'NEVER AGAIN!' 

Thousands gather at the 48th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage to ensure history is not repeated.

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Venice dedicates Japanese American Memorial Monument.

PAGE 7

The Santa Anita Assembly Center is remembered 75 years later.
Honolulu International Airport Renamed After Sen. Daniel Inouye

HONOLULU — The Honolulu International Airport has been renamed in honor of the late Sen. Daniel K. Inouye, effective April 27.

The Daniel K. Inouye International Airport now appears on the official website of Hawaii's busiest airport, though the airport's three-letter designation will remain HNL.

The name change was approved after a resolution was passed last year. The Department of Transportation is currently working with the Inouye family to hold an official ceremony later this month.

Inouye, who died in 2012 at the age of 88, secured funds each year to maintain and develop the Honolulu airport. He served in the Senate for 49 years, beginning in 1963.

The name change comes as the airport undergoes a major modernization project that includes a consolidated rental car facility, the widening of taxi lanes and other visual and structural improvements.

Irene Hirano to Be Awarded JANM Lifetime Achievement Award

LOS ANGELES — Irene Hirano will receive the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Japanese American National Museum's 25th anniversary gala on May 6 at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel in Los Angeles.

Hirano, whose husband was Sen. Daniel K. Inouye of Hawaii, is a founding executive director and former president and CEO of the museum. She is currently president of the U.S.-Japan Council, which she has held since the organization's inception in 2009.

JANM is also set to honor Bruce Kaji, founding director and founding president of the museum, with the Legacy Award and Tom Ikeda, current and founding executive director of Densho, with the Founders' Award.

USC Professor Emily Ryo Awarded Carnegie Fellowship

LOS ANGELES — Emily Ryo, a rising star at USC Gould School of Law in the field of immigration and criminal law, was awarded the 2017 Andrew Carnegie Fellowship, one of the most prestigious and generous fellowships for researchers in the social sciences and humanities, on April 26.

Ryo, one of just 35 in the U.S. to be awarded the fellowship, was selected for her innovative and cutting-edge research on unauthorized migration, the legal attitudes of noncitizens and immigration detention. She will work on a large-scale empirical study of the nature and consequences of U.S. immigration detention.

One of the study's goals is to investigate what immigration detention teaches noncitizens about the U.S. legal system, democratic values and the rule of law.

"I'm truly honored to receive the Carnegie Fellowship," said Ryo. "I hope that my work as a Carnegie Fellow will help us to recontextualize immigration enforcement as more than just a legal compliance tool. Today, we tend to think of enforcement practices such as detention simply as a means of forcing people to obey our laws. But every interaction that a noncitizen has with our immigration system and legal authorities is an occasion that either engenders trust in our legal system or breeds legal cynicism, which can have profound implications for our democracy and governance."

The Andrew Carnegie Fellowships provide $200,000 to 35 scholars, journalists and public intellectuals. The recipients were selected based on the originality, promise and potential impact of their proposals.

Tokyo Jeweler Offers Gold Darth Vader Mask for $1.4 Million

TOKYO — Star Wars fans might consider it a golden opportunity. Tokyo jeweler Giaza Tanaka is offering a life-size Darth Vader mask made of 24-karat gold at a hefty price of $154 million (U.S.$1.4 million) to mark the 40th anniversary of the release of the first "Star Wars" movie.

The creation measures 26.5 centimeters (10.4 inches) wide and 30 centimeters (11.8 inches) high. The jeweler says the mask was not designed for wearing — at about 33 pounds, it would be too heavy and has no opening for a head.

While the mask is its most expensive "Star Wars" memorabilia, the jeweler has made pricier products. In 2013, a gold Disney-themed Christmas tree was priced at $4.5 million.

Judy K. Sakaki Assumes Office as President of Sonoma State University

SONOMA, CALIF. — Students, faculty and academic leaders from throughout California gathered on April 20 for the investiture of Judy K. Sakaki as the new president of Sonoma State University.

University Chancellor Timothy White presented Sakaki with the Presidential Medallion, representing the "authority and responsibility of the office of the president."

Sakaki is the university’s seventh president, the first woman in office since Mayorga Wagner 40 years ago and the first Japanese American woman in the country to head a four-year university.

(A full story of Sakaki’s investiture will appear in the May 19 issue of the P.C.)

— Pacific Citizen and Associated Press

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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A MOTHER’S TAKE
A DOUBLE-EDGED SWORD

By Marsha Aizumi

S
omeone once told me that a positive quality could become negative if carried to the extreme. I didn’t quite understand this concept initially because I thought how could something positive become something negative. Then upon reflection, I realized how true that was.

If I care about something too much, that could lead me to worry needlessly, be overly protective or jealous and not give others the space to grow and learn what is important for them.

If I am generous and kind without boundaries, my life can be out of balance. How many times have I given so much of my time and energy that I get sick or become so tired I can’t enjoy time with my family?

Our lives need balance. We must give to ourselves as much as we give to others. We need to receive in equal amounts ... the love, care, support and consideration we often so generously share.

And so last month when I traveled to Japan for the National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance’s (NQAPIA) Family Acceptance Campaign to speak and meet with groups, I saw the double-edged sword I hold.

