THE STORY MUST GO ON

Award-winning journalist Robert Handa’s news career continues to highlight Asian American diversity.
2017 LEGACY FUND GRANTS PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

SAN FRANCISCO — The JACL Legacy Fund Grants Committee is pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for the 2017 Legacy Fund grants. Committee Co-Chairs Jane Kataysama and Janice Fades invite all eligible candidates to apply. Eligible candidates include all JACL chapters in good standing, District Councils and the JACL National Youth/Student Council.

New for 2017, the maximum grant award has been increased, allowing certain recipients to receive as much as $7,500 in funding. Grants will be awarded for projects and activities that support JACL’s 2017-18 Strategic Plan.

The Legacy Fund Committee has increased the maximum award for 2017 in special recognition of the 75th anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

E.O. 9066 led to the incarceration of 120,000 U.S. citizens and other people of Japanese descent. A presidential commission later declared this executive order to be a violation of the incarcerated’s civil rights. Many people in communities across the U.S. are not aware of Executive Order 9066. Educating the public about this injustice has been an important focus of many of JACL’s past LFG projects.

Information on the Legacy Fund Grants Program and an application can be downloaded from the JACL website (www.jacl.org under “Social Justice”).

The Legacy Fund was established by the JACL National Council in 1990 at the JACL National Convention held in San Diego. Gifts were first donated to the fund by JACL members who gave a portion of their redress awards to further the legacy of patriotism and hard-won civil rights that is central to the story of Nikkei in America. A portion of the Legacy Fund Endowment is used to fund the grants program.

Completed applications are due May 1 at JACL National Headquarters in San Francisco. Grant recipients will be announced at the 48th JACL National Convention in Washington, D.C., to be held July 6-8 at the Omni Shoreham Hotel.

For additional information, contact Regional Director Patty Wada at pwada@jacl.org or call (415) 345-1075.

VENICE-WEST L.A. JACL CHAPTER CELEBRATES MERGER

The Venice-West Los Angeles JACL chapter celebrated the official merger of the Venice-Culver and West Los Angeles chapters and installed its 2017 board officers at an installation luncheon on Dec. 11.

JACL National President Gary Mayeda installed the 2017 chapter board members at the luncheon.

The event also featured Councilmember James Toma of West Covina as its keynote speaker, where he spoke about his personal journey to a career in public service and politics, as well as the role Japanese Americans and JACL have in the current political climate.

Toma’s mother is from Okinawa, Japan, and his father is a Sunee from Hawaii. He grew up in numerous cities throughout his childhood and graduated from high school in Stockton, Calif., and then went on to become the first college graduate in his family, graduating from Yale University and later earning his master’s degree at the University of California, Berkeley.

He previously served as mayor for the City of West Covina and has been a member of JACL for 20 years.

— Amy Watanabe, Venice-West L.A. JACL Board Member

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.”

JACL member? □ □

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A MOTHER’S TAKE
TAKING BACK MY MIND

By Marsha Aizumi

For the past three months, I have walked around in disbelief, like many of you, wondering where my country is headed. I have watched more news and commentary in the past six months than I have in the past six years. I have felt my blood boil from some of the comments and the untruths that are perpetrated by the current president. And part of me has felt so powerless, defeated and disheartened by all that is dividing our America. I know I have written about some of my feelings regarding this election before. So, this is a continuation of my thoughts since then. Uneasiness has returned to me when I see all the hate and bigotry being bolstered by the words of the president and the people he is surrounding himself with. I am saddened when I hear my son has sleepless nights worried about his future and the future of his friends — not just LGBTQ friends, but Muslim, Latino, black, Asian and so many others. I, too, have struggled, and many days I have had difficulty getting out of bed because I felt such despair.

But I continue to believe that living “above the line” in a more hopeful and optimistic place will reap more positive results than wallowing in anger, sadness and no hope. And as I focused on this intention, I have been rewarded. In December, I received a book as a Christmas present from my best friend. It was written by the Dalai Lama and Desmond Tutu and called “The Book of Joy.” In the beginning, I didn’t feel compelled to pick up a book on joy, when I was fighting to find joy in my life.

But then one day, I walked by it, decided to browse through the photos and actually felt joy radiating from the pictures.

Both men are elderly, and the Archbishop has numerous health problems. They have lived lives of challenge and exclusionist direction.

I saw the ACLU advertisement in the New York Times putting the new administration and president on notice that they will protect and defend those who would be discriminated against. I saw the speech at the end of the “Hamilton” play to Mike Pence, asking that the incoming administration be for ALL the people. Marches and protests continue around the country. The state of Washington and the city of San Francisco are suing the Trump administration over violations of the Constitution.

And in a meeting I had with the Human Rights Campaign as a Parent for Transgender Equality Council Member, I heard HRC talk about how in difficult times, it will be the private sector that will rise up and be a voice of reason and human rights. And that has proven to be true, alongside so many others who dare to speak their truth against a government who will fire people who courageously uphold the law or put into place EO’s that threaten our very fabric of innovation and democracy.

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But then one day, I walked by it, decided to browse through the photos and actually felt joy radiating from the pictures.

Both men are elderly, and the Archbishop has numerous health problems. They have lived lives of challenge and heartbreak, but in spite of their experiences, they have found joy and ways to give to others. The first page of the book spoke directly to me when I read, “No dark fate determines the future. We do.”

There continues to be disheartening moments for me.

The cabinet selections by this new president. The executive orders that are aiming certain individuals from entering our country, bringing fear and humiliation and despair to families who want nothing more than to be good United States citizens and live a good life.

