The Hon. Norman Mineta addresses the JACL during a private reception at the Ambassador of Japan's residence in Washington, D.C. Throughout the organization's 48th convention, its theme "Our Story: Resilience, Remembrance, Resolve" played a primary role in bolstering JACL's civil rights mission.

"Resilience, Remembrance, Resolve"

JACL affirms its civil rights mission as attendees gather in Washington, D.C., for the organization's 48th annual National Convention.
Although the space is relatively small, the Smithsonian Museum of American History's "Righting a Wrong: Japanese Americans and World War II" exhibit begins the story of the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Features the original Executive Order 9066 document containing President Franklin D. Roosevelt's signature, as well as documents examples of life in the camps, resettlement afterward and culminates with the signing of the Civil Liberties Act by President Ronald Reagan on Aug. 10, 1988.

For the thousands of individuals who have already viewed the exhibit, many are receiving their first encounter with this part of U.S. history. For others such as Floyd and Ruth Shimomura and their family, it was the opportunity to bring together three generations of their clan to the exhibit and infuse the younger members of the family about their family's story and struggle that their relatives experienced during World War II.

Good news was announced at the Smithsonian reception during the 48th JACL National Convention, which was held in Washington, D.C., from July 6-9. The "Righting a Wrong" exhibit has been officially extended to December 2018, which means that you and your family can plan a visit and follow the example of the Shimomuras by traveling to the nation's capital to enjoy the city's many museums and monuments, as well as bring a bit of family history into your lives by stopping in at the Smithsonian Museum of American History.
By Gil Asakawa

The historical story of the Japanese American incarceration during World War II is still not well-known in mainstream American culture and literature. When it comes to books, there are only a handful that are based on JA’s wartime experience. After the groundbreaking, angry “No-No Boy” by John Okada in 1957, Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston’s “Farewell to Manzanar” was the first well-known memoir in 1973 (and made better-known because of its 1976 TV movie adaptation). The 1994 novel “Snow Falling on Cedars” is the most familiar to non-JA audiences (again, because of the 1999 Oscar-nominated Hollywood film version).

Now, we can add to this short list “The Little Exile” by Jeanette Arakawa, a first-time author who teaches her memoir in a fictionalized novel.

The fiction framing serves the story well and gives Arakawa the creative freedom of shaping the narrative and dialogue for a sweeping, epic look at her family’s history. The story opens with a family from Alabama who moves to San Pedro, Calif., so she signed up for a continuing education program for writing skills.

“This foreignness opened the door for the uprooting and displacement,” she said. “I felt comfortable being someone from an immigrant family, but I still felt comfortable that we were Americans.”

For Arakawa, who was 10 when she and her family were incarcerated, didn’t start out planning to write about her experience.

“ar that time, I could never go out before moving on to the next memory. Arakawa, who was 10 when she and her family were incarcerated, didn’t start out planning to write about her experience.

She had been writing, but not fiction. “I did a lot of poems,” she said with a laugh. “I was pretty good with grammar, and I could write essays. I never wrote for pleasure, so to speak.”

Her introduction to writing about being Japanese Americans came for a contest. “The Hokubei Mainichi (newspaper) had an essay contest,” she said. “I saw a car that had no license plate but said ‘Pearl Harbor survivor,’ and I had a reaction and wrote it on the dashboard. At that time, I could never go out during Dec. 7 because I felt like people were always looking at me.”

“ar that time, I could never go out before moving on to the next memory. Arakawa, who was 10 when she and her family were incarcerated, didn’t start out planning to write about her experience.

I felt like people were always looking at me. Whatever I was feeling paranoid. “I wrote this thing and called it ‘Pearl Harbor Survivor,’ and in the process of writing it, I added the backstory of the camp experience; that was like the first time something I wrote was published. I think I won second place or something,” Arakawa continued.

“I started writing stories about our trips,” she said. “I would pass them out to my friends. So, I thought I would polish up my writing skills.”

Arakawa lives near Stanford University in Palo Alto, Calif., so she moved on to the next memory.

“ar that time, I could never go out before moving on to the next memory. Arakawa, who was 10 when she and her family were incarcerated, didn’t start out planning to write about her experience.

The instructor asked us to write something about our unusual experience,” she recalled. “I wrote something about the camps. She also wrote a story about being shot during a bank robbery.”

“The instructor asked, ‘If this is true, what happened?’ I said, ‘You mean, did I get shot in a bank?’”

“ar that time, I could never go out before moving on to the next memory. Arakawa, who was 10 when she and her family were incarcerated, didn’t start out planning to write about her experience.

The book begins in the prewar bustling neighborhood of San Francisco, where Shizuye is born in 1932. Her family runs a dry cleaning shop and faces discrimination, but the young girl makes a diverse group of friends.

“We as Japanese Americans were never thought of as Americans,” said Arakawa. “And that’s always been my feeling. I think I tried to write, in the earliest part of the book, at the time we were living in that integrated neighborhood I felt comfortable being someone from an immigrant family, but I still felt comfortable that we were Americans. We were all immigrants.”

But not all neighborhoods were as welcoming.

