

2016 SPECIAL HOLIDAY ISSUE

A Season to Remember



Stockton

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Founded in 1929, JACL is the nation's oldest and largest Asian American civil and human rights organization with a 10,000 membership base. JACL has 112 chapters nationwide, three regional offices, a Washington, D.C., office and a national headquarters in San Francisco. JACL's mission is to secure and uphold the human and civil rights of Japanese Americans and all Americans while preserving our cultural heritage and values.

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Letter From the Editor

A season to remember, indeed. Frankly, it's been one roller-coaster year for the *Pacific Citizen*, as we put on our seatbelts in January and prepared to speed along a bumpy track in order to survive the year. We had several turns and drops along the way, but as 2016 comes to a close, I'm grateful to say that we have survived the ride thus far — and it's all due to you, our devoted JACL members and readers.

July's National Convention was make or break for the P.C., as we were faced with a proposed budget that would essentially render it impossible to realistically continue. But to the rescue JACL leadership and members came!

Never have I been so visibly touched by the amount of support and ideas that flooded our convention stay. The P.C. was invigorated with people working hard to ensure our longevity. A huge thank you to everyone who stepped in and voiced aloud that this newspaper must continue, no matter the cost.

The summer also saw a digital rollout of the P.C., and so far, the compromise of offering print and digital thanks to a passed surcharge that will take effect in the new year

is satisfying all of our readers.

Today, we're finally on the right course. The P.C. is looking at 2017 with much hope. We've got a plan in place, and it's working, thanks in part to the support of everyone around us, including the endless assistance we get from all of the JACL chapters that solicited ads for this year's Holiday Issue. We appreciate you all . . .

So to the P.C. staff, let's push up our sleeves, hop on in and get our seatbelts strapped. Let's take this ride again!

— Allison Haramoto,
Executive Editor



Cover Design: Marie Samonte

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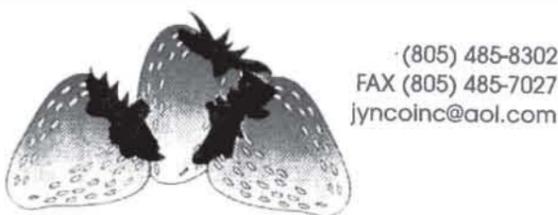
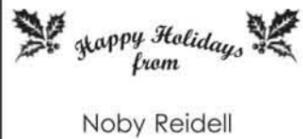
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EXECUTIVE ORDER 9066 AT 75: Will the Japanese American Experience Trump a Repeat of History?

Talk of a blanket ban on the immigration of Muslims to the U.S. and the possible creation of a Muslim registry has many revisiting the injustices set upon JAs 75 years ago.

By George T. Johnston,
Contributor

On Jan. 20, 2017, Donald J. Trump is set to become the 45th president of the United States.

On Feb. 19, 2017, it will be the 75th anniversary of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's signing of Executive Order 9066.

A season to remember, indeed.

Could these two significant dates at some point in the not-so-distant future intersect for a 21st-century iteration of E.O. 9066 that would place a curfew on then incarcerate, Arab Americans or those in the U.S. of the Muslim faith?

For some — civil libertarians, legal historians and everyday people alike — it's a valid concern. Ditto, of course, for many of those Japanese Americans on the mainland who were affected by E.O. 9066.

After all, as a candidate for president, Trump called for a blanket ban on the immigration of Muslims to the U.S.

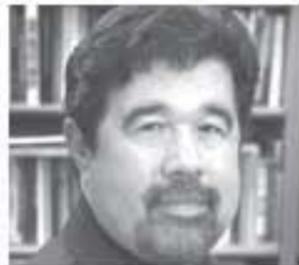
More recently, Carl Higbee, the former spokesman for the pro-Trump Great America political action committee, praised the concept of a Muslim registry citing the actions taken against Japanese Americans during World War II as a precedent.

Could the new political climate set the stage for such

a future action? Or will the Japanese American experience serve as a defense against a rash reaction taking place? Has the U.S. learned this lesson from history which the federal government apologized for under President Ronald Reagan and the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988?

The *Pacific Citizen* asked questions along those lines to some people who directly experienced the effects of Executive Order 9066, had family who did or, had they been around in 1942, would have been evacuated and relocated against their will due to what a congressional commission concluded was the result of race prejudice, wartime hysteria and a failure of political leadership.

Lance Hirabayashi



Professor, UCLA Department of Asian American Studies, and George & Sakaye Amakuni Chair in Japanese American Incarceration, Redress and Community

"I think that we are in a perilous time again, as far as the wars we're involved in and the national security issues

that those kinds of conflicts seem to bring to the fore. And so, along with a lot of people, I was pretty horrified to see some of the Trump advisers talking about a Muslim registry, for example.

"I think it's really important to remind people that there was a registry — I won't say kind of along those lines because I don't think it was exactly clear what Trump and his advisers had in mind — but I hope people remember that under President Bush, they did try to keep track of Muslims and particularly Arabs that were coming into the U.S.A. (Editor's Note: The Department of Homeland Security in 2002 implemented the National Security Entry-Exit Registration System, which required port-of-entry registration and domestic registration that included collecting fingerprints and photographs of noncitizens from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Sudan and Syria. The program was suspended in 2011.)

"When the program was canceled, there had not been one person deported in terms of someone being a threat to the national security of the United States. This just really reminded me of the kind of registration program put upon Japanese Americans after Pearl Harbor.

"I think the Issei earlier than that were subject to various registrations. So, I think the winds of war and the

policy options that are kind of being floated are of deep concern to me.

"I think that, unfortunately, the history of Japanese Americans during the prewar period, and then especially during the 1940s, have become relevant again. I think that in order to make reasoned public-policy decisions, we ought to reflect upon the history of what has been done. That's why I think the 75th anniversary is really a critical time.

"We need some public discussion. We need some reflection on the historical precedents. I think there has been so much criticism of what happened to Japanese Americans in terms of mass removal and then incarceration and the kind of penal system that they developed among the WRA, the DOJ and so forth.

"I think that maybe a more likely scenario might be that of a curfew. I think that it's important to reflect back on the 75th anniversary and remember that the whole process of mass incarceration for Japanese Americans did start with a racially oriented set of curfews on the West Coast, supposedly for the protection of the airports, naval installations and military bases facing the Pacific waters.

"In terms of the 1943 Supreme Court decisions, those stand, and they stand as a precedent. I think that one of my concerns is that God forbid anything should happen in

the way of domestic attacks, domestic sabotage or espionage. I'm really wondering if a curfew would be a next kind of policy alternative."

The Pacific Citizen: Historically, with a few exceptions, not even the American Civil Liberties Union did much in the way of standing for the Japanese Americans — probably part of the war hysteria that was referenced by the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians conclusions — but would the precedent of what happened and with the apology that came as a result of the redress in 1988, would that trump the forces that would try to do those very things or would that all be swept aside with a new wave of hysteria, especially if there was a new sort of attack?

"I'm very concerned that, in the heat of the moment, if people felt that their safety personally and the safety of the country was at issue, I think that it's easy to forget these historical precedents, and I'm concerned even with seeing Trump's advisers pull up the notion of a new attempt to register Middle Easterners and Muslims; that's an exact kind of example of immediate threats overshadowing some reasoned reflection on what's been the past history and in the registry case, recent past history of a failed public policy along those lines.



“There was a well-known political scientist of my father’s generation who wrote about the idea of the Garrison State. He did some historical analysis and felt that democracy was a strong system, but one of its weaker points was in a crisis, folks forgot about the Bill of Rights, they forgot about constitutional protections and they were willing to give up some basic rights if it meant they felt more protected from an outside, maybe somewhat mysterious or foreign threat.

“So, this notion of the Garrison State (*Editor’s Note: Harold Lasswell originated the concept, but it was Louis Smith who applied the concept to the erosion of democracy in his 1951 book “American Democracy and Military Power”*) in a democracy, if people feel panic or feel that their safety personally or that of the country is jeopardized, they are willing to give up rights, even before there is a reasoned discussion of what the threat is and how it might be best to combat [it]. I thought that was an effective idea, both to understand what happened to Japanese Americans in the 1940s, but also in terms of a caution about what we might be careful of today.

“People have got to reflect on what was done and how it worked out. Maybe that can steer us away from policy decisions that are too extreme, really not effective cost-wise or security-wise. I don’t want to see the citizenry rush to support something they feel might protect them but is actually not doing what it purports to be doing.”

Aiko Herzig-Yoshinaga



Activist, historian and researcher

“Well, we keep saying, ‘Never again,’ right? They said that about the Holocaust, and they said that about our incarceration and forced removal — but then how come the Patriot Act got passed? To me, that’s a big boo-boo on the part of the government again. They acknowledged it was a mistake to treat us in World War II the way they did, and yet there is a provision in the Patriot Act that says anybody under suspicion of disloyalty can be apprehended and be held for indefinite detention. That just doesn’t make sense to me.

“I think we have to let our young folks know this exists. That’s why it could happen, say, to the Muslims, for example. I just don’t understand how President (Barack) Obama could have signed the Patriot Act. I was really quite horrified about that.

“I’m very fearful about our volatile new president, and I have a feeling that he has advisers who feel that what happened to Japanese nationals and Japanese Americans in World War II was justified. I am so afraid his brilliant advisers might want to win Mr. Trump over, and it could

happen again to some other minority groups.”

Greg Watanabe



Actor (Mike Masaoka in the stage play “Allegiance” and Gordon Hirabayashi in the stage play “Hold These Truths”)

“It’s troubling, right? Just the fact that Donald Trump got elected, basically on a platform of open xenophobia and anti-immigrant sentiment. The amount of hate crimes that are popping up after his election are an indication of the impact of that kind of rhetoric that it has on people who are fearful and have had their fears stoked and then therefore are in a mode of scapegoating and blaming of others.

“I think that that’s an immediate negative impact and end result of Trump having been elected, even though he lost the popular vote by such a large margin, which only says to me that he doesn’t in fact reflect a majority opinion.”

The Pacific Citizen: Have we learned?

“I feel clearly that we have not, only in the sense that there are calls from politicians to approve Muslim registries or talk about registering people who are coming into the country for surveillance. Those kinds of things are the gateway into registries for American citi-

zens who attend mosques or who are Muslim or Arab.

“I think that a mass incarceration is unlikely. The amount of fear and the war hysteria and the lack of political leadership, while all being in place — I feel that that’s one firewall I think people, by and large, would be horrified by, the setting up of concentration camps again.

“That being said, that’s what’s troubling about all the anti-immigrant, anti-Muslim rhetoric — we’re essentially in an active war situation in the Middle East, and there is a constant sense of terror. All the circumstances and all the kindling are in place, so if something catastrophic like 9/11 were to happen again, there’s no telling what could happen.

“That’s one thing about 9/11. It occurred at a time when we didn’t have this current atmosphere, and we didn’t have a lot of bigotry and xenophobia and active wars in the Middle East, so if something terrible were to happen, then who knows how quickly and how easily people could be swayed over into being OK with something terrible — could it be concentration camps again? — and I want to hope not, but I don’t underestimate the power of fear rhetoric. It’s certainly troubling.”

Iris Yamashita



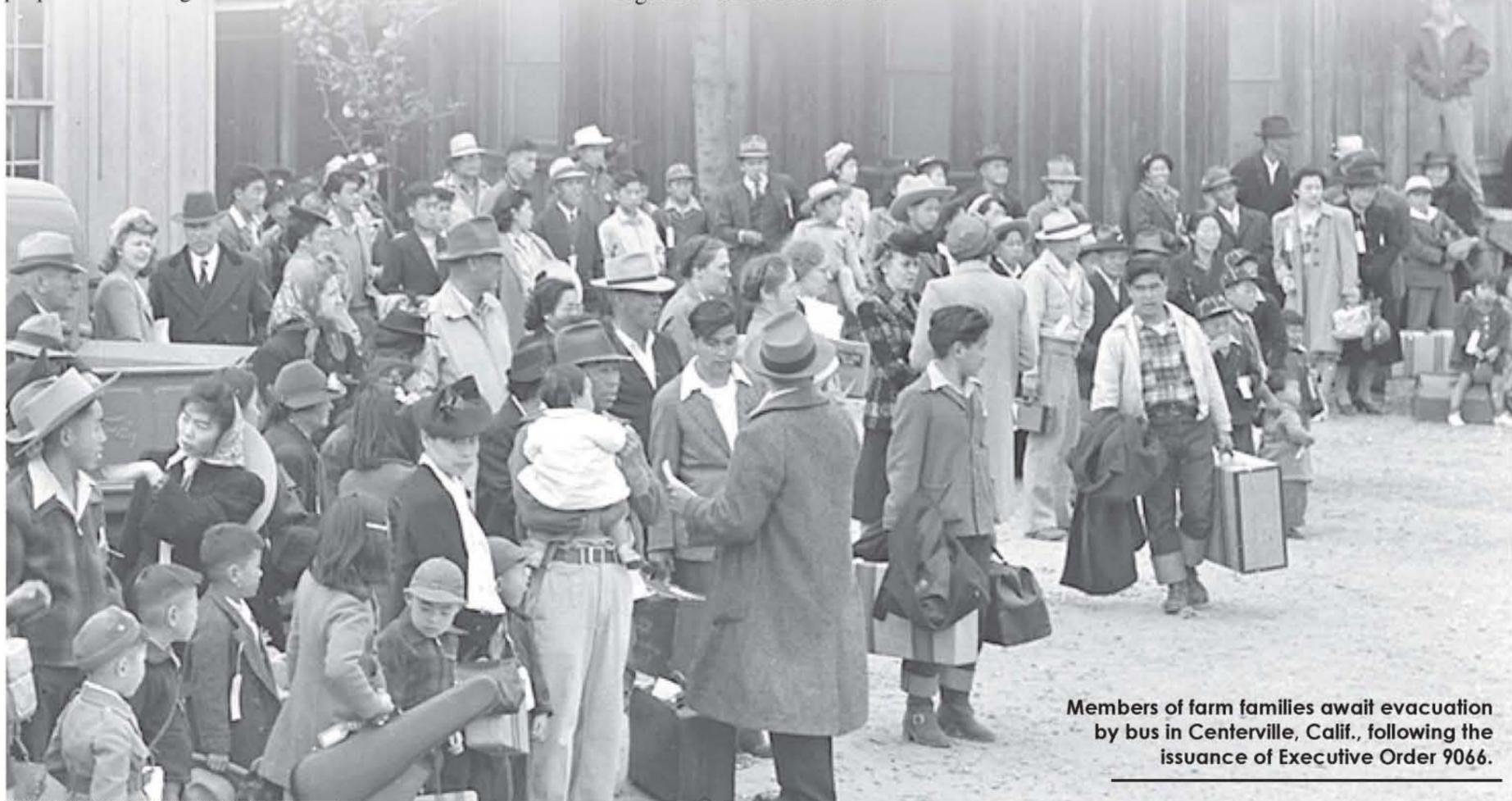
Academy Award-nominated screenwriter (2006’s “Letters From Iwo Jima”)

“I do believe there are striking parallels between how Japanese Americans were viewed in the 1940s and how Muslim Americans or people of Middle Eastern descent are viewed today. In the 1940s, E.O. 9066 gave rise to a hysteria of fear against Japanese Americans. Today, we’ve been led to believe that all acts of terrorism are committed by Muslim extremists, but the number of terrorist acts committed by Islamic extremists since 9/11 is far less than the number of terrorist acts committed by non-Muslims such as right-wing extremists.

“In his fear-fueled presidential campaign, Donald Trump proposed a Muslim registry and travel restrictions on citizens of Muslim countries, so I believe that some variation of Executive Order 9066 could be enacted under his presidency. I do worry that the proliferation of ‘fake news’ specifically designed to be incendiary to bait clicks and followers is similar to what was seen in the 1940s for the purpose of dehumanizing people of Japanese descent.

“Overall though, I am cautiously optimistic. I don’t think that today it would be possible to come to a point where Muslims in America would be interned, especially with today’s ACLU.

“So, while racism is clearly alive and well today, I have faith that most of the country is more evolved than it was in the 1940s.”



Members of farm families await evacuation by bus in Centerville, Calif., following the issuance of Executive Order 9066.

PHOTO: DOROTHEA LANGE/WIKICOMMONS

PHOTO: JACL



Executive Order 9066, which was signed by Franklin D. Roosevelt on Feb. 19, 1942, forced nearly 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry — most of them U.S. citizens — from their homes and into federal detention camps scattered throughout Arkansas, Arizona, California, Arizona, Colorado, Utah and Wyoming.

Al Muratsuchi



California assemblyman representing the 66th Assembly District of Los Angeles

“Racial prejudice, wartime hysteria and the failure of political leadership caused the unjust incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II. As Japanese Americans, we have a unique responsibility to speak out and denounce any attempt to repeat such injustices against any other group. As the only Japanese American state legislator in California, I will fight to make sure that racism and fear-mongering during our country’s war against terrorism does not lead to a Muslim registry or any other attempt to unfairly target loyal Muslim Americans.”

Ronald Ikejiri



Attorney at law and JACL Washington representative, 1978-84

“E.O. 9066 is a constant reminder why we should get involved in politics. Where you live, how you live and if you live is based on politics, and certainly with E.O. 9066, it was evidence against the Japanese Americans during WWII that if we would have had stronger political power or someone communicating that the Constitution was go-

ing to be negatively impacted by this action by the Executive branch, this would not have occurred.

“Certainly with the new president coming in, there’s always is going to be a degree of concern and uncertainty; that makes it even more important that we become involved in politics. E.O. 9066 is a constant reminder that we need to be involved.”

Neil Gotanda



Professor, Western State College of Law

“I just recently gave a talk before the elections about revisiting [Fred] Korematsu and questions of race in the United States and all of the things, not just what Trump said, but Trump’s appointees, his proposed secretary of defense, attorney general — all of those statements with regard to Muslims and citizenship and deportation all make Executive Order 9066 and the Japanese concentration camps extremely relevant, just absolutely important today. It’s unfortunate, but the 75th anniversary forces us to re-examine all the things that happened.”

The Pacific Citizen: Will what happened to Japanese Americans in WWII make a difference if a 21st-century version of E.O. 9066 was to occur?

“Absolutely. It’s still very important. The manner in which Japanese Americans have been responsive to the suggestions about registering Muslims or mass deportations has been really important. That the Japanese can speak from

their own personal and family histories is really important.”

The Pacific Citizen: So, that is a difference between then and now?

“I wish that there were more differences between then and now. But unfortunately, as I said, the title of my talk, ‘Korematsu Revisited,’ is, unfortunately, not history. It would be nice if it were history and settled history, but so many of these issues are still with us. I today wish it were more historical and not relevant today.”

Hatsuko Mary Higuchi



Painter

“I tried to show everything through my art. That’s why I do a lot of the Executive Order 9066 paintings because every time I have a show, people always ask, ‘What is this about?’

The Pacific Citizen: There are still so many people who don’t know...

“Right. And they would say, ‘You mean that happened here?’ It’s just mind-boggling that people don’t know anything about it. My paintings have been in international and national shows, and there’s always comments, since they have been getting awards, and they say, ‘What is this about?’”

The Pacific Citizen: So, this 75th anniversary means there’s still work to do.

“Yes. I am still painting away because there are still a lot of things that come up, having gone through and lived in one of the camps. At that time, I thought it was fun because I was 3 years old, 3, 4, 5. It was

fun for us. But then when I saw my parents suffer when we came back, and we came back to nothing — it makes me feel so sad.”

George Nakano



Former California state assemblyman

“As a former member of the state assembly, one of the interests that I had when I got elected was to find out who stood up against Executive Order 9066 in 1942. I had heard that Ralph Dills was the only person who stood up against it, so I had my staff work with the Legislative Council to look up the records as to whether that was true or not. Not only was it true, there was one other person who also stood up against the Executive Order. At that time, they had a resolution in support of Executive Order 9066 for the state legislature back in 1942.

“Ralph Dills voted no, and so did John Shelley, who was in the state Senate at that time.

Joe Kobata owned a nursery in Gardena. Ralph Dills did not have enough money to pay for books and registration at UCLA. He got accepted there. So, Joe Kobata loaned him money and provided him a part-time job for the Christmas holiday, Easter vacation and the summertime. Dills never forgot that. That was one of the reasons he voted no. They wanted to expel him from the Assembly.

“One of the interesting things I found out about John Shelley was that in 1945, when Japanese Americans were being released from camp, this guy named George Hatfield, a

state senator, introduced a resolution saying we don’t want Japanese Americans back in California. So, the day that the resolution was going to be heard, [Shelley] went to Auburn, Calif., where some of the wounded Japanese American soldiers were being taken care of. He brought them to the state capitol and introduced them in the Senate Chamber when the resolution was going to be heard and introduced them as American soldiers who sacrificed and accomplished a tremendous amount of courage during WWII. They got a standing ovation. At the moment, George Hatfield walked up to John Shelley and said, ‘You win.’ That resolution never resurfaced.”

Jeff Adachi



San Francisco public defender

“Looking at the cabinet that Trump is appointing, I think that a lot of people are hoping that the rhetoric of his campaign does not translate into policy — but looking again at the people who he’s appointing in key positions in his cabinet and looking at their track records, it becomes very possible that we could see a repeat of the injustices that Japanese Americans suffered 75 years ago. If these policies come to fruition, it will be a time for Japanese Americans to stand up.

“Even though I wasn’t interned, my parents and grandparents’ experiences are something that I grew up with, even though we didn’t talk about it as much as when we were little kids. With the redress and reparations movement, I think it made the Japanese community band together around this issue like it never has before.

“This will be a test. In a way, when an injustice has been done unto you and you survived it, you have an obligation to protect the next victims, and so there is this natural affinity between Japanese American communities and other communities who are being targeted. We just had a rally and support showing here for Muslims and others who are facing political persecution. It was very well attended. I don’t think I’ve seen a rally like that in Japantown in the last 20 years.” ■

Chicago

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from the



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Ted & Susan Tanisawa



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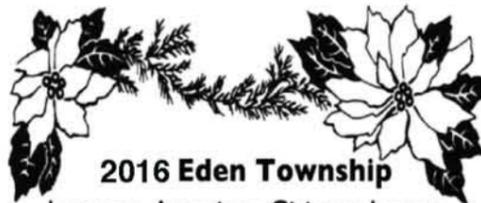
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Holiday Message From the President



Happy holidays everyone! The season of joy with family and friends is upon us. We count our blessings and wish for health and prosperity for all of our loved ones.

As 2016 closes, we reflect upon our JACL chapters' accomplishments. Many chapters have finished pounding tons of mochi for our communities. I've seen videos, and the efficiency of how thousands of pounds of rice are steamed, pounded, cut, rolled and packaged looks like a professional operation. After all, we have been doing this for generations. From San Jose to Washington, D.C., mochi from a JACL chapter with a tangerine on top will adorn homes all over the nation.

This is just one example of how the JACL brings culture and community together across the U.S. It's comfort food, and it's amazing how we can spend hours sharing with others how we eat something so simple. Mochi toasted, grilled, with shoyu and sugar, kinako or daikon oroshi certainly tastes delicious, always leaving us wanting more later for a midnight snack.

This is the fun that shares the stage with JACL's core values of civil rights and education.

