

PACIFIC CITIZEN

Happy New Year
2017



YEAR OF THE ROOSTER

INSIDE!

**National Board Members Forecast
and JACL 2016 Annual Report**

JACL ANNOUNCES LAUNCH OF NEW YOUTH LEGACY PROJECT

During the summer of 2017, JACL will launch a new program for college-age youth to provide an experienced-based opportunity to heighten their understanding about the history of Japanese Americans, focusing on the incarceration. The highlight of this program will feature a visit to Manzanar.

The Japanese American Legacy Project is being developed through a partnership between JACL and the National Park Service. The program will connect Japanese American youth with a NPS historical site that has cultural significance to Japanese Americans. The program also aims to address the search for personal identity experienced by many young Japanese Americans who seek greater affirmation and understanding about their history and culture.

The 2017 Japanese American Legacy Project

will accommodate 40 participants in two separate four-day sessions. Each session will have two components: a one-day orientation, including a tour of the historic Little Tokyo neighborhood of Los Angeles, a tour of the Japanese American National Museum and its "Common Ground" exhibit on Japanese American incarceration, as well as learning sessions with Asian American studies faculty from local universities and a one-day trip to the Manzanar National Historic Site in California's Owens Valley.

This program will evolve to accommodate NPS internship positions at Manzanar for participants who complete the Japanese American Legacy Project. These interns will work alongside NPS staff at the Manzanar National Historic Site beginning in the summer of 2018. Interns will work closely with NPS staff

day-to-day and receive additional mentoring and support through JACL. The internships will be compensated with a weekly stipend.

The 2017 Japanese American Legacy Project will be offered in two sessions on July 25-28 and on Aug. 8-11. Participation in this program is offered to any self-identified Japanese American between the ages of 18-25. The participant should have a strong interest in incarceration history and historic preservation.

Additional information and applications for this program will soon be made available on the JACL website (www.jacl.org) and through JACL chapter presidents.



NATIONAL JACL ANNOUNCES 2017 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

SAN FRANCISCO — The Japanese American Citizens League announces its National Scholarship and Awards Program for the 2017 academic year. The JACL annually offers approximately 30 college scholarships for students who are incoming college freshmen, undergraduates and graduates, as well as those specializing in law and the creative/performing arts. There are also student aid scholarships for those in need of financial assistance in this era of rising tuition costs.

Scholarship Program information, instructions and applications can be found on the JACL website (www.jacl.org) by clicking "Youth" on the menu bar.

Freshman applications must be submitted

directly by the applicant to his/her local JACL chapter, with a postmark no later than March 1. Freshman applicants may obtain the mailing address of his/her chapter by contacting Membership Assistant Tomiko Ismail at tismail@jacl.org or by calling the Membership Department at (415) 921-5225, extension 26.

Chapters will then have one month to evaluate their freshman applications and will forward only the most outstanding ones to the National JACL Freshman Scholarship Committee, c/o JACL NCWNP District, 3566 Barley Court, San Jose, CA 95127, no later than April 1.

Applications for the "other" scholarship categories (undergraduate, graduate, law, creative/performing arts, and student aid) are to

be sent directly by the applicant to the National JACL Scholarship Committee, c/o Central California District Council, with a postmark no later than April 1. The mailing address for this committee can be found on the application itself.

All those applying to the National JACL Scholarship Program must be a student member or individual member of the JACL.

For more information on the National JACL Scholarship Program, contact Regional Director Patty Wada at pwada@jacl.org or National JACL VP for Planning & Development Matthew Farrells at mfarrells@jacl.org.

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

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NIKKEI VOICE



HAPPY NEW YEAR ... NOW LET'S GET DOWN TO WORK

By Gil Asakawa

Happy New Year! *Shinnen akemashi-te omedetou!* I love the New Year because it's a time to look back and assess our accomplishments from last year and look forward with hope and anticipation for the successes to come this year. However, I'm not quite so hopeful about 2017.

Organizations such as JACL, which are on the frontlines of social justice, civil rights and human rights, will need to be vigilant. We're now entering an era (let's hope it's just four years) when our fundamental values of fairness, ethics and humanity will be threatened. Our new president in just a week in office has signed a flurry of executive orders, and some of them may go down in history as being as onerous, harsh and unjust as Executive Order 9066 turned out to be.

When President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed E.O. 9066 on Feb. 19, 1942, he may have thought he was doing the right thing to

protect the United States. He may not have realized that he was legitimizing the U.S. military's ability to round up more than 110,000 people of Japanese heritage and place them in hastily thrown-together concentration camps in desolate areas of the country (no offense to people who live by the former campsites).

It took more than four decades, after a grueling decade and a half of efforts by Japanese American leaders (including JACL) for President Ronald Reagan's signature on the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which included a formal apology from the government and restitution for the injustice of upending an entire community's lives.

I hate to say it, but it feels as if we're dangerously close to replay this scenario today. The crazy talk during last year's presidential campaigns of banning Muslims, then banning Muslims from certain countries, creating a database of all Muslims in the

U.S. and then finally, creating a "registry" of Muslims — which was mentioned with the "precedent" of the Japanese American incarceration experience as a model — has turned out to be not so crazy, but quite real.

President Donald Trump has already signed orders that will make America not great, but narcissistically focused on itself — much like the president himself, with his obsession over image and popularity. "America first" means the rest of the world doesn't matter. He wants the wall between Mexico to be built, and Mexico's president just canceled a state visit over Trump's insistence on going through with the wall. Trump wants to crack down on undocumented immigrants and deport them. He wants to punish "sanctuary cities" for their humanitarian inclusiveness of refugees and undocumented immigrants. He wants to block refugees from Syria and other countries.

The arts are under fire. The president's budget doesn't include funding for the National Endowment for the Arts or the Endowment for the Humanities. PBS and NPR are in the budgetary crosshairs.

Freedom of the press is also taking broadside from the new administration, which insists that accurate reporting about the size of the inaugural crowds or the lack of proof for voter fraud during the election is an attack on the president's "legitimacy." Instead, Trump and his spokespeople offer up "alternative facts" to counter the truth with lies.

Yes, the election is over, and Trump won.

PHOTO: GIL ASAKAWA



A picture from Denver's Women's March on Jan. 21.

We shouldn't continue litigating that fact. But look at the months since the election and the president's behavior before the inauguration. Look at his behavior this past week. Media reports (no doubt the "failing," unfair media) note that even some of his aides are concerned about his inability to focus on running the country, instead waging a running battle with his critics that focuses on himself.

This is the country we live in today. It's still the country we love. That's why we need to roll up our sleeves and get to work. We'll have to be vigilant, and we'll have to fight every injustice, diligently and publicly.

Gil Asakawa is the chair of the Editorial Board of the Pacific Citizen and the author of "Being Japanese American" (second edition Stone Bridge Press, 2015). He blogs at www.nikkeiview.com.

LEGAL-EASE: AN ATTORNEY'S PERSPECTIVE



WHAT EVERY NEW PARENT NEEDS TO KNOW

By Staci Yamashita-Iida, Esq.

The new year greeted me with exciting news: I became an auntie. My brother and sister-in-law welcomed their first child into the world in early January. It was a truly monumental occasion and a wonderful way to begin 2017.

When I heard about my niece's birth, the lawyer in me sprang to life. I began to make mental notes of all of the things they should prepare for in terms of their estate plan.

For new parents, the main focus is caring for the baby. It's not always a top priority to imagine a future where unthinkable things can occur, yet the reality is that anything can happen. And if something does occur, you'll want to make sure your child is well taken care of. Taking that into consideration, I'd like to share the same recommendations I gave to my brother and sister-in-law regarding their newborn:

Choose a Guardian

First and foremost, if you are a new parent, you should nominate a guardian

(or guardians) for your minor child in your will. By doing so, you have control over who will gain custody over your child in the unlikely event that something happens to you and your spouse — otherwise a judge can be put in charge of that decision.

