



PACIFIC CITIZEN

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JUSTICE NOW, NOT LATER



The Campaign for Justice: Redress Now for JLAs!
delegation testifies in Washington, D.C., before the
IACHR, but a verdict could take years.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF CRJ

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Assembly
Bill 491 Passes
Unanimously.



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Manzanar Pilgrimage
Set to Honor Activist
Alan Nishio.



SMALLER PUBLICATIONS LIKE THE P.C. ARE STILL IMPORTANT



A longtime friend of mine and I were running together recently. She is well-educated and well-informed, but she expressed her concern to me about the proliferation of "fake news."

How could she trust news sources, she asked me. As a former journalist, I'll admit, I was frustrated by her question. Didn't she know which news outlets were trustworthy and which weren't? But a recent study from Pew Research Center shows that my friend is not alone. In a survey from December of more than 1,000 adult Americans, 64 percent of those surveyed say made-up news has caused "a great deal of confusion" about the basic facts of current events. Twenty-four percent of those surveyed said it has caused "some confusion."

Because of this uncertainty, people are turning to established news outlets. The *New York Times*, the *Atlantic* and the nonprofit *ProPublica* are among the organizations that have seen an increase in subscriptions and donations after the November election, according to Harvard's Nieman Journalism Lab.

But smaller publications can be just as important because they have a more specific audience.

The *Pacific Citizen* has been published for more than 80 years, and it is an integral part of the community it serves. The *P.C.* features news stories for and about Asian Americans and columns written by JAACL members. The information in the *P.C.* helps a Midwesterner like myself stay connected to the Japanese American community in other parts of the country.

Through the *P.C.*, I learned about how different cities observed the Day of Remembrance, read about the George Takei exhibition at the Japanese American National Museum and found out

about the new documentary on civil rights leader Minoru Yasui.

To continue to provide their service, the *Pacific Citizen* and other news sources need our support in readership and financial contributions. That's why I urge you to participate in the *Pacific Citizen's* Spring Campaign. Please donate to show your appreciation of the work of the writers and staff.

In addition to your personal contribution to the *P.C.*, you can also ask your chapter to support the publication by buying an ad. My hometown chapter in St. Louis has an ad in this week's issue to show its appreciation for William Yoshino and his dedication to the JAACL. We wish him well in his retirement. The St. Louis chapter hopes other chapters will also want to buy ad space to celebrate their work and members or promote their events.

Any donation you can make to the *P.C.* will help make a difference. Please give, and please keep reading.

Sincerely,

Jody Mitori,
MDC P.C. Editorial
Board Representative

JACL ANNOUNCES 2017 CONVENTION

The Japanese American Citizens League will host its 48th annual National Convention, "Our Story: Resilience, Remembrance, Resolve," in Washington, D.C., at the Omni Shoreham Hotel from July 6-9.

In remembrance of the 75th anniversary of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's signing of Executive Order 9066, which forced 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry into incarceration camps without due process, the 2017 Convention will feature an Opening Reception with an exclusive viewing of the Smithsonian National Museum of American History's new exhibit "Righting a Wrong." The new exhibit highlights the experience of Japanese Americans during World War II. In addition, original pages from Executive Order 9066, on loan



from the National Archives, will be displayed during the private Opening Reception.

In addition, His Excellency Ambassador Kenichiro Sasae and Mrs. Nobuko Sasae will graciously open their home to Convention attendees when they host the Ambassador's Residence Reception.

The Ambassador's Residence has hosted a number of high-profile and exclusive events, including a reception for the 2013 JACL National Convention. During the reception, the Governor Ralph Carr Award will be given.

Former governor of Colorado Ralph Carr advocated for the Constitutional rights of

Japanese Americans and encouraged Coloradans to welcome Japanese Americans following Pearl Harbor.

The Governor Ralph Carr Award honors outstanding leaders who personify his legacy of working toward racial justice and promotion of civil rights.

Outgoing JACL Interim Executive Director Bill Yoshino stated, "The 2017 JACL Convention is a 'can't-miss' opportunity to take part in some extraordinary events. To commemorate the 75th anniversary of the signing of E.O. 9066, JACL will host a reception at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, where E.O. 9066, on loan from the National Archives, will be on display along with other camp-related artifacts. In addition, the Embassy of Japan will host a reception at the Ambassador's Residence, a truly unique opportunity where JACL will present the Governor Ralph Carr Award in a splendid setting."

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NIKKEI VOICE

DON'T GIVE UP ON CIVIL DISCUSSIONS ON SOCIAL MEDIA

By Gil Asakawa

One of the great benefits of today's social media — and why I urge everyone, young and old, to at least be on Facebook — is that it can connect you to people you know, people you don't know and maybe, most surprisingly, to people you used to know.

When baby boomers starting logging into Facebook about a decade ago, I was happy to reconnect with former co-workers and friends from the past, as well as to people from my school days, both college and high school.

I'm Facebook friends with a host of classmates and friends from two high schools. I attended eighth-10th grade in northern Virginia before my family moved to Colorado, and I finished school in a Denver suburb.

But Facebook can have its downside (besides being a time-suck that can take over your life). Sometimes, old friends may have traveled in different directions from my own path.

Such is the case with John, who was my schoolmate in Virginia and who now lives in Washington, D.C. We weren't

close friends, but we knew each other. He was one of the popular kids, and I was a nerdy school photographer. He and I became Facebook friends about a year and a half ago, right in time for the Donald Trump presidential campaign.

Anyone who follows me on social media knows I share a lot of stories about race, identity, racism, politics and pop culture, often Asian and Asian American pop culture. Oh, and food. Lots of food pictures.

I'm pretty liberal, though I wouldn't say radical. John is conservative, and a Trump supporter, though I wouldn't say alt-right.

For months now, John has been commenting on my posts and chiding me for being left-wing, and citing a lot of Fox News and Breitbart rhetoric. He makes the typical charge that the left needs to accept that Trump won the election and needs to move on. This cracks me up, since Trump himself is the one that can't seem to let the election go, mentioning Hillary Clinton weekly.

On a recent post I shared about the Hollywood "whitewashing" that cast Scarlett Johansson as a Japanese anime character in "Ghost in the Shell," John commented:

"Gil, why is everything about your posts racism, sexism, homophobe and xenophobe? Did America scare you as a

child? I have been following you for over a year, and I never see you defend or post anything positive about America and its values. WHY?"

Others replied that I often post positive stories about the U.S., and I responded with this:

"John, I share about race issues precisely because I love the United States of America, and I'm concerned about the rise of racism and fear and hatred."

He's recently begun sharing some of his favorite conservative stories on my "wall," and I had to ask him to stop. He can comment on my posts, but I don't need to see his. If I want to see what he's sharing, I can always go to his page.

Recently, he asked me why I don't share stories like one about a white pizza deliveryman who was murdered by two African-Americans instead of just posting about the terrible things happening today to Muslims, Latinos, African-Americans and other people of color.

It turns out the story he shared, which was from a right-wing site, was "fake news." A quick search showed that the murder took place several years ago, and it was a drug deal that went bad. The victim was trying to buy drugs and wasn't an innocent pizza deliveryman at all.

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A MOTHER'S TAKE

A SECOND CHANCE

By Marsha Aizumi

Recently, I had the opportunity to thank someone who I believe changed the course of my child's future. I didn't realize it completely, until the moment when Dr. David Vannasdall walked into the room and tears began to roll down my face. He is the superintendent of a local school district, and we had been brought together to film Diane Sawyer's ABC "20/20" special following up on Caitlin Jenner's story and talking about transgender issues.

But let me begin at the beginning . . .

Ten years ago, my daughter announced to me, "I am not going back to school." I was devastated because she was a senior in high school and had six months to graduate. My position at the time was a director of educational programs for a dropout recovery charter school. And here I was faced with a child who was ready to drop out.

Unbeknownst to me, my child had been bullied and harassed since she had come out as a lesbian two years prior. When I asked, years later, why she didn't confide in me, she said, "I was already a target, and I was afraid that if I told you, you would go down to the school, kick down the principal's door and demand that the school do something." She didn't want others to think she needed her mom to fight her battles. But now diagnosed as agoraphobic (viewing the world as unsafe) with panic attacks, she had withstood all she could. There was no more.