Looking back, 2016 also brought us chilling news that a new presidential administration is thinking of using the Japanese American internment as a way to create a registry for Muslims entering the U.S. How can the darkest chapter in American history ever repeat itself? What can we as a JACL nation do to see that the country we love will not make the same mistake again? Education!

This year, our staff, led by our Interim Executive Director Bill Yoshino and Interim Associate Director Stephanie Nitahara, was able to utilize a \$165,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, allowing us to reach and educate 72 teachers from throughout the U.S.

JACL is uniquely positioned to combine our network of chapters that are engaged with the public to continue the message that the internment experience tore up over 120,000 lives. An apology and redress did not take away the pain, and we continue to discuss the impact of that dark period 75 years later.

With our materials already prepared by our own Education Committee, JACL can be the nation's expert on an interactive educational experience at Manzanar. But we need money and manpower to get this message out.

We need more volunteers to help with chapter events. We need more money to hire additional staff to get the job done. We couldn't ask for a more dedicated National and *Pacific Citizen* staff. If I could, I would put at least two more people at every office and still want more growth. And to make that happen, we need more generosity to reach our goals.

I am grateful to lead the JACL and am thankful to have the opportunity to earn the trust of our members ever since I was elected as your national president in July at our National Convention. I am grateful to work with an amazingly talented JACL staff. I am grateful to meet so many passionate members across the country. This means that I must work harder to see that the mission of JACL is achieved — to be the premier civil and human rights organization in the U.S.

Next year marks the 75th anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066. At July's JACL National Convention in Washington, D.C., we will be able to see this document and be reminded of how much E.O. 9066 changed and affected so many of our lives.

Please join me in giving generously to JACL and help us find new members so that we as an organization can continue to secure and protect the civil rights of all communities.

Sincerely,

*Gary Mayeda,
JACL National President*

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- Charleston-Savannah-St. Augustine Holiday Tour** (Carol Hida). Mar 19-25
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- Japan Spring Countryside Holiday Tour** (Ernest Hida). Apr 14-24
Tokyo, Nagano, Sado Island, Niigata, Sakata/Shonai, Yamagata,
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- New York Getaway Holiday Tour** (Carol Hida). Apr 27-May 1
Big Apple, Greenwich Village, MOMA, Times Square, Ellis Island,
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- Ireland Holiday Tour** (Elaine Ishida). May 1-10
Dublin, Waterford, Blarney Stone, Killarney, Limerick, Galway, Kingscourt.
- China-Yangtze River-Hong Kong Holiday Tour** (Carol Hida). May 14-29
Beijing, Yangtze River Cruise, Xian, Shanghai, Hong Kong.
- Grandparent-Grandchildren Japan Tour** (Ernest Hida) Jun 26-Jul 5
Tokyo, Hakone, Atami, Hiroshima, Kyoto.
- Yellowstone-Tetons National Parks Tour** (Elaine Ishida). Jul 7-14
Salt Lake City, Jackson Hole, Yellowstone, Grand Tetons, Park City.
- Hokkaido Summer Holiday Tour** (Ernest Hida) Jul 17-30
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Hakodate, Tokyo.
- So. Dakota-Mt. Rushmore Tour** (Elaine Ishida). Aug 25-31
Rapid City, Mt. Rushmore, Custer State Park, Black Hills, Badlands.
- Eastern Canada Holiday Tour** (Carol Hida) Sep 6-14
Montreal, Quebec, Ottawa, Toronto, Niagara Falls.
- Classical Japan Autumn Holiday Tour** (Ernest Hida). Oct 5-16
Tokyo, Mt. Fuji, Yamanashi, Shizuoka, Nagoya, Gifu, Hiroshima, Kyoto.
- Japan Autumn Countryside Holiday Tour** (Ernest Hida). Oct 19-29
Tokyo, Sado Island, Kanazawa, Amanohashidate, Tottori, Matsue,
Tamatsukuri Onsen, Hiroshima.
- So. America Patagonia-Easter Island Holiday Tour** (Ernest Hida). Nov 7-22
Buenos Aires, Ushuaia, Calafate(Perito Moreno Glacier),
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For more information and reservations, please contact:

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Mile High

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*"Those that touch our lives,
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Mile High JAACL

*Wishing for Peace and Goodwill to All as we
Remember recent losses of our Friends and
Loved Ones:*

Rose Kokubu Fujisaki (05/06/1921 - 07/22/2015)

James Hada (6/18/1924 - 3/24/2016)

Herbert Hideyo Inouye (11/14/1928 - 3/3/2015)

Daniel Yukio Iritani (8/26/1925 - 5/27/2016)

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Ben Kuroki (5/16/1917 - 11/1/2015)

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*Dr. Frank Fumio Sakamoto (12/25/1924 -
12/12/2015)*

George "Joe" Sakato (1/19/1921 - 12/2/2015)

Terry Nishida Sato (10/4/1923 - 10/19/2014)

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Matilde "Tillie" Taguchi (5/7/1917 - 2/24/2016)

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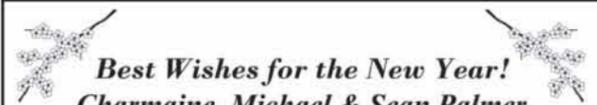
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Best Wishes to All This Holiday Season

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Best Wishes for the New Year!

Charmaine, Michael & Sean Palmer

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*Wishing all a
Joyous New Year*

from our offices at Sakura Square

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"If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other."
~ Mother Teresa
May 2017 be a year of peace, justice, love, and solidarity.
Blessings,
Kathryn, Sue, Grace and Mateo

An official ceremony led by the mayor of Laval-sur-Vologne, Rene L'Homme, dedicated the memorial to Yohei Sagami.

PAYING IT FORWARD:

Generosity and Giving in Honor of the Past



Hervé and Sylvie Claudon keep the memory of the 442nd and 100th alive in Bruyères, France.

By Connie K. Ho, Contributor

Barbara Berthiaume could finally put a name to the place. It was 2014, and she had arrived in Bruyères, France, in search of the story of her uncle, Yohei Sagami. Hervé Claudon, a native of Bruyères, had figured out the site where her uncle had died during World War II, and there was going to be a ceremony held in his memory.

Berthiaume had lived in Europe for 17 years and knew that her uncle was killed there, but her mother never talked about it. In 2013, she went to hear a talk about Bruyères at the Nisei Veterans Committee Memorial Hall in Seattle and figured out that her uncle might have been killed there during the war. She subsequently emailed Claudon, who connected her with George Sakato, a veteran who was living in Denver and had been at Bruyères with her uncle when he died.

On the day of the ceremony in Bruyères, Sakato sent a letter.

Since [I] received the Medal of Honor in 2000, I have had the privilege of being able to speak to schools, veterans and service organizations about my wartime experiences. It has been important to me that people know what was going on at the time of war for the Japanese American people.

I am sure many of you in France are more aware of the 442nd and the 100th than many here in the USA. Yohei Sagami is always among the first stories I tell.

It was our first day of real battle. We did

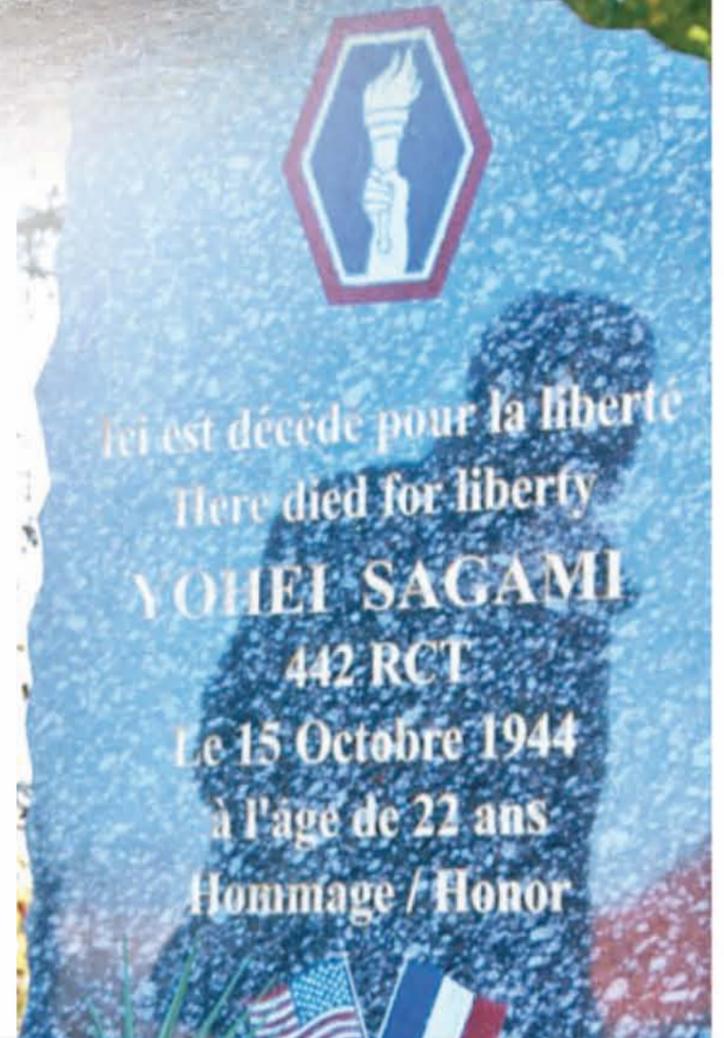
not know what incoming and outgoing artillery sounded like. Yohei was sitting on the ground, and I was standing near him as we were talking. Suddenly, BOOM! Suddenly, I was several feet away from where I was initially. I picked myself up and looked back at Yohei and realized he had been hit. I rushed over and tried to stop the bleeding, but the shrapnel had hit his jugular, and I could not stop the bleeding. He died in my arms.

I believe that he was the first Nisei to be killed in France. He was definitely my first friend to die in the war. I carry his memory and memories of all the other boys I lost in the war.

During my talks, I always want people to know that I am not a hero. But I proudly wear the Medal of Honor as a tribute to all those who did not come home from the war.

You can imagine how surprised I was to hear that Yohei's niece wanted to come to Colorado to meet me. I was flooded with memories of that fateful day, and memories of all my old friends. I began to think about why we went to war. We felt it was important to prove that we are loyal Americans and to fight for our country, but more important that we were willing to give up our lives for our children and our family's children would have a better life and future.

Meeting Barbara and her husband validated that our "Going for Broke" was worthwhile. I know Yohei would be touched that his family and their children remember and honor him. I am proud of them, and I am proud to be part of this celebration of Yohei today.



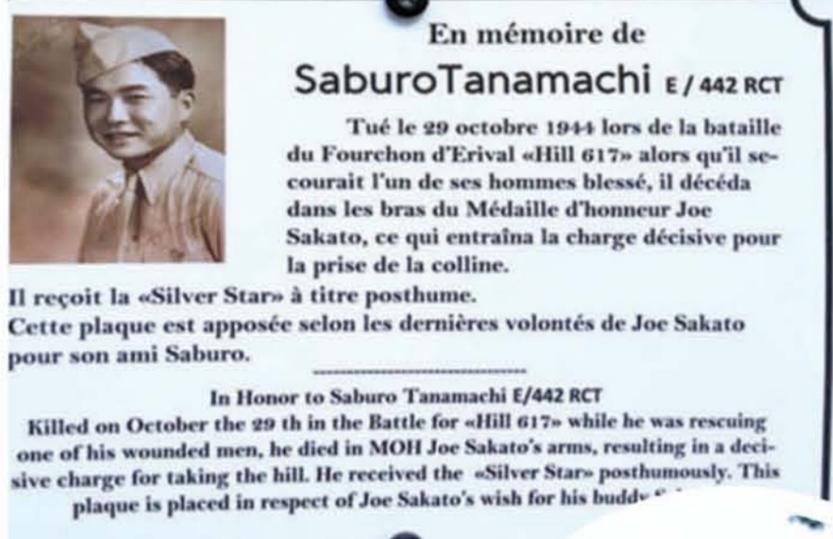
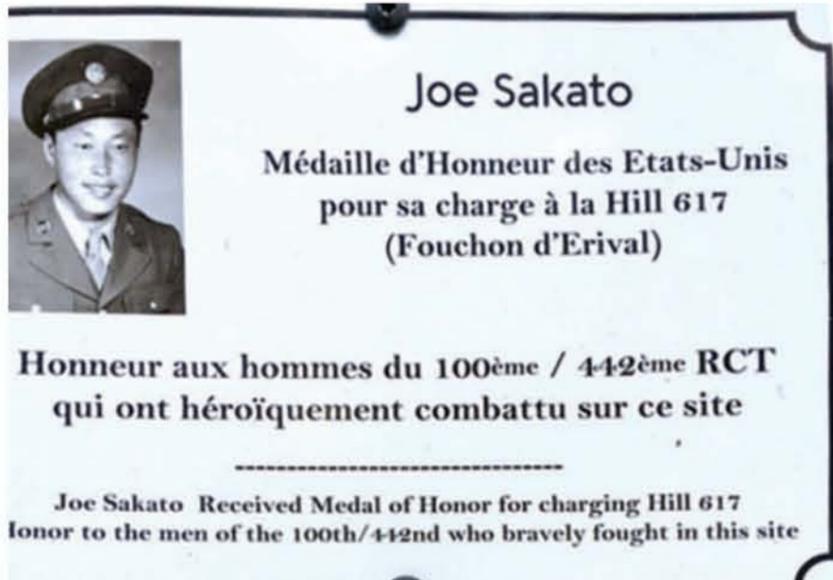
PHOTOS: COURTESY OF BARBARA BERTHIAUME



Octobre 2016

A permanent memorial is dedicated to the valor and memory of Yohei Sagami, who was killed in action in World War II.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF BARBARA BERTHIAUME AND ANNE CASCALES



The two plaques of Joe Sakato and Saburo Tanamachi are on Hill 617, the hill Sakato charged, which earned him the Medal of Honor. Saburo died in his arms, and Joe's last wish was for a plaque honoring Saburo be placed next to his. Hervé Claudon organized the ceremony for Saburo and Yohei Sagami as well.

The letter was a heartfelt tribute to her uncle, and Berthiaume was touched by the ceremony and the words of her uncle's friend. The next few days were packed with more activities. Along with the ceremony, Berthiaume was able to see some of the terrain and get a better understanding of what members of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team might have experienced.

"I had no grasp of the enormity – you could read about what great cost, but to go and see the side of the road and see hundreds of foxholes after 70 years that are clearly visible, you can't help but feel very moved," said Berthiaume. "Hervé introduced me to many of the Free French, and it was a treat to meet them."

This past October, Berthiaume returned to Bruyères to attend a ceremony that Hervé had organized with the mayor of Laval-sur-Vologne to put up a granite commemoration of her uncle and a plaque for another soldier.

"For the Japanese American community, I think it's espe-



Hervé and Sylvie Claudon



Among those in attendance at the dedication ceremony were Laval-sur-Vologne Mayor Rene L'Homme (left) and Yohei Sagami's niece, Barbara Berthiaume.

cially important that we keep those connections alive; it could be another page in reading a history book and helps put a real connection to family members that have served. Even for family members who didn't serve, it's part of our Japanese American heritage. I think going to somewhere like Bruyères helps you understand those sacrifices," said Berthiaume.

Hervé Claudon had long heard from elders about the Americans who had liberated the area in 1944.

"I wanted to learn more about this story that surely had changed their lives," he said.

Hideki "Dick" Obayashi and his wife were the first Japanese American visitors to make the trip to Vosges in 2010; they were met by the Claudons, who acted as guides and helped them trace the journey and the battles of the 442nd.

"Some Niseis or their descendants wanted to see again or discover where a part of the story of the Japanese Americans has been written," Hervé Claudon said.

The Claudons took the couple all over the village, from following the original march of the first troops that went into Bruyères and the site of the Los Battalion to the foxholes and a church that still has the markings of bullet holes on its wall. From that first trip, Obayashi has traveled to Bruyères almost every year. He told others about the trip, and it started a chain reaction where many

families have made the pilgrimage to the French village since.

"Hervé and Sylvie are by far the most passionate, gracious people I've ever met in my life – they are so passionate and so grateful and indebted to our Nisei soldiers," said Obayashi.

Hervé Claudon has about a dozen huge boxes of correspondence that he has worked on since he was a teenager. Around the 1980s, he began interviewing many of the Free French and documented their experiences through audio and handwritten texts.

His intense research extends to the locations of where soldiers might have perished, and he has diligently placed a marker in the spot where a soldier died to commemorate the memory of the individual. He is also knowledgeable of the Free French who are still alive and aims to connect them with travelers when they arrive. Hervé Claudon noted the importance of introducing both young and old community members to the visitors who frequent Bruyères.

"We really noticed that our visitors had really no idea [or a wrong one] how are the Vosges, the ground, the 'foxholes' (trenches), the forest but also the scenery," said Hervé Claudon. "The Niseis have talked about a miserable country with bad weather, cold, etc. . . . Instead, they discover a very beautiful landscape with not especially bad weather and a peaceful resting place."

He describes how the meetings between locals and visitors are his favorite part of the experience.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF ANNE CASCALES



Hervé Claudon and Barbara Berthiaume stand next to the plaque honoring Medal of Honor recipient and 442nd RCT member Joe Sakato, who charged Hill 617 during World War II in the vicinity of Biffontaine, France.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF GREG MARUTANI



A plaque on a tree in the Vosges Mountains pays homage to Yohei Sagami, Barbara Berthiaume's uncle, who was killed in WWII.

“You will always be able to see the battlefields but not the locals who were there in 1944. It’s always happiness in these meetings even if there’s sometimes tears to explain what had happened at that time,” said Hervé Claudon. “When Sylvie and I have proposed to some locals to welcome some Americans in their homes, all have immediately agreed. To us, it’s the best reward to get friendship thanks to the saddest thing ever.”

The Claudons had the opportunity to visit the United States recently and were able to speak about their experiences in Bruyères with groups in Honolulu, Los Angeles and Seattle. Much of the trip was funded by those who had visited them, and many of the venues were packed with attendees who wanted to hear their stories. They stayed in the homes of friends and tried out new cuisines at local restaurants.

“[It was] a [once-in-a]-lifetime trip, and we are very grateful to all who have been involved in this experience,” said Hervé Claudon.

Berthiaume believes that the trip also gave the Claudons an opportunity to learn more about the community that they host in France.

“The beautiful part of this is that Hervé has been so invested and knows so much about the 442nd, but for him to see where the Nisei came

from was very moving for him,” Berthiaume said.

She also hoped that the trip state-side would expose more people to the history of Bruyères.

“The level of awareness of Bruyères was dramatic, and that’s what we wanted. More people who didn’t have the opportunity to travel to Bruyères could learn more about it,” said Berthiaume. “It’s not lost on people that people like my uncle were serving over there while their families were incarcerated here — I think that’s a really powerful thing for people to remember. When they go, it reinforces the sacrifices that [the soldiers] made and that they were loyal Americans. We are revisiting some distant drumbeats from people who have had fear about national security and people who look like the enemy and worship like the enemy so I think, and all that history that went on with the 442nd is incredibly pertinent today.”

Back in France, Hervé Claudon has even advocated for the soldiers and their families during times of crisis. Berthiaume and Obayashi spoke of an instance where a windmill company wanted to do construction next to the Epinal American Cemetery. Hervé Claudon tirelessly campaigned to not have it there, and he was able to successfully defeat the proposition.

Next up for the Claudons is upkeep of a monument that was erected in 1947. In 2011, while on a business trip to Paris, Carl Williams of Sacramento visited Bruyères, where his wife’s uncle had fought in the October 1944 battle that liberated the city and several other towns in the region. A monument had been erected a few years later to honor the sacrifices of the young Japanese Americans who had fought so valiantly in battle. During his visit, Williams noticed that the monument was in poor repair, showing its age and the effects of occasional vandalism.

“I was so moved by my visit to this quiet memorial that I promised myself that I would do something about the monument’s condition,” he said in a statement.

Over the next few years, Williams made a number of attempts to gain approval for a proposal to rehabilitate the monument, but he had no luck. In 2015, he read about a trip the Claudons were taking to Los Angeles to speak at the Japanese American National Museum, and, through the museum, he was able to connect with Hervé Claudon.

On his behalf, Hervé Claudon contacted Yves Bonjean, who was the new mayor of Bruyères, and the

matter was subsequently taken up by the city council and approved. The approved plan included not only the clean up of the site but also the addition of a memorial element.

Hervé Claudon continues to work on this project and has others in the pipeline. To him, it is important to keep the voices of the 442nd and 100th alive, whether in the form of a plaque and a memorial or a speaking opportunity at a local high school. It is quite clear that those who visit him and his wife in Bruyères think of him fondly, and they show the same love and admiration for their visitors.

“It’s like a second family,” Hervé Claudon said. “It’s first a story of human beings.”

Travel Details

Contact Hervé and Sylvie Claudon to find out more about visiting Bruyères — the best time to travel there is from April-June or September-November. They can be reached at Battle of Bruyères Tours, +33-336-8467-1960 or email herve.claudon@gmail.com.



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The Value of Family Reunions

Sage advice on the power of reunions and their ability to reconnect families and maintain legacies for generations to come.

By Gerald Yamada,
Contributor

As young adults move to where their jobs take them, extended families may be less likely to stay in touch. For example, two of my second cousins met in college and, after talking, they realized they were related. We now use family reunions as a way to reconnect with family members, meet new members and inform younger generations of the legacy of our heritage.

In planning our family reunions, I have used the following guidelines.

Start Planning Early — Start a year ahead in picking a date and location. Everyone one is busy, so getting the reunion dates on family members' calendars promotes increased participation. Also, forming a committee to share tasks and consult on reunion decisions is very helpful. We had 75 members of our extended family ranging from age 100 to age 2 and representing four generations of the Kennosuke and Mikiyo Yamada family at our reunion this past summer.

Use a Venue that Provides Its Own Entertainment — I have used Las Vegas and Reno as venues for our family reunions so that fewer group activities have to be planned. I prefer Reno because it is more compact. Downtown Reno casino hotels provide gambling entertainment for the adults, and overhead walkways give



Kennosuke and Mikiyo Yamada with their daughters, Hilda, Helen and Alice, as well as their son, Henry. This photo was published as the frontispiece in the 1914 book "The American Japanese Problem: A Study of the Racial Relations of the East and the West" by Sidney Lewis Gulick with the caption, "A typical prosperous Japanese family of Florin, in friendly social relations with American neighbors."

safe access to children's games in the adjoining Circus Circus Hotel.

Rent a Hotel Hospitality Suite for the Weekend — Our reunions have been scheduled from early Friday evening to Sunday noon. The hospitality suite enabled us to provide a pizza dinner on Friday evening and coffee and doughnuts on Saturday and Sunday mornings at low cost. More importantly, the hospitality suite provided a meeting place where family members visited and enjoyed snacks, drinks and wine generously provided by family members.

Organize Some Group Activities — A golf tournament was arranged through the hotel. The hospitality suite provided an area for family activities. In the past, we had children's



A Yamada family reunion photo. Seated (from right to left) are Yamada's aunt, Doris Takefa; Doris' husband, Bill; Barbara Yamada Matsuo, who is 100 years old; and Donald Morita, who was married to Agnes Yamada Morita. Donald served in the MIS during WWII. Gerald Yamada is pictured in the back row (third from right).

games on Saturday mornings. My brother, artist Kenny Yamada, entertained the kids and adults by drawing requested Disney characters. In the evenings, a "pounce" card tournament or Indian poker game was held in the hospitality suite. These games can become loud and boisterous.