This is such a grave reminder of what my parents and close to 120,000 Japanese Americans had to go through being imprisoned in places like Gila River, Manzanar, Minidoka and other concentration camps.

Many are saying the Muslim Ban is putting our country’s security more at risk. And is all of this making our country seem as being great or being led by a man who cares less about the people and more about himself?

Optimism and hope are one thing, but without some action, they are only thoughts. So, I have called senators to let my voice be heard about the appointment of Betsy DeVos. I have called the NSC about the appointment of Steve Bannon. I am donating money to the ACLU so they can help those being threatened with deportation being held at the airport and many other ways they will protect our rights.

Here is the link to the ACLU (https://action.aclu.org/secure/donate-to-aclu). I am also donating to Vigilant Love, a local group that is collaborating with others, including many Japanese American individuals and organizations, to fight Islamophobia. Donations can be made out to Advancing Justice-Los Angeles and mailed to the Advancing Justice office in Los Angeles.

A YONSEI TRANSPLANTED

STEPHEN K. BANNON’S PRESENCE IN THE WHITE HOUSE SHOULD BE A CONCERN FOR ALL AMERICANS

By Matthew Ormseth

President Donald Trump’s first weeks in office have been a disaster, but he’s the disaster we deserve. We elected him. Who we didn’t elect is Stephen K. Bannon. Trump’s chief strategist and emerging right-hand man, who appears to be steering the president in a hard-line, exclusionist direction.

For a non-elected and non-military official, Bannon wields an extraordinary amount of power in the Trump White House. Last week, President Trump signed a memorandum that gave Bannon a seat at the National Security Council while effectively removing the director of national intelligence and chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff from the group. Bannon — a civilian — will sit alongside the secretaries of state and defense at the council and weigh in on the country’s most vital questions of security and defense.

White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer said Bannon’s seven-year stint in the U.S. Navy qualifies his promotion to the NSC. “Well, he is a former navy officer,” Spicer said. “It’s got a tremendous understanding of the world and the geopolitical landscape that we have now.”

Such a move is unprecedented; David Axelrod, Obama’s political adviser, was allowed to sit in on NSC meetings on occasion, but he had no say in the council’s decisions.

Furthermore, the director of national intelligence and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff — the highest-ranking member of the U.S. military — will attend NSC meetings only “where issues pertaining to their responsibilities and expertise are to be discussed,” the memorandum reads. The current chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is Gen. Joseph Dunford, a four-star general with 39 years of service in the U.S. military.

Removing the nation’s foremost experts on national security from the National Security Council could hardly be considered a smart move, but replacing them with the former CEO of Breitbart, an alt-right platform for conspiracy theories and unabashed Islamophobia, is dangerous. And why a civilian with seven years of military experience is qualified to attend NSC meetings but not a four-star general is anyone’s guess.

A closer examination of Bannon’s life before Trump reveals a man consumed with sweeping narratives of good vs. evil: capitalism vs. communism, the common man vs. the corrupt elite, an epic clash of civilizations between Judeo-Christian West and Islam-dominated East. He dabbled in filmmaking, drawing inspiration from Nazi filmmaker Leni Riefenstahl, his former writing partner Jula Jones said, for his grandiose Reagan bi-pic “In the Face of Evil.” Tim Watkins, his co-director for the bi-pic, said the film was dominated by Bannon’s conviction that “life is a battle of good and evil, and history is a battle of men.”

Bannon peddles an apocalyptic narrative of America in atrophy, corrupted from within by effete “liberal snowflakes,” xenal career politicians (of whom Hillary Clinton was the embodiment of) and ethnic minorities demanding — through affirmative action, safe spaces and appeals for inclusivity — more than their fair share of the American pie.

Bannon has quite literally authored Trump’s worldview — he wrote the president’s inaugural address, one which painted an America rotten at the core, with “mothers and children trapped in poverty in our inner cities” and “rusted-out factories scattered like tombstones across the landscape of our nation.”

He professed Trump as America’s only hope against the “crime and the gangs and the drugs that have stolen too many lives and robbed our country of so much unrealized potential.”

For Bannon, immigration from the Middle East is not a threat to American safety but to American culture. “You have an expansionist Islam and you have an expansionist China,” he said in a Breitbart broadcast. “They’re on the march. And they think the Judeo-Christian West is on the retreat.”

In another Breitbart interview, Bannon said, “To be brutally frank ... Christianity is dying in Europe, and Islam is on the rise.”
JACL Mourns Passing of Angus Macbeth

JACl mourns the passing of Angus Macbeth, who served as special counsel to the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (CWRIC) and headed its staff.

The CWRIC report, "Personal Justice Denied," and its recommendations, formed the basis for the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which provided monetary compensation and an apology to Japanese Americans who were affected by President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Executive Order 9066.

Established by Congress in 1980, the CWRIC was charged with investigating the facts and circumstances surrounding Roosevelt’s issuance of E.O. 9066 and recommending appropriate remedies. The commission held hearings in 10 cities, where more than 750 witnesses provided testimony, especially in the form of personal accounts by Nisei testifying to the hardship and deprivation.

In an interview on the Digital Archives, Macbeth stated, "... more than anything else is just this heart-rending sense of loss. I mean, people who had spent 15, 20 years in quite routine lives and occupations..."

