ART WITH A PURPOSE

Pulitzer Prize-winning cartoonist Michael Ramirez on his journey to winning journalism’s highest honor.

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NJAMF’s Digital Storytelling Project Announces First Five Videos.

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George Takei Donates Personal Collection to JANM.
Dear Editor,

Tan Unemoto’s letter, Sept 9-22, 2016, is the best-written letter I’ve read in your publication. I think she is suggesting that all of us should strive to become critical thinkers. She recognizes our biases, but most, if not all, biases are culturally created. Also, I feel that often people misconstrued, or glossed, written information.

I am an older Sansei from the Alameda-Takoma family. Many of my deceased aunts and uncles, mother and cousins have been very active in JACL, but I was always, and somewhat today, a critic of your organization because my socialization was born out of the turmoil and protests of the 1960s.

I felt that JACL was more concerned about who was called a “Jap,” trying to be more moral on a national level. (Seriously, ask any random person if they know what JACL is.)

Recently, I have continued my mother’s subscription, out of honor toward her, and in reading, I find that your organization is expanding to include columns like “A Yonei Transplant” and “A Mother’s Tale.” Also, more feature articles like “Competitive Baker Must Stone on Food and Fitness” (P.C., Sept 9-22, 2016) allow us to view individuals, not solely because they are Asian. Which brings me to my final points: The term “Yonsei,” I think, is misused in many articles and conversations. Racism should be used to describe actual hateful or negative action.

I feel that most people are not racist, but rather just oblivious of others not like them. True racial harmony. I believe, will never exist without true cultural curiosity about one another.

I grew up in the 50s in an almost totally white school experience. Alameda High School, where all of the Yoneis who attended before me had sanctioned Greek-letter fraternalities and sororities. I was always fascinated by black culture, music, dancing, clothing. This has continued to the present. For the past 15 years, both New Orleans and Cheshdale, Miss., have been my second and third homes, traveling there several times a year.

I have many dear friends who are world-class musicians; the interesting thing is when I hang in the 6th and 7th Ward in all-black clubs, or when I frequently travel throughout Cajun country and seek out Dixie bars— both blacks and whites are very friendly because they see that I am enjoying being there. Let’s dance!

Sincerely,

Gordon Koji, Los Angeles, Calif.

Dear Editor,

I am deeply concerned about a number of policy positions that JACL has taken this past year. On a few occasions, they have remained silent where their voices should have been heard, and on others, they agreed for causes that were outside of their core mission.

But the most disturbing to me is JACL’s decision to publicize endorse and recognize the Black Lives Matter organization at this year’s annual convention. It surprises me that JACL would support a movement whose goals and ideologies are fundamentally divergent from ours, and whose rhetoric is not only divisive, but extremely dangerous.

Over the past two years, the Black Lives Matter movement has sought the support of various civil rights groups throughout the country and from leaders in public office. This support has given them an appearance of legitimacy as a civil rights organization, but in fact, their central thesis—that police pose the greatest threat to young black men—is based on a lie.

Even though the U.S. Justice Department has utterly discredited the claim that Michael Brown was shot in cold blood while trying to surrender in Ferguson, Mo., the Black Lives Matter movement has perpetuated the false narrative of “hands up, don’t shoot” and continued to herald Brown as a martyr.

Let us be clear from the start. The police have an absolute duty to treat all citizens with courtesy and respect and to protect their communities. Often, we witness examples in the media of officers who have developed hardened and obscenous attitudes when confronting suspects. And it goes without saying that every police shooting of a unarmed civilian (justified or unjustified) is a somber-turning tragedy. But however intolerable every episode of police brutality might be, and while we need to ensure that all our police forces are trained in the rule of law, the unfortunates truth is that the greatest threat to young, black men today is in fact black-on-black crime. This is a subject that Black Lives Matter seems to have very little interest in addressing!

Every year, 6,000 blacks on average are killed. In 2015, 228 blacks died as a result of police shootings, which is barely over 4 percent of the total deaths, and almost all of these occurred during the commission of a crime, or while resisting a arrest.

To be clear, this DOES NOT mean that they deserved to die, but it does mean that they were compliant in the events that led to their deaths. So, what accounts for the other 96 percent of black homicides?

In a given year, the black-on-black murder rate accounts for 95 to 98 percent of all black murders nationwide, and in some large urban centers like Chicago, New York and Baltimore, the numbers are as high as 96 percent. Even if all police brutality were halted tomorrow, it would only make a negligible difference in the black homicide rate.

Contrary to the opinion that the police do not care about black lives, I would argue that there is no organization in this country that is more devoted to protecting blacks and other minorities than the police. In New York City, there were 2,245 homicides in 1990. In 2014, there were only 333, which is a drop of 85 percent.

Criminologists estimate that at least 10,000 minority lives in New York City alone have been saved over the past 20 years because of this drop in homicides. No Civil rights groups or government aid program could possibly match those numbers.

>> See LETTER 2 on page 12

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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More than ever, your tax-deductible funds will help preserve the legacy of the Pacific Citizen. Donations of $100 or more will be entered in a monthly drawing for a box of “Pagoda-0” Japanese manga delivered to the winner’s door.
NIKKEI VOICE
WE HAVE TWO YEARS FOR THE PACIFIC CITIZEN TO EVOLVE — AND WE NEED YOUR HELP!

By Gil Asakawa

I'm back ... as the P.C.'s Editorial Board Chair. So, what does that mean, both for me and for you, the P.C.'s audience?

If you've been reading, you already know that the P.C. has been struggling for the past year — against a misguided even if well-intentioned attempt to switch to a digital-only news source. If the National Board and JACL leadership had its way, you wouldn't be reading a newspaper right now.

But the P.C. Editorial Board and you — JACL's membership — spoke loud and clear that eliminating the print edition after a several-months warning was unwise. Too many of our members are, to put it bluntly, not digitally-savvy or simply prefer to read a newspaper on paper, not pixels.

So, JACL leadership rolled back on the original plan and its fuzzy plans about allowing chapters to pay for the print copies that some members might want. The chapters, not surprisingly, were not happy that such a cost was being potentially shaved off their budgetary threats. The fate of the print edition of the Pacific Citizen, the newspaper of the JACL since 1929, was left to be decided at the July National Convention.