Create a Reunion Logo

— For each reunion, my brother, Kenny, created a different reunion logo, which he screened onto T-shirts. Giving out reunion T-shirts helped to bond family members together. This year's logo was embroidered onto caps — one size fits all — to avoid the problem of estimating the sizes that would be needed for children and adult T-shirts.

Share Family History — Developing an organized presentation about your family's early history is a way to inform the younger generation about the hardships that our Issei grandparents faced in settling in America. Sharing old photos help to personalize relatives that have passed. This year, I researched and organized a presentation on the early life of each of my paternal grandparents in Japan, their coming to America and starting a family in the early 1900s. Both were born in Japan shortly after the end of the Edo Period. Both had hard childhoods.

Grandfather Yamada's mother died shortly after he was born, and his father left him to be raised by his father's older brother. At age 17, he traveled to Hawaii to live for a year with his father and step-mother before moving to Florin, Calif.

Grandmother Yamada's father died when she was 2 years old. Her maiden name was Asano, and her father was one of the last members of the Asano

clan that ruled Aki Province until the feudal system was abolished. Her father's family scroll traces her side of the family back to the year 645. She and her older sister were raised by their mother. My grandmother and her mother were tough, strong-willed and independent women. As a young adult, she went to Hawaii against her mother's wishes. In Hawaii, she worked on a sugar plantation for a few years before moving to Florin, Calif.

My grandparents married in California and by 1914 were recognized as a successful farming family in Florin. They had nine children, seven of whom reached adulthood, married and had children of their own. All seven families participated in this past summer's family reunion.

I remember my grandfather as a tall, quiet and gentle man who died in 1950. My grandmother died in 1965. During the presentation, family members were able to add what they knew about the family history and ask questions.

Include a Family Dinner — Having an organized group dinner is a must. At the dinner on Saturday evening, we celebrated our aunt's 100th birthday year; recognized the service of our uncle, who served in the Military Intelligence Service during World War II; and awarded golfing prizes. We opted for a buffet dinner this year instead of a plated meal due to the age range and dietary preferences. At the end of the dinner, we had a raffle for door prizes. First cousins were asked to bring a door prize, and second cousins were invited to donate one. After dinner, we had a photo-op where we took a series of family and generational photos.

Without question, organizing a family reunion is hard work. But, the reunion is always fun and is a rewarding way to stay in touch, reconnect with your extended family and remember your childhood memories. Planning has already started for the next Yamada family reunion! ■



A June 1941 family photo taken following the wedding of Yamada's parents, Ted and Connie Yamada, in front of the Yamada family home in Florin, Calif. This is the last photo taken with all of the Yamada children and their spouses.

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Marsha, Tad, Stefen, Aiden and Mary Aizumi



Wishing all a
PEACEFUL HOLIDAY!

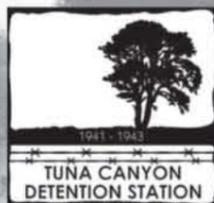
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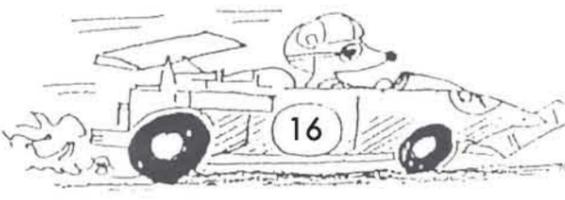
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The Price of Freedom

Remembering the Crystal City internment camp helps shed new light on the importance of building awareness today in order to preserve family histories and eliminate new social injustices.

By Alissa Hiraga,
Contributor

The story of the World War II internment camp in Crystal City, Texas, is unknown to many.

Yet, it was a fateful intersection of 4,000 souls robbed of their freedom — among them Japanese, Japanese Peruvians, Germans, Italians and Americans. The violation extended to President Franklin D. Roosevelt's prisoner exchange program, its machinations hidden from the general public. Those arrested, even U.S. citizens, were exchanged for the return of "valuable" U.S. citizens held overseas. Others would be deported or repatriated to their "home" countries.

The Crystal City internment camp was previously the site of a migrant worker housing camp. It was later repurposed and opened in 1942 by the Immigration and Naturalization Service to confine Issei men and "enemy aliens" that the War Relocation Authority branded as "troublemakers."

The use of such a term helped make the justification to detain, interrogate and imprison innocent people more palatable. (By war's end, not one Issei was found to have committed espionage or sabotage against the U.S.) The Issei targeted by the government included community leaders, physicians, journalists, activists, creative artists, writers, teachers and Buddhist priests.

The camp is often described as a

"family camp," as the Issei men were reunited with their families there. The camp was much less severe than the 10 WRA-operated American concentration camps such as Manzanar, Rohwer and Heart Mountain.

As a DOJ-designated camp for "enemy aliens," Crystal City was required to abide by the Geneva Convention. Under the treaty requirements, internees lived in family units with kitchens and bathrooms. The camp had the elements of a typical town, its landscape dotted with schools, stores and a swimming pool.

Lane Hirabayashi, professor of Asian American Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles, and the inaugural George & Sakaye Aratani Chair in Japanese American Incarceration, Redress and Community, believes that understanding the differences between the WRA camps and the DOJ camps is essential for informative, accurate discourse on internee's experiences.

"If we educate our readers, our students and even members of our Japanese American communities about this, then we are contributing to a better understanding of the penal policies that the U.S. government has adapted in the past in response to perceived crises and national security threats," Hirabayashi said.

Resources such as the JACL's "Power of Words Handbook: A Guide to Language About Japanese Americans in World War II" serves as an educational tool to help accomplish these important objectives.

Crystal City closed in 1948, but it marked the beginning of struggles for families leaving the camp. The Japanese Peruvians were not allowed to stay in the U.S. or return to Peru and would engage in an exhaustive legal fight to salvage their futures.

Those who returned to Japan and others who sought to rebuild their lives in the U.S.

A hand-drawn map of Crystal City internment camp, Texas. It held people of Japanese ancestry from the U.S. and Latin America and their families; it also held German and Italian nationals and their families.

endured treacherous journeys or entered a world unknown or unwelcoming to them. The journeys to and from Crystal City that families were forced to take at times had tragic outcomes.

Brian Niiya, content director of Densho Encyclopedia and editor of "Encyclopedia of Japanese American History: An A-to-Z Reference," shares the story of his family.

His mother, Alice Asami, and seven of her family members were interned at Crystal City in 1943 prior to being repatriated to Japan on the second voyage of the MS Gripsholm. Niiya's grandfather, Shoichi Asami, was managing editor of *Nippu Jiji* newspaper in Honolulu.

"My mom had largely fond memories of Crystal City because it was the last time their whole family was together," Niiya recalled. "After her father was interned on Pearl Harbor day, the family had a difficult time in Hawaii, and she remembers living conditions there as being pretty good, especially compared with what they had to endure later. But theirs was certainly not the typical experience or reaction."

Shoichi and his son, Harold, died in 1945 on the Awa Maru after torpedoes from the USS Queenfish attack submarine killed all but one of the ship's 2,004 passengers. The Asami family's story is chronicled in "Our House Divided: Seven Japanese American Families in World War II" by Tomi Kaizawa Knaefer.

The Crystal City internees who began to rebuild their lives faced another tribulation. The false "troublemaker" label attached to the Crystal City camp is a punishing stigma that still haunts many Crystal City internees today. It was a label born from a chilling assumption of racial guilt rather than any military or other intelligence.

"Although there was a great deal of paranoia about the Issei and Kibei, and despite the fact that these special DOJ camps were set up to incarcerate them specifically, after the end of the war not a single person was successfully prosecuted and convicted of a crime related to sabotage and espionage," said Hirabayashi. "So,

the so-called stigma of being in a DOJ camp like Crystal City is really based on a twisted notion of 'guilt by reason of race.' Not on any actual evidence of pro-Japan, anti-U.S. activity."

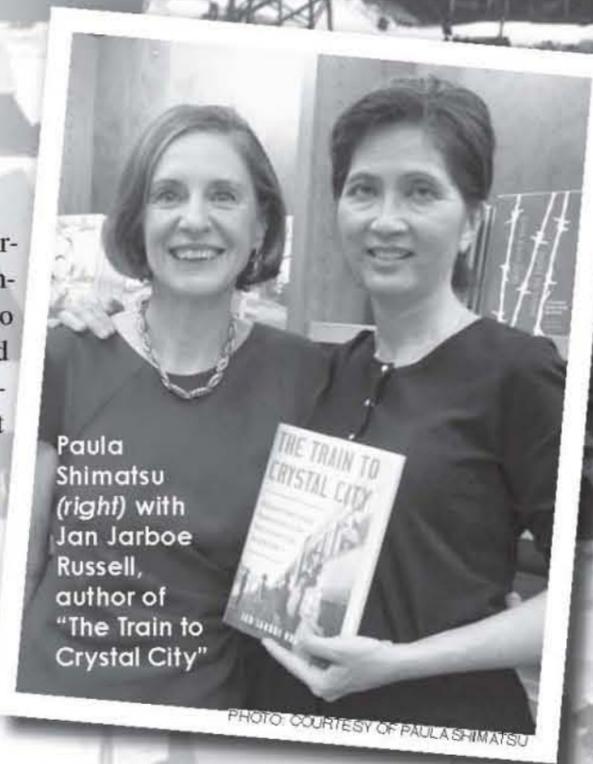
In his discussions with many Hawaii internee families, Niiya found that some were shut out from their own communities.

"Whereas all Japanese Americans living on the West Coast were thrown into camps, it was only a select group that went to places like Crystal City; therefore, regardless of the reason people were there, the idea that they were in a 'special' camp led to rumors that they must be guilty of something. In Hawaii, internee families also talk about how former friends and acquaintances shunned them out of fear that associating with them would lead the FBI and Army to target them as well."

The families who lived and endured behind Crystal City's barbed wires and under the watchful eyes of armed guards possess a myriad of precious stories.

Many of these stories have been painstakingly captured and preserved to the credit of Sumi (Utsushigawa) Shimatsu and her daughter, Paula Shimatsu, who affectionately refers to the Crystal City families as her "aunties" and "uncles."

Sumi, her mother, Nobu, and her father, Tokiji, were interned at Crystal City. Before the war, life in Los Angeles was described as idyllic for the Utsushigawa family. Tokiji was the first Japanese photographer in Los Angeles. The family lived in an apartment above the Mikawayaya confectionary and was part of a close-knit community. That life was forever altered after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.



Paula Shimatsu (right) with Jan Jarboe Russell, author of "The Train to Crystal City"

PHOTO: COURTESY OF PAULA SHIMATSU



PHOTO: COURTESY OF DENSHO, THE M. NAKAGAWA COLLECTION

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF PAULA SHIMATSU



A Utsushigawa family photo featuring Sumi (center) and her two sisters along with their parents, Tokiji and Nobu.

In high school at the time, Sumi came home from school to discover that her father had been arrested without charges and taken away by the FBI. In a grueling odyssey, the family was separated, with Tokiji incarcerated in Santa Fe, N.M., and Sumi and Nobu detained at the Pomona Assembly Center. They were placed on a train to the Heart Mountain concentration camp in Wyoming. After Heart Mountain, Sumi and Nobu were sent to the Port of New Jersey to await repatriation to Japan as part of the prisoner exchange.

"My father wrote that he was going to Japan on an exchange ship, so mother and I were escorted out to Montana camp; our baggages inspected, no printed articles, books or newspapers allowed and were sent to New Jersey Harbor. [We] saw the [MS Gripsholm] exchange ship but did not get on since there were too many people, like diplomats, to send back to Japan. [We] were sent to Ellis Island, stayed there four days, then took a train down to Crystal City with the camp head," Sumi recalled. Her story is told in the book "The Train to Crystal City" by Jan Jarboe Russell.

After Crystal City, Sumi returned to war-ravaged Japan with her family and worked at an American military base to help support her family. She eventually returned to the U.S. and finished high school. She later married Kiyoo Shimatsu, who served in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, and had six children. Sumi also created the *Crystal City Chatter*, a newsletter she published to keep people connected. Her dedication with the *Crystal City Chatter* and the reunions gradually encouraged others to open up and share their stories.

For Paula, the gratitude she has for her parents for their ultimate triumph in building a loving home for their children only strengthened with time.

"No one assumed I was dumb or lazy because of how my parents raised me," Paula Shimatsu said.

"They gave us gifts to grow and develop, and enjoy a better life."

Paula wanted to understand her mother and grandfather's stories at a young age. The adults did not want to talk about their painful experiences during World War II. She decided to write her high school report on the Japanese American experience and spent weeks entrenched at the Los Angeles Public Library.

She was shocked to find the amount of literature about the internees, who were never a threat to the U.S. It was painful to learn about Japanese and Japanese Americans losing their homes, properties, lands, assets and businesses, while others benefited from their loss. People took notice of her knowledge and compassion for the subject matter. In high school, her sociology teacher asked her to teach the class on the experiences of the Japanese during World War II.

Paula, a University of California, Berkeley, graduate with an expansive background in the entertainment and corporate field, would over the years help internees preserve their experiences and personal artifacts, through oral histories to video and digital archiving. It has been her goal to ensure that anyone is able to share material and preserve the material in manner that is usable for all.

Paula was also invited to participate in a panel for a University of Southern California retrospective of the iconic TV show "Twin Peaks," where she once worked as a unit publicist. She asked if the USC Library was interested in archiving all of her photos, negatives and documents from "Twin Peaks." It was at this time that she suggested the material from the Crystal City camp families.

"Why not have material in different places? People can access material, create awareness and learning, and connect with one another," Paula said.

She began working with Ken Klein, librarian at USC and head of the East Asian Library.

"Materials that can give details about the Crystal City camp are a particularly important set of records because so little attention has been paid to his episode of history. It lies somewhat outside of the also very important but better-known history of Japanese American 'relocation camps,' and does fit so neatly into that narrative. This is why we were so interested when Paula contacted us with the prospect of hosting records from some of the Crystal City camp families," Klein said. "From the beginning, she has told of her concern that this history be preserved while some of the former residents are still alive and able to relate their experiences. Paula clearly feels a great responsibility to see her mother's and others' life stories are preserved, and she has been dogged in this effort, even through some personal hardships and setbacks. This, in turn, increases my own sense of responsibility to do as much as I can to help further this effort."

Niiya believes historical preservation efforts are valuable and necessary for many reasons.

"On a micro level, all of us have our own family stories and histories. Is anyone taking the initiative to document these? Whether through oral history interviews, organizing and digitizing of family documents and photographs, or other means, it is important that someone does. Even if no one is interested now, it is highly likely that someone — a child now, or maybe someone who hasn't even been born yet — will eventually, and that person will be eternally grateful for the work we can do

now," Niiya said. "On a macro level, support organizations that do this kind of work, whether national organizations like Densho or local ones, whether as a volunteer, donor or user. As recent events have shown us, we have an important story to tell and a responsibility to tell it."

Today, incendiary and false information is on the rise, and historical aspects can be distorted by those who seek to serve hateful ideologies. The resurrection of past injustices driven by fear and racism is not a far off reality. Building awareness is more critical than ever.

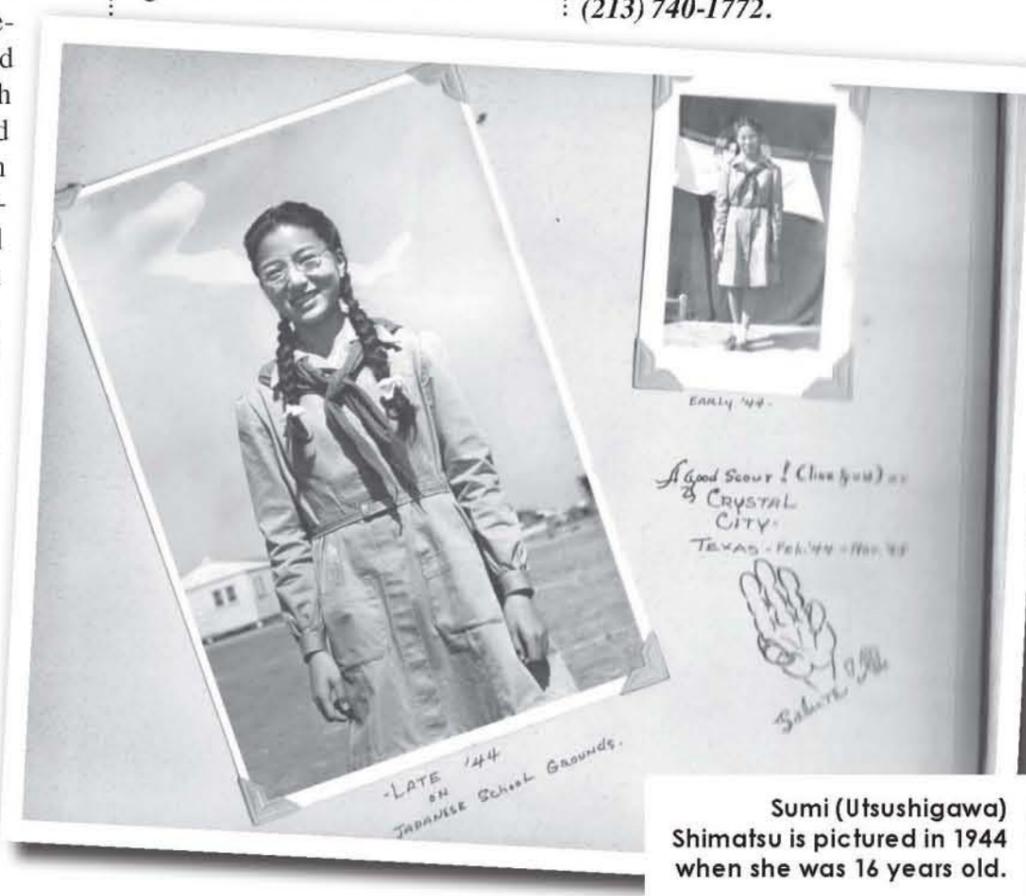
"The more people involved in the preservation of history, the more people who can be reached and affected by what happened. And that hopefully leads to more people being committed to never letting it happen again, which is a core principle of our work," said Ann Burroughs, interim president and CEO of the Japanese American National Museum.

Said Hirabayashi, "It is exactly in the process of recounting and preserving the personal stories of the individuals and families that suffered from their imprisonment on the basis of race that we can convey to the public exactly what the price of a very flawed public policy can be on the psyches and lives of those subject to harsh, unjust treatment."

Note:

JACL's "Power of Words Handbook: A Guide to Language About Japanese Americans in World War II" is available at <https://jacl.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Power-of-Words-Rev.-Term.-Handbook.pdf>.

For those interested in adding records related to Crystal City or any aspects of Asian or Asian American history, please contact Ken Klein at East Asian Library, USC Libraries, at kklein@usc.edu or call (213) 740-1772.



Sumi (Utsushigawa) Shimatsu is pictured in 1944 when she was 16 years old.

Contra Costa

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<p><i>May your hearth be warm and your heart filled with joy and peace.</i></p> <p> Sunset view CEMETERY ASSOCIATION</p> <p>CA License #1079 Mr. Pennington</p> <p>MORTUARY • CREMATORY • URN GARDENS • CEMETERY 101 COLUSA AVENUE • EL CERRITO, CALIFORNIA • (510) 525-5111</p>	<p>Happy Holidays & Best Wishes <i>from</i> SAKURA-KAI WEST CONTRA COSTA ADULT EDUCATION JAPANESE AMERICAN SENIOR CENTER <i>Thank you for your continued support</i> P.O. Box 1856, El Cerrito, CA 94530 ecsakurakai@gmail.com</p>
	

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YEAR OF THE ROOSTER
2017

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Happy and Healthy Holiday
Season and New Year*

FRESNO JACL

LEGAL-EASE: AN ATTORNEY'S PERSPECTIVE

Estate Planning for the *Holidays*

By Staci Yamashita-Iida, Esq.



It's the most wonderful time of the year for many reasons: delicious feasts, twinkling lights, gifts galore and an almost-tangible spirit of joy that only the holiday season can bring. Most importantly, it is one of the few times during the year where everyone, despite their busy schedules, gathers together with their families. It is a time when we reminisce about the past, celebrate the present and contemplate the future. Accordingly, the holidays can be the ideal time to discuss with your loved ones one of the most important, yet one of the most overlooked, subjects: your estate plan.

Frankly, this isn't the easiest topic to broach. Discussing death is morbid. Talking about personal finances can feel intrusive. And with these types of conversations, there is always the possibility of initiating a family fight. Despite all of this, however, these types of issues should be addressed now, so that the family does not have any confusion if and when the tough times come.

So, what exactly should you discuss? What questions should you ask? Below are some questions that can be used to spark a conversation about the basic elements in one's estate plan. The questions are posed from the children's perspective, but they can certainly be altered to frame the parent's point of view.

Mom and Dad, Do You Have a Will or a Trust?

The fundamental document to every estate plan is a will or a trust. What's the difference between the two? Well, they're similar in that they both specify to whom you'd like your assets to go to after you're gone.

However, the important distinction is that a will needs to be probated. Probate is the legal process where the court validates the will, inventories the deceased person's property, settles debts and distributes the remaining property per the will. The whole process is expensive, time-consuming, exhausting . . . and completely preventable.

Avoiding probate can be accomplished through the creation and proper funding of a revocable living trust. So, if your parents own real property (a home, income properties, etc.), then make sure to ask whether they have a trust.

If they do, take a quick look to confirm that it's up to date. Oftentimes, parents will create a trust when they're in their 50s. At that time, their kids are in their late teens/early 20s, so parents appoint their siblings as successor trustee (the person who handles the affairs of the estate and ensures that the beneficiaries receive their inheritance).

Twenty years go by. Now, Mom's brother, who was named as successor trustee, has passed away.

Dad's sister, who was named as the alternate, has developed dementia. Since the kids are older, Mom and Dad can appoint them as successor trustees instead. Other life circumstances (e.g., birth of grandchildren) may also warrant updates to the trust.

I recommend reviewing the trust with your parents to verify that their wishes are correctly memorialized. If not, then the trust can be amended to rectify any outdated provisions.

What About the Finances?

In the best-case scenario, your parents will be able to handle their own finances until their dying day. But things happen: strokes, Alzheimer's and car accidents are just a few examples of ways your parents could become temporarily or permanently incapacitated. Even if no serious ailments or illnesses occur, your parents may start to slow down in their later years and request a bit of help managing their finances.

If you think this could be the case, you should ask your parents if they have a Durable Power of Attorney for Finances. This legal document designates and authorizes an individual — usually a responsible, trustworthy loved one — to assist with finances and asset management. This power can come into play upon your parents' incapacity or right away (so that either you or your parents can handle the finances).

Unfortunately, people often do not realize how critical it is to have a Power of Attorney until it's too late. Consider this real-life example: At 83, mother Linda was still very sharp until, all of a sudden, she suffered a severe stroke, leaving her in a coma. When the property tax bill and mortgage became due, daughter Danielle tried to access her mother's bank accounts to pay the bills. However, because Danielle wasn't authorized on that account to act on Linda's behalf, Danielle had to pay the bills out of her own pocket.

