Attendees gather to reflect on their former Japanese neighborhood home and its now ‘trendy’ L.A. existence.
MARVEL'S 'DR. STRANGE' FILM TARNISHED BY CASTING OF TILDA SWINTON IN AN IMPORTANT ASIAN ROLE

The Media Action Network for Asian Americans is criticizing the new Marvel Studios motion picture "Dr. Strange" for whitewashing "The Ancient One" — an important Asian character in the original 1960's comic book series upon which the movie is based — and casting Tilda Swinton in the role.

In the comic book, there were two prominent Asian characters assisting Dr. Strange: The Ancient One and Wong, his "magnificent" Director. Scott Derrickson, who was initially going to use the latter character because he was a stereotype, told the L.A. Daily News that Wong "was an Asian sidekick stereotype. What I supposed to do with that? But once the decision was made to cast Tilda, we brought Wong back because, unlike the Ancient One, he could be completely subverted as a character and reworked into something that didn't fall into any of the stereotypes of the comics."

Founding MANAA President Guy Aoki doesn't buy his rationalization. "You're a writer. You could modify ANY problematic, outdated character and maintain its ethnicity, especially when it's a minority to begin with. So the Ancient One was racist and stereotyped, but letting a white woman play the part erased all that? No, it just erased an Asian character from the screen when there weren't many prominent Asian characters in Marvel films to begin with.

"In fact, I could argue that in his set up for the movie, Derrickson perpetuated another stereotype: a white man making a pilgrimage into the Himalayas to get trained by a white person. That's what happened in Batman Begins. Now Stephen Strange gets trained by an Irish woman? The film never even explains how she ever got there in the first place. Yet, she lives in an Asian temple surrounded by Asian people. And in Marvel's upcoming Netflix series 'Iron Fist,' it may happen again, despite a petition to make the character Asian-American, thereby giving Marvel its first leading, onscreen Asian-American superhero. Once again, Hollywood's practicing cultural appropriation — taking Asian elements but placing white people at the forefront of it all, not the Asian people who created it."

"We at MANAA President Rob Chian: "Given the dearth of Asian roles, there was no reason a monk in Nepal could not be Asian. Had Derrickson cast an Asian as the general leader who guides the main character to become a better human being and to develop his sorcery powers, it would have given a big boost to that actor's career. While actresses deserve the kinds of both roles usually reserved for men, white actresses are seen, once more, as Asians of any gender. And Tilda Swinton can afford to run down roles.

Referring to 1984's classic film "The Karate Kid," which launched Pat Morita as a Oscar-winning, Clan pointed out, "Asians can't even be the Mu Miyagi to Daniel-San anymore."

Said Aoki, who's been collecting comic books since 1972, "90 percent of Marvel and DC characters were originally white. So, in order to be more inclusive in their movies, both companies have tried to change these characters to minorities. But they've all been and always been: Barton Mordo (Charles Esten) in Dr. Strange", Hanky (Samuel L. Jackson in The Avengers) of the few Asian characters that originated in the comic books, they were changed from Asian to white. The Mandarin (Gary Peace in Iron Man 3), Thia Al Khalid (Mariette Cottin in The Dark Knight Rises) and now the Ancient One (Chloe Bennet's part-Hawaiian ancestry may be reflected in his Asian role in DC's upcoming Justice League film)."

>> See "Dr. Strange" on page 4

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I am not a letter writer, nor have I ever written a "Letter to the Editor." However, after receiving your Oct 21-Nov 3 Pacific Citizen paper, I am compelled to write you.

I have always been proud of JACL's position on social justice and especially LGBT issues. Our voice of support for LGBT is important.

May we also encounter overt racism every day, but some do, and we must acknowledge and support them.

Furthermore, standing against police brutality is not just a LGBT issue. History has shown us that, sometimes, the police are used as agents of social suppression, and any violent or fatal actions against citizens should be everyone's concern.

I am sorry that David Usoro feels he can no longer stand with JACL on this issue. But I believe, without any doubt, that JACL is standing for what is right, just and honorable.

Thank you for time and commitment to peace and justice.

Sincerely,
Eloise Sato

PACIFIC CITIZEN

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

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PACIFIC CITIZEN

SUNDAE GREETINGS and HAPPY NEW YEAR

HOLIDAY GREETINGS and SNOWFLAKE MESSAGES

are being collected for the Pacific Citizen HOLIDAY ISSUE now!

- Contact Susan (213) 920-1787

- Contact David (213) 620-1787

- Contact Ted (213) 920-1787

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1000 words maximum

- Submit by Nov 3

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A MOTHER’S TAKE
WE WERE WELCOMED HOME

By Marsha Azumi

On Oct. 14 and 15, Okaeri 2016 took place at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles’ Little Tokyo. The gathering began with a welcoming mixer on Friday, which drew many from the Nihonmachi and API community, both LGBTQ and allies. Representatives from PFLAG, LACL, NCJE, Little Tokyo Service Center, Keiko churches and many other organizations made this event a wonderful way to kick off the weekend that was to continue on Saturday. Thank you, Say a Misa and also to Kitayama.

Saturday began with the planning meeting arriving very early, many of us networking with coffee, to help make it up. But once we began to set up and saw people waving to register, the excitement and anticipation was palpable. We had close to 100 attendees for Okaeri 2016, many coming from outside the Greater Los Angeles area — San Diego, San Jose, the Bay Area and Fresno People also arrived from Washington, D.C., New York, Chicago, Phoenix, Honolulu and Seattle.

I talked with a couple of out-of-towners, guests, who had been here the previous day I could see they were tired, but when I asked them how they were doing, all they could talk about was how healing and inspiring it was to look around and see so many supportive Nihonmachi faces. The tiredness at that moment was forgotten, and all I could feel was the excitement they had for all they would experience throughout the day.

And then the morning began. I was so honored to be able to give the opening welcome for Okaeri. I was extremely nervous, and I practiced my speech over, and over again so that I would not have to read it. Reading takes me out of my heart, and I wanted my heart to fill the room. I had a hard time looking at my family because I was afraid I would burst into tears. It would be two of our families’ journey together, tears of pride for all we had individually overcome, but most of all tears of love for each of them, their support of me and this work that often takes me away from them.

