



PACIFIC CITIZEN

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A MULTIFACETED COMMUNITY

The city of Lethbridge in
Southern Alberta, Canada,
serves as a multicultural
haven for all ethnicities.

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JACL Names David H. Inoue
as Its New Executive Director.

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Nikkei Spotlight: Multitalented
Actor-Playwright Rick Shiomi

A view of the
rear exterior
of the Galt
Museum in
Lethbridge.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE GALT MUSEUM

JACL TAPS DAVID H. INOUE FOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR POST

After an extensive search, the organization will proceed forward with Inoue at the helm beginning July 5.



David H. Inoue

By P.C. Staff

LOS ANGELES — JACL National President Gary Mayeda announced on June 26 that David H. Inoue has been named the organization's new Executive Director, effective July 5.

The position of JACL Executive Director, which is based in Washington, D.C., has been

vacant since the departure of Priscilla Ouchida, who served in the post from March 2012-June 2016.

Inoue, 45, has previous experience in the nonprofit sector that includes a 10-year stint at Christ House as administrative director, the National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems as director of grassroots and government relations and at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services as a social science research analyst.

Inoue will be introduced to the JACL as Executive Director at the 48th annual JACL National Convention, which is set to take place in Washington, D.C., from July 6-9.

Inoue told the *Pacific Citizen* that JACL is "an organization I care deeply about" and that he was cognizant of "the fact that JACL is the oldest Asian American civil rights organization" and that there is the need to "stand up for civil rights, for social justice. I think that's part of the purpose of the role that JACL does serve."

Regarding JACL's ever-present financial stresses, Inoue said, "It's well-known that JACL is not in the best financial position right now and does need to work on fundraising and strengthening the organization."

"I think that bringing my 10 years of administrative experience to that will certainly be

necessary," Inoue continued. "I look forward to that challenge."

Echoing Inoue's thoughts about JACL's finances, Mayeda said among Inoue's primary priorities in his new capacity will be "fundraising and fund development for the organization."

Mayeda continued, "That includes meeting with sponsors at the convention, having the sponsors get to know him and his skill-sets and being the ambassador to the organization, representing all of our coordinated interests within JACL."

Since Ouchida's departure, the duties of the Executive Director have been fulfilled by MDC Regional Director Bill Yoshino, who served as Interim Executive Director until his retirement in March, after which PSW Regional Director Stephanie Nitahara (who is now currently the Interim Executive Director) served in that capacity.

In an email, Mayeda thanked Nitahara and Yoshino for their service in helping JACL continue to gain a "greater visibility to all of our community partners."

Mayeda also thanked the JACL's Personnel Committee for laboring through "dozens of conference calls that went into the late hours of all time zones" when discussing the candidates for the position.

Inoue has been a JACL member for more than 16 years. In 2004, he was part of the JACL/OCA Leadership Conference. He later served as an advisory neighborhood commissioner, an elected position, for the District of Columbia.

Inoue was born in Fort Wayne, Ind., to Tatsutoshi Inoue and Linda Moy, and he grew up near Chicago and Cincinnati.

Inoue graduated from Cornell University, having received the JACL's Mr. and Mrs. Takashi Moriuchi Scholarship. He completed his master's degree from Ohio State University. He is married to Kaori Kawakubo Inoue. Together, they are raising two children, Mika and Akira.

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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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By Marsha Aizumi

A MOTHER'S TAKE CREATING SAFE FAITH COMMUNITIES

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF MARSHA AIZUMI



Creating Safe Faith Communities Gathering @ Evergreen Baptist Church of Los Angeles

More than 10 years ago, Aiden was asked to leave a local Lutheran church we were attending. In the kindest voice, a visiting minister told my child that he could return when he found himself . . . in other words, when he was not gay. Those words pierced my son's heart.

Aiden loved God, but on that day, he believed that God no longer loved him. He left the church and has not returned. I left the church as well, never feeling completely safe. I was afraid for Aiden, and I was not brave enough to stay and try to change the way this church viewed the LGBTQ community.

Today, I am stronger and more determined to transform the way the faith community sees LGBTQ individuals and their families. I believe the greatest hurt to this group has come from the faith community, and I feel the world will never be safe for Aiden if churches, temples and mosques condemn those in the LGBTQ community and call them abominations.

So, in May, we were able to bring more than 40 people from churches and temples to learn about LGBTQ individuals and dialogue on what could be done to provide greater pastoral care. We called it "Creating Safe Faith Communities."

Clergy developed the program, which included input from Christian and Buddhist perspectives. The most impactful part of the program to me was hearing from Buddhist and Christian LGBTQ individuals and their families . . . stories of rejection, invisibility and suffering.

Tears flowed openly from the panelists, who emotionally

shared their deep pain. And tears came in response from the clergy and faith leaders when they realized the hurt that had been brought to those attending churches and temples.

Before our eyes, we saw people being transformed by the tears and people being healed by the love that seemed to fill the room. It was one of the most moving three hours I have ever spent, and I believe hearts were changed that night.

Two weeks later, I flew to Seattle to attend Seattle JACL's "FAMILY 2.0: An API LGBTQ Gathering" and speak at Blaine Memorial Methodist Church.

Recently, a member of Blaine had come out in front of the congregation as transgender, and so the church thought it would be helpful to raise awareness by having me share our family's journey.

I met so many wonderful people who came up to me to share words of support and gratitude following my presentation. I also met many who said they enjoyed my column in the *Pacific Citizen*. I have always hoped that my reflections would touch the hearts of those who read "A Mother's Take," and in Seattle, I felt that my words did make a difference.

Finally, in June, Gardena Buddhist Temple presented "Ichi-Mi," which means "being one in flavor." The organizers had hoped to draw 30 people. To their surprise, 50 people came. The most startling moment was when we moved into a meeting room to listen to a LGBTQ panel. However, we were astounded to face an empty panel table.

We were told that a number of LGBTQ Buddhist individuals were asked to speak from Gardena Buddhist Temple and other temples — but all declined. There was an audible reaction from many in the room. They couldn't believe that LGBTQ people were so afraid to speak. What could have been a very awkward moment turned into a robust discussion of why LGBTQ individuals fear sharing their story in public and how we as individual allies can show greater support.

Although I believe the faith community as a whole needs to be more accepting and loving toward the LGBTQ community, I am also heartened to see churches and temples doing work to be more inclusive.

West Los Angeles Methodist Church recently voted to be a reconciling congregation that welcomes and affirms LGBTQ families. Faith United Methodist, Sage Granada Park Methodist and Evergreen Baptist Church of L.A. also have active support groups for LGBTQ families.

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NewsBytes

Topaz Museum Set to Open July 7-8



DELTA, UTAH — The Topaz Museum is set to officially open July 7-8, complete with grand-opening events including an evening reception dinner and program at the Sheraton Hotel in Salt Lake City, as well as performances of "E.O. 9066" by the San Francisco troupe Lunatique Fantastique on opening day.

The troupe is coming out of retirement for the show, which employs puppetry, a Japanese tea set, a table cloth, sand, brown paper and an old suitcase, to depict the human impact of the signing of Executive Order 9066 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. The show was written in 2003.

The heart-wrenching story follows one Japanese American family's forced evacuation from their home in Berkeley, Calif., to the Topaz camp in Utah.