But who should you choose? Parents, siblings, friends? When selecting a guardian, it's important to consider who would be willing to take on the responsibility of raising your child, as well as the prospective guardian's age and health, physical location and parenting philosophy.

Legally, it is permissible to name more than one guardian... but that can become problematic if the co-guardians later disagree. If, for example, you name your brother and sister as co-guardians and they live in different states (or even different cities), an argument may arise over where to raise your child. On the other hand, if you prefer to have two people act as co-parents for your child (such as your brother and sister-in-law), then you can certainly appoint more than

one person.

If you feel anxious or stressed over deciding who to name, take comfort in knowing that your decision does not have to be permanent. Wills can always be modified. If you appoint your parents as guardians but their health later declines, you can update your will to substitute your sister as guardian. Focus on who is the most capable now; you can always revisit this subject later on.

Create a Living Trust

Because a guardian is not legally obligated to use his or her own money to raise your child, it's important to create the legal documents necessary to ensure your child's well-being. By creating a living trust, you can stipulate that your assets (your home, savings, etc.) will be inherited by your child to use throughout his or her lifetime.

In the event that you pass, your assets would not be distributed to your minor child outright. Instead, you would name a trustee (who can also be the guardian) to be in charge of managing and distributing your assets. The trustee would then distribute the assets to your child to be used for his or her health, education, maintenance and support. So, if your child needed money to pay for college tuition, the guardian would not be financially responsible. Instead, the trustee would allocate the funds necessary to pay for the tuition.

Update Beneficiary Designations

Many people forget to update the beneficiaries of their financial accounts when big life changes occur. If you're a new parent, you should review life insurance policies, retirement accounts, checking and savings accounts and other financial assets to make sure the proper beneficiaries are listed.

Generally, you would name your spouse first, then list your child as the alternate beneficiary.

With many types of accounts, the funds will be held by an adult custodian or guardian until your child reaches the age of 18. If the accounts have a substantial amount of money, you may prefer to have your child receive the funds at a later age when he or she is more mature. You can do so (depending on the type of account) by funding it into your living trust and then specifying at what age your child will inherit the asset. This prolonged age is completely customizable: You can have your child inherit all at once (e.g., everything at age 35) or gradually let them inherit over the years (10 percent of their inheritance every three years).

If you're the parent of an infant, there just isn't enough time or energy to focus on anything other than the baby. Just the idea of getting your affairs in order is tiresome and overwhelming. But perhaps later, when you're a bit more well-rested, you can tackle these items one by one. Preparing for the worst, while morbid, is ultimately the best way to secure your child's future interests. These three simple steps are just a few things that can give you the peace of mind of knowing that your child will be taken care of, no matter what happens.

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.

WE MUST CONTINUE TO RECOGNIZE THE POWER OF OUR NETWORK OF VOICES ACROSS THE U.S.



By Gary Mayeda,
JACL National President

It takes a special kind of person to volunteer for two years to want to lead an 88-year-old civil and human rights organization. There is something very special about JACL that draws us all in, whether it is community service that each chapter gets involved with, scholarships that are generously awarded to hundreds of students every year or the camaraderie that is developed with people that we befriend over common interests.

On the district and national level, the connection to JACL could be recognizing the power of a network of voices across the U.S. that continues to contribute to years

of civil rights accomplishments.

The National Board is a team of that kind of special volunteers that comes together to champion civil rights not just for Japanese Americans or Asian Americans but also for all people. It is simply a part of our Vision and Mission statement. We bring our various voices together, debate and speak as one.

My dream goal is to increase the profile and visibility of JACL to our funders, our communities and the greater community at large. Engaging with the public will let them know what our programs and initiatives are and to whom they touch. This greater level of visibility will lead to greater levels of funding to the organization, which in turn will lead to more staff support and a greater ability to fund and manage programs.

So far, I've been to Washington, D.C., twice at no cost to JACL, and was a part of a program at the White House that connected the generational experiences of Japanese Americans with the Muslim, Arab, Sikh and South Asian (MASSA) communities.

From this experience, I was inter-

viewed on mainstream TV that was broadcasted across the Southern California area on ABC Channel 7 by newscaster David Ono. The other occasion in D.C. was at the invite of the Embassy of Japan for a Japanese American Leaders gathering, where 23 Japanese Americans from across the U.S., plus the consul generals from every district, discussed issues facing our communities today. Proudly, about a third of the attendees were JACL members.

I've been interviewed by high school students from Bedford, Mass., whose history project was to learn more about the Japanese American internment experience, and I have participated in many chapter events since.

I will also be in Washington, D.C., for the 75th commemoration of the signing of E.O. 9066 at the Smithsonian Museum of American History, speaking on behalf of JACL on Feb. 16.

Every two or three weeks, in an effort to be more open to the members, I have written a President's Update memo that shares what I've seen and been involved with. Its style is more personal, as you get more professionally written articles in the *Pacific Citizen* and more specific policy issues from the

D.C. Digest. If you have not received them, please contact your chapter president, district governor or any staff for those emailed PDFs or contact me directly.

I believe the visibility of JACL is elevated. The many comments and feedback, both positive and a little less than positive, from members has continued to make me a better president for the JACL. It has both shaped and strengthened my goals for the organization.

Active and frequent direct communication via our National Board, district governors and at the chapter level has worked well. I am talking to committee members to help shape their vision and goals for their committees. And meeting with many other AAPI non-profit organizations has helped reinforce bonds and brought about a more collaborative effort toward a common goal.

I believe our future is not without some challenges. Membership needs to grow, not only for the financial support but also for the people support of local programs. Our staff of seven across the U.S. is in dire need of support. We must volunteer more to help in any way. Our Fellowship Program has introduced JACL to bright and enthusiastic

individuals that will become future leaders in our communities.

Financially, we are on track with our established budget. We have not had the need to touch our reserves at all. We have already secured some sponsorship for this year's National Convention in Washington, D.C., set for July 6-8 at the Shoreham Hotel, and continue to court more. We also received another grant from the National Park Service and have permission to start spending a portion of the grant now. This is all great news.

We have developed stronger relations with the Muslim communities with chapters all across our districts and have included these like-minded communities to our DORs. The hint of a Muslim registry is something that should never happen, and with all of our voices, we hope that the next administration will not repeat the mistake that stripped our souls 75 years ago.

I am here humbly as your National President. I may have a day job, but this is my passion: to volunteer on behalf of all of us to further the cause of JACL. As a former National President once told me, this is the best job I will never get paid for... and this is the spirit of volunteerism. ■

JACL MUST CONTINUE TO CHALLENGE THE STATUS QUO



By Matthew Farrells,
VP Planning & Development

Happy New Year! I wish everyone a healthy and prosperous new year. As we enter 2017, I'd like to take a quick moment to reflect on the accomplishments of the previous year. The VP Planning & Development role has several programs under its purview, including: Internships and Fellowships, Scholarship, Legacy Fund Grants and Fund Development programs.

This past fall, JACL completed another successful round of the Scholarship Program, where the organization awarded over \$74,000 in scholarships to 28 deserving applicants. The Scholarship Pro-

gram supports JACL's mission to assist young community members to pursue higher education and elevate JACL's visibility within the civil rights arena. In my belief, this is one of the premier programs that ensures that JACL continues to engage young community members and which will hopefully contribute to filling the membership ranks of the JACL for years to come.

Looking ahead to 2017, the Legacy Fund Grant Program and fund development are two areas of focus. First, the Legacy Fund Grant committee and staff are hard at work to deliver another successful round of legacy fund grants this summer. Each year, JACL awards approximately \$35,000 in grants to numerous grant applicants with the goal of furthering the mission of the JACL. In 2016, 14 grant applications were received, and the committee continues to seek ways to grow the program into 2017.

