



# PACIFIC CITIZEN

Political cartoonist Michael Ramirez stands in front of examples of his work while holding one of his two Pulitzer Prize awards.

## 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.



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Tara Umemoto'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 misread, or ignore, written information.

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

I felt that JACL was more concerned about who was called a "Jap," than trying to become more vocal 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 Yonsei Transplanted" and "A Mother's Take." Also, more feature articles like "Competitive Eater Matt Stone on Food and Fitness" (P.C., Sept. 9-22, 2016) allow us to see individuals newsworthy, not solely because they are Asian.

Which brings me to my

final points: The term "racist," I think, is misused in many articles and conversations. Racist should be used to describe actual hateful or negative action.

I feel that most people are not racists, 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 Yoshinos who attended before me had sanctioned Greek lettered fraternities 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 Clarksdale, Miss., have been my second and third homes, traveling there several times a year.

I have many dear friends who are world-class musicians, but the interesting thing is when I hang in the 6th and 7th Wards in all-black clubs, or when I frequently travel throughout Cajun country and seek out dive bars — both blacks and whites are very friendly because they see that I enjoy being there!

Let's dance!

Sincerely,

Gordon Kaaji Yamamoto,  
Kensington, 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 argued for causes that were outside of their core mission.

But the most disturbing to me is JACL's decision to publicly 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 ideology 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 disproven 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 continue 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. Too often we witness examples in the media of officers who have developed hardened and obnoxious attitudes when confronting suspects. And it goes without saying that every police shooting of an unarmed civilian (justified or unjustified) is a stomach-turning tragedy. But however intoler-

able every episode of police brutality might be, and while we need to ensure that all of our police forces are trained in the rule of law, the uncomfortable 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, 258 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 arrest.

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

In any given year, the black-on-black murder rate accounts for 90 to 93 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 group or government aid program could possibly match those numbers.

>> See LETTER 2 on page 12

## HOW TO REACH US

Email: [pc@pacificcitizen.org](mailto:pc@pacificcitizen.org)  
Online: [www.pacificcitizen.org](http://www.pacificcitizen.org)  
Tel: (213) 620-1767  
Fax: (213) 620-1768  
Mail: 123 Ellison St., Onizuka St., Suite 313  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

## STAFF

Executive Editor:  
A. Sam Yamamoto  
Business Manager:  
Susan Yokoyama  
Production Arts:  
Mune Samura  
Circulation:  
Eva Ting

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JACL President: Gary Hayada  
Interim Executive Director:  
Bill Yoshino  
Interim Assistant Executive Director: Stephanie Nakahara  
P.C. EDITORIAL BOARD:  
Lorna Hatake, EDC; Joey Miori, MDC; Jay Gore, CDDC; Jim Duff, NCAWPC; Sheldon Arakaki, PWWDC; Rhianna Taniguchi, IDC; Michelle Yamashiro, PSWDC; Jill Yoshinaga, youth rep.

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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

# WE HAVE TWO YEARS FOR THE *PACIFIC CITIZEN* TO EVOLVE — AND WE NEED YOUR HELP!

By Gil Asakawa

I'm baaaack 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 would not be holding a newspaper right now.

But the *P.C.* Editorial Board and you — JACL's membership — spoke out 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 shoved down their budgetary throats. 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 convert-

ing 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-throughs 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 Imada 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.* staff still needs to be doing its job of journalism — reporting, investigating, covering the community outside of JACL, shooting photos. Newsletters don't offer context. 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 café and hop in your self-driving taxi, which you ordered on your phone while you were drinking your coffee.

On your way home, you pass by parks full of idle men and women. Some of them are holding signs; others are sitting on benches, lying down. They're all out of work. They used to wait tables and drive cabs. Now, they do nothing.

Uber rolled out its first fleet of autonomous taxis in Pittsburgh a few weeks ago. In August, it purchased a company called Otto that has been developing a prototype for a self-driving truck. Uber's pitch is that self-driven vehicles are safer than human-driven ones. They'll cost less in the long run. And they'll free up the time we spend driving for other uses.

Over the last decade, automation has made steady inroads into manufacturing. But the service sector has, for the most part, remained untouched — until very recently. Robots lack the human touch that makes eating at a restaurant enjoyable. People don't — or at least didn't — want their cars to drive themselves because they didn't want to put their lives in the

hands of robots. But this is changing.

Japan has entirely automated fast food restaurants — restaurants that are, essentially, gigantic vending machines. Self-checkout lanes are standard at most supermarkets. Tesla has been making autonomous cars, and now, Uber's offering autonomous taxis.

We're going to have to make some very difficult decisions very soon about what kind of a future we want. Automation and robots offer efficiency, safety, and cleanliness. But what about all the jobs they'll displace? What about the truckers, the fry cooks and the supermarket cashiers?

The *Los Angeles Times* ran a story on the fate of truckers if Otto were to roll out self-driving trucks on a large scale. Trucking is one of the last middle-class jobs available to people without a college degree, the *Times* wrote. About 1.7 million Americans drive trucks for a living, and the average trucker's annual salary runs at \$42,500 a year. Considering the good pay most truckers take home, it's no wonder trucking companies are scrambling to develop autonomous trucks.

A common argument among Silicon Valley technophiles is that innovation always creates more jobs than it destroys. This might be true — there will be a need for more robot-programmers and robot-repairers. But this kind of innovation will widen the gap between the haves and the have-nots. It will create more jobs for people with college degrees —

people with the knowledge and the credentials to build, program and maintain these complex machines.

But the people without college degrees will be hosed. They'll have no way to earn the money to get a college degree and find work because the jobs within their existing skill-set will be done by robots.