“When we moved to the Sunset district, which turned out to be a third-generation neighborhood, and most of the people were Irish, Caucasian,” she recalled. “And it surprised me that most of the people thought I wasn’t American and told me to go back to Japan. I had to explain myself... people thought I was strange.”

This foreignness opened the door for the uprooting and incarceration of her family. They initially went to live with relatives in Stockton, Calif., until the entire community was sent off to a concentration camp, where Shizuye felt like the Little Exile of the book’s title.

Arakawa recounts the camp years, but unlike other books about the JA experience, she continues the story into the year she spent in Denver, before her family decided to return to the West Coast. She captures details that bring the era to life.

“We stopped in St. Louis on the way to Denver,” Arakawa said. “It was a shock to no longer see nothing but Asian faces. It was like we had come to a foreign country or something.”

As an adult, Arakawa became part of the Bay Area’s JA community and was asked to speak to schools about her experiences.

In the late 1960s and ‘70s, she was elected to the Palo Alto school district, where she organized a task force for evaluating textbooks for multicultural content.

“One of reasons we aren’t seen as Americans is because we don’t appear in textbooks,” she said. “Our committee went to Sacramento, and we had this clause added to the education code that all books be evaluated for multicultural perspective.”

That perspective — being open to all people — drives the narrative of “The Little Exile.”

And makes it a terrific addition to the JA library.


BY LAURIE SHIGEKUNI

I t was a joy and privilege to travel to Washington, D.C., from July 6-10 with my Dad and Mom, Phil and Marion Shigekuni. They were both delegates representing the San Fernando Valley Chapter at the JACL National Convention. I was an alternate delegate.

I want to give you an insider’s view of traveling with Marion and Phil and my other observations and impressions.

I was able to see first-hand the advantage of belonging to the JACL and the tremendous benefits of working together toward common goals. As lifelong engaged community members, my parents know a lot of people, so it was interesting and rewarding to meet their friends.

The many, many greetings started at the check-in desk of the Omni Shoreham — and I’m afraid we looked quite disheveled then because we had just arrived via red-eye flights from the West Coast.

It was also very exciting to find that so many young people helped organize this convention. My parents were saying that they were in their 30s when they first became involved in the JACL. They would like to see membership increased, and they know that the key is getting young people involved.

In the San Fernando Valley, the chapter membership is on the older side. There is room for intergenerational “interconnectivity” in the San Fernando Valley — and I really encourage young people to consider making a trip to Philadelphia for the National Convention next year. Find an older-timer to hang around with so you can meet other old-timers.

That’s what my Mom and Dad did for me.

Our group trip to the Smithsonian for the “Righting a Wrong” exhibit and the dinner the following night at the Japanese Ambassador’s residence were highlights of the convention.

As San Fernando Valley chapter members know, there is nothing like traveling with my Mom. My favorite things to eat kept appearing on my plate, and she got a glass of wine to offer me the first opportunity she had.

After dinner, we were able to view the Japanese American exhibit, which I understand 4 million people have seen. As we were viewing it, my mom mentioned that my Baachan was excited to come to this country, but it sure was hard for her after she got here. It was so significant to hear my Mom say, “You know, the Niseis had an important part in history.”

>> See JACL on page 9

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS
THE ADVANTAGE OF BELONGING TO THE JACL
JACL 48th National Convention: STRATEGIC PLANNING IN ORDER

The National Board vows to work in the organization’s best interests to promote growth across all sectors under the leadership of new ED David Inoue.

By P.C. Staff

All hands on deck. That’s exactly what it is going to take to ensure the longevity of the JACL, as the National Board convened with chapter delegates and member attendees to discuss the future of the organization at its 48th Annual National Convention, which was held July 6-9 in Washington, D.C.

It was fitting that the convention’s theme, “Our Story: Resilience, Remembrance, Resolve,” echoed throughout the historic ballrooms of the Omni Shoreham Hotel, which has numerous tales of its own, having hosted every presidential inaugural ball since President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

JACL National President Gary Mayeda began the National Council meeting on July 7 with the announcement of a special resolution, passed by the JACL National Board, recognizing the career and community achievements of former U.S. Representative Mike Honda, who served in Congress from 2001-17.

On behalf of the board, Mayeda thanked Honda for “all of the different contributions he has done for the community, JACL in particular, and every single group and people that he has touched through the years.”

JACL Associate Executive Director Stephanie Nitahara then summarized JACL’s achievements in 2016, stating that “this year has been a big year for us ... a year of a lot of transition, but looking at all of the programs, it has been an incredible year.”

Among the many highlights were the Civil Liberties in Times of Crisis: The Japanese American Incarceration Program, sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities. As a result of a $155,000 grant, 72 teachers from all across the nation traveled to Los Angeles to learn more about the incarceration experience and redress. The program was facilitated by Sharon Ishi-Jordan, Greg Marutani and Bill Yoshino.

“We really need to get more information about the incarceration out to the people who educate our young people and teach them in a way that we want this story to be told so that it’s not told for us by the one paragraph in textbooks that the students are given,” Nitahara said.

Other successes included the Smithsonian National Museum of American History’s “Righting a Wrong: Japanese Americans and World War II” exhibit, which has been extended through December, and the Kakehashi Project, which allowed 182 youth participants to visit Tokyo and various parts of Japan.