I was on a plenary panel discussion during the convention with two people who argued that the newspaper industry was changing and that the P.C. should change to an all-digital format. I argued that the P.C. is not a typical newspaper because of JACL's age-skewed membership, and that converting the P.C. to a simple email newsletter was unrealistic.

Newsletters are not the same thing as a newspaper, with in-depth articles, feature stories and commentary. Yes, I scan the Weekly Digest from National JACL. But the brief write-ups in the newsletter are pass-thru to other websites that have more details, context for the story or registration forms.

Yes, a short newsletter can be created by one person in several hours a week (as my friend and co-panelist Bill Iimada said on that plenary session as a reason why the P.C. should become a newsletter). And you can print out a short newsletter. But what would the briefs in the newsletter link to?

The P.C.'s stuff still needs to be doing its job of journalism — reporting, investigating, covering the community outside of JACL, shooting photos. Newsletters don't even cover. Newsletters aren't about journalism. Newsletters merely gather and pass along information.

After much discussion and some passionate statements on both sides of the issue (the anti-print edition side comes down to money), a resolution was passed at the convention that would give the printed P.C. a breather during this new biennium.

Phew! Good news!

But now, we have to roll up our sleeves and lay the groundwork for the future of the P.C. If we just keep stumbling along the way we have for years, this argument will repeat itself in two years. The future of news media is digital. As I said during that plenary session, I've worked in the online side of media companies since 1996, the dawn of the consumer Internet Age. My first online job was for AOL, after all.

I've watched as newspapers I've worked for — the Denver Post is a prime example — have suffered and shrunk in the past two decades since the Internet became part of so many of our lives. I watched as the Post's fine, Pulitzer-winning editor-in-chief finally resigned this summer because he was tired of cutting his staff down to a skeletal newsroom.

The P.C. is also at a skeletal stage. After the convention, the assistant editor resigned (for another job, which she richly deserves). Executive Editor Allison Haramoto is the sole full-time journalist on staff, supported by Business Manager Susan Yokoyama and longtime part-time Circulation Manager Eva Lau-Ting. If you notice more stories by the Associated Press and reliance on contributors and columnists, it's because Allison can't run the P.C. and produce all the content by herself. The assistant editor also kept the website updated, so that's on hold for now as well.

Because of the P.C.'s precarious relationship with National JACL and the two-year window that's open for the P.C to evolve to its next stage, and because of the P.C.'s current staffing issues, I have accepted new JACL National President Gary Mayeda's request to return to the role I held in the 2000s, as Editorial Board Chair for the Pacific Citizen.

>> See HELP on page 12

A YONSEI TRANSPLANTED
IS AUTOMATION REALLY THE WAY OF THE FUTURE?

By Matthew Ormseth

You order a coffee from this thing with wheels and a touchscreen, and it comes back a few seconds later with your order. When you've finished, it wheels back with the bill, wipes the table and clears your dishes. You leave the cafe and hop in your self-driving taxi, the fries cooks and the supermarket cashiers?

Of course, this is all additional work for the future of the service industry. But the people without college degrees will be hosed. They'll have no way to earn the money to go back to the next step, and because of the P.C.'s current staffing issues, I have accepted new JACL National President Gary Mayeda's request to return to the role I held in the 2000s, as Editorial Board Chair for the Pacific Citizen.

Workers and waitresses, cooks, maids, secretaries, receptionists — if we came up with a robot that can drive a taxi, you can bet we'll come up with one that can clean, cook and answer the phone.

There will still be jobs that only humans can do, jobs that require creative and innovative thinking, but those jobs will be off limits to those without a degree — in plainer terms, those without the money for a degree. It's that way already.

You can still earn a good living if you don't have a college degree, but the jobs that involve creative thinking are reserved for people who went to college. It's harsh, and it's classist, but it's true. If you went to college, you're usually lucky enough to have a job that takes advantage of what makes us human, a job that requires you to innovate and think critically and make your own decisions.

>> See FUTURE on page 12
PORTLAND, ORE. — Portland JACL participated in two events to commemorate National Voter Registration Day on Sept. 27. Portland JACL partnered with the Chinese American Citizens Alliance and registered more than 20 new Asian voters at the Portland Supermarket in Southeast Portland. Additionally, Portland JACL has been working with the Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon on the program entitled “New American Voters Project” this year. Several JACL Portland board members volunteered at weekly ceremonies where new immigrants are sworn in as new U.S. citizens. The ceremony takes place at the offices of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services in downtown Portland.

On National Voter Registration Day, Oregon Secretary of State Jeanné Atkins also joined in the celebration and was the keynote speaker at the event.

— Setcy Larouche, Portland JACL Membership Chair

NATIONAL YOUTH/STUDENT COUNCIL HOLDS FALL RETREAT

NY/SC and other youth members at the 2016 JACL National Convention, which was held in July at the Monte Carlo Resort and Casino in Las Vegas.

LOS ANGELES — JACL’s National Youth/Student Council successfully held its 2016 fall retreat Sept. 9-11 in Los Angeles. Traveling from cities and campuses across the country, NY/SC members reunited in Little Tokyo to participate in team-building activities, leadership development exercises and strategic planning. For this retreat, the NY/SC chose to stay in a hallmark establishment, a hallmark establishment that also involved witness tampering and the threatened arrest of an FBI special agent.

The retreat began on Saturday, the NY/SC gathered in the JACL’s PSW office to reflect on a year of many successes and challenges overcome, including the NY/SC’s youth programming at the 2016 JACL Convention and its programs. Without the support of Southwest Airlines and State Farm, the NY/SC could not be able to come together as a team to discuss and plan Youth Leadership Summit addressing the many challenges and opportunities surrounding Asian American Pacific Islander youth as well as the JACL. The NY/SC is able to engage on critical issues and make change in the community.

— JACL National Staff

APAs in the News/NewsBytes

Tournament of Roses 2017 Royal Court Selected in Pasadena

PASADENA, CALIF. — The Tournament of Roses announced the seven members of the 2017 Royal Court on Oct. 4. Selected from a group of 34 finalists, the Royal Court will attend nearly 100 community and media functions, acting as ambassadors of the association and the Pasadena community at large. Their reign will culminate on Jan. 2, 2017, with the 128th Rose Parade, presented by Honda.

