



# PACIFIC CITIZEN

» **PAGE 6**

## STILL TREKKING

JANM opens up a new exhibit dedicated to the life and times of George Takei.

JANM New  
Frontiers'  
signature  
image artwork  
by Jamie  
Noguchi

» **PAGE 5**

Topaz Museum grand opening is officially set for July 7-8.

» **PAGE 8**

A Kakehashi Project participant reflects on her recent trip to Japan.

PHOTO: JANM



# SUPPORTING THE P.C. HELPS STUDENTS LIKE ME



On behalf of the NY/SC team and myself, I'd like to thank everyone who has supported the *Pacific Citizen* and the NY/SC throughout the years. The

*Pacific Citizen* has given continuous support to students and youth whom are eager to get involved within their communities.

With the launch of the *Pacific Citizen's* annual Spring Campaign, I invite everyone to aid the *Pacific Citizen* to be sustainable and continue to

be able to serve as a national JACL newspaper in our community.

As a student leader of my university's Nikkei Student Union, the *Pacific Citizen* has supported student organizations by offering collaboration opportunities and providing a space for students to outreach to the community.

The paper itself has the ability to connect youth around the nation by providing a space to share stories, dialogue and a sense of belonging with shared interests and identities. The *Pacific Citizen's* devotion to help students has opened doors for youth engagement.

From my personal experience as a student studying journalism, the *Pacific Citizen* has

given me the opportunity to learn the in-depth process of newspaper writing and much of the behind-the-scenes work in the journalistic world. It has also provided me with the tools to learn beyond the classroom setting, so I can apply my knowledge to real-life situations.

Donating to the *Pacific Citizen* will not only help the sustainability of the paper but also will help students stay connected by providing a sense of community and commonality among us.

Sincerely,

Juli Yoshinaga,  
NY/SC P.C. Editorial  
Board Representative

## JACL ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT OF WILLIAM YOSHINO

Dear JACL Members, Friends and Supporters,

The Japanese American Citizens League announces that Mr. William Yoshino will be retiring at the end of this month after 38 years of distinguished service. We thank him for his incredible dedication and humble leadership of the JACL and the Asian Pacific American community.

Mr. Yoshino was originally hired as the mid-west director in 1978, the year JACL officially launched its Redress Campaign. He assisted in organizing outreach to members of Congress in the Midwest for legislation to establish the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, as well as for the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. He then worked with the Office of Redress Administration to assist in contacting individuals who were eligible to receive redress payments.

Following the Redress Campaign, Mr. Yoshino helped to focus JACL on the issue of anti-Asian sentiment and hate crimes. His many contributions to this area include testifying in the U.S. Senate on the Hate Crimes Statistics Act of 1988; producing hate crime material, including a

semiannual newsletter on hate crimes and hate incidents; and presenting hate crime workshops at college conferences.

Mr. Yoshino has also been instrumental in continuing JACL's work in education. He has organized teacher training workshops through grants from the National Park Service and the National Endowment for the Humanities, revised and updated the JACL curriculum guide and produced educational materials on Japanese American internment and Asian Pacific Islander history. He also established the JACL Collegiate Washington, D.C., Leadership Program and has provided fellowship opportunities to college graduates.

Mr. Yoshino's institutional knowledge and leadership have had a profound effect on the many staff and members he has worked with over the years, particularly those in the Midwest Region.

We are deeply appreciative of his many years of service as midwest director in addition to the times he has stepped up to lead the organization



when needed, including as executive director from 1988-92 and twice as interim executive director, most recently since last summer.

The JACL National Board will work closely with staff, membership and community partners as we continue our search for a new executive director and will continue to keep all informed on the next steps for our organization.

We are grateful for Bill's commitment to the JACL and his passion for the community and wish him well in his future endeavors.

Sincerely,

JACL National Board

### HOW TO REACH US

Email: [pc@pacificcitizen.org](mailto:pc@pacificcitizen.org)  
Online: [www.pacificcitizen.org](http://www.pacificcitizen.org)  
Tel: (213) 620-1767  
Mail: 123 Ellison S. Onizuka St., Suite 313  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

STAFF  
Executive Editor  
Allison Haramoto

Business Manager  
Susan Yokoyama

Production Artist  
Marie Samonte

Circulation  
Eva Ting

The *Pacific Citizen* newspaper (ISSN: 0030-8579) is published semi-monthly (except once in December and January) by the Japanese American Citizens League, *Pacific Citizen*, 123 Ellison S. Onizuka St., Suite 313 Los Angeles, CA 90012. Periodical postage paid at L.A., CA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to National JACL, 1765 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94115.

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Periodicals paid at Los Angeles, Calif. and mailing office.

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

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123 Ellison S. Onizuka St. #313  
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## LEGAL-EASE: AN ATTORNEY'S PERSPECTIVE

### GIFTS FOR YOUR CAREGIVER: THE PITFALL YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT

By Staci Yamashita-Iida, Esq.

Coming from a Japanese American community, I grew up calling my friends' parents "Auntie" and "Uncle." As a kid, I never questioned it. I understood we weren't related, yet in my mind, there was no doubt that they were my family.

These days, the term "family" isn't exclusively defined by blood relation. Family can be your stepmother, brother-in-law or your best friend. In fact, sometimes the ones you are unrelated to seem more like family than your actual relatives. Family refers to your loved ones — the people who you care for the most who are always there for you.

For many elderly individuals, this modern interpretation of family applies to their caregivers. This is especially the case for elderly individuals who see their caregivers more than anyone else. Caregivers become integrated into the family, or in some situations, like the example below, caregivers become the only family an individual has.

#### The Example

Shizuko has lived a long and happy life. She finds, however, that old age is both a blessing and a curse. Throughout her 94 years, she has parted with her husband, siblings and most of her friends. Coming from a small family and having no children of her own, Shizuko finds herself all alone, but for Lola.

For the past six years, Shizuko has employed Lola as her caregiver. Lola comes over four times a week for six

hours each day, during which time Lola takes Shizuko to her doctor's appointments, cooks her meals and does light housekeeping.

Over the years, Shizuko and Lola have grown very close, blurring the line between employer and friend. Shizuko spends Thanksgiving dinner at Lola's house and even sends Lola's children presents on their birthdays.

Shizuko still pays Lola weekly for her services, but she views Lola more like an adopted daughter than an employee. As such, when it comes time to drawing up her living trust, Shizuko names Lola as the sole beneficiary of her estate.

#### The Issue

The sincere and innocuous relationship described above is often the case with many caregivers. However, because the elderly can be vulnerable and susceptible to elder abuse, safeguards have been created to shield them from potential harm.

The Probate Code (which governs inheritance and estate issues in California) specifically states that donative transfers to the transferor's care custodian are presumed to be the product of fraud or undue influence. In plain English, this means that if you leave a gift to your caregiver (particularly one that is not related to you), the law assumes that the caregiver malevolently forced you to do so.

This rule was created with the intention of protecting the elderly from being taken advantage of by their caregivers. There are many stories of caregivers who persuaded individuals with dementia to unknowingly sign a will bequeathing

valuable jewelry and cars to the caregiver. Or worse, there have been cases where caregivers threatened to cease work, i.e., to stop feeding and bathing the individual, unless the individual agreed to leave the caregiver a large sum of money upon his or her death.

This, among many other reasons, is why the Probate Code presumes that all gifts made to an unrelated caregiver through a will or trust (or similar instrument) are the result of undue influence, fraud or duress.

#### The Solution

This article is certainly not intended to vilify caregivers. Caregiving is an arduous and stressful task that many people cannot handle. Unfortunately, there are always a few bad apples in the bunch, which is why the law scrutinizes acts involving a caregiver.

So, what if you have a caregiver whom you truly regard as family? How do you thank them for their time and efforts without issue? Fortunately, the Probate Code has an answer.

Let's go back to the Shizuko and Lola example.

If Shizuko wants to prevent Lola from experiencing any trouble from the inheritance that she will receive, then Shizuko would hire an attorney to conduct a Certificate of Independent Review (CIR).

The attorney must be an impartial third party who has nothing to gain by being involved. The attorney would speak to Shizuko privately (without Lola present) to counsel Shizuko about the nature and consequences of the intended gift.

>> See GIFTS on page 12



By Matthew Ormseth

## A YONSEI TRANSPLANTED

### HATE SPEECH SHOULD NOT BE TOLERATED

Americans have dug in along partisan lines, and the American university is no different. Higher education has long been seen as a bastion of liberalism, where the leftist majority of professors espouse Marxism and encourage students to silence, deride and defame their conservative peers, and any guests or speakers whose political views fall to the right of their own. In some ways, it's true. Students regularly protest guest lectures from conservative speakers and often manage to shut them down.

Just last month, the student political union at my own school, Cornell, invited former Tea Party leader Michael Johns for a guest lecture.