"E.O. 9066" will be performed three times during the day at the high school, and visitors will be able to take bus tours of the Topaz camp site, as well as tour the museum at 55 W. Main St.

After nearly two decades in the making, the Topaz Museum chronicles the immigration of Japanese people into the United States and their settlement in Utah. The permanent exhibits were completed earlier this year.

The living conditions of the internees is shown in re-created barracks inside the gallery, and one-half of a recreational hall from Topaz also is on display. In addition, the museum has 120 pieces of art created in Topaz in its collection and 25 of them — oils, charcoals, watercolors and block prints — are on display at present.

The museum is now open to visitors. Summer hours are 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Saturday.

George Takei to Reprise His Headlining Role in 'Allegiance' in Los Angeles



LOS ANGELES — East West Players and the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center announced June 27 that the critically acclaimed musical "Allegiance" will be making its L.A. debut at the JACCC's Aratani Theatre from Feb. 21-April 1, 2018.

Headlining the cast will be George Takei, who will be reprising the role he originated on Broadway and its world-premiere engagement at the Old Globe Theatre in San Diego, Calif.

"It is such an honor to be able to bring 'Allegiance' to my hometown of Los Angeles and specifically to Little Tokyo," Takei said in a statement. He went on to explain why this role is so personal to him.

"During World War II, President Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 to imprison persons of Japanese ancestry in American concentration camps simply because we looked like the people who bombed Pearl Harbor," he said. "I spent my childhood in two of these camps, and the experience of courage, resilience and survival against injustice is what inspired the story of 'Allegiance.'"

The Los Angeles production will be co-produced by EWP and the JACCC.

Paul Kariya to Be Inducted Into the Hockey Hall of Fame



Paul Kariya, 42, who played 15 seasons in the National Hockey League, most notably with the Mighty Ducks of Anaheim,

will be inducted into the NHL's Hall of Fame, it was announced on June 26.

Kariya, who was born in Vancouver, British Columbia, to parents Tetsuhiko and Sharon Kariya, was known as a dominant, skilled offensive player, having finished with 989 points in 1,451 games.

Overwhelmed by Air Bag Recalls, Takata Files for Bankruptcy

TOKYO — Japanese air bag maker Takata Corp. filed for bankruptcy protection in Tokyo and the U.S. on June 26, saying it was the only way to ensure it could carry on supplying replacements for faulty air bag inflators linked to the deaths of at least 16 people.

Most of Takata's assets will be bought by rival Key Safety Systems, a Chinese-owned company based in suburban Detroit, for about \$1.6 billion.

Takata's inflators can explode with too much force when they fill up an air bag, spewing out shrapnel. Apart from the fatalities, they're responsible for at least 180 injuries and are grappling with the largest automotive recall in U.S. history.

So far, 100 million inflators have been recalled worldwide, including 69 million in the U.S., affecting 42 million vehicles.

— P.C. Staff and Associated Press

CALIFORNIA BUDGET INCLUDES \$3 MILLION IN CCLPEP FUNDS

By George Toshio Johnston,
P.C. Senior Editor, Digital &
Social Media

LOS ANGELES — California Gov. Jerry Brown signed the state's \$125 billion budget for fiscal year 2017-18 on June 27, and included within it was \$3 million in funding over the next three fiscal years for the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program.

Brown's signature effectively means that Assembly Bill 491, which sought to fund the CCLPEP for the same time period and monetary figure and had been awaiting approval by the state Senate, was rendered unnecessary.

Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi, a Democrat who represents the 66th Assembly District, in February introduced AB 491, which may have served to signal the governor's office to allocate funds for the permanent state program.

Administered by the California State Library, the CCLPEP funds "... educational activities and development of educational materials to ensure that the events surrounding the exclusion, forced removal and internment of civilians and permanent resident aliens of Japanese ancestry will be remembered, and so that the causes and circumstance of this and similar events may be illuminated and understood."

According to Muratsuchi, "The state librarian will receive \$3 million in one-time funds in this year's budget. The funds will be distributed in the form of education grants over the next three years, beginning in 2018."



Assemblymember
Al Muratsuchi

ning in 2018."

While it's possible the \$3 million sum could be spread out in varying amounts per year, the most-likely scenario is that \$1 million will be made available per year in the coming three-year period.

The CCLPEP was established in 1998 by Rep. Mike Honda and renewed in 2000 by Assemblymember George Nakano. It became a permanent state program in 2003 thanks to efforts by Assemblymember Wilma Chan and others by removing the termination date and making CCLPEP subject to annual budget authorizations.

The CCLPEP initially ran between FY 1998-99 through FY 2010-11; it was funded again in FY 2016-17.

Muratsuchi said he was "extremely pleased" Gov. Brown's

signature will ensure the program would be funded over the next three years.

"Seventy-five years after the issuance of Executive Order 9066, we now have President Trump issuing executive orders targeting Muslims and refugees as national security threats, just as Japanese Americans were targeted during World War II," Muratsuchi said.

"Now, more than ever, every American needs to learn the lessons of the Japanese American incarceration. We must educate all Americans to defend our Constitution and fight to ensure that no one is ever targeted again because of their national origin or faith."

Muratsuchi added that he is now working on "CCLPEP 2.0," the purpose of which would be to relate the experiences faced by West Coast Japanese Americans during WWII to "current threats to civil rights and civil liberties."

"We need to apply the lessons of the Japanese American experience to other communities, so that the lessons are relevant to face the challenges of today and the future," he said.

In May, the California State Library awarded more than \$922,000 to 29 organizations through the CCLPEP. From FY 1998-99 through FY 2010-11, the CCLPEP awarded nearly \$9 million in educational grants.

A list of past grants can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/y9asffwz>. The URL for the CCLPEP is <http://tinyurl.com/yd5zm9q>.

KATIE WONG RECEIVES CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL

PHOTO: COURTESY OF KAITLIN WONG



Katie Wong with Congresswoman Jackie Speier (left) of California's 14th District.

Kaitlin (Katie) Wong of Carlmont High School in Belmont, Calif., was one of 373 students from across the nation to receive the Congressional Gold Medal in Washington, D.C., on June 21.

Given by the U.S. Congress, the award was established in 1979 to recognize initiative, service and achievement in young people. To this day, it is the highest honor the U.S. government can bestow upon youth.

To earn her medal, Wong completed nearly 1,500 hours in the areas of Voluntary Public Service, Expedition, Personal Development and Physical Fitness. For each category, she set goals and worked for nearly four years to achieve them.

Specifically, for the Voluntary Public Service category, Wong created her high school's Principal's Service Award, which is a sustainable program that encourages students to experience an interest in volunteering. Additionally, she helped at a Japanese cultural summer camp, Medaka no Gakko, for the past six years, and also received a scholarship last summer to attend a Global Leadership Academy in Canada, where she worked with other students from around the world.

Wong chose to take writing courses to improve her abilities for

her Personal Development goal. Recently, she was chosen to be a finalist in the Facing History Together Student Essay Contest, where she earned the Upstander Award scholarship and finished in the Top 10 out of more than 5,000 entrants.

For the contest, she wrote passionately about her grandmother's experience of being born and raised in a Japanese internment camp and how that injustice taught Wong about standing up for human rights.