In addition, another major area of focus for JACL in 2017 is fund development. In July at the 2016 National Convention in Las Vegas, I ran on the platform of making fund development my No. 1 priority. My hope is to kick-start the

fundraising initiative this year in conjunction with the hiring of a permanent executive director.

It is not only the board's vision and guidance that lead the fundraising program, but also it's the executive director who propels the fundraising efforts to new bounds, as fund development is most importantly about building long-lasting relationships with our funding partners, something that an ED is well-positioned to

accomplish in a full-time role.

However, as the national board diligently identifies and hires a qualified executive director, the focus of fundraising cannot be ignored. Prior to assuming office in July, I believed the organization could improve its fundraising efforts by expanding the base of fundraisers for JACL to those who know the organization the best — our members.

By creating a network of

proficient fundraisers across the nation, we could jump-start our efforts to increase our existing fundraising and seek out new ways to bring funders into the fold by learning about JACL and creating strategic alliances to fund new program initiatives.

This loosely formulated network would operate as a new fundraising committee to provide guidance to the board and ED on fundraising-related matters. Although this committee has just begun forming,

>> See STATUS on page 6

Polaris Tours 2017 Schedule

Mar. 22 ~ Mar. 31
Apr. 02 ~ Apr. 11
April 30 - May 13
May. 21 ~ Jun. 01
May. 14 ~ May. 28
Jun. 18 ~ Jun. 30
Jul. 02 ~ Jul. 11
Jul. 10 ~ Jul. 21
Sep. 03 ~ Sep. 14
Sep. 17 ~ Sep. 24
Sep. 25 ~ Oct. 09
Oct. 03 ~ Oct. 16
Oct. 15 ~ Oct. 24
Oct. 29 ~ Nov. 08

Cuba's Charming Colonial Cities & Havana: "Highlights Tour of Cuba"
Spring Japan: "Tokyo, Hakone, Inuyama, Kyoto, Hiroshima, Miyajima"
South Korea (East Coast): "Seoul, Jeju, Busan, Gyeongju, Seorak"
Bikkuri Tour with Moto & Ken: "The Journey of Miyamoto Musashi"
The Scandinavian: "Copenhagen, Aarhus, Stockholm, Bergen, Oslo"
England & Wales & Scotland: "London, Cardiff, Glasgow, Edinburgh"
Japan By Train: "Hiroshima, Kurashiki, Okayama, Kyoto, Tokyo"
Newfoundland & Labrador: "Corner Brook, Rocky Harbour, St. John's"
Let's Go Hokkaido: "Sapporo, Sounkyo, Shiretoko, Tomamu, Toyako"
Iceland Adventure: "Reykjavik, Borgarnes, Hofn, Lake Jokulsarlon, Vik,"
Western Explorer: "Scottsdale, Grand Canyon, Las Vegas, Yosemite"
Eastern US & Canada Discovery: "Boston, Quebec City, Toronto, NYC"
Autumn Japan: "Tokyo, Takayama, Kanazawa, Kyoto, Hiroshima"
Islands of Okinawa & Shikoku: "Naha, Takamatsu, Matsuyama, Kochi"

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A LESSON IN AMERICAN HISTORY



By Bill Yoshino,
Interim Executive Director and
Midwest Regional Director

I've seen much during my years with JACL, and I've had the opportunity of participating in some of its hallmark projects such as the Redress campaign during the 1980s and the efforts to respond to defamation and hate crimes since the killing of Vincent Chin.

These programs were noteworthy and important. However, the most enduring and perhaps the most important program initiative during my years with JACL has been its continuing effort to educate the

public about the legacy and lessons of incarceration.

There hasn't always been clarity of purpose about JACL's program priorities. Now, more than ever, when our staff and financial resources must be optimized and when we are trying to appeal to a changing Japanese American demographic for membership, our identity and our purpose must be clear.

It's important for JACL to focus in program areas that demonstrate our strength, where we can be a leader. For JACL, that program area is EDUCATION, and, more specifically, it's telling and retelling the story about the wrongdoing of incarceration.

This may be an old story, but its lessons are as important today as they ever were.

Think about the aftermath of Sept. 11 and its parallels to Dec. 7; think about the plight of Syrian refugees and the fear and suspicion that they are instruments of terror; or about the detention facilities constructed along the Texas border for Central

American women and children fleeing violence and seeking asylum in the United States. And think about the larger themes such as privacy in the face of government intrusion or about the consequences of hysteria during times of crisis or about due process and equal protection.

JACL can be a leader and tell this story because it's our story. Who better to tell this story by repeating and reinforcing the voices and experiences within our community. JACL can and must do this.

We have curriculum materials, and we have experience in presenting workshops for teachers as we've been doing for over 20 years. In the past three years, we've presented training workshops for approximately 300 teachers through a grant from the National Park Service.

Last summer, utilizing a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, we provided workshops for 70 teachers from throughout the United States, who in turn will teach units on incarceration to their students.

Education also encompasses our youth where JACL provides programs that seek to connect them with their personal identity, their historic legacy and their cultural ancestry.

JACL addresses this through its Kakehashi Program and the soon-to-be Japanese American Youth Legacy Project, funded by the National Park Service, which will provide an opportunity for our youth to visit Manzanar and other Japanese American historic sites.

But we need to do more. What separates JACL from other Japanese American organizations in telling this story is that we're a national organization with a national reach.

JACL can involve our chapters from around the country to engage in the work of connecting with schools and teachers, so they will include units about incarceration in their classrooms.

JACL chapters can also identify youth to participate in our youth education programs. Imagine if we empower our chapters with resources and instruction, so that they can be even more effective in provid-

ing workshops for teachers in their local areas.

Our focus on education coincides with much of our public policy agenda about promoting diversity and protecting the rights of vulnerable groups.

This is true in the current climate with public pronouncements about using the incarceration as a "precedent" to create a Muslim registry even though we know the decision in the Korematsu case has been thoroughly repudiated by historians and legal scholars.

Nevertheless, we must be prepared for those who trade in fear and suspicion from pursuing dubious policies that undermine liberties.

JACL's future must be invested in core programs that reflect our competency of conveying our unique story. It serves as the basis for speaking out on the issues of the day, especially on profiling, stereotyping, negative media portrayals, racial slurs and attacks on the value of diversity.

Prioritizing education will hasten the day when our story is truly seen by all as a lesson in American history. ■

IT'S INCUMBENT ON US ALL TO EXERCISE FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY



By Alan Nishi,
JACL Secretary-Treasurer

Before I begin my column, I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year!

As I began my term after being appointed as Secretary-Treasurer following the conclusion of July's National Convention, I find my JACL journey coming full circle. I began my National Board tenure in the mid-1980s during the Redress years as Secretary-Treasurer, and now I find myself back in the saddle facing many new challenges overseeing our organization's finances.

For those of you who are not familiar with my JACL and professional background, I am a career commercial banker and have not only served as a past National Secretary-Treasurer but also as VP Membership Services and as the NCWNP Governor. I have also served as the chair of the National JACL Audit Committee. With that said, I have started my term with a firm understanding of the financial challenges that our organization will face in the new biennium.

Since assuming the Secretary-Treasurer's position, I have been working with our Business Manager to bring myself up to speed

on our organization's finances and monitor our budget and cash-flow position for 2016.

In mid-2016, the previous National Board, after coming off a 2015 budget deficit in excess of \$500,000, prudently revised the 2016 budget from that of a balanced budget to a deficit budget of approximately \$200,000 to more accurately reflect expected revenues and expenses for the year.

Our preliminary year-end budget numbers are indicating a year-end budget deficit in an amount less than budgeted. This was primarily due to our investment income significantly exceeding budget expectations due to the favorable market conditions during 2016, which helped offset the declines in P.C. and membership revenue. I will be making a detailed 2016 budget report at the upcoming February National Board meeting once the year-end financial numbers have been finalized.

