‘NEVER GIVE UP!’
A documentary on the life of Min Yasui will have its world premiere in Oregon.
YOUR SUPPORT OF THE P.C. MATTERS! HERE’S HOW

“Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free. Send me your in-laws, your grandchildren and your neighbors.

— Modified quote from ‘Lady Liberty’

Thank you for your support of the Pacific Citizen Spring Campaign 2017. Your JACL membership matters! You are one of thousands of JACL members who believe in social justice, cultural and historical preservation and community empowerment. Here are a few things you can do with your JACL Membership:

• Donate generously to the Pacific Citizen with a donation as an individual, a chapter or a district. Every dollar counts!

• Place an ad in the Pacific Citizen advertising local businesses as well as for your chapter events such as scholarship, Obon festivals, installation luncheons and more. The P.C. receives the revenue, and your chapter gets commission as well.

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• Join us for national events, such as leadership conferences in Washington, D.C., the JACL National Convention and gala cultural events.

• Find and check us out on Facebook, Twitter and other social media venues.

• Watch for your copy of the Pacific Citizen online. (Printed copy is $17/year).

• Free admission to the Japanese American National Museum and eligibility for the JACL Credit Union.

• Eligibility for JACL Scholarships, internships, fellowships and leadership programs.

• More members mean more power to protect civil and human rights for all.

• Membership dues are reinvested into our community by empowering tomorrow’s leaders and youth.

• Your donation to the JACL allows us to print and circulate curriculum to educate students, teachers, administrators and politicians about Japanese American and Asian American history and values.

Please step up and support the P.C.’s 2017 Spring Campaign with a donation, an ad and a gift membership for a friend or family member. Do it today!

Best regards,
Jim Duff, NCWNPDC P.C. Editorial Board Representative

— JACL National

JACL Condemns Recent Threats Against the Jewish Community

The JACL condemns the recent threats to the Jewish community, including threats targeting community centers and the vandalism of cemeteries in St. Louis and Philadelphia.

More than 100 Jewish community centers and schools have received bomb threats in 2017, and nearly 300 gravestones were vandalized in attacks on the Chesed Shel Emeth Society in University City, Mo., and the Mount Carmel Cemetery in Northeast Philadelphia, Pa.

Over the last year, we have seen the rise of xenophobia and racism targeted nearly every community of color. We have seen the recent shooting of two Indian Americans in Kansas due to the shooter’s belief that they were immigrants, echoing the murder of Vincent Chin in 1982.

Although we appreciate that the president’s remarks on Feb. 28 touched on the need for our country to “stand united in condemning hate and evil in all its forms,” we urge the administration to translate these words into actions that will lead to the apprehension and conviction of the perpetrators.

As the oldest and largest Asian American and Asian American civil rights organization, JACL understands we cannot be bystanders and we must work with our partners to ensure that the United States remains a country that honors diversity and values the rights of all who live here.

— JACL National

JACL Continues Opposition to Executive Orders on Immigration

The JACL continues to oppose executive orders that are based on racism and xenophobia. On March 6, the White House issued an “Executive Order Protecting the Nation From Foreign Terrorist Entry Into the United States.”

Like other executive orders issued earlier this year, this order uses security as a rationale to discriminate against the Muslim community. Although this order offers more specific details around who should or should not be banned from entering the country, ultimately it continues a pattern of excessive tactics being utilized by this administration against refugees and immigrants seeking a better life.

>> See IMMIGRATION on page 4

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 members? ☒ ☐

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March 10-23, 2017

LETTER/NATIONAL

PACIFIC CITIZEN

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A MOTHER’S TAKE
SPEAKING UP

By Marsha Aizumi

Recently, I attended a book launch for “Fred Korematsu Speaks Up,” sponsored by Asian Americans Advancing Justice — Los Angeles and written by Stan Yogi and Laura Atkins. Stan Yogi and I worked on Okashi 2016 together, and I wanted to support him. I also wanted to learn more about this courageous man whose image I recently saw Google change their home page icon to on Jan. 30. This day had been chosen because in 2010, the Governor of California signed the legislative bill establishing Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution. It was also Fred’s birthday. This was the first statewide day in U.S. History named after an Asian American.

What struck me deeply at this book event was that Fred’s children did not know what their father had done until they heard about him from others. He had stayed silent about his defiance of President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Executive Order 9066, which allowed the military to imprison close to 120,000 Japanese American citizens and send them off to desolate areas of the country.

It showed me that he was a man who stood up for what he believed in at his core, not for publicity or fame, but for what he believed in at his core, not for publicity or fame, but for usefulness of art in society.

It also felt like when he lost his case at the Supreme Court, it hurt him deeply How could the Supreme Court rule that it was legal to round up Japanese American citizens and send them off to desolate areas of the country. It showed me that he was a man who stood up for what he believed in at his core, not for publicity or fame, but for usefulness of art in society.

At a time like we are living in, there are so many opportunities to stand up for what is right. For me, I don’t mind sharing our story and thoughts through my writing, attending protests and traveling around the country to speak about transgressions issues and family acceptances. But that is not the way my husband fights for justice. He fights through his pocketbook, through his support of me traveling and as silly as it may seem to others, by staying home and caring for our dog, Mochi.

I was also struck by the passion and commitment of Karen Korematsu, who worked so hard to keep her father’s story alive so that Fred could become a role model in doing what is right. When her father died, his actions could have died with him, but Karen and her brother continued to bring visibility and voice to his story. When I saw the Google home page honoring Mr. Korematsu, I was sure this didn’t just magically happen. It took someone to speak up and advocate for Fred.

“Ten Good Reasons to Eliminate Funding for the National Endowment for the Arts,” which included the claim, “The NEA is welfare for cultural elitists.”

Regardless of the nature of the content produced by federally funded art and media projects, the combined budgets of the three entities is only about $741 million, the New York Times reported in January of this year. That’s less than one-tenth of a percent of the federal budget overall. But the actual dollars and cents of slashing the NEA, NEH or CPB’s funding has never mattered much to their conservative foes. For them, it is a matter of principle. The fact that some of their tax dollars — if only a microscopic sliver of them — fund media or art they find distasteful, offensive or critical of their political and religious viewpoints is more than many can stand.

Their objections do beg the question: Does the government have a duty to help foster the arts? Some NEA-sponsored projects have produced art of dubious quality or value. Take, for example, artist Ann Carlson’s performance art piece “Doggie Hamlet,” billed as “a full-length outdoor performance spectacle that weaves dance music, visual and theatrical elements with aspects from competitive sheep herding trials.”

“And through story, motion, site and stillness, ‘Doggie Hamlet’ explores instinct, sentience, attachment and loss, and is a beautiful and dreamlike spectacle weaving instinct, mystery and movement into an unusual performance event. Carlson’s description reads. Videos of “Doggie Hamlet” reveal two people standing in a Vermont field, alongside two dogs and a herd of grazing, disinterested sheep. (“Doggie Hamlet” received $30,000 from the NEA). Or, recall Andres Serrano’s “Piss Christ,” a photograph of a crucifix immersed in a jar of Serrano’s urine, which took home awards in a NEA-sponsored competition.