Maybe, in the event of this automation revolution, we should consider paying people a base living wage. Sweden's been considering it. Think about the possibilities for automation — nearly every service industry job done by a human could be done by a robot. Waiters 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 JACL LENDS A HAND IN NATIONAL VOTER REGISTRATION DAY

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 Fu-

bonn 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 volunteer 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 Jeanne Atkins also joined in the celebration and was the keynote speaker at the event.

— Setsy Larouche, Portland JACL Membership Chair



Pictured (from left) are Victor Leo, Siu Ling Wong, Randy Choy, Setsy Larouche and Franklin Quan.

# NATIONAL YOUTH/STUDENT COUNCIL HOLDS FALL RETREAT



PHOTO: SARAH BAKER

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 landmark establishment of Little Tokyo: the historic Daimaru Hotel.

Beginning 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 participation in the Asian Pacific Islander American Vote and Asian American Journalist Association 2016 Presidential Forum.

Later, JACL Interim Associate Executive Director Stephanie Nitahara led the NY/SC in a mission and vision statement exercise to review and amend the NY/SC's vision for both JACL and the world. Building off of this activity, the NY/SC spent the rest of the retreat planning for broad goals the group hopes to accomplish in the next biennium. These goals include increased district-level

youth engagement, enhanced NY/SC summits and a robust communications plan to engage JACL youth members throughout the country.

The NY/SC also had the privilege of dining with Ken and Nicole Inouye of the SELANOCO chapter on Saturday evening. Always an inspiration, Ken Inouye shared his stories of working with various minority communities from his perspective as a Japanese American and encouraged the NY/SC to continue leading the JACL forward.

Finally, the NY/SC would like to recognize and thank Southwest Airlines and State Farm for their continued support for the NY/SC and its programs. Without the support of Southwest and State Farm, the NY/SC would not be able to come together as a team to discuss and plan Youth Leadership Summits addressing the many challenges and opportunities surrounding Asian American Pacific Islander youth as well as the JACL. The NY/SC truly appreciates Southwest Airlines and State Farm for enabling the NY/SC to develop young leaders 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) Maya Kawaguchi Khan, Natalie Rose Petrosian, Autumn Marie Lundy, Shannon Tracy Larsuel, Lauren Emiko Powers, Audrey Mariam 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 Fukuoka, 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 or 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 hiding 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 Relocation 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.njamf.com](http://www.njamf.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 Sousa 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 incarceration 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 statements of these videos is that 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 MacIntyre, Emmy Award-winning filmmaker and 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, Brian Liesinger, available to the students.

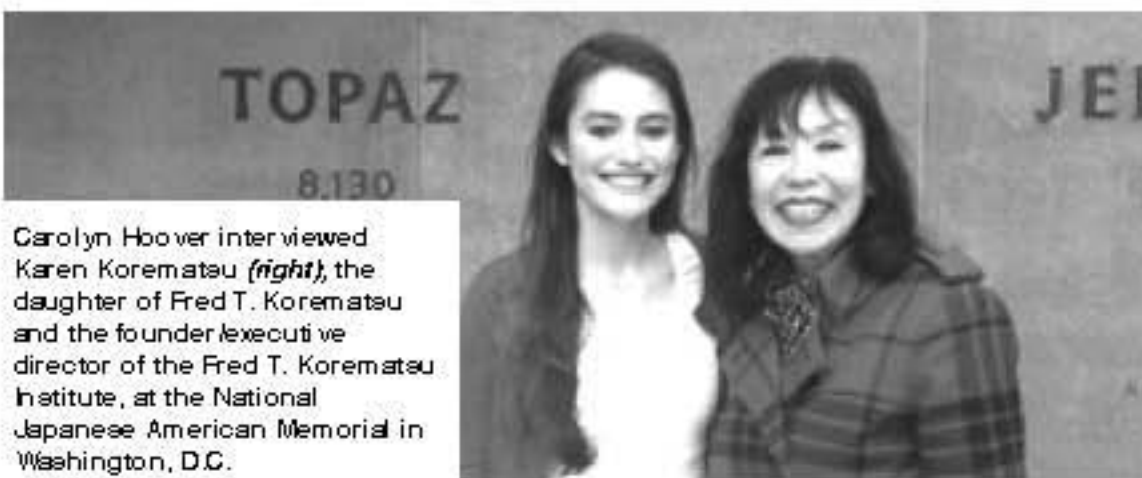
The Digital Storytelling Project is meant to be the heart of a mobile application to be developed in 2017 for visitors to the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism in World War II. The NJAMF's goal (shared by the All Camps Consortium) is to ensure that the organizations affiliated with the 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 [njamfstudentproject@gmail.com](mailto:njamfstudentproject@gmail.com).

To support additional students participating in this project, visit <http://njamf.com/SupportUs/SupportUs.html> and donate through PayPal. Supporters can also send a check to: NJAMF-Digital Project, 4100 Wisconsin Ave. N.W. #106-236, Washington, D.C. 20016.



Connor Yu interviewed Former U.S. Transportation Sec. Norman Mineta, who was incarcerated at Heart Mountain as a boy, at the National Japanese American Memorial in Washington, D.C.



Carolyn Hoover interviewed Karen Korematsu (right), the daughter of Fred T. Korematsu and the founder/executive director of the Fred T. Korematsu Institute, at the National Japanese American Memorial in Washington, D.C.



National Japanese American Memorial Foundation Chair Cal Shintani introduced four of the five scholarship students at the National Japanese American Memorial in Washington, D.C. Pictured (from left) are Shintani, National Japanese American Memorial Foundation Board Member Shirley Ann Higuchi and students Reed Leventis, Julia Shin, Connor Yu and Carolyn Hoover.