As of the fiscal year ending Dec. 31, 2016, our reserve fund is currently at approximately \$290,000, and it remains intact as we have not had to draw on our reserves since reported at the last convention.

As we enter the new year, my objectives for 2017 will be to:

- Diligently monitor the 2017 budget for adherence to budgeted expenses and revenue performance, which would include possible budget revisions during the year should our financial situation dictate.
- Produce monthly cash-flow statements and projections, which will allow for better forecasting of the organization's cash needs.

>> See RESPONSIBILITY on page 6

AMERICAN HOLIDAY TRAVEL

2017 TOUR SCHEDULE

- Japan Spring Countryside Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida). Apr 14-24
Tokyo, Nagano, Sado Island, Niigata, Sakata/Shonai, Yamagata, Aizu Wakamatsu, Ashikaga.
- 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) WAITLIST 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
Lake Akan, Furano, Asahikawa, Wakkanai, Sapporo, Lake Toya, 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.
- New Orleans & Deep South Holiday Tour (Elaine Ishida). Nov 5-12
New Orleans, Natchez, Lafayette.
- So. America Patagonia-Easter Island Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida). Nov 7-22
Buenos Aires, Ushuaia, Calafate(Perito Moreno Glacier), Paine National Park(Grey Glacier), Punta Arenas, Santiago, Easter Island.

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FAIRNESS. EQUALITY. SOCIAL JUSTICE. WE MUST USE OUR VOICE TO FIGHT FOR A WORLD THAT REFLECTS THESE THREE VALUES



By Jeffrey Moy,
VP Public Affairs

We JACL members begin 2017 facing a great deal of uncertainty. Internally, our new board faces a number of challenges regarding our budget and membership numbers, as well as the challenge of determining the direction of the organization for the next two years and beyond. Externally, we face the first new administration in eight years,

which takes over with many concerned about the unhealthy rhetoric of the election carrying over into new policies or resulting in the repeal of others. At times, these obstacles may seem overwhelming or cause anxiety and despair. But even though it would be easy to be cynical, I couldn't be prouder of being a JACL member and continuing to serve in this challenging time.

As the oldest and largest Asian American and Pacific Islander civil rights organization, it's important that we reflect upon JACL's vision: "... to promote a world that honors diversity by respecting values of fairness, equality and social justice." Fairness. Equality. Social justice. Whether an issue that specifically targets Japanese Americans or one that affects another community that has been historically discriminated against, it is in-

cumbent upon us as an organization to use our voice to fight for a world that reflects these three values.

So, when I draft a statement or recommend a policy position to the board, these are the words that first come to mind, along with the voices of other members who share their thoughts with me. As we make difficult choices with our current budget and dream of future possibilities, I know these same words will continue to drive me in considering how we can help make this world a reality.

Knowing the diverse opinions of our members, it's unsurprising that at times the board may arrive at positions that don't appeal to everyone. As always, I urge everyone to continue letting myself and the rest of the board know how they feel about positions we have or have not taken.

It's important that we continue to

have open communication so that we can fairly assess our membership, and I can honestly say that one of the best parts of my first term was engaging in open and honest dialogue about the issues we face as a community. I know that my second term will allow me even more opportunity for these conversations, especially as we face a more ambiguous political climate.

In keeping with the theme of communication, please also continue letting us know what you would like to see from our website. Overall, the feedback has been quite positive, but we want to make sure that members are able to access the resources they want as easily as possible. We also want to know more about the type of content you would like to see featured on our website, whether it's more educational resources or blog posts.

As a final request, I know many of our chapters are preparing for events around the 75th anniversary of Executive Order 9066. Please be sure to send us updates on any of these events so that we can help spread the word and make sure they are featured in future issues of the *Pacific Citizen*, as well as on our website or the *JACL Digest*.

I know that we, as a community, have a lot of tough conversations ahead of us in the upcoming years. But I am also excited for the continued work with our wide array of partners, the important events that will allow us to honor our families and share our stories and, most importantly, capturing all of the great work that our members continue to do around the country. Thanks to all of you for your continued commitment to the JACL, our community and a more just society. ■

WE MUST CONTINUE TO PUSH FOR EQUALITY, FAIRNESS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE FOR ALL PEOPLE



By Janet Komoto,
IDC Governor

New Year's greetings to all members of the Intermountain District! I'm normally a pretty optimistic person, but I've been feeling sad since the evening of Nov. 8, 2016. As you all know, we had an election that day, and it affected me like no other election before.

It seems that we had been making fairly good strides in the civil rights arena in the last 50 years. I felt that we were making progress as a country with awareness, acknowledgment and acceptance of our individ-

ual differences in ethnicity, religion and sexual orientation, along with steady immigration and programs to accommodate new Americans.

What is most disturbing is the shift in the political climate away from a progressive position and people's bullying attitude about tearing down what took so long to build up. The recent rhetoric from the new leadership is upsetting, but we have to remain optimistic and vigilant and continue to push for equality, fairness and social justice for all people who live in America.

We need to remember the basic premise of why we joined JACL — to secure and uphold civil and human rights for all people. We may not all agree with one another all the time, but we should be able to have civil discussions about those differences.

As long as I am in this position, I will strive to work on these major goals for the organization. I want to develop a sense of family through-

out our district, which stretches from Eastern Oregon to Colorado. I want to build trust amongst the chapters and have us support one another's activities, events and goals. From this sense of family, I hope this can build into a larger sense of community, which we can then share with the other communities that surround us.

We need to get the JACL on better financial footing. My focus will be on the revenue-generating side through memberships and fundraisers. For those of you who have not heard, we have been having a district-wide membership contest for the last three years. At the end of the year, we recognize the chapter with the largest percentage increase in membership and have their name engraved on a perpetual plaque, which hangs in the JACL Credit Union in Salt Lake.

All of us can work on increasing membership. Start asking your friends, co-workers and allies. They don't have to be Japanese American.

You might be surprised who would be willing to join you in your quest for social justice in your own community.

I have been working on activating a dormant chapter in Ft. Lupton, Colo., for the past year. Slowly, but surely, we are making progress. They have signed up new members, they have elected a new slate of officers and they are reviewing its by-laws.

Our next district meeting will be in the Denver area on Feb. 18 from 1-5 p.m. at the Asian Pacific Development Center. Everyone is welcome to attend. If you can stay overnight, the Mile High chapter would like to invite you to attend a special Day of Remembrance program to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the issuance of Executive Order 9066 at the History Colorado Center in Denver from 1-3 p.m. on Feb. 19. This is being presented in partnership with the Japanese American Resource Center of Colorado, the History Colorado Center and the

Mile High JACL chapter.

The main speaker will be Lane Hirabayashi, who will make a presentation on the post-war resettlement of JAs in Colorado. Adele Arakawa, Channel 9 news anchor, has agreed to be the MC. They will also offer home movies from the period (including some filmed at Amache), an exhibition of photos from Lane's book, an update of the ongoing Amache excavation project at Denver University, music and refreshments.

The History Colorado Center includes a permanent Amache exhibit. HCC will offer free admission to DOR attendees so that you can see this exhibit and explore other areas of the museum as well.

The IDC will be offering one scholarship this year, so watch for the announcement of its application instructions soon.

As your district representative, I want to be as accessible as possible. You can call me at (208) 739-2777 or email me at janetkomoto@gmail.com anytime. ■

STATUS >> continued from page 4

I am encouraged by the initial willingness of our members to participate and assist JACL during these challenging times.

In conclusion, as this New Year begins, JACL has many great opportunities ahead. From continuing the great work of the Scholarship and Legacy Fund Grant programs to ushering in new interns and fellows

to support programs and advocacy efforts of JACL to reviving existing and forging new fundraising initiatives, JACL will continue to thrive and challenge the status quo.

