



PACIFIC CITIZEN

JACL NATIONAL CONVENTION 2016



» PAGE 5



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.

PHOTOS: TOM NISHIKAWA AND TIFFANY UJIIYE

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 HIGH-LIGHT 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 upholding the mission statement of the JACL?

"The Japanese American Citizens League is a national organization whose mission is to secure 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 COMMUNITY of police officers who the Black Lives Matter group has declared war on? Is it not a civil and human right to be able to return home 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 be it 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 THIS 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 of 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.

>> See LETTER on page 12

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 fa-

vorable 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 these to keep the *Pacific Citizen* financially viable and ensure that we continue to receive and enjoy reading the newspaper.

Thank you very much.

A Concerned Pacific Citizen Supporter

Dear Editor,

I've just returned from the National Council Meeting in Las Vegas. All in all a great convention, and I'm excited about our new President Gary Mayeda. A huge thank you to all staff (including interns and fellows) for pulling this off under extremely trying circumstances.

Just one question: How did we allow the cop haters to take over our organization? Usually when a national tragedy such as the one that occurred in Dallas coincides with our gathering, there is at least a token acknowledgment from JACL.

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.

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The *Pacific Citizen* newspaper (ISSN: 0030-8579) is published semi-monthly (except once in December and January) by the Japanese American Citizens League, *Pacific Citizen*, 123 Ellison S. Onizuka St., Suite 313 Los Angeles, CA 90012 Periodical postage paid at L.A., CA POSTMASTER: Send address changes to National JACL, 1765 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94115

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

PACIFIC CITIZEN

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

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NIKKEI VOICE

THE NEXT GENERATION OF JACL LEADERSHIP GIVES ME HOPE

By Gil Asakawa

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 breather, not a solution. I hope the *P.C.* — and JACL members who want a print edition — can brace for the 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 NY/SC 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 NY/SC 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 NY/SC 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 NY/SC is keenly focused on: multiracial Asian Americans and Shin-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 Shin Sansei."

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 NY/SC'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>.



A MOTHER'S TAKE

CELEBRATING WITH PRIDE

By Marsha Aizumi

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 I cried once again when I saw my son proudly accept his diploma after nine long years of holding onto this dream of finishing college.

Before our journey to stand by our transgender son, I think I would have felt guilty that it took my son so long to finish school. I would have never focused on the resiliency and determination my son brought forth to walk across the stage to get his bachelor's degree. I would not have looked for all the beautiful moments that we have been able to share, as 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



Aiden (right) and Stefen Aizumi

gratitude that he never had. Less important was the time it took, more important were all the qualities of character my son found through his struggles to believe in himself.

I think the most amazing part of our journey is we experience moments at a higher level. When Aiden got married in 2013, I wanted to celebrate every minute of the day because there was a time that I thought he would never find love. My appreciation was deep, intense and ever present. And when Aiden finished his bachelor's degree, I wanted to celebrate every graduation moment because he didn't walk at his high school graduation and wasn't sure he would even go to college.

The beauty of having challenges in my life is that I don't take things for granted as often. I appreciate the moments at a higher level. I try to live fully present within the moment,

and the joy I feel is greater than I could ever imagine. I am so grateful for these points in time because there was a time that these 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 niece'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 mother smile.

Marsha Aizumi is an advocate in the LGBT community and the author of the book "Two Spirits: One Heart: A Mother, Her Transgender Son and Their Journey to Love and Acceptance."

SEABROOK JACL HOLDS GRADUATE RECOGNITION AND INSTALLATION LUNCHEON



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 Yoshida, Seabrook JACL vp.

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 ex-

tended to new incoming President Michael Asada and outgoing Co-Presidents Lenore Wurtzel and Sharon Yoshida, who have lead the Seabrook JACL for the past 13 years.

Framed letters, pearl service pins and bonsai plants were among the many expressions of appreciation presented to them for their numerous years of leadership and dedicated service. ■

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 Mainstreet 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 an attraction and a merchandise location. Cast members who work and sell items in the gallery are also specially trained to run the gallery as a museum.