I also got very emotional when I spoke about Linda and Sharye Annals’ support. When you do LGBTQ work, you can be a target for hatred criticism, but having a respected family in the Nihonmachi community gives you strength to continue to speak out to help others. The Annals were the first family to step up and believe in the work of Okaeri. They gave us courage and confidence to move forward.

I was also honored to introduce the Honda Family — Mike, Michelle and Malia. Their keynote speech was heartfelt, moving and powerful. Mike and Michelle shared their thoughts, as if they spoke when emotion welled up. And Malia was so adorable as she courageously spoke in front of a room for the very first time.

Following the keynote, there was a powerful piece called “Thangered Voices”bridged by Tikku Matsuda, along with Elliot Pulu and Hoshina. Tikku had amazing stories and thoughts to share with all of us, Elliot as a trainer, facilitator and community organizer for Trans, California and Hoshina as a leader in the Buddhist Church of America.

One of the people who had never been to this event told me that this was one of the highlights of Okaeri for him. Not only were the stories impactful, but also the information that he gained was so valuable to him as he goes back to his community to support transgender individuals.

During lunch, another keynote took place on “Transnational and Intercultural Connections,” moderated by Eric Animoto, a gay, Japanese American, psychotherapist who specializes in working with API LGBTQ individuals and families. Animoto spoke about rich and important experiences throughout the day.

>> See HOME on page 12

A YONSEI TRANSPLANTED
THE DEBATE ABOUT FELONY DISENFRANCHISEMENT CONTINUES

By Matthew Otnamach

Rap star Pusha T made headlines last week when he went on "The Late Show With Stephen Colbert" and said felon should have the right to vote. It’s easy to say, “our community right now,” said Colbert. It’s like you keep paying forever, we have to change that.

The debate over felony disenfranchisement is rooted in an ambiguously phrased clause of the 14th Amendment that says states have the right to disenfranchise anyone convicted of participating in rebellion, or other crime.” It’s a debate that has proved bitterly divisive, one that’s unresolved to this day.

As it stands today, Maine and Vermont are the only two states with unrestricted voting rights for felons — if you’re serving time in a Maine or Vermont prison, you still can cast your vote via absentee ballot. In 14 other states and the District of Columbia, your voting rights are restored once you’ve left prison. In the remaining 34, felons are barred from voting until they’ve completed parole, and 11 states require a petition filed to the state’s attorney general.

Those in favor of felony disenfranchisement often argue that those who break the law shouldn’t have a say in how laws are made. In committing a crime, they violate that privilege and demonstrated that they’re unfit to vote with the good of the nation in mind.

This logic seems sound on the surface. But when you realize that felons’ lives are being controlled by a law-making process that they have no say in — and even, in many states, long after they’ve re-entered society — that logic falls apart. Shouldn’t felons have a say in the laws that their lives are impacted by the laws fir more than any other group? The law determines how long they’ll stay in prison, how many, their parole will last, what crimes could send them back to prison in the future. To deny them a say in the law-making process excludes them from the body politic; the portion of society not directly affected by that process.

Furthermore, we don’t stop people of their citizenship when they re-enter prison. They’re still American, and they still live within the geographical borders of the country. The legal grounds for felony disenfranchisement are maddeningly vague and ambiguous at best, but they’re enough to cut them back to second-class citizens.

Some argue that felons would only vote in their own interest — they’d vote for reduced prison sentences, decriminalization of narcotics, more funding to federal and state prisons. And that’s absolutely true — felons would vote only in self-interest, much like billionaires who vote in favor of corporate tax breaks and stoners who vote for the legalization of marijuana. That’s how a democracy works. You don’t get to tell people who vote for or against to vote for or to vote for. So long as each person has an equal say, the self-interest balances out. You also have to take into account the societal costs of excluding the segment of the population from the body point. A felon might feel less inclined to obey laws he or she has to say in. A democracy because it places responsibility upon the individual citizen. If you don’t like a law, too bad — you had a say in its creation. You were a part of the political process that wrote the laws and approved them.

But this line of thinking falls apart when you look at the disenfranchisement of felons in the United States. For a felon, the law-making process is a process he or she has to say in the election of officials who represent him or her, and who write the laws he or she must abide by. Felons have someone other than themselves to blame. The responsibility shifts — and rightly shifts — off of them.

By welcoming the segment of the population with criminal backgrounds back into the body politic, we would shift that sense of responsibility back onto the individual. And while no one in claiming that restoring voting rights to felons will wipe out crime overnight, it’s a start. By involving felons in the law-making process that has hurt so much of their lives, we’re reinvesting a part of the population currently languishing under the label of a second-class citizenry — one that must abide by the laws, but has no say in it.

Matthew Otnamach is a resident student at Cornell University majoring in English. He seeks to give an honest portrayal of life in both a university student and member of the Millennial generation.
BAY AREA STUDENT SELECTED FOR YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD AT HARVARD

Making Caring Common, a project at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, announced the members of its second Youth Advisory Board on Oct. 14.

Kadin (Katie) Keiko Wong, from Calmont High School in Belmont, Calif., was selected from nearly 100 nominees to serve on the board, which represents a diverse group of young people who will work with Making Caring Common over the next year to make schools and communities more just, caring and respectful places.

The 2016-17 Youth Advisory Board includes 26 members who represent 15 states across the nation and come from diverse backgrounds and identities. All board members demonstrate a strong commitment to MCC's overall mission.

"We are incredibly excited to work with such a passionate group of young people who are committed to cultivating a culture of kindness in their schools and communities," said MCC's Research Director Leba Pol Polk-Polberg.

Added Wong: "I'm so honored to represent the Japanese American and Asian communities in the Bay Area through this unique opportunity. I'm looking forward to working with the 25 other students from across the country to create positive change."

MANZANAR BEGINS WINTER HOURS OF OPERATION

Winter hours of operation are now in effect at the Manzanar National Historic Site Visitor Center and its surrounding structures, the National Park Service announced recently.

The Visitor Center and its outbuildings will now be open from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. daily. The exhibits inside a World War II-era mess hall and two reconstructed barracks will also be open, during the same time period.