One of the reasons I wanted to be part of this speaking tour was because this was the country that gave me two of my most precious gifts — my sons, Aiden and Stefan. In a way, I felt I was giving back to a country that had given so much to me.

So, at every event and meeting, I shared my enormous gratitude for Japan giving me the opportunity to adopt these two wonderful boys. At one of the meetings, we went around the room and introduced ourselves. One Japanese woman said she was so interested in my adoption experience.

She, like me, was unable to have children, and when she looked into adopting a child, her family did not approve because the child would not have their blood. I could see the regret and sorrow in her eyes as she spoke. A chance had been missed to be a mother because of a sense of honor to her family and lineage. I felt for her because I realized how different my life would have been if I didn’t have my two children.

I tried to comfort her after the meeting and told her that my children are now grown, but through my advocacy work around the country, I have so many other children who need my love.

I have sons in Kentucky, Hawaii, China, Illinois and daughters in Japan, Washington, D.C., and North Carolina — I am a mother to so many. I said there are many LGBTQ children who need a mother while their biological family is processing through the news that their child is lesbian, gay, transgender, bisexual or queer.

Perhaps she could be their mother while their biological family finds their way. I don’t think that took away her sadness, but I hope if a situation presents itself, she will find a way to be a mother to a child that needs her love.

Ironically at the same meeting, I heard about a three-year plan to bring greater awareness to Japan about the LGBTQ topic. This plan was being motivated by the 2020 Olympics that are coming to Tokyo, and Japan did not want to see the negativity that surrounded the Olympics in Sochi overshadow its event. A sense of honor, in this case, was causing Japan to work hard to bring greater understanding and knowledge to their country, so as guests arrive to participate or attend the Olympics, they would all feel welcomed and embraced.

A YONSEI TRANSPLANTED
THE IMPOSSIBILITY OF CHOICE

By Matthew Ormseth

I
 was nearly bowled over with giddy relief when an alum, visiting the office of the campus newspaper, told me and the other staffers, “A writer is someone who thinks writing is hard.” It was a moment of salvation.

As an aspiring reporter, I’d always harbored a suspicion that I was not cut out for the trade because I found writing excruciating. Every time I sat down to write a story, I’d wonder how in the world I would manage to squeeze the minute of every day.

I faced with the vastness of choice — Which words to use? Where to cut the sentence, the paragraph? What goes where, and when? — I’d contemplate giving it up.

The story, the dream of being a journalist, writing in general. I think it’s the mandate of choice that is most daunting for me as a writer, and knowing that other writers felt the same way was not so much comforting as it was redemptive. I felt saved.

As I grow older, I become more overwhelmed by the choices I have to make, and do make, every second of every minute of every day.

We choose what to feel and what to think, what to say and not to say. And, as the cliché goes, to choose not to do something is a choice in of itself, so we really do end up choosing, always.

It is funny, too, that as I grow older, I find myself returning to a quote I came across in childhood, from the “Harry Potter” series, no less.

“It is our choices, Harry, that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities,” Dumbledore tells our hero in ‘The Chamber of Secrets.’ I still believe it.

I’d like to think that if we gauged someone’s character by his choices, rather than his ability or his circumstances, it’d make for a fairer and better estimation.

One of the tenets of Marxism I’ve struggled with is its determinism, its conviction that circumstances shape one’s character rather character shaping the circumstances of an individual.

Marx argued vehemently against, and rightly so, arguments that material poverty is the result of a poverty of willpower, intellect or morals — arguments that still resound in congressional chambers today.

Marx instead argued that a lack of willpower or intellect in someone who is poor is more often the result of being brought up in conditions of material poverty — the inverse of the preceding argument.

And I agree with him. What I disagree with, however, is the fatalism that lurks in so much of Marx, the unshakeable suspicion that we cannot rise above our circumstances.

The poor are doomed to be poor and uncreative and shiftless so long as they live and work within a system that treats them as poor and uncreative and shiftless.

Does free will not exist? When I read Marx, I was reminded of a quote from James Ellroy, who grew up in poverty after his mother was murdered in Los Angeles.

“Crime was the sloth and disorder of individual default on an epidemic scale,” Ellroy writes in “My Dark Places.” “Free will existed. Humans were better than lab rats reacting to stimuli.”

But one thing I’ve learned, too, is that no two choices are equal; more often than not you’re playing with a loaded die.

In college, I’ve learned how difficult it is to break out of cycles of endemic, multigenerational poverty. How discrimination teaches children to internalize bias and hatred. How much easier it is to be kind and innovative and responsible when your stomach is full and rent is paid and you have something to look forward to.

When I think about the staggering number and complexity of choices adults have to make in a single day, I feel like the stooped writer at the desk again, saddled with the weight of the world, desperately afraid of being found out for the incompetent he really is.

My view of choice falls somewhere between the fatalism of Marx and Ellroy’s belief in free will.

The choices we face are weighted from the start, but we still get to choose. And out of those choices — the millions we make, every single day — we can trace a constellation of identity, the rough outline of who or what we are.