Through the years, Yamada has completed several projects for the Walt Disney Co. Among his most notable works are the Walt Disney World 25th anniversary logo, the diamond castle with Mickey and Minnie in diamond costumes for Disneyland's 60th anniversary and the grand-opening poster for Euro Disney.

One of Yamada's first clients was the University of California, Berkeley's Athletic Department. His first project was a Cal Bears



Artist Kenny Yamada will sign his original Disney prints on Aug. 20.

football poster that was displayed on BART trains. More than 50 of his posters were reportedly stolen off BART trains that year.

In the years following, Yamada also created the Cal Bears posters that were displayed on billboards and on the sides of buses.

Yamada's artistic passion developed at a very young age. He began drawing Disney characters by age 3 and started to make public appearances by age 5. He grew up in Lodi, Calif., and graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, and the San Francisco Academy of Art.

He currently resides in Anaheim with his wife, Millie, and two daughters. ■

APAs in the News

Hawaii Rep. Mark Takai Passes Away at Age 49



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 will be 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 been 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 (pictured, far left) 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 Synder. 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

JACL

NATIONAL CONVENTION 2016

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.



(From left) Tim Storey, Nan Aron, Joseph Liu, David Mermin, Norman Mineta and Emil Trinidad during the "What's at Stake in the 2016 Elections?" plenary session



Miyako Kadogawa tries her luck on the casino floor with Mas Yamaoka.



Meg and Kota Mizutani

The National Council listens to the "What's at Stake" plenary panel.



(From left) Barbara Neuman, Amy Dickerson, Mieke and Ron Kuramoto

Voting delegates for Resolution 1



(From left) Valerie Duff, Jim Duff and Beth Uno



(From left) Stephanie Nitahara, Craig Shimizu and Alice Lin



Neil Kozuma and Sharon Uyeda



(From left) Jennifer Kaku, Curtiss Takada Rooks, Sarah Baker, Desun Oka and Kota Mizutani participate in the "Who Do We Represent?" plenary.



Members from the NY/SC and youth delegates onstage after the Youth Luncheon along with Black Lives Matter — Los Angeles



(Front row, from left) Floyd Shimomura, Consul General Jun Yamada, Minister Takuya Sasayama and Norman Mineta with alumni from the Kakehashi Program

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 concerns 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 Ouchida 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-Canadian 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 EDC 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 Kuramitsu, National Youth/Student Representative
 - Colleen Morimoto, VP for One Thousand Club and Membership



(From left) David Ono with Henry and Sharon Uyeda



(From left) JACL past presidents David Kawamoto, Floyd Shimomura, Raymond Uno, Larry Oda and David Lin



JACL Legacy Grant recipients and their programs were recognized during the convention's Sayonara Banquet.

PHOTOS: TOM NISHIKAWA AND TIFFANY UJIYE



(From left) John Tobe and Scott Nakamura

Services

Other members sworn in were:

- Michelle Yamashiro, Pacific Southwest District Council Governor
- Janet Komoto, Intermountain District Council Governor
- David Unruhe, Northern California Western Nevada Pacific District Council 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 Jun Yamada and Minister and Head of Chancery of the Embassy of Japan Takuya Sasayama. 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 the nation.

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 engage 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."

This year's major highlights also included the presentation of the Japanese American of the Biennium 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 Hirasuna 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 Inagaki Chapter Citizenship Award.

Venice-West Los Angeles Chapter member John Saito presented the George Inagaki Chapter Citizenship Award to the Seattle JACL Chapter for its tireless work in civil and social rights advocacy.