The Manzanar National Historic Site remains open from dawn to dusk, and visitors are welcome to walk or drive the square-mile site to see Japanese rock gardens, the cemetery, a fire shed and other features.

The Manzanar Visitor Center features 8,000 square feet of exhibits, a 12-minute award-winning introductory film, and a bookstore operated by the nonprofit Manzanar History Association.

Award-winning exhibits are also featured in the reconstructed barracks, highlighting the personal experiences of individual families and communities incarcerated at Manzanar more than 70 years ago.

Those exhibits feature extensive photos, documents and illustrations highlighting the challenges and changes people faced at Manzanar. The site includes audio tours and one video station also features a total of 40 oral history clips.

For more information, visit the Manzanar National Historic Site website at www.mnp.gov.

NewsBytes

Dave Roberts Named 2016 Sporting News NL Manager of the Year

LOS ANGELES — Dodgers Manager Dave Roberts, in his first season as the team’s skipper, was named 2016 Sporting News National League Manager of the Year on Oct. 24.

Roberts, 44, received seven of 14 votes from NL managers to win the award, the first Dodgers manager to be honored by the Sporting News since Walter Alston in 1963. He officially joined the club last December, as Cubs Manager Joe Maddon and National Manager Dusty Baker finished tied for second.

As manager, Roberts led the Dodgers to the team’s fourth consecutive division title in 2016 and a spot in the National League Championship Series, where they were ultimately defeated by the Chicago Cubs.

Roberts’ honor is being viewed as possible foreshadowing to the Baseball Writers Association of America title of “Manager of the Year,” which will be announced Nov. 14-17.

Sony Music Apologizes for Japanese Band’s Nazi-Like Outfits

TOKYO — Sony Music Japan apologized Nov. 1 after a popular Japanese all-girl band came under fire for performing in outfits resembling Nazi-era German military uniforms.

The mostly teenage members of Keyakizaka46 appeared on an Oct. 22 concert in black three-piece dresses that look like military overcoats and black capes and cotton caps with a Nazi-like eagle emblem. Sony Music is the group’s label.

"We express our heartfelt apology for causing offense... because of our lack of understanding," Sony Music Entertainment Japan said in a statement posted on its website.

"We take the incident seriously and will make efforts to prevent a recurrence of a similar incident in the future.

Sony Music spokesperson Tanya_ki Coho said there had been no intention to link the performance to Nazis.

The U.S.-based Simon Wiesenthal Center, a human rights group focused on anti-Semitism and hate speech, issued a statement Monday saying it was disgusted by the uniforms and called on Sony Music and the group’s producer to apologize.

Toshiro Mifune to Receive Posthumous Star on Hollywood Walk of Fame

LOS ANGELES — Legendary Japanese movie star Toshiro Mifune will receive a posthumous star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on Nov. 14, the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce announced.

Mifune’s star, number 2,594, will be located at 6912 Hollywood Blvd, and Mifune’s grandniece, Rieko Mifune, will be present at the ceremony to accept his grandfather’s star along with Hollywood Chamber President/CEO Leon Olliw. Also in attendance will be Academy Award-winning filmmaker Steven Oscar, whose new documentary, “Mifune: The Last Samurai,” is set to open theatrically in Los Angeles on Dec. 2, followed by a nationwide release.

Mifune started in more than 150 films during his career, most notably 16 films with director Akira Kurosawa, including the classic “Bushido,” the theme of “Seven Samurai,” “Shosha,” and “Red Beard.” Mifune passed away in 1973 at the age of 77 in Tokyo.

Younger Brother of Former Emperor Hirohito Dies at Age 100

TOKYO — The younger brother of former Japanese Emperor Hirohito died Oct. 26 at the age of 100. The Imperial Household Agency announced that Prince Mikasa had died in the morning at a hospital in Tokyo.

Japanese media reports say he had been hospitalized since May, initially because of pneumonia. Citing unnamed sources, they say his condition took a sudden turn for the worse on Oct. 22.

Prince Mikasa was born on Dec. 2, 1915. He is the uncle of current Emperor Akihito and was fifth in line to the throne. His brother, Hirohito, reigned for more than 60 years, during World War II and until his death in 1989.

Junko Tabei, First Woman to Climb Everest, Passes Away at Age 77

TOKYO — Japanese mountaineer Junko Tabei, who devoted her entire life to scaling peaks, including her first to become the first woman to ever climb Mount Everest, died of cancer at a hospital outside Tokyo on Oct. 20 at the age of 77.

Tabei’s philosophy was to live life to the fullest, and she did so while battling stereotypes in a country that thought a woman’s place was in the home. Tabei lead the summit of Everest on May 16, 1975 as the leader of an all-female climbing party.

In 1992, she became the first woman to complete the Seven Summits, reaching the highest peaks of the seven continents.

— P.C. Staff and Associated Press

‘DR. STRANGE’ >> continued from page 2

In answer to critics, Marvel Studios previously said they were proud of their record of diversity. Aoki added, "Name one memorable Asian character in any of the movies they've produced. Just one!"

In April, Robert Caselli, co-writer of the film, revealed the probable real reason for the casting decision: Fear of offending China, the second-biggest movie market in the world. "The Ancient One" originates from Tibet, so if you acknowledge that Tibet is a place and that Tibetans exist, then any kind of Asian they wanted with any political fallout. In fact, they changed the setting from Tibet to Nepal on the set. "It's not a decision," Caselli's argument falls apart. It's just a continuation of the whitewashing legacy illustrated recently by movies like "Alola," "The Martian" and the upcoming "Ghost in the Shell."

METHA, the only organization solely dedicated to advocating, balancing, and educating the perception and coverage of Asan Americans, was founded in 1992. It led nationwide protests against the film "Rising Sun" in 1993 and challenged Sarah Silverman's use of "Chinks" in her jokes on "Late Night With Conan O'Brien" and Bill Maher's "Politically Incorrect" in 2001. 

In 1992, she became the first woman to complete the "Seven Summits," reaching the highest peaks of the seven continents.
HONOLULU NATIONAL MONUMENT — JCCH EDUCATION CENTER OPENS TO THE PUBLIC

The new education center features photos and artifacts from the Hawaii internment site.