The Royal Court finalists are pictured from left above Maja Kawaguchi Khan, Natalie Rose Petrovian, Autumn Marie Lundy, Shannon Tracy Larsuel, Lauren Emiko Powers, Audrey Mariann Cameron and Victoria Cecilia Castellanos. The finalists were chosen from a field of 1,000 applicants after a monthlong interview process.

Rose Princess Khan, 18, is a senior at Arcadia High School and lives in South Pasadena, Calif. She is the daughter of Yoko Kawaguchi, and she plans on studying nursing.

Rose Princess Lauren “Emi” Emiko Powers, 17, is also a senior at Arcadia High School and lives in Arcadia, Calif. She is the daughter of Fred and Candice Powers, and she plans on majoring in broadcast journalism with a minor in public relations.

Yoshinori Ohsumi Wins Nobel Prize for Studies of Cell ‘Self-Eating’

STOCKHOLM — Japanese biologist Yoshinori Ohsumi won the Nobel Prize in medicine on Oct. 3 for discoveries on how cells break down and recycle content, a garbage disposal system that scientists hope to harness in the fight against cancer, Alzheimer’s and other diseases.

The Karolinska Institute honored Ohsumi for “brilliant experiments” in the 1990s on autophagy, a phenomenon that literally means “self-eating” and describes how cells gobble up damaged content and provide building blocks for renewal.

Ohsumi, 71, from Fukui, Japan, is a professor at the Tokyo Institute of Technology. In 2012, he won the Kyoto Prize, Japan’s highest private award for global achievement. Ohsumi’s award was the 107th in the medicine category since the first Nobel Prizes were handed out in 1905. Each prize is worth $930,000. Ohsumi will receive his prize at an official ceremony in Stockholm and Oslo on Dec. 10.

NBC Drops Plans to Develop a Mail-Order Bride TV Series

BURBANK, CALIF. — Following strong protests from the Asian American community, NBC has scrapped its plans to develop “Mail Order Family,” a sitcom in which a widowed single father orders a mail-order bride from the Philippines to help raise his two daughters.

The network’s announcement, made on Sept. 28, was immediately condemned by civil rights groups, including Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Los Angeles, which released a statement on Sept. 30.

“With the recent trend of substantive and meaningful roles in television that explore nuanced perspectives of Asians in America, NBC’s announcement of a new show in production called ‘Mail Order Family’ is a leap backward in the depiction of Asians and Asian Americans on television,” the organization said. “As one of the few television shows either on air or in production to feature Asian Americans, it is an outrage that NBC has chosen to address the plight of mail order brides and human trafficking as a family comedy.”

Paul Tanaka Ordered to Begin Serving Prison Sentence This Month

LOS ANGELES — Former Los Angeles County Undersheriff Paul Tanaka, 57, will surrender to federal authorities on Oct. 7 to begin his five-year prison sentence, a judge ordered in Los Angeles on Sept. 28.

Tanaka was originally due to begin his sentence on Oct. 3 but was given a four-day reprieve by U.S. District Judge Percy Anderson so that he could complete work toward his appeal, which will be eventually heard by a federal appellate panel in Pasadena, Calif.

Anderson ordered Tanaka to present himself at the low-security federal prison camp in Englewood, Colo., by 3 p.m. on Oct. 7 at the U.S. Marshals Service office in Downtown Los Angeles.

Tanaka was the ninth sheriff’s official convicted of criminal conduct based on the circumstances surrounding the hiring of inmate-informer Anthony Brown, a scheme that also involved witness tampering and the threatened arrest of an FBI special agent assigned to the jails investigation.

— P.C. Staff and Associated Press
DIGITAL STORYTELLING PROJECT ANNOUNCES FIRST FIVE VIDEOS

Amache, Heart Mountain, Manzanar, Poston and Topaz are highlighted in video projects produced by five high school students as part of the NJAMF's Digital Storytelling Project.

This summer, five exceptional high school students from diverse backgrounds and four different states (California, Maryland, Ohio and Washington, D.C.) who wanted to learn about the Japanese American experience and history during World War II tapped into their creativity and produced the first five videos of the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation's Digital Storytelling Project.

The students each researched one internment camp, conducted interviews with former internees and their families and then came to the Heart Mountain Pilgrimage — held at the original site of the Heart Mountain Pilgrimage Center, which incarcerated more than 14,000 Japanese Americans and their families during WWII — to learn how to produce these videos or “digital stories.” The videos — featuring Amache, Heart Mountain, Manzanar, Poston and Topaz — can be found at the NJAMF website (www.nجامf.com).

The Digital Storytelling Project is a seed project of the foundation that is meant to inspire a young generation to engage in civil rights, the study of the Constitution and America’s checkered history.

The student creators of the five videos are Carolyn Hoover from Maryland (Topaz), Reed Leventis from Maryland (Poston), Julia Shin from Ohio (Manzanar), Halle Soun from California (Amache) and Connor Yu from Washington, D.C. (Heart Mountain).

The NJAMF called for applications from high school students around the country with the goal of choosing 10 students — one for each major internment camp in the mainland U.S. — to learn how to develop, write, research and ultimately produce a short video.

The foundation chose five deserving students this year and it intends to choose five more for next year.

The students traveled to Cody, Wyo., in July 2016 to attend a two-day intensive digital storytelling workshop offered as part of the Heart Mountain Pilgrimage. After working hard for many hours, the students showed their films at the Pilgrimage banquet, where some of the Nisei featured in the stories were in attendance. Now, the five films are polished and available to the general public.

“One of the most powerful elements of these videos is the incarceration experience during World War II is not a Japanese American story, it is an American story,” said Cal Shintani, chairman of the board of directors of the NJAMF. “The students who poured their heart and soul into these videos not only included students of Japanese American ancestry who had grandparents in the camps, but we also had students who were Korean American, Chinese American and a student whose grandparents were Jews in WWII Poland. All of these students related to this history, and all of them compared the events from 75 years ago to events occurring today.”