With this announcement, I did what every concerned mother would do. I marched down to the principal's office and DIDN'T kick down the principal's door but said, "You must help my child." Since I was not aware of the daily harassment that my child experienced, I concentrated on the agoraphobia and panic attacks.

The principal, vice principal and I came up with a plan that would allow her to finish her studies independently, but come to school one period a day as an office assistant, a

place she felt safe. Thankfully, she graduated, but just barely.

However, she was not able to experience senior prom, walking at graduation and attend her senior celebration. But she did complete her studies to get her high school diploma, and I was so grateful. The principal who helped her graduate was Dr. Vannasdall.

The next two years were fraught with challenges, depression and thoughts of suicide for my child. As a mother, I couldn't figure out how to help her. Then, my daughter came out a second time, announcing that she wasn't really a lesbian — she was a transgender individual who has always been my son.

I didn't know what all of this meant, but I knew if I didn't get it right, I would lose my child. We took the next year to transition my son.

It took Aiden nine years to get his bachelor's degree. In those nine years, he changed from a scared, depressed and withdrawn young person to a confident, outgoing, happy young man. He is now in graduate school, pursuing his master's degree in education.

Last month, he was chosen as one of the 125 most influential individuals from the University of La Verne for its 125-year anniversary gala. Married, working in charter school education and an activist in the LGBTQ community, today, Aiden sees a future for himself, one filled with love and contribution.

And so when Dr. David Vannasdall walked into the room, all of these memories flashed before my eyes, and I knew that one person who believed and supported my child over a decade ago gave Aiden hope that somehow he could make it in the world.



Aiden and Principal David Vannasdall in 2006



Marsha Aizumi and Superintendent David Vannasdall in 2017

I never thanked that man so many years ago, but between tears in my eyes and gratitude in my heart, I got the opportunity to thank him then.

I write this story to thank all the educators who may never know the impact their words and decisions may have on the life of a student. What you have said and done may change the course of their lives.

Perhaps you have created one less challenge for the student to overcome, like Aiden obtaining his high school diploma. Or, maybe you sent a message that this young person is important by taking the time to find a unique solution.

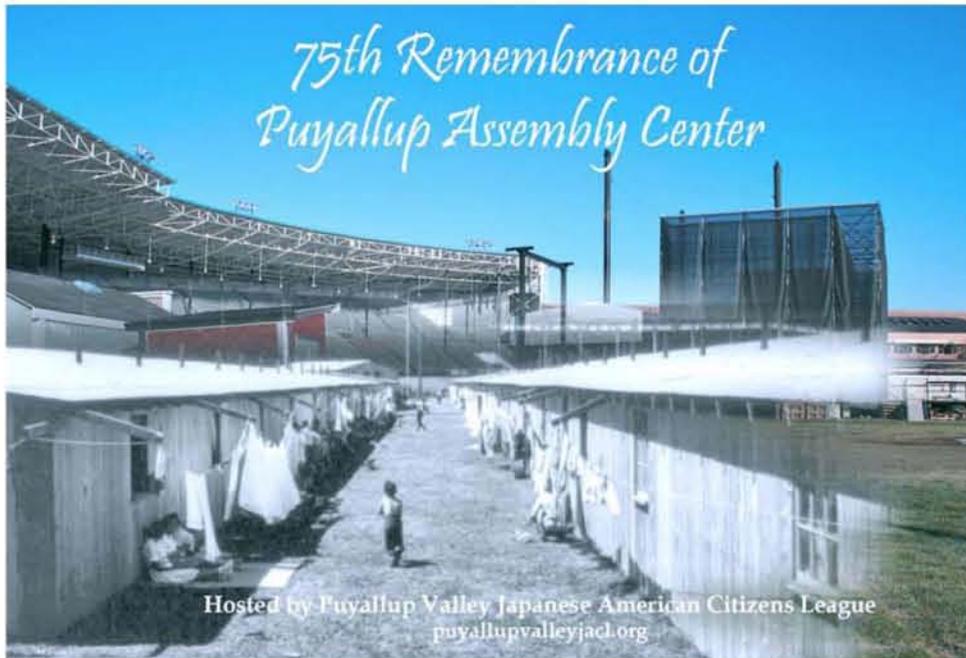
I believe one person listening and caring has the potential to place hope in a student's heart, and because of that hope, they can find their way.

For any educator who has taken the time to show lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender students they are seen and valued, I am so grateful for you. And I hope that one day you will know the ripple effect of your actions, just like Superintendent Vannasdall learned that his belief in my son created a path for Aiden to find his greatness . . .

Note: The Diane Sawyer "20/20" special on Caitlin Jenner and transgender issues will air on April 21 at 10 p.m. PST on ABC.

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

PHOTOS: MARSHA AIZUMI



More than 7,500 individuals were incarcerated on the Pullyallup Fairgrounds.

PUYALLUP ASSEMBLY CENTER TO BE RECOGNIZED ON 75TH ANNIVERSARY

PUYALLUP, WASH. — The Puyallup Valley Chapter of the JACL, in conjunction with the Washington State Fair, will host the 75th Remembrance of Puyallup Assembly Center, “Camp Harmony,” on Sept. 2.

Following Executive Order 9066, more than 7,500 Japanese and Japanese Americans from Washington and Alaska were incarcerated on the Puyallup Fairgrounds from April-September 1942.

The event, set to take place on the Coca Cola Stage from 10-11 a.m., will welcome keynote speaker Tom Ikeda, executive director of Densho; Lori Matsukawa of KING 5 News will serve as mistress of ceremonies.

This day will be dedicated to honoring those impacted by the Puyallup Assembly Center. The dedication of a new sign for the George Tsutakawa sculpture “Harmony” will follow

the main event.

In addition, the fair museum will house interactive exhibits and displays, including a replica of a horse stall and family barrack room. The video “The Silent Fair,” complete with personal recollections of living on the fairgrounds, will play continuously inside the museum.

This community event is open to the general public. All Japanese American survivors and their families from all assembly centers, camps and detention facilities are invited.

Acknowledgement will be given to those in attendance who were incarcerated at PAC.

If you know a living survivor, please contact Sharon Sobie Seymour at ssproevents@comcast.net. For additional information and updates, visit www.puyallupvalleyjacl.org.

JEFF MORITA ASSISTS VETERANS IN OBTAINING HIGH FRENCH MEDAL



National Order of the Legion of Honor Medal

HONOLULU, HAWAII — Jeff Morita, a retired U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class and a Department of the Army Civilian (39 years) has filed applications for 13 100th Battalion and 442nd Regimental Combat Team veterans to obtain the National Order of the Legion of Honor, a prestigious medal conferred by the Government of France.

Any American who served in France during World War II for its liberation is eligible to apply for this award. The French Government’s processing time is

approximately one year.

The Legion of Honor is the highest award France confers to foreign nationals. To qualify, a veteran must be living to apply.

Morita, as a public service, is pleased to advise or do the paperwork free of charge for any qualified 100th or 442nd veteran. His only request is that the recipient of the Legion of Honor advise him after the award is received.

For more information, contact Jeff Morita at @jeff_kine_57@icloud.com.

NewsBytes

President Trump Picks Businessman to Serve as Ambassador to Japan



WASHINGTON, D.C. — President Trump has selected a private equity founder as his pick for the post of U.S. ambassador to Japan, the White House announced on March 23.

William Francis Hagerty IV, 57, is the co-founder of a private equity firm based in Chicago, Hagerty Peterson and Co.

Hagerty began his career with the Boston Consulting Group in 1984 and spent three years in Japan managing the firm’s business with Western clients throughout Japan and Asia.

In its announcement of Trump’s selection, the White House said Hagerty served as chief executive and the board of directors of companies with “extensive operations in Asia and Europe.”

Hagerty has served as Tennessee’s secretary for trade and commerce. During his tenure, the white House said Tennessee led the nation in foreign direct investment, 60 percent of which came from Japan.