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.
IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY
OF PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT’S SIGNING OF
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The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) is the oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization in the United States. The JACL is a national organization whose mission is to secure and maintain the civil rights of Japanese Americans and all others who are victimized by injustice and bigotry. The JACL also works to promote cultural, educational, and social values and preserve the heritage and legacy of the Japanese American community.
MONUMENT TO 1942 JAPANESE AMERICAN REMOVAL DEDICATED

After years of planning and raising more than $150,000 in funds, a permanent reminder of history is erected at a West Los Angeles intersection.

By P.C. Staff

More than 16 years of planning and fundraising culminated on April 27 when the Venice Japanese American Memorial Monument was dedicated before a crowd of more than 200 people.

The monument is a 9-1/2-foot tall, 12,500-pound black granite obelisk at the northwest corner of Venice and Lincoln boulevards in West Los Angeles, and it was erected to commemorate a day in April 1942 when about 1,000 persons of Japanese ancestry — American-born citizens and legal permanent residents alike — from the surrounding areas of Venice, Santa Monica and Malibu were compelled by President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s Executive Order 9066 to gather at this intersection.

Those 1,000 people then boarded buses that took them to an assembly center, where they were processed to be transported to the Manzanar War Relocation Authority Center, more than 220 miles northeast of that area of Los Angeles, in Inyo County.

The four faces of the monument are engraved with different messages. One side has a map from the intersection to the Manzanar National Historic Site. The other faces include names of major donors, an explanation of the history and context of what happened and quotations from five individuals who were incarcerated at Manzanar.

The VJAAM Committee, headed by Phyllis Hayashibara, raised more than $150,000 for the monument. The keynote speaker for the ceremony was former California Assemblyman Warren Furutani. Other speakers for the dedication ceremony included Jim Smith, Venice Peace and Freedom Party; Ruth Galanter, former member of the L.A. City Council; Joel Jaitino, Los Angeles Public Works Department board member; Zev Yaroslavsky, former Los Angeles County supervisor; Rachel Zaizen, senior field deputy for L.A. County Supervisor Sheila Kuehl; Len Nguyen, senior field deputy for L.A. City Councilman Mike Bonin; Kevin McKeown, Santa Monica city councilmember and former mayor; Jeff Burton, National Parks Service; Dr. Jimmy Hara; and Dr. Thomas Yoshikawa.

BERKELEY JACL AWARDS 12 SCHOLARSHIPS AND HONORS ITS PIONEER RECIPIENTS

The Berkeley JACL chapter awarded scholarships to 12 high school seniors and presented Pioneer Awards to Al Satake and Ranko Yamada during its April 30 awards luncheon held at Richmond Country Club in Richmond, Calif.

The chapter awarded scholarships to 12 high school seniors based upon their academic achievements, community involvement, school activities, work history, JACL involvement, written essay, letter of recommendation and group interview.

This year’s scholarship recipients are:

- Martha Castro (College Prep High School) will attend Pomona College and major in molecular biology. She is also the recipient of the Dan/Kathleen Date Memorial Scholarship.
- Hope Fa-Kaji (Berkeley High School) will attend Rice University and major in mechanical engineering.
- Kelsey Hirota (Berkeley High School) will attend the University of California, San Diego, as a computer science major.
- Rachel Hirota (Berkeley High School) will attend the University of California, Davis, as an animal sciences major. She is also the recipient of the Carolyn Adams Family Scholarship.
- Amelia Huster (Berkeley High School) will attend the University of California, Santa Cruz, as an undeclared major.
- Kyra Kawamoto (Albany High School) will attend the University of Hawaii as a marine biology major.
- Mia Li (College Park High School) will attend Seattle University and major in international business.
- Akira Roueché (Berkeley High School) will attend California State University, Fullerton, and major in kinesiology.
- Cailyn Sakurai (El Cerrito High School) will attend Chapman University as a biological science major.
- Tosho Steimetz (Berkeley High School) will attend the University of California, Santa Barbara, as an undeclared major.
- Courtney Tamaki (Albany High School) will attend the University of California, Berkeley, as a genetic/genomic development major. She is also the recipient of the Terry Yamashita Memorial Scholarship.
- Junko Taniguchi (Lowell High School) will attend Smith College as an undeclared major. She is also the recipient of the Bea Kono Memorial Scholarship.

Also during the awards luncheon, the chapter honored Al Satake and Ranko Yamada with its Pioneer Award, which recognizes those with the vision, compassion and energy to lay a foundation for building the Japanese American community into the active and vibrant one we share today, as well as linking past leaders with our future leaders.

In addition, the chapter recognized longtime major sponsors Union Bank (Dimity Bokman), Wells Fargo Bank (Vance Oshii/Jonathan Shindo) and memorial scholarship donors from the Beatrice Kono family (George Kono), the Terry Yamashita family (Reiko Nabeto), the Dan/Kathleen Date family (Gail Yamamoto) and the Carolyn Adams Family.

Members of this year’s scholarship committee were Mark Fujikawa, Tiffany Ikeda, Lindsey Kusunaha, Vera Kawamura, Neal Oyha, Al Satake, Sharon Sue and Chair Ron Tanaka.
MANZANAR PILGRIMAGE: ‘Never Again, to Anyone, Anywhere!’