Lastly, I'd be remiss not to recognize the hard work and dedication of staff and volunteers that carry out the good work of JACL. These individuals devote their time and effort to ensure our programs remain some of the most positively impactful on our community and organization's members. And for that, we thank you! ■

RESPONSIBILITY >> continued from page 5

- Oversee the formation of a Financial Oversight Committee, which is expected to provide fiscal guidance to the National Board.
- Maintain and build our reserve fund to cover any future budget/cash-flow shortfalls.
- Keep the membership informed of our

financial progress during the year.

This year will be yet another financially challenging year for JACL, as overall revenues continue to decline with uncertain market conditions, which can have an adverse impact on our investment income. National JACL's financial position remains precarious. It is not only incumbent upon me as your Secretary-Treasurer but also my colleagues on the National Board as well as staff to exercise our fiscal responsibility to JACL in an effort to stabilize and maintain our organization's finances. ■



By Scott Nakamura,
Eastern District Council
Governor

Happy New Year to the members of the Eastern District! Following the election of Michelle Amano to the position of VP General Operations at the July National Convention in Las Vegas, and with one year remaining in her term as EDC governor, it is my plea-

sure to step in and fulfill the remainder of her term.

As I am a stranger to most of you, I would like to take this opportunity to tell you a bit about myself. I was born and raised in Hawaii, where I attended Iolani High School and later the University of Oregon.

After three years there, I moved to Pennsylvania in 1990 to attend dental school as well as pursue post-graduate training at the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine in Periodontics and Periodontal-Prosthodontics.

I remained at Penn on a full-time basis as a clinical assistant professor until 2011, when I then entered

private practice.

Currently, I continue to teach on a part-time basis at the Kornberg School of Dentistry at Temple University and maintain a private practice in Exton, Pa.

I have been recognized as a top dentist by my peers in *Be Well Philly* magazine, *Main Line Today* magazine and *Philadelphia* magazine. I have also published several articles and lectured on both dental and topics affecting the Japanese American community.

I joined the JACL Philadelphia chapter in 1999 and have been chapter president since 2011 and EDC governor since 2016.

I hope to continue to serve as a voice for the Asian American community and as your liaison to the National Board.

A goal that I charge all chapters to undertake would be to expand your membership and reach out to the Shin-Issei/Nisei, other similar Asian American groups and the LGBTQ communities, for they will ensure the sustainability of JACL in the years to come.

I am sure that 2017 will prove to be an interesting year that may challenge the civil liberties of many individuals and groups. I am sure that there will be many occasions where JACL will be

called upon to take a stance and speak out.

Above all, we must always remain diligent in discerning the truth before taking action and always be mindful of the mission of this highly respected organization.

I am honored to serve as governor of the EDC and look forward to being your voice on the National Board.

Please feel free to contact me (snakamura@jacl.org) with any issues or concerns you may have, and I will do my best to work on your behalf.

May you have a happy and prosperous 2017! ■

LET'S MAKE THIS A YEAR TO RENEW AND RE-ENGAGE



By Roberta Barton,
Central California District
Council Governor

What a roller coaster ride in 2016! I'm not a big fan of amusement park rides. They terrify me. I get queasy and uneasy, especially during the agonizing build up of fear and uncertainty while waiting in line to take the dreaded plunge down the tracks. There's usually one last opportunity to exit somewhere along the line if nerves get the best of you. Well, folks, the election

year is behind us, the people have spoken with their votes and there's no turning back now. I expect this ride will get even wilder (if that's possible).

The Central California District Council went through its own year of uncertainty. Like many districts and chapters as well as our national organization, CCDC struggled with attracting new membership and developing a more active exist-

ing membership.

Discussions resurfaced about dissolving the district and merging with one of the other California districts. Rather than assuming the desires of CCDC membership, we simply asked them.

About 200 members with email access were invited to take a brief online survey. We were a little surprised to discover that an overwhelming majority of respondents

did not want CCDC to dissolve. It was especially heartening to confirm that respondents would renew JACL membership even if the district did decide to dissolve. The survey also unearthed a few new volunteers willing to consider more active participation. So, CCDC continues.

>> See RE-ENGAGE
on page 9



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WE HOPE TO CONTINUE TO GROW IN ORDER TO ACCOMPLISH OUR GOALS



By Michelle Yamashiro,
PSWD Governor

Happy New Year! Although the PSW district no longer has extended staff in the office, the PSW board has been working hard to

ensure that all calls and emails are heard and answered. Additionally, we are so fortunate and lucky to have such a hard-working regional director and interim executive director, Stephanie Nitahara.

In this new year, the PSW district hopes to grow its board and

raise funds so that we can continue growing and creating programs to accomplish our goals and mission. In this coming year, we also hope to continue being a space where all generations and all people can seek safety and compassion.

We look forward to commemorating the 75th anniversary of E.O. 9066 and all of our ancestors, families and friends. We hope this commemoration is seen and heard throughout the country so that no injustice, such as the internment camps, ever happens again. ■

OUR 88-YEAR HISTORY BURNS BRIGHT AND GIVES US LEVERAGE TO CONTINUE THE WORK OF EQUALITY FOR ALL



By Carol Kawase,
NCWNP District Governor

Akemashite Omedeto! Welcoming the dawn of the "New Year of the Fire Rooster" brims with the anticipation of "a huge change is a comin'." The last arrival of the Year of the Rooster came when George W. Bush was being inaugurated for his second term. His inaugural speech theme was freedom — "Freedom is

the permanent hope of mankind." This year's inauguration theme is fraught with charged tenacity.

Recently, the *San Francisco Chronicle* identified eight issues on the forefront of the new administration's agenda that impacts the NCWNP District, specifically, California and Hawaii, where a vast majority of AAPI and other minority groups reside.

Six issues that can seriously affect minorities and low-income families are education, immigration, health-care, gun control, labor rights and transportation.

Organizations that represent and support those underrepresented groups are braced for the big changes ahead.

Many organizations have been planning since the outcome of the November 2016 election. The challenge and expectation is for JACL to be equipped to address the outcomes that impact our AAPI and other minority communities.

Nationally, JACL is a highly respected organization with longstanding ties in Washington, D.C. We've made great strides in civil rights legislation, lobbying Congress, amicus briefs to overturn or amend legal decisions that affect the AAPI community as well as other minority groups.

Our 88-year history of experience burns bright and gives JACL leverage to continue the work of equality for all. We must continue to monitor

the new administration's changes that may dismantle what we've worked hard to put into place and be ready to speak out when something isn't just.

Regionally, the NCWNP District is one of the largest districts within JACL. It's a diverse entity that has many chapters with longstanding history and cumulative experiences that I have witnessed in my many years as a district participant.

Each of our chapters has committed boards, successful programs and dedicated members. Many chapters have expertise in progressive social justice organization. We need to learn from one another and gain experiences for all chapters to be as effective in their own local ar-

reas through organization networking, fundraising, education, collaborative programs and cultural exchanges. Strength in numbers helps our ability to support one another through any challenges.

Individually, members need to stay relevant, watchful and ready to get involved. Take advantage of any learning opportunities to help yourselves and others be able to take on adversity. Let's maintain our connection by engaging with other organizations, educating about our experiences and enlightening those around us. It's an imperative commitment to ensure that together we can and will be better prepared to welcome the dawn of the Fire Rooster and the years to follow. ■

Now More Than Ever We Must Talk to One Another as a Community of Color



By Kenji Kuramitsu,
JACL NY/SC Representative

Iam wishing everyone the happiest of holy days and time of rest as we move into this new year together. I so appreciate the opportunity to represent and work with our organization's young people as the National Youth/Student Council Representative.

