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 timail@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.

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

By Gil Asakawa

Happy New Year! Shinnen akemashite 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 National Endowment for the Humanities. PBS and National public broadcasting is in jeopardy. 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 spokespersons offer up “alternative facts” to counter the truth with lies.

Yes, the election is over, and Trump won 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 tiring and overwhelming. But perhaps later, when you’re a bit more rested, you can tackle these tasks 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, ACL National President

I take special pride in being a volunteer for two years 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 being recognized 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. Its 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.

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 50th 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 to 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 PDF’s 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 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 Fellow 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 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 have 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 relationships 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 Farrelly, 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 Program 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 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, JACL ran on the platform of making fund development any 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 funders 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 formalized 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 | Cuba’s Charming Colonial Cities & Havana: “Highlights Tour of Cuba” |
| March 22 - April 2 | Spring Japan: “Tokyo, Hakone, Inuyama, Kyoto, Hiroshima, Miyajima” |
| March 23 - April 2 | South Korea (East Coast): “Seoul, Jeju, Busan, Gyeongju, Seorak” |
| April 1 - May 13 | Bikkuri Tour with Moto & Ken: “The Journey of Miyamoto Musashi” |
| May 21 - May 31 | The Scandinavian: “Copenhagen, Aarhus, Stockholm, Bergen, Oslo” |
| July 13 - Aug. 20 | Japan By Train: “Hiroshima, Kurashiki, Okayama, Kyoto, Tokyo” |
| Newfoudland & Labrador: “Corner Brook, Rocky Harbour, St. John’s” | “Let Go Hokkaido: Sapporo, Sounkyo, Shireroto, Tomamu, Toyako” |
| Iceland Adventure: “Reykjavik, Borgarhom, Hof, Lake Jokulsarlon, Vík,” | “Western Explorer: “Scottsdale, Grand Canyon, Las Vegas, Yosemite” |
| Eastern US & Canada Discovery: “Boston, Quebec City, Toronto,” | Autumn Japan: “Tokyo, Takayama, Kanazawa, Kyoto, Hiroshima” |
| Islands of Okinawa | Islands of Okinawa & Shikoku: “Naha, Takamatsu, Matsuyama, Kochi.” |

Polaris Tours

Toll Free: (800) 858-2882

www.tourpolaris.com info@tourpolaris.com
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 American 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 prioritized 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 anniversary 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 in 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 bring 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 providing 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 in the 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 $900,000, prudently revised the 2016 budget from that of a balanced budget to a deficit budget of approximately $290,000 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,L, 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 $280,000, 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 revenues and expense 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, Nikigata, Sakata/Shonai, Yamagata, Aizu Wakamatsu, Ashikaga.

Ireland Holiday Tour (Elaine Ishida) . . . . . . . . . . . . . May 1-10
Dublin, Waterford, Braystone, 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, Yamatsukuri 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.

For more information and reservations, please contact:

AMERICAN HOLIDAY TRAVEL
312 E. 1st Street, Suite 330 * Los Angeles, CA 90012
Tel: (213)625-2232 * Email: americanholiday@att.net

(CST #200326-10) Ernest or Carol Hida
Elaine Ishida (Tel: 714-269-4534)
FAIRNESS. EQUALITY. SOCIAL JUSTICE. WE MUST USE OUR VOICE TO FIGHT FOR A WORLD THAT REFLECTS THESE THREE VALUES

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.

But I am also excited for the challenges ahead. At times, these issues can seem so overwhelming and 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 incumbent 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.

In conclusion, as this New Year begins, we JACL members to participate and assist JACL during these challenging times.

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!
WE MUST ALWAYS BE MINDFUL OF THE MISSION OF JACL

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 pleasure 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.

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

By Michelle Yamashiro, PSWD Governor

Happy New Year! 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, healthcare, 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 have witnessed in 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 become as effective in their own local areas 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.

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

By Carol Kawase, NCWNP District Governor

A kemeshite Omedeto! Welcoming the dawn of the New Year of the Fire Rooster brings 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, healthcare, 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 have witnessed in 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 become as effective in their own local areas 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 Karamitsu, JACL NY/SC Representative

I am 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 organization’s young people, especially those reform-minded trends do not fully value our input. 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 issues that we champion campaigns and our voices often do not make the news. 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 issues that we champion campaigns and our voices often do not make the news.

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 issues that we champion campaigns and our voices often do not make the news. I am so grateful for the opportunity to work with you, your children or grandchildren.

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 issues that we champion campaigns and our voices often do not make the news.

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 issues that we champion campaigns and our voices often do not make the news.

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 issues that we champion campaigns and our voices often do not make the news.

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 issues that we champion campaigns and our voices often do not make the news.

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 issues that we champion campaigns and our voices often do not make the news.

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

YOUths sTAND on the ShOulders of Giants This Year, Aiming to Grow Higher

By Kota Mizutani, JACL NY/SC Chair

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 community 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 stage 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.
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 reeducate our energies to fulfilling the JACL mission and vision.

I’m sure all of us are planning or participating in 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.