Legacy Fund Grant Recipients were recognized during the Awards Luncheon and honored below:

- Berkeley JACL: The Mineta Legacy Project; Chicago JACL:

The Kansha Project Alumni Leadership Board; Mile High JACL; The Minoru Yasui Legacy Project; New Mexico JACL: New Mexico's Small Towns & JA Confinement Experience; National Youth/Student Council; Philadelphia JACL: Good Luck Soup Interactive Exhibit; Philadelphia JACL: Uprooted Exhibit — East Coast Showing; Portland JACL: Spreading the Message of the Power of Words; Puyal-

up Valley JACL: Replacement of Signage at "Harmony" at the Washington State Fairgrounds; Seattle JACL: Family 2.0 — An API LG-BTQ Gathering; South Bay JACL: Tanoshii Fun Camp; Twin Cities JACL: February 19, 1942: The Day the Constitution Died.

The National Youth/Student Council presented a special Vision Award during the Youth Luncheon to Black Lives Matter — Los Angeles. The Vision Award is presented to an individual or organization that has made strides in an unconventional field. (For more coverage and in-depth discussion, please visit Page 8.)

In closing, newly elected National President Mayeda and the National Board met to collaborate on a road map for the next two years. Initiatives included improving communication channels between staff, the national board and chapters.

Challenges this year include eliminating the major budget deficit that immediate past National President David Lin and his board looked to decrease, hiring a new Executive Director, as well as developing a plan to grow and sustain rapidly declining membership figures.

"We are set to do astonishing things," Mayeda encouraged.

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, Charlotte Town, Prince Edward Island, Grand Pre, Lunenburg.
- China Silk Road Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida). Sep 12-23
Beijing, Urumqi, Turpan, Dunhuang.
- British Landscapes Holiday Tour (Elaine Ishida) Sep 12-21
England, Scotland, Wales.
- Korea Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida) Oct 4-17
Seoul, Nami Island, Sokcho, Daegu, Gyeongju, Busan, Cheju Island, Gwangju, Daejeon, Suwon, KBS Drama Center, DMZ Tour.
- New England Autumn Holiday Tour (Elaine Ishida) Oct 11-18
Boston, Woodstock, Stowe-Vermont, North Conway-New Hampshire, Boothbay Harbor, Kennebunkport Maine.
- Kyushu-Shikoku Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida) Oct 27-Nov 9
Fukuoka, Nagasaki, Kumamoto, Ibusuki, Kagoshima, Miyazaki, Beppu, Matsuyama, Kochi, Takamatsu, Shodo Island, Tokushima, Osaka.
- New Orleans Get-Away Tour (Carol Hida) Dec 12-16
One hotel, City Tour, New Orleans Cooking School-Dinner, Cajun Swamp Tour.

For more information and reservations, please contact:

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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 WUIYE



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-P.C. 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 meeting 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 and 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 those 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 them at our MDC Fall Meeting in Detroit on Oct. 14-16."

— Betsy Sato

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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 have 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.



The Hon. Norman Mineta (center) is joined by JACL NY/SC members including newly elected youth chairs Kota Mizutani (far left) and Kenji Kuramitsu (back row, center) and interim Assistant Executive Director Stephanie Nitahara (far left).

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 biennium, the NY/SC awards the NY/SC Vision Award to an organization or individual that has worked tirelessly to exact meaningful change in their community. This year, the NY/SC voted unanimously to honor the organization Black Lives Matter-Los Angeles. 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.

Fundraising for the Future. The NY/SC is extremely grateful for all those convention attendees who supported the 2016 NY/SC Sweepstakes 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.

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.

We saw it when Sec. Norman Mineta embraced Bell after her powerful and thought-provoking keynote address at the Youth Luncheon. We saw it when young JACL leaders stood up to express their ideas on the floor of the business sessions and placed votes impacting the future of the JACL. We felt it when dozens of youth members eagerly planned continued involvement with the NY/SC beyond convention.

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

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 captured in a public TV documentary set to be distributed nationally in August. "Arnold Knows Me: The Tommy Kono Story" depicts an Olympic hero at the peak of his powers in Helsinki, Melbourne and Rome. The half-hour program will debut on KVIE-TV in Northern California on Aug. 3.