This year has not been without its challenges, certainly both within our organizational life and without: As we move, weighed with our own baggage, into this frightening and new political season under President Donald Trump, I know many in our community are feeling frightened to be placed under the rule of a firebrand who, at best, is so uniquely celebrated by believers in white racial supremacy.

I have honestly been exchanging

sharp words with many family and friends about politics of late. These conversations have been pointed, often difficult, but important. Now more than ever, it is crucial for us to be able to talk to one another as a community of color. Thank you for doing this in your own homes, and work, and for writing thoughtful letters to this publication to combat the slander and hate that is so generally visible in our national and community life.

I am so glad you are reading this and that you are a part of our organization. I am glad for the opportunity to work with you, your children or grandchildren. I am so grateful for the opportunity to work with our young people, even when it seems like our work will not ultimately matter, even when wider communal trends do not fully value our input. I am so glad for the chance to do more than just give out youth scholarships or sexy travel opportunities without sustained relationship, without critical seeding of anti-racist and decolonial social justice consciousness.

I've seen so many beautiful relationships bloom in 2016 thanks

to our work, and I hope for only more this next year. I think back to creative conversations our young people fostered during the summer with Karen Korematsu and Norman Mineta to fall's cultural festivals and summits on civil rights threads including Japanese American relationships to black liberation to the ordinary tapestries of beauty and trauma we must all navigate on a daily basis in our own routine lives. From all of this, I draw strength.

Thank you to all the community members, especially those religious minorities and gender non-conforming people who are facing increased scrutiny and violence in these days. Thank you to everyone for encouraging, embracing and sharpening the NY/SC's many life-changing campaigns, from regional summits and seasonal retreats to convention activities and more.

We are looking forward to exciting actions like our forthcoming Youth Delegate Campaign, which will introduce more youth to JACL Convention, and other spring summits and activities.

>> See COLOR on page 9

We Stand on the Shoulders of Giants This Year, Aiming to Grow Higher



By Kota Mizutani,
JACL NY/SC Chair

A few weeks ago, I received a carefully written email from a small group of high school students requesting a phone interview. The group, tasked with developing a multimedia project on a historical topic, chose to discuss the Japanese American incarceration during World War II and the JACL. I eagerly accepted their request and shared my experiences with JACL and all that this organization has given to me during a lengthy phone interview.

More importantly, however, our discussion provided an opportunity for me to reflect on the many accomplishments of the JACL in its long history. I could not help but feel pride in our organization's efforts to advocate for redress and reparations for wartime incarceration, support the LGBTQ commu-

nity and fight Islamophobia.

I realized, too, that the source of my pride is not only the JACL's efforts as seen on a chronological timeline. Rather, I've come to admire and respect the JACL because, rather than avoid conflict and disruption, our organization has fought in times of external resistance and sometimes overwhelming internal conflict to stand up for what is right.

Since the 2016 JACL National Convention, which began the tenure of this amazing National Board, the National Youth/Student Council has taken this legacy to heart. Indeed, no stance or program comes without its opposition or criticism, but the NY/SC continues to embrace the belief that discussion promotes unity, conflict can cultivate progress and that social justice is an inherently disruptive pursuit.

>> See GIANTS on page 9

RE-ENGAGE >> continued from page 7

It seems that fate is definitely in the air as we begin a new year marking the 75th anniversary of Executive Order 9066. I am really looking forward to our national convention in Washington, D.C., this summer and the opening of the Smithsonian exhibit. It will be a great opportunity to re-

mind ourselves of why the JACL exists. What better setting than our nation's capital to rededicate our energies to fulfilling the JACL mission and vision.

I'm sure all of us are planning our own special local Day of Remembrance observances in conjunction with this milestone anniversary.

CCDC will mark the occasion by partnering with the Henry Madden Library at California State University, Fresno, for "9066: Japanese American Voices From the Inside," an amazing exhibition sharing the local story of incarceration.

The exhibition will be celebrated with an opening reception on Feb. 19 from 2-4 p.m. at the library. CCDC will also present its Distinguished American Award

for the Spirit of Compassion to Walter E. Pollock and family for their family legacy of friendship to the Japanese American community. Another reception highlight will be a "haiku in the round" community poetry reading of original haiku written by detainees. If you happen to be in the area that weekend, please join us for a day of reflection and remembrance.

So, onward we go at all levels. Time to take a deep breath, hold on tight and don't be afraid to keep our eyes wide open as 2017 picks up speed. In fact, it's more important than ever to be vigilant. Let's make this a year to renew and re-engage. Let's watch out for each other and watchdog our government like never before. After all, we're not riding this roller coaster alone. We're in this together. ■

COLOR >> continued from page 8

As we move into commemorating through ritual and text the 75th anniversary of E.O. 9066, which

forever altered our people, I am thinking of the words Common highlights in his song "Glory": how

the energy of the young people and the wisdom of the elderly together will bring healing and peace. May we, too, embrace the seasoned and ardent energy of the old and the inimitable wisdom of the young, who are not just our "future" leaders, but also current ones.

We can speak a word of politicizing assurance to the young Nikkei who is unsure if his or her identity means anything more than *sakura* festivals and occasional family vacations to Hawaii. We can resist the normalization of Trump and his rhetoric. We can stem the

proliferation of anti-blackness in our communities. Now more than ever, we can say aloud, with courage, to all who would malign or harm our siblings: "To go against our conscience is neither right nor safe. Here we stand; We can do no other." Amen. ■

GIANTS >> continued from page 8

For this foundational knowledge, we owe much to the wisdom of countless community members, leaders and activists — both within and outside JACL — who continue to support the work of the JACL and the NY/SC.

This year will undoubtedly test our resolve. The news reports of hate crimes and instances of Islamophobia have become over-

whelming and, in the aftermath of the election, the forces of white supremacy and oppression are emboldened by only more legitimized platforms.

Everywhere in our communities we see a greater strain on those who are victims of injustice and institutionalized discrimination. And in the midst of it all, the JACL itself faces the ever more urgent

challenges of organizational sustainability and growth.

As the JACL and the rest of the country looks at what lays ahead and what already surrounds us, I find myself going back to these moments in our past; our legacy of perseverance for growth and progress.

Indeed, we may only hope to overcome these challenges if we, as the JACL has done so many times before, recognize that discomfort and conflict can foster progress

and growth. With this in mind, the NY/SC anticipates a busy year.

While continuing and strengthening our signature summits, addressing anti-black racism and Shin-Nikkei identities, we are excited to re-envision outreach efforts to young leaders and develop integrated district youth activities. Through these programs, the NY/SC looks forward to connecting and empowering young leaders across the country to take on 2017.

The new year is also an impor-

tant opportunity for the NY/SC to recognize how fortunate we are to have the continued and unwavering support of the JACL. Thank you to all who have supported us.

We humbly ask, again, for your continued support and initiative in not only helping the NY/SC achieve its goals, but also advancing the missions of the JACL and social justice activism at large.

We stand on the shoulders of giants and, this year, we will grow infinitely higher. ■

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Korea Town Senior
& Community Center
965 Normandie Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90006

Saturday, March 18th
1PM - 2:30PM
Nikkei Senior Gardens
RCFE #197607606
9221 Arleta Ave.
Arleta, CA 91331

Tuesday, March 28th
6:30PM - 7:30PM
Cerritos Senior Center
at the Pat Nixon Park
(Hosted by the Hawaiian Seniors Club
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12340 South St.
Cerritos, CA 90703



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A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

CALENDAR

NCWNP

Day of Remembrance — Protecting Human Rights: Solidarity in Diversity
Sebastopol, CA
Feb. 18; 1:30-4 p.m.

Enmanji Memorial Hall
1200 Gravenstein Hwy. South
Price: Free

The Oral History Committee of the Sonoma County JACL presents a panel discussion and workshop in commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066. Panelists from the black, Latino, Muslim, Native American and Japanese American communities will speak. Those representing different groups are encouraged to bring business cards, flyers and brochures to share information about their group or upcoming events.
Info: Contact Sonoma County JACL at info@sonomacojacl.org.