But regardless of the actual content of the art produced with taxpayer money, we could see a return to the rich-for-the-rich art if federal funding to the arts is slashed — or worse still, a return to the patronage system in which wealthy patrons pay poor artists to produce art tailored to their tastes and sensibilities. Art has always been classist in nature — apart from a remarkable few, artists historically tend to come from the wealthier strata of society.

Artists must have the time and the resources to devote entire swaths of their lives to perfecting their craft. But in recent decades, the NEA and NEH have helped even out that playing field by offering grants and funding competitions with cash prizes. It has allowed artists — albeit to a limited extent — to pursue a pure distillation of their vision, one untainted by classist sensibilities.

Vincent Van Gogh famously never sold a painting in his lifetime, but most modern artists have to think about things like rent and utilities and car payments. In a laissez-faire approach, where the artist is forced to sell his or her work on the market to eke out a living, their work would skew toward the commercial, catered to the tastes of the monetized class.

A YONSEI TRANSPLANTED
ART ENCOURAGES THE BELIEFS AND IDEALS THAT DEFINE OUR CULTURE AND OUR NATION

By Matthew Ormseth

President Trump’s announcement last month that he intends to slash funding to the National Endowment for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting in order to funnel an additional $54 billion to the military came in the homestretch of a senior thesis debating the ethics and usefulness of art in society.
EXECUTIVE ORDER 9066: #NEVERFORGET

By Jessica Huey, Contributor

It was the worst day of his life. That was all he would ever say about it.

Looking at black-and-white photos of my great-grandfather, the stoicism etched in his expression is impossible to ignore. But to understand his story — that of a quiet, Japanese merchant who came to America with his wife to start a new life in the early 1900s — it becomes clear the extent to which living in America, filled with its golden grain and promises, also took its toll on him.

Like millions of America's immigrants then and now, my great-grandfather chose a life that he could not anticipate. Silently, he stepped off the boat onto the soil of the Pacific Northwest with only the possessions he could carry.

Together with my great-grandmother and their families, they forged new lives with the seemingly endless pathways into the unknown.

America has long flirted with its immigrants, promising a life full of opportunity — of fairness under the law. Over the course of history, however, her temperamental outbursts have been indiscriminate; from the early Irish and Chinese immigrants to the Latino and Muslim immigrants of today, America has chosen to define immigrants as "one of us" or "other." Not too long after many immigrants realize that the lottery to which they have a ticket is actually the beginning of a marathon race to make America their new home, they come to realize that something about them — the way they look, the way they eat, the way they greet others — doesn't quite fit in.

The culminating disappointment of these realizations juxtaposed to their dogged efforts to make America their new home creates an undeniable tension that begins to define the immigrant experience: What exactly does it mean to call America home?

My great-grandfather would get his answer the day the FBI came to his house late one evening to take him away from his family.

The anxiety had been growing for months. It hadn't been long after Pearl Harbor when an icy veil of suspicion descended on the Japanese American community in California.

It started gradually with the absence of the friendly greetings on the street — invisible cues formulating distance. Then came the signs: "Go home, Japs" they read.

The hurt was easier to digest coming from strangers but impossible to mask when it came from neighbors. And then, straight from the mouth of President Roosevelt with Executive Order 9066, my great-grandfather and his family were to become prisoners of their home.

Over the more than 30 years he had lived in America, my great-grandfather quietly became a leader in his community of Japanese Americans.

In Stockton, Calif., he owned a small trucking company. His work was simple, but his eye on the others to make sure everyone was cared for. People gauged his silence for meaning, for direction.

It was one of his many friends that alerted him — the FBI would be coming after him within the next 24 hours. The rest would be a blur. The FBI came for my great-grandfather with orders to take any prominent persons of Japanese descent to be questioned at the local jail. My great-grandfather would not be reunited with his family for months.

In the meantime, his wife would be without a husband, and his three American citizen daughters in their 20s would be without a father, but their time would come, too.

Packing little more than what they had been able to bring to America, they were shipped to the swamps of Rohwer, Ark. — a prison of another sort.

Their careers, their possessions, their lives as American citizens disappeared in one fell swoop.

The suspicious intensified in the camps. The barbed wire that separated 120,000 people of Japanese descent, over two-thirds of whom were the American-born children of Japanese immigrants like my great-grandfather, and his family were to become prisoners of their home.

Their America was a different one: an America that asked its young sons if they would faithfully serve the country that had just put them and their families behind barbed wire.

By the end of the war, the only crime these 120,000 Japanese Americans were charged with was looking like the enemy. Backed by the government, America had decided that one group above all others warranted increased surveillance.

Raymond Tomikichi Ito — my great-grandfather — passed away long ago. I never had the chance to meet him, but I keep his story close.

While the physical prisons have yet to surround another group of immigrants or American citizens since the Japanese internment camps of World War II, America's hysteria with the "enemy" is something that should never be normalized.

The harm of Executive Orders that promote discriminatory agendas has already been experienced. Let us not forget.

Jessica Huey works as a social sector capacity builder in the Bay Area with FEMA. She received her master's in Public Policy from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government and her BA, from Brown University. Jessica is a fourth-generation Japanese American (Yonsei) on her mother's side and fourth-generation Chinese American on her father's side.

In Memory of ANGUS MACBETH

By Gerald Yamada, Contributor

On March 6, 2017, I, together with Michelle Amano, JACL vp for general operations; Grant Ujifusa, the chief strategist for the JACL Redress Committee that secured passage of the Civil Liberties Act (aka "Redress") and co-author of the "Almanac of American Politics"; John Toke, former president of the Washington, D.C., chapter of JACL; and Nancy Yamada joined about 200 guests to celebrate the life of Angus Macbeth in the main nave of the Washington National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.

The majestic setting of the National Cathedral matched the importance of Angus' significant contributions to the environmental movement and his drafting of the 1982 report that "the facts behind Executive Order 9066 in light of these decisions, it is appalling that the administration continues pursuing these divisive tactics.

JACL continues to support the resettlement of refugees and the rights of immigrants, and stands with those who believe the United States is a country of opportunity for anyone seeking a better life.

We must stand against fear-based policies and stay true to the values that make our country truly great.
WARREN FURUTANI TO BE A FEATURED SPEAKER AT 48TH ANNUAL MANZANAR PILGRIMAGE

Los Angeles — Former California State Assemblyman and longtime community activist Warren Furutani will be a featured speaker at the 48th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage sponsored by the Manzanar Committee on April 29 at the Manzanar National Historic Site, located on U.S. Highway 395 in California’s Owens Valley, between the towns of Lone Pine and Independence, approximately 210 miles north of Los Angeles.

Each year, more than 1,000 people from diverse backgrounds, including students, teachers, community members, clergy, and former incarcerees, attend the pilgrimage, which commemorates the Watan sack incarceration of over 110,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry in 10 American concentration camps, as well as other confinement sites, located in the most desolate, isolated regions of the United States during World War II. Manzanar was the first of the American concentration camps to be established.