Nitahara also thanked the JACL National Staff, the D.C. convention committee led by John Tobe, as well as the countless volunteers who worked to ensure the success of the convention, and she expressed her enthusiasm for the future of JACL.

“I’ve really enjoyed my time serving as the interim executive director, and I’m excited to welcome David (Inoue) and get this new era going,” she said.

Mayeda then officially introduced new Executive Director David Inoue, who officially began his post July 5.

“In the vein of the theme of this conference, “Our Stories,” I do really want to hear from you and hear what your stories are, and why the JACL is important to you. Because this is our organization, this is your organization, and I’m here to work for you — work for all of us,” Inoue said.

The National Youth/Student Council and its youth members clearly play an important role in ensuring the longevity of the JACL.

NY/SC Chair Kota Mizutani retracted that notion, summarizing that the NY/SC is actively working on its mentorship program and intend to build District Youth Ports to engage JACL chapters with their youth.

“This report is a unique opportunity to share our vision and talk about what we want to do about the broader scheme of things. We are often asked, ‘Where are the youth?’ They’re right in front of you. They are in your communities. All it takes is listening, and that’s something the NY/SC is really focusing on,” Mizutani said. “We are not only the leaders of tomorrow, we are also the leaders of today. We have concerns, and we are active, and all it takes is listening to hear the issues that we want to focus on.”

Membership coordinator Mariko Fujimoto reported that year-end 2015-16, there was a 2 percent decrease in membership; currently, there are 101 JACL chapters and 9,180 memberships. She also announced the appointment of new VP of Membership Haruki Roudebush.

“Our membership is really the cornerstone and vitality of this organization, and I look forward to working with all of the chapters and districts to find ways to reinvigorate our membership base,” Roudebush said. “We must give them a sense of pride of being part of our great organization. There is a lot of hope out there. I find that really encouraging. … We must find ways to communicate that to the general public as well.”

And in his financial report, Treasurer Alan Nishi outlined 2016 budget highlights, which included cutting the organization’s $202K deficit in half to $101K at the fiscal year end. Nishi also reiterated the need for accurate budget revenue projections and strict adherence to the approved budget.

“We have to definitely adhere to the budget. Budgetary diligence is going to be needed, and that’s one of my top priorities,” Nishi said.

In addition, Nishi addressed concerns related to the P.C.’s budget and how National JACL will be working with P.C. staff to unify accounting systems to eliminate disparities in reporting figures. To help Nishi, the JACL has created a Financial Oversight Committee, led by former JACL National President Larry Oda, which will work with all programs across the board.

Eight resolutions were passed by the National Council at convention:

- R1: A resolution opposing reliance on mass incarceration and private for-profit prisons
- R2: A resolution condemning the “facto and de jure religious and racial prejudice in asylum policies of the United States of America
- R3: A resolution relating to the marginalization of Native American peoples
- R4: A resolution in support of maintaining JACL’s presence as a national organization
- R5: A resolution relating to the Wakamatsu Tea and Silk Colony, the first Japanese colony in North America
- R6: A resolution relating to sustaining the Teacher Training Workshop programs
- R7: A resolution relating to the Amache Preservation Society’s application to the U.S. Department of the Interior to designate the Amache Incarceration Camp as a National Historic Site
- R8: A resolution relating to the preservation of Snoqualmie Falls Lumber Company (SFLCo) site, where Japanese workers harvested and milled timber and helped build forest rail lines from 1917 until 1942.
NOT SAYONARA: THE FIGHT FOR JUSTICE CONTINUES

Among the highlights of the Sayonara Banquet, the JACL awards its President’s Awards to two members of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, as well as warmly welcomes new Executive Director David Inoue.

By P.C. Staff

The Sayonara Banquet for the 48th JACL National Convention definitely lived up to the “remembrance” aspect of the confab’s theme, “Our Story: Resiliency Remembrance Resolve.”

The nation’s oldest Asian American civil rights organization capped the event, held at the storied Omni Shoreham Hotel, by honoring and remembering key individuals who helped with the success of the Japanese American redress movement.

Fitting it was, then, that this convention took place in the nation’s capital 75 years and a few months after President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, which disrupted and devastated the lives of hundreds of thousands of U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents of Japanese ancestry.

Beneath the evening’s celebration lurked an unease that has arisen under a still-new presidential administration that has acted in ways appearing to echo the dark days of yore when the U.S. government had a failure of political leadership and targeted a small subsection of the population based upon ancestry.

Fortunately, the remembrance did not fail to include accolades for the recently ended 16-year run in the House of Representatives for California’s Mike Honda, who jokingly noted his absence in the banquet’s program.

JACL National President Gary Mayeda thanked Honda on behalf of the organization for “his service in the United States Congress, ensuring that the Japanese American experience and his personal experience of incarceration remains a part of policy discussion and serving as a champion of civil rights and human rights.”

Said Honda, “It’s quite an honor to have those folks from your own community recognize you — I think that’s the highest form of accomplishment.”

Calling JACL his “classroom,” Honda said he learned the processes of government, governing and democracy from his involvement in the group. He also said JACL taught him the art of debate and how “it’s OK to represent a point of view and argue for it and research for it and really stand up for it.”