I mean, truck farmers, people who ran small stores. Just very solid, unexceptional members of American society and the way in which their lives were just completely disrupted by the exclusion and shock of it all. And these, again, just a very, very touching and powerful side to people who make a genuine and rich human life out of very barren and very adverse human conditions..."

The CWRIC report found that "the policy of exclusion, removal and detention was systematically conducted by the U.S. government despite the fact that no documented evidence of espionage or sabotage was shown, and there was not direct military necessity for detention." The CWRIC report supplemented Gen. John DeWitt’s faulty Final Report, issued during World War II as the official government account out of the incarceration.

"The impossible seem possible," said Macbeth.

Macbeth passed away on Jan. 22 at his home in Washington. He was 74. He is survived by his wife, JoAnn Engelke Macbeth, and two sons.

Manzanar Hosts Record 105,000 Visitors in 2016

Ranger Mark Hacht mann presents a program on the Block 14 women’s latrine slab, May 2016.

More than 105,000 people from throughout the U.S. and around the world visited the Manzanar National Historic Site in 2016, topping the previous year’s record of 95,000. From near and far, youth and elders, first-time visitors and Japanese Americans who had been incarcerated, all had a variety of opportunities to connect to the site, its stories and each other.

Manzanar has seen continuing increases in visitors, including 11 percent in 2016 and 23 percent in 2015, respectively.

"Our mission at Manzanar is to preserve the site and share its stories," Superintendent Bernadette Johnson said. "We were honored to host so many visitors in 2016, the Centennial year of the National Park Service. We mark another anniversary in 2017, the 75th anniversary of President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Executive Order 9066, which led to the World War II incarceration of more than 120,000 Japanese Americans."

Johnson continued, "This year also marks the 75th anniversary of the Manzanar War Relocation Center’s opening and the 25th anniversary of the Manzanar National Historic Site’s establishment."

The Manzanar site continues to evolve. In 2016, the NPS reconstructed the Block 14 women’s latrine, which will eventually feature exhibits. A new accessible sidewalk links the visitor center, barracks and latrine. Park staff is also developing an exhibit on education in Manzanar in Barracks B. Work continues throughout Manzanar to preserve the Japanese gardens, historic orchards and other site features.

Manzanar was established by the Manzanar National Historic Site in 1992, the result of decades of efforts by Japanese Americans and others.

Since then, the NPS has worked with scores of stakeholders to preserve and interpret Manzanar and its stories.

APAs in the News/NewsBytes

Sen. Mazie Hirono Introduces Fred Korematsu Resolution in Congress

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii) introduced a resolution honoring Civil Rights pioneer Fred Korematsu on Feb. 3, as well as denounced President Donald Trump’s Muslim ban executive order.

"In the face of overwhelming prejudice and adversity, Fred Korematsu stood up for the civil rights of 120,000 Japanese Americans, then spent the rest of his life fighting for justice," said Hirono. "Today, Fred’s work is more relevant than ever. We will not stand by as President Trump repeats the discrimination and hysteria directed at minorities and immigrants throughout our history."

The resolution also establishes Jan. 30, 2017, as "Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution." Among the resolution’s co-sponsors are Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), Sen. Tim Kaine (D-Va.) and Sen. Brian Schatz (D-Hawaii).

Former Japanese Hospital in Los Angeles Named Historic-Cultural Monument

LOS ANGELES — The former Japanese Hospital, located in Los Angeles’ Boyle Heights neighborhood, was officially named a Los Angeles Historic-Cultural Monument in November.

The designation was spearheaded by members of the Little Tokyo Historical Society, who received full support from the Cultural Heritage Commission, the Planning and Land Use Committee, Los Angeles City Council and Mayor Eric Garcetti.

The site, located at 1011 S. Fickett Street, is now known officially as CHCM#1131 and is the seventh Los Angeles City CHCM that documents the Japanese American experience, joining the Tuna Canyon Detention Center, Manzanar War Relocation Center, Nihon Hongwanji Buddhist Temple, the former Union Church, and the Aoyama Toku (original site of the Koyasan Buddhist Temple) and the former Holiday Bowl building.

Plans for an official plaque dedication ceremony are currently being planned by the LTHS.

Margaret Fujioka Sworn in as Superior Court Judge

OAKLAND, CALIF. — Alameda County Superior Court Judge Margaret Fujioka was officially sworn in on Jan. 11 at the Rotunda of Oakland by California Supreme Court Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakaya.

Fujioka was elected on June 7, 2016, and officially sworn in on Jan. 3. She currently presides over a criminal trial calendar and is the first Japanese American woman and second Japanese American woman to serve on the 75-plus-member Alameda County Superior Court.

Stephen Kagawa Named Chairman of GFBNCE’s Board of Directors

LOS ANGELES — Stephen Kagawa, president and CEO of the Pacific Bridge Companies, has been named chairman of the board of directors of the Go For Broke National Education Center, the organization announced Jan. 11.

In addition, David Ono, broadcast journalist and co-anchor of ABC7 Eyewitness news, has been named chairman of GFBNCE’s board of governors. Doug Cioto, insurance consultant, has been named vice chairman of the board of directors and chairman of the executive committee.

The Hon. Jeff Manley, Alhambra City Council member, has been named secretary of the board. Michael Ozawa, managing principal at Enterprise Management Advisors, has rejoined the board of directors and continues to serve as the chief financial officer. And George Tanaka, managing director of retail specialized services at MUFG Union Bank, has joined GFBNCE’s board of directors.

New Children’s Book About Fred Korematsu Released

A new children’s book about Fred Korematsu, written by Laura Atkins and Stan Yogi, was released on Jan. 31 to coincide with the annual “Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution” and the 75th anniversary of Executive Order 9066.