Cultural performances will begin at 11:30 a.m. PDT, with the main portion of the program starting at noon.

The theme for this year’s pilgrimage is “Never Again. To Anyone. Anywhere! 75th Commemoration of Executive Order 9066.”

Furutani, 69, was already a grass-roots organizer and community leader when he became one of about 150 people who made the first organized pilgrimage to Manzanar on Dec. 27, 1969. Since then, he has dedicated his life to equal opportunity and social justice, focusing his efforts in the areas of education and public service.

In the mid-1970s, Furutani worked with ... in our country, the escalation of xenophobia and anti-immigrant hysteria, we are pleased to have Warren Furutani speak at this year’s pilgrimage,” said Manzanar Committee Co-Chair Bruce Embry.

In 1987, Furutani entered the political arena, becoming the first Asian-Pacific Islander to be elected to the Los Angeles Unified School District Board of Education. Twelve years later, he was elected to the Los Angeles Community College District Board of Trustees.

Furutani was then elected in 2007 to the California State Assembly, representing the 55th District. He also served as chair of the Assembly Public Employees Retirement and Social Security Committee and as chair of the Select Committee on Career Technical Education and Workforce Development.

Furutani, who was born in San Pedro, Calif., and raised in nearby Gardena, authored Assembly Bill 37, which granted honorary college degrees to Japanese American whose education was disrupted due to their unjust incarceration during WWII. Thousands of Japanese Americans have received honorary degrees from college campuses throughout California as a result.

“With the increasing tense political climate in our country, the escalation of xenophobia and anti-immigrant hysteria, we are pleased to have Warren Furutani speak at this year’s pilgrimage,” said Manzanar Committee Co-Chair Bruce Embry. “Warren was one of most consistent and important figures in the decades-long fight for redress and reparations and as one of the original organizers of the Manzanar Pilgrimage back in 1969, Warren can draw upon a broad historical perspective to explain what is happening today.

“Given how the current administration and their right-wing allies are attempting to justify the racist and anti-immigrant executive order by citing Executive Order 9066, and on the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Manzanar National Historic Site, we believe that it is essential to have someone with Warren’s history and political perspective speak at this year’s pilgrimage,” Embry added.

In addition to the afternoon event, the Manzanar at Dusk program will take place the same evening, from 5-8 p.m. at Lone Pine High School, located at 538 S. Main Street (U.S. Highway 395), is Lone Pine, nine miles south of the Manzanar National Historic Site, across the street from McDonald’s.

Manzanar at Dusk is co-sponsored by the Nisei Student Union at California State University, Long Beach; California State Polytechnic University, Pomona; the University of California, Los Angeles; and the University of California, San Diego. Through a creative presentation, small group discussions and an open mic session, Manzanar at Dusk participants will have the opportunity to learn about the experiences of those incarcerated in the camps. Participants will also be able to interact with former incarcerated individuals and discuss their own experiences and discuss the relevance of the concentration camp experience to present-day events and issues.

The Manzanar Committee has also announced that bus transportation to the pilgrimage from Los Angeles’ Little Tokyo is available.

The bus will depart at 7 a.m., arriving at the Pilgrimage at approximately 11:30 a.m., and will also take participants to the Visitor’s Center at the Manzanar National Historic Site following the afternoon program. The bus should arrive back in Los Angeles at approximately 3:30 p.m.

Reservations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. The non-refundable fare is $40 per seat, $20 for students and seniors (65 or older). Complimentary fares are available for those who were incarcerated at any of the former American concentration camps or other confinement sites during WWII.

See MANZANAR on page 12
NEVER GIVE UP! MINORU YASUI AND THE FIGHT FOR JUSTICE WORLD PREMIERE SET

The documentary film honoring the civil rights pioneer will premiere March 28 in Salem, Ore.

Holly Yasui and Homer Yasui look at historical family photos for use in the documentary.

On March 28 — Minoru Yasui Day in Oregon — the new documentary film “Never Give Up! Minoru Yasui and the Fight for Justice” (Part One) will have its world premiere at the Grand Theater in Salem, Ore.

Sponsored by the Salem Progressive Film Series, the program will start with an energizing performance by Portland Taiko, an ensemble of traditional Japanese drummers. Gov. Kate Brown will then introduce the film, which runs about 55 minutes, and a panel discussion and Q & A session will follow the screening.

“Never Give Up!” tells the story of Oregon’s civil rights leader Minoru Yasui, son of immigrant parents from Japan — from his childhood in the farming community of Hood River, Ore., in the early 1900s; his education at the University of Oregon in Eugene; and his legal challenge of the discriminatory military orders in Portland on April 30 – May 3, 1942 — exactly 75 years before the premiere of the film.

Historical photographs, documents and film footage trace the process that more than 120,000 pre-1941 Japanese ancestry residents underwent at the start of World War II as the U.S. government restricted, restricted and removed entire families from their homes on the West Coast and imprisoned them, first in temporary detention centers like the Internment Livestock Exposition Center in North Portland, and then in permanent War Relocation Authority concentration camps such as Minidoka in Idaho.

The film also follows Yasui’s legal case as he languished in solitary confinement at the Multnomah County Jail, only to be reimprisoned at the Minidoka concentration camp, where he continued his work with the community and the Japanese American Citizens League, a patriotic civil rights organization that he had helped to establish in Oregon during the 1930s.

The film depicts his position with regard to the controversial “loyalty questionnaire” administered in the U.S. concentration camps, along with the heartbreaking decisions that many young Japanese American men were forced to make when the military draft was reconstituted.

“The circumstances and consequences of the Japanese American experience during World War II are chillingly relevant today as the federal government calls for a Muslim registry and has imposed travel restrictions upon individuals who solely upon their national origin,” said Holly Yasui, Minoru Yasui’s youngest daughter and the film’s co-director. “In my father’s name, I have joined in amicus briefs being filed in the federal courts opposing Executive Order 13769, and I will continue to speak out against additional discriminatory regulations which the government has wrongly ‘justified’ by the illegal and immoral treatment of Japanese Americans in the 1940s.”

Holly Yasui started production of the film in 2013 as part of a project to honor her father on his centenary — he was born in 1916 and if he had lived, Yasui would have turned 100 years old in 2016.

The Min Yasui Tribute project — co-founded by Yasui and Peggy Nagae, Yasui’s lead attorney in 1983 when he reopens his wartime legal case — resulted in Yasui earning a posthumous awarding of the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2015 by then-President Barack Obama, as well as the designation of March 28 — the day he initiated his constitutional legal test case — as Minoru Yasui Day in Oregon in perpetuity by the unanimous vote of the state legislature in 2016.

Upon encouragement by Japanese American activist George Takei, who narrates the film, Holly Yasui and the film’s co-director, Will Dedelittle, decided to release Part One of the film in order to contribute to the reflection upon the Japanese American World War II experiences during the 75th anniversary of Executive Order 9066, as well as provide materials for the ongoing discussions of civil and human rights that are ongoing under fire by the new federal administration.