## Polaris Tours 2016 Schedule

Oct. 16 – Oct. 25	Autumn Japan: "Hiroshima, Miyajima, Himeji, Kyoto, Kanazawa, Takayama, Shirakawa-go, Tokyo"
Oct. 27 – Nov. 07	Discovering Poland: "Warsaw, Krakow, Wroclaw, Gdansk"
Oct. 30 – Nov. 10	The Best of Kyushu: "Fukuoka, Nagasaki, Kumamoto, Ibusuki, Kagoshima, Miyazaki, Beppu"
Nov. 27 – Dec. 14	Icons of India & Dubai: "Dubai, Delhi, Agra, Ranthambore Nat'l Park, Jaipur, Mumbai, Cochin"



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PHOTOGRAPH BY ADRIAN CHEN



The impact of his drawings is what made Pulitzer Prize-winning political cartoonist Michael Ramirez fall in love with his work.

# PAIN AND INK.

## PRICKING POLITICIANS PRODUCES PULITZERS FOR CARTOONIST MICHAEL RAMIREZ

By George Yoshio Johnson

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 kudos the 55-year-old, self-described "consistent constitutional conservative" and "free-market capitalist" has collected over his cartooning 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 Rube Goldberg) and is a five-time winner in the

organization's editorial cartoon division.

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

Not too shabby 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 middle 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."

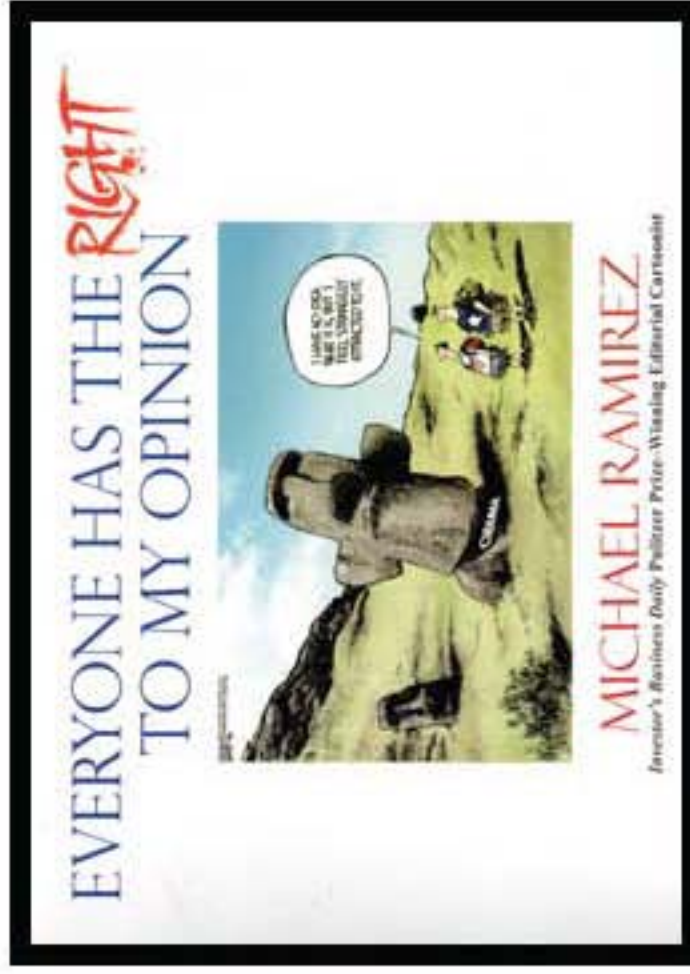
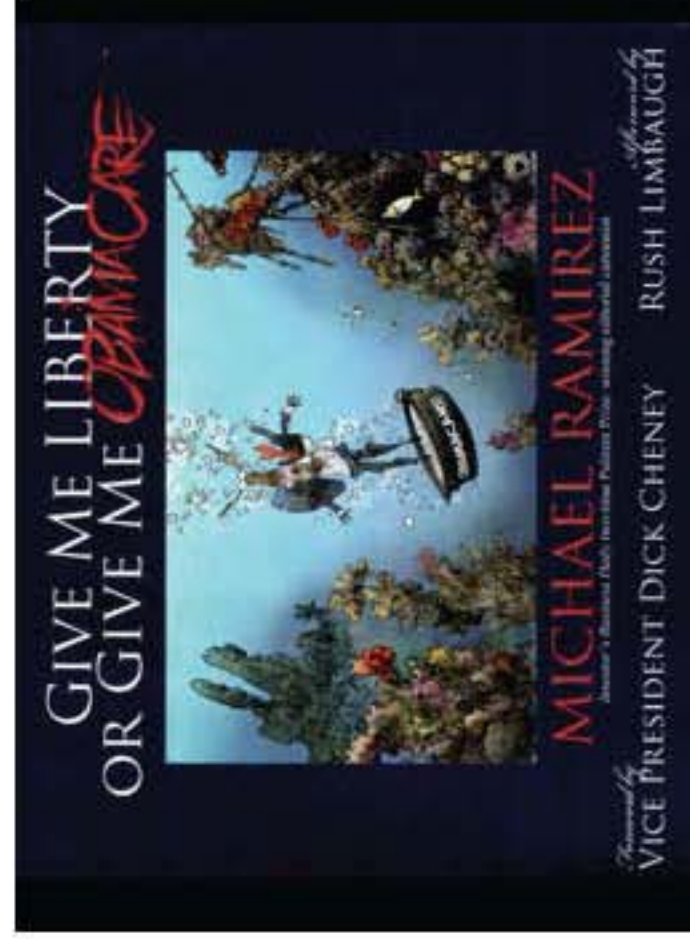
Ramirez fondly remembers how his late father, Edward Ramirez, used to draw for him. "We used to sit there and draw together," he says. Best dad in the world. He met his wife while stationed in Japan in the Army, serving in Military Intelligence.