HONOLULU — The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii officially opened the new Honolulu National Monument — JCCH Education Center on Oct. 22, complete with Shinto and Buddhist blessings and congratulatory remarks from some of Hawaii’s elected officials. Families of former Honolulu internees were also in attendance to witness the blessing and dedication ceremony.

The new center, located in the JCCH Community Gallery in Moiliili, adorns the permanent exhibition on the history of the Japanese people in Hawaii and features photos of the Honolulu Internment Camp, artifacts from the internment, oral history videos and virtual tours of the Honolulu National Memorial.

The center also provides students, teachers and the community an opportunity to learn more about the new national monument, its history and lessons for the future.

The Honolulu Education Center at the JCCH will be a gathering place for students, teachers, the local community and visitors to learn about the unique wartime experience of Japanese Americans in Hawaii,” said Carole Hayashino, president and executive director of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii. “It will be a place for us to reflect upon the lessons of war, civil liberties, peace and reconciliation.”

Since rededicating the site in 2002, the JCCH has worked to preserve the historical site as a national monument. In addition to successfully presenting the site, the JCCH produced the documentary film on Hawaii’s internment, “The Untold Story: Internment of Japanese Americans in Hawaii,” translated and published two memoirs written by former internees, produced a curriculum guide for high school social studies teachers and distributed the curriculum resources to high schools throughout the state.

The Honolulu National Monument — JCCH Education Center is the result of a partnership between the JCCH and the Freeman Foundation, Monumento Hawaii and JTB Hawaii.

It has been an honor to partner with JCCH on this initiative, and we’re very proud to see the Honolulu Education Center come to fruition,” said Aiko Tanimoto, commissioner of Hawaiian Affairs at Monumento Hawaii. Monumento’s commitment to preserving the Honolulu Internment Camp site began nearly seven years ago when we first purchased the land in Kuualii, and we look forward to continuing the momentum of raising awareness about this important piece of history through JCCH’s many education initiatives.

A admission to the education center is free and open to the public. Regular business hours for the new education center will be Monday-Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, a nonprofit organization, strives to strengthen Hawaii’s diverse community by educating present and future generations in the evolving Japanese American experience in the state.

Founded on May 28, 1987, the center has more than 5,000 members and annually attracts to more than 50,000 residents and visitors throughout its programs and events.

The Cultural Center also features a historical museum, the Honolulu National Monument — JCCH Education Center, the Toshioka Heritage Resource Center, the Konsulinal waai, the Seduction Japanese teahouse and a gift shop.

For more information, call (808) 541-7633, email info@jch.com or visit the website at www.jch.com.

Shinto and Buddhist blessings were part of the official dedication ceremony of the Honolulu National Monument — JCCH Education Center.

JANL Program Highlights ‘Echoes of Nikkei Dispersal’

By Rita Ishibashi


The hour-and-a-half-long program, held in Union Bank’s Hospitality Room, was organized, sponsored and made available by the Japanese American National Library. Additional support was provided by professors from San Francisco State University.

In her program, Cole brought many elements together, including international, global and domestic agendas. Audience members also learned many lessons pertaining to global ethnic and cultural diversity.

Specifically, Cole revealed her own life journey, beginning with her birth in Minneapolis, a U.S. concentration camp located in Southern Idaho during World War II. She identified the struggles and challenges faced with dual (and mult) identities.

Similarly, the author read portions from her 2015 book, “Sideways Memoir of a Miyabi:” which revealed aspects of her life experiences from the perspectives of her childhood.

During the discussion, Cole also connected the evacuation and concentration camp experiences (at Lemon Creek, Canada) of Canadian author Joy Kayaga, as well as a poem by Kayaga.

The discussion conveyed what happened to Japanese Canadians, Japanese Americans and Japanese Latin Americans when governments passed policies targeting persons of Japanese ancestry and removed them from their homes, excluding them from communities and areas and denying them the ability to travel and freedom.

Cole also expressed the impact such discriminatory policies had on such individuals’ Japanese Canadian, for example, were excluded from returning to their original West Coast residences until 1949, four years after the conclusion of World II came to an end.

Following her presentation, Cole screened and discussed the short film, “Hidden Internment,” which reveals the plight of kidnapped and incarcerated Japanese Latin Americans, including her brother-in-law, Art Shibaya.

Cole is a member of the Nelson Storytelling Guild and the Uphill Writing Group in Canada. She is also on the steering committee of the Kado Japanese Canadian Museum and a contributing member of “Hidden Images.” She currently resides in Nelson, British Columbia, Canada.

Author Diana Morita Cole’s program “Echoes of Nikkei Dispersal” offered attendees the opportunity to learn lessons pertaining to global ethnic and cultural diversity.
COMMUNITY, CONTINUITY LIVE AT SAWTELLE REUNION IV

Attendees of all ages gather to reflect on the historic neighborhood’s memories, good times and future outlook.

By George Ishio Johnston, Contributor

The commercial strip of Sawtelle Boulevard near the 405 Freeway in West Los Angeles bounded by Olympic and Santa Monica boulevards (and outlets to either side of those streets) — especially the part nearest Olympic — has, in recent years, become a destination for hipsters, Asian cuisine foodies, college students and Japanese companies looking for a bit of home away from home.

The area also has seen new — and pricey — luxury condos pop up as the neighborhood continues to evolve.

Decades before the area was discovered by the trendy tribe, however, it was a mostly Japanese American community with services, storefronts, a tofu maker, restaurants, a Japanese language school, a judo dojo, plant nurseries, churches and more that catered to a population that came into existence at a time when L.A.'s many ethnic groups were clustered into enclaves endorsed by race-based housing covenants.

For longtime residents of Japanese ancestry, memories of those bygone days before one could live anywhere a well-stocked bank account would allow (and when finding a parking spot wasn’t so tough) are, actually, pleasant.

It was sort of a paradise for us,” recalled Ben Toshiyuki, who grew up in the area and now resides in Washington, Utah. Toshiyuki shared his recollections at the Sawtelle Japanese Reunion, which was held on Oct. 23 at the West Los Angeles Buddhist Temple’s Sangha Hall. The event, which began in 1960 and takes place every two years, drew 120 participants.