“Never Give Up!” will be made available to educational institutions and community groups that wish to screen, discuss and study the issues it raises.

Concurrently with the completion of the second part of the film — Yasui’s postwar life and ongoing defense of the human and civil rights of all people — Holly Yasui is working on a study guide and teacher workshops using Part One of the film, including a middle-school curriculum developed by Hood River Middle School teacher Sarah Segal and the Oregon Nikkei Endowment.

The film (Part One) will be screened in Hood River on April 2 at the Columbia Center for the Arts and on April 3 at the Hood River Middle School.

It will then travel to Colorado for a community screening in support of the Coalition for an Inclusive Coloradon in Denver on April 8.

“Never Give Up!” will return to Oregon as a selection of the DisOrient Film Festival in Eugene, Ore., on April 21-22.

And on July 29, it will premiere in the Los Angeles area at the Japanese American National Museum in Little Tokyo.

The film makes hope that “Never Give Up!” will contribute to the ongoing discussions of human and civil rights issues that are arising from new and emerging federal, state and local policies regarding immigrants, racial and religious profiling and due process of law.

As Minoru Yasui himself says at the end of the film:

“From the standpoint of history, I think I’d like to have the American people realize that when you subjugate, when you suppress or oppress any group of people, you are really derogating the rights of all people because if you could do it to the Others, then you can indeed do it to all of us.

“I should be just as eager to defend your rights as I am my own because your rights impinge upon mine. If they take away your rights, they could take away mine, so I will fight to preserve yours.

“It was an act of courage to be involved in this legislation that is unfairly imposed upon anyone, it’s my duty, it’s your duty to try to alleviate it because that’s the way in which we gain a better life for all of us.”

Doors at the Grand Theater will open at 6:30 p.m. Admission to the premiere screening is free, but a $5 donation to the Salem Progressive Film Series is suggested.

For more information, visit www.minoryasuifilm.org or contact miniyasuitribute@gmail.com.

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**Polaris Tours 2017 Schedule**

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- **Spring Japan: “Tokyo, Hakone, Inuyama, Kyoto, Hiroshima, Miyajima”**
- **May 21 – June 01**
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- **Newfoundland & Labrador: “Corner Brook, Rocky Harbour, St. John’s”**
- **Western Explorer: “Scottsdale, Grand Canyon, Las Vegas, Yosemite”**
- **Eastern US & Canada Discovery: “Boston, Quebec City, Toronto, NYC”**
- **Autumn Japan: “Tokyo, Koyasan, Kanazawa, Kyoto, Hiroshima”**

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- **Japan By Train: “Hiroshima, Kurashiki, Okayama, Tokyo”**
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- **Western Explorer: “Scottsdale, Grand Canyon, Las Vegas, Yosemite”**

**Oct. 15 – Oct. 24**
- **Islands of Okinawa & Shikoku: “Naha, Takamatsu, Matsuyama, Kozhi”**

**Oct. 29 – Nov. 08**
- **Labrador: “Corner Brook, Rocky Harbour, St. John’s”**
- **Scotland: “London, Cardiff, Glasgow, Edinburgh”**
- **Newfoundland & Labrador: “Corner Brook, Rocky Harbour, St. John’s”**
- **Western Explorer: “Scottsdale, Grand Canyon, Las Vegas, Yosemite”**

**Oct. 03 – Oct. 16**
- **Eastern US & Canada Discovery: “Boston, Quebec City, Toronto, NYC”**
- **Autumn Japan: “Tokyo, Koyasan, Kanazawa, Kyoto, Hiroshima”**
- **Japan By Train: “Hiroshima, Kurashiki, Okayama, Tokyo”**
- **Iceland Adventure: “Reykjavik, Borgarey, Hofn, Lake Jokulsarlon, Vik”**
- **Labrador: “Corner Brook, Rocky Harbour, St. John’s”**
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JAPANESE LATIN AMERICAN ABDUCTEE TO TESTIFY BEFORE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION

Art Shibayama, who was profiled in the Feb. 10, 2017, issue of the Pacific Citizen, will finally get a hearing on March 21.

By Martha Nakagawa, Contributor

Isamu Carlos “Art” Shibayama, who was among the more than 2,264 Japanese Latin Americans (JLA) kidnapped from their homes in 13 Latin American countries during World War II by the United States government to be used in hostage exchanges with Japan, will finally get a hearing before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) in Washington, D.C., on March 21, from 8:30 a.m., in the Padilla Vidal Room.

“We want to let the people know what happened to us,” said Shibayama. “We’ve been fighting the U.S. government at the IACHR for over 13 years.”

“This is an historic event,” said Grace Shimizu, who has been heading the Campaign for Justice: Redress NOW for Japanese Latin Americans (CFJ) for decades. “We are asking for redress because we’re charging the U.S. government with the ongoing failure to provide redress for war crimes and crimes against humanity that were perpetrated against the Shibayama brothers who were children during World War II.”

Art Shibayama’s parents, Yuzo and Tatsue, are pictured with their six children.

Although the IACHR hearing comes nearly 14 years after Shibayama had submitted the petition, Shimizu said this was not uncommon and that they had been given expedited consideration. Had the petition followed chronological order of filing, Shimizu said they may have had to wait another year and a half.

“It just goes to show you that there’s a lot of human rights violations going on,” said Shimizu.

Shibayama and his two brothers, Ken and Tak, had filed their petition with the IACHR after unsuccessful attempts at the following:

• The Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which issued an apology and a token compensation of $20,000 to Japanese Americans imprisoned in U.S. concentration camps during World War II, was interpreted to exclude the majority of JLA from the bill.

• The federal lawsuit Mochizuki v. the United States, which sought redress for JLA, offered a controversial settlement of a mere $5,000 and an apology to eligible JLA.

• Several lawsuits filed in U.S. courts by the Shibayama brothers and other Japanese Latin Americans were dismissed on technical grounds similar to the way the National Council for Japanese American Redress was dismissed.

• Two pieces of legislation, sponsored by the late Sen. Daniel Inouye of Hawaii and Xavier Becerra, former congressman and current California attorney general, were unsuccessful.

Shimizu said they are hoping for a favorable ruling by the IACHR, whose mission is to promote the protection of human rights in the American hemisphere, which includes the U.S., Canada, Latin America and the Caribbean.

However, while the IACHR has no enforcement authority, the commission’s ruling can clarify and strengthen international law and legal protections.

“The body does not have enforcement powers like the criminal courts, but their ruling can interpret or set a precedent for international law,” said Shimizu. “So, if the Trump Administration feels that this is an important ruling and they agree with it, the U.S. government, then, can abide by the ruling. But if it does not, still other victims of human rights violations in the Americas can point to this ruling and use it in their cases.”

“So, the final ruling of this case is very important because it can help other people,” Shimizu continued. “Plus, later, if there is another U.S. administration that is supportive of human rights and recognizes the importance of this ruling, that administration can follow the ruling. It’s not just an empty gesture that we’re going through.”