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 related. Other than when he takes his elderly mother,

Pumiko, 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 "because they thought my parents had helped." His pencil drawing of Auguste Rodin's Thunder 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).



Still, the incident turned the young Ramirez off to drawing until his college years at the University of California, Irvine, where, as a triple major (biological science, fine art studio painting and art history), he also wrote for the school newspaper. He admits, however, that his ulterior motive in pursuing journalism was to get free stuff like concert tickets and records. Political cartooning was not even a thought.

"One day I was working on a painting, and I brought it into the office to file a story, and my editor saw the painting. She said, 'I didn't know you could draw. We're having a student election. Why don't you do a cartoon on it?' I thought, 'Why not? It sounded like fun.'"

After interviewing the candidates and concluding that the election was, for them, a popularity contest, Ramirez said he drew a cartoon that "just skewered them all."

"When the newspaper came out, we had three days of protest on campus over this dumb drawing," Ramirez recalls. "All this time I had been writing what I thought were these hard-hitting editorials and nobody really cared. But you draw one picture, and everybody's mad at you. What a great forum!"

With that, the die was cast, a new tack beckoned and the idea of pursuing medicine (like his siblings) began to recede. Another cartoon would solidify his future career choice. Ramirez said the *Newport Evening* newspaper saw his work in the UCI school paper and offered him \$50 a pop for editorial cartoons. He could knock out a cartoon in 30 minutes — and still have time to surf!

"There was this incident where this guy got pulled over by the Newport Beach police," Ramirez said. "They arrested him for drunken driving. They kind of roughed him up a little bit, according to him, and didn't allow him a phone call."

He turned out to be a Newport city councilman. So, I do this cartoon where I had this guy hogtied on the hood of a police car with his shoe wedged in his mouth and the arresting officer was explaining to his sergeant that I was merely reinforcing his constitutional right to remain silent."

"When that cartoon came out, I just happened to be in the office — I think I was collecting my check — and the police chief came into the office, and he yelled at the publisher, he yelled at the editor and he tried to find out where I lived!"

"It had a profound impact on my thinking about the job. What a profound impact these drawings have. ... It was the first time I realized there was a purpose to this artform. It was at that point that I fell in love with it."

Ramirez would eventually go to work at the *Memphis Commercial Appeal*, where he won his first Pulitzer in 1994, then the *Los Angeles Times* and *New York's Business Daily*, where he won his second Pulitzer in 2008.

Ramirez remembers how some cartoons published by the *Los Angeles Times* prompted letters to the editor that the paper ended up sending to the Los Angeles Police Department due to their threatening nature.

As for why a well-crafted political cartoon can have more impact than a well-written opinion piece, Ramirez has his theories. "People are drawn to the visual medium," he said. "It has a more powerful, dramatic effect

and you're utilizing exaggeration, satire and sarcasm as tools to get your point across."

As for his influences and inspirations in political cartooning, Ramirez has a pair of cartoonists who fit that bill. For me, because I grew up reading Jeff MacKellly and Paul Conrad — those were probably my biggest influences," he said, also citing *Mad Magazine*, which he read in high school.



Ramirez (above) with his 2015 Outstanding Cartoonist of the Year award from the National Cartoonists Society

and its artists, Jack Davis and Mort Drucker.

While Ramirez's politics were 180 degrees apart from the liberal Conrad, with whom he was friends, he admired Conrad's use of drama.

"I thought he was crazy, but I loved his drawings," Ramirez said. As for MacKellly, he said it was the same thing. "Wonderful graphics. He added another additional element, which I utilize to this day, which was using humor as a vehicle for expanding his audience. Jeff was so good at that."

But with the *Los Angeles Times* skewing more liberal than Ramirez's more conservative perspective, he was sniped up by *Investor's Business Daily* when its editor-in-chief, Wes Mann, read that Ramirez's contract wasn't being renewed.

"I just shot him a little email and asked if he was looking for a new newspaper home — I thought he'd philosophically fit right in with our group," Mann recalled.

Ramirez met with IBD's founder and publisher, stock investing savant William O'Neil, who also offered him the title of senior editor for the editorial section. Ramirez recalls promising O'Neil he'd help raise the profile of the paper's name — and win a Pulitzer for the paper, a vow he made good on in 2008.

Mann said it was a "real kick having him

television.

With the 2016 presidential race under way, Ramirez is busy indeed — but he's unimpressed with both the Republican and Democratic candidates, describing them with the old gag of being "the evil of two lesser."

Underpinning his art is a political cartoonist's perspective. "I still believe that America is extraordinary because its citizens are extraordinary, not because of its government. I believe in limited government," Ramirez stated.

"My fundamental philosophy was shaped by my parents. My dad was in the Army for 23 years. He was a conservative Roman Catholic. I'm still a Roman Catholic myself. Meantime, in Japanese society, it's a society based on the idea of self-responsibility and the things that you do as a reflection on yourself and your family. Those conservative values have been incorporated into my philosophy," he says.

When he's not in front of his drawing board at his home studio, Ramirez fronts a Top 40 rock 'n' roll band — the DeLuz Band — as the lead singer, keyboardist and rhythm guitarist.

"I've got a great band," he said. "We've got seven people in the band, everyone's been in bands before and they're all terrific musicians. I'm the weak link of the band," he joked.

In October 2015, a curated collection of Ramirez's political cartoons — "Give Me Liberty or Give Me Obamacare" — was published, a follow-up to his 2008 tome *Everyone Has the Right to My Opinion*.

The blurb on the newest book's back cover jacket is like a who's who of Republican opinion leaders: radio commentator Rush Limbaugh, pundit Ann Coulter, former California Gov. Pete Wilson and former Vice President Dick Cheney.