Honda also acknowledged the evening’s main speaker, the Hon. Norman Mineta, himself a pioneering Nikkei congressmen and Cabinet member, for serving as an important role model for “showing how to get things done.”

Honda also issued a challenge to the JACL. “I want JACL to find somebody among us to sit in Congress with a Japanese American name,” he said. “It could be a blended background, children of people of blended background, but that you have that perspective of the Japanese American experience, without which our country would have been much more poor.”

Saying there was “no better place than in Congress than to have a person of Japanese American ancestry,” Honda contended that such a person was needed to “provide that leadership, to provide that perspective and to continue that kind of work into the future of this country because God knows that we need it today.”

Thanks to the hosting prowess of newschannel 30, the evening moved along and included remarks from new JACL Executive Director David Ikeda.

Saying that he was “probably not what you’d expect for an executive director,” Ikeda cited his Midwestern upbringing in which he was often the only minority, with a Shinto father from Japan, a Chinese American mother and “no relatives who were incarcerated.”

Ikeda also referenced the 75th anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066, which he described as “particularly poignant for me.”

“It was then that I realized that the system did not always work for everyone,” he said. “This is also our story for the JACL, for things done.”

Honda also said that the JACL must use the “power of our story” so that the system does not fail others. “It is not an easy struggle, but it is a worthy one,” he continued, “and one that I hope all of you will join me in fighting, both here in Washington and where you live.”

Representing the Japanese embassy in Washington, D.C., was Takuya Sunayama, who congratulated the JACL’s new leadership and newly adopted resolutions.

Two highlights of the banquet were presentations of the President’s Awards, which went to two members of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians: the late Angus Christian Macbeth and Joan Z. “Jodie” Bernstein, who led the nine-person CWRIE as its chair.

Macbeth was in 1981 named special counsel to the CWRCI, the findings of which he wrote and published under the title “Personal Justice Denied,” a work that laid the foundation for the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.

Macbeth died on Jan. 22 at the age of 74, and his award was accepted by his widow, JoAnn Macbeth, and one of their two sons, Hampden. JoAnn Macbeth recalled her late husband’s activities serving on the CWRCI, including when he would spend his evenings at the kitchen table writing what became “Personal Justice Denied.”

She watched her husband, who knew only what he learned in law school about the Japanese American incarceration, change during that time.

“He became puzzled, then he became troubled and then he became angry, and then he became enraged at what had happened, and this all finally ended up in an enormous passion for Anger that started when he was working for the Commission for Jodie and continued for the rest of his life,” JoAnn Macbeth said.

“He would really do whatever he could. He would go speak to 200 people, he would go meet and strategize with 300 people, he’d go to testify, he’d spend four hours for 15 seconds in a documentary — somehow steeped in his soul.”

The evening’s other President’s Award winner, Bernstein, was also an attorney who specialized in consumer protection and environmental law, like Macbeth.

“I’m just overwhelmed,” Bernstein said. “I am so thrilled and so honored once again to be with the Japanese community, which was wonderfully supportive of the work that we did, and I want to thank you both for the award and the support that we had when we began the project and throughout. We couldn’t have done it without your help.”

Bernstein missed out on Macbeth with her own recollections after his widow, JoAnn, recalled his time on working with the CWRCI.

“I remember him warmly and wonderfully in the role that he played in putting the report together,” Bernstein said. “The report itself is, in a word that is used a lot nowadays, ‘tremendous.’ It is a wonderful historical document that I’m very proud of and that I hope everyone in this room is proud of. Thank you for this honor, and I will cherish it all my life.”

The role of the evening’s eminence grise belonged to Mineta, who stuck with the remembrance theme by relaying his recollections of how redress came to pass, citing the 1978 JACL National Convention, when JACL passed a one-sentence resolution to take steps to seek an apology from Congress on behalf of the American people and obtain redress payments for Japanese Americans who were incarcerated during WWII.

Mineta also recalled how in March 1979 some JACL officers and staff came to visit Sen. Daniel Inouye and Sen. Spark Matsunaga, as well as Reps. Robert Matsui, who had just been elected to the House of Representatives in 1978, and Mineta, who had been elected to the House in 1974.

>> See SAYONARA on page 12
The Ambassador to Japan Kenichiro Sasae warmly opened up his residence to welcome the JACL to an official gathering on July 7, featuring delicious gourmet Japanese food created by his team of personal chefs.

During the reception, the JACL honored Wade Henderson, former president and CEO of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights and the Leadership Conference Education Fund with the Gov. Ralph L. Carr Award for Courage, as well as former JACL Midwest Regional Director/Interim Executive Editor Bill Yoshino with the Foreign Minister’s Award.

Henderson was feted for his lifelong dedication to upholding and promoting civil rights for all Americans, and Yoshino was honored for his longstanding dedication of restoring and protecting the rights of Japanese Americans.

The event also featured a special speech by the Hon. Norman Mineta.
Smithsonian Reception

The Smithsonian Museum of American History welcomed JACL National Convention attendees for a VIP reception and private viewing of its exhibit “Righting a Wrong: Japanese Americans and World War II” on July 6. Guests were given the unique opportunity to see up close and personal original artifacts, photographs and historical information, including the original Executive Order 9066 document, from one of the darkest periods in American history. During the reception, it was also announced that the exhibit will remain open through December.