If you haven't done so already, speak to your parents and ask them at what point (if any) they would like you to step in to help with the finances and what they expect your responsibilities to be. Keep in mind that it's imperative that they create a Durable Power of Attorney for Finances while they are still mentally competent. The sooner, the better!

What Are Your Healthcare Wishes?

One of the most difficult, but most important, conversations to have concerns one's healthcare wishes. A Healthcare Power of Attorney, also known as an Advanced Healthcare Directive or Medical Directive, is a written document that accomplishes several tasks.

First, it designates a trusted family member or friend (an "agent") to make decisions on the individual's behalf if he or she is incapacitated and unable to do so his- or herself.

Second, it leaves a set of instructions for the agent regarding the individual's goals, values and preferences for his or her healthcare. Parents normally appoint their children as agents, so if you are unaware of your parents' wishes, consider asking the following:

- **What are your end-of-life decisions?** Do you want your life to be prolonged? Do you want treatments that relieve you from pain and discomfort?
- **What type of treatments do you approve of?** There may be certain medications that make your parents feel loopy, or they may be opposed to particular surgical procedures. If so, they should specify their wishes clearly.
- **What is your opinion on artificial nutrition and hydration?** Artificial nutrition and hydration is a form of life-sustaining treatment that is given to an individual who cannot eat or drink on his or her own. The nutrients are generally delivered through a tube.
- **What are your thoughts on organ donation?** Within a Healthcare Power of Attorney, your parents can identify what organs, tissues or body parts they'd like to donate, as well as the purpose for which the donation may be used (e.g., transplant, research, education, etc.).
- **Would you authorize an autopsy to be performed on your body?**
- **What are your post-death wishes?** Do your parents want to be cremated with their ashes spread in the ocean? Have they prepurchased a burial plot at a certain cemetery?

It is extremely important to have your parents address these questions within their Healthcare Power of Attorney so that if the time ever comes, there is no confusion or hesitation over their wishes. When you're in the hospital and the physician is asking you to make a tough call, the last thing you want to do is wonder what your mom or dad would've wanted.

So, though it may be uncomfortable or painful to do so, I encourage you to discuss these crucial issues over the holiday break to ensure that your parents' wishes are honored and their estate plan is complete.

Staci Yamashita-Iida, Esq. is an Estate Planning attorney at Elder Law Services of California. She can be contacted at (310) 348-2995. The opinions expressed in this article are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect the view of the Pacific Citizen or JACL. The information presented does not constitute legal advice and should not be treated as such.

'Accordingly, the holidays can be the ideal time to discuss with your loved ones one of the most important, yet one of the most overlooked, subjects: your estate plan.'

Why I Remember the Importance of Fighting for **WHAT I KNOW IS RIGHT**

By *Amelia Huster*,
Contributor

The results of the 2016 presidential election hit hard on Tuesday evening, Nov. 8. Growing up in Berkeley, Calif., progressive and liberal views are part of the air I breathe. Wednesday morning, I woke up in a trance and headed to my school, Berkeley High. I wasn't sure what to expect.

Berkeley High is notorious for its amazing student activists and student-organized protests in response to systemic problems affecting our community. If the election of Donald Trump is not rooted in dozens of systemic problems facing our country, then I don't know what is.

Upon my arrival, I was greeted with the booming, strong, united voices of my fellow classmates and friends, who were all gathered in the courtyard. Students and teachers were taking turns expressing their feelings about the election and lead-

ing the 1,500-plus students gathered in chants.

For almost two hours, students who were gathered on the courtyard spoke, chanted, cried and found solidarity and comfort in each other, the Berkeley High community. After everyone who wanted to speak got a chance to do so, we all marched up to the UC Berkeley campus in a peaceful protest.

Some teachers accompanied students, one even handed out snacks and sunscreen, as we were there for many hours. Here, we were joined by Cal students and passersby who were experiencing the same emotions as we were: fear, uncertainty, doubt, anger, betrayal and so much more.

Adding my voice to a growing chorus of youth speaking out against all the racist, sexist, homophobic,

Islamophobic, ableist values that this one man, elected president, seemed to embody was extremely moving and motivational.

As usual, I was inspired by my peers to not stop there. I attended a community gathering a couple of days later. It was a post-election meeting meant to support our LGBTQ+ neighbors and see what they needed from the community going forward.

It was at this meeting that I realized that my Japanese American community was being targeted by the election results, too. After the meeting, I was invited to speak at a gathering at San Francisco's Japantown Peace Plaza called "United for Compassion: A Community Gathering Against Hate." (See sidebar below.)

The event was put on by the Bay



Area Day of Remembrance Consortium and sponsored by the San Francisco chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League, Nichi Bei Foundation, Japanese Community Youth Council, Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California and Nakayoshi Young Professionals.

Following is the speech Amelia Huster gave at the 'United for Compassion: A Community Gathering Against Hate' event that was held in San Francisco's Japantown Peace Plaza.

My grandma was born in Heart Mountain, Wyo., in an internment camp during World War II. I grew up hearing stories of the internment camp, stories of how my family was forcibly removed from their home, their farm, their life — their rights as American citizens violated as they were sent off to the most remote places in our country to be isolated from society.

This isolation was based on an irrational fear — the fear that people who look different than you or have a different heritage are somehow more likely to hurt you. I grew up thinking, "Wow, what a crazy thing to have happen. I am

so glad that time is behind us and nothing like that will happen again."

Here we are in 2016, and now I am not so sure.

Because of our internment and our past, it is vital for the Japanese American community and every community to join together to protect the rights of our fellow citizens that are being threatened by hateful fear-based rhetoric, the same hate speech that we were targeted with.

Whether it be Islamophobic talk directed at Muslims, sexism toward women, homophobia toward the LGBTQ+ community or racism toward other minorities. This is all language that is used in an effort to dehumanize our brothers and sisters. Unfortunately, we all know what this language looks like. I see it at Berkeley High, one of the most diverse, progressive schools in the nation.

However, the results of this election are forcing us to talk about the most important issues that we thought we had made more progress on than we actually have. It is frustrating for me and many of my friends because we were not old enough to vote in this election, yet we will have to live in the world that it will inevitably shape.

I know there is still hope because while the younger generation didn't have a vote, we do have a voice, and we have been using it and intend to keep using our united voice throughout these next four years to stand with and fight for our fellow citizens. Berkeley High School has already made national news when over 1,500 students walked out to protest the election results, and you better believe we will not stop there.

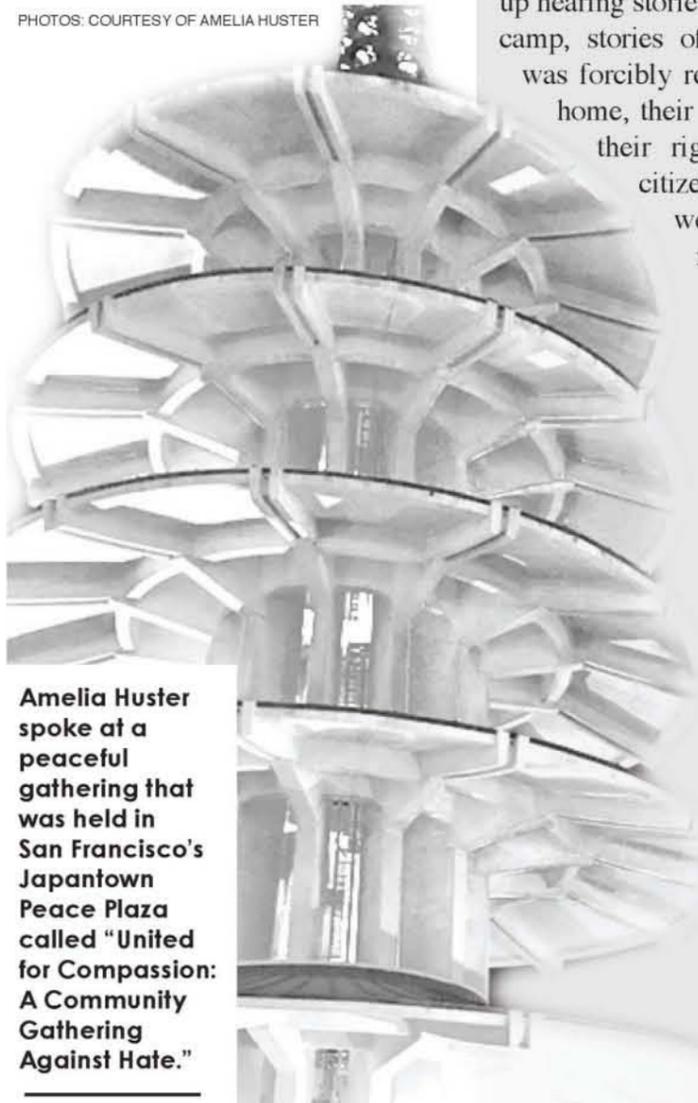
So, when we see someone being harassed, we need to stand up. We need to call people out, question hateful speech that we may hear. I know that it can go against people's natural instinct to be assertive, to be pro-active in our day to day, but we need to have each others' backs because we are always stronger in numbers.

From a student's perspective, in many classes at Berkeley High School, the curriculum is being shifted to focus on the result of the election and how we got here.

In my economics class, we're looking at where we are on the business cycle and thinking about employment. In my Chicano Latino literature class, we're focusing on immigration reform. In my law and social justice class, we're reviewing our rights and analyzing landmark cases like *Roe v. Wade*.

America is going to have educated, aware youths who will soon become adults that will hold positions of power and influence. We are the next lawmakers, teachers, journalists, politicians. Our future is still bright. I am not giving up hope, and I encourage all of you to not give up hope either. ■

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF AMELIA HUSTER



Amelia Huster spoke at a peaceful gathering that was held in San Francisco's Japantown Peace Plaza called "United for Compassion: A Community Gathering Against Hate."



Monterey Peninsula

<p>Chong's SZECHUAN RESTAURANT 485 TYLER STREET MONTEREY, CA 93940 PHONE: (831) 373-5153 FAX: (831) 373-8359</p>	<p>David & Kathy Yamada ...and Justice for all</p>	<p>Happy Holidays Pam Yoshida & Family Jamie, Kelli, Jayna Kaila, Jordyn, Sam, Kimi, Jeffere</p>	<p>Max's GRILL 209 Forest Ave PG93950 831 375-7997 www.maxgrill.com Max & Yuko Muramatsu</p>	<p>Happy Holidays Jeff, Ryan, Michelle UCHIDA</p>	
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<p>SEASON'S GREETINGS</p>  <p>Rick & Ellie HATTORI Jenny & Joshua & Jessica Tommy, Danielle & March Rohwer Monterey, CA</p>	<p>Season's Greetings ALAN G. AMEMIYA, DDS Seaside Dental Group 915 Hilby Ave., Ste. 21 Seaside, CA 93955 (831) 394-5265</p> <p>Happy New Year Gung Hay Fat Choy LYLE & MEJA QUOCK and FAMILY 4107 Crest, Pebble Beach 93953</p>	<p>Celebrating 30 years OCEAN SUSHI DELI Delicatessen & Catering Thank you for supporting our business from the Fukushima family</p> <p>165 Webster St. Monterey, CA 93940 831.645.9876 Casual Cafe www.oceansushi.com</p> <p>2701 David Ave. @ Forest Pacific Grove, CA 93950 831.649.1320 Take-Out Only</p>	<p>Happy New Year-Shimmen Omedeto R.S. SUZUKI JEWELERS Dorothy/Stewart, Hiroko & Satomi 104 Webster Street Monterey, CA 93940 (831) 655-1348</p> <p>May Laughter & Joy Fill Your Holidays! The Ishii Family Dr. Linden, Janice, Kristy & Brian</p>	 <p>JULIA TASHIRO (831) 899-0373 695 Broadway Seaside, CA 93955 Delivery Mtry. Peninsula</p>
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<p>Holiday Best Wishes!</p> <p>PENINSULA FLORAL — FLOWERS FOR ALL OCCASIONS —</p> <p>Obara Family Monterey, CA 93940 • (831) 373-1122</p>	<p>Japanese American Citizen League of the Monterey Peninsula</p>  <p>Happy Holidays</p> <p>Physical Address: 424 Adams Street Monterey, CA 93940</p> <p>Mailing Address: PO Box 664 Monterey, CA 93942</p> <p>FaceBook: JAACL Monterey</p>	<p>Happy Holidays Mat's Radiator, Inc., D.B.A. PENINSULA RADIATOR SHOP</p> <p>Matao Nishiguchi/Moko & Suzan Nishiguchi/Trent Jim, Cindy, Sarah, Samantha, Elizabeth, Anna, Rebecca Cox, Jeff, Denise, Hannah, Peter & Andrew Yip</p> <p>1775 Del Monte Blvd., Seaside, CA 93955 Telephone (831) 394-5923</p> 
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 <p>City of Salinas PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT</p> <p>Larry Oda SUPERINTENDENT</p> <p>(831) 758-7233 Fax: (831) 758-7940 Email: larryo@ci.salinas.ca.us</p> <p>426 Work Street Salinas, CA 93901</p>	<p>Officers and Board Members</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Jeff Uchida</td> <td>Larry Oda</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Arly La Mica</td> <td>Anne Oda</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pam Yoshida</td> <td>Jeanne Nakagawa</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Kaz Matsuyama</td> <td>Tim Thomas</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pam Dally-La Mica</td> <td>Aiko Matsuyama</td> </tr> </table>	Jeff Uchida	Larry Oda	Arly La Mica	Anne Oda	Pam Yoshida	Jeanne Nakagawa	Kaz Matsuyama	Tim Thomas	Pam Dally-La Mica	Aiko Matsuyama	<p>Linden K. Ishii, D.D.S. General Dentistry</p> <p>Seaside Dental Group 915 Hilby Avenue, Suite 21 Seaside, CA 93955</p> <p>(831) 394-5265</p> 
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Pam Yoshida	Jeanne Nakagawa											
Kaz Matsuyama	Tim Thomas											
Pam Dally-La Mica	Aiko Matsuyama											

 <p>Season's Greetings Larry & Anne Oda Monterey, CA Happy Holidays</p>	<p>Holiday Greetings...</p> <p>Stephen J. Ikemiya, D.D.S. General Dentistry 333 El Dorado St. Monterey, CA 93940 831.649.0400</p> <p>...from my family to yours!</p>	<p>HOLIDAY GREETINGS</p> <p>STUART OSAKI, DDS</p> <p>831.424.0301 • 780 E. ROMIE LANE • SALINAS, CA 93901 831.373.2638 • 166 SARGENT CT. • MONTEREY, CA 93940</p>
<p>In memory of Gordon R Nakagawa 2011 Jeanne Nakagawa Marina, CA 93933</p>		

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<h2>Florin</h2>	<h2>CCDC</h2>	<h2>Idaho Falls</h2>
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Happy
Holidays
from the
Florin
Chapter



Season's Greetings!
from
CCDC



Seasons Greetings



Idaho Falls
J A C L

Birthplace of 1000 Club

2016 APA News Roundup



PHOTO: ALLISON HARAMOTO

1 Pacifica Companies Acquires Keiro Retirement Facilities

Keiro announced that its escrow closed Feb. 5 with the sale of its facilities to Pacifica Companies after months of protests and debate. Pacifica has also leased the management and operation of the four Keiro facilities to Aspen Skilled Healthcare and Northstar Senior Living.

Keiro is now known as “Kei Ai,” combining *kei*, meaning “respect” in Japanese with *ai*, meaning “love.” Meanwhile, Keiro’s Community Advisory Board is charged with overseeing the five-year transition period. The board will work to support the facilities’ new operators and provide feedback and advice over the quality of care for residents.

The transition of Keiro to Pacifica came after months of meetings, protests and discussions with community members, as well as letters written against the sale by supporters including Congresswomen Maxine Waters and Judy Chu, Assemblyman David Hadley and former Sec. of Transportation Norman Mineta.

Members of a Keiro Ad Hoc Committee also filed requests for a temporary halt to the sale with the Los Angeles Superior Court and an investigation into civil rights complaints resulting from the sales action; both were denied.

Keiro Chairman of the Board Gary Kawaguchi shared that while the decision was difficult to make, the transition would ensure the best quality of care and services available to the community when Kei Ai begins operation.

3 President Obama Makes a Historic Visit to Hiroshima, Japan



PHOTO: WITV

During his visit, Obama also acknowledged, but did not apologize for, the U.S. atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. He also called for a nuclear-free future.

“We may not realize this goal in my lifetime, but persistent effort can roll back the possibility of catastrophe,” Obama said during the service.

Nearly 140,000 people perished after a U.S. warplane targeted Hiroshima on Aug. 6, 1945; another 70,000 more were killed when a second bomb was dropped on Nagasaki three days later.

Following the deadly attacks, Japan surrendered to end World War II.

President Barack Obama made a historic visit to Hiroshima, Japan, on May 27, where he declared the hallowed ground of Hiroshima a fitting place to summon people everywhere to embrace the vision of a world without nuclear weapons.

The nation marks the end of 2016 with much anticipation and uncertainty. With Donald J. Trump set to become the 45th president of the United States next month, all eyes are on the “president of the divided states of America.”

Following his historic victory in November, Trump is set to inherit a nation that remains at odds over his surprising election-day win. In addition to homeland security threats on a global scale, issues pertaining to immigration, unemployment, collective bargaining rights, abortion rights, gun control, racial tensions, the recession — you name it — all await him on his first day in office.

And with Trump’s victory comes an AAPI community ready to ensure that civil rights are maintained and injustices of the past kept from being repeated again. February will mark the 75th anniversary of Executive Order 9066, a document that forever altered the lives of more than 120,000 Japanese Americans and their families. Let’s hope the U.S. has learned its painful history lesson.

All eyes are on 2017. Let the healing begin. Now’s the opportunity for ALL of us to help “make America great again.” And the *P.C.*, now heading into its 88th year in delivering the news that matters to you, will be there to report what happens.

2 Oregon Officially Designates March 28 as Minoru Yasui Day

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown signed House Bill 4009 on March 28, officially recognizing the date as Minoru Yasui Day. The bill, which was unanimously approved by both Houses of the Oregon Legislature, will forever commemorate the day that Yasui violated the military curfew in order to initiate his test case.

Family and friends witnessed the signing of HB 4009 by Gov. Brown at the World Trade Center in Portland. The signing was attended by nine members of Portland JACL in addition to key elected officials and members



PHOTO: COURTESY OF HOLLY YASUI

of Yasui’s family.

Following the ceremony, participants then adjourned to the Oregon Nikkei Endowment to take part in the first Minoru Yasui Day “March for Justice.” People from all walks of life “walked the walk” in honor of Yasui’s courageous act of resistance in 1942.

4 United We Stand: The Nation Pays Tribute to Lives Lost in Orlando’s Nightclub Shooting

The Pulse nightclub shooting in Orlando on June 12, in which 49 lives were violently cut short by the senseless act of one killer, turned what was supposed to be a safe, fun night of revelry into a sobering scene now all too familiar in the U.S.

Thousands across the country organized vigils, rallies and marches for the victims of the deadly attack at Pulse, a popular gay club. In Los Angeles, hundreds gathered at City Hall to remember the victims and instill love for their fellow man. Among



PHOTO: MARSHA AIZUMI

those in attendance was Marsha Aizumi, an advocate in the LGBT community, author and frequent contributor to the *Pacific Citizen*.

In her June 17 column in the *P.C.*, Aizumi wrote, “The names of the people murdered in Orlando were read along with their ages. It was a night to grieve, to support each other, to talk

about this devastation, to find strength, but most of all to come together with love, so that those who would bring fear, shame and hatred to our door would not be allowed to come in.”

Image Captions:

1) Keiro’s Boyle Heights location (pictured) is one of four Keiro facilities now being managed by Aspen Skilled Healthcare and Northstar Senior Living. 2) Oregon Gov. Kate Brown (center) signs HB 4009, officially recognizing March 28 as Minoru Yasui Day. Among those in attendance to commemorate the occasion were Yasui’s daughter, Holly Yasui (front row, right). 3) During his historic visit to Hiroshima, Japan, President Barack Obama acknowledged — but did not apologize for — the U.S. atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. 4) Thousands attended a vigil organized by the Los Angeles LGBT Center, which was held in front of Los Angeles City Hall following the June 12 shooting at Pulse nightclub in Orlando, Fla.

>> See **ROUNDUP** on page 38



Tashme Internment Camp

Feelings Remembered and Not Forgotten

The Ikeda family opens up about their personal recollections of wartime incarceration in Canada — and the silence and stigmas associated with it — during and after World War II.

By Diana Morita Cole, Contributor



Jane and Ed Ikeda at Tashme

JACL passed a resolution at its 47th National Convention in July to recognize the violation of civil rights that Canadian citizens of Japanese descent suffered at the hands of their government throughout World War II and for three and a half years following the formal surrender of Japan. The resolution was sponsored by the organization's Philadelphia Chapter and its president, Scott Nakamura.



An internment storage box, engraved with "Mrs. G.Y. Ikeda, Reg #05802"



Gravestones at Mountain View Cemetery in Vancouver of Tsune and Umijirou Ikeda (in kanji) and Itsuko and George Yoshinori Ikeda (below)

This holiday season is a season to remember, a time to make sense of our personal and collective histories. For remembering can build a connection between our now and then, creating a vital link to those areas of psychological neglect, too often kept buried from ourselves and our children.

Indeed, the theme of hushed silence and hidden memories is crucial to the understanding of the story of the 22,000 Japanese Canadians who were torn from their homes and expelled from the Pacific coast during World War II.

Joy Kogawa, a renowned Canadian writer, expressed this theme of silence and forgetting in the poetic opening to her 1981 novel "Obasan":

I hate the stillness. I hate the stone. I hate the sealed vault with its cold icon . . .

Unless the stone bursts with telling, unless the seed flowers with speech, there is in my life no living word.

In 1945, after the end of the war, Japanese Canadians were ordered to leave British Columbia. They could accept the proceeds from the sale of their properties and receive free passage to Japan in exchange for their citizenship. Or, they could receive train fare and a paltry allowance to move

east of the Rockies. Unlike in the United States where ethnic communities were established in various cities, in Canada, Nikkei families were consigned to live in isolation of one another, in small towns and on farms where there were labor shortages to fill.