Hagerty is expected to assume the post following Senate approval. He will succeed Obama appointee Caroline Kennedy, who left Tokyo in January.

Hanya Yanagihara Named Editor in Chief of *T: The New York Times Magazine*



NEW YORK CITY — Hanya Yanagihara has been named editor-in-chief of *T: The New York Times Magazine* following a lengthy search, the publication announced April 4.

Yanagihara’s appointment marks her return to the magazine after she previously served there as deputy editor until April 2016.

“This is my dream job, and I am so excited to be working there again, alongside the smartest, chicest, strangest staff in town. They were one of the major reasons I wanted this job, but here’s another: In this extraordinary cultural moment, I feel strongly that those of us who have been trained to be journalists should be journalists. In *T*’s case, this means spotlighting the people, places, designs and art of all mediums and genres that might be seen by some as weird or offputting or unsettling and yet are essential to expanding and challenging our idea of what beauty is,” Yanagihara wrote in an announcement on her Instagram feed.

In addition to her publishing experience, Yanagihara is the author of two novels, including the well-received 2015 book “A Little Life.”

She begins her post on May 16.

Portland Japanese Garden Expansion Complete



PORTLAND, ORE. — The Portland Japanese Garden’s largest improvement in 50 years has been completed on time, despite bad weather, neighbor complaints and a \$33.5 million price tag.

The *Oregonian/OregonLive* reported that the public would be able to see on April 2 the results of years of fundraising and 20 months of construction to execute a concept by Japanese architect Kengo Kuma.

Kuma is known for designing the \$1.5 billion National Stadium for the upcoming 2020 Olympic Games.

The ambitious project in Portland’s Washington Park has transformed land leading up to the hilltop entrance of the garden, considered one of the most authentic outside of Japan, but not the garden itself.

The expansion added 3.4 acres to the front of the 9.1-acre garden. The larger footprint allows for new educational facilities and event spaces.

Challenges included the steep terrain, landslides and storm water issues.

U.S. Supreme Court Rejects Comfort Women Statue Appeal



WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Supreme Court rejected on March 27 an appeal to hear a case calling for the removal of a Comfort Women statue that honors women who were forced into sexual slavery by Japanese troops during World War II.

The court’s decision comes three years after a lawsuit was filed by Michiko Gingery and the Global Alliance for Historical Truth against the City of Glendale, Calif., asking that the statue be removed. The plaintiffs were supported by the Japanese government.

The lawsuit suggested that the statue undermined the federal government’s ability to conduct foreign affairs and violated the Supremacy Clause of the Constitution.

“By remembering the past, including the women who suffered immensely, we help ensure these atrocities are never committed again,” said U.S. Republican Ed Royce, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, in a statement to the *Japan Times*. “Now that the highest court in the land has spoken, I hope those who’ve wasted years trying to rewrite history will finally move on.”

The court’s decision effectively ends Japan’s three-year bid to remove the statue. The comfort women statue in Glendale, which was erected in 2013, is the first outside Korea.

— P.C. Staff and Associated Press

ASSEMBLY BILL 491 PASSES ASSEMBLY EDUCATION COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF ASSEMBLY MEMBER AL MURATSUCHI

AB 491 establishes \$3 million in grants for education on Japanese American incarceration.

Assembly Member Al Muratsuchi's California Civil Liberties Project funding bill AB491 passed the Assembly Education Committee on March 22 by a 7-0 vote.

This bill, if signed into law, will maintain \$1 million in annual funding over three years to the State Library for valuable education projects based on the World War II Japanese American incarceration.

Specifically, the bill will further funding for the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program, run by the State Library.

This bill was created to make sure that one of America's worst violations of civil liberties will never again be repeated.

"The incarceration of over 120,000 Japanese Americans without due process of law during World War II began with one presidential executive order," stated Muratsuchi. "Today, we are seeing similar executive orders now targeting Muslims as modern day threats to our national security. Now, more



Yannina Casillas, representing the Council on American Islamic Relations, testifies about the importance of remembering our past violations of civil liberties, so they won't happen again.

than ever, every American needs to learn the lessons of the Japanese American incarceration to understand that our Constitution should not allow any community to be targeted because of their national origin or faith."

Barbara Takei of the Tule Lake Committee, a nonprofit organization that represents Japanese American survivors and descendants of those imprisoned during WWII at the Tule Lake concentration camp in Northern California and works to preserve the historic site, supports the bill.

"Given the echoes of 1942 and the rising climate of fear and racism targeting Muslims, immigrants and refugees, the work of the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program is more important than ever," she said in a statement during her testimony. "To ensure the mistakes of the past are not forgotten and not repeated, we are grateful that you have introduced AB 491 to continue the work of this valuable program."

Also testifying during the March 22 hearing were Yannina Casillas (CAIR — Cali-



Al Muratsuchi was joined by Kiyo Sato, a World War II veteran and former incarcerated prisoner at Poston, Ariz., for the Assembly Education Committee's consideration of the Civil Liberties Program.

fornia), Kiyo Sato (VFW Nisei Post 8985), Dale Shimasaki (Education Consultant) and Marielle Tsukamoto (Florin JACL — Sacramento Region).

Muratsuchi represents California's 66th Assembly District. He also serves as chairman of the Joint Legislative Audit Committee and the Assembly Select Committee on Aerospace. In addition, he is a member of the Assembly Committees on Appropriations, Natural Resources, Utilities and Energy and Veterans Affairs.

AB 491 next goes to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

THE 15TH ANNUAL MINIDOKA PILGRIMAGE DATES SET FOR JULY 6-9

PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE MINIDOKA PILGRIMAGE PLANNING COMMITTEE



SEATTLE, WA — The Minidoka Pilgrimage Planning Committee has announced that the dates for the 15th annual 2017 pilgrimage will be July 6-9.

In 1942, almost 13,000 people of Japanese ancestry living in Washington, Oregon and Alaska, many of whom were American citizens, were removed from their homes and sent to a desolate "concentration camp" near Twin Falls, Idaho. This summer, the 15th pilgrimage will take place with former incarcerated, their families and friends — from Seattle, Portland and across the nation — to the former Minidoka Camp in Idaho.

The pilgrimage is an opportunity to learn, share memories and ask questions about the Minidoka experience. Consider participating as a way to bring your family together and reconnect with friends. The number of participants is limited.

Last year's Minidoka Pilgrimage welcomed more than 240 participants, where



The 2016 Minidoka Pilgrimage participants

they took part in 18 presentations during the Friday Education Program, shared countless stories about their experiences and witnessed the dedication of the new baseball field that was built during the Field in a Day Project in May 2016.

The Minidoka Pilgrimage officially begins in Twin Falls, Idaho, on the evening of July 6 for dinner. July 7 will feature a full day of educational programming for pilgrimage participants. On July 8, the group will tour the Minidoka National Park Site, followed by small group discussions that will allow participants to learn and share memories of the incarceration experience. On the morning of July 9, the pilgrimage will conclude with a commemorative closing ceremony at the Minidoka National Park Site.

PILGRIMAGE DETAILS

There are two different registration packages:

- The Seattle/Bellevue package includes bus transportation from Bellevue, Wash., to Twin Falls, Idaho. The registration fee is \$425.
- The Boise/Twin Falls Package requires participants to provide their own transportation to Twin Falls, Idaho. The price is \$225.
- There is a discount on both packages for children under 12 and seniors 75 years and older.

The registration fee includes meals and all activities during the pilgrimage. Lodg-

ing must be made by each participant. Please review the Hotel and Information document and the Registration Form for more information on Pilgrimage packages (Seattle and Twin Falls). This information can be found on the Minidoka Pilgrimage website (www.minidokapilgrimage.org).

The Minidoka Pilgrimage Planning Committee is excited to once again offer a Senior Scholarship for those who are over 80 years of age and were imprisoned in any of the American concentration camps during World War II. Please review the Senior Scholarship Registration Form to apply for the scholarship.