Jeff Machythe, Emmy Awarding filmmaker and co-owner of Los Angeles-based production company Content Media Group, has been the NJAMF’s partner in mentoring the students throughout the training process. The Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation has been the NJAMF’s other partner in the project, hosting the workshop last summer and making the expertise of its executive director, Ethan Lasser, available to the students.

The Digital Storytelling Project is meant to be the heart of a mobile application to be developed in 2017 for visitors to the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism in World War II. The NJAMF’s goal (shared by the All Camps Consortium) is to ensure that the organizations affiliated with the Japanese American WWII incarceration experience have a voice in the nation’s capital. The fact that each video was created by a young person interested in civil rights and the history of Japanese Americans during WWII supports the foundation’s goal of including upcoming generations of Americans in all of its work.

High school students interested in applying for the Digital Storytelling Project in 2017 should email njamfstorystoryingproject@gmail.com.

To support additional students participating in this project, visit http://video.nجامf.org/supportus.html and donate through PayPal. Supporters can also mail a check to: NJAMF Digital Project, 4300 Wisconsin Ave. NW, Ww-106-336, Washington, D.C. 20016.
PAIN AND INK:
PRICKING POLITICIANS PRODUCES PULITZERS
FOR CARTOONIST MICHAEL RAMIREZ

By George Toohia Johnston

In the movie business, the top accolade
is an Oscar. For television, the Emmy
rules. In music, a Grammy is golden.
And in journalism, the Pulitzer Prize is the
pinnacle — and political cartoonist Michael
Ramirez has two.

The two Pulitzers, however, aren’t the
only honors the 55-year-old, self-described
“consistent constitutional conservative” and
“free-market capitalist” has collected over
his long career.

The son of a Spanish and Mexican father
and native Japanese mother has also won the
2015 National Cartoonists Society’s
Reuben Award (named after cartoonist Ruben
Goldberg) and is a five-time winner in the
organization’s editorial cartoon division.

In 2008, Ramirez won the Michael Editorial
Cartoon Competition (unlike the Pulitzer,
which has a body of work, the Michael honors
a single image that depicts a particularly
relevant political or social event”) and the
2005 National Journalism Award for
Editorial Cartooning.

It was the only hobby for being, as Ramirez
describes it, the black sheep among his four
siblings, all of whom pursued medicine and
became physicians. But their choice to “pick
up the scalpel” came later in life. As the mid-
dle child between an older brother and sister
and a younger brother and sister, he picked
up the pencil early in life, and his aptitude
manifested immediately. Drawing came as
naturally as breathing for Ramirez.

“I’ve always had the ability to look at
something and just be able to re-create it,”
Ramirez said. “It was bizarre to me that
people didn’t have a natural ability to draw,
because I’ve always had it.”

Ramirez fondly remembers how his late
father, Edward Ramirez, used to draw for
him. “We used to sit there and draw togeth-
er,” he says. “Best dad in the world.”
He met his wife while stationed in Japan in the
Army, serving in Military Intelligence.

Michael Ramirez also remembers growing
up in Japan, where he was born, and how
his first language was Japanese. “Today, my
Japanese is very poor,” Ramirez relates.
Other than when he takes his elderly mother,
Ramirez, to sushi every Monday night and
interacts with the sushi chefs, he said, “I
don’t use it very often.”

Drawing, however, stayed with Ramirez
— but his future career was almost derailed
because he was too good at it. His entry in
a sixth-grade art contest placed second “be-
cause they thought my parents had helped.”
His pencil drawing of Auguste Rodin’s
Thinker sculpture could not have been, it
was decided, drawn by a kid.

After thanking everyone, Ramirez said he
chucked his second-place ribbon into a trash
can, when no one was looking — but added
that his dad made him retrieve it. It was a
lesson in humility. The point isn’t winning
— the point is doing, said father to son.

A curated collection of Michael Ramirez’s political cartoons (left) was published in October 2015, a follow-up to his 2008 book (right).
Ramirez (above) with the 2015 Pulitzer Prize in International Reporting for his series of articles on the war in Syria and the refugee crisis. Ramirez is now a staff writer for The New York Times.

While Ramirez's political views are known, he is not afraid to report on stories that challenge his own beliefs. His reporting on the war in Syria and the refugee crisis, for example, took him to some of the world's most dangerous places. His efforts earned him the Pulitzer Prize in International Reporting for his series of articles on the conflict.

 Ramirez's work has been praised by colleagues and readers alike. "He's a great writer," one colleague said. "He always gets the story right." Ramirez himself is humble about his achievements. "I just try to do my job," he said.

 Ramirez's commitment to reporting the truth has not always been easy. In one instance, he was arrested while covering a protest in Syria. Despite the danger, he continued to report and was eventually released.

 Ramirez's work has not gone unnoticed. The New York Times has nominated him for a Pulitzer Prize twice, and he has received numerous other awards for his reporting. Ramirez himself is proud of his work, but he says it's not all about him.

 "I do it because I believe it's important," he said. "I believe in the power of the press to inform and to hold those in power accountable."
REIMAGINE EVERYTHING
IT’S NEVER TOO LATE TO START EXERCISING!

By Ron Mori

By now, just about everyone has heard or has read that exercise is a key ingredient to healthy living. But surveys show that less than a third of people age 65 and over follow a regular exercise program. Now, it would be easy to dismiss the vast numbers of older people who don’t exercise regularly as being lazy or not having sufficient regard for good health. But that would be unfair, and, worse, it would be wrong.

Many older folks don’t exercise simply because they don’t realize how amazingly beneficial to their health and well-being a regular exercise program would be. Some figure, “What’s the point at my age?” They believe it’s too late for them to get much benefit from exercise. Others are just wary and maybe a little bit afraid. After all, for years, they’ve been hearing older folks told, “Hey, be careful. You’re not as young as you used to be!” They believe the right thing to do is to “slow down” their activities as they get older.

The fact is: The opposite is true. As fitness expert Dean Anderson has put it, “It’s not aging that’s making us take it easy. It’s taking it easy that is making us age.” The human body is much better at maintaining and repairing itself when you keep it well conditioned through a program of regular physical activity. Most older persons, even those already suffering from some disabling conditions, can maintain very good overall levels of energy and strength into their very late years. Yes, even their 90s. It’s never too late to start exercising.