In a particularly poignant moment, former JACL National President Floyd Shimomura located photos in the “Taking Action” portion of the exhibit that featured him during the fight for redress in the 1980s. He was able to show his family the photos that included him and other JACLers during that time, including Min Yasui, Mike Hsaoka and Lily Okura. It was an evening JACLers will never forget.
DAVID INOUE: READY TO ROLL IN A NEW ROLE

JACL's new executive director plans to revitalize the 88-year-old organization from the ground up.

By P.C. Staff

Years before David Inoue had any inklings about applying for the vacant position of JACL executive director, he worked full-time for a year at a sushi bar in Columbus, Ohio, as a sushi chef.

“It was a place my dad said was the best sushi restaurant in Columbus,” Inoue said. “He’s Japanese, so I trusted his opinion.”

This was while Inoue was doing post-graduate studies at Ohio State.

“I went up to the owner and said I was looking for a job — waiter, dishwasher, whatever. I just needed some extra money.”

Not far away was the Honda plant in Marysville, and there was a decent-sized Japanese population.

The owner asked him, “Do you speak Japanese?” Inoue answered a little, and the owner told him he was putting him behind the sushi bar. After being shown the basics, Inoue started with kappa maki, then nigiri, then ebi.

He just had me making one nigiri after another until I got the feel for it,” Inoue recalled.

It was a combination of on-the-job training, trial by fire and performance art — but Inoue got the hang of it pretty quickly. He had to.

While that wasn’t necessarily the same scenario as Inoue steps into the executive director role, vacant for more than a year, that prior experience of learning the ropes on the fly may come in handy as he hit the ground running the Monday right after the July 6-9 JACL National Convention in Washington, D.C.

One of his first priorities, however, will be getting his office in order.

“I was in there the other day, and the office is in serious need of cleaning,” Inoue said, noting that it had been sitting unused for the past year.

But once the housekeeping is in order, Inoue said his priorities will be getting to know the staff and their strengths, how they may want to develop their skills — and making connections outside the organization.

“I’m here in Washington, and a lot of our work is done through coalitions and partnerships, so it’s going to be making those connections with our partner organizations,” he said.

JACL, he noted, shares office space with NCAPA, the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans, an umbrella group of Asian American organizations.

Another priority for Inoue is the ever-present need to keep JACL fiscally sound.

“The situation is all the more dire now since we haven’t had an executive director for more than a year now,” he said. “I think that by not having someone in the position for a year has left the organization, to be honest, kind of floundering.”

Inoue said that as executive director, he not only needs to set an agenda for advocacy as a civil rights organization, but also manage a nonprofit organization that is understaffed while getting the most out of the current staff without causing burnout.

In his remarks, Inoue also referenced Resolution 4, which passed during the convention’s National Council meeting to find a new Midwest JACL regional director with the March retirement of Bill Yoshino, who held the post for nearly four decades.

“Obviously, we have a hiring freeze right now,” Inoue noted, but when the status quo allows it, he will be in charge of identifying the right candidates and making the hire.

As for any new, out-of-the-box fundraising ideas he may want to implement, Inoue said he first wants to determine “exactly what we are doing.” He referred to fundraising software JACL is using that he said was “antiquated, to say the least.”

“We need to think about what we are trying to do and whether or not it is efficient.”

Inoue said that as executive director, he not only needs to set an agenda for advocacy as a civil rights organization, but also manage a nonprofit organization that is understaffed while getting the most out of the current staff without causing burnout.

In his remarks, Inoue also referenced Resolution 4, which passed during the convention’s National Council meeting to find a new Midwest JACL regional director with the March retirement of Bill Yoshino, who held the post for nearly four decades.

“Obviously, we have a hiring freeze right now,” Inoue noted, but when the status quo allows it, he will be in charge of identifying the right candidates and making the hire.

As for any new, out-of-the-box fundraising ideas he may want to implement, Inoue said he first wants to determine “exactly what we are doing.” He referred to fundraising software JACL is using that he said was “antiquated, to say the least.”

“We need to think about what we are trying to do and whether or not it is efficient.”

Inoue said that as executive director, he not only needs to set an agenda for advocacy as a civil rights organization, but also manage a nonprofit organization that is understaffed while getting the most out of the current staff without causing burnout.

In his remarks, Inoue also referenced Resolution 4, which passed during the convention’s National Council meeting to find a new Midwest JACL regional director with the March retirement of Bill Yoshino, who held the post for nearly four decades.

“Obviously, we have a hiring freeze right now,” Inoue noted, but when the status quo allows it, he will be in charge of identifying the right candidates and making the hire.

As for any new, out-of-the-box fundraising ideas he may want to implement, Inoue said he first wants to determine “exactly what we are doing.” He referred to fundraising software JACL is using that he said was “antiquated, to say the least.”

“We need to think about what we are trying to do and whether or not it is efficient.”

Inoue said that as executive director, he not only needs to set an agenda for advocacy as a civil rights organization, but also manage a nonprofit organization that is understaffed while getting the most out of the current staff without causing burnout.