Toshiyuki, who says he’s missed only one of the four reunions held thus far, also noted, however, that he suspects many of the Japanese men from the area who found work as gardeners were college educated but could not find jobs in other lines of work during a time when labor positions were open to Japanese people.

Toshiyuki’s father, John, for example, told his son he had ambitions of becoming a doctor. He was instead steered by his father to a different line of work — my grandfather made him into a pharmacist,” Toshiyuki said. But his father was a big fan in the University of Southern California’s first Bachelor of Science graduating class in the field. Toshiyuki said his grandfather had “maybe three drugstores,” including Teshio Do Drugs in Little Tokyo at First and San Pedro streets.

The Sawtelle reunions are credited as having been started by Dr. Jack Fujimoto, according to Haak Inamoto, whose family moved to the area in 1946 and opened a small grocery store. It was all Japanese at that time.”

Inamoto recalls how Sawtelle was distinctive due to its small-town atmosphere. Everybody knew each other,” he said. Inamoto said the Sawtelle area, where Japanese were allowed to buy property, was bounded by Pico and Santa Monica boulevards and to the west by the 405 Freeway and now and Harrington Avenue.

In later years, Inamoto, 79, said many Japanese Americans moved from the Sawtelle area to Orange County or Torrance because of the high property values. Nevertheless, Jack thought it would be a good idea to get together and relive old friendships,” he said. He added, however, that the reunion committee is also trying to attract more of the younger generations. It’s like pulling teeth. They’ve got other things to do.”

Carrie Yotsukuni represents the younger age group to which Inamoto referred. The third-generation alumni of nearby University High School and fourth-generation resident of West Los Angeles became involved with the committee — and was tapped to be the reunion chairperson. — after attending the third reunion, which took place before the area got the official Sawtelle Japanese” designation from the city of Los Angeles in 2015.
“One of the reasons why I was asked to become involved was because I am younger — I’m probably the age of their children — and so they were asking me if I would come in and hopefully stimulate some of a younger crowd. It’s just had because a lot of the people I know, I’m no longer in touch with. A lot of people have moved away,” Yosukura said. “I just so happen to live in the area. So, it was a challenge that way, but I’m hoping that some of these old-timers who do come spread the word to their children and grandchildren.”

On that topic, Yosukura said she would “love to see more of a dialogue between younger people and the older generation to keep alive the people who built this area.”

A pair of women who have stories of bygone days are Rose Honda, 89, and Sadie Hisun, 91, who participated in Japanese American women’s social clubs.

After the war, during which her family was incarcerated at the Manzanar camp for Japanese Americans, Honda was in an organization for working women and those going on college called the “Windsor.” She and friend, Mary Ishizuka, became co-advisors for a group of teenage girls who called themselves the “Atomes,” of which Hisun was a member, the group was sponsored by Samuelle’s West L.A. United Methodist Church.

“Sadie and several of us, through the church, have sponsored trips to Manzanar for about six years now,” Honda said. She graduated from the camp’s high school in 1945. “We mainly did it so that families and young people can learn about what happened.”

Honda continued. “Before the war, this community had Japanese families because we weren’t able to live east of Sepulveda [Boulevard]. We were only able to stay in this community.” Still, she has “wonderful” memories from then.

“Besides Japanese families, we had Latino families, Caucasian families living here, Afros Americans — but predominantly, it was Japanese,” Honda said. “Samuelle Boulevard had the markets and the stores, a barbershop and a beauty shop.”

Honda also recalled the many activities, like Japanese language movies for the Israel, that were shown at the Japanese language school and helped keep the community together.

Recently, Fujimoto helped get the Samuelle Reunion committee started, but he called himself an “outsider” who married into the community. Perhaps that’s why he saw the need to recognize what was unique about the community and pass that knowledge on to younger generations.

“It goes back to my day of thinking of ‘japanese,’ ” Fujimoto said, referring to the Japanese word for “home.” “What is Japanese? Where is home? Do you ever go back to your home? Or is your new home wherever you are now? Is Samuelle your home?”

“I don’t think a lot of people who grew up and became professionals think of Samuelle as their home,” Fujimoto continued. “But a reunion is an opportunity for them to come and say, ‘Hey, I remember you, you lived over there’ — that’s why it was fascinating just getting together today to talk to a couple of people.”

Then there are those like Ted Tanaka, a biotech joint-renter developer, who grew up in Samuelle and is putting together fundraising drive to pay for a couple of small murals to depict for posterity some of the area’s history. It will take several thousand dollars to make his dream, a reality, but he’s confident it will happen.

It’s important for Samuelle reuniters like Honda, who was that legacy remembered. “I think the other thing about these reunions, we’re seeing young people and how important it is to remember our stories, who really built this community,” she said. “It’s nice to meet old friends and just kind of reminisce when we grew up in this community.”

For Fujimoto, he enjoys the feeling of satisfaction he’s received from the four Samuelle reunions. “It was all been fun,” he said.

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REPORT ON THE MINIDOKA CIVIL LIBERTIES SYMPOSIUM

"Mass Internment in the Land of the Free" was the theme of the 11th annual Minidoka Civil Liberties Symposium, which was held at Boise State University in Boise on Oct. 7.

A panel discussion featuring former Nisei Detainee Hiroshi Iwasaki, former Nisei Detainee Shinjiro Nishie, and former Nisei Detainee Tomoo Yamashita.

The symposium was organized by the National Japanese American Historical Society and the National Nisei Veterans Committee.

The symposium also featured keynote speaker Yojiro Tanaka, a former Nisei Detainee who was interned at Minidoka during World War II.

Tanaka spoke about his experiences in the internment camp and the impact of the internment on his family.

The symposium also included a discussion on the role of media in shaping public opinion about the internment.

The symposium was attended by students, teachers, and community members who were interested in learning more about the history of Japanese American internment.

The symposium concluded with a screening of the documentary film "Mits.Net: The Story of the Minidoka Internment Camp."
Silitanath told symposium participants that almost all of the prisoners held at Guantanamo were Muslim men, turned in by bounty hunters in Afghanistan and Pakistan for suspected terrorist activity. The $5,000 bounty promised by American policy was advertised in leaflets dropped from airplanes. She explained that the American bounty program endangered the life of Muslim communities in both Afghanistan and Pakistan by empowering informants within these two societies.