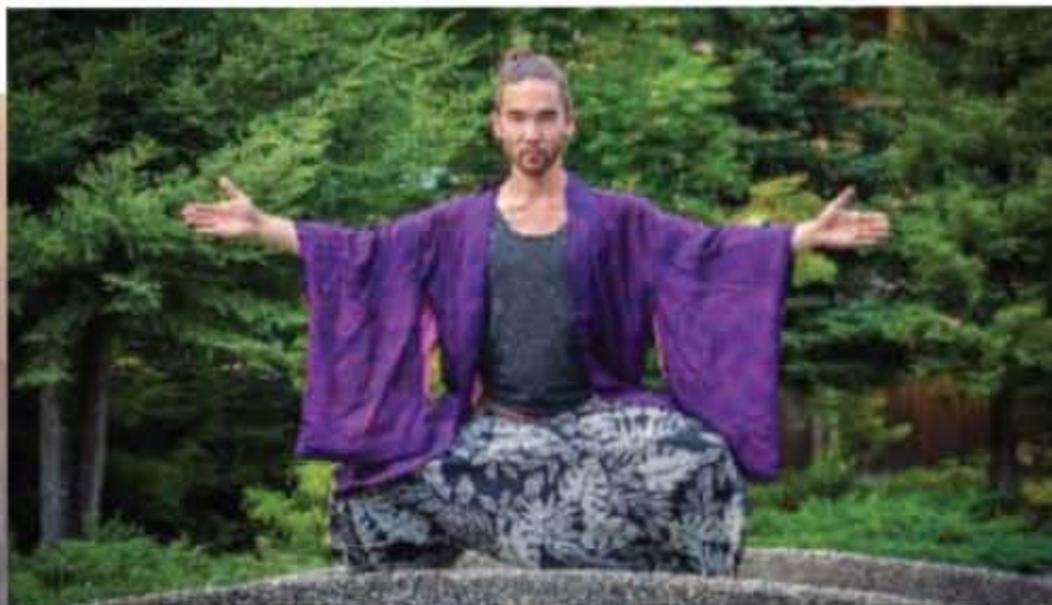
The racism they continued to face from white society fostered both silence and forgetting. Today, more than half a century later, few talk willingly about what happened.

Held in remote, mountainous ghost towns where they starved and sometimes died and also deprived of the support of their fathers and sons who were sent away to slave in work camps, Japanese Canadians were fleeced of their vast holdings in the Lower Mainland and forced to pay for their own imprisonment.

Far too many of their descendants report that they were never told by their elders or teachers in school about the inordinate cruelty foisted upon their families by their own government.

By 1944, when it became clear that Japanese American citizens in the U.S. could no longer be deprived of their freedom of movement, in Canada, Prime Minister William Lyon MacKenzie King and his Liberal Party became alarmed at the prospect of Japanese Canadians returning to the coast to claim what was once their homes and property.

PHOTO COURTESY OF KANBYFILMS.COM



Mark Kunji Ikeda in "Sansei: The Storyteller"

Using the authority of the National Emergency Transitional Powers Act, King embarked on a policy of deportation and yet another expulsion of the Nikkei to the provinces east of the Rockies.

Beginning in May 1946, the Canadian government stripped 3,964 Japanese Canadians of their citizenship and banished them to Japan in accordance with a policy benignly called "repatriation," which belied the fact that two-thirds of the deportees were born in Canada and had never seen Japan.

The inability of many Japanese Canadians who endured these atrocities to fully acknowledge the scope and depth of the injuries and injustices imposed upon them served as a signal, a bellwether to what had seriously gone awry in this British colonial empire, this place called the Dominion of Canada.

Mark Kunji Ikeda explodes across this cultural abyss of denial to present his creative response to his family's disjunctive history with his award-winning drama "Sansei: The Storyteller."

Combining narrative and dance, Ikeda tells of his family's past, including his grandparents' emigration from Japan to British Columbia, where his grandfather, Yoshinori Ikeda, became a successful fisherman, owning 17 lots, three houses and several fishing boats in Steveston, B.C.

These interesting and delightful vignettes provide a vivid context for the stories Ikeda then conveys about his family's incarceration and the labor men were forced to perform, logging forests and building roads

for slave wages.

In one story, Ikeda's uncle, Ed Ikeda, who was 3 years old when his family was displaced to Rosebery, finds a hummingbird and wants to make a pet of it. As Ed Ikeda explained, "We were sent away, we were living in this house, and it was sort of a camp. I don't know how, but I found this hummingbird. I'm sure I didn't catch it. So, I must have somehow got it, maybe it was not well, and I put it in my shirt pocket. Of course, I was all excited, and I ran home to show my mother, but I guess running home in my shirt pocket... maybe it was sick. I don't know, but I never did find it again."

In a recent telephone interview, Ikeda's father, Fred, who was born in Alberta in 1950, reported that he never heard the story about his brother's pet hummingbird until when he saw it performed live by his son — some 50 years later. He said he broke down and cried.

The absence of a cohesive family narrative, of seldom bearing witness to the saga of what their parents, grandparents and older siblings suffered, is evidence of the cultural oppression that continues far beyond the apology of 1988. This self-denial is a chilling reminder of the psychological isolation that exists within the vast geography of the Canadian landscape and psyche of its inhabitants.

Jane Ikeda Hayes, Fred Ikeda's older sister, was born in May 1941, just a short time before her family was ordered to Hastings Park. In a recent conversation, she confided, "I've never read those books, like 'Obasan,' because I don't want to

acknowledge I'm Japanese. I wanted to obliterate my background by living in denial. If I could have woken up blonde and blue-eyed for a week, I would have been glad to die. We're driven by past hurts but live in the present."

But, Hayes went on to say, "I do remember being happy in New Denver. I thought it was normal for the walls in a house to buckle."

Prime Minister King issued his Orders-in-Council under the War Measures Act on Feb. 24, 1942, to "remove all persons of Japanese origin from the coast." Shortly after, Hayes, her parents and her older brother, Ed, were confined to an animal barn in Hastings Park.

People were herded and divided, like cattle — dispersed to separate containment areas (men in one building and women and children in another) and barred from eating together as families. Reports of guards beating female captives for daring to step outside their stalls have been recorded by Mona Oikawa in her 2012 book "Cartographies of Violence."

After Hastings Park, Hayes and Ed Ikeda, along with their mother, Itsuko Okimura Ikeda, were forcibly removed to Rosebery, a prison camp in the Kootenays outside New Denver. Their father, Yoshinori Ikeda,

like many able-bodied Japanese Canadian males, was exiled to live and work in a road camp. In his case, he was sent to build the Hope-Princeton Highway.

Ed Ikeda says he never saw his father again until after the war, when his family was moved to Alberta in 1945. But Hayes suspects Yoshinori Ikeda did return intermittently to the next prison camp they were held in, which was Tashme, near Hope, B.C. "How else would I remember the white drawstring bag filled with copper nickels?" she asked.

Ed Ikeda also recalled in some detail his family's detention at Tashme — a site built far away from the other nine prison camps for the families of the men working on the Hope-Princeton Highway.

"The conditions were brutal. There was no insulation, and we were living in a duplex, with an open ceiling where we could hear what was going on next door. There was no privacy," he said.

He also remembers a wooden bath and his mother receiving a jar, at regular intervals, filled with coins — the paltry wages his father earned by building BC Hwy 3. "I have a picture of my father working on the highway," he recalled. "There was a machine, but the crews only used pick-axes, shovels and wheelbarrows."

PHOTO COURTESY OF MARK IKEDA



The Ikeda Siblings (from left), Ed, Jane and Fred, in 2014

>> See FEELINGS on page 40

ROUNDUP >>
continued
from page 35



5 JACL Executive Director Priscilla Ouchida Resigns; Organization Appoints Interim Leadership

Upon the sudden resignation of Executive Director Priscilla Ouchida on June 14, JACL immediately appointed JACL Midwest Director William Yoshino and Pacific Southwest Regional Director Stephanie Nitahara as interim executive director and associate director, respectively.

In a statement released by the JACL National Board, it acknowledged and thanked Ouchida for her service and vowed to move forward as an organization committed to its core values and mission of promoting “civic engagement and advocacy at the national and local levels and to ensure that our community is well represented in all aspects of society.”

Yoshino and Nitahara assumed their new roles on June 23.

7 Pomona Assembly Center Holds Dedication Ceremony

In commemoration of the closing of the Pomona Assembly Center on Aug. 24, 1942, the Fairplex, the actual center site, unveiled the Pomona Assembly Center plaque honoring Japanese Americans detained at the Los Angeles County Fairgrounds during WWII on Aug. 24, the 74th anniversary of the center’s closing.

The Pomona Assembly Center held people from California’s Los Angeles, San Francisco and Santa Clara counties. The fairground was one of the 15 temporary assembly centers established during WWII pursuant to Executive Order 9066.

“The plaque will let people know of how 5,514 of us were un-



PHOTO: PATTI HIRAHARA

fairly treated by the hysteria and discrimination of that time,” said Bacon Sakatani, chair of the Pomona Assembly Center Committee, who was sent to Pomona with his family. “The Pomona Assembly Center is probably one of the least-known places, and now we have a plaque that will let people know what happened here.”



KAMALA HARRIS



PRAMILA JAYAPAL



TAMMY DUCKWORTH



RHO KHANNA

9 Record Number of AAPIs Elected to Congress in 2016

Voters elected a record number of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to Congress on Nov. 8. Congress will now welcome 14 AAPI voting members, two more than the previous record.

Among those to emerge victorious were Kamala Harris, who becomes the first Indian American woman elected to the U.S. Senate, and Rep. Tammy Duckworth (D-Chicago),

who will represent her state of Illinois. Harris and Duckworth join Mazie Hirono of Hawaii.

Pramila Jayapal won the 7th Congressional district in Washington, becoming the first Indian American woman elected to the House of Representatives. Stephanie Murphy of Florida won the 7th District of Florida, becoming the first Vietnamese American woman in Congress.

Other winners included Ro Khanna and S. Raja Krishnamoorthi. Colleen Hanabusa also will represent District 1 in Hawaii, and re-elected to Congress were Rep. Ami Bera, Rep. Judy Chu, Rep. Tulsi Gabbard, Rep. Ted Lieu, Rep. Doris Matsui, Rep. Grace Meng and Rep. Mark Takano.

Image Captions:

5) Upon the resignation of Executive Director Priscilla Ouchida, JACL appointed interim leadership William Yoshino and Stephanie Nitahara to guide the organization. 6) A new JACL National Board was installed by the Hon. Norman Mineta during the National Convention held in Las Vegas, Nev. 7) Representing the senior attendees at the Pomona Assembly Center plaque dedication were (seated) Tosh Asano, 93, and Helen Munekiyo, 96, and (back row, from left) Yosh Kuromiya, 93, and Ted Hashimoto, 95. 8) JCCH staff, NPS rangers, donor representatives and elected Hawaiian government officials participated in the official ribbon-cutting ceremony to open the doors to the new education center. 10) The USS Missouri and USS Arizona (foreground) memorial

6 JACL Installs New National Board at Annual National Convention in Las Vegas



PHOTO: TOM NISHIKAWA

Delegates from across the country convened in Las Vegas July 10-14 for the 47th annual JACL National Convention at the Monte Carlo Hotel and Casino.

There they voted to install a new board as well as discussed the next steps in finding a new executive director as well as address deep financial troubles and dwindling membership.

Gary Mayeda from the Pacific Southwest District succeeded David Lin as new national president; Mayeda previously served on the National Board and has been a

JACL member for 28 years.

Mayeda then met with his new board to collaborate on a road map for the next two years. Initiatives included improving communication channels between staff, the national board and chapters. Other challenges include ensuring the longevity of the *Pacific Citizen*. During the convention, the National Council approved a surcharge to members of up to \$25 to receive a printed copy of the *P.C.* Exact details regarding the rollout of that surcharge are being finalized and will be addressed in the new year.

8 Honouliuli National Monument — JCCH Education Center Opens to the Public

The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii officially opened the new Honouliuli National Monument — JCCH Education Center on Oct. 22.

The new center features photos of the Honouliuli Internment Camp,

artifacts from the internees, oral history videos and virtual tours of the Honouliuli National Monument. It also provides students, teachers and the community the opportunity to learn more about the new national monument, its history and its

lessons for the future.

“It will be a place for us to reflect upon the lessons of war, civil liberties, peace and reconciliation,” said Carole Hayashino, president and executive director of the JCCH.



PHOTO: COURTESY OF JCCH

10 The Nation Commemorates the 75th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor

Dec. 7, 1941, is a date that will forever “live in infamy.” This month marked the 75th anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor and the sinking of the mighty battleship USS Arizona. More than 2,400 were killed on that fateful day, plunging the U.S. into World War II.

More than 9,000 people gathered Dec. 7 to pay tribute to the events of the day, including four of the last five survivors of the Arizona. The 90-minute ceremony also included a moment of silence when the bombs

started falling, 7:55 a.m.

Said Adm. Harry Harris Jr., commander of the U.S. Pacific Command, during the ceremony, “Those who survived Pearl Harbor also left us a warning. Remember Pearl Harbor. Keep America alert. Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty — an imperative to never be caught by surprise again.”



PHOTO: COURTESY OF PEARL HARBOR 75TH COMMEMORATION COMMITTEE

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FEELINGS >> continued from page 37

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF ED IKEDA

Ed Ikeda remembers receiving food in a box but doesn't know if that was the regular delivery system. "There were boxes of spam, rice and oranges wrapped in tissue paper that I used to make parachutes to throw from the top of a pile of railroad ties," he said.

Official reports indicate that relatives in war-torn Japan often shipped food items to their relatives in Canada because the government had frozen the bank accounts of the Japanese Canadians. Denied access to their savings, the captive Nikkei were still expected to pay for their own food, blankets, clothing and building supplies from the small monthly allowance they received.

The three members of the Ikeda family were eventually displaced from Tashme to New Denver.

Ed Ikeda remembers living close to a mountain and discovering iron pyrite, which he believed was gold. His mother tried growing tomatoes to make ketchup — "We didn't have any then!" — and remembers going down to Slocan Lake to gather up ice for making ice cream. "My mother never complained," he said. "She was a capable woman. She sewed my pants, shirts and knitted."

Like Itsuko Ikeda, Nikkei women became the mainstays of their broken, detained families after their husbands were whisked away to labor camps. Any man who begged to remain with his family was sent even further away to one of the POW camps in Ontario, where he was forced to wear a uniform with an orange target painted on his back.

After the war ended in 1945, the entire Yoshinori Ikeda family was displaced again — east of the Rockies. They moved to Picture Butte, Alberta, where Douglas Ikeda, Yoshinori's brother, owned a construction company. The reunited family of four lived in a chicken coop, hauling water from a cistern before Douglas Ikeda was able to find them a suitable house to rent.

"My father was a stranger," Ed Ikeda recalled. "I hadn't seen him until the family moved to Alberta. He worked with my uncle to build houses."

Fred Ikeda, Ed's youngest sibling, was born in Lethbridge, Alberta, in 1950. When asked about his birthplace, Fred Ikeda said he has no idea why his birth certificate says he was born in Lethbridge, when his family was living in Picture Butte at the time. According to his sister, Jane Ikeda Hayes, Lethbridge had the only hospital in the area. "Picture Butte was just a bunch of sugar beet farms," she said.

A year later in 1951, Yoshinori moved his family back to Vancouver, B.C., where they all took temporary lodging at the Roosevelt Hotel and then at a boarding house on Alexander Street for about four months. Ed Ikeda recalled, "My father bought a house at 5492 Killarney. It had cherry trees and apple trees. The fruit from the trees was delicious!" But Ed Ikeda's mother was embarrassed because she thought her husband could have bought a better house.

Hayes remembers her family living in a very small house with a lean-to on Killarney Street. "There wasn't room enough for me in the house," she said. So she slept alone in the lean-to, which was damp and covered with



Machinery and Japanese Canadian laborers at a road site



Yoshinori Ikeda (second from the right) building the Hope-Princeton highway

black mold.

During this time, Ed Ikeda's father worked as a handyman for Dr. Ballard at his home. "We were dirt-poor," Ed Ikeda said. "I don't know how my father managed to give me 25 cents a week for allowance. That was a princely sum back then."

Hayes recalls her father working as a janitor for the Niagara Hotel until he was 83 years old. Their mother worked in a shop on Alma Street, sewing wedding dresses, just as she had when she returned to Canada after caring for her grandmother in Hiroshima before the war.

"I was never close to my father," Ed Ikeda said. "We didn't know each other. He never talked about himself or the hardship he had to endure." Ed Ikeda also explained that his younger brother Fred, Mark Ikeda's father, wouldn't know much about the internment because he was born well after

the war had ended.

"I never heard any stories about the internment because my family blocked it out," Fred Ikeda said.

It is this gauze of silence, this generational absence of memory that Mark Ikeda's drama "Sansei: The Storyteller" rips open, bringing tears of awe to members of the audience when they hear the hum of the hummingbird's wings, carrying them into a story of remembering the past.

As harsh as they are, these stories must be respected if the atrocities of the past are to be prevented from happening once again.

"Imagine, walking through the archway into the holding facility in the Hastings Street horse barns, or at camp, or a POW camp in Ontario," Mark Ikeda said. "When we arrive in the camp, someone says, 'When we enter this gate, we shall never be allowed to leave again until the war is over.'"

"Let's remember this feeling," Mark Ikeda continued. "And remember, not one Canadian law was broken." ■



Happy Holidays

*from the JACL National Board and
the Pacific Citizen's Editorial Board*

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a vibrant and prosperous future for JACL.**

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*Happy Holidays from the
Pacific Citizen Editorial Board,
and here's to a 2017 full of good news!*



A New Model

By Rob Buscher,
Member, JACL Philadelphia Board of Directors

Just over 50 years ago amidst the height of the Civil Rights Movement, the *New York Times Magazine* published perhaps the single most important article about the Japanese American community to date.

What seemed at the time to be an innocuous editorial piece about the successes of the JA community, the article dubbed us (and all AAPIs by extension) as the “Model Minority.” Titled “Success Story, Japanese-American Style,” this eight-page article, written by William Pettersen, made the case that despite many hardships, JAs had pulled themselves up by their bootstraps and established a stable and successful community without any outside assistance.

This was dangerous for two reasons: It implied that JAs (and all AAPIs by association) are insular communities that thrive in isolation and do not require government support or other intervention, and it deliberately drove a divisive wedge between our community and other communities of color.

The premise of this article was that because Japanese Americans accepted the mass incarceration without complaint, we showed a certain “moral character” and “work ethic” that allowed us to succeed where other “problem minorities” had failed. But this was only part of the story.

No, our community did not passively nor quietly accept this situation; we bided our time and planned for the future. An entire generation of young men paid a blood-tax, enlisting to serve in the same military that kept their families behind barbed-wire fences. There were also plenty of dissenters who refused to sign the loyalty questionnaire – and the No-No Boys who outright resisted camp administration. Our elders were revolutionaries whose very existences were acts of resistance.

For most of our history, AAPIs have struggled to find their place in a society that sees race and ethnicity as a black-white binary. A few stories come to mind that perfectly encapsulate this experience.

I’ve been told by several JA elders who did voter registration work in the segregated Jim Crow South about the first time they had to choose between using the white or colored bathroom, drinking fountain or bus section. Mostly every-

one I spoke to told me they picked colored when given the choice, since it was clear that they were not white. However, one woman remembering her first time on a segregated bus told me she must have seemed so visibly perplexed that an African-American woman took her by the arm and sat her in the middle.

In many ways, our community is in the middle. We enjoy relative privilege as a so-called “Model Minority.” We are not being actively profiled by law enforcement in the same ways that members of the African-American, Latino or Middle Eastern communities are.

Derisively referred to as the “honorary whites” by some, we are perceived as a nonthreatening standard to which all other minority groups should be held. It should come as no surprise that many would choose to buy into this idea, especially as newer waves of Asian immigrants struggle to find their place in this country. It is easier to be associated with whiteness than blackness in a society that upholds white supremacy and anti-blackness.

But our community is still at-risk in many ways. We live in a social climate where it has become acceptable to incorporate hate speech as political rhetoric, and white nationalists have been given a legitimate platform in our nation’s highest office.

It seems like references to the JA incarceration have become more frequent and positive in tone, cited as a precedent for possible future Muslim bans or deportations. One does not have to search hard to find the latent racism toward Japanese and Japanese Americans on Dec. 7 and other auspicious WWII anniversary dates throughout the year. In the visitor



JACL Philadelphia board members Don Kajioaka (far left), Rob Buscher (right center) and Hiro Nishikawa (second from right) with Muslim American leaders at a solidarity picnic, held at Al-Aqsa Mosque, which was vandalized in late 2015 by an act of anti-Muslim bigotry.



(From left) NBC10 news anchor Denise Nakano, special guest Mia Yamamoto and JACL Philadelphia President Scott Nakamura at a JACL Philadelphia event on achieving transequality.

books at Manzanar and elsewhere, messages supporting the camps have been written recently by individuals who agree with E.O. 9066.

I suppose it should not shock us either that during the recent tsunami scare in Japan, the comment section on Fox News’ live feed was filled with remarks such as: “Deport Japan,” “if we can nuke to destroy there [sic] population least nature will do humans nuke job :) more deaths the better when it comes to Asians there [sic] lives are as worthless as a cockroach,” “GOD BLESS HIROSHIMA BOMBINGS” and “i hope you japs die.”

But what would it take for the Internet ravings of white nationalists to materialize as actual violence? Just over 30 years ago as the media blamed Japanese auto imports for American factory closures, Vincent Chin was killed by Detroit autoworkers who thought he was Japanese.

As economic and political tensions rise between the U.S. and China, it is not unfathomable to imagine a situation where East Asians could again be targeted in the near future.

We are at a point now as a nation, but also as a community, where it has become necessary to choose whether we fight on the right side of history or idly abide by the status quo of oppression.

This rift in our country will not be solved by people signing Internet petitions or wearing safety pins — only by deliberate and direct action aligning our community with all people of color and other historically underrepresented communities.

It is time to go back to grassroots activism and form broad-based coalitions that express solidarity with other marginalized peoples. I argue that we as AAPIs are best suited for this challenge.

We took AAPI, an umbrella term created as a matter of bureaucratic convenience, and transformed it into a full-fledged, cultural-political union through the Asian American and Pacific Islander Movement. Our demographic encompasses incredible diversity of ethnicity, color, religion, language and culture — yet, for the most part, we are able to relate with one another through our shared experiences of otherness and rally around each other’s causes.

As a microcosm of American society, AAPI community spaces have achieved a level of inclusiveness unparalleled. Let us become a new model for inclusion, solidarity and resistance and lead our communities through this unprecedented time.



NY/SC representatives honored Black Lives Matter-Los Angeles at the 2016 JACL National Convention in Las Vegas, Nev.

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MAYA LIN RECEIVES PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM

PHOTO: THE WHITE HOUSE

President Barack Obama honored artist Maya Lin, designer of the Vietnam War Memorial in Washington, D.C., with the Presidential Medal of Freedom on Nov. 22 during a ceremony at the White House.

The award is the nation's highest civilian honor for those who have made meritorious contributions to the security or national interests of the United States, to world peace or to cultural or other significant public or private endeavors.

Lin is known for her work in sculpture and landscape art. As a senior at Yale University, she came up with the design for the memorial, a design that earned her a B+ grade but also



Maya Lin receives the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Barack Obama at the White House on Nov. 22. Lin is best known for her design of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C.

allowed her to emerge as the winner of a nationwide competition to create

the design for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

“The Vietnam Veterans Memorial has changed the way we think about monuments, but also about how we think about sacrifice, and patriotism and ourselves,” said Obama during the ceremony. “Maya has given us more than just places for remembering — she has created places for us to make new memories. Her sculptures, chapels and homes are ‘physical acts of poetry,’ each reminding us that the most important element in art or architecture is human emotion.”

Lin has since pursued an award-winning design career. Her other works include the Civil Rights Memorial in Montgomery, Ala., and the Wave Field at the University of Michigan. ■

GO FOR BROKE NATIONAL EDUCATION CENTER NAMES MITCHELL

MAKI PRESIDENT AND CEO

Maki assumes permanent leadership of the Nisei veterans' educational organization.