"Fred Korematsu Speaks Up" introduces the history of World War II-era Japanese American incarceration to young readers along with topics such as discrimination and civil liberties — and shows how everyday people can make extraordinary progress by just speaking up.

Korematsu’s brave fight against discrimination proved that one courageous person’s fight to make the U.S. a fairer place for all Americans could make a difference.

Written in free verse and illustrated by Yutaka Houlette, the 112-page hardcover book is available through Eastwind Books (www.eastwindbooks.com).

— P.C. Staff
By Helen Yoshida, Contributer

ROGER Shimomura, a nationally known internee, has been invited to talk about Heart Mountain, then a desolate patch of prairie between Cody and Powell, Wyo., that was inspired by the incarceration and Heart Mountain’s story to tell.

Shimomura’s work is the subject of a new documentary by Emmy award-winning filmmakers Jeff MacIntyre and David Osu, their debut film — “Heart Mountain” — was a tremendous success. They will close Friday’s pilgrimage events with a showing of their new film and a silent auction at the Cody Holiday Inn on July 28. After the screening, Shimomura, MacIntyre and Osu will participate in a panel in which Shimomura will discuss his art and Japanese American identity in the 21st century.

The congressional delegation will serve as a symbolic honor.

The stamp proposal features the National Wyoming Foundation Wyoming as facing rampant prejudice from the rest of society, over 30,000 Japanese Americans chose to serve as members of the U.S. Armed Forces."

Sen. Dianne Feinstein of California also announced that she, too, sent a letter to the U.S. Postmaster General.

"As our country reflects on next year’s 75th anniversary of placing individuals in internment camps, I encourage you to honor them by issuing a stamp in remembrance of the sacrifices that they made during World War II," Feinstein wrote in her Oct. 5 letter. "I feel that this would be an appropriate use of my voice to support the aim of honoring our history."
ROBERT HANDA, A THIRD-GENERATION HEART MOUNTAIN DESCENDANT, SHOWS PRIDE IN HIS JA HERITAGE

The NBC Bay Area reporter/host is named ‘Reporter of the Year’ by the Associated Press Television and Radio Assn.

By Patti Hirahara, Contributor

At the nation begins to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066, which put 120,000 Japanese and Japanese Americans into incarceration camps during World War II, Robert Handa’s success story is a direct reflection of what children of camp descendents learned from their families about the incarceration experience and how it affects their perspectives on life today.

A familiar face to those that live in the greater San Francisco Bay Area, Handa is a TV reporter for KNTV NBC Bay Area News on the 5, 6 and 11 p.m. newscasts, as well as the executive producer and host of the station’s weekly half-hour show “Asian Pacific America With Robert Handa.”

Currently, it is the only existing Asian cultural affairs show on network television in the Bay Area. Handa joined NBC Bay Area in June 2014 — returning to the station where he began his career more than three decades ago.

Handa’s grandfather, Sukeji Handa, immigrated to the Santa Clara Valley from Japan’s Yamaguchi Prefecture in 1906 as a farm laborer. He then went back to his hometown in Naruto-mura to marry his bride, Chiseko, and he brought her back to the United States in 1924.

“I really feel I saw both sides of the war situation through my parents. My father, Albert, was the youngest among four boys and one girl that died at birth, and he rarely talked much bitterness or resentment about his experience. Instead, he and my uncles, Donald, Ernest and James, talked about their time at the Heart Mountain Relocation Camp in Wyoming, through the eyes of young men and boys focusing on the challenge and the adventure of their experience through Boy Scouts and being on camp baseball teams. “I remember being impressed that they seemed to have come out of it with a sense of strength and determination,” Handa continued, “but every once in a while, I sensed a flash of anger at the injustice of what happened.”

Handa continued, “My grandparents, their children and my parents were, as you might expect, more affected by the real events. Although they recovered from the loss of one farm with a successful farm after camp, I remember asking them about the incarceration and getting a very intensely negative reaction. They would shake their heads and mutter what was obviously angry remarks in Japanese of the disbelief they felt after WWII. I recall, distinctly, running into my grandparents at a shopping center with my then-girlfriend, who was Caucasian. They smiled and were very polite, but later, my father told me they called him and were upset at what they saw. I was surprised and even a bit bummed by it all, then, but it would be years later that I would truly understand the depth of their reaction to what happened as a result of their internment.

“When I say I saw both sides,” Handa recalled, “it’s because my mother, Harumi, was born and raised in Japan. The main memories I have, of her early stories of the war were from the Japan side and her seeing the color of the sky as she saw one of the atomic bomb blasts. She had a childlike sense of wonderment at what was actually a horrifying event, and I recall her stories of how Japan reacted to being a defeated country.”

“In having both an American citizen father of Japanese descent and a Japanese mother, I could begin to understand, at an early age, what both sides faced with the effects of the incarceration of Japanese Americans and the war against Japan during WWII,” Handa said. “My grandfather came to this country 111 years ago to start a new life and decided to raise his family here as an immigrant. Even with everything they lost, my grandfather applied for U.S. citizenship at the age of 64, and he became a citizen despite his internment at the Pomoa Assembly Center and then at Heart Mountain. His allegiance never wavered,” Handa added.

Being a Sansei or third-generation Japanese American, Handa has continued to be a role model for younger-generation Asian Americans. A San Jose native, he attended De Anza College in Cupertino, Calif., and won a journalism contest for an internship at KNTV Channel 11 — a moment that he describes as the first real step toward his broadcast journalism career.