Student Scholarships are also available. In an effort to continue to provide an experience of social justice in action and allow diverse input, participation and energy, the Minidoka Pilgrimage Planning Committee and the Seattle University International Student Center are proud to offer unique scholarship opportunities to college students.

The Minidoka Pilgrimage Planning Committee is an all-volunteer-run committee based in Seattle, Wash. The annual pilgrimage strives to honor the generations that were at Minidoka by sharing stories so that in the future, due process of the law will be honored.

All registration forms and information can be found on the Minidoka Pilgrimage website at www.minidokapilgrimage.org. For other questions or concerns, email minidokapilgrimage@gmail.com. For those who cannot access the forms and information by computer, please leave your name and address with Dale H. Watanabe at (206) 296-2156 and they will be mailed.



Art Shibayama testifies before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights on March 21 in Washington, D.C. Pictured in the audience behind Shibayama are (from left) Hiroko Ozawa Cray (with headphones), Sojin Kim, Noriko Sanefuji and Blanca Sadako Katsura, a Japanese Peruvian who was taken from her home at the age of 12.

JAPANESE LATIN AMERICAN DELEGATION RECEIVES FAVORABLE HEARING

Art Shibayama testifies in Washington, D.C. — however, a ruling may not come for several years.

By Martha Nakagawa,
Contributor

Isamu Carlos “Art” Shibayama and the Campaign for Justice: Redress Now for Japanese Latin Americans! delegation appeared to have received a favorable hearing before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) on March 21 in Washington, D.C., but an official ruling may not be expected for years.

The IACHR is an independent agency of the Organization of American States and is tasked with promoting and protecting human rights in the Americas. Currently, representatives from six different nations from the American hemisphere comprise the IACHR, and petitions are not heard before the commission unless all available domestic legal actions have been pursued and exhausted.

The tone of the hearing was set early after Shibayama testified about being forcibly removed at the age of 13 from Peru with his parents and siblings during World War II and then brought to the United States and incarcerated at the Department of Justice camp at Crystal City, Texas.

Shibayama was among the 2,264 Japanese Latin Americans kidnapped from their homes from 13 Latin American countries during WWII by the U.S. government to be used in hostage exchanges between the U.S. and Japan. Once the war ended, the U.S. government categorized these JLAs as “illegal aliens” in the country.

Francisco Jose Eguiguren Praeli, IACHR president and commissioner from Peru,

extended a personal apology to Shibayama after Shibayama testified before members of the commission.

Speaking in Spanish, Eguiguren said, “I sympathize with you over the unfair treatment and conditions you’ve lived through, and it happened in my country. I would like to extend an apology. This is my personal sentiment, not from the commission.”

“Gracias,” said Shibayama. “Muchos gracias.”

During the question-and-answer period, Commissioner Paulo Vannuchi from Brazil posed the question to the Shibayama delegation whether they felt Peru should also be found culpable for what had happened.

Paul Mills, the Shibayama delegation’s attorney, said the burden of the petitioner’s complaints fell upon the United States.

“As far as the accountability of the nation of Peru, our understanding is yes, they share some responsibility for the events prior to the U.S. taking custody of the petitioners,” Mills said. “Once the petitioners were in the custody of the United States of America and, in particular, the seizing of their citizenship papers, bringing them to the United States and having brought them, then declaring them illegal intruders, immigrants into the United States — no, it is not our understanding that Peru has any responsibility for that nor does Peru have any responsibility for the later decision of the United States not to provide them with redress while providing redress to U.S. citizens, who were relocated.”

Margarette May Macaulay, IACHR first vp and commissioner from Jamaica, voiced her personal view during the hearing, saying that she found the process of bringing the JLAs to the U.S., then taking away their passports or citizenship documents, and then declaring them as illegal aliens, as “appalling.”

“As you mentioned, young children were adversely affected by this . . . is unacceptable,” said Macaulay. “This is my person-

al view, and I’m sure it’s the view of the commission. We cannot accept such violation of rights, which is part of the declarations by which we can hold the United States accountable. And it is a pity that they’re not here this morning because it would have been so helpful to put some questions directly to them about this matter. And we assure you that the commission will consider very seriously about what we can do and cannot do.”

James Cavallaro, the U.S. commissioner whose term will end in December, did not appear at the IACHR morning hearings, including at the Shibayama case.

At a Department of State press briefing held on the afternoon of March 21, an *Associated Press* reporter asked why the U.S. had not participated in the IACHR sessions.

Mark Toner, acting spokesperson for the State Department, said, “It (IACHR) did re-

quest the United States to appear in two thematic hearings today. I think related to the three recent executive orders. One was also related to, I think, migrants claiming asylum at the U.S.-Mexico border. We, the United States, do have tremendous respect for the role performed by the IACHR in safeguarding human rights and fundamental freedoms throughout the hemisphere, including the United States. However, it was not appropriate — and this was deemed not appropriate by our legal experts — for the United States to participate in these hearings while litigation on the matters was ongoing in U.S. courts. So, we did not feel it was — we were able to address the concerns in an open hearing.”

Neither the Shibayamas nor the JLAs have pending lawsuits in U.S. courts at this time.

The other two commissioners who were absent from the hearing were Jose de Jesus Orozco Henriquez of Mexico and Esmeralda Arosemena de Troitino of Panama.

During closing statements, Mills extended a plea to the commissioners to expedite a ruling. Citing sections from the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, which created the IACHR system,



Art Shibayama (front row, left) is pictured with the Campaign for Justice delegation as its members prepared to testify before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in Washington, D.C.

Mills said, "These subsections of the commission's rules grant discretion in an extraordinary case like this where the evidence is not disputed, the facts are cut and dry and the abuse is shocking, to take steps for the extraordinarily swift resolution of this case."

Whether or not the IACHR will expedite a ruling remains to be seen. When asked when a ruling might be issued, Macaulay said it would take some time.

"That I can't tell you," she said. "Because it goes through a process where all the other commissioners have to consider with us, not just the three of us. The others have to weigh in, as well."

The IACHR normally meets three times a year.

Elizabeth Abi-Mershed, the assistant executive secretary who is the commission's legal director, voiced similar sentiment.

"We have a procedural backlog or procedural delay because of the number of cases we have versus the resources that we have," said Abi-Mershed. "It could be a while. It could be multiple years, but I can't say."

Additionally, Mills, who referred to what occurred to the JLAs as a "mockery" of international law, requested for a favorable ruling so as to send a message to the current administration.

"Now, as of today, the USA's own courts have been able to forestall the executive directives concerning immigration of the current administration, but they are resourceful people, and they seem to think that what they are doing is just fine," said Mills. "And in the name of humanity and the petitioners, I beg the court to add its voice as swiftly as possible to those that urge the United States of America, with respect, to respect the principles of international law and use this case, which so closely relates to what's going on today. As you learned in this case, the United States of America again is using its power to strip people of their rights of citizenship for its own purposes."

TESTIMONY

Shibayama was the first to testify. He shared about how his grandparents had been one of the first to be taken away from Peru and shipped to the Seagoville Department of Justice camp in Texas and were used in a hostage exchange between the U.S. and Japan.

As word got around that the authorities were rounding up heads of the household of Japanese Peruvian families, Shibayama's father went into hiding.

"Not finding my father, they took my mother and put her into jail," said Shibayama. "My sister was 11 at that time, and she went with her because she didn't want her mother to go by herself. She told me that they were put in a cell with criminals and prostitutes, so they were so afraid, so they hugged each other and cried all night."

Shibayama's father eventually turned himself in in order to free his wife and daughter. From there, Shibayama's parents and six children were transported at gunpoint to a ship and sent to the U.S. During the journey, all passports and legal documents were confiscated.

The family was confined at the Department of Justice camp in Crystal City, Texas. From that point, Shibayama's education would be spotty.

"In camp, they only had a Japanese school and English school," said Shibayama. "And since we spoke Spanish and English wasn't used much in those days, our parents sent us to Japanese school."

Once the war was over, the Shibayamas, like many other JLAs, were sent to Seabrook Farms in New Jersey as hired hands.