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 imitable wisdom of the young, who are not just our “future” leaders, but also current ones.

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 overwhelming 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 signaturesummits, 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 important 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.
### NCWNP

**Day of Remembrance — Protecting Human Rights: Solidarity in Diversity**

Sebastopol, CA  
Feb. 18; 1:30-4 p.m.  
Emmanji 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@sonomacajlc.org.

**JACL Reno-Tahoe Scholarship Luncheon**  
Reno, NV  
March 5; Noon-3 p.m.  
Washoe County Senior Center  
1155 E. 5th St.  
Price: $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 @JACL Reno or call Sheldon at (775) 297-6885 or Feb. 20-23; leaving 8 a.m. and returning 5 p.m.; Thursdays: 10 a.m.–8 p.m.; Sat. and Sun.: Noon-4 p.m.  
Macleaster College  
Law Warschaw Gallery  
130 Macleaster St.

**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”  
This Los Angeles Day of Remembrance 2017, sponsored by GFBNJ, JACL, PWS District, JNMM, Manzanar Committee, NNP, Progressive Asian Network for Action, Storrier Stearns Japanese Garden and the University of 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 (775) 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.  
Conversation join the fun on this bus trip to Las Vegas and the Golden Nugget Hotel! There are three levels of pricing available for this trip, offering various options to accommodate different travel needs.

**Info:** Call Gladys Kohatsu at (865) 488-3986.

**PNW**

**Day of Remembrance 2017**  
Tacoma, 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 musical 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 be open to all interested parties and will provide opportunities for the public to learn about the experiences of internees.

**Info:** Visit Macalester.edu/gallery or email gallery@macalester.edu.

**'Roger Shimomura: Mistaken Identity' Exhibit**  
St. Paul, MN  
Thru March 10; Mon.-Fri.: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Sat. and Sun.: Noon-4 p.m.

**Macleaster College**  
Law Warschaw Gallery  
130 Macleaster St.

**Legacy of Internment Discussion**  
St. Paul, MN  
Feb. 23; 7 p.m.

**PLACE A TRIBUTE**

**In Memoriam** is a free listing that appears on a limited, space-available basis. Tributes honor your loved ones with text and photos and appear in a timely manner at the rate of $20/column inch.

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

Abe, Lewis Isao, 94, Carpenteria, 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 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, he was incarcerated at a DOU camp in Missoula, MT; she was predeceased by her husband, Tomoharu; daughter, Amy (Ted Chihara); she is survived by her daughter, Hannah Hirabayashi; gc. 5; gcg. 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) Nakashi; niece, Lauren Nakashi; sister-in-law, Linda Nakashii; post-COVID, CA; Dec. 14, he was predeceased by his wife, Mitsy; he is survived by his children, Ken (Judy) and Amy Yumura (Gary); gc. 3.

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

TRIBUTE

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 Seki. 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 2018.

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 Cliffs Thompson, later divorced. She found joy in educating people about Japanese American internment camps, having full circles when she played an intern in the movie “American Pastime.”

Alice was very active, she enjoyed playing laiko, 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) Seki, Irene Limneta (Neko) and Dave (Enri) Seki; her children, Stan (Tami) Hira and Aya (Brian) Yamada; her grandchildren, Kenzie, Alex, Jaxon and Dylan; and her longtime partner, Simon Hernandez.

TRIBUTE

TRIBUTE

AYAKO (AYA) YAMAKOSHI

Ayako (“Aya”) Yamakoshi was born on June 6, 1927, in San Diego, Calif., to parents Sohichi and Misa Hosaka. She passed away in Park Ridge, Ill., on Oct. 20, 2016. Aya’s father was 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 was a talented artist 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 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 Buddha subject matter.

Her 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 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, Marvin Naito, Alison Naito, Noelle Pilsbury and Neal Naito; brother, Warren Uchimoto; sister, Laura Nakamichi; 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 PCT. He is survived by his two daughters; Patricio, Donn, Howard.

Four grandchildren

Surviving sisters: Masaie and Suene

Many nieces and nephews

A private service was held.

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 by shrapnel from a World War II bomb.

During his service with the Japanese American Citizens League and the Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens in Delray Beach, Fla. Tosh was a successful fruit farmer.

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 1953, and remained married for 62 years. Tosh then 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 at the University of Tokyo, the first American to have been so honored. Tosh also earned the distinguished Sniezko Distinguished Service Award in 1997, 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 NYC Foundation.
Celebrate a new year with new possibilities

As we embark upon a new year, we reflect on the long-standing partnerships we have developed with our customers and the community. We are committed to building and growing these relationships, both now and for years to come. As your financial partner, we will continue to put our strength and stability to work for you. Happy New Year from Union Bank.

Union Bank is a member of Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group (MUFG), one of the world’s leading financial groups. We have specialized bankers with strong financial and wealth management expertise ready to help you plan your future.

©2017 MUFG Union Bank, N.A. All rights reserved. Member FDIC. Union Bank is a registered trademark and brand name of MUFG Union Bank, N.A. Visit us at unionbank.com/japanese.