JACL Reno Teriyaki Scholarship Lunch
Reno, NV

March 5; Noon-3 p.m.
Washoe County Senior Center
1155 E. 9th St.
Price: Lunch \$10 adults, \$5 children

This family event benefits educational scholarships and cultural programs. Also included will be cultural exhibits, entertainment, children's activities and a raffle.
Info: Visit Facebook @JACLRENO or call Sheldon at (775) 297-6885 or Dave at (775) 826-8695.

'Redefining Japaneseness: Japanese Americans in the Ancestral Homeland' Lecture and Book Signing
Emeryville, CA

March 25; 2-4 p.m.
J-Sei Building
1285 66th St.

Jane Yamashiro will be on hand for a book talk and reception regarding her book about how Japanese Americans' understandings of Japaneseness transform while living in their ancestral homeland. This event is sponsored by Friends of Topaz, Japanese American Women Alumni of UC Berkeley and J-Sei.
Info: Call (510) 654-4000.

PSW

'What If Heroes Were Not Welcome Home?'
Fullerton, CA

Thru Feb. 12; Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday from Noon-4 p.m.
Fullerton Arboretum Orange County Agricultural and Nikkei Heritage Museum

1900 Associated Road

Originally displayed at the Oregon Historical Society, this exhibit examines the prejudice that Japanese American veterans experienced upon their return home from World War II by using first-hand accounts, photos and copies of letters and historical documents.

Info: Call (675) 278-3407 or email faboretum@fullerton.edu.

Day of Remembrance 2017
Los Angeles, CA

Feb. 18; 2-4 p.m.
Japanese American National Museum

100 N. Central Ave.
Price: "Pay what you wish" admission to the museum
The Los Angeles Day of Remembrance 2017, sponsored by GFBNEC, JACL PSW District, JANM, Manzanar Committee, NCRR, Progressive Asian Network for Action, Storrier Stearns Japanese Garden and the United Teachers Los Angeles, is a multimedia, multicultural program supporting the civil rights of all Americans. Joining the program will be former Bay Area Congressman Mike Honda, as well as former Sec. of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta.
Info: Call (773) 671-3719 or email bembrey@manzanarcommittee.org.

Golden Nugget Hotel Bus Trip to Las Vegas
Oxnard, CA

Feb. 20-23; leaving 8 a.m. and returning 6 p.m.
Oxnard Buddhist Temple
250 S H St.
Come and join the fun on this bus trip to Las Vegas and the Golden Nugget hotel! There are three levels of pricing available for hotel reservations. To reserve your place on the bus, please RSVP to Gladys Kohatsu.
Info: Call Gladys Kohatsu at (805) 488-3986.

EDC

Philadelphia Premiere Screening

'Persona Non-Grata'

Philadelphia, PA
Feb. 12; 2 p.m.
National Museum of American Jewish History

101 S. Independence Mall E
Price: \$10; Free for NMAJH and JACL Members

Co-sponsored by the Philadelphia Asian American Film Festival, JACL Philadelphia presents the film screening of "Persona Non-Grata" with special guest director Cellin Gluck. The film tells the little-known story of

Chiune Sugihara, who saved thousands of Jewish lives during World War II.

Info: To purchase or reserve tickets, visit tickets.nmajh.org.

East Coast Showing of 'Uprooted: Japanese American Farm Labor Camps During World War II'
Philadelphia, PA

Feb. 18 Opening Reception, 2-5 p.m.; screenings through March 9
Friends Center
1501 Cherry St.

An opening reception will be held during this Day of Remembrance event on Feb. 18; screenings of the film will continue until March 9.
Info: RSVP for the opening reception to jalaborcamps@gmail.com.

PNW

Day of Remembrance 2017
Taiko Concert

Seattle, WA
Feb. 19
Seattle University, Pigott Auditorium
901 12th Ave.

Price: \$20 General Admission; \$10 for Students with I.D.
The Minidoka Pilgrimage and Seattle University are proud to present this concert that will feature performances by several renowned taiko groups from the Seattle area.

The event will also feature the traveling photo exhibit "Kodomo no Tame ni — For the Sake of the Children," which documents a century of Japanese American life on Bainbridge Island. The event will benefit youth and senior scholarship programs for the 15th annual Minidoka Pilgrimage.
Info: Visit <http://dor2017.eventbrite.com> for tickets and email questions to minidokapilgrimage@gmail.com or call (206) 296-6260.

MDC

'February 19, 1942: A Day the Constitution Died. Could It Happen Again'

St. Paul, MN
Feb. 19; 2-4 p.m.
Minnesota History Center
3M Auditorium
345 Kellogg Blvd. W

Price: Free, but advanced reservations recommended
This DOR event, commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Japanese American incarceration, is co-sponsored by the Minnesota Historical Society and the Twin Cities JACL, with partial funding through a grant from the JACL

Legacy Fund. Attendees will have the opportunity to join local survivors in a day of remembrance and reflect back on this constitutional crisis through a multimedia mix of music, images and readings from the letters and diaries of internees.

Info: Call (651) 259-3105 or visit mnhs.org/calendar (click on event date).

'Roger Shimomura: Mistaken Identity' Exhibit
St. Paul, MN

Thru March 10; Mon.-Fri.: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Thursdays: 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Sat. and Sun.: Noon-4 p.m.

Macalester College
Law Warschaw Gallery
130 Macalester St.
Macalester College's Law Warschaw Gallery, together with the Twin Cities JACL, present this exhibition from prolific American artist Roger Shimomura, which includes a range of works on paper from the past 25 years. Included are works that draw upon Shimomura and his family's experiences while incarcerated at the Minidoka Relocation Center in Idaho. This exhibition is presented to recognize the 75th anniversary of E.O. 9066.
Info: Visit Macalester.edu/gallery or email gallery@macalester.edu.

'Legacy of Internment' Discussion
St. Paul, MN

Feb. 23; 7 p.m.
Macalester College, Law Warschaw Gallery, Janet Wallace Fine Arts Center
130 Macalester St.

Price: Free
All are welcome to attend this public discussion with members of the Twin Cities JACL. This event is in conjunction with the exhibition "Roger Shimomura: Mistaken Identity."
Info: Visit Macalester.edu/gallery/ hours or email gallery@macalester.edu. ■

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'In Memoriam' is a free listing that appears on a limited, space-available basis.

Tributes honor your loved ones with text and photos and appear in a timely manner at the rate of \$20/column inch.

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IN MEMORIAM

Abe, Lewis Isao, 94, Carpinteria, CA; Dec. 14; during WWII, he was incarcerated at the Heart Mountain WRA facility and served in the U.S. Army; he is survived by his wife, Deana; children, Lisa (Bill) Yee, Nora (Wayne) Shen, Robert and Richard; sisters-in-law, Esther and Evelyn; he is also survived by many nieces and nephews; gc: 3.

Crawford, Keiko, 91, Eagan, MN; Dec. 18; she is survived by her son, James (Margaret); gc: 2.

Handa, Robert, 93, Bellevue, WA; Jan. 4; during WWII, he and his family were incarcerated at the Minidoka WRA facility, during which he joined the U.S. Army and served in the Military Intelligence Service; he was predeceased by his wife, Minnie; he is survived by his sons, Daniel, Douglas (Joyce) and David; his life partner and loyal companion, Eun Soo Jang; gc: 2.

Hirabayashi, Tsuneko, 106, Seattle, WA; Jan. 2; during WWII, she and her two daughters were incarcerated at the Heart Mountain WRA facility while her husband was incarcerated at a DOJ camp in Missoula, MT; she was predeceased by her husband, Tomonobu; daughter, Amy (Ted Chihara); she is survived by her daughter, Hannah Hirabayashi; gc: 5; ggc: 5.