Tommy Kono, who grew up slender and asthmatic in downtown Sacramento's vibrant Japanese American community, inspired two generations of weightlifters and body builders, including former California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Kono and his family were incarcerated in the Tule Lake Relocation Center in World War II. The mountain air cleared up his health problems, and a group of older teens got him interested in weightlifting. When Kono came home after the war, he was passionate about the sport and started to win local competitions. But he was drafted into the U.S. Army during the Korean War and was trained to be a cook. Waiting to be shipped out to Asia, Kono's talents were recognized, and he instead was put into an Olympic training program 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 producer, Suzanne Phan, and director, Ryan Yamamoto.

"It's been great to have a project where we could really dive in," said Phan. "To sit down and interview Tommy Kono was a chance to interview someone's father, someone's grandfather. It was a chance to document his story for his family and for so many others to learn from. It was a chance to share his story."

Yamamoto feels that the remarkable feats of the weightlifter, excelling during the time of the Cold War, go far beyond the realm of athletics.

"When you can tell that story through a guy like Tommy Kono, I think people will listen," said Yamamoto. "I think people will learn about Tule Lake, they'll learn about the Japanese internment as they're learning about this great athlete named Tommy Kono."

Kono passed away in Honolulu earlier this year at the age of 85, but in addition to his Olympic medals, his legacy includes coaching Olympic athletes here and abroad as well as authoring several books on lifting techniques. His hometown of Sacramento is also home to an annual Tommy Kono competition.

In addition to national public TV expo-



Olympian Tommy Kono with former California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger

sure around the Rio Olympics, the production team plans to enter the documentary in several film festivals.

Check your local listings for premiere dates of "Arnold Knows Me: The Tommy Kono Story."

COMING OUT

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

By Diana Morita Cole,
Contributor

After 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 1968 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. This 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.

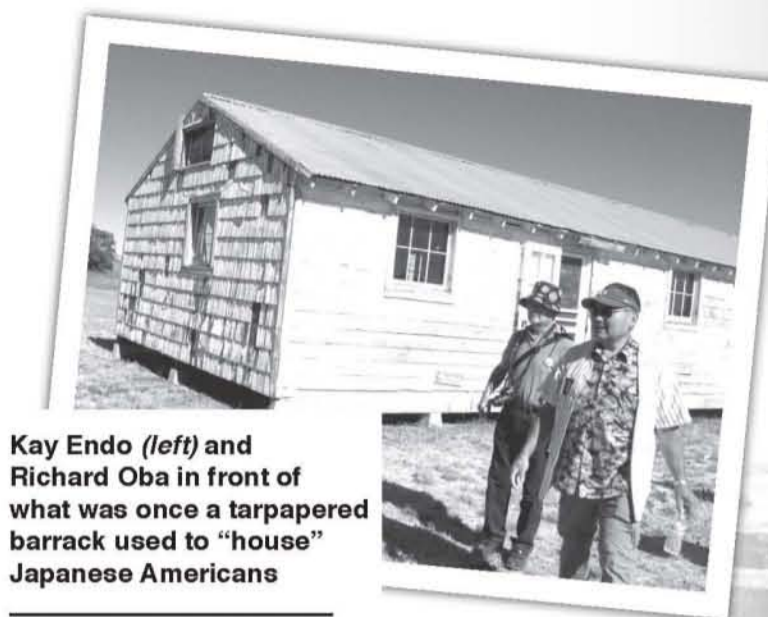
Prime Minister Trudeau invoked the War Measures Act, now called the Emergency Planning Order, and we quickly learned to tread carefully in our new land. Plain-clothes officers from the RCMP knocked on our door and asked if we had smuggled stereo equipment into Canada. When we produced the receipts and 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 discarded 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.



Diana Morita Cole standing in the former automotive warehouse



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

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

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

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.

But 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 attentions shifted from the separatists to 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 all the way from Vancouver to debate the "research" findings of Dr. Philippe 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 Canada narrative.