The campus police, fearing the sort of violent protests that wracked UC Berkeley during a visit from firebrand Milo Yiannopoulos, told the student group they would have to pay several thousand dollars for additional security, or close the event to the public. The student group made the event private, but even still, protesters showed up outside the lecture hall and voiced their displeasure — loudly — at Johns' visit.

In a bizarre twist, a member of the student government showed up and filmed the protestors, telling them the footage would be used against them for disciplinary purposes.

The incident captured the back-and-forth attempts at stamping out the debate that has come to characterize the modern

American university.

The protestors didn't want Johns' voice heard, and the student government rep didn't want the protestors' voices heard, either. The American university has grown as polarized as the American polity; both sides would prefer to retreat to their respective echo chambers, and from the safety of those ideological sanctuaries launch vitriolic, self-assured campaigns of misinformation against the other side.

The historic liberalism of America's universities has bred a reactionary generation of conservative students — political upstarts like Stephen Miller, one of the president's senior advisers — whose coming of age in the political minority fashioned a dangerous, me-against-the-world ideology.

Miller, an alum of Duke University, was described by the school's former senior vp of public affairs as "incredibly intolerant."

"He seemed to be absolutely sure of his own views and the correctness of them and seemed to assume that if you were in disagreement with him, there was something malevolent or stupid about your thinking," the former administrator, John Burness, told the *News and Observer*.

Rob Montz, a filmmaker who recently debuted his short documentary "Silence U: Is the University Killing Free Speech and Open Debate?" told the *New York Times*, "An easy way to develop a reputation is to be super far-right. And they're allowed to sit in their largely undercooked beliefs because they aren't getting really serious pushback, they're just getting garbage protest hysteries."

"Garbage protest hysteries" sums up nicely what's

been going on at many American universities. Muzzling conservatives — even those who espouse openly racist, misogynistic and all-around bigoted views — only makes them dig in deeper.

Protests like the tantrum at UC Berkeley do nothing to challenge bigoted points of view; they only validate their holders' beliefs that the other side is made up of milk-fed, overgrown infants incapable of dialogue.

Those kind of protests let bigots off the hook, too. They aren't forced to defend their beliefs, aren't forced to provide proof for their delusional exclusionist arguments.

When protests shut down a speech, the speaker wins — no matter what he or she was planning to say. The speaker's supporters are righteously enraged, their opponents — hollowly triumphant — ridiculed as emotionally immature, or worse, totalitarian in their suppression of dissent.

The mark of a liberal education in the classical sense of the word is the ability to weigh differing points of view, to approach them seriously and assume that the people who hold those beliefs arrived at them after no less a rigorous thought process than your own.

With that being said, hate speech shouldn't be tolerated. But rather than shutting it down and forcing it into hiding, we should drag it out into the open for all to see.

*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.*





## ANN BURROUGHS NAMED PRESIDENT AND CEO OF JANM

**LOS ANGELES** — The Board of Trustees of the Japanese American National Museum announced March 24 that Ann Burroughs has been named president and CEO of the museum. Burroughs had been serving in those roles in an interim capacity since June 2016.

"Ann has been a skillful leader of the Japanese American National Museum since her first day on the job. She quickly earned the respect and admiration of the museum's boards, staff, volunteers, supporters and the community at large," said Board of Trustees Chair Norman Y. Mineta. "She has helped articulate a vision for the museum that has resonated deeply with me, my fellow trustees and our governors."

Mineta added, "During Ann's tenure as interim president and CEO, we came to recognize that her deep professional experience, her vision and her passion for our mission made her ideally suited to the position. I know that Ann is the right person to lead the museum at this important time."

Burroughs brings more than 25 years of experience in nonprofit leadership and management, resource development, strategic planning and strategic communications. She has worked at the executive director level, as an interim director, as a member of senior management teams, as a nonprofit consultant and as an executive coach. She also has deep experience working with organizations in transition, as well as with diverse communities in the U.S. and multiple countries abroad.

Burroughs is currently the chair of the Board of Directors of Amnesty International USA.

"The Japanese American National Museum is an incredibly vital and vibrant institution, with board leadership, staff and volunteers who all demonstrate deep devotion and commitment to the important mission of the museum," said Burroughs. "I'm honored to continue on as president and CEO, and I am committed to reinvigorating and finding new ways to advance the museum's key values, emphasizing the importance of being vigilant about democracy and stressing the value of diversity in our world today."

Burroughs' work with Amnesty International USA is particularly meaningful to her because as a young activist in her native South Africa, she was imprisoned as a result of her anti-apartheid activism, and Amnesty International helped to secure her release.

Prior to coming to JANM, Burroughs most recently served as senior consultant at Social Sector Partners, an organization that focuses on supporting social sector organizations through strategic adaptation and repositioning.

She previously served as executive director of the Taproot Foundation in Los Angeles and as the executive director of LA Works. She has also been a consultant to the Rockefeller Foundation in its Communications for Social Change Initiative, HandsOn Network in its corporate engagement program and the government of South Africa. ■

## NPS: D.C. CHERRY TREES START BLOOM PERIOD

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — The National Park Service says Washington, D.C.'s famous cherry trees are blooming again after a killing frost.

NPS spokesman Mike Litterst said in an email March 22 that the bloom period has begun and can last two weeks. He says officials expect the trees will reach peak bloom the weekend of March 25 around the Tidal Basin.

Officials announced March 17 that cold weather had killed half of the blossoms on Washington, D.C.'s cherry trees just as they were reaching peak bloom. Warm temperatures in February had caused an early bloom for the district's 3,800 Yoshino cherry trees, most of which are downtown, encircling the Tidal Basin.



**The cherry trees located along the Tidal Basin in Washington, D.C., are expected to be in full bloom the weekend of March 25-26.**

Litterst said that 70 percent of the remaining blooms are now at a stage just before "full bloom."

He also said that expected cold weather later in the week means the blooms won't develop further then. Warmer temperatures needed for the blossoms' development are expected at the end of the week.

The famous cherry trees commemorate the March 27, 1912,

gift given to the city from Tokyo Mayor Yukio Ozaki as a symbol of friendship between Japan and the United States.

The National Cherry Blossom Festival, a monthlong springtime celebration that typically draws more than 1.5 million visitors to Washington, D.C., each year, began March 18 and continues through April. ■

## NewsBytes

### PBS Series Seeks Nikkei Participants for New Series

The Public Broadcasting Service, in conjunction with London-based Blink Films, is making a new social history series called "We'll Meet Again" and is seeking participants.

The series will help trace lost friends, connections and family, reuniting people who have lost contact during a key moment in American history — from the soldier forced to leave his child in Vietnam to the Japanese Americans thrown together by confinement in American prison camps during World War II.

The focus will be on first-person experiences as they examine how outside events interrupted and redirected their lives. A team of archivists, researchers and private investigators will assist the person in tracing his or her lost friend, family member or "significant" stranger.

Anyone interested in participating in this program is encouraged to email mark.usher@blinkfilmsuk.com or call (888) 487-2771.

### Former Manzanar Superintendent Frank Hays Dies



Frank Hays, associate regional director for natural and cultural resource stewardship and science in the National Park Service's Northeast Region, died suddenly on March 3 from a heart attack at the age of 58.

Hays served as superintendent of the Manzanar National Historic Site from 2001-05, where he oversaw the growth of the site during a vital time in its development. His death came on the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the MNHS.

"We are saddened to hear of the passing of Frank Hays this past Friday," said Bruce Embrey, Manzanar Committee co-chair. "As superintendent of the Manzanar National Historic Site in 2001-05, Frank helped bring the plans developed in prior years to life. It was a pivotal period for Manzanar."

Funeral services were held March 13 in Tucson, Ariz. Hays is survived by his wife and three children.

### Japan's Parliament Proposes Abdication Law for Emperor



**TOKYO** — Japanese ruling and opposition parties have given Prime Minister Shinzo Abe a proposal urging his government to write a special one-time law that would allow Emperor Akihito to abdicate.

The March 17 proposal will now go to a panel of experts commissioned by Abe to compile a final report on the abdication within the next few weeks. The government is expected to submit the legislation to parliament around May so it can be enacted during its current session, which ends in mid-June.

Akihito, 83, expressed last August his apparent wish to abdicate, citing concerns his age and health may start limiting his ability to fulfill his duties.

He would be the first emperor to abdicate in 200 years. Crown Prince Naruhito, Akihito's oldest son, is first in line to the Chrysanthemum throne.

### U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson Says North Korea Has No Need to Fear the U.S.

**TOKYO** — U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson called on North Korea March 16 to abandon its nuclear and ballistic missile programs, saying the isolated nation "need not fear" the U.S.

Tillerson made that declaration after meeting Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida in Tokyo, where they discussed possible new approaches in dealing with Pyongyang.

He said 20 years of U.S. diplomatic and other efforts to get North Korea to denuclearize have failed, but gave no specifics about how the Trump administration, which is currently doing a policy review, would tackle the issue. Tillerson described the weapons programs as "dangerous and unlawful."

Tensions are running high on the divided Korean Peninsula, and North Korea recently launched four missiles into seas off Japan and where the U.S. is currently conducting annual military drills with South Korea.