At Seabrook Farms, Shibayama joined his father and sister to help support the family since his father, alone, could not support them. There was a 30 percent tax on paychecks issued to JLA workers since they were categorized as "illegal aliens."

During the peak season, the Shibayamas worked 12 hours a day, seven days a week, which gave Shibayama no time to attend school.

Ironically, Shibayama, despite his illegal alien status, was drafted by the U.S. government during the Korean War. While in the service, his section leader applied, on Shibayama's behalf, for his U.S. citizenship, but Shibayama was denied, based on the ruling that he had entered the U.S. "illegally."

"The government brought us here by gunpoint, so how can they classify us as illegal aliens?" said Shibayama.

Shibayama's daughter, Bekki, became emotional during her testimony as she recounted her recollection of her grandfather.



Campaign for Justice, Washington, D.C., 1997

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF BETTY SHIBAYAMA

"To this day, my family and I believe that the U.S. government killed my grandfather's spirit," said Bekki. "After his capitulation and from then on, he was never the same man again. Gradually, he became silently entombed in a world of isolation. I only knew him as a shell of his original self. And I just wished that I had shown him more love when I had had the chance."

Decades later, Bekki said they learned that her great-grandparents, who had been used in a hostage exchange, had never told the family in Japan why they had returned.

"They (great-grandparents) were part of the second hostage exchange, so they were forcibly sent back to Japan," she said. "I know that they went back to live with their son. And since it was in Japan, it was a war-torn country. The son was struggling to support his family, so it was a burden to have his parents come back. We didn't find out until later that our great-grandparents didn't even tell their son what had happened. There was so much shame that they wouldn't even tell them, so the son wondered why, why did they have to come back because it put an additional burden on his family."

REMEDIES

Grace Shimizu, the delegation's coordinator, asked that the commissioners take a global perspective when considering redress for the Shibayama brothers and the

other JLAs.

"I just want to implore you to really look at what are the remedies available," Shimizu said. "Don't limit yourself to what the Japanese Americans got from the U.S. government — the Civil Liberties Act, the Mochizuki settlement. Look to the world scene for all the types of human rights violations that have occurred and the types of justice that people have gotten. If any of those apply to the (Shibayama) brothers, they must be applied here."

"What we don't want is for the standard of redress to be lowered. We don't want what we went through to be diminished such that our humanity is valued less than others around the world."

The Civil Liberties Act of 1988 issued an apology from the U.S. government and compensation of \$20,000 to Japanese Americans imprisoned in U.S. concentration camps during the war, while the Mochizuki settlement offered an apology and a mere \$5,000 to eligible Japanese Latin Americans.

The Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund also submitted a letter of support to the IACHR. In the letter, AALDEF noted that the JLAs deserved the following:

- Full disclosure
- An apology
- Equitable compensation
- Expungement of the "illegal alien" status from the records of the JLAs
- Assurance that similar violations would not be repeated

The delegation also added a request to set up an educational fund. Shibayama's daughter pointed out that when she was growing up, she knew so little about their family's wartime experiences.

"I would like to know how the government made these decisions to take them out," Bekki said. "What were those decisions based on? What information was there? I would like to know what we should be looking out for in case our government starts going in that direction again. History has a tendency to repeat itself, so I would like to ensure or try to ensure that it doesn't happen again."

To follow updates to this story, visit the Campaign for Justice: Redress NOW for Japanese Latin Americans! Facebook page.



Tatsue Shibayama is pictured holding Fusa and a standing Art in Peru, 1933.



The Yuzo Shibayama family in Peru, 1939. Pictured (from left) are Tatsue, Tak, Fusa, Rosie, Susie, Kenbo, Art and Yuzo (in the car).

ALAN NISHIO TO RECEIVE THE 2017 SUE KUNITOMI EMBREY LEGACY AWARD

The longtime activist and recognized leader will be honored for his wide-ranging impact in the Japanese American community.

LOS ANGELES — The Manzanar Committee announced on March 29 that longtime community activist and mentor Alan Nishio has been named as the recipient of the 2017 Sue Kunitomi Embrey Legacy Award.

The award, named after the late chair of the Manzanar Committee who was one of the founders of the annual Manzanar Pilgrimage and the driving force behind the creation of the Manzanar National Historic Site, will be presented to Nishio at the 48th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage on April 29 at the Manzanar National Historic Site, located on U.S. Highway 395 in California's Owens Valley.

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

Nishio, 71, was born on Aug. 9, 1945, in the Manzanar concentration camp, one of more than 110,000 Japanese and Japanese Americans who were unjustly incarcerated in American concentration camps and other confinement sites during World War II. His activism and leadership work go back to the days of the Free Speech Movement in the late 1960s at the University of California, Berkeley, where he helped form the Asian American Political Alliance.

In the 1970s, Nishio worked with the Japanese American Citizens League and with Japanese American Community Services — Asian Involvement (JACS-AI), which provided "Serve the People" programs in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo.

Nishio's work eventually led him and other fellow activists to form the Little Tokyo People's Rights Organization (LTPRO), which fought to protect longtime residents and small businesses during the late 1970s redevelopment of Little Tokyo, when large Japanese corporations and local politicians attempted to gobble up a large portion of Little Tokyo without regard to the interests and needs of the community.



(From left) Roy Nakano, Alan Nishio and Mike Murase testify at the redress hearings in 1981 in Los Angeles, Calif.

The lessons learned by the LTPRO activists gave them the knowledge, experience and inspiration that helped lead to the founding of the National Coalition for Redress/Reparations (NCR), one of the organizations that led the fight for redress.

One of NCR's co-founders, Nishio served as its Southern California co-chair from 1980-90. He was a pivotal figure in the successful fight for redress.

Nishio has also played an important role with the Little Tokyo Service Center since its earliest years, having served on its board since 1984. He also served two terms as LTSC's board president, and he currently serves as chair of the board of governors.

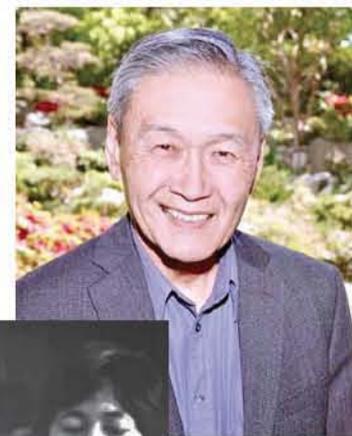
In addition, Nishio has worked in higher education, helping found the UCLA Asian American Studies Center in 1969, serving as its director for more than two years. In 1972, he became an administrator at California State University, Long Beach, where he retired in 2007 as associate vp of student services.

Nishio has worked directly with Japanese American college students, helping nurture their growth as future community leaders.

That work continues today, as he currently serves as an adviser to Kizuna, a Little Tokyo organization that focuses on Japanese American youth and developing future community leaders.

"Alan Nishio's activism is contagious," said Manzanar Committee Co-Chair Bruce Embrey. "His dedication and advocacy for the Japanese American community is widely known. His impact on a wide range of issues from the redress movement, as one of the principal founders of NCR, to Asian American Studies and the fight for affordable housing and to preserve Little Tokyo is indelible.

"Even though Alan has received numerous awards and recognition, his impact on issues, organizations and as a role model for young activists is worthy of yet one more," Embrey continued. "The Sue Kunitomi Embrey Legacy Award is meant to recognize individuals who display uncommon courage, determination and dedication, no matter the odds. Alan has fought for civil rights and equality for decades, never seeking the limelight,



never worrying about personal gain. He just focused on what needed to be done.

"While he has always counseled younger activists that the fight for social justice is a marathon, Alan's activism and fighting spirit has always had an intensity and determination of a sprinter. For that, we are especially grateful, given the challenges we face today. We couldn't be more proud to honor him at this year's Pilgrimage," Embrey concluded.

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 auditorium, located at 538 S. Main St. (U.S. Highway 395), in Lone Pine.

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, share their own experiences and discuss the relevance of the concentration camp experience to present-day events and issues.

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. For more information, call (323) 662-5102 or send an e-mail to 48thpilgrimage@manzanarcommittee.org.