I felt encouraged when the redress movement in both the

**A photograph
of what remains
of the Minidoka
concentration
camp waiting
room**

U.S. 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 "Asiancy: 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."

A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

CALENDAR

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 and Prof. Stephen Murphy-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: Email publicprograms@janmsj.org or call (408) 294-3138.

Kimochi San Mateo Benefit Dinner
San Mateo, CA
Aug. 27; 5-9 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 and jtran@kimochi-inc.org or by phone at (415) 931-2294.

PSW

2015 NAAAP Convention
Las Vegas, NV
Aug. 11
Caesar'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.naaapconvention.org/2016/.

2016 Cause Leadership Academy Graduation
Pasadena, CA
Aug. 12; 11 a.m.-1 p.m.
KPCC 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.causeusa.org 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.eastwestplayers.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
9680 Granite Ridge Road
 Network 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 ABC7 Los Angeles' David Ono and NBC News correspondent Jinah Kim.
Info: Visit www.aaja.org.

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.nmafc.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 Mexico Japanese American Citizen's League in part supported by the New Mexico Arts Department of Cultural Affairs and the National Endowment of the Arts. Festivity activities include food and games for all ages.
Info: Visit www.nmjaccl.org.

PNW

Nikkei Community Picnic
Portland, OR
Aug. 21; Noon-5 p.m.
Oaks Park
Oaks Pkwy. and Macadam Ave.
Price: Free
 Join the local organizations of the Nikkei community to celebrate the ethnic heritage. Food, fun, rides, prizes and performances are scheduled for this year's program. Food dishes are welcomed to contribute for sharing.
Info: RSVP to Connie Masuoka at (503) 243-3291.

'Do You Know Bruce' Exhibit
Seattle, WA
Sept. 6
Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience
719 S. King St.
 This exhibit dedicated to Bruce Lee will end this fall. Items include new rarely seen memorabilia with personal letters and behind-the-scene photos from Lee's early TV career.
Info: Visit www.wingluke.com or call (206) 623-5124.

Densho 20th Anniversary Gala
Seattle, WA
Sept. 24; 5-8:30 p.m.
Sheraton Seattle Downtown
1400 Sixth Ave.
 Densho celebrates 20 years of collecting and preserving the living memory of World War II Japanese American incarceration. All are invited to celebrate the past two decades and support Densho

as they work to build a more just future. Keynote speakers include Dale Minami.
Info: Visit www.densho.org.

44th Annual Federation of Buddhist Women's Association Conference
Bellevue, WA
Oct. 7-9
Westin Bellevue
600 Bellevue Way N.E.
 The Federation of Buddhist Women's Assn. will host its biennial conference and all are welcome. English and Japanese keynote speakers are Dr. Sharon Suh and Rev. Mutsumi Wondra. The deadline for registration is Aug. 31.
Info: Visit www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org.

EDC

Hiro Photograph Exhibition
Boston, MA
Aug. 14
Museum of Fine Arts Boston
465 Huntington Ave.
 Yasuhiro Wakabayashi, also known as "Hiro," is known for his distinctively conceived and precisely realized images across a range of subjects including fashion, portraiture and still life. All are welcome to view some of his greatest images. He grew up in China and spent the years following WWII in Japan before arriving in the U.S. in 1954.
Info: Visit www.mfa.org or call (617) 267-9300.

Ikebana Demonstration With Hiroki Ohara
Cambridge, MA
Aug. 26; 4 p.m.
Hyatt Regency Cambridge
575 Memorial Dr.
Price: \$10-\$20
 The head master of the Ohara School of Ikebana in Japan will host his first public demonstration in the Boston area. Ohara is the fifth head master of the school that was founded over 120 years ago. There will also be a musical performance by Sumie Kaneko with traditional Japanese koto and shamisen.
Info: Visit www.oharaschoolma.com.