### Former MLB Player Manny Ramirez to Make Japan Debut



**TOKYO** — Former Major League Baseball star Manny Ramirez is set to begin the next chapter of his baseball career by playing for the Kochi Fighting Dogs of Japan's independent Shikoku Island League.

Kochi is the capital city of Kochi Prefecture on the Island of Shikoku. The city has an estimated population of 340,000.

"I've always wanted to play in Japan," the 44-year-old Dominican said in a comment posted on the team's website. "I really appreciate the opportunity the Kochi team is giving me to continue my career. I'm really looking forward to playing in Japan."

— P.C. Staff and Associated Press



# TOPAZ MUSEUM GRAND OPENING SET FOR JULY 7-8

A full day of activities is planned to mark the museum's new exhibits.

**I**t's official! The grand opening for the Topaz Museum will be on July 7-8.

Anyone celebrating the event can stay at the Salt Lake City Sheraton, where an evening banquet on July 7 will be held. Attendees will then travel to Delta, Utah, by bus on July 8. A full day of activities is being planned, including a commemorative program, tours of the Topaz site and, of course, visits to the newly installed exhibits at the Topaz Museum.

More information about registration will be sent out in a newsletter and on the Topaz Museum website. People will be able to register online or from the newsletter.

The museum exhibits recount the toll and complex history that "prejudice, war



Exhibits on display at the Topaz Museum in Delta, Utah

hysteria and a failure of leadership" wreaked on 11,000 of the 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry during World War II who were in Topaz.

Historical photographs, text and artifacts with a re-created barrack and a restored recreation hall will give visitors a glimpse of the

horrific series of events that caused hardship and misery for those caught in the cross-fire of political expediency and prejudice.

The Topaz Museum Board received a grant from the National Park Service Japanese American Confinement Sites program to manufacture and install the exhibits. West



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF TOPAZ MUSEUM

Office Exhibition Design of Oakland has been working on the final exhibit since 1994.

The museum building was finished in 2014, and for two years, the gallery housed the art show "When Words Weren't Enough," which displayed artwork that were all painted at Topaz.

Installation of the exhibits and artifacts should be completed in April. The museum hours are from 11 a.m.-5 p.m., except for Sunday.

*For more information, visit the museum's Facebook page, website or call (435) 864-2514.*

## UCLA KYODO TAIKO TO PERFORM AT 48TH ANNUAL MANZANAR PILGRIMAGE

**LOS ANGELES** — UCLA Kyodo Taiko will perform at the 48th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage, sponsored by the Manzanar Committee, on April 29 at the Manzanar National Historic Site.

UCLA Kyodo Taiko will open the program at 11:30 a.m., while the main portion of the program will begin at noon.

The theme for this year's pilgrimage is "Never Again to Anyone, Anywhere! 75th Commemoration of Executive Order 9066."

The event will also recognize the 25th anniversary of Manzanar being declared a National Historic Site on March 3, 1992.

Each year, more than 1,000 people from diverse backgrounds, including students, teachers, community members, clergy and former incarcerated, attend the pilgrimage, which commemorates the unjust incarceration of more than 110,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry in 10 American concentration camps, and 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.

Making its 11th consecutive appearance at the Manzanar Pilgrimage this year, UCLA Kyodo Taiko is the first collegiate taiko (Japanese drum) group in North America. Its members made their debut at the Opening Ceremony of the University of California, Los Angeles' commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Japanese American Internment, which was held in February 1992 at UCLA's famed Royce Hall.

UCLA Kyodo Taiko is comprised entirely of UCLA students. The group has performed annually at local K-12 schools, Nisei Week, Los Angeles Tofu Festival and the Lotus



UCLA Kyodo Taiko performs at the 47th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage on April 30, 2016.

Festival in Los Angeles, the Intercollegiate Taiko Invitational, during halftime at UCLA basketball games, as well as the first annual USA Sumo Open, in addition to many other campus, community and private events.

UCLA Kyodo Taiko has also become a fertile training ground for those who wish to continue with taiko after their college careers end, as many Kyodo alumni have become members of professional taiko groups, including Nishikaze Taiko Ensemble, TaikoProject and Progressive Taiko (Prota).

In addition to the afternoon event, the Manzanar At Dusk program follows that same evening, from 5-8 p.m. at the Lone Pine High School gymnasium.

Manzanar At Dusk is co-sponsored by the Nikkei Student Unions 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 in attendance to hear their personal stories, to share 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 will be available from Los Angeles' Little Tokyo and Gardena, Calif.

The Little Tokyo bus, sponsored by the Manzanar Committee, will depart at 7 a.m., arriving at the pilgrimage at approximately 11:30 a.m. It 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 8:30 p.m.

Reservations for the Little Tokyo bus will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis, and seats are going very fast and are

expected to sell out quickly. The nonrefundable 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 World War II.

The bus from Gardena is sponsored by the Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute. Information on their bus to the Manzanar Pilgrimage can be found on the GVJCI web site (<http://www.jci-gardena.org/upcoming-events.html>) or by calling (310) 324-6611.

Anyone wishing to attend the Manzanar At Dusk program that evening should make other transportation arrangements.

Pilgrimage participants are advised to bring their own lunch, drinks and snacks, as there are no facilities to purchase food at the Manzanar National Historic Site (restaurants and fast-food outlets are located in Lone Pine and Independence, which are nearby). Water will be provided at the site.

Both the Manzanar Pilgrimage and the Manzanar At Dusk programs are free and open to the public.

The Manzanar Committee is dedicated to educating and raising public awareness about the incarceration and violation of civil rights of persons of Japanese ancestry during World War II and to the continuing struggle of all peoples when Constitutional rights are in danger.

A nonprofit organization that has sponsored the annual Manzanar Pilgrimage since 1969, along with other educational programs, the Manzanar Committee has also played a key role in the establishment and continued development of the Manzanar National Historic Site.

*For more information, or to reserve a seat on the bus, call (323) 662-5102 or e-mail [48thpilgrimage@manzanarcommittee.org](mailto:48thpilgrimage@manzanarcommittee.org).*



PHOTOS: GEORGE T. JOHNSTON

**GO FOR BROKE**

The conflict recalled in *Allegiance*—between those who chose to resist the wrong done to their community and those who strove to rise above it—was a real and devastating one that divided a generation, often setting friends and family members against one another.

Around 12,000 of the 76,000 incarcerated Japanese-Americans who took the loyalty questionnaire responded "no" and "no" to its key questions—27 and 28—and were transferred to the Tule Lake segregation center for the "disloyal."

When the US military began drafting Japanese-American men out of the concentration camps for military service, some organized opposition to the draft or conscientiously refused to register. These "draft resisters" were criminally charged and segregated or imprisoned.

Meanwhile, most of those who chose to enlist were assigned to the 442nd Central Postal Directory, a segregated unit made up of Japanese-Americans. It later merged with the 100th Infantry Battalion, which was mostly made up of Nisei from Hawaii. The combined unit's motto, "Go For Broke," symbolized the dedication of these soldiers, and it became the most decorated unit in American military history and suffered a stunning casualty rate. Other Japanese-Americans served in the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) as interpreters and translators. Fifty years after their service, Japanese-Americans in the MIS were awarded the Presidential Unit Citation, the highest honor given to a US military unit. In 2011, all members of the MIS and the 100th/442nd were presented with the Congressional Gold Medal, one of our nation's highest civilian honors.



(From left) JANM Trustee Wendy Shiba, George Takei and Curator Jeff Yang at the opening of JANM exhibit.



The exhibit features Sulu's chair from television's "Star Trek."



PHOTO: GEORGE AND BRAD TAKEI COLLECTION, JANM



George Takei as a boy in the concentration camp at Rohwer, Ark., during World War II.

## GEORGE TAKEI STILL BOLDLY TREKKING TO NEW FRONTIERS

More than 200 memorable items from the actor/activist are on display at JANM in a new exhibition.

Among the more than 200 items on display at the George Takei exhibit are drawings of the actor as Mr. Sulu from TV/film's "Star Trek."



(From left) Artist Jamie Noguchi, who also created the illustration of George Takei that is pictured at top right of this page, and the exhibit's curator, Jeff Yang



The "Oh My" poster was inspired by Shepard Fairey's Hope campaign post for President Barack Obama.



By P.C. Staff

When he was 68, actor/activist George Takei ignited a great, late career renaissance that led to greater visibility, more opportunities and increased fame when he came out of the closet.

Now, just weeks shy of 80, the “Star Trek” star has cleaned out that closet — and garage, attic and more — and is donating the content or “two very large trucks” worth of artifacts gathered over a lifetime on this Class M planet to share with the general public, mementos that might bring a smile even to the stoic visage of Mr. Spock.

The memorabilia is now on exhibit at Little Tokyo’s Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles. “New Frontiers: The Many Lives of George Takei,” which opened to the public on March 12 and will run through Aug. 20, is the first of what JANM Board of Trustees Vice Chair Wendy Shiba said will be several upcoming exhibitions that will explore the lives and careers of Asian Americans “who have made their mark in entertainment and media.”