In his remarks, Inoue also referenced Resolution 4, which passed during the convention’s National Council meeting to find a new Midwest JACL regional director with the March retirement of Bill Yoshino, who held the post for nearly four decades.
REIMAGINE EVERYTHING

FOR SOME, THE FREEDOM OF RETIREMENT MEANS FREEDOM TO WORK

By Ron Mori

I was so impressed with the number of volunteers of all ages at this year’s JACL National Convention in Washington, D.C. Many of them are retired, but they all have a passion for giving back, sharing their life experiences, and, in some cases, they hold down part-time jobs. They fall within the statistic that almost 20 percent of Americans 65 and older are working.

Retirement, for example, no longer automatically signals “not working anymore.” More and more people are seeing retirement not as freedom from work, but freedom to work. Increasing numbers of people are reaching the age when they can collect Social Security, but they want to continue working or actively volunteer. They might work less, or they might work at something different, but lots of them make up their minds that leisure is not going to become their full-time occupation once they can retire.

Almost 20 percent of Americans 65 and older are working; the most since Medicare was enacted in the mid-1960s, according to Ben Steuereman in an article for Bloomberg News. In addition, a survey by Transamerica Center for Retirement Studies found that half of workers between the ages of 52 and 70 plan to continue working after they retire. Not surprising, but most people plan to switch from a full-time to a part-time schedule, or to work in a different capacity that is less demanding and brings personal satisfaction.

Why, when they have earned the right to take it easy, do so many individuals continue to work?

One explanation is that many of us are staying healthier longer, and if a job doesn’t overtax our physical abilities, we are able to feel good enough to continue working.

Money pressures certainly contribute to a desire to stay in the labor force. Defined benefit pensions have evaporated, savings took a hit from the recession and longer lives chew up more resources. So, most people who keep working say they need the money, or need the benefits, or both.

But many people keep working because they like what they do and want to stay involved. If they choose to hold on to their job but scale back their hours, they can keep doing something they enjoy, continue earning, save more money and gain the advantage of more time off.

For those who want to step away from a current career and work part time at something different, the possibilities are endless. In fact, making a decision about what to do next can be daunting. AARP has a wealth of resources to help get you thinking about what you might be interested in and where to find work you will love.

I recommend beginning your research at aarp.org/work, a resource rich in information about full- and part-time work. And please think about taking part in one of our upcoming Online Career Fairs, scheduled for Sept. 14 at www.aarp.org/OnlineCareerFair.

Most of us have the good fortune to be living more years and in generally better health. That gives us more choices for how we want to spend those years, including working as long as we want to — and making time to give back and volunteer! See you next year in Philadelphia for the 49th annual JACL National Convention.

Ron Mori is co-president of the Washington, D.C., JACL chapter and manager of community, states and national affairs — multicultural leadership for AARP.
Hawaiian Slack Key Guitar Festival 2017
Honolulu, HI
Aug. 20
Kapolei Bandstand and Park
2882 Kalakaua Ave.

This festival is a summertime tradition in Northern California. There will be everything from sushi and teriyaki to sandwiches, Japanese pastries, noodles and much more! In addition, come see traditional performances by Japanese musicians, dancers and singers and take in the music, dance and visual vocabulary of traditional Japanese culture, food, exhibitions, arts demonstrations and much more at this beloved weeklong event in Little Tokyo. It’s not to be missed!


PSW
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, icebreaker 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 (808) 529-1067.

PNW
Okan Fest
Portland, OR
Aug. 5; 3-9 p.m.
Okan Buddhist Temple
3720 S.E. 34th Ave.

Okan Fest 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 Sockeye Tachibana Dance Group. All are welcome.


IDC
Architecture of Japanese Internment: Oregon Exhibit
Ontario, OR
Thru July 27
Harano Gallery
Four Rivers Cultural Center
76 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. The exhibit begins on Friday with a Toro Nagashi Ceremony. Come and celebrate traditions of Tibet at Seattle Center. Guests can immerse themselves in Tibetan culture through live performances, authentic cuisine with a wide range of games, group dances and educational opportunities.

Info: Visit Tibet.washington.edu.

MDC
Destination Asia Festival
Little, IL
Aug. 4-6; Fri. (6-9 p.m.), Sat. and Sun. (10 a.m.-4 p.m.)
1918 Illinois Route 63
Price: Free with Arboretum admission

Explore the diverse cultures of Asia through music, dance, food and much more! Come see sumo demonstrations, Korean drumming, Japanese rock and roll, Thai and Philippine dance performances, Chinese lion dance performance, bonsai, Ikebana and calligraphy. The Festival begins on Friday with a Toro Nagashi Japanese floating lantern display on Meadow Lake.

Info: Visit mortonarb.org.