Studies of people in their 60s and 70s who had not previously exercised, but who then adopted an active fitness program, have found that older folks who start exercising show nearly as much improvement in aerobic, heart-lung and other health areas as do younger people who start exercising.

Older folks who exercise regularly have more energy, sleep better and breathe better. Regular exercise will strengthen skeletal muscles and, thus, reduce the risk of falling, which, as I noted in a recent article, is the leading cause of disability in older persons. In fact, an experimental program of muscle strengthening in a group of men who averaged 90 years of age resulted in a remarkable improvement in their strength, muscle mass and walking ability.

And now, new research is finding that regular sustained exercise helps improve brain health. It may be able to slow or even reverse the biological changes that cause dementia. What’s more, exercise may even be an effective treatment for those with Alzheimer’s disease and vascular dementia.

One of the worst enemies of a successful and enduring exercise program is impatience. Many people who have taken the initial big step of actually beginning an exercise program have become discouraged and stopped because they didn’t believe that they were getting the benefits they had hoped for. In other words, they didn’t “feel” that much better given the amount of time and effort they were putting into it.

Well, it takes a while. The benefits I’ve mentioned will come, and you will feel them. But for many, it may take weeks or even months before you notice any real difference. But, once you do, I promise, you’ll need no more convincing. So, please be patient. Give it a chance.

The Healthy Living page on AARP’s website (www.aarp.org/health/healthy-living/) offers plenty of tips to help you get started and information on an array of different exercise programs to help find one that’s right for you. And, please remember, always consult your doctor before you start a new exercise program.

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.

NY/SC SET TO HOST YOUTH SUMMIT

The National Youth/Student Council of the Japanese American Citizens League will be holding a youth summit titled “Remodeling the Model Minority: Japanese Americans and Black Liberation” in conjunction with the Midwest District Council district meeting on Oct. 15 at the Livonia Detroit Marriott.

Given the long history of Japanese Americans in the United States and a new, national conversation on race and racism, the summit will explore the role of Japanese Americans in these dialogues.

The group will begin the day by discussing the history of Japanese American participation in model-minority mythologies. In addition, participants will hear about the local history of AAPI and black communities in Detroit and critically examine this social landscape.

There will also be a multigenerational conversation with youth and community elders. Finally, the legacies of Japanese American anti-blackness will be explored, as well as discussion as to what citizens can learn from past examples of Nikkei and coalition partners.

While this conference is hosted by the JACL, this conference is open to all interested young persons. The NY/SC recognizes the diversity of the JA community and invites anyone interested in joining the conversation.

This free event requires preregistration. There is limited housing available for out-of-town attendees. Please RSVP on the website (https://jac.org/remodeling/) by Oct. 10. For additional questions or concerns, email kkuramitsu@jach.org. Event details are also available on Facebook.

NY/SC SET TO HOST YOUTH SUMMIT

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2017 Special New Year’s Issue

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GEORGE TAKEI DONATES PERSONAL COLLECTION TO JANM

LOS ANGELES — Actor and civil rights activist George Takei has donated his personal collection, which represents the many facets of his life and career, to the Japanese American National Museum, in Los Angeles’ Little Tokyo. The collection will serve as the foundation of a new exhibition that will open at the museum in March 2017 titled “New Frontiers: The Many Worlds of George Takei.”

The George Takei Collection features a wide range of two- and three-dimensional artifacts that demonstrate the magnitude and breadth of Takei’s accomplishments. Included are photographs, correspondence, scripts, awards, campaign materials from his 1973 Los Angeles City Council bid and one-of-a-kind artworks made by his legion of fans.

Of special note is a sculpture made by Takei’s father while the family was incarcerated during World War II at the Rohwer concentration camp in Arkansas; the walking stick Takei carried on his ascent of Mount Fuji in Japan; the Olympic torch he carried in the lead-up to the 1984 Summer Olympic Games in Los Angeles; and the key to the city of Rancho, Va.

Takei traveled to Rancho in 2015 to meet with Mayor David Bowers, after Bowers cited the use of Japanese-American concentration camps to justify suspending the relocation of Syrian refugees to the city.

“It is an honor and a privilege for the Japanese American National Museum to be the repository of the George Takei Collection,” said JANM Interim President/CEO Ann Burroughs.

“It is an honor and a privilege for the Japanese American National Museum to be the repository of the George Takei Collection,” said JANM Interim President/CEO Ann Burroughs. “George is fearless in his stand against discrimination and injustice and in his determination to take on the toughest social issues and protect the most vulnerable. He is an inspiration to the Japanese American community and to people across the world. He and his husband, Brad, have astutely collected and saved important artifacts that bring to life his many remarkable achievements. We are proud to be the stewards of this collection and will ensure that they are protected and accessible in perpetuity.”

Takei has previously donated individual items to JANM, but this contribution makes the George Takei Collection the museum’s largest collection about any one individual Takei has been involved with JANM since its inception more than 30 years ago. The volunteer owner in the museum bears his name, and he served as chair of the board of trustees from 2000-04. JANM presented Takei with its Medal of Honor for Lifetime Achievement and Public Service, the museum’s highest honor, in 2015.

“New Frontiers: The Many Worlds of George Takei” will take up into the Takei Collection to present a comprehensive exploration of Takei’s life.

The interactive, hands-on exhibition will feature numerous never-before-seen personal items through which visitors will learn not just about Takei but also about the constantly evolving and diverse American cultural identity, political outlook, social mores and media landscape.

The exhibition will open to the public at JANM on March 12, 2017, and remain on view through Aug. 20. Author, journalist and cultural critic Jeff Yang is curator of “New Frontiers” and will announce at a later date.

The George Takei Collection at JANM is currently being processed by the museum’s collection unit staff. After processing, it will be available for scholarly research by appointment only.

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

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3. Next call or head over to National JACL Credit Union.

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Get a better rate and up to $500 cash back.

Use this innovative auto buying resource that connects you with comprehensive research and comparison tools. Make a smart buying decision with competitive credit and financing. Know Before You Go!
This year's festival also features a Spooky Onigiri Decorating Contest, taught by L.A.-based food writer Sonoko Sakai.