But self-aggrandizement and nostalgia definitely were not what Takei wanted when he was finally persuaded to have the record of his remarkable journey celebrated as the first such life and career to be put on display at JANM.

“This is something that I really didn’t expect,” said Takei in remarks during the exhibition’s media preview. “One of the subjects I was lobbying for was an exhibit on Asians and Asian Americans in the media. That has been the ... burden that we’ve had to carry.”

Takei, a member of JANM’s board of trustees and its chair emeritus, was referring to Hollywood’s history of warped depictions of Asian people as “one-dimensional, unattractive characters” — except when they are “interesting, humanized characters,” in which case they often get played by non-Asians.

Takei said he had lobbied the museum continuously for such an exhibition — and when former President and CEO Greg Kimura came around to the idea, Takei found that JANM had put him in the curious position of having chosen his life and career to be the first example.

Even more curious, Takei’s presence for the opening of “New Frontiers” was just a quick in-and-out trip to be there for the opening and see it himself for the first time. That was because he had been in New York City working on the Broadway revival of Stephen Sondheim and John Weidman’s “Pacific Overtures,” set to open this spring.

“I had to come back for this opening,” said the stentorian-toned native Los Angeleno to the journalists assembled for the press preview. “I haven’t seen the exhibit yet.”

“New Frontiers” is the culmination of months of work by JANM’s staff and Jeff Yang, who as the curator helped to catalog and categorize what JANM calls the “George and Brad Takei Collection.”

One of the distinctive features of the “New Frontiers” exhibition are the oversize comic book-style illustrations accompanying the various displays. Utilizing those illustrations was an idea by Yang, who years ago served as editor-in-chief of “Secret Identities: The Asian American Superhero Anthology” and its sequel, “Shattered: The Asian American



George Takei appeared on the CBS TV show “Perry Mason.”



## ‘In show business, luck plays a big part.’ — George Takei

Comics Anthology (Secret Identities).” Yang reached out to artist Jamie Noguchi to create those illustrations.

Noguchi, who was born and raised in Washington, D.C., and is also known for his Web comic “Yellow Peril,” said he completed about 15 illustrations. While he could relate to aspects of Takei’s story — with two uncles who were incarcerated at Tule Lake during World War II — Noguchi said he found working on this project to be “really challenging.”

Noting the immensity of the amount of the collection’s material, Yang said his solution was to tell the sort the exhibition into five “chapters” that reflect the many facets of Takei’s life and professional career.

To Yang, it seemed appropriate to repurpose phrases from the original “Star Trek’s” opening monologue for those chapter’s titles: “To Boldly Go” (becoming a political, Asian American and gay rights activist), “Strange New Worlds” (show business), “New Life and New Civilizations” (the journey of his stage musical “Allegiance” to Broadway), “Five-Years” (childhood, including incarceration as a child) and “The Final Frontier” (Takei’s life now as a multimedia “digital superstar”).

Takei has for decades used his celebrity sta-

tus to discuss the Japanese American incarceration during WWII, which he experienced as child, when he and his family were held at War Relocation Authority Centers in Rohwer, Ark., and Tule Lake, Calif. “The internment experience was a very American experience,” he said. “The importance of that chapter is an American lesson. That has to be learned, and it clearly has not been learned, as we are discovering again in our time.”

A related chapter getting the spotlight is his recent experience as a producer and co-star in “Allegiance,” the musical stage play dramatizing the experience of mainland Japanese Americans whose lives were disrupted by Executive Order 9066. “Allegiance” eventually reached Broadway to mostly positive reviews, and a recording of the stage play was shown in select movie theaters to coincide with the 75th anniversary of Executive Order 9066.

Most people know already of Takei’s “strange new worlds” chapter from two “Star Trek” TV series (live action and animated) and several “Trek” feature films. But he has also had decades of TV appearances up to the contemporary times (“Heroes,” “Celebrity Apprentice”), voice acting and narration (“Kubo and the Two Strings,” “Never Give



The musical “Allegiance,” which had a four-month run on Broadway in New York, was inspired by the personal experiences of George Takei, who also starred in and produced the show.

Up! Minoru Yasui and the Fight for Justice”) and satellite radio (Howard Stern).

“In show business, luck plays a big part,” Takei said, as he explained his good fortune in being cast as starship helmsman Mr. Sulu in “Star Trek” by creator Gene Roddenberry. He noted how Roddenberry in the 1960s used science fiction as a means to portray issues of the time to discuss the “turbulent time” of the Civil Rights Movement, the Vietnam War, the Cold War and more. The “Star Trek” experience was a career boon for Takei and his fellow castmates that would last a lifetime.

Dealing with those issues raised in “Star Trek” may have helped him plot a course to his present-day gay rights activism with his spouse, Brad Takei, which is also part of the exhibition — but so, too, are mementoes of his political life, from serving as president of the student council in junior high school to his civic and political life in the 1970s and early 1980s, when he ran for a seat of the Los Angeles City Council (he didn’t win), served of the board of the Southern California Rapid Transit District and made an unsuccessful bid for a seat in California’s Assembly.

Now, as he enters his ninth decade, Takei will no doubt continue add to his fifth chapter and exploit his popularity among his many different constituencies as a social media maven. A few years ago, Takei appeared on “Celebrity Apprentice” with Donald Trump, who famously told Takei, “You’re fired!” prior to becoming the current Tweeter-in-Chief. Takei now uses his own vast Twitter following to tweak the president’s missteps and mistruths.

When he was introduced to the media for the press preview, Takei joked that during the introduction, Yang kept referring to him in the past tense. “I’m still here! I’m not history yet. We have much further to go yet,” he said.

In other words, don’t be surprised if George Takei continues to live long and prosper as he seeks out new frontiers and boldly goes forward, be it on a Broadway stage, a Hollywood soundstage, a picket line or in a starship’s captain’s chair. ■



# 'OUR STORY IS ONE WE CAN TELL ON OUR OWN'

A Yonsei reflects on her enlightening and empowering trip to Japan as a participant of the Kakehashi Project.

By Kristen Taketa,  
Contributor

I've told other people's stories as a newspaper journalist for five years. But the story that's been the hardest for me to reconcile is that of my own family.

My grandparents on one side were forced to live in Japanese internment camps during World War II. My grandmother on the other side lost her parents in the atomic bomb on Hiroshima. Later, their children — my parents — were called names by their American classmates for the slant of their eyes.

As a fourth-generation Japanese American, or Yonsei, I listen to these stories, jot them down in a notebook and feel a tinge of guilt. I've never shown the kind of resilience my family did. I've never had to.

The responsibility of carrying on a family legacy shaped by war and race is one that many young Japanese Americans bear. We recognize that our families' Japanese identity is an undoubtable part of our histories. But in reality, there's a lot we don't know about our heritage or our families' motherland.

In the past two weeks, I was given a chance to explore my Japanese heritage in a way I haven't before. I took part in the Kakehashi Project, which sends scores of Japanese and Asian Americans to Japan each year on a free trip to learn about the country's culture, foreign policy and people. The trip is administered by the Japanese American Citizens League and sponsored by the Japanese government.

The idea behind the investment is that young people are key to building closer relations between Japan and America. To thank their sponsors for this opportunity and show gratitude, Kakehashi participants promise to share what they learn from the trip with as many people as they can.

I was one of about 70 people on the most recent Kakehashi trip, which ran from March 13-21. I met many people who, like



Kristen Taketa (second from right) is pictured with fellow Kakehashi participants (from left) Alex Wilensky, Melanie Ota, Rachel Kawakaki, Sarah Kim and Joann Ma with their homestay family, the Sudou family, in Kamogawa.

me, were Yonsei. Many of us knew scraps of Japanese, but not enough to hold a natural conversation. We had listened to relatives' stories of how a World War, an executive order and two atomic bombs shaped our family histories, but we struggled to reconcile that pained past with our easier present.

For the first time, I also met fifth-generation Japanese Americans, or Gosei, who were about my age. I met many more mixed-race Japanese Americans. I met Japanese Americans who couldn't speak any Japanese or recognize Japanese dishes we ate, such as *chawanmushi* (steamed egg curd) or *shabu shabu* (Japanese hot pot).

I met Kakehashi participants who don't have a drop of Japanese blood in them but were ready to use the knowledge gained from this trip to build bridges across Asian American communities.

There was something novel and empowering about being with other young Japanese Americans. I got to have conversations that

PHOTO: COURTESY OF BILL TASHIMA



<< A group of Kakehashi Project participants gathered on March 14 for the program orientation.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF JOHN TOBE



>> Kakehashi Project participants learned about Japanese emigration and the experiences of Nikkei at the Japan Overseas Migration Museum in Yokohama.



Students at Josai International University in Chiba taught Kakehashi participants how to write the kanji for "spring" in Japanese calligraphy.