Still relatively young and in good health, Ramirez won't be slowing down anytime soon. Having won two Pulitzers, Mann speculates that he would be happy to catch MacKellly's three Pulitzers or even better, the or surpass Conrad's four Pulitzers.

"I think he always wanted to win as many as Paul Conrad. He believes in editorial cartooning. He thinks it has a real role in journalism. He's almost become America's political cartoonist. Who knows how popular he would be if he were not conservative? But he's never wavered, he's never gone mushy or soft just to win prizes," Mann said. "Personally, I think they ought to retire the award for editorial cartooning and just give it to him. He's the best. He's certainly the best of our era."



Michael Ramirez won the Pulitzer Prize in Journalism in 1994 and again in 2008.

on the staff, to work with somebody who is the best in the business. He's in a league of his own and has been for years."

Still, being the paper's only Pulitzer winner still wasn't enough to shield Ramirez from getting the boot when the paper went weekly in May 2016, which meant layoffs in all departments of the paper. He's now with the Washington, D.C.-based *Daily Signal* and continues to be syndicated, with his cartoons also appearing in *USA Today*.

Having parted with IBD, Ramirez says his life hasn't changed at all. He did, however, say he is negotiating with a new newspaper, but he can't disclose its names or the terms just yet. He's also an in-demand public speaker and appears occasionally on

**NOTE: To see more cartoons by Michael Ramirez, visit [michaelramirez.com](http://michaelramirez.com). To see how he develops a cartoon from a sketch on a cocktail napkin to finished product, see [michaelramirez.com/evolution-of-a-cartoon.html](http://michaelramirez.com/evolution-of-a-cartoon.html).**





## 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 the 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/](http://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

### Remodeling the Model Minority: Japanese Americans & black liberation

Join us for the MIDC youth summit to explore Japanese American identity, the history of the model minority, and our role as allies in the black liberation movement.

Detroit Marriott Livonia | Livonia, MI  
Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> | 10am-4pm

RSVP to [kikuramitsu@jACL.org](mailto:kikuramitsu@jACL.org) by October 20<sup>th</sup>



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://jACL.org/mdcremodeling/>) by Oct. 10. For additional questions or concerns, email [kkuramitsu@jACL.org](mailto:kkuramitsu@jACL.org). Event details are also available on Facebook.*

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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 legions of fans.

Of special note are 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 Roanoke, Va.

Takei traveled to Roanoke 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. "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 assiduously 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 center 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 tap 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 fabric of America's 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"; additional details about the exhibition will be announced 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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A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

# CALENDAR

## NCWNP

**Halloween Carnival**  
San Francisco, CA  
Oct. 28; 6-8:30 p.m.  
JCCCNC  
1840 Sutter St.  
Price: \$7 per person; \$4 for onigiri decorating contest. Games and prizes, tricks and treats, arts and crafts and goodies to eat! Be sure to come dressed in your Halloween best. The costume parade and contest includes prizes in several categories. This year's festival also features a Spooky Onigiri Riceball Decorating Contest, taught by L.A.-based food writer Sonoko Sakai.  
Info: Contact Matt Okada at (415) 567-5505.

**San Jose JACL's 13th Annual Community Recognition Dinner**  
San Jose, CA  
Nov. 5; 5 p.m.  
Holiday Inn San Jose-Silicon Valley  
1350 N. First St.  
Price: \$125; \$115 for JACL members  
This year's theme is "Kansha" (gratitude) and the following individuals will be honored: Vernon Hayashida, Adrienne Reiko Iwanaga, Stan Kawamata 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 drawing.  
Info: Contact the San Jose JACL at (408) 295-1250 or visit [www.sanjosejacl.org](http://www.sanjosejacl.org).

**Na Leo Holiday Concert & VIP Reception**  
San Francisco, CA  
Dec. 18; 4 p.m.  
JCCCNC  
1840 Sutter St.  
Price: General admission \$65; VIP (includes reception) \$110; JCCCNC Members: Call (415) 567-5505 for the \$15 discount code that is available until Oct. 21.  
Na Leo is returning to the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California where the group performed to a sold-out crowd in 2014. Come see them perform holiday classics and some of their most popular hits celebrating the warm sounds of aloha! Over the course of their career, Na Leo has released 23 CDs, and they are recognized as being the biggest-selling

female Hawaiian group in the world.  
Info: Call (415) 567-5505.

## PSW

**Okaeri 2016: A Nikkei LGBTQ Gathering**  
Los Angeles, CA  
Oct. 14-15  
JANM  
100 N. Central Ave.  
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 embraced their LGBTQ family members. This two-day gathering will also feature several plenary sessions and workshops.  
Info: Email [okaeri.la@gmail.com](mailto:okaeri.la@gmail.com).

**Bridging Communities Benefit Dance**  
Pacoima, CA  
Oct. 22; 7-11:30 p.m.  
San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center  
12953 Branford St.  
Price: \$35 Presale; \$50 at the Door  
The Bridging Communities Benefit Dance, presented by JACL-PSWD, invites you to a benefit evening to support various programs. Doors open at 7 p.m., and the event will feature a live band and dancing. Appetizers and munchies will also be offered, along with a no-host bar. Door prizes and opportunity drawings will be held throughout the evening. Come out and enjoy the evening with music performed by Kokoro.  
Info: Contact Nancy Takayama at (213) 626-4471, ext. 101 or email [ntakayama@jaclpsw.org](mailto:ntakayama@jaclpsw.org).