That internship eventually turned into a part-time job while he attended San Jose State University. Later, Handa became the station’s first Asian-American reporter — joining a small group of other Bay Area TV reporters who had earned the same distinction.

At just 22, Handa videotaped, produced and edited a five-part documentary series on the WWII internment camps at the Wesley United Methodist Church in San Jose, Calif.

A four-time Emmy Award winner, Handa was honored last year at an AP awards ceremony in Los Angeles with the prestigious Mark Twain “2015 Chris Harris Reporter of the Year” award by the Associated Press Television and Radio Assn. in its annual competition among radio and TV stations in 13 western states. He was also recognized, that same evening, with the AP Mark Twain Award for “Best Coverage of an Ongoing Story” for a series on the delayed construction of the $300 million expansion to the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center.
As a news reporter and host at KNTV NBC Bay Area, Robert Handa takes part in community projects such as the NBC Bay Area/Safeway Food Drive as part of the “Help Us End Hunger” campaign. He is photographed here at the Safeway store in Morgan Hill.

In 2016, Robert Handa was inducted into the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences San Francisco Chapter’s Silver Circle for his career at KTVU and KNTV NBC Bay Area. Handa worked at KTVU as the station’s South Bay Reporter for 16 years. He also worked as a reporter and fill-in anchor at KTVU in San Francisco and reported documentary programs for KQED-TV.

In being honored as part of this elite group, the Academy cited his “Community Stewards” award from the Asian Americans for Community Involvement, the first-ever “Media Excellence” award from the South Bay Islands Asian American Association, his award from the National Association of Black Journalists, and in 2010, being named to the Asian American Journalist Association’s Honor Roll of “Pioneers in Journalism,” as just some of his accolades.

In addition to reporting for NBC Bay Area News, Handa’s longest personal achievement has been the creation of “Asian Faces in America” with Robert Handa, a weekly talk show covering Asian American social events, community associations and youth perspectives. The program airs Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. on NBC Bay Area Channel 11 or cable Channel 3 and retries at 6 p.m. on CC317 TV.

channel 13.

“I had always wanted to do a new entertainment show that focused on Asian Americans since I felt our community needed a show like this to highlight the wonderful diversity and stories we have to offer,” Handa said.

Launched in September 2014, just a few months after Handa returned to KNTV NBC Bay Area, he was<E„continued from page 3> continued from page 3

Continued from page 3

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The Eighth Grade Classroom photo of Robert’s father, Albert Handa, in Heart Mountain, Wyo., in 1944. Albert is shown in the first row on the end.

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HIJACKED

Forced by the government to flee his home in Latin America as a result of World War II, Art Shibayama fights to legally restore the wrong he and hundreds of others suffered decades ago.

By Diana Morita Cole, Contributor

A boy, asleep at the beach, is shaken by his grandmother. "Oye! Albor de ata, Arturo! Vamanos." A few feet from his sprawling legs, waves embrace the shore while ghostcials scurry to the high ground. The boy reaches for his grandmother's hand and walks to the awaiting black sedan, a uniformed chauffeur at the wheel.

When he was born in 1930, Art Shibayama suffered decades ago. When he was born in 1930, Art Shibayama suffered decades ago. When he was born in 1930, Art Shibayama suffered decades ago. When he was born in 1930, Art Shibayama suffered decades ago.

Art Shibayama in the U.S. Army, 1952

In 1944, Yuzo, Tatsue and their six children were herded aboard the Cuba by U.S. soldiers armed with machine guns, rifles and whips. Their properties, passports and legal documents were seized as they embarked on a 21-day journey that would change their lives forever.

The Peruvian government decided to make use of a FBI blacklist of enemy aliens comprised mainly of the names of community leaders, including Art's father, Yuzo Shibayama. Using this blacklist, which was substantiated by evidence, the Peruvian government identified these men as threats to the state and began rounding them up.

So, in 1943, Yuzo became a wanted man. He would intermittently flee his home and hide in a small town in the Andes to escape the notice of the authorities. He left for the mountains whenever he heard an American ship had docked at the Port of Callao, the chief seaport in Peru, since he knew the ships were being used to abduct his friends.

The Etolin was the first American ship to arrive at a warehouse, the men, women and children were ordered to strip and doused with whips. Their properties, passports and legal documents were seized as they embarked on a 21-day journey that would change their lives forever.

In 1944, Yuzo, Tatsue and their six children were herded aboard the Cuba by U.S. soldiers armed with machine guns, rifles and whips. Their properties, passports and legal documents were seized as they embarked on a 21-day journey that would change their lives forever.

When Art, now 13 years old, and his family were sent away to Japan, he never saw them again, said Art Shibayama.

It may have been, as writer Greg Robinson suggests in "A Tragedy of Democracy," that this program of extraordinary rendition began when America was losing the war in the Pacific and was desperate for prisoners to use in exchange for American citizens stranded in Axis countries, since Japanese soldiers routinely evaded capture by committing suicide.

In 1946, a year after the end of the war, Art's family was released from captivity. No longer of any value to its foreign policy strategies, America pressured the government of Peru to take its former residents and citizens back. But of the 1,309 taken captive, only 60 Japanese Peruvians were permitted to return. America then ordered the remaining Japanese Latin Americans to be deported to Japan - a country devastated by war and one many had never seen.