In addition, Shimizu pointed out that this hearing offers them an opportunity to continue educating the public.

“This is one way to educate the public because this is not really taught in school, and if we don’t keep speaking out, it’s in danger of being lost,” said Shimizu. “This is an important educational effort that is reaching beyond the United States.”

Shimizu said the CFJ has been getting inquiries as far away as Brazil and Japan.

BRIEF BACKGROUND

During World War II, the U.S. government had considered using U.S. citizens of Japanese descent incarcerated in the War Relocation Authority and Department of Justice camps in hostage exchanges with Japan for U.S. citizens, many of Western European descent, caught in the Far East war zone.

However, exchanging an American for another American, on basis of race or national descent, had constitutional violation issues, and instead, the U.S. government collaborated with 13 Latin American governments to round up persons of Japanese ancestry living in Latin America (both citizens and immigrants) to be used in hostage exchanges between the U.S. and Japan.

Shibayama’s maternal grandparents were used in a hostage exchange with Japan during the war, and he never saw them again.

The majority of JLA were imprisoned at the Department of Justice camp in Crystal City, Texas. Once the war was over, the U.S. government continued to classify the JLA as “illegal aliens,” and some of the Latin American countries refused the return of JLA.

As a result, most of the JLA were deported to Japan. Several hundred were able to fight deportation with the help of civil rights attorney Wayne Collins; of these, many were paroled out of camp to work at Seabrook Farms in New Jersey.

Shibayama, even though classified as an “illegal alien,” was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1952. While serving in the military, Shibayama’s commanding officer encouraged him to apply for U.S. citizenship, but Shibayama was denied on grounds that he had entered the country illegally.

Shibayama would not be granted U.S. citizenship until 1972.

When the ruling came down on the Mochizuki lawsuit in 1999, Shibayama opted not to accept the settlement and made the decision to continue fighting for equitable redress for JLA.

Shibayama added that he found the apology letter that the JLA received under the Mochizuki settlement offensive.

“The letter came on a plain sheet of paper,” said Shibayama. “It’s not even on presidential letterhead like my wife’s (who is a Japanese American). The ones they sent to the Japanese Latin Americans are just on plain paper and don’t even mention the Peruvians or Japanese Latin Americans. Actually, you can give it to a hakujin (Caucasian), and it’ll pass.”

See COMMISSION on page 12
MINNESOTA GOV. MARK DAYTON PROCLAIMS FEB. 19 THE JAPANESE AMERICAN DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

The DOR event also featured a candlelight ceremony to recognize those unjustly incarcerated during WWII and veterans that served in the U.S. military.

By Carolyn Nayematsu and Cheryl Hirata-Dulas, Contributors

A sold-out audience of more than 400 attended the Day of Remembrance program, commemorating the 75th anniversary of the Japanese American incarceration, at the Minnesota History Center in St. Paul, Minn., on Feb. 19.

Sponsored by the Twin Cities JACL chapter and the Minnesota Historical Society, the event welcomed more than 20 camp survivors and Japanese American World War II veterans.

The program was titled “February 19, 1942: A Day the Constitution Died. Could It Happen Again?” in an effort to remind the audience how wartime anti-Japanese racism was a symptom of a pathology that is flaring up today, but directed at Muslims.

Dr. Gordon Nakagawa served as the event’s emcee. MNHS Director/CEO D. Stephen Elliott also talked about the relevance of history to teaching about the past and its implications today, as well as acknowledged the organization’s connection with the Japanese American community because of Historic Fort Snelling, an MNHS-maintained site, which housed the Military Intelligence Service Language School during World War II.

Judge Susan Burke of the 4th Judicial District in Hennepin County and the first Japanese American judge in Minnesota introduced the theme with remarks about the Constitution, and she reminded the audience that the Constitution guarantees freedom of religion, due process, and equal protection.

Following Burke’s remarks, a candlelight ceremony was held to recognize the 10 War Relocation Authority camps, the camps in Hawaii, the Department of Justice camps, along with the MIA, 100th Infantry Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team and draft resisters. Attendees that were camp survivors or veterans and their family members also were asked to stand and be acknowledged.

In a powerful script written by members of the Twin Cities JACL Education Committee, narrated by poet and author David Miez and directed by Rick Shiono of Full Circle Theater, 22 community members added their voices as readers.

They depicted figures prominent during this time, such as President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Lt. Col. John DeWitt, and recited actual testimony of camp survivors and Japanese American World War II veterans as slides of camp photographs and other wartime experiences were shown in the background.

Included in the readings were testimonies by Muslim Americans of injustices they have suffered post-9/11, and slides showing the recent increase in hate crimes.

Poet Kyle “Guante” Tran Myhre recited an original poem “Dear” written specifically for this occasion. Local drum group Kogen Tai-ko ended the program with an original piece.

A Statement of Solidarity, released by the TCJACL and Council on American-Islamic Relations in Minnesota, was included in the program. In that statement, the TCJACL and CAIR-MN pledged to “stand together to resist the current forces of oppression that join our communities’ histories.”

In addition to the official proclamation by Gov. Mark Dayton, the Minnesota House and Senate both passed resolutions, authored by Rep. Rep. Hamilton and Sen. Sandra Pappas, respectively, to recognize the 75th anniversary of Executive Order 9066.

Unable to attend the event, Sen. Amy Klobuchar submitted a letter that included her assurances that “as we face an uncertain world today, we must steel our resolve. We all must do our part. We should tell their stories and reflect on what happened, and how it happened. No matter what, I will continue to stand up for what’s right. And I know you will, too.”

Attendees received a replica of the incarceration identification tag, each printed with a different number, with the phrase “Nidoto Naru” (“Let It Not Happen Again”) on the back. All attendees also received pocket-sized copies of the Constitution, donated by the Minnesota American Civil Liberties Union. JACL National Education Curriculum guides were distributed to educators.

Poetry trees, created by University of Minnesota students Marilyn Kee and Jason Dawson for their final project in a course on the Japanese American incarceration taught by Yasuko Osinski and John Matsunaga in fall 2016, were displayed at the event.

Members of the TC JACL Education Committee are Janet Carlson (co-chair), Carolyn Nayematsu (co-chair), Amy Dickerson, Sylvia Farrelly, Elizabeth Funakama, Lil Grach, Ben Hartman, Cheryl Hirata-Dulas, Lucy Kirihara, Gloria Kamagai, Haruko Krasnowski, Karen Tanaka Lucas, John Matsunaga, Gondo Nakagawa, Yachihiro Osinski, Teresa Swartz and Sally Sudo.

The program was funded by a grant from the JACL Legacy Fund, and donations from the Leo and Karen Saszakamo Fund and the Donal S. Masuda Memorial Fund.

NEW JANM EXHIBITION FEATURES ORIGINAL E.O. 9066

For the first three months of the exhibition, original documents from the National Archives, never before displayed in the Western U.S., will be the centerpiece of the exhibition.