Kakehashi participants watched a taiko group perform at a farmer's market in Kamogawa.

I don't have with most people. Sometimes we lamented, for example, how we wish our parents forced us to attend Japanese language school on Saturday mornings.

We listed our favorite Japanese foods and complained how hard it is to find good sushi or ramen where we live, in places like Missouri and Idaho. We devised plans to return to Japan someday and analyzed what we would have to change about ourselves to blend in.

For most of us, the trip was our first glimpse at a motherland we had simultaneously known about all our lives and yet hardly knew at all. Many of our grandparents had been told to abandon the Japanese language, bury Japanese customs and assimilate into a country that would otherwise not welcome them. In a way, Kakehashi was about helping us reclaim that identity and understand what it means.

Over the course of the trip, we practiced our basic language skills with homestay families who own small rice farms in Kamogawa. We slept on the floor and gave thanks for every meal before eating. We learned from university students how to participate in a tea ceremony and practice calligraphy. We heard lectures about Japanese foreign

policy, sustainable rice farming practices and the experiences of Nikkei, which refers to people of Japanese ancestry living outside of Japan. And inevitably, we indulged in heaps of Japanese food — sashimi, pork cutlet, rice, udon noodles, grilled fish, mochi and more — three times a day.

We learned a good amount about Japan, but we also learned how much we are not Japanese. In the land of

our ancestors, we "stuck out like a sore thumb," as one Kakehashi participant said.

Turns out, several Japanese people we encountered knew little about Nikkei and had never met one before. We surprised Japanese natives when we opened our mouths to speak and poured out casual American English instead of formal Japanese.

Strangers passing silently on crowded Tokyo streets stared at us when we talked and laughed loudly in a group. All the little mannerisms it takes to pass as Japanese — bowing, offering money with two hands and not one, the correct way of holding chopsticks — had to be taught to us through a webinar and our Kakehashi program booklet.

Even if we could get all of that perfect, our makeup, hair, clothes and even faces would still give us away.

But I don't think that's a problem. We were told on the trip that, as young Japanese Americans, we have unique perspectives that Japanese people lack. Our story is one we can tell on our own.

Excited by what I saw in Japan, I've retrieved my old Japanese language textbooks from the closet and am already searching online prices for flights back to Japan. The thought that I can better know Japan is enticing, as if I could repay my ancestors for their struggles if I just learn how to speak Japanese properly or meet more people in Japan.

If anything, I take comfort in what I took from the Kakehashi trip — that this kind of learning and longing are what it means to be Nikkei.

Kristen Taketa traveled to Japan as a Kakehashi participant from March 13-21. She is currently the K-12 education reporter for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch metropolitan daily newspaper in St. Louis, Mo.



# NIKKEI IDENTITY AND THE JAPANESE LANGUAGE

A look at how to sustain J.A. identity in today's United States

By Rob Buscher,  
Contributor

In a community that spans multiple generations and includes a growing number of biracial and multiethnic individuals, what does it mean to be Japanese American?

For most of the 20th century, JAs were a fairly monolithic community that followed the predominant migration narrative of Issei, Nisei, etc. Since the incarceration, however, there have been a multitude of experiences that grew out of that singular narrative.

For example, the folks who moved back West after camp compared to those who started a new life elsewhere. Or people who served in the U.S. military vs. No-No boys. Others who did not go to camp at all because they were able to voluntarily evacuate before the forced removal, or who lived outside of Military Zone 1.

More different yet, what about the influx of Japanese war brides married to U.S. servicemen during the Occupation of Japan and their biracial children? Not to mention Japanese who immigrated during the postwar era and beyond whom we've dubbed Shin-Nikkei.

With such diversity of perspective, can we truly define a quintessential JA identity that will continue to resonate as a shared experience in this community? The one thing that unites us all is our connection to Japan.

As a Yonsei, it was extremely rare that my Issei Hibaachan lived until I was a college freshman. Despite her longevity, I did not grow up speaking Japanese, nor did I know much about our ancestral country of origin beyond what I had seen in Kurosawa chanbara films or Studio Ghibli anime.

I always wanted to speak Japanese, but my mother did not speak well enough to teach me, and we lived in a monocultural community lacking access to language resources.

When I decided to move abroad to Japan my senior year of college, I could barely put two sentences together and did not read or write even the most basic kana.

After six weeks of immersive language study at the Kyoto Institute of Culture and Language, I spoke enough to live there comfortably for the next six months, and again while spending a summer researching my master's thesis.

A decade has passed since then, and though I'm out of practice speaking, I'm still able to comprehend a decent amount of conversational Japanese. More importantly, it has opened my mind to a world of linguistic nuance within the many Japanese films and television shows I watch, giving me a better understanding of the culture in general.

It is often said that by learning a second language, we gain another soul. I would say that learning Japanese perhaps awakened that which already resided within me, rekindling a pride in my mixed-Japanese ancestry and giving me confidence to claim my Japanese-ness. More importantly, it helped me form a special relationship with my Nisei Obaachan because of my cultural, if not linguistic fluency.

Although Japanese is her first language, Obaachan rarely has the opportunity to speak it now that her parents are gone. Also,

the Japanese she learned was 1930s-era Hiroshima-ben, something that sounds rather foreign to most native Japanese speakers today. She never learned to read or write in Japanese, so we sometimes correspond in romaji. Language use aside, learning Japanese helped me to better relate to Obaachan in ways her other grandchildren cannot.

At its core, language is inherently utilitarian. We are limited to expressing ourselves through the linguistic devices available in a given language.

Japanese forces one to think differently than English based on its grammar structure and other rules related to how one speaks. Learning another language to the point of fluency really does change the way you think because it teaches you new modes of speaking to communicate your ideas. In this sense, to fully understand Japanese culture, you must at least have a basic understanding of Japanese language.

Another utilitarian aspect of language is that once a language is no longer used as the primary means of communication, people start to forget it — favoring their more widely used language, and arguably the thought processes inherent to it. Within the multitude of experiences that JAs have lived post incarceration, there are also many reasons for discontinuing use of the Japanese language.

Many stopped teaching their children Japanese because they feared reprisals from white nationalists who called for their forced removal from Military Zone 1. Others being native born in the U.S. didn't have a firm enough grasp on the language themselves to teach it to their children.

In my Obaachan's case, her teacher sent home a note that her English development was slower than other students because she was speaking Japanese at home. It didn't stop her parents from speaking Japanese since it was the only language they both spoke fluently, but I believe it had an impact on her own use of Japanese.

Regardless of national origin, the 20th century U.S. immigration narrative favored assimilation over biculturalism. Consider the dominant culture of European-descended whites.

With the exception of a few small ethnic enclaves such as New York City's Little Italy and certain Scandinavian communities in the Great Lakes re-

gion — how many white Americans speak the language of their immigrant grandparents? Of the vast majority who do not, very few have ever been asked incredulously, "Why not?"

What makes the situation different for JAs and other Asian Americans is that because we are perceived as foreign, people judge us when we cannot speak the language of our ancestors.

Having spoken with a number of elder Sansei about this issue, I understand that Japanese language ability, or lack thereof, can be a touchy subject. It's been stigmatized as the language of the enemy for elder generations and inversely as a symbol of shame for the generations that have since lost touch with that aspect of their culture.

How much of one's culture is determined by the language they speak? Is it possible to reacquire the language of the immigrant generation when many of our Sansei parents no longer speak it? Would that in some ways make us more Japanese than our parents? In one sense, it might be our only hope for the continued survival of a Japanese American community.

If current trends in out-marriage rate from the JA community continue, we are almost guaranteed that nearly 100 percent of the



Gosei and certainly Rokusei will be multiethnic, if not multiracial.

As our Japanese ancestry becomes less quantifiable with each successive generation, how can the JA community continue to exist if not through our culture? While learning Japanese is not the only way to do so, it is, in my opinion, one of the easier methods of cultural retention and reclamation.