This year's Congressional Gold Medal recipients represented the largest class in its 38-year history. Wong represented the 14th Congressional District, Redwood City, Calif. She will currently be a senior in high school in the fall.

COMMUNITIES >> continued from page 3



Blaine Memorial Methodist
leaders and allies

And, of course, Gardena Buddhist Temple is not only creating movement within its own sangha, but it is also encouraging other temples to do so as well. Pasadena Buddhist Temple is having an event on Sept. 23 from 2-5 p.m. Please come if you are able.

And so this is what I ask: If your place of worship wants to learn more about the LGBTQ community and how to support them, please contact me (maizumi888@gmail.com). I will do the best that

I can to provide resources for you, or perhaps we may be able to create a panel event.

As a result of a Facebook post I made about no Buddhist LGBTQ individuals wanting to be on a panel, I have received numerous messages from people who would be willing to speak.

We must send more positive messages to our LGBTQ community. Our places of worship can be a safe haven for those who are rejected at work or by their families. Our places of worship can be a space where the LGBTQ individual can openly be his or her true self.

Let us help to create inclusive faith communities so that more individuals will feel safe, respected and loved. I want that for Aiden, and I want that for all those in the LGBTQ community.

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

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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.

For additional Convention information connect with us at:



PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE GALT MUSEUM



A view of the Nikka Yuko Japanese Garden building in Lethbridge, Alberta, Canada



A visual arts display at the Galt Museum in Lethbridge of Japanese Canadians working on a sugar beet farm in Alberta, Canada

A MULTIFACETED COMMUNITY

Uprooted from their homes during World War II, Japanese Canadians that settled in the city of Lethbridge — located in Southern Alberta, Canada — now find themselves living in a vibrant cultural center that is welcoming to all.

By Diana Morita Cole,
Contributor

Lethbridge is a city of many faces. Located in Southern Alberta, it is the fourth most populous city in the province, where 32 ethnic groups intersect in a vibrant dance of unity and cooperation. The city of nearly 100,000 also boasts the third-largest community of Nikkei in Canada, after Toronto and Vancouver.

Today, Lethbridge is the cultural center for Japanese Canadians living in Southern Alberta, but that wasn't always the case.

Back in 1942, the town council declared Lethbridge off-limits to Japanese Canadians who were expelled from British Columbia and sent to work on the sugar beet farms in the small agrarian communities of Southern Alberta.

By "voluntarily" leaving the protected area of B.C., a few Nikkei men were able to keep their families intact and escape the fate of most, who were separated from their families and held captive in isolated road gangs, where they were forced to do what amounted to slave labor.

In her book "Ganbaru," Rose Murakami wrote that her parents had just finished paying for their home on Salt Spring Island when Royal Canadian Mounted Police officers, on the night of March 17, 1942, arrested her father, Katsuyori Murakami, and hauled him off to work in one of these road camps. She and her family, who were being detained in Greenwood, B.C., didn't know of his whereabouts until Mrs. Murakami received a censored letter from her husband, telling her of his captivity in the Yellowhead road camp.

The men sent to work in the labor camps were forced to eat and sleep in smelly, unheated and unventilated railroad box-cars and tents. Their paychecks were garnished for the cost of

their food and shelter, for workman's compensation contributions and for the subsistence of their families imprisoned in the Kootenay.

Takeo Ujo Nakano, the celebrated *tanka* poet, recalled receiving only \$4.75 for seven weeks' work. "What a miserable sum!" he wrote in his journal, "Within the Barbed Wire Fence: A Japanese Man's Account of His internment in Canada."

In July 1942, Katsuyori Murakami was provisionally released from the road prison camp as long as he agreed to work on the sugar beet farms in Alberta, where there were acute

labor shortages.

Finally reunited with his family in Magrath, Alberta, Katsuyori and his family, who had previously enjoyed supplying the elegant Empress Hotel in Victoria with strawberries grown on their Salt Spring Island property, were relegated to live in a chicken coop swarming with flies and forced to get their water from a slough used to supply farm animals. Other similarly displaced Nikkei were sent to live in vacant granaries.

When the B.C. Security Commission received a letter of complaint from the Murakami family's eldest daughter, the commission allowed the Murakamis to move back to the Slokan area in B.C. (under armed guard) to share an unheated tent with three other families in the deep snows of winter.

In January 1943, they were displaced again, this time to Rosebery. It was there the Murakamis learned that the Canadian office of the Custodian of Enemy Property had auctioned off their holdings to a white veteran — without their consent.

After the war ended in 1945, the imprisoned Japanese Canadians were given an ultimatum. Rather than being allowed to return to their homes as they had been promised by the federal government in 1942, they were now confronted with a cruel choice: exile "East of the Rockies" or deportation to war-torn Japan, a land many Japanese Canadians had never seen and where they were not welcome.

Determined to regain ownership of their property on Salt Spring Island, the Murakamis refused to be sent away to Japan. They were displaced from Rosebery to the New Denver incarceration site, and then from New Denver, fled once again to Alberta.

The ruthless discharge of the War Measures Act and a series of Orders-in-Council by British colonizers drove enterprising, often brilliant and prosperous ethnic Japanese into poverty, homelessness and economic servitude.

Such genocidal schemes succeeded in creating an under-

PHOTO: COURTESY OF NIKKA YUKO JAPANESE GARDEN



The Nikka Yuko Japanese Garden, established during Canada's Centennial in 1967, was built to recognize contributions made by citizens of Japanese ancestry to the multicultural community of Lethbridge, Alberta, and as a symbol of international friendship.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF DIANA COLE



Nikkei Cultural Society of Lethbridge and Area Minyo Dancers

class of migrant workers, many of whom were citizens, for exploitation by their white masters. The Nikkei, fleeced of their rights and property, were sent to toil in small agricultural communities outside Lethbridge, in places like Raymond, Magrath, Taber, Coaldale and Picture Butte, and forced to endure spiteful restrictions that were kept in place until 1949, four long years after the end of World War II.

A decade later, a group of Mormons, led by Charles Ora Card, migrated to what was then known as the North-West Territory and established a settlement in Cardston, 49 miles southwest of what is now Lethbridge. There they built the first church of the Latter-day Saints in Canada.

"They were being persecuted in America," explained Pastor George Takashima, vp of the Nikkei Cultural Society of Lethbridge & Area and retired minister of the United Church of Canada.

The Latter-day Saints are credited with developing the first major irrigation canal system, which allowed them to kick-start the sugar beet industry in Southern Alberta.

"Raymond and Stirling are Mormon communities," said Takashima. "The Mormons were good to the Japanese Canadians. A number of Nikkei converted because the Mormons took them in and gave them jobs."

The kindness of the Mormons notwithstanding, in May 1946, 4,000 Japanese Canadians were herded aboard U.S. military transport ships sailing to Japan. Many of the deportees, while subjects of the British Crown, were stripped of their citizenship and legal resident status — and thus forced to forfeit the right to return to the country where they gave birth to their children and raised their families.

Meanwhile other "freed" internees, like the Murakamis, who were determined to remain in Canada, fled to Alberta and other parts of Canada to work in the sugar beet industry as sharecroppers.