Speaking at the exhibit’s opening reception were (from left) actor/activist George Takei, chair emeritus and board of trustee member; JANM’s Ann Burroughs; Los Angeles Mayor Gil Garcetti; Gerun Riley, president of the Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation; and Matthew Stiffler of the Arab American National Museum in Michigan.

LOS ANGELES — The Japanese American National Museum presents “Instructions to All Persons: Reflections on Executive Order 9066,” a new exhibition that commemorates the 75th anniversary of President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s signing of Executive Order 9066, which led to the internment of 120,000 individuals of Japanese ancestry during World War II.

The exhibition, which runs through Aug. 13, will feature for the first three months the original documents from the National Archives, never before displayed in the Western U.S., as a centennial of the exhibition.

The original Executive Order 9066, including the page bearing Roosevelt’s signature, will be on loan from the National Archives until May 21. In addition, Presidential Proclamation 2337, a key precursor to E.O. 9066 that required individuals from enemy countries of Germany, Italy, and Japan to register with the U.S. Department of Justice, will be displayed, also on loan from the National Archives.

After May 21, replicas will be on display for the duration of the exhibition. E.O. 9066 was most recently displayed in Washington, D.C. in 2013, prior to that it was on view at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of American History in 1987 and ‘88.

“Instructions to All Persons” is intended to engage visitors in critical discussions of the Japanese American incarceration experience and its continuing relevance today.

“Instructions to All Persons” is an important exhibition that looks back at pivotal actions by the American government that led to tragic outcomes for Japanese Americans during World War II, while at the same time demonstrating the lessons of that shameful chapter of history are powerfully meaningful in our world today and how with vigilant

Camp internees and Japanese American veterans were honored at the Feb. 19 DOR event. Pictured (from left, front row) are Yosuke Sugase, Lucy Kinahara, Alice Osada, Sakichi Tsuchiya, Emi Saiki, Bill Doi, Toshibo Yoshida and (back row, from left) Tom Kurihara, Jim Kirihara, Al Tsuchiya, Al Yamamoto, Butch Kumagai, George Suzuki, Bill Hirabayashi, Ed Yoshikawa, Pearl Yoshikawa, Fumiko Matsuyama and Sally Sudo.

Bob Moriguchi, a retired pharmacist and volunteer docent at JANM, shares personal photos of his incarceration experience at the opening of the exhibit.

By the American government that led to tragic outcomes for Japanese Americans during World War II, while at the same time demonstrating the lessons of that shameful chapter of history are powerfully meaningful in our world today and how with vigilant
WATSONVILLE-SANTA CRUZ JACL HOLDS CANDLELIGHT VIGIL IN OBSERVANCE OF FEB. 19

In observance of President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Executive Order 9066 on Feb. 19, 1942, a candlelight vigil was held at the Watsonville City Plaza to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the infamous order.

The event, organized by Watsonville Mayor Oscar Rios and Sayo Fujioka along with co-sponsor Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL, drew more than 135 attendees, three-quarters of whom were non-Nikkei.

Keynote speakers included Mas Hashimoto, Watsonville Police Chief David Honda and Jenny Sarmiento. Hashimoto stated he was grateful to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals’ most recent ruling reversing the current administration’s executive order banning the entry of Muslims from seven countries into the U.S. He recalled that during World War II, the Nikkei nation had so little public and private support. Only the Quakers supported the more than 120,000 individuals of Japanese ancestry that were unjustly incarcerated. He then expressed his gratification that those being targeted today are receiving worldwide support.

Chief Honda, a Sansei whose parents and grandparents lived in Oahu, spoke of his family’s experience and that of the Japanese and Japanese Americans in Hawaii on Dec. 7, 1941, and thereafter. Of the 158,000 Nikkei in Hawaii, nearly 2,000 leaders were arrested and imprisoned. Honda also spoke of Watsonville’s stand as a sanctuary city.

And Jenny Sarmiento spoke of the daily concerns and fears of the undocumented and documented immigrants, many of whom are from Latin American countries. She also thanked the City of Watsonville for its sanctuary stand.

The message shared by all in attendance was that the injustices that resulted due to E.O. 9066 must never be repeated.

NEW ENGLAND DOR

Panelists (from left) included Paul Watanabe, Gautam Mukunda, Shannon Al-Wakeel, Barbara Dougan, Nadeem Mazen, Hoda Elsharkawi and Ken Oye.

‘NEVER AGAIN!’ DOR EVENT HELD IN SACRAMENTO

A crowd of approximately 200 filled the MIT Baker Theater on Feb. 25 to join New England JACL and its co-sponsors in marking the 75th anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066.

JACL members participating in the Day of Remembrance program were Moderator Ken Oye, chapter co-president and MIT political science professor; and Paul Watanabe, director of the Institute for Asian American Studies at UMass Boston.

Additional panelists included Shannon Al-Wakeel, executive director of the Muslim Justice League and board member of the Massachusetts ACLU; Barbara J. Dougan, civil rights director for the Council on American Islamic Relations; Hoda Elsharkawi, MIT Muslim chaplain; Nadeem Mazen, Cambridge City Council; and Gautam Mukunda, assistant professor at Harvard Business School.

Joining NE JACL in sponsoring this year’s event were the Asian American Journalists Assn.’s New England chapter; Asian American Resource Workshop; Council on American Islamic Relations-MA; Institute for Asian American Studies, UMass Boston; MIT Center for International Studies; MIT Department of Political Science; and the Muslim Justice League.

A copy of Executive Order 9066 was on display during the Feb. 19 event.

POLITICS ET. AL-Wakeel, Barbara Dougan, Nadeem Mazen, Hoda Elsharkawi and Ken Oye.

Police Chief David Honda, a Sansei whose parents and grandparents lived in Oahu, spoke of his family’s experience.

Panelists (from left) included Paul Watanabe, Gautam Mukunda, Shannon Al-Wakeel, Barbara Dougan, Nadeem Mazen, Hoda Elsharkawi and Ken Oye.

Police Chief David Honda, a Sansei whose parents and grandparents lived in Oahu, spoke of his family’s experience.

W-SC JACL President Marcia Hashimoto (center) thanked Sayo Fujioka and Mayor Rios for their leadership in organizing the vigil.

Jenny Sarmiento (left) spoke of the daily concerns and fears of undocumented and documented immigrants, many from Latin American countries, and thanked the City of Watsonville for its sanctuary stand.

Camp survivor Christine Umeda shared her thoughts on E.O. 9066 and her experience during WWII with ABC News 10.

Flyer by artist/instructor Heidi Alonso

The event organizers were Watsonville Mayor Oscar Rios (pictured) and Sayo Fujioka. Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL assisted as a co-sponsor.
**NCWNP**

Letters From the Camps: Voices of Dissent
San Francisco, CA
April 27: 6 p.m.
Presidio Officers’ Club
Maraga Hall
50 Moraga Ave.