>> See NISHIO on page 9

Polaris Tours 2017 Schedule

April 30 - May 13	South Korea (East Coast): "Seoul, Jeju, Busan, Gyeongju, Seorak"
May 21 ~ Jun. 01	Bikkuri Tour with Moto & Ken: "The Journey of Miyamoto Musashi"
May 14 ~ May 28	The Scandinavian: "Copenhagen, Aarhus, Stockholm, Bergen, Oslo"
Jun. 18 ~ Jun. 30	England & Wales & Scotland: "London, Cardiff, Glasgow, Edinburgh"
Jul. 02 ~ Jul. 11	Japan By Train: "Hiroshima, Kurashiki, Okayama, Kyoto, Tokyo"
Jul. 10 ~ Jul. 21	Newfoundland & Labrador: "Corner Brook, Rocky Harbour, St. John's"
Sep. 03 ~ Sep. 14	Let's Go Hokkaido: "Sapporo, Sounkyo, Shiretoko, Tomamu, Toyako"
Sep. 17 ~ Sep. 24	Iceland Adventure: "Reykjavik, Borgarnes, Hofn, Lake Jokulsarlon, Vik,"
Sep. 25 ~ Oct. 09	Western Explorer: "Scottsdale, Grand Canyon, Las Vegas, Yosemite"
Oct. 03 ~ Oct. 16	Eastern US & Canada Discovery: "Boston, Quebec City, Toronto, NYC"
Oct. 15 ~ Oct. 24	Autumn Japan: "Tokyo, Takayama, Kanazawa, Kyoto, Hiroshima"
Oct. 29 ~ Nov. 08	Islands of Okinawa & Shikoku: "Naha, Takamatsu, Matsuyama, Kochi"



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The St. Louis Chapter
of the JAACL thanks

Bill Yoshino



for his many years of service.

CSUDH RECEIVES GRANT TO PRESERVE PHOTOGRAPHS DOCUMENTING JAPANESE AMERICAN LIFE IN LOS ANGELES



PHOTO: COURTESY OF MICHAEL RISNER

A picture of the Rose Shrimp Company, circa 1950s, by Ninomiya Studio Photograph

The \$39,200 archival grant from the John Randolph Haynes and Dora Haynes Foundation will be used to create the Ninomiya Photography Studio Collection Access Project.

California State University, Dominguez Hill's Library Archives and Special Collections has received a \$39,200 archival grant from the John Randolph Haynes and Dora Haynes Foundation to continue preserving the history of Japanese Americans in Los Angeles and throughout the state.

Specifically, the grant will be used to create the Ninomiya Photography Studio Collection Access Project at CSUDH and preserve, catalog and archive approximately 10,000 packets of photographic negatives taken by the former Ninomiya Studio, which was owned and operated by Japanese American photographer Ichiro Ninomiya in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo.

Dating between 1949 and 1970, the negatives document the daily life of Japanese Americans in Los Angeles during the mid-20th century, from individual and family portraits, passport photos, pictures of Los Angeles architecture and Little Tokyo, women in traditional Japanese clothing, entertainers and much more.

"We're extremely pleased the Haynes Foundation saw this project worthy of funding," said Greg Williams, director of Archives and Special Collections at CSUDH.

"The preservation of the Ninomiya Collection will result in long-term access to researchers interested in Japanese Americans, the history of Los Angeles and immigration."

The Haynes Foundation archival grant will also enable the creation of a guide to the collection, as well as generate appropriate metadata to be used for eventual digitization, representing a new phase for the California State University Japanese American Digitization Project.

Funded since 2014 by the National Park Service and twice by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the CSUJAD project is directed and operated by the CSUDH Library Archives and Special Collections.

The CSUJAD project is currently digitizing more than 14,000 documents and photographs archived at 18 institutions statewide, including 15 California State University campuses.

The Ninomiya Collection was found in 2010 in plastic bags by a contractor working on a building in Los Angeles that was being prepared for refurbishing. Recognizing the historical importance of the images, a contractor offered the negatives for free on Craigslist.

Michael Risner, a local cameraman, obtained the negatives, and in 2012, allowed CSUDH to display a portion of the collection in an exhibition. Risner donated the entire collection to CSUDH in 2016.

Collections from CSUJAD are currently on display through August in the Library's Cultural Arts Gallery at CSUDH in an exhibition on the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II titled "And Then They Came for Us . . ."

For more information, contact the Library Archives and Special Collection at (310) 243-3895.

NISHIO >> continued

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. Follow its blog at <https://blog.manzanarcommittee.org>. ■

CONVENTION >> continued from page 2

Convention attendees will also be invited to the elegant Sayonara Banquet, participate in engaging workshops and attend plenary sessions focusing on key issues currently affecting the nation. Please register for the 2017 JAACL

Convention today to take part in these historic events. Register by June 4 to receive the Early Bird discount on registration

For additional information, please visit <https://jaacl.org/2017convention/>.

MEDIA >> continued from page 3

So, now I delete stories that others post that I wouldn't post myself. He can post them on his own page. Yet, although people have told me to just unfriend John, I don't want to. At least, not yet.

The country is so divided now that I feel it's important to have someone like John seeing and commenting on my posts. I'm actually glad he's willing to check out my page and see what I'm sharing. His comments sometimes are in all CAPs so he's yelling at me, but I reply without yelling.

I try to share stories that my friends will identify with and hopefully learn from. But I think it's more important to keep connected to people who don't automatically agree with me, and who aren't like me.

I don't want to pick fights. I want to keep lines of communication open. Discussion is the key to understanding. I'm always willing to speak about Japanese American incarceration, the history of Asians in America and the history of Asian pop culture in the U.S. (hence, my interest in "Ghost in the Shell" and whitewashing) as a way of educating people.



If I can explain about the many waves of hate movements against Asians, and how they're echoed today in anti-Muslim, anti-Latino and anti-immigrant sentiments today, maybe the future will be a little more hate-free. It might be just one person at a time, but it's important to keep in touch with people like my Facebook friend John.

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

Commemorating the mass incarceration of Berkeley residents, students, faculty and staff of Japanese descent, who were rounded up in the last week in April of 1942 during World War II.

Marking the resonance of this US tragedy with current events.



By Executive Order Japanese-American Imprisonment in WW II

75th Anniversary

Wednesday, April 26, 2017

Reception & Exhibit 5:30 pm

Historical images will be displayed, including photographs of the forced registration and removal of Berkeley Japanese Americans, the detention centers and concentration camps, and reproductions of news stories and government documents. The exhibit will be open to the public during normal hours of the Student Union from April 21-28.

Program 6-7:15 pm

Sam Mihara shares his first-hand account of internment. He was incarcerated at the age of 9 with his family at the Heart Mountain concentration camp in northern Wyoming for three years.

Multicultural Community Center

Martin Luther King, Jr. Student Union, UC Berkeley Bancroft Way at Telegraph Avenue, Berkeley, CA

Contact: Milton Fujii msfujii@earthlink.net

Commemoration 7:30 pm

75 years ago, members of First Congregational Church of Berkeley provided hospitality during this challenging time when men, women and children of Japanese ancestry were rounded up. A ceremony of remembrance will be held at the church, one block from the UC Berkeley campus. Join Sam Mihara, Rev. Molly Baskette and Mayor Jesse Arreguin to honor those who were forced to surrender their freedom and give up their homes, jobs and possessions.

First Congregational Church of Berkeley Loper Chapel - Corner of Durant and Dana

Sponsors
First Congregational Church of Berkeley/United Church of Christ
Berkeley Historical Society

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.

'Mifune: The Last Samurai'
Seaside, CA
April 22; 3 p.m.
Monterey Peninsula Buddhist Temple

1155 Noche Buena St.
Price: \$25 general admission
Monterey Peninsula Buddhist Temple and Monterey Peninsula JACL are hosting the local premiere of the documentary film "Mifune: The Last Samurai," which explores the evolution of Japanese sword-fighting movies, Mifune's WWII experience and his collaboration with filmmaker Akira Kurosawa. Following the screening, filmmaker Steven Okazaki will talk about his film and answer questions from the audience.
Info: To purchase tickets, visit www.eventbrite.com or email montereydec@gmail.com.