LOS ANGELES — Go For Broke National Education Center announced Nov. 30 that Mitchell T. Maki, Ph.D.,

has been named president and CEO, effective Dec. 1.

Maki, 55, brings more than 30 years' experience in higher education, social activism and civil rights leadership to GFBNEC, which educates the public about the valor and history of second-generation Japanese American veterans of World War II.

In his new role, Maki will focus on the continued growth of the center, which inspires new generations to embody the Nisei veterans' core values of courage, sacrifice, equality, humility and patriotism.

“Mitch has the experience, commitment and passion to lead GFBNEC

in its next phase of growth,” said Bill H. Seki, GFBNEC's chairman of the board. “He brings a deep understanding of the Japanese American World War II experience, a strong academic background and the leadership needed to align with like-minded organizations that are committed to education, awareness and social justice.”

Maki noted that the center's role has become even more important given the current sociopolitical climate.

“The legacy of our Nisei veterans is more relevant than ever today, as we engage in national discussions over the rights and duties of citizenship, the importance of due process and the rule of law in our democracy,” Maki said. “Discriminatory practices against individuals based on the color of their skin, the God whom they worship, the person whom they choose to love

or their country of origin cannot be tolerated. Our WWII Nisei veterans believed in America's Promise — the promise that America is a land of laws under which all people are equal.”

A native of Monterey Park, Calif., Maki previously served as a vice president of academic affairs; a dean of two colleges; and a professor at California State University Los Angeles, California State University Dominguez Hills and the University of California, Los Angeles.

An expert on the Japanese American redress movement, Maki is also the lead author of the award-winning book “Achieving the Impossible Dream: How Japanese Americans Obtained Redress” (University of Illinois Press, 1999), a case study of the history and passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. ■

Japanese American WWII Veterans Meet With the U.S. Secretary of the Army

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Seven Japanese American World War II veterans, along with the National Veterans Network, met with the Hon. Eric Fanning, U.S. Secretary of the Army, on Dec. 16.

In a closed-door meeting at the White House, veterans of the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team and Military Intelligence Service freely spoke with Fanning and shared their military experiences during WWII.

In attendance were Masanori Hongo, MIS, San Mateo, Calif.; Wesley Koyano, Thousand Oaks, Calif.; Tosh Okamoto, Seattle, Wash.; Lawson Sakai, 442nd, Morgan Hill, Calif.; Don Seki, 442nd, Los Angeles; James Tojo, MIS, Cincinnati, Ohio; and Tokuji Yoshihashi, San Gabriel, Calif.

The veterans spoke of the hardship and sacrifices made by their units to prove their loyalty to Amer-



Seven Japanese American WWII veterans met with U.S. Secretary of the Army Eric Fanning (pictured at right, top) at the White House on Dec. 16, where they shared their military experience.

ica at a time when they were looked upon with suspicion based on their ancestry.

Nearly 33,000 Japanese Americans served in the U.S. Army during WWII.

Together, the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd RCT became the most-decorated U.S. Army unit in history for size and length of service.

Subsequently, the Congressional Gold Medal, the nation's high-

est civilian award, was presented by Congress in the name of the American people to the 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442nd RCT and the MIS Military Intelligence Service in 2011.

“We don't want our country to forget the extreme hardship we had to endure,” shared Wesley Koyama, who served in the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442 RCT. “We did this for the younger generations, so they

could stand proud and know what loyalty means.”

In addition to meeting with Fanning, the NVN and the veterans participated in a White House event on Generational Experiences of AAPI and MASSA Communities.

A standing-room only event, members of the Asian American Pacific Islander and Muslim, Arab, Sikh, and South Asian communities spoke about their shared experiences with discrimination based on ancestry and religious beliefs.

Tosh Okamoto from Seattle, Wash., a 442nd veteran, spoke to the group about his experience in the incarceration camps during WWII and how it affected his family.

“I wanted to join the 442nd, but my mother didn't want me to volunteer since my dad had a heart attack,” Okamoto said. “I was eventually drafted and served overseas with 442nd Company K. When I learned of their casualties and sacrifice, I vowed I would do whatever I can to honor their memory.” ■



The Pearl Harbor memorial in Hawaii serves as a tribute to the thousands who perished on Dec. 7, 1941.

PEARL HARBOR AT 75

On Pearl Harbor Day, the Japanese American community warns of the consequences of war hysteria and fear.

CHICAGO — On the 75th anniversary of the Japanese military attack on Pearl Harbor in Honolulu, the Chicago Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League joined with other civil rights and social justice organizations to warn of the dangers of allowing war hysteria and fear to lead to the violation of civil liberties.

Speakers highlighted the parallels between the targeting of Japanese Americans following Pearl Harbor and current Islamophobic rhetoric against the Muslim American community, as well as expressed solidarity in working to prevent repeating the mistakes of history.

Chiyoko Omachi, a 90-year-old Japanese American who was living in a Japanese American fishing community on Terminal Island in the Port of Los Angeles in 1941, spoke of how her family, along with the other families living on the island, were given 48 hours to leave their homes following the attack. Two months later, with the signing of Executive Order 9066, her family was forced to relocate again, this time to the Poston War Relocation Center in Arizona, where they were incarcerated without due process.

Sufyan Sohel, deputy director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations — Chicago, noted the alarming increase of hate crimes directed against the Muslim American community in the past year.

“My community is afraid,” Sohel stated. “Afraid that America will repeat the injustice faced by our Japanese American brothers and sisters. . . . So, on this day, where 75 years ago, the attack by a foreign country led to the forced internment of over 100,000 Americans, let us pray that we don’t repeat the mistakes of our past.”

The Chicago Bar Assn.’s Sandra Yamate and Anthony Becknek provided a legal perspective debunking the use of the Japanese American incarceration as precedent for modern-day targeting of the Muslim American community.

Becknek cited the 1983 report issued by the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, which “established that the internment was unjustified and unconstitutional, the result of ‘race prejudice, war hysteria and a failure of political leadership.’”

Added Yamate, “The notion that Korematsu and other law related to Japanese American internment established a legal precedent for a modern-day equivalent against any group based on their race, religion or national origin is to ignore history. . . . It is alarming to us as lawyers and as citizens to think that anyone would even consider actions premised upon law that has been found to be so based upon false and deliberately misleading evidence and so thoroughly repudiated.”

Brant Rosen, Midwest regional director of the American Friends Service Committee, also warned against repeating the mistakes of the past.

“Anniversaries such as this offer us not only an occasion to look back and reflect — they present us with an imperative to act meaningfully and impactfully in the present so that we may all enjoy a future of justice and peace,” he said.

The American Friends Service Committee was the only national organization at the time that spoke out against the incarceration of Japanese Americans during WWII.

And Rebecca Ozaki, Youth co-chair of JACL Chicago, spoke of her grandfather’s experience following the Pearl Harbor attack: having his father taken away by the FBI, forced to live in horse stalls in Santa Anita Racetrack, volunteering to fight for his country in order to prove his loyalty to a country that imprisoned his family.

Ozaki reflected on her own sense of obligation to ensure that her grandfather’s experience is never forgotten.

“As a fourth-generation Japanese American,” she said, “I hope to build upon his legacy to fight for equity and do everything in my power to never let the injustice that he and the Japanese American community faced happen again.”

SEQUOIA JACL CHAPTER SET TO HOST ANNUAL FUNDRAISING DINNER

With crabs back on the menu again, the Sequoia JACL chapter will host its annual Spaghetti and Crab Feed Fundraising Dinner on Feb. 4 at the Palo Alto Buddhist Temple Gym beginning at 4 p.m.

Co-sponsored by Palo Alto Youth Services and Palo Alto Judo Club, the dinner will feature all-you-can-eat fresh Dungeness crab along with the chapter’s world-famous spaghetti, in addition to salad and

desserts. Drinks, including wine and stout beer, will be available for purchase.

This fundraising event will benefit Sequoia’s scholarship program, which distributes \$5,000 to worthy high school and community college students.

Get your tickets early! General tickets are \$45, seniors \$35 and children \$25. Take out will be available.

For more information, contact Mike Kaku at mikejacl@yahoo.com or call (408) 985-2747.

PHOTO: GEORGE T. JOHNSTON



The National Park Service Holds Tule Lake Discussion Meeting

Anna Tamura of the National Parks Service chatted with George Nakano on Dec. 2 at the California State University Dominguez Hills library at one of several meetings held by the government agency to get feedback from the public on the General Management Plan for Tule Lake. Discussed were how the NPS plans over the next several years to develop and manage the former incarceration center, which was one of the 10 major War Relocation Authority camps that imprisoned Japanese Americans during World War II.



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U.S. HOUSE APPROVES BILL RECOGNIZING FILIPINO WWII VETERANS

HONOLULU — The U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill on Nov. 30 to honor Filipino soldiers who fought under U.S. command in World War II with the Congressional Gold Medal.

The House's unanimous approval came after the Senate passed the legislation during the summer. The bill will now go before President Barack Obama to be signed.

"Now we can tell our veterans with pride in our hearts that this grateful nation has, at last, granted them recognition for the selfless sacrifice they endured in war, and restored their dignity and honor in service to their nation," said Ret. Maj. Gen. Antonio Taguba, chairman of the Filipino Veterans Recognition and Education Project, in a news release.

Under the legislation, more than 260,000 Filipino and Filipino American soldiers who responded to President Franklin D. Roosevelt's "call to duty" will be awarded the nation's highest civilian honor.

The bill was sponsored by Hawaii Sen. Mazie Hirono and Rep. Tulsi Gabbard.

Hawaii's congressional leaders have been pushing for the measure to recognize the approximately 18,000 Filipino WWII veterans still alive in the U.S., as most of them are in their 90s.

"For months, we have said that time is running out to recognize Filipino World War II veterans for their brave service," Hirono said in the release. "Today's House passage is the culmination of decades of work

PHOTO: FACEBOOK COURTESY OF THE FILIPINO VETERANS RECOGNITION AND EDUCATION PROJECT



Rep. Tulsi Gabbard congratulates Ben de Guzman of the Filipino Veterans Recognition and Education Project.

by these veterans and their families to recognize their key role in the Allied victory, and their decades-long fight for benefits."

The National Veterans Network was among the many organizations to congratulate the veterans on the passing of S. 1555 Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2015.

"We celebrate with the Filipino soldiers and the Filipino Veterans Recognition and Education Project the long-overdue recognition of their service, bravery and patriotism to our country," said Christine Sato-Yamazaki, executive director of the NVN. "Their recognition contrib-

utes to the overall understanding and awareness of all Asian Pacific Islanders' military service in the United States that includes the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team and MIS. . . . The stories and contributions of APA soldiers are relevant to all of us. The appreciation of our country for these soldiers is a significant step toward continued education and preservation."

Gabbard urged Obama to sign the bill into law before the year's end to "honor our veterans with this long-overdue recognition."

— P.C. Staff and Associated Press

JACL Statement on Filipino War Veterans

JACL applauds the action by the House of Representatives to pass the Filipino Veterans of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2015 as a fitting testament to the gallantry of those soldiers who answered the call to serve the United States during World War II.

The exemplary service of these veterans is best described in the legislation. ". . . The loyal and valiant Filipino Veterans of World War II fought, suffered and, in many instances, died in the same manner and under the same commander as other members of the United States Armed Forces during World War II. . . . The United States remains forever indebted to the bravery, valor and dedication that the Filipino Veterans of World War II displayed. Their commitment and sacrifice demonstrates a highly uncommon and commendable sense of patriotism and honor."

This important recognition adds the exploits of the Filipino War Veterans to the ranks of the legendary contributions of the Nisei veterans of World War II, who served in segregated units including the 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service and were honored with the Congressional Gold Medal in 2011. ■

Holiday Snowflakes



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The Kamoto Family

2016



Happy Holidays!

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at UC Riverside

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TO ALL IN 2017**
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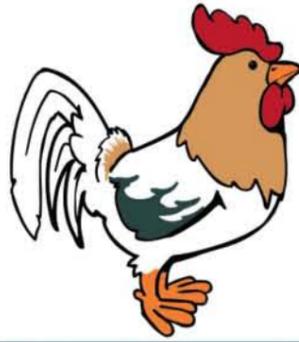
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in memory of
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and
a Happy New Year**
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A YONSEI TRANSPLANTED

Heading Into 2017, Our Country Is at an Ethical Crossroads

By Matthew Ormseth



The incoming Trump regime is disturbing on more levels than one, but for Japanese Americans, it is the president-elect's rhetoric on immigrants that sounds the loudest alarm bells and raises the reddest of flags.

Nearly 70 years after the signing of Executive Order 9066, we have a president-elect who has advocated for increased policing of mosques and Muslim neighborhoods, a ban on immigration from Muslim countries and a registry for all Muslims living in the United States.

Donald Trump's campaign tapped into a wellspring of deep-seated xenophobia, fingering immigrants and foreigners — particularly those from Mexico and the Middle East — as the culprits behind a laundry list of societal ills.

Unemployment is the fault of Mexicans willing to work for less than American workers. Illegal drug use is also the Mexicans' fault — they brought the drugs with them when they entered our country illegally.

Trump has played up the fear of domestic terrorism, vowing to subject Muslim immigrants to "extreme vetting" to weed out agents of Islamic terror while ignoring the fact that the most violent and active domestic terrorists are the white nationalist groups that supported his campaign.

Our president-elect's promise to restrict immigration has brought our country to an ethical crossroads. It's true that globalization has hurt the American worker, and our leaders need to keep livable-wage jobs from fleeing the country.

The Obama administration likes to cite a dwindling unemployment rate as evidence of the country's recovery, but that figure paints an incomplete picture of job prospects in America.

Americans might be going back to work, but they aren't working the good jobs that pay \$20 an hour, with benefits and a pension. They're working at fast-food restaurants, grocery stores and call centers. American workers have suffered, and Trump's promises to bring the good jobs back resonated with them.

But his promises place a higher premium on American job prospects than the safety of refugees threatened by violence, abject poverty or both.

On his campaign website, Trump vowed to "establish new immigration controls to boost wages and to ensure that open jobs are offered to American workers first." Trump talks a lot about national security, but this promise — "to ensure that open jobs are offered to American workers first" — betrays the true reason behind his dreams of a wall.

Trump made a lot of promises to American workers, many of which he knows he can't keep.

He can't stop factories from moving overseas without offering them enormous tax breaks (like he did with the Carrier plant in Indianapolis). Nor can he stop factories from replacing human labor with automation.

His only chance to put Americans back to work is to keep the pool of job seekers low, and he's going

to do that by deporting millions of undocumented immigrants and beefing up border security to keep them out for good.

He's not worried so much about national security as he is about putting his supporters back to work, and for lack of a true economic agenda — or any understanding of economics in general — kicking out immigrants and keeping them out is the best he can do.

'The basic liberal principle is that it is unfair for people to get more or less than others based on factors beyond their control, rather than based on their autonomous decisions.'

—Phillip Cole

Consider this decision from the perspective of the immigrant. Immigrants from Mexico are fleeing cartels that gun down, hang and behead Mexican citizens on a regular basis, as well as poor schools and a dearth of job prospects.

Immigrants from the Middle East are trying to escape civil war, sectarian violence and radical terrorism in their homelands. Every day, their stay further jeopardizes the lives of them and their family. When we elected Trump, we told them we valued our job prospects over their safety.

Consider, too, the arbitrary nature of borders, not only in their placement but also in *our* placement. It wasn't through any merit of our own that we came to enjoy the safety and prosperity found inside America's borders. Most of us were born here.

Some Americans have had to struggle through the long, complicated immigration process, but most of us — myself included — just got lucky. What right do I have to tell an immigrant from some war-torn part of the globe to go back, that they have no right to the freedom, safety and economic prosperity

I was born into?

If I have a right to live anywhere I choose within America's borders, why is that right denied to people who have suffered more than me, worked harder than me, simply because they were born in a poor or dangerous part of the world?

A philosophy professor from the University of West England named Phillip Cole addressed the ethics of restricting migration in a 2012 lecture to the Conway Hall Ethical Society in London.

"The basic liberal principle is that it is unfair for people to get more or less than others based on factors beyond their control, rather than based on their autonomous decisions," Cole said. "Which side of a border one is born on is certainly not under one's control, and so it seems unfair to allow it to determine one's life chances . . . and yet we don't seem to consider the determination of life prospects by the randomness of birth to be rare or exceptional at all — we just accept it to be morally legitimate. But how bizarre is that?"

It's not just unfair to keep someone in danger because they were unlucky enough to be born in a bad part of the world — it's immoral. It's ethically wrong. Concerns from the right about our country's "cultural values" or "cultural coherence" being washed away in a tsunami of immigrants are callous.

Syrians are being gassed, bombed and starved by their own government, and we'd prefer to keep them out so we don't have to see someone in a hijab walking down our street. It's morally indefensible.

Another refrain from the right: Granting amnesty to undocumented immigrants is unfair to those who did it the right way. That may be true on some abstract level, where fairness is valued above safety. Following that logic, it would be wrong to treat someone with a heart attack before someone with a broken arm, if the guy with the broken arm got there first.

It's an analogy that's not so far from the truth. I interviewed a family from Afghanistan who had sought political asylum in Connecticut. The father had worked as an interpreter for the U.S. Army, and as troops began pulling out of Kabul, he was afraid he'd be targeted for helping the Americans.

His suspicions were confirmed when gunmen opened fire on his car one night. He survived unharmed, but he knew he had to get his family out of the country. He managed to secure visas for his family, but he said he would've hired a human trafficker to smuggle them into Europe if he couldn't get them.

Those with the means and the time to immigrate legally are the ones who need it least, he said. It's the ones in the worst danger who can't afford to wait.

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.

REIMAGINE EVERYTHING

AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES

By Ron Mori

You probably won't find a more diverse population of 3 million people than the AARP members of California. But most Californians age 50 and older share some very important things in common, and the results also track with what JACL members told us at the National Convention two years ago.

- Almost all have a deep desire to remain independent when they get older.
- They want to continue to live securely in their homes and communities and never have to move into an institution.
- They want to participate in the full range of community life, and they want their contributions to be valued.

To achieve these goals, they need to live in communities that offer the right blend of support — from transportation and other services to appropriate housing and community design. We call them “age-friendly” or “livable” communities. There is no one formula for “age-friendliness,” but there are common elements

Joe Coughlin, founder of AgeLab, a research institute at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and now an AARP board member, said age-friendliness or livability basically means “being able to get around and do things.”

We're talking about visible traffic signs, handrails, one-story living and no-step entry, sidewalks you can actually walk on and crosswalks that allow you to cross the street safely, public transportation, bus stops with benches, libraries and parks that are easily accessible.

Naturalist John Muir observed: “When we try to pick out anything by itself, we often find it hitched to everything else in the universe.” Someone less renowned said, “Damn it. I shouldn't have to be an Olympic sprinter to be able to cross the street safely!”

Both statements apply to age-friendly communities. Everything is interconnected.

Mobility is a good example. If you can't navigate city streets, sidewalks and crosswalks, or have convenient access to public transit, how can you get to the other services you need — like healthcare, jobs, shopping and recreation?

And age-friendliness is not just about helping seniors. A safe, well-maintained street is good not only for an older person, but also for a young parent pushing a stroller — or a student biking to a job after school.

Secure, well-maintained parks and recreation areas encourage walking, sports and other exercise that keeps us all healthier. Land-use policies that promote an accessible mix of business, cultural and recreational facilities attract people of all ages and enhance community life for all.

Age-friendliness is something that local communities — often in partnership with the private sector and state governments — must shape and direct. We know that each community has its own needs and priorities.



So, AARP has established a nationwide “Network of Age-Friendly Communities” to work with local and state leaders across the nation to develop their own age-friendly planning practices and policies.

Participation in the AARP network enrolls communities in the World Health Organization's worldwide “Age-Friendly Cities and Communities Program,” which offers connections to a global network.

More than 125 communities nationwide have joined the AARP network, along with major cities such as Atlanta, Boston and Los Angeles, representing a total of more than 56 million people.

For more information about the AARP network, visit www.aarp.org/agefriendly. AARP has also created a webpage that is filled with useful information on age-friendliness and livability at www.aarp.org/livable-communities.

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.

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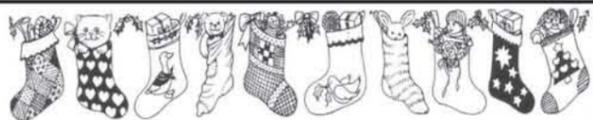
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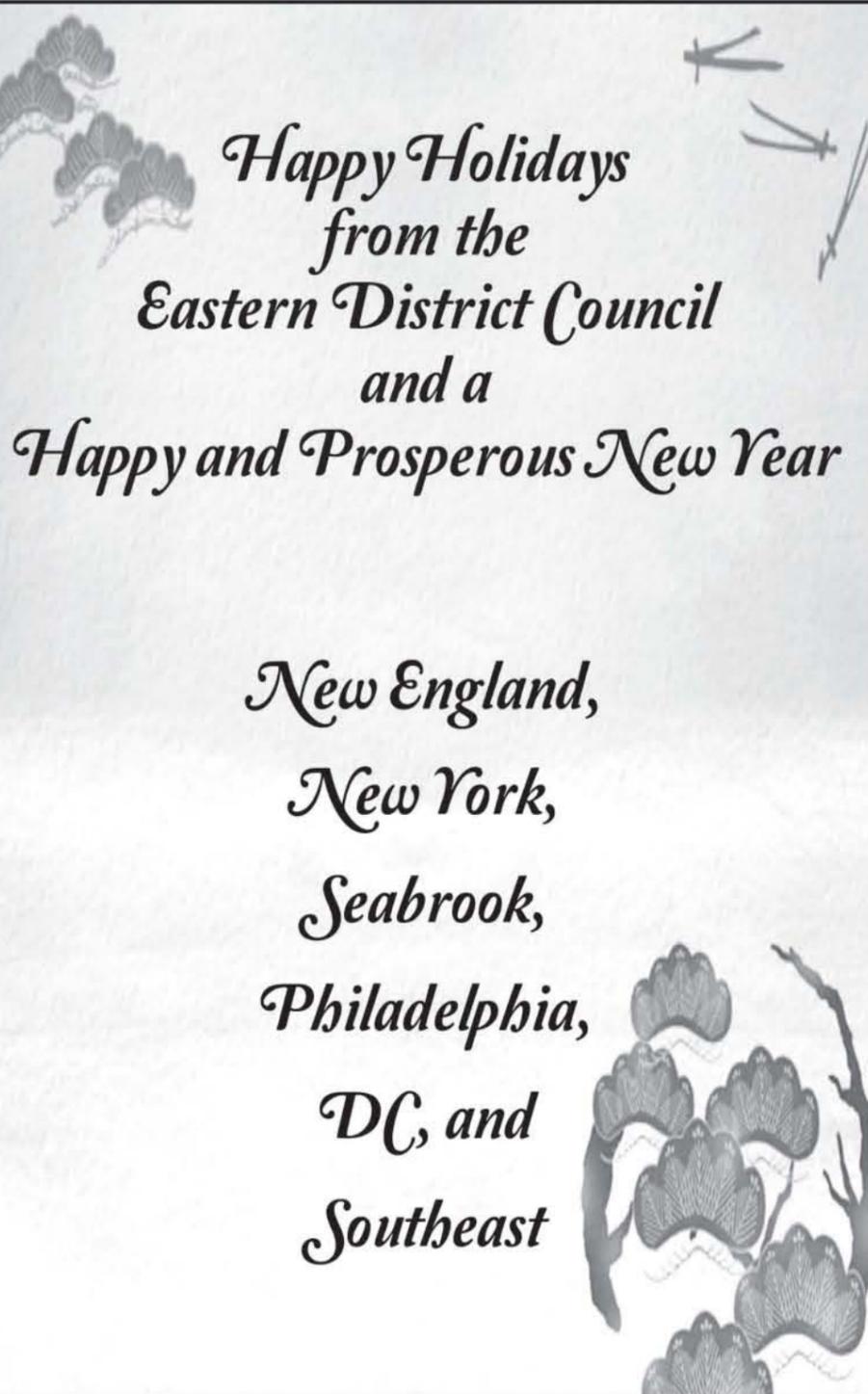


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HEALTHY AND PROSPEROUS
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Happy and Prosperous New Year*

*New England,
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A MOTHER'S TAKE

WHAT I WILL REMEMBER THIS SEASON

By Marsha Aizumi

With each passing year, I feel that time is moving faster and the choices I make are becoming more important because I am older, hopefully wiser and have less time to dwell on things that take me away from what I love. It seems like just yesterday, I was the mother of two young sons, and now, those little ones are 28 and 25 years of age. I remember walking down the aisle on my father's arm to start my new life with my husband, and today, we have been married 44 years. Time has gone by so fast . . .