Escape to Alberta didn't mean respite from racism — even after the war had ended. The Nikkei hoping to resettle in Alberta faced entrenched policies of discrimination that had been instituted in 1942.

Protests by the local white communities against the first wave of Japanese Canadians from B.C. had influenced local town council politicians to appease their angry white constituents by barring the refugees from buying land, from membership in unions, traveling to and within Lethbridge, taking up permanent residence and withholding their right to free education for their children.

The small number of Japanese Canadians that had been living in Alberta decades before the outbreak of hostilities between Japan and the Allies did not escape persecution either.

Mary Kiyooka wrote in her journal, "Mothers' Talk," published by her son, Roy Kiyooka, that the early Nikkei settlers in Alberta were often abruptly fired from their jobs in 1942 because, as insignificant as their numbers were, they, too, were viewed as a threat.

T. J. Nakamura, an elderly Nisei who lived through such tyrannies, today enjoys sitting on a bench overlooking the Old Man River coulee just outside the seniors' residence in Lethbridge where he lives.

Nakamura recalls as a child being forced to work alongside his parents on a sugar beet farm after they were thrown out of British Columbia, the province where he was born.

"I decided I never wanted to do this kind of work again as long as I lived," said Nakamura. "So, I earned my certification as a mechanic." As a teenager, Nakamura recalled being barred from eating at local restaurants in Rocky Mountain House. "We were forced to cook for ourselves, even though we could pay to eat in a restaurant," he remembered.

Like T. J., many Japanese Canadian children in Southern Alberta had to perform hard physical labor in the fields. As well as providing sugar for Canadian kitchens, these innocents had no idea they were also supplying sucrose vital for the production of munitions.



Participants from the Bhutanese Community Society at the first annual Asian Heritage Festival



The Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta in Lethbridge

Okinawans had come to Alberta in the early 1900s. Choosing the rigors of living in the harsher climate and strong winds of the prairies over the moderate temperatures of the Lower Mainland of B.C., the Okinawans, according to Takashima, decided to settle in Alberta to get away from the ethnic Japanese, who they knew were living on the coast.

"They became coal miners, and today, many Okinawans are professionals, civic leaders and have married outside their group, sometimes with the Japanese Canadians," Takashima said.

The vast majority of Nikkei living in the Lethbridge area today are practicing Buddhists. The first Buddhist temple in Alberta was established in 1929 through the purchase of a former school in Raymond that had also been used as a Mormon meetinghouse.

Temples in Picture Butte, Coaldale, Taber, Rosemary and (eventually) Lethbridge were also established to accommodate the religious practices of the Japanese Canadians who migrated to Southern Alberta after being ordered to leave B.C.

The Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta, located in Lethbridge, was established in 2006 to consolidate the Buddhist temples of the region.

Celebrations of the now harmonious Nikkei community in Lethbridge are often held at Nikka Yuko Japanese Garden, located on Henderson Lake. This stunning garden was created in 1967 by the landscape architect Tadashi Kubo of Osaka Prefecture University.

Kubo's design of the garden integrates the vastness of the prairie landscape with the symbols widely recognized in the Japanese garden art form. The name "Nikka Yuko" signifies the synthesis of Canadian culture with the Japanese aesthetic sensibility: *Ni* representing Japan, while *Ka* signifies Canada. The word *Yuko* imparts the meaning of friendship to the garden name.

This past May, during Canada's federally designated Asian Heritage Month, the first annual Asian Heritage Festival was organized by Takashima at the Southern Alberta Ethnic Multicultural Centre in Lethbridge.

"The Multicultural Centre is the only one of its kind in Canada where every ethnic group participates," Takashima said.

Transplanted Canadians, who settled in Southern Alberta — by choice or force — gathered at this remarkable venue to celebrate the unique culture of Lethbridge, the city they now call home.



Pastor George Takashima (left) and Izumi Sensei



T. J. Nakamura in Lethbridge

NIKKEI **Spotlight**

PHOTO: CHARISSA UEMURA



A performance of "Mask Dance," written and directed by Rick Shiomi

A MASTER OF THE ARTS

Now approaching the fifth decade of his career, Japanese Canadian actor-playwright-theater director Rick Shiomi continues to mentor and develop the arts, including co-facilitating a workshop on Asian American representation in the media at the upcoming JACL National Convention.

By Rob Buscher,
Contributor

Last year, actor-activist George Takei made headlines when he starred in "Allegiance," the first musical production written and directed by Asian Americans to hit Broadway. However, this was just the latest achievement in the storied history of AAPIs in the theater business.

Like most entertainment fields in the U.S., theater has traditionally included few people of color. Based on the Eurocentric notion that white actors could portray ethnic characters better than actors of said ethnicity themselves, popular musical theater and stage plays often featured white performers dressed in blackface or yellowface well into the 20th century.

While blackface has been somewhat universally acknowledged as unacceptable in today's theater world, yellowface persists in examples as recent as the 2017 production of "Turandot" by the Atlanta Opera. AAPIs are perhaps the least-represented ethnicity on the American stage.

Since the 1960s, there has been an Asian American arts movement running parallel to the mainstream with few notable intersections. Japanese Canadian theater artist Rick Shiomi is one person who has been at the center of much of this movement.

An esteemed leader in the Asian American theater community, Shiomi has been active for nearly four decades as a playwright, theater director and founding company leader of Mu Performing Arts in Minneapolis, Minn.

Born in a small suburb of Toronto to Nisei parents who had just recently returned from the Canadian incarceration during World War II, Shiomi experienced many of the same issues growing up as did other Asian Americans of his generation.

"I totally identify with the Japanese American experience," Shiomi said. "The overlap is huge, and the main difference is really between Americans [of any ethnicity] being much more open and assertive, while Canadians are more careful and reactive."

Shiomi's Canadian identity was further cemented by the time he spent teaching English in Japan as a young adult.

"I never learned Japanese well enough to speak, so I was always an outsider..." he recalled. "I remember sitting with some friends, and one took me aside to say he felt uncomfortable speaking on a first-name basis with one of the others because he was younger and not familiar enough to do so. It was this constant awareness of social protocols that I was tripping over. Because I was a foreigner, they just shrugged it off, but to be in that system meant understanding and operating by those protocols. Though I love the deep cultural connection I feel in Japan — the art, temples, food, forests — I am still a stranger in a strange land."

It would be later in 1976 through his work on the first Powell Street Festival celebrating Japanese Canadian heritage in Vancouver when Shiomi finally resolved these aspects of his identity.

"By editing a short film titled 'The First 100 Years,' designed to teach children about Japanese Canadian history at the festival, I finally understood who I was and where I came from," said Shiomi.

While this was an early foray into the arts, Shiomi's real work started once he began a residence with San Francisco's Asian American Theater Company in the early 1980s. It was here that he derived influence from and worked with other AAPI theater luminaries such as Philip Kan Gotanda, Marc Hayashi, David Henry Hwang and Lane Nishikawa.

To a certain extent, Shiomi always believed he was destined to work in the arts.

"It's in my DNA," he said. "My grandfather ran a theater group in Vancouver around 1900 that did traditional-style kabuki theater. I actually don't know the name of the company, but they performed around the West Coast of Canada and Seattle. My grandfather even went to L.A. on occasion to see the touring shows from Japan. So, I realized in some odd way that I was retracing my grandfather's steps by going down the West Coast to do theater. Then, of course, I was not satisfied doing anything else."