Conversations for Action: Strategies to Unite Us
Berkeley, CA
April 23; 2 p.m.
Berkeley Buddhist Temple
2121 Channing Way

Sponsored by the Berkeley Chapter of the JACL and Berkeley Buddhist Temple, everyone is welcome to join Muslim, Latino, Jewish, LGBTQ and at-risk youth for a forum to develop strategies for action and ways to unite targeted minorities. A Q & A session and light refreshments will follow the panel. Please RSVP by April 16.
Info: For ticket information and to RSVP, visit <https://>

www.facebook.com/events/262638317510194/?notif_t=plan_user_invited¬if_id=1490072547198458

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, Gordan 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.

2017 Berkeley JACL Scholarship & Pioneer Awards Luncheon
Richmond, CA
April 30; 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
Richmond Country Club
1 Markovich Lane
Price: \$40 per person; \$20 students
Please join the Berkeley JACL as it honors its 2017 high school scholarship recipients (12 graduating seniors) and Pioneer Award recipients (Al Satake and Ranko Yamada) for a Hawaiian luau buffet lunch. Please RSVP by April 18.
Info: Call (925) 932-7947 or email ron_tanaka@yahoo.com

PSW

Ise: Patterns of Japanese Culture
Los Angeles, CA
April 21; 3-5:30 p.m.
University of Southern California
Leavey Library
651 W. 35th St.
Price: Free
Join the Shinso Ito Center for Japanese Religions and Culture for a film screening of Masaaki Miyazawa's documentary "Umi Yama Aida" (Between Mountains and Oceans), a film that captures Miyazawa's travels to Japan's sacred forests, mountains and coasts to capture the lives of people and their religious practices. A panel discussion with Miyazawa and representatives from Ise Shrine in Mie Prefecture and USC faculty will follow the screening.
Info: Visit dornsife.usc.edu.

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.

33rd Annual Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival
Los Angeles, CA
April 28-30
Japanese American National Museum
100 N. Central Ave.
Price: Ticket prices vary; JANM members are eligible for discounts.
Celebrating its 33rd year in Los Angeles, the festival brings the best and brightest of Asian Pacific American cinema to Little Tokyo audiences. Screenings will take place at JANM from April 28-30; the entire festival runs through May 4. In many cases, screenings will be followed by Q & A panels with participating filmmakers.
Info: To purchase tickets, visit vconline.org/festival. For more up-to-date information about this event, visit <http://www.janm.org/events/2017/04/#28>.

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.

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.

DOR Commemorating E.O. 9066
Portland, OR
May 6; 2-4 p.m.
Portland Exposition Center
2060 N. Marine Dr.
Sponsored by the Portland JACL and the Oregon Nikkei Endowment, this Day of Remembrance program commemorates the 75th

anniversary of Executive Order 9066. The event's keynote speaker will be Dale Minami and the MC will be Los Angeles TV anchor David Ono. In addition, Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR) will be a special guest speaker.
Info: Visit pdjxjacl.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.

MDC

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
Maggianno'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.

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.

Japan Festival Boston
Boston, MA
April 30; 11 a.m.-6 p.m.
Boston Common
139 Tremont St.
Price: Free and open to the public
Japan Festival Boston is an outdoor Matsuri with more than 100 booths featuring cultural activities and traditional and new Japanese foods and products. Two outdoor stages will offer music and cosplay events and performances.
Info: Visit www.japanfestivalboston.org/about/.

'Before They Were Heroes' Photo Exhibit
Boston, MA
May 3-June 26
Transit Gallery of Harvard Medical School
25 Shattuck St.
"Before They Were Heroes" is an exhibition of photographs taken by the late Dr. Susumu Ito while he was a member of the celebrated WWII 442nd Regimental Combat Team. Ito took the photos with a prohibited camera, capturing the daily lives of Japanese American soldiers arriving in Europe. This exhibit made its original debut at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles in 2015. The Transit Gallery is open Monday-Friday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Info: Visit www.nejacl.org.

CCDC

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.fresnostate.edu.

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IN MEMORIAM

Amate, Grace, 89, Los Angeles, March 17; she was predeceased by her husband, Archie; she is survived by her children, Jon (Carolyn) Amate and Sandy (Nancy Haselbacher) Amate; brother, Ets (Betty) Hochi; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 1.

Anderson, Faye Isobe, 63, Gardena, CA, March 14; she is survived by her husband, Robert; siblings, Craig Isobe and Linda Isobe-Nakaba; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Aoki, Betsy Kazue, 91, Wahiawa, HI, Feb. 14; she was predeceased by her husband, Tsutomu; she is survived by her sons, Gary (Martha) Aoki, Reid Aoki, Ross (Kyong) Aoki and Russell (Irene) Aoki; siblings, George (Sarah) Kadoyama and Nancy Matsumoto; gc: 2.

Chijimatsu, Donald Hiroki, 84, Orange, CA, Jan. 30.

Egami, Sakae, 102, Captain Cook, HI, Jan. 23.



Fujikawa Ayako, 94, Los Angeles, March 22; during WWII, her family and she were incarcerated at the WRA Center in Heart Mountain, WY; she was predeceased by her husband, Nobus.

Fukamoto Jean M., 91, Tarzana, CA, March 15; she is survived by her daughter, Pam (Eutiquio Ortega) Sasada; sisters, Pauline Nakagawa, Grace Deguchi and Sumi (Paul) Endow; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Hirabayashi, Hiroshi, 88, Gardena, CA, Feb. 28; he is survived by his wife, Susako; children, Jon, Don (Pauline) Hirabayashi and Sharlene (Eric) Ige; gc: 6.

Horiuchi, Amy, 84, Brighton, CO, March 16.

Humphries, Mitsuko, 88, San Diego, CA, March 13.

Ichiuji, Hideko 'Heidi,' 86, Los Gatos, CA, Jan. 3; she is survived by her husband, Harry, children, Craig (Mina Ho-Ichiuji), Judy (Gary Monji) and Anne (Todd Humphrey); gc: 6.

Jonokuchi, Paul Katsumasa, 69, Mission Hills, CA, March 21; he is survived by his sons, Richard (Ha), Howard (Jeannie), Scott (Joseni) and Andrew (Lena); brother, Edward (Joan) Kunimasa; brother-in-law, Yoshiaki Takeuchi; sister-in-law, Toshiko Nambu; uncle, James (Aiko) Jonokuchi; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives in the U.S. and Japan.

Kai, Setsumi, 70, Gardena, CA, March 15; she is survived by her brothers, Toshiaki (Lan) and Paul (Phyllis); nephews, Mark (Patti) and Michael Kai; niece, Christine Kai; she is also survived by other relatives.

Kajikawa, Judith Ann, 68, Torrance, CA, Feb. 28; she is survived by her husband, Kay; daughter, Stephanie Santos (Jerome); mother, Toshiko Kiyoi; sister, Marlene Sakamoto (Randy); she is also survived by many other relatives.

Kamada, Carey Kojiro, 64, Torrance, CA; Feb. 22; he is survived by his siblings, Patricia (Dan) Sasahara, Curtis (JoAnn) and Kent (Janice) Kamada; he is also survived by many nephews, nieces, grandnephews and grandnieces.

Kawahara, Dwight Seiji, 86, Monterey Park, CA, Feb. 17; he was predeceased by his siblings, Daniel and Grace Imura; he is survived by his brothers, Denby (Setsuko) and Delano (Dawn) Kawahara; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Kazumura, Mary Lou, 69, Ingleside, IL, March 17; she is survived by her husband, James; children, Brian (Chris), Dawn (Robert III) Holm and Tomeko (Oscar) Mendez; brother, Frank (Helen) Zilinger; a nephew; gc: 6.



Kono, Shizuye Jenny, 93, Sun Valley, CA, Jan. 31; she is survived by her children, Lenny (Nancy), Julie (Scott) Iwashita; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 6; ggc: 3.