>> See NIKKEI on page 12

## AMERICAN HOLIDAY TRAVEL 2017 TOUR SCHEDULE

- Japan Spring Countryside Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida). . . . . Apr 14-24  
Tokyo, Nagano, Sado Island, Niigata, Sakata/Shonai, Yamagata,  
Aizu Wakamatsu, Ashikaga.
- Ireland Holiday Tour (Elaine Ishida). . . . . May 1-10  
Dublin, Waterford, Blarney Stone, Killarney, Limerick, Galway, Kingscourt.
- China-Yangtze River-Hong Kong Holiday Tour (Carol Hida). . . . May 14-29  
Beijing, Yangtze River Cruise, Xian, Shanghai, Hong Kong.
- Grandparent-Grandchildren Japan Tour (Ernest Hida) WAITLIST Jun 26-Jul 5  
Tokyo, Hakone, Atami, Hiroshima, Kyoto.
- Yellowstone-Tetons National Parks Tour (Elaine Ishida). . . . . Jul 7-14  
Salt Lake City, Jackson Hole, Yellowstone, Grand Tetons, Park City.
- Hokkaido Summer Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida). . . . . Jul 17-30  
Lake Akan, Furano, Asahikawa, Wakkanai, Sapporo, Lake Toya,  
Hakodate, Tokyo.
- So. Dakota-Mt. Rushmore Tour (Elaine Ishida). . . . . Aug 25-31  
Rapid City, Mt. Rushmore, Custer State Park, Black Hills, Badlands.
- Eastern Canada Holiday Tour (Carol Hida). . . . . Sep 6-14  
Montreal, Quebec, Ottawa, Toronto, Niagara Falls.
- Classical Japan Autumn Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida). . . . . Oct 5-16  
Tokyo, Mt. Fuji, Yamanashi, Shizuoka, Nagoya, Gifu, Hiroshima, Kyoto.
- Japan Autumn Countryside Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida). . . . . Oct 19-29  
Tokyo, Sado Island, Kanazawa, Amanohashidate, Tottori, Matsue,  
Tamatsukuri Onsen, Hiroshima.
- New Orleans & Deep South Holiday Tour (Elaine Ishida). . . . . Nov 5-12  
New Orleans, Natchez, Lafayette.
- So. America Patagonia-Easter Island Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida). . . Nov 7-22  
Buenos Aires, Ushuaia, Calafate(Perito Moreno Glacier),  
Paine National Park(Grey Glacier), Punta Arenas, Santiago, Easter Island.

For more information and reservations, please contact:

AMERICAN HOLIDAY TRAVEL  
312 E. 1st Street, Suite 330 \* Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Tel: (213)625-2232 \* Email: americanholiday@att.net  
Ernest or Carol Hida Elaine Ishida (Tel: 714-269-4534)  
(CST #200326-10)



A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

# CALENDAR

## NCWNP

**NCWNP Gala Banquet**  
**Danville, CA**  
**April 22; 11 a.m.-3 p.m.**  
**Crow Canyon Country Club**  
**711 Silver Lake Dr.**  
**Registration: \$88**

The NCWNP of the JACL will hold its award banquet and celebration of JACL's 88th Golden Anniversary. The district will also recognize past newsletter editors Joan Matsuoka of the Contra Costa chapter and Dara Tom of the Berkeley Chapter, as well as Florin JACL member Andy Noguchi and the unsung heroes from local chapters, all of whom give their time and energy into broadening the work and vision of JACL. The event's guest speaker will be Dianne Fukami, co-producer and director of the "Mineta Legacy Project," a documentary film chronicling the life and career of Norman Mineta. A silent auction will also be featured.

**Info: For more information, visit [www.jacl-ncwnp.org](http://www.jacl-ncwnp.org).**

**Letters From the Camps: Voices of Dissent**  
**San Francisco, CA**  
**April 27; 6 p.m.**  
**Presidio Officer's Club**  
**Moraga Hall**  
**50 Moraga Ave.**

In partnership with the Presidio Trust and Friends of Topaz, the California Historical Society 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 Trust's E.O. 9066 exhibition.

**Info: Visit [www.my.californiahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.my.californiahistoricalsociety.org).**

**Japanese Cultural Fair**  
**Santa Cruz, CA**  
**June 10; 11 a.m.-6 p.m.**  
**Mission Plaza Park**  
**103 Emmett St.**

**Price: Free**  
 The purpose of this cultural fair is to provide an opportunity for the community to increase its awareness and understanding of the Japanese community in Santa Cruz County, as well as Japanese culture, both traditional and contemporary. Live entertainment featuring music, martial arts demonstrations, kimono workshops, Ikebana displays and food will all be featured. This event promises to offer something for everyone!

**Info: Visit [www.jcsantacruz.org](http://www.jcsantacruz.org).**

**Oakland A's Baseball Game**  
**Oakland, CA**  
**July 16**  
**Oakland Coliseum**  
**7000 Coliseum Way**  
**Price: \$20 General admission; seniors receive \$5 discount**

Come join the Contra Costa JACL at its annual baseball outing to see the Oakland A's take on the Cleveland Indians. A bento lunch will be included with each ticket purchase. This is a great opportunity to enjoy some MLB baseball with friends and family.

**Info: Contact Judy Nakaso at [catniplady@sbcglobal.net](mailto:catniplady@sbcglobal.net).**

## PSW

**'Only the Oaks Remain: The Story of the Tuna Canyon Detention Station'**  
**Los Angeles, CA**  
**Thru April 9**  
**Japanese American National Museum**

**100 N. Central Ave.**  
 This exhibit features photos, diaries, oral histories, government documents, newspapers, a virtual tour and Honor Wall of those who were held at the camp from Dec. 16, 1941-Oct. 1, 1943. Exhibit hours vary: Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday are 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Thursday is Noon-8 p.m.; closed Mondays.  
**Info: Visit [www.janm.org](http://www.janm.org) or [www.tunacanyon.org](http://www.tunacanyon.org).**

**Cherry Blossom Festival**  
**Monterey Park, CA**  
**April 22-23; 11 a.m.-6:30 p.m.**  
**Sat./11 a.m.-6 p.m. Sun.**  
**Barnes Park**  
**350 S. McPherrin Ave.**

**Price: Free**  
 This annual festival will feature various Asian food, dancing, taiko, martial arts demonstrations, tea ceremony handmade crafts and much more. Proceeds benefit community organizations.  
**Info: Visit [www.monterey-park.ca.gov/673/cherry-blossom-festival](http://www.monterey-park.ca.gov/673/cherry-blossom-festival).**

**Venice Japanese American Memorial Monument Dedication**  
**Los Angeles, CA**  
**April 27; 10-11:30 a.m.**  
**Northwest corner of Venice and Lincoln in Los Angeles**

This dedication will commemorate the forced removal of Japanese Americans from their neighborhoods and their subsequent forced incarceration at Manzanar. The dedication's keynote speaker will be Warren Furutani. A fundraiser at Hama Sushi Restaurant will follow the ceremony.  
**Info: Visit [www.venicejamm.org](http://www.venicejamm.org).**

**2017 Children's Day Festival**  
**Los Angeles, CA**  
**May 6; 11 a.m.-4 p.m.**  
**Peace Plaza**  
**Japantown**

**Price: Free and open to the public**  
 This traditional youth celebration will feature Japanese performances, youth art contests, arts and crafts activities, games, bounce house and much more. Performances include those by Kendama USA, Nagata Dance, SF

Kendo Dojo and more. There will also be a Nikkei Youth Raffle that will provide much-needed funds for JCCCNC youth programs.  
**Info: Visit [www.jcccnc.org](http://www.jcccnc.org).**

## PNW

**Year of Remembrance: Glimpses of a Forever Foreigner**  
**Seattle, WA**  
**April 30; 2-4:30 p.m.**  
**Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience**  
**719 S. King St.**

Join a discussion with Japanese American former incarcerated and their messages to current events and how it relates to the Muslim American experience in 2017, the 75th anniversary of the signing of E.O. 9066.

**Info: Visit [www.wingluke.org](http://www.wingluke.org).**

**Japanese American Graduation Banquet**  
**Clackamas, OR**  
**May 7; 1 p.m.**  
**Monarch Hotel**  
**12566 S.E. 93rd Ave.**  
**Price: \$35 each; complimentary for graduating seniors; free parking**

This year marks the 70th anniversary of this banquet, which is sponsored by 11 Portland area organizations. High school seniors will be honored and many scholarships will be awarded. The event's keynote speaker will be Elisa Dozono, who is an attorney and partner with Miller Nash/Graham & Dunn.  
**Info: For more information, contact Setsy Sadamoto Larouche at [Larouche@msn.com](mailto:Larouche@msn.com).**

**'Who Killed Vincent Chin?'**

**Screening**  
**Seattle, WA**  
**May 13; 1:30-3:30 p.m.**  
**Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience**  
**719 S. King St.**  
**Price: Online ticketing starts April 1.**

In 1982, Vincent Chin was beaten to death with a baseball bat by two white men in Detroit. Chin's killers were convicted but never served a day in prison for their crime. Now 35 years later, this event will be revisited with a screening of the Academy Award-nominated documentary that explored the impact of his death and flaws in the justice system in the wake of the outcry from the Asian American community. Filmmaker Renee Tajima-Pena will be present and a panel discussion will follow the screening.