ADVERTISE HERE

Events in the calendar section are listed based on space availability. Place a 'Spotlight' ad with photos of your event for maximum exposure.

FOR MORE INFO:
tiffany@pacificcitizen.org
 (213) 620-1767

IN MEMORIAM

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, nephews and other relatives.

Amimoto, Marian Sachiko, 80, Monterey Park, CA; July 21; she is survived by her husband, Seibo; son, Alan; daughter, Diane (Bernie) 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 Yukiye Yokoi; grandson, Sei Baishiki; nephews, Ray Baishiki and Arthur Yokoi; she is survived by her son, Rodney (Katherine) and daughter, Yukiye; gc: 2; ggc: 2.

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

Kubota, George Setsuo, 79, Aptos, 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, Jane; gc: 4.

Kushi, Kazuye, 95, Long Beach, CA; May 26; she is survived by her daughters, Jeanne McGarvey, Carol (Oliver) Pena and Annette Faye (Bob) Alperin; sister, Tomiko Shibata; gc: 6; ggc: 3.

Masuda, Lily Yuriko, 92, Fountain Valley, CA; July 5; she is survived by her husband, Masao; daughter, Denise; 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.

Nagasawa, 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) Nagasawa; daughter, Linda (Brian) Terao; gc: 2.

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

Nakamura, Tsuya, 91, Rowland Heights; July 11; she was predeceased by her husband, Tsunemi; she is survived by her children, Shoichi (Sherri) Nakamura, Akemi Nakamura, Yuki (Tom) Jimbo and Grace Nakamura; brother, Yoshiro (Yoko) Morikawa; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 6; ggc: 4.

Nomura, Shoso, 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, Marsi Nomura; gc: 5; ggc: 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 Yaeko, 86, Monterey Park, CA; July 5; she was predeceased by her son, Steven Tetsuo; husband, Shigeru; she is survived by her son, Michael Mikio (Alison Mayumi) Sugimoto; brother, Ben Isamu (Miyoko) Kawahata; sisters, Hamayo Tamaki, Otome Horita and Fumiko Arakaki; gc: 2.

Tao, Mitsue, 92, Watsonville, CA; May 8; she was predeceased by her husband, Minoru; siblings, Kay, Roy and Tom Kaita, Chiyoko Fujii and Yacko Fujimoto; she is

survived by her son; Perry Tao; daughters, Gail (Bill) Wurtenberg and Vickie Jew; gc: 6; ggc: 3.

Toguchi, Alice Sadako, 97, Los Angeles, CA; July 16; she was predeceased by her husband, George Takenori; son, Roy Takehisa; 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.

Wakisaka, Sachiyo Shirley, 68, Monterey Park, CA; July 3; she is survived by her children, Chiharu, Steve (Kathy) and David; gc: 2.

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 Kansaku, Yukiko (Norman) Masaki, Alice Ishii and Katherine (Pete) Ottoboni; gc: 8.

Yamamoto, Kazuye 'Kay,' 91, Watsonville, CA; May 3; she was predeceased by her husband, Tom; brothers, Yas and Joe Kamitani; 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, Harry, Dennis and Theodore Yoshikawa; gc: 3.

TRIBUTES

SUMI KITAHATA UJIMORI



September 10, 1924-June 18, 2016

Sumi Ujimori, 91, of Upland, Calif., passed away on June 18. She was born and raised in Reedley, Calif. Sumi worked as an electrical designer for 30 years in Los Angeles County. She was predeceased by her brothers, Henry and Ben Kitahata, and her sisters, Sunny Otani and Taye Umade.

She is survived by her longtime friend, Michael Hadley; her sisters, Tomi Tanaka and Aiko (Hide) Matsuno; and her three children, Miyoko Pruitt, Helyne (Kent) Noyes and George Ujimori. She is also survived by her granddaughter, Sheri Yamasaki (Steven Kim), great-grandson, Tyler Yamasaki Kim, and many nieces and nephews.

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 Ave, 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.