Mu Performing Arts is the upper Midwest's first AAPI theater company.

PHOTO: LIA CHANG



Playwright Rick Shiomi in New York in 2011

PHOTO: JASON LINDER



PATP members (from left) Rick Shiomi, Walter Bilderback of the Wilma Theater, Deborah Block of Theatre Exile and Cat Ramirez and Seth Rozin of InterAct Theatre Company

PHOTO: COURTESY OF RICK SHIOMI



A PAPA group photo



Rick Shiomi's grandfather's theater troupe performed around the West Coast and Canada.



A 2013 Guthrie Theater presentation of Mu Performing Arts' production of "Yellow Fever"

In 1982, Shiomi's debut play, "Yellow Fever," would go on to win the coveted Bay Area Theater Circle Critics Award and a Bernie Award from the *San Francisco Chronicle*. Shortly after, he moved to New York City, where an off-Broadway production of "Yellow Fever" was mounted by the Pan Asian Repertory Theater, which was lauded as a *New York Times* Critic's Choice.

This award-winning comic mystery follows hard-boiled detective Sam Shikaze through the shady streets of 1970s Vancouver on a case to solve the disappearance of the mysterious Cherry Blossom Queen. Shikaze becomes entangled in a web of political deception and racism that rouses memories of the Japanese Canadian internment camps and leads to an unexpected romance. Shiomi's first play remains his most popular, having been produced as recently as 2013.

Throughout the 1980s, Shiomi continued working as a bicoastal playwright while also honing his craft as a taiko artist studying under Grandmaster Seiichi Tanaka of the San Francisco Taiko Dojo.

By the early 1990s, Shiomi had produced several plays with all four significant AAPI theater troupes working at that time — San Francisco's Asian American Theater Workshop, New York's Pan Asian Repertory Theater, Los Angeles' East West Players and Seattle's Northwest Asian American Theatre.

What came next for Shiomi must have seemed counterintuitive to most at that time, as he relocated to Minnesota to pursue his future wife, Martha Johnson, in 1992. No one, least of all Shiomi, could have predicted that moving to Middle America would be the best thing to happen to his career since "Yellow Fever," but he soon discovered a vibrant community of AAPIs living in the Twin Cities.

Together with University of Minnesota graduate student Dong-Il Lee, Shiomi founded the upper Midwest's first AAPI theater company, which they named Mu Performing Arts after the Korean pronunciation of a Chinese character meaning "shaman/artist/warrior who connects the heavens and the earth through the tree of life."

After Lee left the Twin Cities, Shiomi found himself stepping into the artistic director position, a role that he would serve in for the next 20 years.

"Asian American theater didn't really exist in Minnesota at the time," Shiomi said. "I think the challenge was simply starting something where there was no precedent for it — recruiting and developing AAPI theater artists and persuading funders, other companies and the theater-going community that we had something unique to say."

It took about 10 years before the larger AAPI theater community on the coasts started to recognize Mu's work as significant. Today, Mu Performing Arts is widely acknowledged as one of the nation's leading AAPI theater companies.

When asked whether he had seen much progress from the time that he began working with Mu until now, Shiomi replied, "Theater actually moves slower than society. I think the main difference is that the major



A 2006 photo of Mu Daiko's "Taiko Dreams! The 10th Anniversary" concert

regional theaters have started to pay more attention to AAPI playwrights and material. It's just a beginning, but I think it's happening."

Now approaching the fifth decade of his career, Shiomi continues working to further cultivate the AAPI theater community nationwide through his mentorship of younger theater artists and on-going projects in St. Paul, Minn., and Philadelphia, Pa.

As co-artistic director of a new company called Full Circle Theater, Shiomi is looking to expand diversity overall in the Twin Cities theater community, producing works that bring together people of many different backgrounds. His other project is to develop the Asian American theater scene in Philadelphia.

Shiomi had just begun an artist residency at Philadelphia-based InterAct Theatre Company in 2014 when a major incident in the local theater scene occurred. Another Philadelphia-based company called Lantern Theater mounted a production of "Julius Caesar" set in feudal Japan that misappropriated many aspects of Japanese culture.

Actor Makoto Hirano wrote an open letter on the offensive issues in the production, which prompted considerable criticism among Asian American theater artists and garnered national attention.

Under Shiomi's guidance, several forums and meetings were held to give voice to the community's anger and frustration. This situation galvanized the AAPI theater community in a way that had never been possible in Philadelphia, and out of the incident emerged a new organization called Philadelphia Asian Performing Artists (PAPA).

As a consultant to PAPA, Shiomi is helping to de-

velop an informal group of AAPI theater artists into a formal organization with long-term goals. In a separate initiative called Philadelphia Asian Theater Project (PATP), Shiomi has created a coalition of 12 companies that are working together to promote the development of Asian American theater in the greater Philadelphia area.

With grant support from the Doris Duke Foundation, Shiomi will continue building this initiative throughout his 2018 residency with InterAct.

For individuals looking to pursue a career in the arts, Shiomi cautioned, "Professionally speaking, the arts are not for everyone. It's a hardscrabble lifestyle for 99 percent of those who seriously venture into it. But for most, the arts can be a personally important and socially significant activity . . . They can help us understand our lives, our values, our choices. Getting into the arts is a calling that comes from deep within oneself. Sometimes, you don't even know why, but when you feel the urge or drive to get involved, you discover you have some kind of talent or the opportunity to participate appears and that changes your life forever. So, the arts are an important facet of any community and should be supported by all."

Join Rick Shiomi at the JACL National Convention in Washington, D.C., on July 8 from 1:30-3 p.m., where he will be co-facilitating a workshop on Asian American representation in media and the arts. Looking at the past, present and future of AAPI portrayals on the screen and stage, this workshop will include a short-film screening, panel discussion and participatory theater reading led by Shiomi.

Polaris Tours 2017 Schedule

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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"



Polaris Tours

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A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

CALENDAR

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.
Info: Visit <https://jacl.org/2017convention/>.

NCWNP

Nihonmachi Little Friends Open House

San Francisco, CA
July 8; 1-3 p.m.
1830 Sutter St.
(Adjacent to the Issei Women's Building)
 Nihonmachi Little Friends is hosting this open house at its brand-new preschool addition, located adjacent to its historic Issei Women's Building in San Francisco's Japantown. This latest edition increases the program's capacity to 91 children and features a rooftop playground and garden. The center serves more than 200 children annually from the ages of 2-12.
Info: Email nlfchildcare@gmail.com.

Buddhist Church of San Francisco Ginza Bazaar San Francisco, CA

July 22-23; Sat. (1-6 p.m.), Sun. (11 a.m.-6 p.m.)
1881 Pine St.
 Come join this year's Obon celebration at the Buddhist Church of San Francisco. Bon Odori dancing will be held on Sunday at 1 p.m.
Info: Call (415) 776-3158 or email info@bcsfweb.org.

Berkeley Higashi Honganji Summer Festival

Berkeley, CA
July 22-23; Sat. (4-8 p.m.), Sun. (Noon-5 p.m.)
1524 Oregon St.
 This summer festival will feature food, cultural events and much more for the entire family to enjoy.
Info: Visit www.bombu.org.