By Charles James, Contributor

The attendance at this year’s 48th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage was much larger than any in recent years, with a record-setting 2,000-plus participants gathered at the National Historic Site to pay homage to this year’s theme: ‘Never Again, to Anyone, Anywhere.’

The pilgrimage, which took place on April 29, commemorate the 75th anniversary of Executive Order 9066 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, though “commemorate” should not be confused with “celebrate.”

There was nothing to celebrate in the executive order that brought about its time in the U.S. when the country did not live up to its democratic and constitutional values. It allowed a whole group of American citizens to be deprived of their civil rights and civil liberties based purely on their race and origin and out of racism, and segregated into concentration camps in desolate areas of the U.S.

President Donald Trump promised to bring the country “together as never before” in his victory speech after winning the November election. If the large attendance, the words of the speakers, and the comments of many of those attending the Manzanar Pilgrimage are any sign, it would appear that President Trump certainly has “brought the country together” — only that it is in opposition to his comments and policies that have singled out Muslims from several countries as a national security threat despite no supporting evidence. It is heard that Trump and his administration are using language and attacking many of the same same tactics that echo the same logical thinking that ignited the U.S. during WWII, allowing the country for too easily to fall susceptible to allowing oppression, hatred, and fascism again. The result has now made the creation of the Japanese American concentration camps, only now it is being directed at other groups because of the nationalization of public religion.

The WWII Japanese American concentration camp at Manzanar is located some 200 miles north of Los Angeles. This year’s pilgrimage was held on a beautiful day, with a clear blue sky mild temperature and moderate winds.

The towering and majestic granite covered peaks of the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range offered a picturesque backdrop to the pilgrimage ceremony, yet it also spoke to the tragic events that put more than 10,000 Japanese Americans and legal permanent residents of Japanese heritage in Model T cars to be loaded on rail cars and then be shipped to remote locations.

The ceremony opened with a presentation by UCLA Kyodo Taiko, followed by a welcome from hosts Pat Sakamoto and Terri Inoko. They introduced Bernadette Johnson, granddaughter of the Manzanar National Historic Site, who presented Resolution ACR 1, establishing the 75th anniversary of E.O. 9066 as an Official Day of Remembrance in California to the Manzanar Committee. Muratsuchi’s wife Haruko Muratsuchi and daughter also joined him on the trip.

Other speakers followed, some of which expressed outrage and defiance at the seemingly similar conditions that led up to the concentration camps during WWII and the current political atmosphere being tolerated by the current Trump Administration, which appears to be attacks on the most vulnerable and marginalized — the Muslim community immigrants refugees and LGBTQ community.

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It was a record-setting 48th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage, as the event welcomed a crowd of more than 2,000 participants on April 29.

Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi (D-4th) presented Resolution ACR 1, establishing the 75th anniversary of E.O. 9066 as an Official Day of Remembrance in California to the Manzanar Committee. Muratsuchi’s wife Haruko Muratsuchi and daughter also joined him on the trip.

Another guest speaker, State Assemblywoman Al Muratsuchi, rode a bus with others from the Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute to the concentration camp. He presented Resolution ACR 1, establishing the 75th anniversary of E.O. 9066 as an Official Day of Remembrance in California to the Manzanar Committee. Muratsuchi’s wife Haruko Muratsuchi and daughter also joined him on the trip.

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>> See MANZANAR on page 9

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A RACE TRACK REMEMBERED

More than 200 attendees gathered to recognize and recall their time at the Santa Anita Assembly Center on the 75th anniversary of the incarceration experience.

By Charles James,
Contributor

The Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles welcomed more than 200 Japanese Americans and their guests on April 15 to acknowledge the 75th anniversary and remembrance of the Santa Anita Assembly Center and recognize the 75th anniversary of President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s signing of Executive Order 9066, which resulted in more than 19,000 Japanese Americans being evicted from their homes and incarcerated on the grounds of the Santa Anita Race Track between April 1942 and Oct. 27, 1942, following the outbreak of World War II.

These gatherings and reunions are very much family affairs. And while they are occasions of solemn remembrance, they are also joyous meetings between old, dear friends as well. There is laughter and tears of joy as fellow incarcerees see each other for one more time. Over the years, many friendships and close bonds have been formed between them. They share an easy comradesy that comes from being among others that shared a common injustice and suffered the hardships of being sent to the concentration camps. Often, they have very fond memories of their stay in the camps.

Among those attending the Santa Anita Remembrance were a dozen descendants of Rafu Shimpo editor and journalist Shiro Fujioka, his wife, Chiyo, and their nine children.

Camp records show that Hiro Fujioka and his family arrived at the Santa Anita Assembly Center on April 29, 1942. Hiro and Chiyo were later sent to Heart Mountain in Wyoming with their nine children, arriving there on Sept. 4, 1942.

The family of Jack Kunitomi sat at the table with Shizuko Fujioka née Sakihara and her son, Robert. Shiz was incarcerated at Manzanar and later married Yoshio “Babe” Fujioka, the youngest son of Hiro and Chuyo Fujioka. Jack Kunitomi was married to Masa Fujioka, the daughter of Shiro and Chuyo Fujioka.