**JCCCNC Members:**

A $15 discount code that is available until Oct. 21. This year’s theme is “Kanisha” (gratitude) and the following individuals will be honored: Vernon Hayashida, Asa Haruna Kojima, Stan Kawamura and Rich Saito. Come and celebrate their remarkable community accomplishments and enjoy an evening that also includes a silent auction, quilt drawing and a framed Otsuka print of Part 1: “Never Give UP! Minoru Yasui and the Fight for Justice.”

**Contact:** Email okaeri.la@gmail.com.

**Bridge Communities Benefit Dance**

Oct. 22; 7-11:30 p.m. This two-day gathering will feature various programs. Doors open at 7 p.m., and the event will feature a live band and dancing. Appetizers and munchies will be also be offered, along with a no-host bar. Door prizes and opportunities for conversation will be held throughout the evening. Come out and enjoy the evening with music performed by Kokoro.

**Contact:** Nancy Takayama (213) 620-1767; ext. 101 or email ntakayama@jacpsw.org.

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**Harvest Bazaar**

Ontario, OR

Nov. 13; Noon

Ontario Community Church

240 S.E. Third St.

**Price:** Free

Come out and support the Ontario Community Church at its Harvest Bazaar, featuring colorful items like sushi, ramen, sake and more! The worship service begins at 11 a.m., the bazaar begins at noon and the auction will be held at 2 p.m.

**Visit:** https://www.facebook.com/Harvest-Bazaar-Ontario-Community-Church-402969340506115.

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**NCWNP**

Halloween Carnival

San Francisco, CA

Oct. 28; 6-8 p.m.

JCCCN

1840 Sutter St.

**Price:** $7 per person; $4 for onigiri decorating contest. Games and prizes are available, and arts and crafts and goodie bags to eat! Be sure to come dressed in your favorite Halloween costume. The costume contest includes prizes in several categories. This year’s festival also features a Spooky Onigiri Decorating Contest, taught by L.A.-based food writer Sonoko Sakai.

**Contact:** Matt Okada at (415) 567-5505.

**San Jose JACL’s 13th Annual Community Recognition Dinner**

San Jose, CA

Nov. 6; 5-8 p.m.

Holiday Inn San Jose-Silicon Valley

1350 N. First St.

**Price:** $125; $115 for JACL members

This year’s theme is “Kanisha” (gratitude) and the following individuals will be honored: Vernon Hayashida, Asa Haruna Kojima, Stan Kawamura and Rich Saito. Come and celebrate their remarkable community accomplishments and enjoy an evening that also includes a silent auction, quilt drawing and a framed Otsuka print of Part 1: “Never Give UP! Minoru Yasui and the Fight for Justice.”

**Contact:** Email okaeri.la@gmail.com.

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**PSW**

Okaeri 2016: A Nikkei LGBTQ Gathering

Los Angeles, CA

Oct. 14-15

**Price:** $20-$35

Okaeri 2016 is an opportunity for individuals to connect with LGBTQ Nikkei and allies, find support, resources and information and learn how Nikkei have fostered their LGBTQ family members. This two-day gathering will also feature several plenary sessions and workshops.

**Info:** Email okaeri.la@gmail.com.

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**IDC**

Minidoka: Artist as Witness Exhibit

Boise, ID

Oct. 8-Jan. 15, 2017

Boise Art Museum

670 E. Julia Davis Dr.

**Price:** $4

This two-day gathering will feature various programs. Doors open at 7 p.m., and the event will feature a live band and dancing. Appetizers and munchies will be also be offered, along with a no-host bar. Door prizes and opportunities for conversation will be held throughout the evening. Come out and enjoy the evening with music performed by Kokoro.

**Contact:** Nancy Takayama (213) 620-1767; ext. 101 or email ntakayama@jacpsw.org.

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**PNW**

Centennial Celebration: Minoru Yasui

Hood River, OR

Oct. 18; 7-9 p.m.

Columbia Center for the Arts and the Hood River Library

180 N. Central Ave.

**Price:** Free

This children’s festival and craft fair features Lake Wasco’s famous fish market and is the author of “The Making of Asian America: A History.”

**Info:** Contact Amy Dickerson (612) 338-4045 or email adickerson323@gmail.com.

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**EDC**

Mass Imprisonment of Japanese Americans During WWII

Boston, MA

Oct. 21; 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Federal Reserve Plaza

600 Atlantic Ave.

This forum, the first of what may be a monthly series, will focus on Minidoka: Artist as Witness Exhibit.

**Contact:** Cindy Watanabe, director of the Institute for Asian American Studies and a presidential appointee to the White House Initiative on API.

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**Masakazu Kuriyama**

San Francisco, CA

Oct. 25; 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Japan’s famous fish market and inspiration behind the documentary “Jiro Dreams of Sushi.” Door prizes and drawings will also be held.

**Contact:** Visit https://JapaneseFoodCultureUSA.org.

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**MDC**

Chrysanthemum Banquet

Bloomington, MN

Nov. 5; Banquet at 11 a.m.

Normandale Hylands Methodist Church

9290 Normandale Road

**Price:** Member $20; non-member $35

Please join the Twin Cities JACL for the Chrysanthemum Banquet, an exciting opportunity to meet new friends and reconnect with old ones. A bento box is included with your ticket purchase. This year’s program will feature speaker Erik Lee, one of the nation’s leading immigration and Asian American historians. Lee teaches American history at the University of Minnesota and is the author of “The Making of Asian America: A History.”

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IN MEMORIAM

Obituary content:

Arakawa, Jaime Takeshi, 89, Honolulu, Hi, Sept; 5; she is survived by his wife, Atsuko; daughters, Shelley Kello (Herbert Yoshimura and Andrew Yukiko (Gary) Oiso; gc: 1.

Chiaki, Hiyoko Kinoshita, 102, Belflower, Ca, Sept 14; she was predeceased by her husband, H. Yosho; daughter, Taiyo; she is survived by her daughters, Janet Maloney (Mike), Barbara Shoup (Mutt); and Karen Furuta (San); son, Ray Chikami (Yuki); brother-in-law, Harry Yoshimura; niece, Yoe Okumura; as well as many other nieces and nephews; gc: 12, ggc: 14.