Rather than submit to deportation, Yuzo decided to remain in the U.S. Fortunately through the humanitarian work of a civil rights lawyer, Wayne Collins, a parole program was initiated, allowing the Japanese Latin Americans to stay in the U.S. as long as they were able to secure a sponsor. And that sponsor, for many of the Japanese Peruvians, turned out to be an opportunistic corporation in New Jersey called Seabrook Farms, which was in need of cheap labor after the war.
Seabrook Farms hired children as well as adults. The adults worked 12-hour shifts and were paid an hourly rate of 50 cents for men and 35 cents for women. To help feed their family, Art and Fusa, now both teenagers, worked in the flower nursery. When Art turned 17, he was transferred to the plant where he worked seven days a week during the peak seasons. For three years they labored, deprived of the opportunity to return to school.

The Shibayamas, along with all the other workers at Seabrook Farms, lived in barracks and were forced to buy their provisions from the company store, which charged high prices. The former hostages from Latin America were completely responsible for their own economic survival, which was made even more difficult because their meager wages were taxed at 30 percent, the rate for illegal aliens.

In 1949, while still fighting deportation orders, Yoko, along with other Japanese Peruvians, decided to move to Chicago. There, he tried to rebuild his life. He was able to access his funds in Peru and bought a substantial apartment building in the Uptown area of the city.

His family worked hard to integrate themselves into the existing Japanese American community. The majority of Nikkei in Chicago were also refugees, people who had been forced out of their homes and imprisoned in the United States.

Art found work at the American Carbon Paper Company and enjoyed the social activities for young adults organized by the Midwest Buddhist Church. There, he met Betty Chieko Morita, who would later become his wife, at the Bowlinum, an Uptown bowling alley.

"The girls were crazy about him when he first came to Chicago!" recalled Betty Shibayama. But Fusa didn’t enjoy the same reception. She said she felt marginalized by the community. The majority of Nikkei in the Uptown area of the city.

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Art and Betty Shibayama's wedding photo, Chicago, 1955

Art and Betty Shibayama, Chicago, 1955

Bekki, Art, Betty and Brian at a Peruvian restaurant in California, 2014

In 1952, still classified as an illegal alien, Art was drafted into the U.S. military and sent off to Europe. The young boy, kidnapped from Peru by America and denied legal status, was now expected to defend the country that had hijacked his family, imprisoned him and condemned him to a life as a stateless person.

While stationed in Germany, his superior officer convinced Art to apply for American citizenship, but the U.S. government deemed him ineligible because he had entered the U.S.

illegally, without a visa.

Upon his return to Chicago, Art learned that two members of his family had been permitted to apply for U.S. citizenship during his absence. Deprived of the opportunity to obtain citizenship like the others, he traveled to Windsor, Ontario, in order to gain legal status through re-entry into the U.S. from Canada.

Art finally achieved legal alien status in 1956. “It’s not like we wanted to come here,” he said. He felt the offer was hasty, demeaning and disingenuous — without regard for the scope and severity of the injuries sustained by him and his family.

In 2000, Art, along with his two brothers, launched the Shibayamas, et al. v. U.S. lawsuit for their discriminatory exclusion from the Civil Rights Act of 1958. This lawsuit was dismissed on procedural grounds in federal claims court.

The Shibayamas, along with all the other workers at Seabrook Farms, lived in barracks and were forced to buy their provisions from the company store, which charged high prices. The former hostages from Latin America were completely responsible for their own economic survival, which was made even more difficult because their meager wages were taxed at 30 percent, the rate for illegal aliens.

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This fund raising dinner, The feature will also include tacmc9066.eventbrite.com.

NCWNP
Tanforan Memorial Dinner
San Mateo, CA
Feb. 18; 5 p.m.
San Mateo Marriott
1770 S. Amphlett Blvd.
Price: $55 per person;
$500 per table of 10
This fundraising dinner, sponsored by the Tanforan Assembly Center Memorial Committee, coincides with the 75th anniversary of the signing of E.O. 9066 and will feature a performance by the Grateful Crane Ensemble and the showing of “Tanforan: From Racetrack to Assembly Center,” a film by Dianne Fukami. The TACMC is working to build a permanent memorial statue and plaza behind-the-scenes footage of the original site of the assembly center where 8,000 persons of Japanese ancestry were held in San Bruno, CA.
Info: Visit tanforanmemorial.org or call (650) 653-6000. To purchase dinner tickets, visit www.tacmc9066.eventbrite.com.

No Longer Silent: Uncovering the Stories Behind the Eaton Artifacts
San Jose, CA
Feb. 17; 1 p.m.
Japanese American Museum of San Jose
536 N. Fifth St.
Price: Free with admission to the museum; seating is limited.
This slide presentation, Nancy Ueki, a writer and researcher based in Berkeley, will explore some of the stories that she discovered in her research on objects in the Eaton collection of Japanese American camp artifacts. This lecture coincides with the 75th anniversary of E.O. 9066 and the 65th anniversary of the publication of Allen H. Eaton’s book “Beauty Behind Barbed Wire: The Arts of the Japanese in Our War Relocation Camps.”

PSW
Day of Remembrance 2017: No to Nativism, No to Registry, No to Deportation!
Los Angeles, CA
Feb. 18; 2-3 p.m.; rally 3:30-4 p.m.
Japanese American National Museum
100 N. Central Ave.
Today’s political climate has brought upon fear and prejudice. The experience of Japanese Americans serves as a reminder to stand together for civil rights so that history will not repeat itself. Presenters include Hon. Sec. Norman Mineta, former U.S. Congressman Mike Honda and representatives from the Muslim, Native, Latinx and African-American communities.