**Info: Visit [www.wingluke.org](http://www.wingluke.org).**

## MDC

**Pankake Poetry Reading**  
**Featuring Bao Phi**  
**Minneapolis, MN**  
**April 18**  
**Cowles Auditorium**

**H. H. Humphrey Building**  
**301 19th Ave. S.**

**Price: Free**  
 The eighth annual Pankake Poetry Reading will feature Bao Phi, a spoken word artist, writer and visionary activist who seeks to build community through the arts. He will read from his 2017 book of poetry "Thousand Star Hotel." A reception and author signing will follow the reading. Please RSVP by April 11.  
**Info: Visit [aapress.com](http://aapress.com).**

**Chicago Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Community Kickoff**  
**Chicago, IL**  
**May 1; 10:30 a.m.-2 p.m.**  
**Downtown Chicago**

**Price: Free**  
 Please join OCA-Chicago, Asian American Coalition of Chicago and the Asian American Executive Network for the Chicago Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Community Kickoff in Downtown Chicago.  
**Info: Visit <http://www.eventbrite.com/e/chicago-asian-pacific-american-heritage-month-community-kickoff-tickets-16097950403>.**

**2017 JACL Chicago Scholarship Luncheon**  
**May 21; Noon**  
**Skokie, IL**  
**Maggiore's Little Italy**  
**4999 Old Orchard Shopping Center**

Come and support tomorrow's leaders as JACL Chicago awards its annual scholarship recipients.  
**Info: Visit [www.jaclchicago.org](http://www.jaclchicago.org).**

## EDC

**National Cherry Blossom Festival**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**Thru April 16**  
**Washington, D.C., area**

More than 70,000 people flock to Washington, D.C., each year to view the cherry blossoms that bloom throughout the city each spring. This festival celebrates the yearly occurrence in commemoration of the gift of Japanese cherry trees to the city by Tokyo City Mayor Yukio Ozaki in 1912 as a symbol of growing friendship between the U.S. and Japan. The festival will feature a parade, decorated floats, food booths, cultural demonstrations and much more.  
**Info: Visit [www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org](http://www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org).**

**Facing the World: Modernization and Splendor in Meiji Japan**  
**Worcester, MA**  
**Thru April 16**  
**Worcester Art Museum**  
**55 Salisbury St.**

The Meiji period is best known for dramatic domestic reforms in Japan and its modernization also involved presenting the country on the international stage through the beauty of its arts. This

exhibition also features lacquer ware and woodblock prints reflecting Japan's accelerated growth at home and abroad.  
**Info: Visit <http://www.worcesterart.org/exhibitions/facing-world-meiji-japan/>.**

**New Women for a New Age: Japanese Beauties, 1890s to 1930s**  
**Boston, MA**  
**Thru Aug. 20**  
**Museum of Fine Arts**  
**465 Huntington Ave.**

Examine the changing image of Japanese women through prints, book illustrations and photographs made in Japan from the 1890s-1930s. The exhibition begins with woodblock prints of the late Meiji era and postcards that include both photographs and the artists' depictions.  
**Info: Visit <http://www.mfa.org/exhibitions/new-women-for-a-new-age>.**

## CCDC

**Friends of the Madden Library**  
**Talk: Karen Korematsu**  
**Fresno, CA**  
**April 7**

**Fresno State University**  
**Henry Madden Library**  
**5200 N. Barton Ave.**  
**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 [sramirez@csufresno.edu](mailto:sramirez@csufresno.edu).**

**Art of Survival: Enduring the Turmoil of Tule Lake**  
**Fresno, CA**  
**Thru April 30**  
**Fresno State University**  
**Henry Madden Library**  
**5200 N. Barton Ave.**

This traveling exhibition probes the complexity of the Japanese American confinement site in Newell, Calif. It was the only officially designated segregation center during WWII and was ruled under martial law. Through haunting images of artifacts by fine art photographer Hiroshi Watanabe, viewers will get a glimpse into the lives of those who were held at Tule Lake.  
**Info: Visit [library.fresno.state.edu](http://library.fresno.state.edu).**

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# IN MEMORIAM

**Fukuchi, Tak, 85**, Kensington, CA, March 10; he is survived by his wife, Ruth; children, Matthew (Joyceline) and Catherine (John) Wong-Fukuchi; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 3.



**Inami, Frank Kaoru, 95**, Livermore, CA, March 14; his pursuit of a degree in electrical engineering at UC Berkeley was interrupted when he and his family were forcibly removed from their California home and incarcerated at the WRA Center in Jerome, AR, where he went on to volunteer to serve in the Army's Military Intelligence Service; he was predeceased by his wife, Setsuko Matsubara; he is survived by his daughter, Cindy Inami; siblings, Joe Inami, Thomas Inami and May Takata.



**Miyabe Marian, 92**, Los Angeles, Feb. 17; she is survived by her husband, the Rev. Dr. John M. Miyabe; children, John D. (Rieko), James (Suzanne) and Ruth (Mark) Rubke; gc: 5; ggc: 8.



**Miyatake, Eunice Nobuko 82**, South Pasadena, CA, Jan. 17; she is survived by her husband, Robert Hironobu Miyatake; children, Kurt (Anna), Lynne (John) Burkey and Mari Miyatake; siblings, Sumako Nishinaka and Roy (Joann); he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 3.



**Mizuki, John, 94**, Cerritos, CA, Feb. 18; he is survived by his wife, Miyoko; children, Paul (Rie), Steve (Naomi), Ruy (Susan) and Priscila (John) Stahl; gc: 7.

**Nagai, Takako, 89**, Westminster, CO, Feb. 25; she was predeceased by her husband, Dr. Willie Nagai.

**Nakadate, Glenn, 91**, Boulder City, NV, Feb. 18; during WWII, he and his family were incarcerated at the WRA Center in Poston, AZ; he was predeceased by his wife, Yoko "Bettie" Kawakami; he is survived by his children, Gregory and Janine (Shannon Eggers), Dean; sister, Stella (Hisashi Matsuda); and life companion, Katrinka Rogers; gc: 3.

**Nakashima, Teruyo, 92**, Westminster, CA, Feb. 4; she is survived by her husband, Yoshio; children, Emiko (Richard), Minoru (Rosie), Mitsuko (Robert) and Sachiko (David); two sisters; and many other relatives in the U.S. and Japan; gc: 2.

**Nishimura, Toshiko, 75**, Los Angeles, CA; she is survived by her husband, Kiyoshi Nishimura; children, Ted Kiyotoshi (Eva), Stan Toshikazu (Briceida) and Kathy Miwa (Abe) Nishimura; siblings, Takeshi, Herb Masaki, Sam Kuniso, Mako Makoto Omoto, Katsuko Kitadani and Toyoko Murakami; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 1.

**Nomura, Teruko Mary, 91**, Culver City, CA, Feb. 3; she was predeceased by her husband, George Isamu Nomura; she is survived by her children, Norio (Kyoko) Nomura and Janet Mariko (Ross) Yasuda; brother, Shoso Yamada; and other relatives in Hawaii and Japan; gc: 3.

**Nonoguchi, Hajime, 91**, Los Angeles, Feb. 8; he was predeceased by his wife, Yuki; he is survived by his children, Leslye Nonoguchi (John) Booras, Stacy Nonoguchi and Kevin (Siu Long); he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 4.

**Ogawa, Harusue, 106**, San Francisco, Feb. 14; he is survived by his sons, Tats (Susan Kaoru) and George (Susan Sumiko); gc: 4.

**Ogawa, James Makoto, 93**, Gardena, CA, March 3; he was a veteran of the 100th Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team; he is survived by his wife, Yuri; daughters, Debbie Ogawa, Jan (Rick) Fukunaga, Stephanie (Rick) Nakayama, Sharie (Harry) Tom, and Stacie (David) Inana; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 6.

**Oshiyama, Takao Thomas, 65**, Arcadia, CA, Feb. 5; he is survived by his wife, Jeanne Kiyoko Oshiyama; children, Kyle Tadashi (Marc) Oshiyama, Kyra Hiromi (Tony) Sacco; sister, Fran (Ken) Kwock; gc: 4.

**Sawaya, David J., 77**, Palm Springs, CA, Feb. 9; he is survived by his sister, Diana; 9 nieces and nephews; and his companion, Joanne Tyler.

**Shimabukuro, Shigeichi, 97**, Los Angeles, Feb. 23; he was predeceased by his wife, Fumie; he is survived by his children, Keith and Marilyn (Gilbert Leong) Shimabukuro; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 1.

**Sugihara, Patricia, 91**, Costa Mesa, CA, Feb. 2; she is survived by her daughter, Kim (Michael) Talor; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

**Tamura, Ralph Katsumi, 79**, Cerritos, CA, Feb. 3; he is survived by his children, Tracy (Richard) Tamaki and Darrin (Jaime); siblings, Ritsuo Tamura and Meiko Kinoshita; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 5.

**Tanihara, May, 81**, Vallejo, CA, Feb. 3; during WWII, she and her family were incarcerated at the WRA Center in Tule Lake, CA; she was predeceased by her husband, Ray; she is survived by her daughters, Lisa Tanihara (Doug Scott) and Dianne Tanihara; siblings, Alice Inouye, Harriet Matsumoto, Fred Nishizaki, Ted Nishizaki, Eddie Nishizaki and Robert Nishizaki; gc: 1.

**Tatsumi, Yoshiko, 90**, Long Beach, CA, Feb. 20; she is survived by her sons, Howard and David (Beverly Kawamoto) Tatsumi; siblings, Genji Kishi and Miyako Okumura; she is also survived by many relatives.