Hashimoto, Nancy Shizuko, 93, Honolulu, Hi, Aug 23; she is survived by her daughters, Valerie E. Hashimoto-Petrossian, Cheryl K. Hetherington and Sharon A. Hashimoto; brother, Charles Murakami; gc: 3; ggc: 1.

Hayashi, Douglas Tako, 74, Hilo, Hi, Sept 7; he is survived by his father, Eric S., mother, Eunice T.; brothers, Jerry T. and Terrence A.

Kana, Kazuko, Terese Michiko, 63, Seattle, Wa, Sept 29; she is survived by her husband, Terry; mother, Akiko HJ; brother, Andrew; sister, Rachel.

Fukuhara, Kiken, 81, Tomoyo, CA, Sept 22; he is survived by his wife, Shigeko; son, Akira (Yuki) Fukuhara; daughter, Masaumi (Andrew) Kato; brother, Tabukiku (Miyoko) Fukuhara; sister, Hsako (Setsuo) Yamana; and many other relatives here and in Japan; gc: 5.

Fukumoto, Matthew Fook's, 38, Waipahu, Hi, Sept 4; he is survived by his parents, John and Diane Fukumoto; sisters, Danielle (Matt) Koko; Fukumoto and Quinn (Janus) Mannring; nieces and nephews, Ava, Elia, Mykah; Adam, Brenyn and Kyan.

Purutani, Shoji, 89, San Fernando, CA, Sept 24; he is survived by his wife, Kazuko; daughter, Carol; son, Roy.

Shinzato, Ikuko, 98, Monterey Park, Ca, Sept 21; she is survived by her son, Kazuo; Shizuo, daughters, Sebbuko, Mary (John) Cho, Omori, Grady Kono; gc: 9; ggc: 6.

Nishikawa, Setsuko, Joyce, 98, Pasadena, CA, Sept 22; she was predeceased by her husband, Masuo; son, Ronni; sister, Niki (Bennie); and Dennis (Jackie) Nishioka; daughter, Sherry (David) Nakai; son, George (Sadako) Ham; daughter-in-law, Linda Nishiki; gc: 1.

Omata, Chieko, 81, Sacramento, CA, Sept 7; she is survived by her sister, Kh threw her brother, Kazuo; brother, Kazuo; gc: 2.

Takematsu, Yukiko, 87, Lake Forest, Ca, Sept 27; she was predeceased by her husband, Harry; she is survived by her sons, Henry and Frank (Sharon); gc: 6; ggc: 8.

Shiraiishi, Satsuki, 87, Hilo, Hi, Aug 27; she is survived by her son, Wayne (Valerie) Shiraiishi; daughter, Grace (Hiroshi) Higashino; sister, Kazumi Tanabe; she is also survived by her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Wakao Yajima; she is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews.

Yoshida, Betty Sue, 97, Lake Forest, CA, Sept 27; she was predeceased by her husband, Harry; she is survived by her sons, Henry and Frank (Sharon); gc: 6; ggc: 8.

Brother-in-law, Tak Hamagawa; he is survived by his wife, Edith Natsumi Zakaki children, Eric (Charlene Takan), Stacy (Randy Mariano), Lynne and Donna Shishima; brothers, Bill (Eloise) Shishima and Paul (Kay) Shishima; sisters, Koko Hamagawa and Michiko (Dave) Iwato; he is also survived by many in-laws, nieces and nephews as well as other relatives; gc: 10.

Takeshita, Akiemi Kim, 89, Seattle, Ca, Sept 17; she was predeceased by her husband, George; she is survived by her children, Candice (Dawn) and Curtis (Linda); gc: 4.

Tanaka, Joyce Sumiko, 89, Seattle, Ca, Sept 16; she is survived by her sisters, Gladys Kato (Jerry) and Joanne Shmoot (Dean); she is survived by her husband, Susan; daughters, Vicki and Jill Tanimori and Kris Tanimori Leon (Dennis); brother, Watsuse, sisters, Kathleen Ishi, and Sue Hom-Horn (Wayne); she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and cousins; gc: 2.

Watanabe, Shizuko, 87, San Jose, Ca, Sept 8; she is survived by her husband, Shigen; brothers, Hen and Frankie; son, Michael; daughter, Kathleen (Bobbi); gc: 2.

Obituary content:

Yokoyama, Mary Kawakami, 82, San Jose, Ca, Sept 8; she is survived by her husband, Shigen; brothers, Hen and Frankie; son, Michael; daughter, Kathleen (Bobbi); gc: 2.

TRIBUTE

MASUOKA, NOBUKO

Masuoka, Nobuko, 91, April 21, 1925-Aug 05, 2016. Nobuko "Non" Masuoka, 91, our "energetic bunny," died unexpectedly on Aug 5 in Portland, Or., of natural causes. She was born on April 21, 1925, in Lahaina, Maui, which was then the tip of the Territory of Hawaii. Nobu was the third of the children born to school and institution was president. She was raised in Lahaina, where she graduated from Lahaina High School in 1942 and then attended Campanion Commercial College in Honolulu, after which she worked for the Public Health Dept. In Honolulu for eleven years. Nobu married Dr. Matthew Masuoka in November 1947 and moved to Portland, Or. Not married and worked side by side for thirty years, working in the dental field until Matthew's death in 1986. Nobu continued to work in the practice with her daughter, Connie, until the day of her death. In addition, Nobu volunteered and worked tirelessly on projects and events to support and promote the local Japanese American community. She was a member of many community organizations, including the Hirohime Club, Japanese Ancestral Society, Nichido Fushin Kai, Portland JACL and Oregon Buddhist Temple. The organization that was closest to her heart in her later years was the Oregon Nikkei Endowment (ONE), of which she and Matt were founding members. She continued to be a board member until her death. She was so proud of the accomplishments of ONE, which built and maintains the Japanese American Historical Park at the Watertown and the Oregon Nikkei Living Legacy Center, a museum and archive of the Japanese American experience in Oregon. She is survived by her children, Dr. Connie, News and Dr. Low (Lowrence), two grandsons, Seiji and Cameron, Steenie, Matsie and Nick; and many other nieces and nephews. She is survived by the "good" children and grandchildren who enriched her life. A memorial service will be held Sept 17, 2016, at Oregon Buddhist Temple. Remembrances may be made to Oregon Nikkei Endowment, 121 N.W. Second Ave., Portland, OR 97209
SILICON VALLEY JAACL ACKNOWLEDGES SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The Silicon Valley chapter of the JAACL congratulates the recipients of its second annual scholarship: Brendan Boon, who is attending the University of California, Santa Cruz; Kenneth Fujimoto, who is attending De Anza College; Emily Kobayashi, who is attending the University of California, Santa Cruz; Michelle Ng, who is attending California State University, San Luis Obispo; and Harun Watanabe, who is attending California State University, San Francisco.