Silitanath also explained that after 9/11, Bush in 2004, the Supreme Court ruled the use of habeas corpus applies in Guantanamo Bay prison. This landmark ruling allowed prisoners to challenge their detention. While the majority of prisoners held in Guantanamo have been released, they are unable to return home. Instead, they are sent to places like Bosnia, where they have no family or community connections.

In addition, Silitanath reported that Guantanamo Bay prison is the result of the flawed exercise of an affected power: a country that has suffered an attack and subsequently oversteps its boundaries, as the United States government has done in the extraordinary rendition of Maher Arar, a Syrian Canadian who was kidnapped by American authorities and tortured in Syria.

Silitanath concluded her talk by quoting the famed Jewish political theorist Hannah Arendt. Arendt believed that the refugee is the exemplar of human rights who should begin the journey towards a better future.

Karen Korematsu, executive director of the Fred Korematsu Institute, then spoke about the importance of the legal challenge undertaken by her father, Fred Korematsu, who was arrested and sentenced for his refusal to comply with Executive Order 9066 in 1942. A federal district court in San Francisco found Korematsu guilty of refusing to comply with military orders, and the U.S. Supreme Court upheld his conviction in 1944 on the grounds of military necessity. In 1983, Korematsu appealed his conviction.

According to Karen Korematsu, her father never gave up hope that his case would be reopened. Karen screened the documentary "Of Civil Wrongs and Rights: The Fred Korematsu Story," which she has shown during her educational speaking engagements across the country.

Featured speakers included (from left) Rajini Srikanth, Karen Korematsu and Satzeki Ina.

Former felon, author and prison consultant Michael Santos spoke in length about America's flawed prison system.

Silitanath said that the separation check given to each Japanese American wasn't important. What made it significant, according to Karen Korematsu, was that "it was the apology and recognition that a wrong was done."

And a panel discussion featuring Kevin Kempf, director of the Idaho Department of Correction; Amber Beterle, education specialist; and Gary Bawer, formerly an Idaho Sheriff from Ada County, took place, where the three speakers commented on recent developments that have taken place in the Idaho state correctional system.

The symposium's final speaker was Holly Yasui, director of the Minoru Yasui Tribute Project. She is the youngest daughter of civil rights activist Min Yasui, who was granted the Presidential Medal of Freedom posthumously in 2015.

Holly Yasui presented the documentary she is co-directing entitled "Never Give Up: Minoru Yasui and the Fight for Justice," which is narrated by actor George Takei. Holly Yasui also cited the work being done by Sarah Segal, a teacher at Hood River Middle School in Oregon, who is developing a living history curriculum based on the life of Min Yasui. She was, Holly Yasui explained, an American citizen who refused to obey the unconstitutional curfew orders implemented by Executive Order 9066.

The event's moderator, Paul Y. Watanabe, professor of political science at the University of Massachusetts, offered concluding remarks, reflecting on his own background as the son of a "No-No" gai. He urged the symposium's participants to stand in memory of those who have stood up in the past to keep hope alive.

The 11th annual Minidoka Civil Liberties Symposium, sponsored by the Boise Art Museum, Idaho State University and the Japanese American Citizens League, was organized by the Friends of Minidoka, the American Civil Liberties Union of Idaho, Boise State University, Osher Institute for Lifelong Learning, and the U.S. National Park Service.

Polaris Tours 2017 Schedule

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| May 21 ~ Jun. 01 | Bikkuri Tour with Moto & Ken: "The Journey of Miyamoto Musashi" |
| May 14 ~ May 28 | The Scandinavian: "Copenhagen, Arhus, Stockholm, Bergen, Oslo" |
| Jul. 02 ~ Jul. 11 | Japan By Train: "Hiroshima, Kurashiki, Okayama, Kyoto, Tokyo" |
| Jul. 10 ~ Jul. 21 | Newfoundland & Labrador: "Corner Brook, Rocky Harbour, St. John's" |
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| Sep. 17 ~ Sep. 24 | Iceland Adventure: "Reykjavik, Borgarnes, Hofn, Lake Jokulsarlon, Vik" |
| Sep. 20 ~ Oct. 03 | South Korea (East Coast): "Seoul, Jeju, Busan, Gyeongju, Seorak" |
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| Oct. 03 ~ Oct. 16 | Eastern US & Canada Discovery: "Boston, Quebec City, Toronto, NYC" |
| Oct. 15 ~ Oct. 24 | Autumn Japan: "Tokyo, Takayama, Kanazawa, Kyoto, Hiroshima" |
| Oct. 29 ~ Nov. 08 | Islands of Okinawa & Shikoku: "Naha, Takamatsu, Matsuyama, Kochi" |

Polaris Tours

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A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

NCWNP

JAMsj Winter Boutique
San Jose, CA
Nov. 12; JAMsj members (early entry): 9 a.m., general public: 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
San Jose Buddhist Church
640 N. 5th St.
This annual fundraiser for the Japanese American Museum of San Jose will feature a popular lineup of Bay Area artists, craftspeople and a special guest speaker. Items include a wide variety of Asian-inspired jewelry, clothing, home goods, wall art and much more. Proceeds will support the volunteer-run nonprofit museum.
Info: Visit jamsj.org/japanese-american-history-museum-san-jo... or visit fawsfs.org.

San Mateo Japanese American Community Center Annual Holiday Fair and Bake Sale
San Mateo, CA
Nov. 12; 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
Gently used Japanese goods and homemade baked confections will be among the items available for purchase.
Info: Call (650) 343-2793.

MDC

2016 JACL Chicago Annual Meeting and Dinner
Chicago, IL
Nov. 16; 7-9 p.m.
Midwest Buddhist Temple
345 W. Menomonee St.
JACL Chicago invites members to share a meal with friends, learn about the chapter’s successful 2016 programs and find out about new projects and events for the coming year. Free parking is available, and RSVP is encouraged.
Info: Visit www.jaclchicago.org/2016-annual-meeting/.