So, when I think of what season, time of my life or event I want to remember, I want to remember and cherish them all. And each season has been an important part of who I am today. Writing this article has given me the opportunity to reflect on what makes a season memorable to me. And these are some of the things that have stayed in my heart from years gone by.

THE LAUGHTER: I remember having fun with my cousins. As children, we couldn't wait until it got dark, so we could play flashlight tag. Do any of you remember this game? It was like hide-and-seek in the dark, and you only got caught if the person tagged you with the flashlight light and was able to identify who you were.

After we got older, it was playing more grown-up games. The guys like to play poker, my brother makes up some crazy, funny games and the kids love to find ways to torture their parents . . . like how many times can I shoot my mom in the behind with the marshmallow gun, or which egg do I drop on my dad's head and see if it is hard boiled or raw. I am glad that the

moms got the marshmallow game!!

Last year, the parents totally embarrassed their kids by doing our variation of a talent contest by lip-singing songs like "Uptown Funk" or dancing to the "Mashed Potato," "The Carlton" and "Whip NaNa." This year, Aiden is going to set up Jimmy Kimmel's "Whisper Challenge." We will laugh until we cry. I am sure of it.

THE FOOD: My mom always said when you cook, do it with love. So, during the holidays, what I remember are those dishes cooked by my family and friends that were seasoned with their love. We all have those favorite dishes that are so yummy that we eat more than we should. And we all know the cooks that no matter what they make, it is delicious. Here is the recipe that my family always looks forward to that I make during the holidays:

Parmesan Cheese Biscuits

- 2 tubes of biscuits (we like to use buttermilk or the flaky biscuits, which are 10 in a tube. If you use the Grands, then only put 14 in each bundt pan)
- ½ cup of butter (1 cube)
- ½ cup of parmesan cheese
- 3 T lemon juice
- ½ tsp dill weed

Direction: Melt butter and then mix in the cheese, lemon juice and dill weed. Dip each biscuit in the mixture and stand the biscuit up in the bundt pan. Bake at 400 degrees for 12-15 minutes. Invert the bundt pan on a plate and serve.

THE TRADITIONS, OLD AND NEW: Aiden loves traditions that we have carried on for years, like taking turns opening up presents, instead of all of us opening at once. We always put up our Christmas tree, Thanks-

giving weekend.

I have a perpetual journal that I ask the family to write in each year, based on a prompt I give them. One year, I asked them to write about their favorite moments. Another year, they were to pick three words and describe how those words defined their year.

To be honest, it is not one of my family's favorite traditions, but it is absolutely mine. I love to look back each year and read what they were thinking in previous years. And I always look forward to hearing their new thoughts.

We started a new tradition recently of going to Disneyland as a whole family to celebrate and also take in all the beautiful holiday decorations. It was the best gift I could have received last year, and it kept my heart happy all year long.

THE CREATIVITY: When I think about the holidays, I think about those creative moments and creative people in my family. I love to decorate our home, and when the spirit moves me, I send out a Christmas letter, inspired by music, movies or Top 10 things we heard throughout the year.

I save cards that are handmade by friends and reuse fancy bows that my sister-in-law made to decorate framed pictures around the room. We still hang up some of the handmade ornaments my mother-in-law made years ago out of ribbon, beads and decorative pins, as well as handmade ornaments from friends.

But my favorite ornaments are the ones my kids made: a glittered paper plate with Stefan's photo in the center when he was 4 years old, or an angel made by Aiden in first grade from a crushed soda can painted white and Stefan's cotton ball snowman that has grown a bit raggedy but is still so cherished.

THE GRATITUDE: As we sit around eating food, sharing stories, opening gifts and cooking together, I so appreciate these moments. They fill me with gratitude for what I have . . . my family and friends that come together to celebrate, the love that my parents taught us to have for each other even though we may have differing opinions.

This year, I will be seeing people during the holidays who voted for Donald Trump, and initially, that made me sad. But I also know that they love my transgender son. And so I will be grateful for their love

and hope that if I don't judge them, they will continue to support him and stand up for him in their own way.

Sometimes in the midst of all the hustle and bustle, I stop and take in the moment. I turn around and see the young people sitting together, talking about their hopes for their future families, traditions they will be creating and sharing what their year has been like.

Then I turn to see the parents of these young people happy for the lives they are living and grateful for their children who are doing well.

Our family gatherings have expanded to include Aiden's mother, father and grandmother-in-law, who we have grown to love so deeply. We don't exchange gifts at our larger family gatherings now, except for the little ones who are being born. But I am so grateful for all the gifts around me in the people who are part of my life.

I look to the coming year with more trepidation and concern than I have for years, but during this season, I will not let anything mar the warmth, the memories and the love that are part of our times together.

For me, my overarching thoughts will be "Live and Love in the Moment." I will not allow what is happening globally, or nationally, affect the joy of the season. I will take a moment to thank those who are doing this work, but there will be time for me to continue to work on issues.

Instead, I will choose to soak in the joy and bliss of time with my family, taste the love sprinkled into all the dishes at our gatherings, remember the creative ways people have left their mark on my heart, laugh until tears run down my cheeks, but most of all, I will be grateful for all who have come before me to give me the life I have today, celebrate all who are part of my life at the present time and be hopeful for all who will be part of my life in my future.

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



A favorite paper plate ornament



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF MARSHA AIZUMI

Aiden and his wife, Mary, a joyful couple.



A mother's love



Time with family . . . My excited brother was soon to be a grandpa.

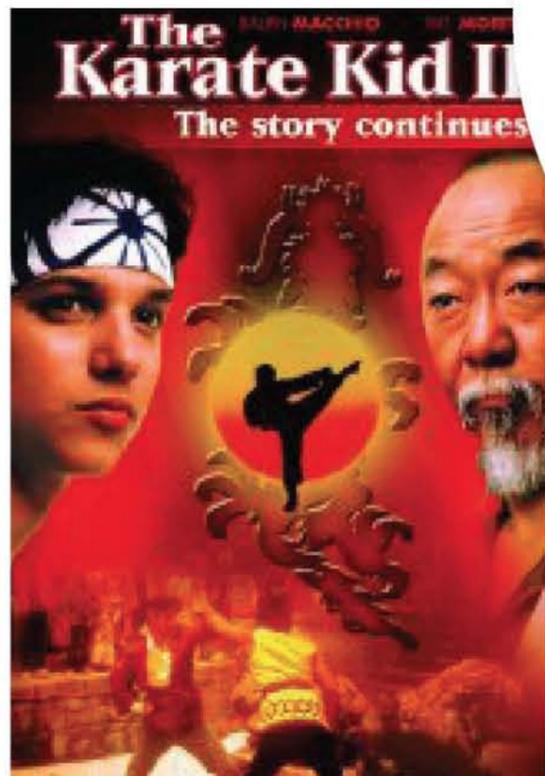


Christmas photo with Tad and Mochi

Remembering MR. MIYAGI

Pat Morita's unpublished memoir inspires an upcoming documentary.

By George Toshio Johnston,
Contributor



Promotional art from 1986's "The Karate Kid: Part II." A documentary about the late Pat Morita's life is in production.



Above: Pat Morita (left) confers with Fumio Demura, who served as his stunt double for the role of Mr. Miyagi in the "Karate Kid" movies.

its legacy has become the gift that keeps on giving.

Much of the credit to that longevity can be attributed to the original's lightning-in-a-bottle chemistry between the original film's co-stars, Ralph Macchio and Pat Morita, who portrayed, respectively, the teenage Daniel Larusso and much older Mr. Miyagi, the building supervisor at the low-rent Reseda, Calif., apartment complex where "Daniel-san" and his mother landed after a cross-country car trip from New Jersey.

Morita, who died in 2005, brought unexpected soul and humanity to what otherwise might have been a throwaway, stereotyped role — and was rewarded with a best supporting actor nomination at the 1985 Academy Awards.

It was undoubtedly the highlight to a show business career that began in stand-up comedy and bit parts in movies and iconic TV series such as "M*A*S*H" and "Happy Days."

On Nov. 15, producer Oscar Alvarez and director Kevin Derek of Love Project Films announced that they are working on a documentary about Morita's life, based on an uncompleted memoir he was writing up until the time of his death. They have also launched a 35-daylong Indiegogo campaign to raise funds to help produce their documentary.

The duo previously worked on a documentary titled "The Real Miyagi," which chronicled the life of Fumio Demura, a real-life master of karate from Japan.

Demura was Morita's stunt-double in the original "Karate Kid" movies — and would become pals with Morita.

"The Real Miyagi" tells how Demura got to the point of being selected to be the man who did Mr. Miyagi's actual karate moves after coming to the United States to teach karate and author several books about the martial art of karate to Westerners hungry for authentic knowledge.

According to Alvarez, when he and Derek interviewed several subjects for "The Real Miyagi," they met Morita's third wife and widow, Evelyn Morita, who also appeared in the movie.

Alvarez said that after the documentary was completed, Evelyn Morita revealed that she had in her possession a manuscript, her late husband's memoir, which he had been working on for nine years prior to his death and that it might be a good basis for another documentary — this time about that other real Miyagi, Pat Morita himself.

Alvarez, who says he "grew up with Pat Morita" via his movie and TV oeuvre, admires what Morita was able to accomplish, considering the hurdles he had to overcome.

"A lot of people don't know this, but prior to him becoming an actor, he worked in the aerospace industry," Alvarez said as an example.

After reading the manuscript, Alvarez realized that there was a compelling story about Morita that the general public does not know.

"It's all the obstacles that his family went through, as well as himself as an individual, to get into the entertainment industry and end up getting a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, to be nominated for an Oscar," Alvarez said of Morita. "He's a true pioneer."

Morita's first breakout role was as the titular proprietor of Arnold's diner in the 1970s sitcom "Happy Days," which shortly thereafter led him to a starring role in his own short-lived sitcom, "Mr. T and Tina," nearly two decades before Margaret Cho's "All American Girl."

After the success of the "Karate Kid" movies, Morita also played it straight in the TV cop drama "Ohara," and on the big screen, he played opposite Jay Leno in 1989's "Collision Course."

But it's always the first four "Karate Kid" movies for which Morita is best remembered.

>> See **MR. MIYAGI**
on page 58

When "The Karate Kid" arrived in theaters in 1984, screenwriter Robert Mark Kamen, director John Avildsen and producer Jerry Weintraub could not have predicted how deeply embedded in the pop-culture zeitgeist the low-budget summer movie aimed at teens would become.

That anyone striking the crane kick pose or repeating the phrase, "Wax on, wax off" can elicit immediate recognition across generational lines is evidence that "The Karate Kid" continues to live on, more than 30 years later.

But the movie about an underdog fish-out-of-water teen new to Southern California who learns karate from a Japanese American man in order to protect himself against a cadre of karate-trained thugs struck a chord with moviegoers that would spawn three sequels to the original, an animated TV cartoon and a 2010 remake, with a second installment to the revived franchise in the works.

Although Avildsen hasn't been involved with the franchise since the third installment, for Kamen and Weintraub, who died in 2015, "The Karate Kid" and

THE *Karate Kid II* AT 30

Three Decades on, the film's co-stars 'wax on' nostalgically over their experiences.

By George Toshio Johnston,
Contributor

It certainly was a memorable year, as 1986 was the year of the Chernobyl nuclear plant and Space Shuttle Challenger disasters; President Reagan and the U.S.S.R.'s Communist Party General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev's summit in Reykjavik, Iceland; Mike Tyson at 21 becoming the youngest man ever to win the heavyweight boxing championship; Los Angeles Dodger Fernando Valenzuela pitching 20 wins; Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos fleeing the Philippines; the national debut of a daytime talk show featuring Oprah Winfrey; the launch of the Fox TV network; and in theaters "Gung Ho" and "Big Trouble in Little China," a couple of movies threaded with Asian American storylines.

Another movie with Asian American subject matter from 1986 was the sequel to the charming "Karate Kid" movie from two years before. Ralph Macchio and the late Pat Morita re-

presented their roles as student Daniel LaRusso and karate teacher Mr. Miyagi, respectively.

In his review of "The Karate Kid: Part II," the *Pacific Citizen's* then-assistant editor J.K. Yamamoto wrote in the Aug. 8, 1986, issue that the movie "... may be just lightweight summer entertainment, but it is such a pleasant change of pace to hear an audience cheering an Asian hero that it is worth seeing on that basis alone."

That hero was, of course, Mr. Miyagi, the humble handyman who also was a Medal of Honor-winning member of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and karate sensei who served as a surrogate father to his student, Daniel-san.

Greenlighted after the unexpected success of its predecessor, "The Karate Kid: Part II" would best the original in boxoffice receipts, with domestic grosses of more than \$115 million in its theatrical run, making it the No. 4 highest-grossing movie of the year.

Thanks to a change in venue from Reseda, Calif., to Miyagi's childhood home, Japan's Okinawa prefecture — with Hawaii filling in for the Ryukyu island — the

movie was also significant for launching the careers of a pair of Japanese American actors who are still active in the business to this day: Tamlyn Tomita and Yuji Okumoto.

More than 30 years later, the roles they both played in the hugely successful movie still loom large in their respective lives and careers.

For Tomita, her "KKII" role as Kumiko — the romantic interest of young LaRusso — was her Hollywood debut. For Okumoto, who played the movie's bad boy and LaRusso's foil, Chozen, it was his biggest screen credit up to that point in his still-nascent career. (His credits prior "KKII" included "Better Off Dead ..." and "Aloha Summer," which was made before "KKII" but released afterward.)

Tomita, who was coming off serving as the 1984 Nisei Week festival's queen, remembers being approached by a casting director about auditioning for the role of Kumiko, for which she was one among many who tried out. "I keep running into, to this day, other actresses who also went up for the role," Tomita said.

It truly was a life-changing opportunity, and Tomita realizes how fortunate she was. Despite the poise required to be a Nisei Week queen candidate, regarding the filmmaking process, Tomita said, "I did not know anything when I stepped on set about how to act on film. There was nothing that I knew. What do they say, ill-equipped? I came nonequipped!"

Fortunately for Tomita, she got the nod, and she is still in show business, having recently finished working on "The Ninkyo," set for a 2017

release.

But had she not participated in Nisei Week and become that year's queen, which raised her profile enough to be approached to audition, Tomita says she likely would now be teaching middle school students at a school near her San Fernando Valley home and taking care of her mother.

Okumoto, meantime, is also still involved in show business. His list of credits on his IMDb.com page over the subsequent years include appearing in dozens of TV shows and movies (2010's "Inception" is one of his bigger recent credits), including voice-over work in animation — but not from Hollywood.

The Los Angeles native currently resides in Seattle, where he is raising three daughters with his wife, while also running their restaurant, Kona Kitchen.

Okumoto says he still gets recognized for "KKII" by people who saw the movie 30 years ago — but there is also a younger demo (that he noted are people who are now in their 30s) for his role in the 1999 Disney Channel telefilm "Johnny Tsunami," which he notes was, at the time, that network's biggest hit.

Similarly, Tomita said, "Having reached a certain age, when people go, 'I know you from somewhere,' it's either 'Karate Kid II' if you're a male of a certain age or if you're a woman, it's probably 'Joy Luck Club' — but if you're a teen or a millennial, it's probably 'Teen Wolf.'"



Tamlyn Tomita, circa 1986 and today.



Bad was good in 1986 for Yuji Okumoto.



MR. MIYAGI >> continued from page 56

According to Alvarez, however, Morita's memoir details aspects of his early years, including contracting spinal tuberculosis — which put him in a full body cast for much of his childhood — to being incarcerated with his family in two different War Relocation Authority camps. Later in life, he would walk away from an unsatisfying corporate job to pursue comedy, a path few Japanese Americans of his generation would tread.

Using that as a jumping off point, Alvarez and Derek have begun interviewing several people who either worked directly with Morita or were touched by his influence.

Derek, however, is very interested in making sure the documentary (working title “Pat Morita: Long Story Short”) conveys the part of Morita's story before fame, fortune — and misfortune — came his way.

In an email, Derek said, “His entire life was compelling. Can you imagine being in a full body cast from age 2-11 due to contracting a rare form of tuberculosis? Having been told that you will never walk again? And, when finally being treated and able to walk, the war breaks out and he's escorted by an FBI agent to the internment camps. His family had to get rid of everything they had worked hard for and restart their life from scratch.

“Can you imagine seeing your father get hit and run over by a car and dragged for blocks and to die a few hours later? Being discriminated against? Losing your house in a mudslide? Not knowing if your mother is actually your real mother? Many, many other obstacles in his life that I can't mention,” Derek continued. “For him to come out of this ordeal in one piece and not lose his sanity and to become an iconic figure speaks volumes.”

When asked what he thought was



Pat Morita shares a laugh with Jerry Weintraub, who produced the original “Karate Kid” movie and its sequels.

the biggest revelation about Morita's life that he learned as a result of beginning this documentary, Derek says it was learning about Morita's “family dynamics.”

“Pat had been married three times and has one daughter from the first marriage, two from the second and his last wife is the estate holder, and for some reason, there is tension between them,” said Derek.

According to Derek, upon learning of the documentary, one of Morita's daughters asked to see its outline and structure. Derek said he did so and let her know his team wanted to interview her and her family, but she responded that she needed to be included as a writer and producer in order to participate.

“My response was very simple — there can only be one chef in the kitchen and that I would like an ongoing dialogue but do not want any side of the family influencing the direction of this doc,” said Derek.

Included among those interviewed about their interactions with and im-

pressions of Morita are comedian Tommy Chong, actors Esai Morales, Julia Nickson and Martin Kove (who memorably played the villainous Cobra Kai sensei in the original “Karate Kid”), as well as screenwriter Kamen. Notable for their absences thus far are, however, actors such as Tamlyn Tomita and Ralph Macchio or director Avildsen, which Derek and Alvarez say is due to the influence of one of Morita's daughters, Aly Morita.

In a conversation with the *Pacific Citizen*, however, Aly Morita denied urging any of the principals involved with the “Karate Kid” movies from participating with this documentary, and she issued the following statement via email: “My sisters and I are aware of a documentary being made right now about our father, but have declined to become involved.

“As the current documentary being made stands now, we are not confident that it will be done with our father's best interest in mind, but rather as a vehicle for my father's third wife to tell her version of a very incomplete

story.

“My family has strong personal reasons for not supporting this project, and anyone else who has decided to follow suit has done so on their own accord. We want more than anything for our father's story to be told, but we want it done right with the right people involved.”

So, while the movie is underway in its current form, things could change between now and its completion. The filmmakers have said that they are forging on regardless, and if this new documentary is as successful in telling the story of Pat Morita's life as their documentary about Fumio Demura was, then fans of the iconic funnyman will be in for one kick of a movie once it comes to fruition.

To learn more about the campaign to raise funds for the Pat Morita documentary, visit <https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/pat-morita-long-story-short-film/> and to learn more about this movie, visit <http://www.PatMoritaTheMovie.com>.



Nearly three decades after “The Karate Kid: Part II,” Tamlyn Tomita and Yuji Okumoto appeared together in 2016's “Seppuku.”

Both Okumoto and Tomita have fond memories of “KKII” co-stars Morita, who died in 2005, and Danny Kamekona, who died in 1996.

Tomita credits “Uncle Pat” and “Uncle Danny” for helping her with her big-screen debut, along with Nobu McCarthy, Joey Miyashima and Marc Hayashi, as well as Macchio and Okumoto, for helping her with the process, and says she tries to carry on that magnanimous attitude toward young acting talent whenever she can.

As for Okumoto, he remembers coming to the set and meeting Morita. “What a joy, what a wonderful man he was. Very supportive, very helpful,” he recalled. “When you have an opportunity to work with really wonderful actors like Pat, you listen.”

Okumoto also remembers while they were shooting “KKII” how Morita and Kamekona invited him

to come out to Waikiki one night — and they stayed up until 4 a.m.

“I just had to laugh about it. They just loved to go hang out,” he said. Okumoto would later work with Morita on two other movie projects, 2006's “Only the Brave” and 2000's “I'll Remember April.”

While Tomita is happy to continue to act for as long as possible, she's doesn't feel she has the right aptitude to try another part of show business: producing. Okumoto, however, has embraced it. “I enjoy the process of putting pieces together,” he said.

Tomita and Okumoto remain friends and do still cross paths professionally, with both of them having appeared in the 2016 short movie “Seppuku.”

But three decades on, both actors will forever be tethered professionally and in the public eye thanks to the big splash they each made in “The Karate Kid: Part II.” ■

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NIKKEI VOICE

LOOKING BACK ON 2016

By Gil Asakawa



Albuquerque's Bushido Kenkyukai karate and taiko group march through the Aki Matsuri site to start the festivities.

Wow, I don't know about you, but I'm glad 2016 is coming to an end. Not that I think next year will be better — I have a lot of trepidation about the future — but I can hope, can't I? There were some great things about this past year. I love to travel, and I traveled twice to Las Vegas for conferences, as well as Washington D.C., San Jose and Ft. Lauderdale. My wife and I just returned from a family reunion trip to Hawaii.

My wife and I were also able to take my mom, who has dementia, for a "farewell tour" of Japan, including Sapporo, where her brother lives; Nemuro, her small hometown in eastern Hokkaido; and Tokyo, so she could visit a longtime family friend. And in September, I was invited by the New Mexico chapter of JACL to give a reading of my book, "Being Japanese American," at the chapter's annual fall festival, Aki Matsuri.

When I travel to L.A. or Hawaii, I know I'm going to feel right at home with all the Asian faces. I didn't expect to feel right at home in New Mexico, too!

When we think of Japanese Americans, we mostly think of the West Coast, where JAs are concentrated. But I live in Denver. The JA community here is nothing like being in L.A., San Francisco or Seattle, but we have Sakura Square, our "Tiny Tokyo" — the one-block haven for the Tri-State Denver Buddhist Temple, one Japanese restaurant and a family owned Japanese grocery store.