At the chapter’s annual general meeting, each scholarship recipient gave a brief presentation where they spoke about how they each have and will continue to contribute to the Japanese American community in the coming year. Kobayashi even led a stop-motion video presentation and expressed her gratitude for the annual scholarship provided. It helped ease the pain of tuition. Not everyone gets opportunity like this I feel pretty lucky! As for Watanabe, she said that “the scholarship helped me a lot because it helped take some financial burden off when I graduated and will still pay for school. And also, it let me enjoy my last year and graduate on time.”

The Silicon Valley chapter is currently reviewing applications for its 2017 scholarships.

HELP >> continued from page 3

If the Pacific Citizen is as important a part of your JAACL membership and your life to you as it is to me, please join me in supporting the P.C.

There’s lots to do. We need to fill the open assistant editor position. I believe we need at least a part-time position to just focus on updating the website and keeping the P.C. active on social media. I believe we need to rebuild the Editorial Board as an activist group that stands for the independence of the P.C. and can’t be treated as a passive approval mechanism for the National Board. And most importantly, I believe we must find a way to make digital a priority and plan for a future that is much more online than in print. It may take longer than two years. It may, if we can blast again, take the death of some older members and the adoption of others by today’s digital reality.

If the Pacific Citizen is as important a part of your JAACL membership and your life to you as it is to me, please join me in supporting the P.C.

GL Asakuma is the Editorial Board Chair of the Pacific Citizen.

FUTURE >> continued from page 3

Automation will widen that existing gap between college graduates and fellow citizens. It will bring convenience and comfort to those with jobs a robot can’t do. It will bring unemployment and personal crisis to those who don’t. What happens to a person when they’re not only out of work but also out of a marketable skill? We’ve seen unemployment before, but people have always had a way to delineate to employers—hands to big groceries, eyes to watch them close. But unemployment to a robot be worth nothing. Our bodies will cease to be employable in themselves; we’ll have to go to school first, we’ll have to become employable.

and they have no answer in the foreseeable future.

Matthew O. Russell is currently a student at Cornell University majoring in English. He seeks to give an honest portrayal of life as both a university student and member of the millennial generation.

Letter 2 >> continued from page 2

The reason for this drop in homicides is a data-driven policing method called “CompStat.” Instead of simply responding to crimes after the fact, police started being proactive in their methods by intervening before crimes occurred.

Methods such as Step & Stalk added a deterrent and have prevented numerous violent encouterers from happening. But as a result of what may have termed the “Ferguson Effect,” police in cities like Baltimore and Chicago have given in to demands to back off pro-active policing and are now only responding to 911 calls. The result has been a sustained increase in violent crimes. Baltimore’s per capita homicide rate in 2015 was the highest in its history, and the murder rate in its 50 largest cities rose 17 percent.

Last month, Black Lives Matter published a list of demands on their website, which I strongly urge all JAACL members to read in its entirety because it gives a clear picture of their true goals. Rather than addressing the most urgent crimes in the black community, such as black on black crime, increasing single motherhood rates (now 73 percent), and the disproportionately high dropout rates, it simply is a list of “Gimme, Gimme, Gimme!”. Instead of offering solutions to people in the black community to help and empower them with ways to take charge of their own lives, the manifesto is nothing more than a failed power grab with ideas that would lead to aarchy. Some of the most unfounded proposals include the following:

1) “Districts need to be created in community control of local state and federal law enforcement agencies, ensuring that communities most harmed by destructive policing have the power to hire and fire officers, determine disciplinary actions, and hold police and agencies accountable for actions and outcomes.”

By handing over direct control of the police to communities, including disciplinary actions, the practical result would be a non-functioning police force. It would also signal a partial abandonment of the rule of law, and lead to “mob rule” in administering justice.

2) “The retributive criminal justice system must be replaced with an immediate release and record erasure of all drug related offenses, plus retroactive and post-traumatic care for the devastating impact of the ‘war on drugs’ and criminalization of prostitution, including a reinvestment of the resulting savings and resources into restorative services, mental health services, job programs and other programs that support those impacted by the war and drug trade.”

Mandated Minimums for drug related offenses have too far too, and too many people are imprisoned many people for unnecessarily long terms, but an amnesty or pardoning of all drug offenders is simply not practical. This would include the release of drug kingpins who have killed people, but were only convicted of minor offenses. This proposal gives no specifics and no practical solutions.

However, the most appalling statement in the Black Lives Matter manifesto can be found in the INVESTMENT section, where they demand that the U.S. end its military aid to Israel. The platform accuses the U.S. of being “complicit in the GENOCIDE taking place against the Palestinian people” by providing all to “an apartheid state.” This statement is utterly irresponsible. Despite what Black Lives Matter may believe, there is only one country in the Middle East that has rule of law, separation of powers, an independent judiciary, free elections, freedom of the press and women’s rights that are recognized. That country is Israel, and that alone is a reason why we support our own wars.

I have no doubt that there are a number of well-intentioned people supporting the Black Lives Matter movement, including those within JAACL, but the Black Lives Matter leadership renders it despicable claim about Israel, from its platform and resources it JAACL should have nothing to do with. To support a organization that is anti-Semitic and promotes anti-Semitism, would destroy the credibility of JAACL and tarnish decades of our work, including what we have accomplished jointly with groups like the Holocaust Museum to promote the Art of Gaza and the Conspirational Catholic Media Trust.

Why has JAACL leadership surrendered our integrity to an anti-Semitic organization that does not stand for civil rights and instead promotes aarchy?

Sincerely,

David F. Bronner, Houston JAACL Member