PSW

‘Japan: A Reverence for Beauty’ Exhibition of Photographs by Gil Garcetti
Los Angeles, CA
Through Dec. 11
George J. Doizaki Gallery
Japanese American Cultural and Community Center
244 S. San Pedro St.
Price: Free
Former Los Angeles district attorney and father of Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti explores, via his photographs, his observation that the Japanese people are unique in their reverence, respect and need for beauty. The question he raises is, "Why?"
Info: Call (213) 628-2725 or visit jacc.org.

IONA

The National Japanese by NLF children.

Price: $45
300 Finley Road at Arguello
San Francisco, CA

Information: Call (415) 751-7110 or Japantown Info: Call (213) 628-2725 or JAMsj Winter Boutique domestic violence and visit njahs.org/events/ and Community Center

American Historical Society Info: Call (415) 922-8898 or Anniversary of the Military 244 S. San Pedro St.
San Francisco, CA

Shelter Dance Benefit Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti ceremony will feature keynote of the U.S. Army Center for Military History , and the 'Japan: A Reverence for Beauty' Exhibition of photographs by Seiren Aoi. Included in the event workshop is a brush, practice paper. Participants are invited to paint an elegant sensu fan with Japanese calligraphy artist Seiren Aoi. Included in the event workshop is a brush, sensu fan, sumi ink and washi practice paper.

EDC

Foldable Fashion: Japanese Fan Painting Workshop
New York, NY
Nov. 17; 6:30 p.m.
Japan Society
333 E. 47th St.
Price: Tickets: $45 for nonmembers; $40 for Japan Society members, seniors and students
Participants are invited to paint an elegant sensu fan with Japanese calligraphy artist Seiren Aoi. Included in the event workshop is a brush, sensu fan, sumi ink and washi practice paper.

PNW

‘Who’s Got Game?’ Exhibit
Seattle, WA
Opens Dec. 9

719 S. King St.
Price: Museum admission ‘Who’s Got Game?’ is an exhibit that honors the accomplishments of Asian Pacific Americans in sports as well as explores the role of sports in APA identities and communities. Personal athlete journeys represent a wide range of sports, genders, ethnic and cultural identities and generations will come alive through photographs, oral histories and memorabilia.

Kodo Taiko Concert
Portland, OR
Feb. 1, 2017
Ariane Schnitzer Concert Hall
1037 S.W. Broadway
Price: From $20
Kodo, widely regarded as the premier taiko group in the world, brings its power, precision, creativity and athleticism to Portland in a debut concert performance. A preconcert taiko recital will take place prior to the performance from 6:55-7:15 p.m.
Info: Call (503) 248-4335 or visit orsymphony.org/concerts/waystoorder.aspx.

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Events in the calendar section are listed based on space availability. Please a ‘Spotlight’ ad with photos of your event for maximum exposure.
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MEMORIAM

Chun, Janet Masunaga, 86, Santa Ana, CA, Oct. 4; she was predeceased by her husband, George Masumori Chun, who is survived by her son, Eric; three daughters and her grandchildren.

Masae, U.S. Army Capt. (CPT.) Frank T., 93, San Francisco, Calif.; he was predeceased by his wife, Virginia (Ginger) (née Matsumura); children, Frank Arnold (Susan); Douglas (Ted). Virginia Carol (Paul), Mary Ann (David); sister, Ronald Uyemori; and Mary Uyemori; g. 3.

Rukuhara, Francis Masatani, 91, Seattle, Oct. 9; he and his family were incarcerated at the WRA Minidoka Relocation Center in Hunt, ID. He was a survivor of the Army’s MHS from 1944–46. He is survived by his wife, Patricia Tanaka (nee Taniyama); children, Catherine Tanaka (Mark), David Rukuhara (Sandra), Terveen Moriki (Marc), and Masako Yamamoto (Gary); sister, Kinuko Nomura; g. 1.

Fujii, Frank S., 89, Seattle, Oct. 5; he was predeceased by his wife, Michiko (née Inouye); he is survived by his children, Ann Fujii-Lind Wallman and Susan Yamamoto (Gary); sister, Kinuko Nomura; g. 1.

Rufino, Harry Jr., 87, Chino, CA, Oct. 29; he is survived by his children, Sharon, Clyde, Michelle, and Wendi and their families.

Granucci, Vicki Sekiguchi, 67, Garden, CA, Oct. 25; she is survived by her husband, Tom; son, Ryan; mother, Peggy; brother, Jon; sister-in-law, Jeanna; and future daughter-in-law, Saki.

Hobgood, Sue Masayo, 95, Avondale, AZ, Oct. 20; she was predeceased by her husband, Robert Hobgood.

Ido, Rose Hollis, 62, Huntington Beach, CA, Oct. 12; she is survived by her husband, Ronald, and their children, Natalie, parents, Hank and Marjorie; siblings, Ryan and Perry Esklund.

Kitaseko, Sue Shizuko, 96, Seattle, Oct. 10; the war was predeceased by her husband, John; she is survived by her children, Karen, June Cho (Paul) and Clark; g. 2.

Kono, Hitoshi, 89, Palo Alto, CA, Oct. 22; during WWII, he and his family were incarcerated at the Heartcamp in Arizona; he will be remembered at the Portland WRA camp in AZ.

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.

TRIBUTE

JOHN N. FUYUUME

John N. Fuyumue, 91, of Shannondale in Audubon, PA, andformerly of Upper Deerfield Tempo, N.J., died Friday, Sept. 5, 2016, suddenly and unexpectedly.

John was born in Los Angeles, CA, on April 24, 1925, and was the son of the late Junji and Chie (née Takahashi) Fuyumue. At the age of 10, he was incarcerated in the Gila River Relocation Authority in Gila, NV, until his family was given the opportunity to relocate to Seabrook, NJ, to work for Charles F. Seabrook and Seabrook Farms.

John went on to earn a Bachelor’s Degree in Music from the Eastman School of Music and a Master’s Degree in Music from the University of Rochester, N.Y. He graduated with highest honors. He also studied industrial engineering, accounting, and computer science.

On April 4, 1946, he married Seiko “Sete” Hadas at the Deerfield Presbyterian Church in Deerfield, NJ.