**2016 Japanese Food Festival**  
Universal City, CA  
Nov. 13; 11 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Hilton Los Angeles/Universal City  
555 Universal Hollywood Dr.  
Price: Adults \$55 and child \$28 presale by Nov. 10; Adults \$70 and child \$35 after Nov. 11  
Come and taste Japanese cuisine at its finest. Sample sushi, authentic Japanese ramen, sake and more! The event will also feature the premiere screening of "Tsukiji Wonderland," the story about Japan's famous fish market and the inspiration behind the documentary "Jiro Dreams

of Sushi." Door prizes and drawings will also be held.  
Contact: Visit <https://JapaneseFoodCultureUSA.org>.

## MDC

**Chrysanthemum Banquet**  
Bloomington, MN  
Nov. 5, Begins at 11 a.m.  
Normandale Hylands Methodist Church  
9920 Normandale Road  
Price: Member \$20; nonmember \$25 by Oct. 21  
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 Erika 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."  
Info: Contact Amy Dickerson (612) 338-8405 or email [adickerson323@gmail.com](mailto:adickerson323@gmail.com).

**JASC Holiday Delight Kodomo Matsuri**  
Chicago, IL  
Nov. 12, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.  
JASC  
4427 N. Clark St.  
Price: Free  
This children's festival and craft bazaar will feature Japanese food and refreshments, holiday shopping, JASC Legacy Center treasures, silent auction and a Kraft Korner for participants of all ages. Also featured will be Tsukasa Taiko drumming, Santa Claus, a raffle drawing and Shubu-Kai Japanese classical dance.  
Info: Visit [www.jasc-chicago.org](http://www.jasc-chicago.org).

## PNW

**Centennial Celebration: Minoru Yasui**  
Hood River, OR  
Oct. 18, 7-9 p.m.; Oct. 19, 9 a.m.-8 p.m.  
Columbia Center for the Arts and the Hood River Library  
Oct. 18: 215 Cascade Ave.  
Oct. 19: Hood River Library, 502 State St.  
In conjunction with the 100th celebration of the birth of Min Yasui, these events will feature readings from the play "Citizen Min" — "Vision and Vigilance" as well as follow-up discussions. The following day features an exhibit on Minoru Yasui courtesy of the Oregon Nikkei Endowment, the unveiling of the Legacy Stone and reception (birthday party!) and a film screening premiere

of Part 1: "Never Give UP! Minoru Yasui and the Fight for Justice."  
Info: Visit <https://www.columbiaarts.org/>.

**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 mafa chicken, sushi, udon, hom bow, homemade pastries, country store, crafts, games and more! The worship service begins at 11:15 a.m., the bazaar begins at noon and the auction will be held at 2 p.m.  
Info: Visit [www.facebook.com/Harvest-Bazaar-Ontario-Community-Church-462996340506115/](http://www.facebook.com/Harvest-Bazaar-Ontario-Community-Church-462996340506115/).

## EDC

**Mass Imprisonment of Japanese Americans During WWII**  
Cambridge, MA  
Oct. 18; 6-7 p.m.  
Harvard Law School  
225 Vorenberg Classroom-North  
Price: Free  
Sam Mihara will recount his family's experience when he was a 9-year-old and incarcerated at Heart Mountain. This event is sponsored by the Asian Pacific American Law Student Assn. and is free and open to the public. Dinner will be served.  
Info: Visit <http://his.harvard.edu/event/mass-imprisonment-of-japanese-americans-during-wwii/>.

**Asian American and Pacific Islanders Civil Rights Forum**  
Boston, MA  
Oct. 21; 8 a.m.-5 p.m.  
Federal Reserve Plaza  
600 Atlantic Ave.  
This forum, the first of what will become annual forums to advance the presence of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the Northeastern region, will offer a broad range of learning experiences toward advancing AAPI civil rights and liberties. Among the featured speakers will be Paul Watanabe, director of the Institute for Asian American Studies and a presidential appointee to the White House Initiative on AAPI.

**Asia Society at 60: Past, Present and Future**  
New York, NY  
Oct. 26; 6-8 p.m.  
Asia Society  
725 Park Ave.  
Price: Members \$12; Students/Seniors \$15; Nonmembers \$20

Join Asia Society as it reflects on the 60th anniversary of its founding by John D. Rockefeller 3rd. Established to promote a greater understanding and knowledge of Asia in the U.S., it has evolved over the decades to reach beyond an American audience, responding to the global shift toward Asia. A special screening of the short film "Asia Society at 60," narrated by Asia Society Trustee Emeritus Tom Brokaw will also be shown.  
Info: Visit [www.asiasociety.org](http://www.asiasociety.org).

## IDC

**Minidoka: Artist as Witness Exhibit**  
Boise, ID  
Oct. 8-Jan. 15, 2017  
Boise Art Museum  
670 E. Julia Davis Dr.  
Sponsored by Boise Valley and Snake River JACL chapters, this exhibit features poignant works by Takuichi Fujii, Wendy Maruyama (Tag Project), Kenjiro Nomura, Roger Shimomura (painter) and Teresa Tamura (photographer), who have all created art based on personal or family experiences related to Minidoka.  
Info: Email [britney@boiseartmuseum.org](mailto:britney@boiseartmuseum.org) or call (208) 345-8330, ext. 26.

**Wendy Maruyama, Artist Lecture**  
Boise, ID  
Nov. 9; 6 p.m.  
Boise State University Special Events Center  
1800 University Dr.  
Price: \$15/\$10 BAM members & BSU ID holders  
A public lecture by an internationally known contemporary Japanese American artist and creator of the "Tag Project." Hear about Wendy Maruyama's artwork related to the Minidoka War Relocation Center in Idaho and the ways art can be used to document events and express personal experiences.  
Info: To purchase tickets, visit [www.boiseartmuseum.org/special-events](http://www.boiseartmuseum.org/special-events) or call Rebecca at (208) 345-8330, ext. 15.