Jack Yoshiaki Kunitomi, who is 100 years old, attended the event. He was incarcerated at Heart Mountain with his wife and later was drafted to serve as an interpreter with the Military Intelligence Service during the war and then later in the post-war occupation of Japan. His oldest son, Dale, who born in the Heart Mountain concentration camp, along with his brother, Darrell, and sisters Colleen Miyano and Kerry Cababa also joined their father at the event.

Best known for thoroughbred horse racing, the Santa Anita Race Track in Arcadia, Calif., hosts some of the most prominent racing events in the United States. Not surprisingly and largely unknown to most Americans and racing aficionados, it also served as an assembly area for seven months after President Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066 on Feb. 19, 1942.

Santa Anita’s parking lot was filled with row after row of 500 tar paper-covered barracks. Some internees were housed in the 64 converted horse stalls. The camp was divided into seven districts, which held several mess halls, a hospital, stores, a post office, classrooms, recreation buildings, laundry, showers and latrines. Bachelors were housed in the grandstand building.

The camp had its own newspaper, the Pacemaker, and church services were held in the track’s grandstand.

Executive Order 9066 (the original is on temporary display at the museum until May 21) authorized military commanders to exclude “any or all persons” from certain areas in the name of national defense. It cleared the way for the internment of Japanese Americans, German Americans and Italian Americans to concentration camps across the United States. Eventually, more than 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry — most were Japanese American citizens — to concentration camps in isolated parts of the country.

There were 17 temporary “Assembly Centers” designated to house the evicted population until construction on the more permanent and isolated concentration camps was finished. Most, like Santa Anita, were converted from race tracks or fairgrounds.

More than 200 guests attended the Santa Anita Reunion and Remembrance Day ceremony on April 15 at JANM.

See RACE TRACK on page 9
GO FOR BROKE NATIONAL EDUCATION CENTER AWARDED $193,080 GRANT

Funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities will be used to digitize 800 Nisei veterans’ oral histories from the Hanashi Project.

The Go for Broke National Education Center, a non-profit foundation that educates the public on the valor of Japanese American veterans of World War II and their contributions to democracy, announced on April 24 the awarding of a $193,080 grant by the National Endowment for the Humanities to help preserve, restore, and digitize 800 oral histories of WWII Japanese American veterans contained in GFBNEC’s Hanashi Oral History program.

The 800 oral histories, which represent about 2,000 hours of moving-image playback, will be selected from nearly 1,200 interviews in the Hanashi archives. The histories chronicle the experiences of Japanese American veterans who served in segregated units during WWII, many of whom had families imprisoned in U.S. incarceration camps.

The Hanashi program represents the largest compilation of such Nisei veteran interviews and also includes stories from those who served in combat and intelligence units in the European and Pacific Theaters.

“This grant from NEH will allow us to preserve these priceless histories of our Nisei veterans and to better organize and index them so that they can be shared with scholars, researchers and the public for years to come,” said Mitchell T. Maki, president and CEO of GFBNEC. “These stories speak to the courage, selflessness and patriotism of our Nisei vets in helping to protect our democracy. Today, their examples can be used to inform public debate and policy as we discuss important issues such as tolerance, social justice and equal protection under the law.”

Created in 1965, the National Endowment for the Humanities supports research and learning in history, literature, philosophy and other areas of the humanities by funding selected, peer-reviewed proposals from around the nation.

The Hanashi Oral History program features 800 oral histories that chronicle the experiences of Japanese American veterans who served in segregated units during World War II.

Polaris Tours 2017 Schedule

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<td>Oct. 03 - Oct. 16</td>
<td>Eastern US &amp; Canada Discovery: &quot;Boston, Quebec City, Toronto, NYC&quot;</td>
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<td>Oct. 15 - Oct. 24</td>
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<td>Oct. 29 - Nov. 08</td>
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SWORD >> continued from page 3

At Waseda University, ready to share our stories and our heart ...

Two days later, I spoke on a panel at Waseda University and was told we were the first group to come in to speak, since they opened their Office for Promotion of Equality and Diversity that very same month.

The university even had a number of gender-neutral bathrooms on campus, which they proudly pointed out to me in their new brochure. At our presentation, I met the vp of the new office. I told Ms. Hata I was so honored that she would attend. She responded, “I am here to learn.”

There were about 70 people who came to our presentation. When I spoke, my perception of people from Japan not showing emotion in public was shattered. There were those in the audience who openly cried with me and those who discreetly dabbed their cheeks.

After our panel spoke, one young person was crying so hard that I took her into my arms to comfort her. She said that she is afraid to tell her mother because she feared she would bring dishonor to her family, so she decided to “gaman.”

I completely understand that choice because I made the same decision early in our journey. I did not stand up and speak out for myself and those who were rejected. I also suspect that she did not want to bring dishonor to her family. She wanted to stay in the closet.

I completely understand that choice because I made the same decision early in our journey. I did not stand up and speak out for those who were rejected. I also suspect that she did not want to bring dishonor to her family.

And so I saw the positive effects of Japan’s sense of honor, which in one case had transformed into pride for the work they had done at Waseda University and the hope they were bringing to many at the 2002 Olympics. But I also saw the deep sadness when others had to choose between honor and their dreams.

International travel was not easy. The jet lag was tough. I had to “gaman” through days of “fuggy brain” and nights where I was wide awake, wishing myself to sleep because I knew I had a busy day ahead of me.