EDC
21st Annual Lowell Southeast Asian Water Festival
Lowell, MA
Aug. 19; 9 a.m.-6 p.m.
Sawyer Mills, Pawtucket Blvd.
Price: Free

Every year, Lowell’s Khmer, Thai, Vietnamese and Laotian communities come together to preserve, protect and share their cultural heritage in a Water Festival. This year’s event will feature boat races, live entertainment, ethnic food, arts and crafts and community involvement. Contact: Info: Visit http://lowellwaterfestival.org/

Quincy August Moon Festival
Quincy, MA
Aug. 20; Noon-9 p.m.
California Hotel and Casino
Downtown Quincy
Price: Free

This year, the Quincy Festival will move to a new downtown location and will feature the addition of a Beer Garden. There will also be hip-hop, rap and best-box performances, a game area for adults, a petting zoo, rides and ethnic foods. Sponsored by Quincy Asian Resources and the City of Quincy, the event is marking its 30th anniversary.


FOR Library’s Images of Internment Exhibition
Hyde Park, NY
Thru Dec.
FOR 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 WPA photographers Dorothea Lange, Clem Albers, Francis Stewart and Hikaru Iwasaki from the National Archives. The exhibition also featured 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://fordlibray.org.org/exhibitions or call (800) FORD-VISIT.
Amimoto, Yone, 101, Monterey Park, CA, June 18; she was survived by her children, George, Seibo, Shun (Pat), Kanji Amimoto, Barbara Sarabia, Jerry (Pam) and Eugene Amimoto; sisters, Shuko Sobage and Okuni Yamamoto; sister-in-law, Catherine Uyeda; g: 1; gc: 1.

Beppu, Teru, 103, Seattle, WA, June 25; she was predeceased by her husband, Lincoln; survived by her children, Jerry (Maria), Roberta (Chick Tamura) and Steve (Lucy); g: 7; gc: 10; ggc: 4.

Endow, Masako, 89, Boise, ID, July 7; an active member of the Pocatello-Blackfoot JACL, she was predeceased by her husband, Seiji, and their son, Michael; she is survived by her children, Susan (Ralph) Ikeno, Carolyn Larsen (Herb) and Rodney Endow (Janet); sister, Ayako Komma (Saturu); g: 8; gc: 8.

Enkoji, George, 96, Sacramento, CA, June 26; she was survived by her wife, Eunice; children, Robert, Charles, Richard, Fred, Frances (partner Bob Shuker), Therese Enkoji Scott (Jeff); siblings, Satsumo, Terry Kayagami, Midori Sunahara (Ryo) and Yoshi; gc: 2.

Fujimoto, Yukio Fred, 94, Culver City, CA, June 11; she is survived by his wife, Marie; children, Steven (Cathy), Stan, Susan and Sharon (John) Fletcher; he is also survived by many other relatives; gc: 1.

Fukuzawa, Michio Frank, 93, Gardena, CA, June 24; she is survived by her husband, Namie; children, Sheryl Iijima and Leigh (Katie); Fukuzawa sisters, Barbara, Florence (Leo) Nakamura, Martha Tanji and Frances Kozaki; gc: 3.

Goya, Nancy Sakie, 94, Temple City, CA, June 21; during WWII, she was incarcerated at the Gila River Relocation Center in AZ; she was predeceased by her husband, Kaz; she is survived by her daughters, Sharon Oh and Joanne (Art) Iwamatsu; grandson, Asami Tsuruoka; brothers, Taneharu and Kazuo Tajiri; and many other relatives.

Haruno Tajiri Tsuruoka, beloved sister of Yoshino Tajiri Hasegawa (formerly of Sanger) and Dr. Akira Tajiri (former of Reedley), was passed away last month as she lived - independent, self-sufficient and with a sense of humor. We are thankful for the things he taught us and the sacrifices he and his family made to benefit the next generations. We are also thankful for the service to our country.

Endowed by Edward Kazuo Okada, 95, passed away on June 6, 2017, in Minneapolis, Minn. The son of Japanese immigrants, Ed was born in Portland, Ore., and grew up on a farm near Vancouver, Wash. He graduated from East Mill Plain Union High School, where he was a teacher and sports editor for the Plainman Yearbook. He also took Japanese language classes and helped out on the farm. After graduating high school, Ed followed an interest in radio and received his radio operators license.

After Executive Order 9066, Ed and his family were incarcerated at the Tule Lake WRA camp. It was while working at the WRA camp administration office that he met the love of his life, Sara. When the U.S. Army asked for volunteers, Ed stepped up. With his knowledge of the Japanese language, Ed was sent directly to Camp Savage, Minn., where he entered the Japanese Language School. Ed arrived in Minnesota in November 1942. He had never been so cold. He was in the second class of the Japanese Language School, which ended in December 1942. He then went to Camp Shelby, MS, to receive his Basic Training. It was here that he discovered salt tablets and cookies. Because Ed already had his radio operator’s license, he was assigned to the “Radio Shack,” upon return to basic. He listened to and translated the Domain News and other broadcasts from Japan. He continued to serve in the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) at Camp Savage and later Fort Snelling, Minn., for the duration of the war. In 2011, Ed and members of the Army’s 442nd PCT, 100th Infantry Battalion and MIS were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal for their exemplary service to our country.

Ed and Sara married in 1943. After the war, they settled in Minneapolis, where Ed first worked at the New England Furniture Store, repairing radios and televisions. He then opened a home service business, Ed started his own business as a radio and TV repairman. Ed and Sara remained in Minneapolis, ever grateful to then Mayor Hubert Humphrey and the people of Minnesota for welcoming the Japanese Americans at a difficult time in our history.