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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:**  
[pc@pacificcitizen.org](mailto:pc@pacificcitizen.org)  
(213) 620-1767



# IN MEMORIAM

Arakawa, Jame Takeshi, 89, Honolulu, HI, Sept. 5; he is survived by his wife, Atsuko; daughters, Shelley Keiko (Herbert) Yasuhara and Audrey Yukiko (Gary) Gbo; gc: 1.

Chikami, Riyoko Kinoshita, 102, Bellflower, CA, Sept. 24; she was predeceased by her husband, Jack Yoshio; daughter, Tayeko; she is survived by her daughters, Janet Maloney (Mike), Barbara Souto (Mark) and Karen Furuta (Sam); son, Ray Chikami (Vicki); brother-in-law, Harry Yoshimura; niece, Yoe Okumura; as well as many other nieces and nephews; gc: 12; ggc: 14.



Fukuhara, Kenro, 81, Torrance, CA, Sept. 22; he is survived by his wife, Shigeko; son, Akira (Yuki) Fukuhara; daughter, Mayumi (Andrew) Ito; brother, Tatsuhiro (Miyoko) Fukuhara; sister, Hisako (Setsuo) Yamanaka; and many other relatives here and in Japan; gc: 5.

Fukumoto, Matthew 'Fooks', 38, Waipahu, HI, Sept. 4; he is survived by his parents, John and Diane Fukumoto; sisters, Danielle (Matt Koike) Fukumoto and Quinn (Janus) Mantaring; nieces and nephews, Ava, Elijah, Mykah, Ayden, Brenlyn and Kyan.

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

brother, Kazuo; gc: 2.

Hashimoto, Nancy Shizuko, 93, Honolulu, HI, Aug. 23; she is survived by her daughters, Valerie N. Hashimoto-Petrosian, Cheryl K. Hetherington and Sharon A. Hashimoto; brother, Charles Murakami; gc: 5; ggc: 1.

Hayashi, Douglas Takao, 74, Hilo, HI, Sept. 7; he is survived by his daughters, Ann Hayashi, Jennifer Santo and Holly Hayashi; sister, Mineko (Donald) Takeuchi; brothers, Gary (Olga) Hayashi and Rodney (Jeannie) Hayashi.

Hiromoto, Kenneth Kenichi 'Sumo', 67, Millilani, HI, Sept. 28; he is survived by his son, Eric S.; mother, Eunice T.; brothers, Jerry T. and Terrence A.

Kanakaokai, Teresa Michiko, 63, Seattle, WA, Sept. 28; she is survived by her husband, Terry; mother, Akiko Hill; brother, Andrew; sister, Rachel.



Nishikawa, Setsuko Joyce, 98, Pasadena, CA, Sept. 22; she was predeceased by her husband, Masuo; son, Ronnie; she is survived by her sons, Walter (Bernice) and Dennis (Jackie) Nishikawa; daughter, Sherry (David) Nakaishi; brother, George (Sadako) Hamai; daughter-in-law, Linda Nishikawa; gc: 1.

Omata, Chieko, 81, Sacramento, CA, Sept. 7; she is survived by her sister,

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

Ota, Tsuyoko '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.

Shiraishi, Satsuki, 87, Hilo, HI, Aug. 27; she is survived by her son, Wayne (Valerie) Shirashi; daughter, Grace (Joel) Hisanaga; sister, Kasumi Tawara; she is also survived by her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



Shinzato, Itoko, 98, Monterey Park, CA, Sept. 21; she is survived by her son, Kazuo Shinzato; daughters, Setsuko Alyce (John) Cha, Keiko Omori, Gracy Kono; gc: 9; ggc: 6.



Shishima, Robert Takeshi, 87, Monterey Park, CA, Sept. 27; he was predeceased by his daughter-in-law, Kathy Nogawa Shishima, and

brother-in-law, Tak Hamagiwa; he is survived by his wife, Edith Natsue Zakabi; children, Eric (Charlene Takara), Stacy (Randy Mariano), Lynne Gerber and Ronnie Shishima; brothers, Bill (Emi) Shishima and Paul (Kay) Shishima; sisters, Keiko Hamagiwa and Michiko (Dave) Iwata; he is also survived by many in-laws, nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 10.

Takahashi, Akemi Kim, 89, Stockton, CA, Sept. 17; she was incarcerated at Heart Mountain during WWII; she was predeceased by her husband, George; she is survived by her children, Candyoe (Dan) and Curtis (Linda); gc: 4.

Tamashiro, Joyce Sumiko, 82, Sept. 16; she and her family were interned in the Poston and Tule Lake camps; she was predeceased by her sisters, Gladys Kato (Jerry) and Joanne Smoot (Dean); she is survived by her husband, Susumu; daughters, Vicky and Jill Tamashiro and Kris Tamashiro Leon (Dennis); brother, Wayne Iwanaga; sisters, Kathleen Iwanaga and Susie Hom-Hom (Wayne); she is also survived by numerous nieces, nephews and cousins; gc: 2.

Watanabe, Shizu, 87, San Jose, CA, Sept. 24; she was predeceased by her husband, Louis Watanabe; parents, Yukichi and Ishio Yamauchi; and brothers, Sake and Mitsuo

(Jeanne); she is survived by her son, Scott; and daughter, Lori (Henry) Louie; brother, Roy (Helen) Yamauchi; gc: 3.

Yanagihara, Barbara L., 80, Gardena, CA, Sept. 27; she is survived by her daughter, Dawn (Christyan) Yanagihara-Mitchell; sisters, Sumi (James) Ito and Amy Holmquist; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Yokomizo, Yoshiko, 90, Los Angeles, CA, Sept. 13; she was predeceased by her sisters, Haruko Yokomizo and Tokiko Matsumoto; she is survived by her niece, Janice (Garrett) Lee; she is also survived by her nephews and many other relatives here and in Japan.