But this experience has given me a greater sense of who I want to be moving forward. I want to give myself as much as I give others, so I can be an advocate, wife and mother for as long as possible. And when my heart does not feel joy in what I am doing, I want to pause and see how I can bring more balance back into my life.

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.”

MANZANAR >> continued from page 6

Asmaa Ahmed spoke on behalf of the Council of American-Islamic Relations. CAIR’s mission is to enhance understanding of Islam, encourage dialogue, protect civil liberties, empower American Muslims and build coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding.

Embrey gave a blunt assessment of the current political climate that appears to be attempting to re-create the hysteria, fear, racism and injustices that were visited upon Japanese Americans.

In recalling the harsh living conditions of the camps, Embrey said that “the people here were going to be isolated psychologically and physically, far from civilian populations in desolate areas intended to make people suffer and to humiliate them.” He finished by saying “Never again!”

After Embrey’s speech at the podium, the Manzanar Committee Sue Kunitomi Embrey Legacy Award was presented to Alan Nishio by Embrey and Larry Chomori in recognition of his more than 40 years of advocacy on behalf of civil rights.

Former California State Assemblyman and longtime community activist Warren Furutani was the featured speaker at the pilgrimage. He was critical of the current political atmosphere. The best way to counteract the latest fear-mongering and threats to civil liberties, he said, was to not ignore it, but rather stand up to it — and vote. He warned against the despotism and fascism that seems to be threatening the country.

An interfaith service also was held at the monument, and as the crowd began to break up, an Ono Dance began as visitors started their trek back to their cars and buses. Naturally, they were walking against a brisk wind.

After all, this is Manzanar.

RACE TRACK >> continued from page 7

The JNMS hall in which the remembrance was held was a fitting place to hold this year’s event. The museum sits on the site of one of the pickup points where Japanese Americans were ordered to report to be bused to the concentration camps.

The Saturday program was a busy one. The Bomba Taiko Group from Higashi Honganji Buddhist Church performed on drums to kick off the event. The group was followed by the Rev. Dr. Alfred Tsuchiya of the Konko Kyo Church, who then led an opening prayer to celebrate the 70th Remembrance.

A traditional bento lunch was served, and a video greeting from actor-activist George Takei was shown.

Entertainment included a very poised Veronica Toyomi Ota, the 2015 Nisei Week Princess, who sang the much-loved song during WWII “I’ll Be Seeing You.” It became an anthem for those serving overseas for both British and American soldiers.

The Hon. Akira Chiba, Consul General of Japan in Los Angeles, was met with much applause. He told event attendees that his goal is to visit all the former camps and honor as many of the former camp internees as possible during his tenure.

The Hon. Akira Chiba, consul general of Japan in L.A., also spoke.

Ann Burroughs, newly named president and CEO of the Japanese American National Museum, delivered the keynote address. She praised all those detained for their resilience.

“Your stories will never be forgotten, and your history will never be forgotten. That is why this museum exists — to ensure that history is never repeated,” said Burroughs.

The gathering was also treated to a moving musical performance given by Darrell Kunitomi and Scott Nagatani of the Grateful Crane Ensemble. Photos were shown of many former internees and scenes from the camps.

Toward the end of the official program, Teruo Hosaksa (left) views the exhibit with his daughters and grandchildren.

He was 12 years old when he was sent to Heart Mountain.

The latest event at the museum was on behalf of the Santa Anita Assembly Center Committee and Heart Mountain. Stories of his work bringing together former internees are legendary among those familiar with his work.

The program ended with a sentimental journey as everyone joined together to sing “Don’t Fence Me In,” “Shima No Yori” (China Nights) and the famous Japanese American Infantry Unit fight song “The Four-Forty-Second.” The 442nd Regiment was the most-decorated unit for its size and length of service in the history of American warfare.

Most survivors attending Saturday’s event at the museum were only children during World War II, and many have little or no memory of their time there. The question increasingly being asked is: Will current and future generations continue to keep the memory of the camps and the lessons learned alive?
National

2017 JACL National Convention
Washington, D.C.
July 6-9
Omni Shoreham Hotel
2500 Calvert St. N.W.
Come join JACL as it hosts its 48th annual National Convention, “Our Story: Resilience, Remembrance, Resolve.” The convention’s opening reception will feature an exclusive viewing of the Smithsonian’s “Righting a Wrong” exhibit, commemorating the 75th anniversary of Executive Order 9066.

NCWNP

Annual Tribute to Nisei Veterans
Oakland, CA
May 20; Noon-3 p.m.
Roberts Park
10570 Skyline Blvd.
Come join the Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL at its annual tribute to our Nisei veterans on Armed Forces Day. The event’s guest speaker will be Lawson Sakai, president of FFNV and 442nd veteran, and Tom Graves, author of “Twice May 21; 5 p.m. 2017 JACL National Convention.”
Info: Email wsc.jacl@gmail.com.