Miyatake, Archie, 92, 92, Los Angeles, Dec. 20; he is survived by his wife, Takeko Miyatake; sons, Alan (April) and Gary (Mayumi) Miyatake; gc: 4.

Nishikawa, Walter K., 74, Pasadena, CA; he is survived by his wife, Bernice; siblings, Dennis (Jackie) and Sherry (David)

Nakaishi; niece, Lauren Nakaishi; sister-in-law, Linda Nishikawa. port Coast, CA; Dec. 14; he was predeceased by his wife, Mitsy; he is survived by his children, Ken (Judy) and Amy Uyemura (Gary); gc: 3.

Okumura, Masanaga, 96, Los Angeles, Nov. 24; during WWII, he served in the U.S. Army in both the MIS and 100th/442nd/100 RCT; he is survived by his wife, Frances; children, Patricia, Donn and Howard; sisters, Masaie and Sueme; gc: 4.

TRIBUTE

ALICE SETSUKO HIRAI



Alice Setsuko Hirai passed away unexpectedly on Dec. 24, 2016. She was born in San Francisco, Calif., on Nov. 8, 1939, to Lillian and Takasaburo Sekino. In 1942, Alice and her family were interned in Topaz, Utah, as part of the relocation of Japanese Americans during WWII. After the war, she moved to Salt Lake City, Utah, and graduated from West High School in 1958.

In 1962, she earned her B.S. at the University of Utah with a degree in nursing. She met Mack Susumu

Hirai in 1959, and they would get married in August 1962. They would go on to have three children.

As a nurse, Alice served in several capacities: public health nurse, home health nurse, school nurse, floor nurse, among other things. During her time as a nurse, she had passion that few others possessed, which helped sustain her career for 54 years until her retirement in the spring of 2016.

As the mother of a disabled child, Alice was very involved in the disabled community. She and Mack were instrumental in creating programs for challenged youth across the state; they were recognized with the Exceptional Parents of the Year Award as a result of this hard work. In 1996, Alice married Cliff Thompson, later divorced. She found joy in educating people about Japanese American internment camps, coming full circle when she played an internee in the movie "American Pastime."

Alice was very active; she enjoyed playing taiko, caring for her cats, swimming in water aerobics (affectionately known as the "Mermaid Girls"). Most of her time was spent with family, especially her grandkids, which she spoiled to no end. She was preceded in death by her husband, Mack, and her parents. She is survived by her siblings, Warren (Lucia) Sekino, Irene Linnett née Sekino and Dave (Erin) Sekino; her children, Stan (Tami) Hirai, Marlane Hirai and Alicia (Brian) Yamada née Hirai; her grandchildren, Kenzie, Alex, Jaxon and Dylan; and her longtime partner, Simon Hernandez.

TRIBUTE

AYAKO (AYA) YAMAKOSHI



Ayako ("Aya") Yamakoshi was born on June 6, 1927, in San Diego, Calif., to parents Sohichi and Misao Hosaka. She passed away in Park Ridge, Ill., on Oct. 20, 2016.

Aya's father was awarded the Emperor of Japan's Gold Medal of Honor for his contributions to agriculture and was one of the founders of the San Diego Buddhist Church. Her mother loved the Japanese arts and was self-taught in folk and classical dancing, poetry, painting and singing.

Aya had two older brothers, Henry and George, and a younger sister, Sayoko.

With the outbreak of World War II, Aya was 13 when the family was sent to the Poston Internment Camp in Arizona, then to the Crystal City Family Internment Camp in Texas. When the war ended, the family resettled in Fresno, Calif., and became successful fruit farmers.

After graduating from high school, Aya received a full scholarship to attend the Kann Institute of Art in Hollywood, Calif. In 1946, Aya was crowned the first Miss Bussei or young American Buddhist queen of Central California.

In 1950, Aya married Noboru ("Noby") Yamakoshi, founder and chairman of Nobart, which was a large graphic design and production company. During the company's formative years, Aya worked on commercial artwork while the family lived in Park Ridge.

Aya was an extraordinarily talented artist who created hundreds of works of art, many of them paintings. She also devoted many years to community work throughout the Midwest, California and Florida. Besides her intense passion and love of art, Aya's interests were golfing, swimming, haiku writing and painting Buddhist subject matter.

Husband Noby passed away in 1995, but Aya continued her community service with the Japanese American Citizens League and the Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens in Delray Beach, Fla.

Aya was the supportive, loyal and solid "anchor" next to the "motor," her husband, the late Noby Yamakoshi. Aya was also incredibly supportive of, dedicated to and extremely loving to her family and friends.

She was gentle, beautiful inside and out, peaceful, a joy to be with, talented yet humble, generous and thoughtful, and we were so very fortunate to have such a special and wonderful human being as our mother and grandmother.

Aya is survived by her sons, Warren and Brian; daughter, Vivian; and two grandchildren, Brooke and Ryan.

A memorial service was held at Midwest Buddhist Temple, 435 W. Menomonee St., Chicago, IL at 1 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 13, 2016, visitation at noon. In lieu of flowers, remembrances may be made to the Midwest Buddhist Temple or the Japanese American National Museum, 100 N. Central Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90012

TRIBUTE

AMY UCHIMOTO NAITO



Amy Uchimoto Naito, 92, Costa Mesa, Calif., Sept. 30. She was interned at Gila River Relocation Center and after college served as an occupational therapist as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Army. Amy later earned her teaching credential and was an elementary school teacher for 17 years. She is survived by her husband, Albert; children, Marina Naito, Allison Naito, Noelle Pillsbury and Neal Naito; brother, Warren Uchimoto; sister, Laura Nakanishi; 6 grandchildren; and nieces and nephew.

TRIBUTE

MASANAGA (MAS) OKUMURA



Masanaga (Mas) Okumura, 96, formerly from Santa Barbara, born 02/26/1920-11/24/2016 WWII Veteran, MIS 442/100 RCT He is survived by his wife, Frances Children: Patricia, Donn, Howard Four grandchildren Surviving sisters: Masaie and Sueme Many nieces and nephews A private service was held.

TRIBUTE

WILLIAM TOSHIO (TOSH) YASUTAKE



William Toshio (Tosh) Yasutake passed away on Dec. 12, 2016. Tosh will be remembered for his genuine kindness, his perseverance, his ever-present laugh, and his dedication to making the world a better place.

Tosh and his family in Seattle were incarcerated following the attacks on Pearl Harbor in 1942. He went on to enlist in WWII and served as a medic in the famed 442nd RCT, still the most-decorated military unit in the history of American warfare. While serving in the European theater, Tosh was wounded in the leg rushing to the aid of fallen comrades and was awarded a Purple Heart and Bronze Star for bravery. In his lifetime, he would also be awarded a Congressional Gold Medal and the French Legion of Honor for his service to the United States of America and its allies.

Upon his return to the U.S. and as a reward to himself for surviving the horrors of the war, he took a trip to New York City, where he met Fumi, the woman who would become his wife. After a long-distance courtship, they got married in July of 1950, and remained married for 66 years. In 1953, Tosh began his research career with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He went on to become a pioneer in his field of fish pathology, earned his Ph.D in 1980 from the University of Tokyo, the first American to have been so honored. Tosh also

earned the distinguished Snieszko Distinguished Service Award in 1987, the highest honor in his field. He will live on through his work and the contributions he made to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

What Tosh will most be remembered for is his devotion to his family. He is the father of four children and six grandchildren and will be missed as a brother, a friend, and a role model in his community. He will be dearly missed, but warmly remembered. Public services were held at Evergreen Washelli (11111 Aurora Ave. North, Seattle) on Saturday, Jan. 7 at 2 p.m. Donations can be made to Densho and the NVC Foundation.



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