Alameda Buddhist Temple

Obon Festival
Alameda, CA
July 22; 4-9 p.m.
2325 Pacific Ave.
 This year's Obon festival will feature Bon Odori dancing at 7:30 p.m.
Info: Visit www.btoa.org.

Salinas Buddhist Temple

Obon Festival
Salinas, CA
July 30; Noon-8 p.m.
14 California St.
 Food, cultural exhibits, crafts, martial arts demonstrations and much more will be featured at this year's Obon Festival. A raffle drawing will also be held, in addition to games and the traditional Bon Odori dance, which will begin at 6 p.m. Public parking will be available at the Salinas Adult School, with shuttle service beginning at 11 a.m.
Info: Visit btsalinas.org.

Sake Day 2017

San Francisco, CA
Sept. 30; 4-8 p.m.
JCCCNC
1840 Sutter St.
Price: Ticket are \$65 (early bird until July 15, after which tickets will be \$75)
 The Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California is proud to be the recipient of the proceeds of "Sake Day 2017," which is presented by True Sake. The event is a celebration of "Nihonshu no Hi" every Oct. 1, and Sake Day was the first event outside of Japan to make sake "king for a day." There is no better sake tasting event honoring this glorious day to explore and gain a new understanding of sake. Proceeds will benefit the center's ongoing programs.
Info: Visit www.sakeday.com or call (415) 355-9555.

'A Salute to Mike' a Champion for All People

San Jose, CA
Oct. 21, 6-9 p.m.
Holiday Inn — San Jose
1350 N. First St.
Price: Individual \$140, San Jose JACL Member \$125
 The JACL San Jose chapter, founded on the premise of civil liberties for all, invites guests to join its members in celebrating Mike Honda's leadership in championing these goals over his many decades of public service. Reservation forms will be available in September.
Info: Visit www.sanjosejacl.org.

PSW

11th Annual Sake & Food Tasting Event

Los Angeles, CA
July 21; 7-10 p.m.
L.A. City Parking Lot 7
160 N. Central Ave.
Price: \$100 general admission
 Come and support this Little Tokyo Service Center event, as it will feature food from more than 15 top Los Angeles restaurants as well as more than 50 varieties of sake from different regions in Japan. It's sure to be a culinary experience to remember!

Info: Visit sake.itsc.org.

Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple Obon Festival

Los Angeles, CA
July 29-30; 1-9 p.m.
505 E. Third St.
 Come join one of Los Angeles' biggest cultural celebrations in this two-day event that will feature Japanese food, culture, exhibits, traditional Bon Odori dancing at 6:30 (both nights), games, dance performances and martial arts demonstrations.
Info: Visit www.hhbt-la.org.

Buddhist Temple of San Diego

Obon Festival
San Diego, CA
Aug. 5; 10 a.m.-9 p.m.
Japanese Friendship Garden
2215 Pan American Road East
 This year's Bon Odori dancing will begin at 6:30 p.m. This is an event for the entire family and all are welcome to join in this experience celebrating Japanese culture.
Info: Visit www.niwa.org.

Manzanar Reunion

Las Vegas, NV
Aug. 14-15
California Hotel and Casino
12 E. Ogden Ave.
 This year's Manzanar Reunion will feature dinner mixer, ice-breaker games, slot tournament and special afternoon program presented by NPS Rangers from the Manzanar National Historic Site. All are welcome to join in the reunion, which will also feature displays of past reunions and other memories. Registration is recommended by July 8, as the committee is only taking 200 registrants due to the success of last year's reunion.
Info: Email Dorothy Oda at oda.dorothy@gmail.com or call (805) 529-1067.

Natsumatsuri Family Festival

Los Angeles, CA
Aug. 19; 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
Japanese American National Museum
100 N. Central Ave.
Price: Free
 Join the museum for its annual summer celebration featuring Japanese and Japanese American performances, crafts and activities. There also will be free souvenir photos, free samples of Okinawan deep-fried pastries, basic taiko drumming lessons and free admission all day to see "New Frontiers: The Many Worlds of George Takei" and "Common Ground: The Heart of Community." JANM members receive reserved seating and express lines.
Info: Visit janm.org/natsumatsuri2017 for updates.

PNW

Seattle Betsuin Bon Odori Festival

Seattle, WA
July 15-16; 4-10 p.m. (Sat.)/3-8 p.m. (Sun.)
Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple
1427 S. Main St.
 This official Seafair event will

feature traditional music and dancing, as well as Japanese food booths and refreshment, taiko and martial arts performances and craft exhibits and demonstrations. For those who like to come early to save a spot on the grassy area next to the street, please wait until Friday midnight to do this for the safety of the volunteers working in the area late that night.
Info: Visit www.seattlebetsuin.org.

Obon Fest

Portland, OR
Aug. 5; 3-9 p.m.
Oregon Buddhist Temple
3720 S.E. 34th Ave.
 Obonfest is a traditional summertime festival commemorating one's ancestors. This year's event continues that time-honored tradition and will also feature Bon Odori dancing, food and performances by Portland Taiko and the Sahomi Tachibana Dance Group. All are welcome.
Info: Visit www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com.

MDC

'Day at the Movies'

Saint Paul, MN
July 15; 3 p.m.
Historic Fort Snelling
Visitors Center
200 Tower Ave.
Price: Free
 Please join the Twin Cities chapter of the JACL for an afternoon at the movies. Four short family-friendly films will be shown (10-15 mins. each), including "The Orange Story." The film's executive producer, Jason Matsumoto, will be available to introduce the film as well as participate in a short Q & A session following the screening.
Info: Visit www.tcjacl.org.

IDC

Architecture of Japanese Internment: Oregon Exhibit

Ontario, OR
Thru July 27
Harano Gallery
Four Rivers Cultural Center
676 S.W. Fifth Ave.
Price: Free
 This traveling exhibit explores how Oregonians participated in the decision to incarcerate Japanese Americans and Japanese immigrants during World War II. This inaugural exhibit shows the opinions leading up to the incarceration, 1941-42, with letters, resolutions, blueprints, photos and archival documents from across Oregon. Malheur County was the site of the first Japanese American farm labor camp. A number of documents from Ontario can also be seen in the exhibit.
Info: Call (541) 889-8191.

CCDC

72nd Annual Fresno Obon Festival

Fresno, CA

July 8; begins at 2 p.m.
Fresno Buddhist Dharma Center
2690 E. Alluvial Ave.
 This year's Obon festival will feature Asian food, beverages and desserts, in addition to Bingo, carnival games, taiko drumming, Bon Odori dancing, a memorial ceremony and raffle. All are welcome to attend. Honor a loved one with a personalized lantern.
Info: Call (559) 442-4054 or visit www.fresnobuddhisttemple.org.

EDC

Seabrook JACL 70th Anniversary Banquet

Vineland, N.J.
July 16; 12:30 p.m.
Ramada Inn
2216 W. Landis Ave.
 Join the Seabrook JACL chapter at its annual awards banquet, where the chapter will commemorate its 70th anniversary and celebrate city's rich history, where more than 2,500 Japanese Americans relocated to start new lives following the end of World War II. The Hon. Norman Mineta will receive the inaugural John Fuyume Citizenship Award and John Seabrook, author and writer for New Yorker magazine, will also be a featured guest speaker.
Info: To register and support this event, visit <http://www.seabrookeducation.org/>.