PLACE A TRIBUTE

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

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REIMAGINE EVERYTHING



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 come from? All the lonely people, where do they all belong?"

But the effects of being alone isn't just emotional sadness, Dr. Yeh added.

"We are beginning to learn how impactful loneliness is. If you're lonely, it's the equivalent of smoking 15 cigarettes a day. It can shave eight years off the end of your life. You have a 29, almost 30 percent higher risk of heart attacks, 32 percent higher risk of stroke, and all from being lonely because we were meant to be socially connected, we're social animals."

Wow, that was a shocker that truly made me think. Loneliness can be very bad for our physical health!

Growing up, we were surrounded by family and friends. OK, so maybe we had some pretty lonely stretches when we couldn't get a date in high school and we thought our world was about to end. But of course, it didn't.

As we got out of school and started our careers and families, our network shrank. How many of us have a much smaller circle of friends today than we did when we were in our 20s?

Loneliness is becoming more common in the U.S. because as the country gets wealthier, we're having fewer children, and the extended family and that circle of people we count on gets smaller.

In my case, my mom lives in the Chicago suburbs, my sister lives in California, my brother lives in Memphis and I live in Virginia. So, it's much harder to stay connected — we no longer live in the same city or in multigenerational households.

Our modern tools of social media and technology — texts, emails, Facebook

and Skype on our computers, tablets and smartphones — can help, but they can also hurt.

"Thank goodness for social media because at least you can connect," Dr. Yeh agreed when she was asked about it. "But it's also hard to have deep, meaningful relationships and conversations in a hundred-forty characters."

Besides, social media is also fleeting . . . and it's not face-to-face. I would much rather have a conversation in person with my daughter who's in college than trade texts and tweets. But I guess it beats paying for flights back and forth.

But the U.S. will be facing a real challenge with increasing loneliness in the years to come — it's inevitable.

More and more older people are living alone. Dr. Yeh cited 30 percent of the 65 and older already live alone, two-thirds of people 85 live alone.

What can we do about it? Let's maintain our family relationships and friendships as we get older. We can seek out activities in the community to volunteer, or meet people with the same interests. We can use social media to start or attend meetups, find others like us.

And let's make sure other people we know aren't left on their own. Is someone withdrawing because they have hearing loss? Help him or her get a hearing test. If we know someone who doesn't speak English well, help that person overcome the language barrier by finding others who speak his or her language. Being an immigrant adds another challenge because as we age, we start losing other people who know our culture and speak our language.

"It's important to reach out if you see someone withdrawing," Dr. Yeh said in closing. Call them. Make the first move. "Maybe they're beginning to lose the confidence to socialize."

So, be sociable to others, and you'll be helping yourself! If you're walking down the street and you see someone sitting alone on a bench, just say, "Hello." I bet they'll smile back in gratitude.

You can find articles and resources about loneliness and isolation at www.aarp.org/loneliness. You can also watch Dr. Charlotte Yeh's interview about isolation on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/Hfz9LrGTyw4>.

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.

LETTER >> continued from page 2

For "leadership in community outreach"? That's great! Congratulations! You've managed to organize a whole SOCIETY of people who have essentially declared WAR against ANY and ALL police officers. What kind of message does that send to young children who are growing up and seeing all of this on the news and Internet when they are told that police officers are the ones who protect us from the bad guys? All this is doing is creating a culture of DISTRUST and HATRED for a system that has and DOES protect those LAW-ABIDING CITIZENS.

For "perseverance"? I will admit that your perseverance in ensuring that any and all police officers and their families are even MORE fearful and doubtful of their loved ones ever returning home, even more so than those who are in the military and deployed in the Middle East, by promoting this message and culture that you do is persistent. But hey, at least you can persevere.