**Urasaki, Yuriko Lillie, 91**, Fullerton, CA, Feb. 8; she was predeceased by her husband, Masayoshi "Rusty" Urasaki; she is survived by her children, Sandra Ewing and Stan Urasaki; gc: 5.

**Watanabe, Tadashi, 89**, Torrance, CA, March 2; he is survived by his wife, Hinaye; children, Aileen (Steve) Worrell, Susan and Alan (Cathy) Watanabe; he is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 1.

**Yagi, Jean Yoneko, 86**, Torrance, CA, Feb. 14; she was predeceased by her husband, Paul; she is survived by her daughters, Shirleen (Masami) Funai, Pauleen, Arlene Yagi, Marylyn Matayoshi, Dianne

(Danny) Umemoto, Joanne (Brian) Mitsui; gc: 8; ggc: 3.

**Yokoyama, Frank Masaaki, 93**, Los Angeles, Feb. 7; he is survived by his wife, Kazuko; sons, Dan (Linda) and Paul (Tasha); siblings, Robert, Michinori, Yoshiko and Michie; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 1.

**Yoshimi, Chie, 84**, Monterey Park, CA, Feb. 14; she is survived by her daughters, Jill Rumiko Yoshimi, Michelle Tomoko (Kristopher Motschenbacher) Yoshimi-Motschenbacher and Sharleen Miwako (James) McLaughlin; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 4.

## TRIBUTE

### FRANK IWAMA



Frank Akira Iwama, a pioneering Asian American lawyer who successfully represented the Japanese American Citizens League in the effort to obtain redress from the United States government for wrongful detention of Japanese Americans in internment camps during World War II, died on Sept. 23 in San Mateo, Calif. He was 75.

Frank was born on April 2, 1941, in Suisun Valley, Calif., the son of Japanese immigrants who owned the Iwama Market in Fairfield. Incarcerated with his family during World War II at the Gila River War

Relocation Center, an internment camp for Japanese Americans, Frank spent his early life surrounded by armed guards. This inspired him to become a lawyer and dedicate his career to social justice.

After receiving a B.A. in business administration with great distinction from San Jose State University, Frank went on to receive his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Santa Clara School of Law, where he was managing editor of the Santa Clara Law Review. He began his career as a state deputy attorney general with the California Department of Justice in Sacramento, where he acted as legal counsel to several state governmental agencies in criminal, civil, and administrative law matters. He entered private practice in 1977 and worked as a business and legal adviser to facilitate business relations between Japan and the State of California. He also served as an adviser on California trade issues for the Consul General of Japan in San Francisco and represented international Japanese clients including NEC and Daiwa Corp.

Frank was dedicated to championing greater diversity in the legal profession and encouraging minorities to pursue a career in law. He was the first Asian American elected to the California State Bar board of governors. As a co-founder of the California State Bar Foundation, dedicated to building a better justice system for all Californians, he served as vp and a board director. He also co-founded the Asian Bar Association of Sacramento and served as president. He received numerous awards for his commitment to civil rights and community affairs and served as vp and legal counsel of the Japanese American Citizens League and a board member for the board of visitors of the Santa Clara University School of Law. He volunteered substantial pro bono legal services to nonprofit charitable organizations during his extensive legal career and served as board director for the Legal Aid Society of Northern California.

Frank's death from heart failure followed four years of illness. He is survived by his wife, Mitsuko Iwama; son, Kenneth; daughter, Mia; and stepdaughters, Shirley and Georgia Archer.

## 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.

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## REIMAGINE EVERYTHING



## CALLING ALL AAPI ENTREPRENEURS!

By Ron Mori

**H**ave you thought about turning what you love, what brings you joy and serves others into something that pays the bills? Probably many of us have thought about it but put it off for one reason or another. Perhaps when you were a kid, you sold lemonade, made homemade desserts or sold candy. You were probably nurturing your entrepreneurial spirit and passion then. We all agree that entrepreneurship takes time and work.

However, many small business owners will agree that when you're passionate about what you do, it does not feel like work; you're just doing what you're supposed to.

On April 18 at 7 p.m. EST, AARP will host a webinar entitled "From Passion Into Profit" that will feature three inspiring small business owners who left the corporate world to pursue their passion.

Each of the panelists realized that by not pursuing their passion, they were not doing what they were placed here on earth to really do. To hear their stories, register now and learn what motivated them to take the leap of faith, as well as hear about the success and challenges of being your own boss. You will also be able to ask live questions.

Our panel of innovative and inspiring entrepreneurs is men's clothing designer Alan Michael Humphrey, pet walkers and groomers Amy Reed and Leslie Baron of Woofies and nail salon co-founders Andrea Vieira and Claudia Diamante of NailSaloon. This panel will be moderated by Marcus Johnson, owner of FLO Wine, who was named Young Entrepreneur of the Year by the U.S. Small Business Administration in 2004.

The U.S. Small Business Administration will also be available to share information about financing, the importance of having a business plan and more information about its programs and resources. Also, be sure to check out [www.aarp.org/startabusiness](http://www.aarp.org/startabusiness) to get additional tools and resources to see if starting a business is right for you.

Sometimes, the motivation to start a business comes out of family caregiving. Kenneth Shinozuka is a Harvard student who started the company SafeWander, which was inspired by his grandfather, who suffered from Alzheimer's.

When Kenneth was just 14, he came up with an idea to help his grandfather, who started getting out of bed and wandering — sometimes outside the home. So, Kenneth came up with a sensor attached to his grandfather's foot that alerted his aunt,

who was the caregiver, whenever he left the bed.

SafeWander has evolved into a sensor that can be embedded into pajamas and nightgowns. The product is now manufactured and sold individually and to institutions that have clients affected by Alzheimer's. Kenneth has been featured in national news reports and received awards for his innovation, as well as been featured in AARP's "Disrupt Aging" website (<http://bit.ly/2hqF9Gc>).

Kenneth Shinozuka isn't alone as an AAPI entrepreneur. According to a 2011 White House blog, Asian American entrepreneurs' contributions cut across all segments. They are innovators in technology start-ups in Silicon Valley; they operate restaurants and convenience stores in neighborhoods across the U.S.; they run medical clinics, often in underserved communities. Fundamental to this mosaic of entrepreneurial success stories is a set of core characteristics: a strong work ethic, a disciplined pursuit of education and an unshakeable faith and optimism about the country's future.

The impact of Asian American entrepreneurship is clear and increasingly significant. Today, more than 1 million Asian American entrepreneurs generate \$300 billion in sales, providing jobs for more than 2 million workers. As the U.S. faces difficult economic times, these contributions are a vital catalyst to economic recovery.

During the months of June, July and August, AARP State Offices and SBA Resource Partners will host Summer Encore Mentoring to jointly counsel, train and mentor encore entrepreneurs on small business creation. These events occur in a variety of formats such as in-person workshops and speed networking events. Visit [www.sba.gov/encorementoring](http://www.sba.gov/encorementoring) to find an event in your locale.

Join us on April 18 for tips from successful entrepreneurs, and start your journey to career fulfillment!

*Got a question for the panelists and/or want to hear more about how each owner got started? Register now at <http://bit.ly/2mZkx2>. Can't make this webinar? Register and a link will be sent to you when the webinar is complete, also access recorded webinars through the Events tab and choose Recorded Webinars. Check out [www.aarp.org/startabusiness](http://www.aarp.org/startabusiness) and [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov) to get additional tools and resources.*

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

## GIFTS >> continued from page 3

The attorney may ask why Shizuko wants to leave her home to Lola, as opposed to a distant relative or church, to gauge Shizuko's state of mind. If the attorney determines that Shizuko made the decision to include Lola as a beneficiary on her own free will, then the attorney would draft a CIR. If another person ever questioned or contested the gift to Lola in the future, the CIR would serve as evidence against the complaint.

A CIR is a great tool to use if you want to protect your caregiver's interest in the future. As mentioned, caregiving is one of the toughest jobs there is. If you have a caregiv-

ver that you consider family and you want to show your appreciation by leaving him or her a gift without issue, consider speaking to an attorney to learn more about a Certificate of Independent Review.

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

## NIKKEI >> continued from page 9

Amongst the Yonsei and Gosei generations, I have met dozens of college-aged JAs studying Japanese as I did. The Kakehashi Project is a great new resource and an interesting case study in what a broad-based Japanese-language education program could look like. Sending JA youth to Japan for a week is a great first step, but it is yet to be seen whether this will result in the continued study of Japanese language and culture.

Perhaps a more sustainable long-term solution is to foster better connections between the Shin-Nisei (American-born children of new Japanese immigrants) and Yonsei or Gosei of

a similar age group.

Many of the Shin-Nisei are growing up speaking Japanese at home, and the current trend of cultural reclamation amongst younger Nikkei seems to be increasing, so perhaps we should be more focused on building these types of bridges within our own community.

JACL has become a de-facto meeting place for these types of exchanges, and I hope in time we can develop more programs that intentionally bring together the many diverse perspectives of our JA community.

*Rob Buscher is a member of the JACL Philadelphia Board of Directors.*

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