In partnership with the Presidio Trust and Fred Korematsu Peace & Education Foundation, the NCWNP presents this live reading of letters from the CHS collection, including those written by Fred Korematsu, Gordon Hirabayashi, and Eiko Fujii. This program also coincides with the opening of the Presidio’s Trust E.O. 9066 exhibition.


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**PSW**

New Frontiers: The Many Worlds of George Takei
Los Angeles, CA
Thur- Sat, March 23-25
Japanese American National Museum
100 N. Central Ave.

This new exhibit explores the life and career of pioneering actor, activist and social media icon George Takei. By examining Takei’s diverse experiences and achievements, this exhibition creates a portrait of a unique individual while offering an innovative means of engaging with the social history of America. This exhibit is curated by noted author and cultural critic Jeff Yang.

Info: Visit jann.org/new-frontiers.

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**EDC**

Japanese Puppets: ‘Shark’s ‘Mare’
Amherst, MA
March 30; 7:30 p.m.
UMass Amherst, Bowker Auditorium
80 Campus Center Way
Price: $25

The unique tradition of Japanese kuruma ningyo (cart puppets) tell this story of two wandering travelers along the great highway from Tokyo to Kyoto. Created by American puppeteer Tom Lee and Japanese puppeteer Koryu Nishikawa V, this work fuses traditional puppetry, video projection and live music to explore themes of life and how traditions are passed on.

Info: For more information and to order tickets, visit https://umass.edu/online/default.asp?PARAM=WS/CONTENT/LOADARTICLE;PERMALINK=ShanksMare.

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**PNW**

Shen Yun
Portland, OR
April 4-5
Keller Auditorium
222 S.W. Clay St.
Price: Tickets start at $70.

Shen Yun lets classical Chinese dance do the storytelling of Chinese culture through history. Witness spectacular dancing, acrobatics, visual art pieces and scenery and technological innovations come to life as you travel through history to a time where culture was seen as a gift from heaven and harmony ruled all within the universe.


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**MDC**

Anime and the Apocalypse: ‘Ghost in the Shell’ Screening and Talk
Chicago, IL
April 1; 2-4 p.m.
Japanese Culture Center
1016 W. Belmont
Price: Free; space is limited.

Join the Japanese Culture Center for a screening of the classic anime film “Ghost in the Shell” and a discussion led by DePaul University Professor Elizabeth Liljenberg on themes of the apocalypse in anime and how they are explored through young women protagonists. This is the first in a series of collaborative programming between the JCC and DePaul University’s Student Programs, Kubota-Japan.

Info: Call (773) 562-5141 or visit www.japaneseculturecenter.org.

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**Anime Traditions and Taiko George Takei’s Friends of Fred Korematsu Foundation Minneapols, MN; Noon-1 p.m.
University of Minnesota, Social Sciences Building Room 710 267 19th Ave.

In celebration of Mu Daiko’s 20-year anniversary, Jen Weir, taiko percussionist, composer and artistic director of Mu Daiko, will give a talk on the 2,000-year-old art form, its incomparable sound and role in Japanese/American cultural expression, as well as share insight on Mu Daiko’s next 20 years. Please bring your own lunch and join in on this interesting discussion.

Info: Visit

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**CCDC**

Friends of the Madden Library Talk: Karen Korematsu
Fresno, CA
April 7
Fresno State University
Henry Madden Library
Madden Center, Lots A & B
Price: Free

Karen Korematsu, the daughter of Fred Korematsu — a key figure in a landmark U.S. Supreme Court case that challenged the constitutionality of Executive Order 9066 — is holding a special speaking engagement, sponsored by the Friends of the Madden Library.

Info: For more information or assistance with physical accommodations, contact Sharon Ramirez at (559) 278-5790 or email sharamirez@cfsufresno.edu.

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FOR MORE INFO: pcc@pacifictimizen.org (213) 620-1767
In Memoriam

Doi, Machiko, 68, La Habra, CA, Feb. 14; she is survived by her husband, Izumi “Jimmy” Doi; daughter, Lisa Izumi Doi; gc: 2.

Fujimoto, Yaeko Rhea, 94, Las Vegas, Feb. 21; an active JACLer; she was predeceased by her husband, Shoji Wada; children, Sheila Leshy, Bryce (Pam), Steve (Debi), Brian (Ginny) Wada and Kim (Doug) Muse; gc: 4; ggc: 6.

Kubota, Miku, 90, Ontario, OR, Nov. 12; she was predeceased by her husband, Norihito (Junior); daughters, Sandie (Shibata), Wendy, Lynn and Laura; gc: 4; ggc: 4.

Wada, Chiye, 92, Torrance, CA, Dec. 18; she was predeceased by her husband, Lindo; grandchildren, Shoji Wada; children, Sheila Leshy, Bryce (Pam), Steve (Debi), Brian (Ginny) Wada and Kim (Doug) Muse; gc: 4; ggc: 6.

Yuge, Frances, 94, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA, Dec. 27; she was predeceased by her husband, Isao Yuge; she is survived by her children, Alan T. (Alice) and Jennifer (Roy) Sasaki; brother, Joe (Kim) Hoshino; gc: 1.

Hayashitani, Shota, 82, Sacramento, CA, Feb. 26; he is survived by his wife, Hiroko; children, Hiro (Vida), Shujiro (Vicki) and Eri Inenaga (Andrew); gc: 6.

Hiraga, Helen Miyuki, 97, Gardena, CA, Feb. 27; she is survived by her sons, Glenn (Donna) and Dean (Hidemi); sister, Harumi Mayeda; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 4; ggc: 4.

Hirano, Eddie Takeo, 98, Monterey Park, CA, Feb. 9; he is survived by his children, Steven Masaharu (Mariko), Emiko and Yuri Hirano; brother, Haruaki Hirano; he is also survived by other relatives in the U.S. and Japan.

Hori, Eji, 94, Gardena, CA, Feb. 5; she is survived by her children, Janice (Rick) Katsuki, Mark Hori, Nancy Hori; gc: 4.

Ichiho, Janice Kimiko, 88, Feb. 18, Sacramento, CA; she is survived by her husband, Ronald Masami; children, Gayle Ichiho and Byron (Ami); siblings, Frank Uda Jr. (Lisa), Russell Uda (Gloria), Masashi Uda, Kyle Uda (Jean) and Lane Uda (Betsy); gc: 2.

Imamura, Helen Chizuru, 86, Feb. 22, Los Angeles; during WWI, she was incarcerated at the Gila River WRA Center in AZ; she is survived by her children, Kevin, Chris (Pauline) and Diane Marni (Todd); she is also survived by many other relatives; gc: 4.

Kaneshiro, Kristin Nicole, 28, Jan. 22, Seattle, she is survived by her parents, Pamela Morrisey Kaneshiro and Herbert Kaneshiro; sister, Kelsey Kaneshiro; grandparents, Jack and Katherine Kaneshiro; and many other cousins and other relatives.

Kato Doris, 88, Jan. 17, Burien, WA; she is survived by her children, Richard (Janet) and Arlene; 3 nieces; gc: 7; ggc: 7.