Resilience at Tule Lake: 2017 GVJC Day of Remembrance
Gardena, CA
Feb. 25; 2-4 p.m.
Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute
1964 W. 162nd St.
Price: Free
This year’s theme is centered around Tule Lake and features a panel discussion with former internees, as well as the screening of Conrad Aderson’s film “Resistance at Tule Lake.”
Info: Email info@jci-gardena.org.

For Sale: 3/3 House with permitted Detached Guest House total living 2637 sq.ft.many upgrades, Chef’s kitchen.
www.planomatic.com/11612

PNW
‘Holocaust and Japanese American Connections’
Seattle, WA
Feb. 18; 1-3 p.m.
University of Washington, Kane Hall
1069 Spokane Lane
Price: Free
Comparative Jewish and Japanese American histories ask how a society can allow the mass incarceration of its own people, a question that is as urgent today as it was 75 years ago when E.O. 9066 was signed. Among the presenters are Dee Simon of the Holocaust Center for Humanity; Dr. Tetsuden Kashima of the University of Washington and Prof. Lorraine Bennai of Seattle University. This is the first in a series of three events.

ECD
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
3 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 at jalaborcamps@gmail.com.

N.E. JACL 2017 Day of Remembrance
Cambridge, MA
Feb. 26; 2-4 p.m.
Bates Theater, MIT Media Lab
20 Ames St.
Price: Free
Titled “National Security and Civil Liberties — 1942 and 2017,” this event will address issues raised by the current wave of Islamophobia and xenophobia. Featured speakers include Shannon Al-Wakil of the Muslim Justice League, Paul Watanabe of the Institute for Asian American Studies at UMass Boston, Margie Yamamoto of JACL New England chapter and Kenneth Oye, a professor at MIT and co-president of the JACL New England chapter.

CCDC
‘Legacy of Internment’ Discussion
St. Paul, MN
Feb. 23; 7 p.m.
Macauley 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/?p=01

For More Info: pacificcitizen.org (213) 620-1767

PACIFIC CITIZEN
**MEMORIAM**

Akiyama, Myo, 100, Spokane, WA, Jan. 2; she was predeceased by her husband, Masuo; she is survived by her children, Paul (Linda) and Laura (Steve) Yoshihara and Gail (Richard) Isoco; many cousins, nieces and nephews; gc: 1.

Hoshamida, Taeko 'Jane,' 85, Orange, CA, Dec. 17; she is survived by her husband, Yutaka; her sister, Mary Ota; her children, Shyoko (Mark Towfiq) Nakahara and Makiko; grandchildren: 1; and great-grandchildren: 2.

Watanabe, Emma, 82, Gardena, CA, Dec. 8; she was predeceased by her husband, Shoji; her children, Janet (Tadashi) Tsurufuji, Mariko (Sho) Hata, and Kelly (Shoji) Ryoo; grandchildren: 6; and great-grandchildren: 3.

Kumagai, Ken, 90, Long Beach, CA, Dec. 28; she is survived by her children, Carole (Hiroshi) Higa, Lillian (Roy) Yamamoto, and Kathleen (Pete) Teranishi; grandchildren: 10; and great-grandchildren: 3.

Endo Tonai, Mary Mitsuko, 81, Los Angeles, CA, Jan. 15; she was predeceased by her husband, Tadashi; her children, Tim (Laura), Bruce (Natalie) and Alyce Morita; grandchildren: 6; and great-grandchildren: 3.

Morita, Asayo Sue, 95, Palo Alto, CA, Jan. 17; she is survived by her sister, Chiyoko Morita; and Ino Morita; grandchildren: 2; and great-grandchildren: 2.

Nakamura, Betty Toshiko, 95, Los Angeles, Dec. 1; she is survived by her husband, George; her children, Shawn (David) Tiemeier and Rodney Nakamura; siblings, Itsuko Yamasaki, Sachi (Tom) Murata and Sada Honda; grandchildren: 6; and great-grandchildren: 3.

Ogata, Yukiye 'Yuki,' 93, Orange, CA, Jan. 11; she is predeceased by her husband, John; survivors by her son, Tim (Laura); grandchildren: 2.

Ohtake, Takehshi 'Taku,' 90, Lakewood, CA, Jan. 15; he is survived by his wife, Kuniko; children, Tomoko, Atsuko and Tadatomo; grandchildren: 4.

Okabe, Nobuko, 79, Spokane, WA, Dec. 31; she was predeceased by her husband, Larry; she is survived by her children, Gail, Gwain (Darcy) and Lynn (Tom) Dwyer; brother, Masao, gc: 6; and great-grandchildren: 1.

Oka, Miyoki 'Milie,' 98, Los Angeles, CA, she was predeceased by her husband, Henry Okai; son, Terrance Okai; she is survived by her daughters, Carole (Harvey) Omata and Donna (Ken) Nose; sister, Betty Masuda; gc: 4.

Peterson, Miekko Marilyn, 77, San Jose, CA, Jan. 12, as a child, and her family were incarcerated during WWII at the War Relocation Authority facility at Heart Mountain, WY; she is survived by her sons, James (Tammy) and Robert; her sisters, Janice, Charleston and Karen; nephews, nieces and other relatives; gc: 2.

Shingu, Mary, 93, La Palma, CA, Dec. 24; she was predeceased by her husband, Tadashi; she is survived by her son, Alvin Shingu; she is survived by her children, Glenn and Vickie (David) Tabei; sisters, Yoshiko Tanaka and Shuzko (Juni) Taira; gc: 2.