Colma Japanese Cemetery
Clean-Up Day
Colma, CA
May 20; 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
1300 Hillside Blvd.
Price: Free and open to the public
The Japanese Cemetery in Colma is a unique cultural treasure that deserves our attention, our respect, and our time. The JCCNCN organizes this youth, family and community clean-up day annually. A light lunch, water, garbage bags, tools, cleaning supplies, watering bucket and flowers will be provided. Please bring your own gloves. To register, call (650) 557-5505 or email Jennifer Hamamoto at programevents@jccnc.org.

Contra Costa JACL
Oakland A’s Game
Oakland, CA
July 17; 1:05 p.m.
Oakland Coliseum (Oracle Arena)
7000 Coliseum Way
Price: Tickets $16; optional bento box $15 (seniors/kids $10)
Come enjoy the Oakland A’s take on the Cleveland Indians at the chapter’s annual trip to the ballpark. Seats are located in the shade, and this year the chapter is offering optional bento box lunches. There is a limit of 50 tickets this year, so sign up early. Deadline is June 28.
Info: Call Judy at (510) 528-6564 or email caitali@sbcsglobal.net.

PSW

Asian American Music Festival
Los Angeles, CA
May 20; 5:30-10 p.m.
Aratani Theater
244 S. San Pedro St.
Price: Tickets available for purchase through the Asian Heritage Jazz Festival will feature some of the most renowned Asian American musicians and artists in America, including Jeff Keshi, Michael Paul, Terry Steele, Bruce Hamada and many more. This event is produced by Apaulo Productions and the JACCC.
Info: To purchase tickets, visit www.tix.com and for more information, visit www.jaaccc.org.

Riverside JACL 2017 Scholarship Dinner
Riverside, CA
May 21; 5 p.m.
First Christian Church
4055 Jurupa Ave.
The chapter’s annual potluck scholarship dinner will honor Stella Haluaka Seki and Judy Morrow. The program will also feature members of the Nikkei Student Union at the University of California, Riverside, who will be presenting a short program about their 2017 pilgrimage to Manzanar. Guests are asked to bring a main dish and salad; the chapter will be providing dessert and beverages. This is a great opportunity to honor the award recipients and meet fellow members.
Info: Please contact Michiko Yoshimura by May 18 to RSVP at my141@sbcglobal.net or call (951) 784-7907.

‘Iadakimasu! Celebrating Our Culinary Community’
JACCC 57th Anniversary Celebration and Awards Dinner
June 17; 5-9 p.m.
Hyatt Regency Long Beach
200 S. opposition
Price: Price varies. This year’s event will honor Community Spirit Award recipients Beth Fujishige, Susan Ito while he was a member of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.
Info: To purchase tickets, visit www.jaccc.org/chapter.

EDC

‘Before They Were Heroes’
Photo Exhibit
Boston, MA
June 23-30
Transit Gallery of Harvard Medical School
25 Shuttle St.
“Before They Were Heroes” is an exhibition of photographs taken by the late Dr. Susumu Takahara, who was a member of the celebrated WWII 442nd Regimental Combat Team. To look 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.

The Tohoku Cuisine of Japan
With Elizabeth Ando
Boston, MA
May 17; 6 p.m.
Milk Street Cooking School
177 Milk St.
Price: $100
Japanese food authority Elizabeth Ando will make three distinctive dishes from Japan’s northeastern provinces, the Tohoku, in a hands-on cooking class. Harako Mezono (salmon rice topped with red caviar), Shiso Maki (shiso leaves stuffed with walnut mousse) and Shira Ae (fruit and watercress salad dressed with pine nut tofu sauce).

FOR Library’s Images of Internment Exhibition
Hyrde Park, NY
Thru Dec. 31
FOR Presidential Library & Museum
4075 Albany Post Road
Regular hours and admission apply.
This special exhibit provides a visual record of the forced removal of Japanese Americans during World War II and displays more than 200 photographs by WRA photographers Dorothy Lange, Clem Albers, Francis Stewart and Hikaru Iwasaki from the National Archives. The exhibition also features photographs taken by Ansel Adams at Manzanar and a selection of photos from the WSU George and Frank G. Hinahara photo collection of Heart Mountain.
Info: Visit https://forlib.org/exhibitions or call (800) 638-3006.

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QMEMORIAM

Jobori; sister, Yemiko Mae (Leo) Angeles, April 8; he is survived by his wife, Kay Akemi; children, Jason (Aiko), Jeff (Kari), Jennifer and Julia Tani; sisters, Judy (Twin) Wong and June Tani; he also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 3.

Arii, Masayo, 98, Sunnyvale, CA, April 13; during WWII, she and her husband, Yasuo, were incarcerated at the Granada WRA Center in Idaho; she was predeceased by her husband; she is survived by her son, Leon (Sandy), Ken (Jody) and Darrell (Heidi); siblings, Yosh Uyeoka and Jean Akiyama; gc: 7; gc: 6.

Awakuni, Ellen Tsurukai, 85, Los Vegas, NV, April 3; she was predeceased by her husband, Masao, Mitsu, Nobuo and Sadako Kutaka; she was survived by her brother, Shokichi Awakuni; she is also survived by many nieces and nephews, gc: 2.

Cline, Stacy Misako, 49, Bellflower, CA, April 7; she is survived by her husband, Robert; step-children, Rachel Cline and Robert Cline; parents, Shizuto and Mabel Sano; step-siblings, Sumi Koga and Michiko Baltazar; she is also survived by many aunts, uncles, cousins and relatives.