Yokoyama, Mary Kawakami, 82, San Jose, CA, Sept. 8; she is survived by her husband, Shigeru; brothers, Henri and Frankie; son, Michael; daughter, Kathleen (Bob); gc: 2.

## TRIBUTE

### MASUOKA, NOBUKO



Masuoka, Nobuko, 91, April 21, 1925-Aug. 05, 2016. Nobuko "Nobi" Masuoka, 91, our "energizer bunny" died unexpectedly on Aug. 5 in Portland, Ore., of natural causes. She was born on April 21, 1925, in Lahaina, Maui, which was at that time part of the Territory of Hawaii. Nobi was the third of five children born to Ichiro and Hatsumi Nakagawa. She was raised in Lahaina, where she graduated from Lahaina High School in 1942 and then went to Cannon's Business College in Honolulu, after which she worked for the Public Health Dept. in Honolulu for eleven years. Nobi married Dr. Matthew Masuoka in November 1957 and moved to Portland. Matt and Nobi worked side by side for forty-plus years operating their dental practice until Matt's death in 1998. Nobi continued to work in the practice with her daughter, Connie, until the day of her death. In addition, Nobi volunteered and worked tirelessly on projects and events to support and promote the local Japanese American community. She was a member of numerous organizations, including the Hiroshima Club, Japanese Ancestral Society, Nikkei Fujin Kai, Portland JACL and Oregon Buddhist Temple. The organization that was closest to her heart in her later years is 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 Reza at the Waterfront and the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center, a museum and archives of the Japanese American experience in Oregon. She is survived by her children, Dr. Connie, Neve and Dr. Loren (Lorraine); two grandsons, Sawyer and Camden; sister, Mitsue Nakagawa. The family gratefully acknowledges and appreciates the kindness of all the "good" children and grandchildren that enriched Nobi's life. A memorial service was held Sept. 17, 2016, at Oregon Buddhist Temple. Remembrances may be made to Oregon Nikkei Endowment, 121 N.W. Second Ave., Portland, OR 97209.

## 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. Contact: busmgr@pacificcitizen.org or call (213) 620-1767

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# SILICON VALLEY JACL ACKNOWLEDGES SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The Silicon Valley chapter of the JACL 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 the University of California, Santa Cruz; Kayla Nishimatsu, who is attending California State University, San Luis Obispo; and Kari Watanabe, who is attending California State University, San Francisco.

At the chapter's annual general meeting, each scholarship recipi-

ent gave a brief presentation, where they spoke about how they each have and will contribute to the Japanese American community in the coming school year.

Kobayashi created a stop-motion video presentation and expressed her gratitude for the award, detailing how she planned to contribute back to her community in the future.

In talking with the scholarship recipients of how it will help their future, Ng stated that she was "... very grateful for the opportunity the scholarship provided. It helped ease the pain of tuition. Not everyone gets opportunities



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 let me focus more on school. And also, it let me enjoy my last year and graduate on time."

The Silicon Valley JACL 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 JACL 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 fights 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 now for a future that is much more online than in print. It may take longer than two years. It may, if I can be blunt again, take the death of some older members and the adoption by others of today's digital reality.

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

*Gil Asakawa is the Editorial Board Chair of the Pacific Citizen. He blogs at www.nikkeiview.com and is a consultant for AARP's AAPI marketing team.*

## FUTURE >> continued from page 3

Automation will widen that existing gap between college grads and noncollege grads. It'll bring convenience and comfort to those with jobs a robot can't do. It'll 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



Self-checkout using NCR Fastlane machines

before, but people have always had assets desirable to employers — hands to bag groceries, eyes to watch the warehouse. But with robots, those assets cease to be worth anything. 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 Ormseth is currently a student at Cornell University majoring in English. He seeks to give an honest portrayal of life as both a university student and member of the Millennial generation.*

## 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 pro-active in their methods by intervening before crimes occurred.

Methods such as Stop & Frisk acted as a deterrent and have prevented numerous violent encounters from happening. But as a result of what many 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 our 50 largest cities rose 17 percent.

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

1) "Direct democratic 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 action, control budgets and policies and subpoena relevant agency information."

— By handing over direct control of the police to communities, including disciplinary action, 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 retroactive decriminalization, immediate release and record expungement of all drug-related offenses and prostitution, and reparations for the devastating impact of the 'war on drugs' and criminalization of prostitu-

tion, including a reinvestment of the resulting savings and revenue into restorative services, mental health services, job programs and other programs supporting those impacted by the sex and drug trade."

— Mandatory Minimums for drug-related offenses have no doubt gone too far and have imprisoned many people for unnecessarily long terms, but an amnesty or pardoning of all drug offenders is simply not practical. Would this include the release of drug kingpins who have killed people, but were only convicted for trafficking? 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 INVEST/INVEST 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 aid to "an apartheid state." This statement is utterly inexcusable.

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 where women's rights and gay rights are respected. That country is Israel, and that alone is a reason why it deserves our unwavering support.

I have no doubt that there are a number of well-intentioned people supporting the Black Lives Matter movement, including those within JACL. But until and unless the Black Lives Matter leadership removes its despicable claim about Israel from its platform and renounces it, JACL should have nothing to do with them. To support an organization or a movement that promotes anti-Semitism would destroy the credibility of JACL and tarnish decades of our work, including what we have accomplished jointly with groups like the Holocaust Museum to promote the Art of Gaman and the Congressional Gold Medal Tour.

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

Sincerely,

*David F. Bonner,  
Houston JACL Member*