Konno, Lynne Hiroko, 71, Gardena, CA; March 12; she is survived by her husband,

Robert; daughters, Holly (Mark) Boegemann and Kelly (Scott) Parkhurst; mother, Yaeko Gracie Kawakami; sisters, Julie Kawakami and Wendy (Jeff) Wakayama; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2.



Kosaka, George Yuzuru, 89, Los Angeles, March 11; during WWII, his family and he were incarcerated at the Poston WRA Center in Arizona; he is survived by his sister, Lily "Yudi"; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Kumamoto, Arthur, 94, Los Angeles, March 18; during WWII, his family and he were incarcerated at the WRA Center in Granada, CO; he is survived by his wife, Betty; daughters, Shirley and Alane; gc: 3.

Nakada, Miyoko, 92, Culver City, CA, Jan. 22; she was predeceased by her husband, Masaichi; she is survived by her daughter, Yuriko (Joe) Miyamoto; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2.

Nakata, Harry Hiroshi, 92, Spokane, WA, Dec. 22; during WWII, his family and he were incarcerated at the WRA Center in Minidoka, ID, and while there, he joined the Army's 442nd Regimental Combat Team; he is survived by his wife, Kimi; children, Curtis (Susan) and Kathie (Greg) Fjeran; sister, Mary (Roy) Okada; sisters-in-law, June Nakata and Sumi Okamoto; gc: 5; ggc: 3.

Shiozaki, Kiyoshi, 97, Los Angeles, Jan. 22; he is survived by his daughter, Laura Lee; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Takeuchi, Mihoko, 90, Los Angeles, Jan. 15; she is survived by her grandson, Kevin Toshiyuki Takeuchi; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Tasaka, Arthur, 95, Hacienda Heights, CA, Jan. 26, he was predeceased by his wife, Jane; he is survived by his children, Cathie (Richard) Tanabe, Pam (Jesus) Mejia, Aileen Fukumoto, Christie (Michael) Dews, Terri (George) Munz and Arthur Masakatsu (Suyny) Tasaka; brother, Henry; gc: 15; step-gc: 2; ggc: 3.

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.

Tengan, Gordon Kiyoshi, 79, Torrance, CA, Jan. 13; he is survived by his daughters, Shelley (Robert) Kajimoto, Sheree Tengan and Sheryl (Masa) Seki; sisters, Lillian Yuri Gima and Jean Fumi Sera; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 3.

Yasukochi, Jane, 92, Carmichael, CA; Jan. 24; during WWII, she and her family were incarcerated at the WRA Center in Poston, AZ; she was predeceased by her husband, Fred; she is survived by her children, Dale, Fred Jr. (Claudia Gilman), Dennis (Lynne Goodrich), Bruce (Cathy Wilson) and David (Colleen); she is also survived by many nieces and nephews; gc: 11.

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.

Yamada, Yoshiko, 91, Culver City, CA, March 18; she was predeceased by her husband, Terumi; she is survived by her children, Richard Yamada, Carol (David) Kimura, Janice (Michael) Oshimo; sister, Sue Ninomura; brother-in-law, Hidemi (Ellen) Yamada; sisters-in-law, Hatsuki and Toni Yamada, Lois Taniguchi; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives here and in Washington; gc: 4.

TRIBUTE

YURIKO TANAMACHI



Yuriko Tanamachi, 95, Sun City West, AZ, formerly from Fairborn, OH; March 22; she was predeceased by her husband, Goro Tanamachi; she is survived by her daughters, Pat Furuta (Otto), Beverly Tanamachi (Gordon Brown), Becky Tanamachi (Bob Maiden) and son, Michael (Mary); grandsons, Yoshi Furuta (Nicole), Chris Tanamachi, Kelly Tanamachi and Josh Brown; and great-granddaughters, Laine Furuta and Callie Furuta.

TRIBUTE

HIDEKO ICHIUJI

Hideko "Heidi" Ichiuji (Hamasaki), 86, passed away peacefully in her home with family by her side on Jan. 3, 2017. Hideko, a longtime Los Gatos resident, was born and raised in San Mateo, CA. She is survived by her husband, Harry Ichiuji; her three children, Craig (Mina Ho-Ichiuji), Judy (Gary Monji), Anne (Todd Humphrey); her six grandchildren, Brett, Sean, Erin, Grant, Halle and Katie; her sisters, Toshie Kato and Sadako Bennett. She was preceded in death by her parents, Toshihiro and Ishino Hamasaki and her sister, Mutsue Kihara.

Should friends desire, memorial donations may be made to: Santa Clara Valley Japanese Christian Church, 40 Union Ave, Campbell CA 95008.

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

CHERRY BLOSSOMS AND HISTORY

By Ron Mori

We've all had good days and bad days. On April 1, I had an EMOTIONAL day as I was asked to make brief comments on behalf of our JACL D.C. chapter at the 19th Annual Cherry Blossom Festival Freedom Walk in Washington, D.C. It all started with the kumi daiko (ensemble drumming) performance and a surreal scene with cherry blossoms falling right on cue between rays of sunshine as taiko drums started playing.

The Freedom Walk highlights and is a reminder of the fragility of our civil liberties and the vigilant role everyone must play in upholding the constitutional rights of all Americans. Our story is an honorable American story that can never be forgotten or repeated again.

In my comments, I mentioned how my grandfather, Rikimatsu, arrived in 1904 and reflected on how proud he must have been to hear that on March 27, 1912, Japan had given the first cherry trees to the United States as a sign of friendship, peace and hope. Little did he know that some 30 years later, so many

families would be impacted by Executive Order 9066.

This was during a tumultuous time when Japanese immigrants, who had been coming to America since 1885, faced a lot of prejudice and racial attacks. Organizations with names like the Japanese-Korean Exclusion League (later renamed the Asiatic Exclusion League to reflect the increase in South Asian immigrants from India) were in their heyday in the early 1900s, and Alien Land Laws drafted by many western states restricted immigrants from owning property, including land.

But diplomatic ties between the U.S. and Japan were growing — to the point where Japan agreed to a "Gentleman's Agreement" in 1907 with President Theodore Roosevelt to reduce the number of Japanese immigrating to America, because American workers objected to the influx of Japanese laborers. Japan also agreed to a 1924 immigration law that further limited the number of Japanese entering the U.S.

So, it's not surprising that these deeply rooted feelings of hostility toward Japanese citizens led to the incarceration during World War II. The concentration camps didn't just spring up overnight, though literally they were constructed within months. They were

the culmination of decades of prejudice that called Asians the "Yellow Peril."

Yet, here was a shipment of over 3,000 cherry trees sent from Tokyo and accepted at a ceremony by the wife of President William Howard Taft. Today, these trees are a wonderful symbol of the friendship between Japan and the United States — a friendship that's long outlasted the prejudice against Japanese that culminated in the unjust incarceration during WWII.

This year is the 75th anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066, which President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed on Feb. 19, 1942, soon after Pearl Harbor was attacked and pulled America into global war.

JACL chapters and other Japanese American organizations hosted annual Day of Remembrance events to commemorate FDR's signing of E.O. 9066. This year's events drew larger audiences than in the past because of the 75th anniversary and also because of the fear of similar treatment today of Muslims.

The Smithsonian recently opened the year-long exhibit "Righting a Wrong: Japanese Americans and World War II," which keeps alive the injustice of E.O. 9066, with many of the artifacts that are on display for the exhibit from JACL members whose families were incarcerated.

In addition, JACL chapters from across the country made financial contributions to underwrite the exhibit. It's a powerful reminder of the dark side of America's history. A special private viewing of the exhibit will be part of the JACL National Convention on July 6. In addition, a special evening program at Ambassador Kenichiro Sasae's private residence is scheduled for July 7.

Like the cherry blossoms, each year brings out a special beauty of hope and optimism for a stronger nation for what we have learned from our past and our continuing friendship with Japan. I hope to see you at this year's JACL National Convention.

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

PHOTO: BRUCE HOLLYWOOD



Ron Mori (left) is pictured with Davis A. Buckley, architect of the Japanese American Memorial.

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