For "dedication to history"? Sure, I can see where there are those who say this feels like what has happened in that past. That's great! It means that you have an understanding of what happened in the past, what the history is. However, history is just that — history. It cannot be changed or altered in any way. The only thing that can be changed is the future, but the only change that will happen in the future is that there will be even MORE distrust and even MORE violence against police officers should this culture CONTINUE to be promoted. There are crimes against police officers now. What's to say that that won't progress onto the FAMILIES of those officers next? Is that the kind of change you want your children to grow up in? Apparently, since the JACL CONTINUES to promote and encourage this behavior/mind-set.

For "cultural preservation"? Could someone PLEASE explain to me what KIND of culture is the Black Lives Matter trying to preserve? Because frankly, all I see is cultural PROMOTION: Cultural promotion of VIOLENCE against police officers, Cultural promotion of people NOT abiding by the law, Cultural promotion of DISTRUST of those who are only doing their JOB Is it THIS kind of ARCHAIC and BARBARIC culture that we want our children growing up in? IS THIS the kind of message we want to send to the world about how PETTY and STUPID we are?

For "social justice involved activism"? Is MURDERING police officers what gave the Black Lives Matter-Los Angeles group the qualification for "social justice involved activism"? Even if it WASN'T this chapter specifically, it is still associated with a chapter that DID, making them equally as guilty. Since when has the act of taking someone's life become "social justice"? Since when has breaking the law and being praised for doing so "social justice"?

EVERY life is precious, and those five Dallas police officers did NOT need nor did they deserve for their lives to be cut short as they did. It's all thanks to these Black Lives Matter people that people are beginning to believe that this is OK! That it's OK to take someone's SON OR DAUGHTER away from them. That it's OK to take a WIFE OR

HUSBAND away from them. That it's OK to take away a MOTHER OR FATHER away from their children. That it's OK to break the laws that have been set in place to PROTECT us. Police officers are only doing their jobs — ENFORCING those laws that protect us. THIS is NOT OK. To say that I am UPSET with JACL's promotion of the awarding of this scholarship is a gross understatement.

Yes, maybe there is a need for change, but this is NOT the way to do so. When has violence ever solved anything? Because if I remember history correctly, it HASN'T! There are SEVERAL ways to enact change such as by: continuously writing to your local newspapers and leaders, running for office and enacting change and, above all, ACTUALLY ABIDING BY THE LAWS THAT WE ALREADY HAVE! What point is there in making NEW laws when we clearly CANNOT enforce the ones that we already have? Why is that? Because of the Black Lives Matter people who continue to wage war with police officers. The police officers who enforce the law, as it is their job, are now so FEARFUL of their lives that they CANNOT do their jobs to their FULLEST extent. By merely performing their duties as police officers, they are being ridiculed for EVERY SINGLE THING, and becoming the headlines for the 5 o'clock news. Why didn't they act faster if there were that many hostages in the nightclub? Why weren't there more patrols around the Sandy Hook Elementary School? Blame has to go somewhere, and apparently, police officers are the best for that, especially recently.

There is a reason not everyone is a police officer because they have to make split-second decisions that will decide whether or not they actually get to go home that day. If it were that easy, your average Joe off the street could become an officer, no problem. In fact, we wouldn't even need an actual police force because EVERYONE would be a police officer. HOWEVER, that is not the case! If only it were possible, I would challenge you to step into their shoes and see what it is they ACTUALLY do and what kind of decisions they actually HAVE to make.

I used to do ballet, and all of my friends couldn't understand why I became so aggravated why society refuses to acknowledge that ballet is just as challenging and athletic as the sport known as cheerleading. So, I would teach them BASIC moves that beginners HAVE to learn. After their minilesson, they realized that, "WOW! There's a muscle I moved that I didn't even REALIZE was there!" "That is actually a LOT harder than it looks!"

Understanding police officers is the same way. Except, we are REFUSING to try and understand the police and are instead waging WAR against them. That's fine. But I thought we were trying to resolve some sort of problem? How can you do so without first knowing and understanding ALL parts of the story?

Sincerely,

*Samantha Liang, JACL Member,
French Camp Chapter*