Endow, Grace Haruyo, 94, Gardena, CA, April 17; she is survived by her niece, Irene Shibata; cousins, Aiko (Wilson) Ogata and Junior (Ruby) Endo.

Ichiru, Patricia R., 65, Monterey Park, CA, April 10; she is survived by her husband, Alan; children, Laine and Dean; and siblings, Sharon, Charlotte and Alan (Lillian) Kusaka.

Gojobori, Kay Kayso, 91, Los Angeles, CA, April 8; he is survived by his wife, kay Akemi; children, Dean and Lyn (Sil Alejandro) Gojobori; sister, Yemiko Mae (Leo) Yamaoka; sisters-in-law, Naomi Cervantes and Janice Itsuno;

Shinguh, Nami, 99, Pasadena, CA, March 21; she is predeceased by her husband, Floyd; she is survived by her children, Marian Shinguh (Frank) Sato, Mae (Robert) Uchida, Douglas (Judy) Kosobayashi and Rod Shinguh; she is also survived by many other relatives; gc: 6; gc: 9.

Sugii, Tokiko, 89, Los Angeles, March 28; she is survived by her children, Michiko (Tim) Nagako, Junko (Jack) Sakaki and Hiroko (Noel) Fish; she is also survived by many nieces and nephews, and other relatives; gc: 5; gc: 2.

Tani, Kohji, 70, North Hollywood, CA, April 22; he is survived by his wife, Amy; children, Jason (Aiko), Jeff (Kari), Jennifer and Julia Tani; sisters, Judy (Twin) Wong and June Tani; he also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 3.

Umekubo, Jean Mieko, 83, Los Angeles, April 11; she is survived by her husband, Tatsuo “Itoie”; children, Car (Charles) Casillas and Caroleen “Nagachichi” Nekoda; sister, Celia Masuo; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2; gc: 1.

Yoshimura, Kyoko, 91, Los Angeles, March 26; she is survived by her children, Glenn and Colleen (Matthew Murray) Yoshimura; grandchildren, Yoshiko Koga and Michiko Battara; many nieces and nephews, and other relatives.

Yoshimura, Michi, 88, Torrance, CA, April 6; he is survived by his daughter, Ginger (Ryan) Shimoda, sister, Kiyoko Inamura; he is also survived by nieces and nephews; gc: 2.

Yoshino, Nobuo, 77, Baldwin Park, CA, March 31; she is survived by his wife, Yoko; children, Tom (Kim) Yamamoto, Chuck (Takeshi) and Toshi (Yukari); grandchildren, Toshi (Toma) and Tomomi; he is also survived by nieces and nephews; gc: 1; gc: 1.
REIMAGINE EVERYTHING
MAY IS ALSO OLDER AMERICANS MONTH!

By Ron Mori

I'll bet most of you know that May is Asian American Heritage Month. But how many of you know that May is also Older Americans Month?

Older Americans Month is a good time to recall just how far we have come in recent decades in terms of how we look at aging.

Perhaps nothing about human life has been as widely misunderstood down through the years as old age. One of the most common and most destructive misunderstandings was the belief that for most people, old age was a time of frailty, illness and overall decline — that a country’s older population was a drain on its national economy.

In fact, in 1948, when the United Nations offered its landmark “Universal Declaration of Human Rights,” that revered document contained only one passing reference to “old age.” It was way down in the 25th of 30 articles. Old age was listed, along with disability and sickness, as a justifiable reason for not working, which would warrant some sort of welfare assistance from the state.

Today, we see aging in an entirely different light. Why not?

Fifty, of course, is the age everyone becomes eligible to join AARP. Folks turning 50 today can expect to live another 25 to 40 years, or even longer. Better nutrition and lifestyle choices — along with advances in medical care and related technologies — will offer us the probability that we will remain independent, active and creative for an additional 25, 30 or even more of those years.

In the coming years, in other words, increasing numbers of America’s 50-plus population will be working longer, playing longer and taking our economy in new directions. In fact, our increasingly healthy and vibrant 50-and-over population is already spending some $1.1 trillion a year directly on consumer goods and services. By 2032, economic activities serving the wants and needs of our 50-plus population could account for upward of half of America’s Gross Domestic Product!

This phenomenon is becoming known as the “Longevity Economy.” It includes the products 50-plus Americans purchase directly, along with the additional economic activity their spending generates. The Longevity Economy holds the promise of vast new markets for products and services.

And that doesn’t even take into account the value of the volunteer services provided by older Americans. The value of age 50 and over volunteers remains one of our nation’s best-kept secrets.

It seems that more than ever before these days we are turning to volunteer service to help meet the ever-growing needs of our states and communities. Living as we do in this era of economic uncertainty and shrinking public resources, older volunteers are an increasingly vital resource.

Today, more than 9 million AARP volunteers alone are providing nearly $200 million each year in economic impact through programs like our Tax-Aide and Driver Safety program.

For additional volunteer opportunities, check out the AARP volunteer site (http://www.aarp.org/giving-back/).

So, are older Americans a drain on the U.S. economy? Not THAT’S fake news! Happy Older Americans Month!

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

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