In Albuquerque, there is no Tiny Tokyo, no Japanese market, so I was a surprised to meet a whole bunch of Japanese Americans. Some were born and raised there, and others were transplanted from the West Coast, or even Hawaii. Albuquerque is smaller than Denver, but I give credit to the local JACL chapter — its membership and the New Mexico community that's interested in Japanese things came out in force for Aki Matsuri.

Victor Yamada, who is one of the leaders of the New Mexico JACL chapter, set up my trip. I had had breakfast the past spring with him when I was in Albuquerque for a

journalism conference.

The event was held on the grounds of the National Hispanic Cultural Center, featuring vendor booths and a food tent, which was a fundraiser for the JACL chapter. One side of the outdoor plaza had a large stage set up for performances from taiko drumming and martial arts demonstrations to traditional Okinawan dancing. My reading was inside, in a room that featured a fabulous exhibit of movie posters from Studio Ghibli, the Japanese producers of Hayao Miyazaki's classic series of animated feature films.

My abiding impression of my trip is the terrific variety of JAs in Albuquerque and the number of mixed-race JAs who identify with the Japanese side of their heritage. Paul Mayer, the man with the movie posters collection, is mixed-race and has traveled extensively to Japan and speaks Japanese. Wanda Day and her son, Joey, are friends in Albuquerque and are Japanese and Latina/Latino. I also met a handful of others who are mixed-race. In most cases, I had no idea from looking at them that they might be part Japanese.

I thought more about mixed-race JAs last week during my trip to Hawaii. So many people in Hawaii are mixed-race. Yet, it doesn't matter to anyone — for an Asian American like me, Hawaii feels like the most welcoming, comfortable place in the world. It's good to be the majority!

Some of my wonderful cousins in Hawaii are also part-Japanese. One of them told me sad stories of wishing she looked more Japanese when she was growing up because she felt like she didn't fit it. That's the reverse of Asians on the mainland, of course, who might grow up wishing they looked more white.

Albuquerque is also diverse, though in a different way, from Hawaii. So much of the driving spirit

of New Mexico is derived from the state's American Indian and Hispanic heritages. Caucasians might be in the majority in Albuquerque, but the place and its people are rich with the culture of people of color.

One of the most powerful aspects of my trip to New Mexico was learning about Victor Yamada's research on the Justice Department camps where people of Japanese heritage were imprisoned during WWII.

The JACL chapter has worked with Colorado State University on "Confinement in the Land of Enchantment: Japanese Americans in New Mexico During WWII," studying the New Mexico prison camps in Lordsburg, Santa Fe, Fort Stanton and Old Raton Ranch. I'll have to go back and tour those sites sometime.

Especially now, with the tumult of the presidential campaign, the country's divisions and the statements about banning Muslims and then creating a "registry" of Muslims — we all need to be vigilant and remember the racial fear and hatred that led to the Japanese American incarceration. And now, with so many more mixed-race people in our country — not just Asian American but also African-American, Latino and Muslim, too — will the country's racial divisions be more complicated?

That's why 2016 was tough for me — it felt like justice was on the ropes at times. I hope 2017 will be better. Feb. 19 will be the 75th anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066, so it'll be a good opportunity to educate America about our flawed past and move past it to a brighter future.

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.

PHOTOS: GIL ASAKAWA



Volunteers set up the JACL chapter's booth at Albuquerque's Aki Matsuri.

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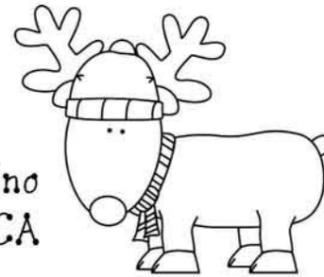
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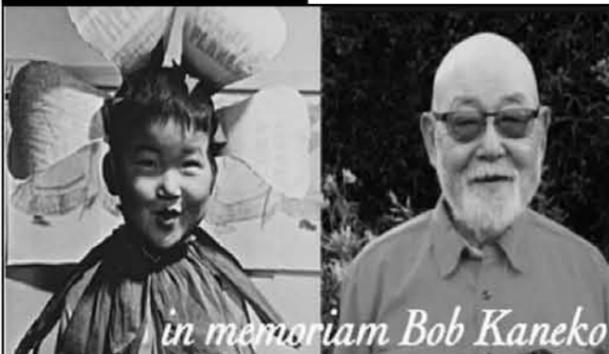
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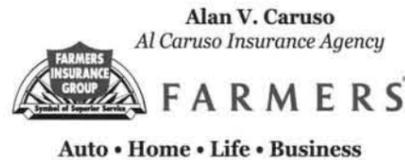
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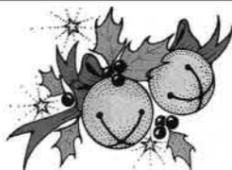


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Notables

SHUNICHI 'JAKE' CHISAKI



Passed away Tuesday, Nov. 8, 2016, in Union City, CA, at 93 years of age. A native of Los Angeles County and longtime resident of Berkeley. Survived by his daughter, Jane Chisaki of El Cerrito; sons, David Chisaki and his wife, Julia, of Richmond, CA, Marc Chisaki and his wife, Sue Kay, of Walnut Creek, CA, Paul Chisaki and his wife, Diane, of Fremont, CA, and John Chisaki and his wife, Mika, of Hercules, CA.; sisters, Haruko "Fran" Hommersand of Chapel Hill, NC, Hideko Chisaki of Berkeley, CA, and Kazuko Moriyama of Berkeley, CA; brothers, Harumi "Jim" Moriyama of Vacaville, CA, and Roy Moriyama of Hercules, CA; granddaughters, Keren, Ashley and Erica; grandsons, Kevin, Cameron and Bryan; and a host of other kindred. Preceded in death by his wife of 57 years, Satoe Chisaki, in 2009. With his family, Mr. Chisaki was interned during World War II at Poston Camp I, Arizona, but within two years of his arrival he joined the U.S. Army and served in the Military Intelligence Service; he was later awarded the Congressional Gold Medal for his service. Along with raising his family, Mr. Chisaki worked for the Veterans Association, Albany Concrete Products and Pacific Intermountain Express Trucking; retired 1985. Member, Christian Layman Church (formerly Berkeley Christian Layman Church). Former member JASEB (later known as J-SEI), JACL and Boy Scout Troop 26, Berkeley. A memorial service was held Dec. 11, 2016, at Sunset View Mortuary in El Cerrito, CA. (510) 525-5111.

NOBUO IWAMOTO



SALT LAKE CITY — Nobuo Iwamoto passed away in the early hours of Nov. 25, 2016, his 66th wedding anniversary. He led a life of honesty, integrity, hard work, selflessness and service.

Nobuo was born on May 13, 1924, in Ogden, Utah. He married Yasuko Kato on Nov. 25, 1950.

He graduated from the University of Utah with a BA Degree in Business in 1949.

His military service included World War II and the Korean Conflict,

where he was a first lieutenant and commanding officer — Counter Intelligence Unit. Nobuo, along with other Japanese American veterans, was honored in Washington, D.C., with a Congressional Gold Medal in 2011. In 2015, at the Utah State Capitol, he received the Korean Peace Medal, presented to Utah Veterans by the Ambassador for the Republic of Korea.

Nobuo retired after 34 years of service with the Salt Lake Federal Housing Administration, as deputy director. From 1978-88, he served as vice president of Western Mortgage Corporation and United Savings Bank.

He served on the National JACL Credit Union Board from 1973-95 and was chairman of the board from 1981-85. He also served as a board member and past president of the Associated Federal Credit Union.

He was a lifelong, active member of the Japanese Church of Christ.

He is survived by his beloved and devoted wife, Yas; his children, Gary (Pam) of Albuquerque, NM, and Jani (Steven Fukumitsu) of Salt Lake City; five grandchildren, Matthew (Mai), Traci, Julie (Chris Checchio), Nathan and Katie; and great-grandchildren, Ian and Kai Iwamoto.

He was an avid sports fan of the University of Utah and Utah Jazz. He enjoyed time spent in the Nisei Bowling League and Happy Time Bowlers, and weekly golf outings with friends. He enjoyed international travel, especially to Japan and China, as well as travels around the country with friends and family. He loved his family most of all.



Jerry Enomoto

Jan. 24

Enomoto, Jerry, 89, Fontana, Calif. Enomoto was a two-time JACL national president and 1992 JACL Japanese American of the Biennium. He was also a leader in the Japanese American redress movement and served 28 years with California's Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. During that period, he was appointed warden of San Quentin by Gov. Ronald Reagan. He was later tapped to serve as the director of the Department of Corrections.

As a teenager, he was incarcerated at the Tule Lake Segregation Center, where he graduated from its high school as the valedictorian. After his release, he served in the Army.

Enomoto would later testify at the hearings of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians in the early 1980s. President Clinton tapped him to become the first Asian American U.S. marshal to serve as U.S. marshal of the Eastern District of California.



Don Nakanishi

March 21

Nakanishi, Don, 66, Los Angeles. A graduate of Yale University and Harvard University, Nakanishi spent 35 years at UCLA, where he co-founded Amerasia Journal in 1971 and spent 20 years serving as director of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center. In 1989, he emerged victorious after a three-year battle to win tenure at UCLA in 1989.

He is survived by his wife, Dr. Marsha Hirano-Nakanishi; and son, Thomas.



Janet Mitsui Brown

Oct. 27

Brown, Janet Mitsui, 69, Los Angeles. The Sansei writer and illustrator of "Thanksgiving at Obaa-chan's" and other books, including "Journey to Health: Living Well From the Inside Out" was also a feng shui master consultant.

Brown is survived by her husband, Roger Aaron Brown; daughter, Tani Mitsui Brown; brother, Jeff Takeshi (Kathy) Mitsui; and many nieces, nephews and other relatives.



Dr. Paul Terasaki

Jan. 25

Terasaki, Dr. Paul, 86, Los Angeles. Terasaki was a renowned scientist, activist and community leader. He and his family were incarcerated for three years at Gila River during World War II; he later went on to become a pioneer in organ transplant methods.

In 1948, he was accepted to the University of California, Los Angeles. During his time at UCLA, Terasaki earned three degrees and received a postdoctoral fellowship in London. In 1969, he established the UCLA Tissue Typing Laboratory, where he worked until his retirement in 1999.

In addition to his work in science and medicine, Terasaki donated more than \$58 million to UCLA, and his donations helped develop the Terasaki Life Science Building and the Paul I. Terasaki Chair in Surgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA.

He is survived by his wife, Hisako; children, Mark, Keith (Cecilia), Taiji (Naoko) and Emiko (Daniel) Cook; brother, Richard Terasaki; gc: 6.



Dr. Sammy Lee

Dec. 2

Lee, Sammy, 96, Newport Beach, Calif. A two-time Olympic gold medalist in 10-meter platform diving and one-time bronze medalist in three-meter springboard diving, the Fresno, Calif.-born Korean American was inspired by the 1932 Olympic Games in Los Angeles when his father explained the event was a competition among the world's greatest athletes. He would become the first Asian American man to win an Olympic gold medal in 1948.

Lee also served in the Army as a physician specializing in ear, nose and throat medicine and overcame racial discrimination not only in athletics but also in society, defying attempts to bar him, despite his Olympic status, from buying a house in Garden Grove in Orange County, Calif. He was associated with diving at the national and international levels for the remainder of his life.

He is survived by his wife, Roz; children, Pamela and Sammy II; gc: 3.



Mark Takai

July 20

Takai, Mark, 49, Pearl City, Hawaii. The U.S. representative died nine months after being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. In his political career, he served in Hawaii's house and won re-election nine times before being elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 2014. He also served 17 years in the Hawaii Army National Guard.

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

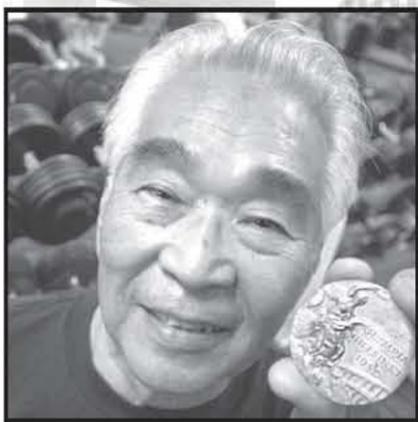
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Tommy Kono

April 24

Kono, Tommy, 85, Honolulu, Hawaii. A two-time Olympic gold medalist and an Olympic silver medalist in weightlifting, Kono was born in Sacramento, Calif. He was also a three-time Mr. Universe in bodybuilding.

During WWII, he and his family were incarcerated at the Tule Lake Segregation Center. In addition to his Olympic honors, he was the first international weightlifter to set world records in four separate weight classes.

He is survived by his wife, Florence, three children and three grandchildren.



Joseph Allman

March 23

Allman, Joseph, 93, Glendale, Ariz. Allman, a life member of JACL, was an active member with the Arizona Chapter of JACL and local Japanese cultural events who also worked to educate the public about Japanese American redress. He was also a recipient of the Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold and Silver Rays, by Japan's government.

He was predeceased by his wife, Toshiko, and is survived by his daughter, Karen Maeda Allman.

Abe, Setsue 'Sue,' 86, Hilo, HI, Dec. 2; she is survived by a daughter, Alison (Earl) Inouye; 5 siblings; she is also survived by many nieces and nephews; gc: 2.

Amate, Mike Kiyoshi, 89, Culver City, CA, Nov. 26; he is survived by his longtime companion, Lynn Yasuda; children, Ronald (Karen) Amate and Stacy (Darren) Hiraoka; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Fujimoto, Marian Yasue, 98, Culver City, CA, Nov. 23; she is survived by many nieces and nephews.

Fujimura, Hiromi 'Fuji,' 92, Pearl City, HI, Nov. 21; he was a member of the 100th Battalion, 442nd Infantry Regiment; he is survived by his children, Roy Y. (Kale), Niomi I. "Omi" (Dean) Adwell, Joan S. "Joni" (Allen) Fojas and Terrie T. Florendo; siblings, Jitsuo Fujimura, Yaeko Mikami, Setsuko Tomishima and Doreen (Richard) Barreras; gc: 11; ggc: 19.

Fujitaki, Yoshie, 92, Whittier, CA, Nov. 8; she is survived by her children, Nancy (Blair) Maffris, James (Grace) Fujitaki and Christine (Nathan) Sugimoto; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives here and in Japan; gc: 6.

Hayashi, Stanley Setsuo, 75, Downey, CA, Nov. 18; he is survived by his wife, Jeanne; son, Steven (Charlotte) Hayashi; siblings, Elaine Nicholson and Mickey Hayashi; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Ito, Shizue Vickey, 83, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA, Nov. 10; she was predeceased by her daughter, Marcia Rogers; she is survived by her husband, Louis; daughter, Connie (Donnie) Shundo; son, Vance (Yumi) Ito; son-in-law, Scott Rogers; she is also survived by other relatives here and in Japan; gc: 5.

Kano, Ruth, 94, Redondo Beach, CA, Dec. 2; she is survived by her daughter, June Kashima, and her son, Harvey Kano.

Kawaguchi, Katherine Takeko, 69, Millilani, HI, Nov. 7; she is survived by her husband, Ray; son, Lance T. (Lily) Kawaguchi; brother, Raymond M. (Gladys) Tamaribuchi; sister, Sandra H.

(Elliot) Lee; gc: 5; hanai gc: 1.

Kataoka, Irene Kazuko, 91, Whittier, CA, Nov. 23; she is survived by her children, Elaine Kazuye (Edmund) Brennan, Mary Jane (Larry) Gutierrez, Karen Sue (Wade) Waldron and Mark Kei (Kristine) Kataoka; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 11; ggc: 5.

Kenmotsu, Grace, 69, Foster City, CA, Dec. 7; she is survived by her sons, Curtis and Derek, and daughter-in-law, Emi.

Kosaka, Suzuko, 92, Sylmar, CA, Dec. 9; she is survived by her husband, Ryoichi; sons, Hirokazu (Kazuko), Masami, (Mamie) and Alan (Sandi); sister, Mioko Okuda; she is also survived by many nieces and nephews; gc: 6.

Kurushima, Jane Masayo, 76, San Gabriel, CA, Nov. 22; she is survived by her siblings, May Teruyo Nakahara, Mary Shizuyo Muraoka, Grayce Sugiyu Ohashi, Ted Susumu (Pal) Nakahara and Selma Eiko Yoshida; she is also survived by several nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Kuwabara, Kazuko, 97, Los Angeles, June 20; during WWII, she and her family were incarcerated at both the Jerome WRA camp in AR. and California's Tule Lake Segregation Center; she was predeceased by her husband, Masaaki Kuwabara, and son-in-law, Takuo Matsuoka; she is survived by her children, Hiromi Matsuoka, Hajime (Tomoko) Kuwabara and Hiroshi (Noriyo) Kuwabara; gc: 5.

Maeda, Sachiko, 97, Happy Valley, OR, Nov. 26; during WWII, she and her family were incarcerated at the WRA camp in Minidoka, ID; she was predeceased by her husband, Frank; she is survived by her children, Frank Maeda Jr., Joanne Hess (Dan), Donna Mills (Lon) and Dick Maeda (Gay); gc: 5; ggc: 6.

Miyai, Katsumi, 85, San Diego, CA, Nov. 9; he is survived by his wife, Chiyoko; his three children and grandchildren.

Mizutani, Shizuyo, 92, Los Angeles, Dec. 6; she is survived by her children, Kiyoko (Yoshihisa) Makita and Seichiro Mizutani; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 3; ggc: 3.

Murahata, Anna, 95, Denver, CO, Nov. 24; she is survived by her children, Dennis, Richard and Sue, as well as their respective spouses; and her sister, Kiyoko Omoto.

Murakami, Yomiko, 106, Rosemead, CA, Nov. 7; she is survived by her children, Richard Michio (Masako), Eugene Toshio (Elaine), Daniel Shigeo Murakami; Katherine Hiroko (Roy) Otamura; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 9; ggc: 10; gggc: 10.

Nakata, Clifford S., 87, Colorado Springs, CO, Nov. 30; he was incarcerated with his family during WWII at the Gila River WRA camp in AZ; he was predeceased by his son, Eric; he is survived by his wife, Gayle; daughter, Cara and son-in-law Richard Oursler; and his twin sister, Carolyn.

Nishibayashi, Frances Tsuyuko, 91, Seal Beach, CA; she is survived by her children, Steven (Mary Dee Hacker), Glenn (Kathy) and Paula (Craig Stewart) Nishibayashi; gc: 6.

Nohara, Mary 'Yaeko,' 87, Honolulu, Dec. 3; she is survived by her sons, Robert (Colette) Kalani, Gary (Dawn) Yogi, Alan (Dawn) and Scot Nohara; gc: 3.

Nuibe, Ellen Eiko, 70, Waipahu, HI, Nov. 18; she is survived by her husband, Wayne; sons, Wade (Michele) Nuibe, Leighton Nuibe; siblings, Lance (Nadine) Shibata, Rachel (Cy) Shimamoto, Jill (Norman) Barry; gc: 1.

Okawa, Ronald Takeki, 94, Granada Hills, CA, Nov. 5; he was predeceased by his first wife, Afton; second wife, Manuela; and third wife, Gloria; he is survived by his children, Steve (Sue), Karen (David), Diana (Ron) and Paul (Hamida); he is also survived by several nieces and nephews; gc: 6; ggc: 1.

Ong-Sakata, Madeline, 78, Phoenix, AZ, Nov. 23; she was predeceased by her husband, Leroy; she is survived by her children, David (Alice), Jackeline (Bruce), Michelene (William), Lisa (Scott), Jolie (Larry) and MJ; gc: 14.

Ota, Mariko M., 92, Gresham, Ore.; she is survived by her husband, Shigeo Frank; children, Susan, Donna, Doug and Linda; siblings, Momoko Kido, Takato Jim Morinaga, Ben Morinaga, George Morinaga, Sumire Violet Yagi; she is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

Sahara, Joyce Michiko, 74, El Macero, CA, Nov. 27; she is survived by her husband, Robert; daughter, Jennifer Sahara Dalbec (Tim); gc: 1.

Sakata, Roy Kazuaki, 73, Alhambra, CA, Dec. 4; he is survived by his wife, Keiko; children, Rob Sakata and Kumiko (Mike) Williams;

siblings, Kay, James, Terry Sakata and Susan Terasawa; gc: 3.

Sawai, Joann, 73, Honolulu, Dec. 1; she is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, Kevin and Audrey Fukao; daughter, Sandy Kakuno; son, William Kakuno; son and daughter-in-law, Robert and Ana Kakuno; former husband, Gary Sawai; and siblings Gary and Kathleen Suzukawa; gc: 6.

Shishino, Misuko Ryozaiki, 90, Los Angeles, Nov. 25; she is survived by her husband, Hayao; children, Kathy (David) Cataldo, Rob (Roxie) Shishino and Janet (Joe) Okimoto; sister, Tomi Hamano; gc: 7.

Sunahara, June John, 94, Sacramento, CA, Dec. 2; he is survived by his wife, Tokie; children, Russell, Dennis (Lynn), Margie (Darrell), Michael (Cathy), Zuyde (Kenny); siblings, Kazuye Yasui, Rio (Midori), Ben (Ginger) and Seiko Okimura; gc: 9; ggc: 7.

Takahashi, George K., 75, Montebello, CA, Nov. 29; he is survived by his wife, Hideko Takahashi; children, Damien Takahashi and Denise (Brian) Yamada; sister, Helen Theohar; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives here and in Japan; gc: 1.

Takehana, Shizuye, 102, Montebello, CA, Nov. 24; she is survived by her sons, Shigeru (Sunnie-Han) and Ralph Takehana; gc: 3; ggc: 6.

Toda, Tamae, 85, Pasadena, CA, Nov. 5; she is survived by her husband, Akira; two sisters; a sister-in-law; and many nieces and nephews.

Tsujimoto, Dennis Kazuo, 78, Brea, CA, Dec. 7; he is survived by his wife, Shoko; daughters, Wendy Tsujimoto, Lynn Tsujimoto, Laura (Jeff) Wiederkehr; siblings, Stuart (Frances) Tsujimoto, May (Walter) Kitagawa, Nancy (Ed) Yamaguchi, Joyce (Ted) Kesterson and Judy (Jackson) Aoki; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2.

Uyeda, Lilly Yuriko, 105, Seattle, WA, Nov. 17; she and her family were incarcerated at the WRA camp in Minidoka, ID; she was predeceased by her husband, Tadao; she is survived by her children, Grace, JoAnn Yamamoto (Bob), Bryan, Deane (Barbara) and Evie Hall (Pat); siblings, May Otani (Akira), Toshio Funai (Yaeko); sisters-in-law "Fuzzy" (George) Funai and Lena (Frank) Funai; she is also survived by many nieces and nephews; gc: 4; ggc: 4.

Woolford, Keo, 49, Honolulu, Nov. 28; "Hawaii Five-0" actor and director of the 2013 movie "The Haumana"; he is survived by his father; and 2 siblings. ■

We miss you both and are thinking of you this holiday season.



....Love, Jerry, Jim and Peggy

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