Kawanishi, Kimie, 91, Seal Beach, CA, Jan. 25; she is survived by her husband, Richard Masajii; children, David, Stan and Polly Loech; sister, Katsuko Nom; she is also survived by many nieces and nephews; gc: 4; ggc: 1.

Koga, Sheri, 52, Rosemead, CA, Feb. 27; she was predeceased by her parents, Henry and Ginger; brother, Scott.

Kihara, Toshiyuki, 70, Los Angeles, he is survived by his siblings, Niso Yamamoto and Kunie Tomoda.

Kobata, Mariko Osada, 69, Harbor City, CA, Nov. 29; she is survived by her husband, Wayne; siblings, Atsuko Yomogida and Hideya (Ignacio) Osada; she is also survived by many nieces and nephews and other relatives.

Kozai, Wayne, 63, Las Vegas, Nov. 12; he is survived by his wife, Mirna; daughter, Edna; sister, Joanne (Peter); brothers, Glyn and Brian (Karrie); gc: 3.

Masuda, Marjorie Masako, 90, Costa Mesa, CA, Feb. 2; she is survived by her children, Kathy and Steven (Susan); sister, Gladys Nakamura; 3 nieces and nephews; gc: 2.

Masuda, Tom, 81, Torrance, CA, Feb. 27; he is survived by his four children, one brother; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 4.

Matsuda, Satoshi, 86, Sacramento, CA, Jan. 8; he is survived by his wife, Anna; daughter, Lisa; brother, Hiroshi (Tomoko).

Matsumoto Charles, 47, Chandler, AZ, Feb. 18; he is survived by his wife, Elizabeth; children, Emiko and Kenji; step-daughters, Alexandra and Katherine; parents, Betsy and Sam; siblings, Alan and Beverly Born (Todd).

Mikami, Yoshie, 85, Bellevue, WA, Nov. 26, 2016; she is survived by her children, Steve (Becky), Michael (Lisa) and Joyce (Russell); sisters-in-law, Haruko Hirakawa and Yasuko Mikami; she is also survived by many nieces and nephews on her husband's side; gc: 4.

Okuda, Minoru 90, Ontario, CR, Feb. 14; he was predeceased by his wife, Akiyo Yoshimura; he is survived by his daughters, Tina (Jan) Easton and Teresa (Will) Fetherolf; gc: 2.

Shintani, Mieko, 91, Tarzana, CA, Dec. 24; she was predeceased by her husband, Taikao; she is survived by her daughters, Trudy (Teddy) Craig and Nadine (John) Kawaguchi; gc: 7; ggc: 4.

Shiozawa, William, 88, Montebello, CA, Dec. 23; he is survived by many nieces, nephews, grandparents, nieces and other relatives.

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

Sonoda, Thomas, 74, Sacramento, CA, Dec. 20; he is survived by his wife, Janet; children, Joanne (David), Alison (John) and Michael; siblings, Ronald (Lorraine), Wendell (Wanda) and Frances Nakashoji (Noria); gc: 4.

Tagawa, Kenso, 87, Salt Lake City, UT, Dec. 15; he is survived by his wife, Haruko; children, Barry and Patti; gc: 1.

Taise, Hideko ‘Rosie,’ 94, Los Angeles, Dec. 28; she was predeceased by her husband, Hideharu; daughter, Sandra Taise-Montufar; she is survived by her children, Claudia Summers and Lenni (Lynn); son-in-law, Byron Montufar; siblings, Nobuko Tomita, Yuki (Sayoko) Oshiro and Yoshiko (Hiroshi) Shibata; gc: 4.

Tsujimoto, Dennis, 78, Brea, CA, Dec. 7; he is survived by his wife, Shoko; daughters, Wendy, Lynn and Laura (Jeff) Wenderkhe; siblings, Stuart (Pam); cousin, (Walter) Kitagawa, Nancy (Ed) Yamachi, Joyce (Ted) Kesterson and Judy (Jackson) Aoki; gc: 2.

Wada, Chiyoko, 92, Torrance, CA, Dec. 18; she was predeceased by her daughter, Linda Montgomery; she is survived by her husband, Shoji Wada; children, Sheila Leshy, Bryce (Pam), Steve (Debi), (Jim) Wada and Kim (Doug) Muse; gc: 14; ggc: 6.

Yuge, Frances, 94, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA, Dec. 27; she was predeceased by her husband, Quong; grandson, Derek; she is survived by her children, Brad (Shari), Curtis (Eric) and Dana (Gary) Kawata; siblings, Mable Eng, Nancy Mah, Eddie (Sharon) and Melvin (Soo-Jan); sister-in-law, Evelyn Wong; gc: 4.
SPEAKING UP >> continued from page 3

We cannot be everywhere, but we can choose to be somewhere. Perhaps you will find small ways like my husband that are big to others. Maybe in quiet ways like Fred Korematsu that speak loudly for justice. Or there may be visible ways like Karen Korematsu to do what is right.

I love this quote by Mother Teresa, “Not all of us can do great things, but we can all do small things with great love.” And if all of us did one small thing with great love, how different would this world be.

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

ART >> continued from page 3

But one must also ask: What is the role of art in modern society? Fine art — painting and sculpture — often seems to exist only in the realm of snobbish gallery showings, the backrooms of high-end dealers and the shadowy, sealed-off penthouses of the nation’s elite.

Does art still play a role in setting the tastes of a society, or of functioning as some kind of moral compass, as it once did?

It’s up for debate, but so long as it is we should continue to fund the pursuit of art in its truest, purest form, and least commercial forms.

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It’s up for debate, but so long as it is we should continue to fund the pursuit of art in its truest, purest form, and least commercial forms.

Art is the hallmark of an individualistic and innovative society. It encourages the perpetual revisiting and re-evaluating of norms, beliefs and ideals that define a culture and a nation.

Art is the freedom to sit in a field with dogs and sheep and decide it means something incredibly important to you, and we would be a weaker and considerably less free nation if we decided to do away with it.

Matthew Ormseth is currently a student at Cornell University majoring in English. He seeks to give an honest portrayal of life as both a university student and member of the Millennial generation.

COMMISSION >> continued from page 7

“Really they suffered more than us, Japanese Americans,” said Shibayama’s wife, Betty Morita Shibayama, who was incarcerated in the Tule Lake and Minidoka WRA camps during the war. “At least we were able to stay in our own country. Their countries (JLAs) weren’t even at war, and they were taken to a country that was at war. And once they got here, they didn’t speak the language. They only spoke Spanish and Japanese, so they really got a raw deal.”

Currently, the Campaign for Justice: Redress NOW for Japanese Latin Americans is collecting signatures on a petition through Change.org (https://www.change.org/p/inter-american-commission-on-human-rights-justice-now-for-the-shibayama-brothers), which will be submitted to the IACHR on March 21.

The petition is available in English, Spanish, Japanese and Portuguese.

Those who do not have access to the Internet are asked to send a letter with their signature to “Campaign for Justice,” P. O. Box 1384, El Cerrito, CA 94530.