FDR Library's Images of Internment Exhibition

Hyde Park, NY
Thru Dec. 31
FDR Presidential Library & Museum
4079 Albany Post Road
Price: 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 Dorothea 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 C. Hirahara photo collection of Heart Mountain.
Info: Visit <https://fdrlibrary.org/exhibitions> or call (800) FDR-VISIT.

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MEMORIAM

Asaoka, Grace, 90, San Francisco, CA, April 5; she is survived by her sister, Narue and several cousins.

Asato, Lillian Sayomi Kawasaki, 66, Maple Valley, WA, June 1.

Fukushima, Annastacia Agnes, 53, Elk Grove, CA, June 6; she is survived by her husband, Alan; children, Ryan, Austin and Madison; mother-in-law, Sumiko Watanabe; 8 siblings; she is also survived by many other relatives.

Furuta, Rosemary Toshiko, 99, Long Beach, CA, May 29; she is survived by her children, Shigeko Williams, Chikara (Judy) and Tyrone Furuta; she is also survived by nieces, nephews, other relatives, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Hirokawa, Sawaye, 98, Lakewood, CO, June 3; she was predeceased by her husband, Moriichi; she is survived by her children, William, Bob (Karen) and Arlene Suekama (Roger); gc: 2; and numerous ggc and gggc.

Ikeya, Gary Tetsuo, 78,

Sunnyvale, CA, June 3; he is survived by his wife, Darlene; children, Cari (Chris), Rae Ann and Brian (Margaret); gc: 8; ggc: 2.

Kameoka, Carl Toshiyuki, 73, Kailua, HI, May 31; he was predeceased by his wife, Aileen; he is survived by his children, Reid (Joanna) Kameoka; daughter, Wendy (Matthew) Noblett; siblings, Albert (Elaine), Justin, Andrew (Patsy), Francis (Ofelia) Kato and Nancy (Robert) Nishimura; gc: 5.

Kuramoto, Daisy Toyoko (Norikane), 97, Seattle, WA, June 2; during WWII, her family and she were incarcerated at Puyallup Assembly Center in WA; Tule Lake WRA Center in CA; and Minidoka WRA Center in ID; she was predeceased by her husband, Tetsuo; she is survived by her children, Wayne, Judy Chow and Lester (Jean); sister, Louise Sako; sisters-in-law, Miyoko Nakatsu and Emiko Hashimoto; she is also survived by nieces and nephews; gc: 3.

Kusumoto, Margaret 'Peggy,' 86, Kalispell, MT, March 15; she was predeceased by her husband,

Heloshi; she is survived by her son, Neal (Linda).

Mano, Toshio, 89, Seattle, WA, June 13; during WWII, his family and he were incarcerated at the Pinedale Assembly Center in CA and WRA Centers in Tule Lake, CA, and Minidoka, ID; he was predeceased by his daughter, Janice Mano Lehman; he is survived by his wife, Tomi; children, Karen (Jim) Mano Little, Jim (Elena) Mano, Kathy (Mike) Mano Leonard and Rick (Lillie) Mano; brother, George (Irene) Mano; sisters-in-law, Lucy Sato and Sumi Yoshioka; he is also survived by nieces and nephews; gc: 8.

Mayeda, Amy Tamada (Atsuko), 93, Kenmore, WA, June 3; she was predeceased by her husband, Tony (Tsugio); she is survived by her children, Janis (Roger) Clemmons, JoAnn Murray, Jayne (Bruce) Blackburn and Jeffrey Charles (Terry) Mayeda; gc: 6; ggc: 2.

Mayeda, Takaji, 87, Morgan Hill, CA, June 11; he was predeceased by his wife Sueko, and his siblings, Masaaki and Joann (Kikuye); he is survived by his children, Julia and Spencer; sisters, Fumiye, Nobuye and Terrie.

Momoda, Gerald Shigeru, 100, Bellevue, WA, June 4; during WWII, his family and he were incarcerated at the Minidoka WRA Center in ID; he served in the 442nd RCT; he was predeceased by his wife, June; he is survived by his children, Carol and Jerry.

Momoda, Kimiko, 91, Mercer Island, WA, May 27; she was predeceased by her husband, Takashi; she is survived by her children, Linda Ishimitsu, Diane Madison (Stephen) and Martin Momoda; gc: 6.

Morimitsu, Kathryn Ann 'Trink,' 69, Portland, OR, May 31; she is survived by her siblings, Carol and Phil; and her partner, Robert.

Naganuma, George J., 87, San Francisco, CA, May 21; during WWII, he was incarcerated at the WRA Center in Gila River, AZ; he is survived by his wife, Mary; children, Gary (Debbie), Richard (Maureen), Kenneth (Suzanne),

Kathleen and Claudine (Joel); stepchildren, Glenn (Karen), Judith and Ruth (Ken); sister, Jean Shigematsu; gc: 6; step-gc: 4.

Nakamura, Yoshimi K., 98, Piedmont, CA, May 3; during WWII, she was incarcerated at WRA Centers in Tule Lake, CA, and Topaz, UT; she was predeceased by her husband, George; she is survived by her children, Ken (Liz), Mari (John) and Lee (Cathy); sisters, Emi Murata and Miyuki Roberts; she is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews; gc: 4.

Nakano, Tamaye, 96, Sunnyvale, CA, May 2; during WWII, she was incarcerated at a WRA Center; she was predeceased by her husband, George, and her daughter, Carol Kono; she is survived by her children, Russell (Judy) and Denise Young (Dan); gc: 7; ggc: 3.

Ogata, Amy (Yemiko) Sedohara, 94, Barrington, IL, May 31; during WWII, her family and she were incarcerated at the Manzanar WRA Center in CA; she was predeceased by her husband, Minoru Roy; she is survived by her sons, Craig (Linda) and Tom (Annie); siblings, Sachi Hirota (George) and Takezo Sedohara; gc: 3.

Sadakane, Nozomu, 91, Garden Grove, CA, May 21; he is survived by his wife, Joyce Keiko (Fujino); children, Cathleen Monji and Kevin (Sheri); he is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews; gc: 2.

Shimada, Shirley Kazuko, 78, Sacramento, CA, June 3; she was predeceased by her husband, Tom; she is survived by her sister-in-law, Eileen (Ray); she is also survived by nephews and cousins.

Sutow, Cecelia Hisayo (Fukunaga), 94, Long Beach, CA, May 21; during WWII, she was incarcerated at the Rohwer WRA Center in AR, during which time she married Lawrence H. Sutow in WY; she remained at Rohwer as he served in the MIS; she was predeceased by her husband; she is survived by her daughters, Christine Sutow and Joyce Kamida; gc: 2.

Suyeishi, Mary Kazuye 'Kaz,' 90, Torrance, CA, June 12; she is survived by her daughter, Christiane (Neff) Takeuchi; sister, Shozo Tanaka; she is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2.

Suzui, Alden Takeo, 52, Honolulu, HI, May 5; he is survived by his mother, Florence; brother, Evan Suzui.