**IN MEMORIAM**

Doi, Emiko, 93, San Francisco, CA, Dec. 23; she is survived by her sister, Mary Ota, sons, Keiji Doi and Michio Doi.

Fukuda, Frances, 81, Irvine, CA, Dec. 21; she is survived by her sons, William (Lynn), Robert and John; brother, William Yang; gc: 3.

Fujii, Virginia 'Ginny' Lassins, 81, San Jose, CA, Jan. 15; she is survived by her husband, Alan; sons, Andrew and Jeffrey; siblings, Robert and Christina (Pete) Rotherbach; sister-in-law, Karen (Edward) Toguchi; she is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

Goto, Mina, 84, South Pasadena, CA, Jan. 19; she is survived by her husband, Yoshio; son, Robert (Susan); sister, Margaret Kumagai; many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2.

**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

**TRIBUTE**

Mary Mitsuko Endo Tanoi

On Jan. 15, 2017, Mary Mitsuko Endo Tanoi, great wife, mother, sister, auntie, cousin and friend, left us after her valiant battle with pancreatic cancer. We were fortunate to have had her with us for so long. Now, she can walk and run among flowers and sunshine, again.

Mary was born on Feb. 6, 1932, to Tozo and El Endo on a farm in Monterey County, Calif. Her childhood years were spent in Salinas, Calif., and during World War II at Salinas Assembly Center and later at Heart Mountain, WY. Upon their release, they moved to Long Beach, Calif., where Mary graduated from Long Beach Polytechnic High School. After her family moved to their home in Silver Lake, Mary worked as a seamstress at William Cahill of Beverly Hills, where she met Minoru "Min" Tanoi at a Valentine’s Day dance in 1950. They were married on Sept. 8, 1955, and recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. Mary unselfishly offered her full support and care to her family and was quietly very proud of each of their many accomplishments. She also enjoyed volunteering for numerous organizations, including the Japanese American National Museum, where she made wonderful friends and received the museum’s Outstanding Volunteer Administration Award.

She is now with her beloved departed parents, siblings – Jerry, Bill, and Nancy Miya, as well as other relatives and friends. Besides her husband and children, Susan, John and Terae, she leaves behind her sisters – Yae Nagai and Elinor Sakado; brothers – Tak, Its and George; her in-laws; many nieces and nephews; cousins; friends and their families.

A Celebration of Life will be held for Mary’s family and close friends at the Japanese American National Museum on Feb. 25 at 10:30 a.m. Colorful attire is encouraged.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a gift in memory of Mary Tanoi to the UCLA Jonson Cancer Center Foundation or the Japanese American National Museum.
Are you over 50 and starting off the new year looking for a job? You’re not alone. Workers age 50 and over now represent a third of America’s workforce. Some can afford to retire, and many continue to enjoy working. But many others must work to pay the bills and provide for their families. And, in this time of fewer pensions, others feel they need to put more away for what they anticipate will be a longer life.

Looking for a job when you’re over 50 years old can be scary. First, you face a host of age-old myths and stereotypes that have influenced how SO-plus folks are portrayed in the media and in many other areas of our popular culture — and still influence the attitudes of many employers.

One of the most common and most destructive of these myths is that people over 50 are at the threshold of increasing illness and frailty. Yet, the reality of aging today is very different. Most of today’s 50-plus Americans are not frail and sick. Only about five out of every 100 live in nursing homes. Even among those in their advanced years, age 75-84, three out of every four report no disability at all.

Perhaps the worst of the myths about older workers is the one that suggests you are unproductive and unwilling or unable to learn new technologies. That’s nonsense! Study after study emphatically shows otherwise. You can — and do — learn new skills, develop new abilities and successfully train for new professions.

In 2015, an extensive, independent study was commissioned by AARP — “A Business Case for Workers Age 50+.” It found that today’s 50 and over workforce is, in fact, adding value for employers. You offer traits that are highly sought after such as experience, maturity and professionalism, a strong work ethic, loyalty, reliability, understanding and the ability to serve as mentors. The study also found that age is no longer a significant difference in the costs of hiring and retaining younger and older workers.

And figuring out what steps to take to begin your search is so different in 2017. Much has changed in a relatively short time. Before the Internet, the best option to find a job was through printed classified ads. The Internet has caused an often confusing explosion of information for job seekers. Interviews have moved from face-to-face meetings to webcasts and mobile devices. Applications, references, work samples and cover letters — all are now linked and shipped via the Internet, only rarely by paper and postage stamps.

Have no fear. AARP can help you navigate through it all to create a job search plan that will help you to hit the ground running and give you a good shot at finding that new job this year.

A good place to start is with AARP’s new work site (www.aarp.org/work). It offers sections, for example, on “How to Be Competitive,” “Write the Perfect Cover Letter,” “How Job Hunting Has Changed,” “How to Job Search When You’re Discouraged,” “How Social Networks Impact Your Job Search” and much more.

And AARP Foundation’s website (www.aarp.org/aarp-foundation/our-work/income/back-to-work-50-plus/ smart-strategies-for-50-plus-jobseekers) offers combined advice from job search experts, employers and successful 50+ jobseekers in its guide “7 Smart Strategies for 50+ Jobseekers,” which is filled with valuable information about the job search process. Good luck!

Ron Mori is co-president of the Washington, D.C., JACL chapter and manager of community, states and national affairs — multicultural leadership for AARP.