O’Connell; son, Tim Nomura; daughter-in-law, Mari Nomura; gc: 5; gcg: 2.

Nakawaki, Kazuko Kay, 84, Fullerton, CA; July 2; she is survived by her husband, Tad; daughter, Elaine Nakawaki (Foster); sons, Curt Nakawaki and Darrell Nakawaki; gc: 5.

Sugimoto, Alice Yeako, 86, Monterey Park, CA; July 5; she was predeceased by her son, Steven Tetsuo; husband, Shigeru; she is survived by her son, Michael Mikio (Alice Mayumi) Sugimoto; brother, Ben Isamu (Miyoko) Nakagawa; sisters, Harayo Tamaki, Otome Honita and Fumiko Arakaki; gc: 2.

Tao, Mitsue, 92, Watsonville, CA; May 8; she was predeceased by her husband, Minoru; siblings, Kay, Roy and Tom Katla, Chiyoko Fuji and Yacko Fujimoto; she is survived by her son; Perry Tao; daughters, Gail (Bill) Wurtenberg and Vickie Jew; gc: 6; gcg: 3.

Toguchi, Alice Sadako, 97, Los Angeles, CA; July 16; she was predeceased by her husband, George Takekori; son, Roy Takekori, she is survived by her daughter, Cynthia; gc: 1.

Tsukayama, Kazue, 78, Torrance, CA; July 6; she is survived by her husband, Ronald Tsukayama; son, Todd Tsukayama; siblings, Sadako Hashimoto, Asami (Lei) Kaya and Hiroko Gokan.

Wakasaka, Sachio Shirley, 86, Monterey Park, CA; July 3; she is survived by her children, Chiharu, Steve (Kay) and David; gc: 5.

Yamada, Thelma Tokiko, 96, Alhambra, CA; July 16; she was predeceased by her husband, Harold; children, Richard and Ellen Yamada; she is survived by her children, Larry (Lupe) Yamada; Arlene (Stan) Yokoyama, Marion (Greg) Stewart and Curtis Yamada; sisters, Teruko Kandasu, Yuuki (Norman) Masaki, Alice Ishii and Katherine (Pete) Otteboni; gc: 8.

Yamamoto, Kazue "Kay," 91, Watsonville, CA; May 3; she was predeceased by her husband, brothers, Yas and Joe Kitamani; sister, Frances Tsuda.

Yoshikawa, Shiro Joe, 97, Los Angeles, CA; July 1; he was incarcerated at Manzanar during WWII; he is survived by his children, Shirley, Larry, Dennis and Theodore Yoshikawa; gc: 3.

TED NAMBA

Ted Namba, 58, passed away peacefully with family by his side on July 24. He was born in Los Angeles, Calif., on Aug. 12, 1957. He received his BA in biology from UC Irvine in 1979. Ted graduated from the SUNY College of Optometry in 1984. Later that year, he married his wife, Michele. After practicing optometry in Torrance, Calif., for several years, Ted and Michele moved to Glendale, Ariz., with their two children.

In addition to his work, Ted was a beloved community leader, serving as president of the Asian Chamber of Commerce, co-chair of the Arizona Matsuri Festival and a board member of several groups including the JACL AZ Chapter, Victoria Foundation, City of Phoenix’s Pacific Rim Advisory Council, Maricopa Community College Foundation Board and the Japanese American National Museum. He was a founding member of the Asian American Democratic Caucus, the Asian Hispanic Alliance and was founder of the City of Phoenix’s Asian American Police Advisory Council.

Ted is survived by his wife, Michele; children, Lauren and Bryan; parents, Wataru and Reiko; brother, Robert (Stephanie); sister, Anne Nakao (Mark); and many nieces and nephews. A visitation was held at West Resthaven Funeral Home, 6450 W. Northern Avenue, Glendale, AZ 85301, on July 29. A memorial service was also held on July 30 at Crescent Crown Distributing, 1640 W. Broadway Road, Mesa, AZ 85202.
ALL THE LONELY PEOPLE

By Ron Mori

Dr. Charlotte Yeh, the chief medical officer of AARP Services, was interviewed recently on the Filipino Channel about the topic of loneliness, and how important it is to stay connected with other people, especially as we age.

Loneliness is different from isolation, she explained. Isolation is a factual term. It refers to the size of your social network, like friends, family and other people you connect with. But loneliness is different, she said.

“Loneliness is actually subjective, it’s how you feel,” she explained in the interview. “You could have lots of friends... and be lonely. Or you can have no friends, and not be lonely.”

The Beatles captured the feeling in their classic 1966 song “Eleanor Rigby.” “All the lonely people, where do they all belong?”

But the effects of being alone isn’t just emotional sadness, Dr. Yeh added. Isolation is a factual term.

Dr. Charlotte Yeh’s interview about loneliness and isolation at AARP can be found on YouTube at www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hs9yGJtwy4.

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