Takasugi, Hisaye Nancy, 100, Glendale, CA, June 8; she was predeceased by her husband, Takeshi; she is survived by her son, Harvey Jun Takasugi; sister-in-law, Misao Yokotake; she is also survived by several nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Tanaka, Kiyoshi, 86, San Francisco, CA, May 29; he is survived by his sister, Kiyo Tanaka; sister-in-law, Vi Tanaka; a nephew and nieces.

Tsutsumi, Wendy, 65, San Jose, CA, May 26; she was predeceased by her father, Kingo Tajii, and her brothers, Lonny Tajii and Brian (Shelley) Tajii; she is survived by her mother, Lilly Tajii; husband, Glenn; daughters, Tracy (Wade) Nakamura and Kelly; siblings, Diane (Richard) Mayeda and Kerry (Susan) Tajii; she is also survived by nieces and nephews; gc: 2.

Utsunomiya, Kazuo, 87, Mountain View, CA, May 7.

Uyeno, Emily Natsumi, 18, Elk Grove, CA, May 29; she is survived by her parents, Eric and Sara Uyeno; siblings, Joseph Lavin and Allison Oldfield; grandparents, Tom and Diana Oldfield, Fred Dominguez and Richard and Claudia Uyeno; she is also survived by aunts, uncles and cousins.

Yonemoto, Mary, 86, Daly City, CA, June 18; she is survived by her husband, James; daughter, Marcia Yonemoto; siblings, Tosh Shoji and Lily Hamaguchi; she is also survived by in-laws, nieces and nephews; gc: 2.

Yoshida, Yoshiko, 91, Seattle, WA, May 9; she was predeceased by her husband, Tom, and son, Mitsugu; she is survived by her daughters, Mariko Berlin (Gary) and June Pankiewicz (Gary); gc: 6.

Yoshimoto, Roy Tsugio, 90, Sunnyvale, CA, June 8; he is survived by his wife, Dorothy; children, Wayne (Phyllis) and Diana Watanabe (Jerry); gc: 2; ggc: 2.

TRIBUTE

ROSIE SHIZUKO NAKANO

May 6, 1924-June 11, 2017. Funeral service for Rosie Shizuko Nakano, 93-year-old Los Angeles-born resident of Chevy Chase, MD, who passed away on June 11, 2017, in Irvine, CA, was held on June 17 at Union Church of Los Angeles, 401 E. 3rd St., Los Angeles, CA 90013.

She is survived by her daughters, Amy (Paul) Bihl, Mary (Lee) Rising and Ida (Denny) Nakano-Minami; son, Roy Nakano Jr.; grandchildren, Summer Chandler, Rebecca and Nathan Nakano and Weston and Wyatt Minami. www.fukuimortuary.com (213) 626-0441

TRIBUTE

TOYO CARY



Toyo (Okuda) Cary, 93, of Mountlake Terrace, WA, passed away peacefully on May 29, 2017. Toyo was born on Dec. 23, 1923, in Seattle, WA, to Heiji and Rei (Okazawa) Okuda. She graduated from Franklin High School, was interned at Amache in CO, retired after more than 20 years with the Veterans Administration and had lived in Mountlake Terrace since 1959.

She was an avid Seahawks and Husky football fan. She loved to travel, and during her retirement, she visited places like Costa Rica, Japan, the Grand Canyon and Italy. When she wasn't traveling, she was tending to her gardens, shopping (she loved a good bargain and Costco!) and cooking wonderful homemade meals for her extended family.

Toyo was preceded in death by her parents and brother, Kenji Okuda, and sister, Nao (Okuda) Belser. She is survived by her children, Nancy Cary, Tucson, AZ; Dale Cary, Everett, WA; Jeff Cary, Mountlake Terrace, WA; 2 grandchildren, Anita Waterman and Rachel Williams, 1 niece, 2 nephews, 5 great-nieces & nephew and 4 great-great nieces. Graveside services will be held at Lakeview Cemetery in Seattle, WA, at 11 a.m. on Mon., July 31, 2017.

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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TWIN CITIES JACL CO-SPONSORS 'GAMBATTE! LEGACY OF AN ENDURING SPIRIT: JAPANESE AMERICAN WWII INCARCERATION, THEN & NOW' EXHIBIT

PHOTOS: RANDY KIRIHARA

In commemoration of the 75th anniversary of Executive Order 9066, the Twin Cities JACL is co-sponsoring an exhibit with the Minnesota Historical Society titled, "Gambatte! Legacy of an Enduring Spirit: Japanese American WWII Incarceration, Then & Now."

Historic photographs of Japanese Americans during World War II taken by War Relocation Authority photographers, including Dorothea Lange and Tom Parker, are juxtaposed with contemporary portraits of the same individuals or their descendants taken by Pulitzer Prize-winning *Sacramento Bee* photographer Paul Kitagaki Jr.

Kitagaki was the keynote speaker at the exhibit's opening at the Historic Fort Snelling Visitors Center on May 23. During the reception, Kitagaki shared the story of how he came about the idea for this project after learning that his grandfather, father and aunt were photographed by Lange in 1942 while waiting for a bus in Oakland, Calif., to take them to an assembly center following President Franklin D. Roosevelt's issuing of E.O. 9066. He later visited the National Archives in Washington, D.C., and viewed the original photographs, saved in shoebox-sized containers, with only the location and date that the photographs were taken written on the back.

As Kitagaki examined Lange's photographs, he realized that each had an untold story, and he began a quest in 2005 to search for the identities of the incarcerated photographed by WRA photographers to share how their lives were changed by the incarceration order.



Paul Kitagaki Jr. (seated, third from left) with Twin Cities JACL Education Committee members (seated, from left) Les Suzukamo, Janet Carlson (co-chair), Carolyn Nayematsu (co-chair), Sally Sudo and Karen Suzukamo and (standing, from left) Gloria Kumagai, John Matsunaga, Steve Ozone, Yuichiro Onishi, Gordon Nakagawa, Lillian Grothe and Cheryl Hirata-Dulas.

To date, Kitagaki has identified and photographed more than 50 of the original subjects or their direct descendants, as well as documented their life stories.

"This exhibition gives us a connection with real people rather than just an abstract historical event," said Carolyn Nayematsu, co-chair of the Twin Cities JACL Education Committee. "The photographer spent over a decade creating this exhibit through extensive research, interviews and



"Gambatte! Legacy of an Enduring Spirit: Japanese American WWII Incarceration, Then & Now" exhibition at Historic Fort Snelling on opening night, May 23.

photography, and it is very moving and informative — a definite must-see for Japanese Americans and all others."

Funding for the exhibit was provided by the National Park Service, Tanforan Assembly Center Memorial Committee, Contra Costa JACL, Asian Pacific Endowment of the Saint Paul Foundation, Twin Cities JACL (including the Leslie and Karen Suzukamo, Donald S. Maeda and Helen Tsuchiya funds) and the Joseph and Marie Winter Family Fund for Historic Fort Snelling.

The exhibit is on display at the Historic Fort Snelling Visitors Center in St. Paul, Minn., through Oct. 28. It is free and open to the public.

For more information, visit: <http://www.historicfortsnelling.org/events-programs/gambatte-legacy-enduring-spirit-japanese-american-wwii-incarceration-then-now> or call (612) 726-1171.

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