For several years John worked for International Utilities at various locations as an electrical engineer. His job duties took him to Hamilton, Bermuda, where he was Vice President of Oran’s Lumber Shipping Corp.

In 1950, he retired and returned to the Bridgeton, N.J., area where John worked tirelessly to establish the Seabrook Educational and Cultural Center (SECC). The Fuyumue family set up the Seabrook Educational Endowment Fund for the Earlham School of Music in Rochester, NY, where he served on their Board of Managers.

He also served on the Board of Governors of the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles, CA, the Cumberland County Tourism Advisory Council, and the Upper Deerfield Township Historical Commission. He was also a member of the Board of Directors of the Japanese American Citizens League, which was established in 1954.

John’s last primary affiliation was with the Audubon Presbyterian Church, where he was a member of the church for nearly 50 years.

This past spring, John received two special honors: The Bridgehampton Street Annual “Legend in the greater Bridgehampton community” and in April was OHS recognized in the ceremony first place at the annual Palm Beach Art Honor Awards at the Bridgehampton Art Bank.

John is survived by his sisters-in-law, Eliza Kida (and) and Otsuka and, all of Shannondale, one brother-in-law, Kazuhiko Hida (Jackie) of AZ and several nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his sister, Setsuko, in 2010, a brother, Robert F. Fuyumue, in 1978 and a sister, Setsuko in 1965.

The funeral service was held at the Deerfield Presbyterian Church, Old Deerfield Pike in Upper Deerfield Township, on Friday, Oct. 7, 2016. The burial immediately followed in the church cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are requested to Seabrook Educational and Cultural Center, 1325 Highway 77, Seabrook, NJ 08002, or to the Deerfield Presbyterian Church, PO Box 69, Deerfield Street, NJ 08833 or to the Seabrook Chapter JACL, c/o Sharon Yoshida, 4 Mallard Dr., Bridgeport, NJ 08082.

Written condolences and tribute cards may be shared with the Fuyumue family at freire@pacificcitizen.org.

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Rehling Funeral Home, Bridgeton, NJ.

YOSHIYE KAWABATA

Yoshiye “Yo” Kawabata was born on July 10, 1927, in San Francisco, CA, to Hiroshi and Haruyo Yoshitaka. She was preceded in death by her loving husband, Harry; beloved son, Ted; dear brother, Togo. She is survived by her children, Tomoosuke and Pachiko; grandchildren; and great-grandchildren. Her family was a part of her entire life.

Yo was active in her community and volunteered with several organizations—Eden Township JACL, Eden Japanese Community Center, Eden Senior Center, the Cypress House, Kobe Tachibana and Buddhist Church of Oakland. She enjoyed golf, tennis, cooking, and exercising.

Yo was memory will be held at the Buddhist Church of Oakland, 825 Jackson St. Oakland, CA 94607 on Saturday, Nov. 11 at 11am.
REIMAGINE EVERYTHING
DISRUPT EVERYTHING:
PREPARE TO CARE!

By Ron Mori

In our Japanese American community, caring for loved ones who need help with everyday living, particularly our older family members, is nothing extraordinary. It’s part of who we are. Nearly every one of us know a caregiver, has been a caregiver, will be a caregiver or will someday need a caregiver ourselves.

In my case, I fall into the “will be a caregiver” category. My mother is 89, and she is very independent now and still drives. On my last visit to see her in Chicago, she was walking to go horseback riding, where I live. Small win: The door was open for more conversation on her desire to be independent, yet much closer to our family.

We are not alone. Most American families carry the task of caring for loved ones on their own. The care of those older people who receive long-term services and support at home get all of their care from their family caregivers. It’s the family caregiver who is the primary caregiver and is chiefly responsible for ironing, millions of older Americans to remain in their own homes as they wish, and avoid much more costly nursing homes.

In our community — as in many others — family members undertake caregiving as a matter of course, and more tied to a source of deep satisfaction and meaning. But it’s not an easy task, and it’s getting harder. The role of family caregivers has, by necessity, expanded dramatically in recent years.

Family caregivers traditionally have provided a broad array of care, including bathing, dressing, feeding, managing personal finances, providing transportation and assisting with other household tasks.

But a national study conducted by the AARP Public Policy Institute and the United Hospital Fund — called the “Home Alone” study — found that the role of many family caregivers has expanded to include performing tasks of the kind and complexity once performed only by professionals in hospitals and nursing homes, including administering IV fluids, giving injections, administering medications and providing care.

And, from numerous other studies, we also know there is widespread lack of understanding about the new realities of caregiving, the need to prepare for in advance and how and where to turn for help in doing so.

Already, as the American Psychological Association has noted, those who serve as family caregivers to aging relatives report higher levels of stress and poorer health than the population at large. Attempting to take on today’s caregiving demands with no advance preparation can exact an even heavier physical and emotional toll — toll that can put family caregivers themselves at risk.

Prepare to Care: A Planning Guide for Families includes extensive information, resources and tools AARP provides family caregivers on our website (www.aarp.org/caregiving).

This guide offers tips on how to approach the subject with a loved one and provides a solid framework to help prepare both prospective caregivers and their loved ones for the day when caregiving will be needed.

Here are some of the most important steps to take:

Start the Conversation: Don’t wait until a crisis occurs before talking with your loved one about his or her values, preferences and wishes for a caregiving situation.

Find Support and Form a Planning Team: No one should approach the responsibilities of caregiving alone.

In addition to other family members, don’t hesitate to reach out to organizations and professionals with experience in helping family caregivers.

Develop a Plan: Today, it’s virtually essential to have a clear, agreed upon family caregiving plan in place when the need arises.

And one of the most overlooked, but vital aspects of caregiving is having a plan to care for the caregiver.

Keeping up your energy and maintaining your health are critical in order to care for others. It’s just as important to make a plan to take care of yourself as it is to create a caregiving plan for others. Attention to both today could save you untold stress and heartache tomorrow.

I look forward to the day when my mom calls our home here, and we can watch her favorite television show together.

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

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HOME >> continued from page 3

The Okaei Planning team of (from left) Alex H. Fujiu, Carrie Morita and Eric Animoto

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