Ed enjoyed the simple things in life, spending time with family, vine-ripened tomatoes from his garden, watching the World Series, bowling and hosting happy hour for friends. We will miss his generosity and sense of humor. We are thankful for the things he taught us and the sacrifices he and his other sisters made to benefit the next generations.

Ed is survived by his daughter, Toni, and son, John, and many nieces and nephews.

Haruno Tajiri Tsuruoka, Mrs. Haruno Tajiri Tsuruoka, beloved sister of Yoshino Tajiri Hasegawa (formerly of Sanger) and Dr. Akira Tajiri (former of Reedley), passed away last month as she lived - independent, self-sufficient and with a sense of humor. We are thankful for the things he taught us and the sacrifices he and his family made to benefit the next generations.

Takeda, Mary Yukiko, 90, San Jose, CA, June 26; she was predeceased by her husband, William; she is survived by her children, Carol (Beverly), Alan (Anne) Sakamoto and Julie (Phillip) Chew; sister, Yuki Muramoto; brother, Dr. Akira Tajiri; and great-nieces and great-nephews.

Sakamoto, Betty Yoshiko, 89, Sacramento, CA, June 7; she was incarcerated at the Tule Lake WRA camp. She was an army linguist and served abroad during World War II.

Takada, Dian Gail, 60, Sacramento, CA, June 7; she was predeceased by her parents, Henry and Rosie Todomura; an active JACLer, she is survived by her sister, Linda (Henry) Toy; she also survived by relatives and friends.

Yanaga, Toshio, 95, Los Angeles, CA, June 26; she was predeceased by her daughter, Kay Kayoko (David) Endow; daughter-in-law, Tsuruoka; sister-in-law, Diane (Marty) Cogburn; and many other relatives.

Kawashima, Chiyo, 96, Los Angeles, CA, July 7; she is survived by her children, Janie (Kenneth) Teshima, Stephen and Lindley (Hiroshi) Ong, Jack; she is also survived by many nieces and nephews and other relatives; gc: 2; gc: 1.

Kuroki, Yukio Jack, 95, Los Angeles, CA, June 20; he is survived by his children, Raymond (Nanette) and Coma and Anna Maudlin; he is also survived by many nieces and nephews and other relatives; gc: 3; gc: 2.

Mine, Tomiko Katko, 93, Hilo, HI, July 8; she is survived by her children, Claton (Jodi) Mine and Shari (Russell) Chapin; brother, Terry (Kusuki) Mine; sister-in-law, Mitsue Okimoto; gc: 2.

Nakayama, Carey Thomas, 94, Monterey Park, CA, July 2; he is survived by his brother, Annie Nakayama; siblings, Christopher (Denise) Nakayama, Cynthia (Tony) Fabela and Craig Nakayama; children, a nephew and great-grandnephew.

Sakamoto, Betty Yoshiko, 89, Sacramento, CA, June 7; during WWII, she was incarcerated at the Tule Lake WRA camp. She was an army linguist and served abroad during World War II.

Kawashima, Chiyo, 96, Los Angeles, CA, July 7; she is survived by her children, Janie (Kenneth) Teshima, Stephen and Lindley (Hiroshi) Ong, Jack; she is also survived by many nieces and nephews and other relatives; gc: 2; gc: 1.

Okamoto, Mary Nobuko, 96, McLean, VA, June 12; she was predeceased by her husband, Fred; she is survived by her daughter, Alan (Shigeko) Kurosawa; and four siblings; gc: 1; gc: 4.

Ozaki, John Akira, 68, Norwalk, CA, June 29; he is survived by his wife, Gail, sons, Roger and Timothy Ozaki; mother, Anna Ozaki; and brother-in-law, Norman Ozaki; brother-in-law, (Randy) (Karen) Yoshimoto; nieces, a nephew and many other relatives.

Onchi, Toby T., 94, Portland, OR, June 8; she was predeceased by her husband, Joe; she is survived by her children, Doug (Carol) and Bruce.

Ong, Jack, 76, Castle Rock, CO, June 13; he is survived by his sisters, Lily and Glenna; brothers-in-law, Ray and Ray Lee; nieces, in-law, Bette Cng Yasaki; he is also survived by nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews and a great-great-nephew.

Sakamoto, Betty Yoshiko, 89, Sacramento, CA, June 7; during WWII, she was incarcerated at the Tule Lake WRA camp. She was an army linguist and served abroad during World War II.

Takeda, Mary Yukiko, 90, San Jose, CA, June 26; she was predeceased by her husband, William; she is survived by her children, Carol (Beverly), Alan (Anne) Sakamoto and Julie (Phillip) Chew; sister, Yuki Muramoto; brother, Dr. Akira Tajiri; and great-nieces and great-nephews.

Sakamoto, Betty Yoshiko, 89, Sacramento, CA, June 7; during WWII, she was incarcerated at the Tule Lake WRA camp. She was an army linguist and served abroad during World War II.

Takada, Dian Gail, 60, Sacramento, CA, June 7; she was predeceased by her parents, Henry and Rosie Todomura; an active JACLer, she is survived by her sister, Linda (Henry) Toy; she also survived by relatives and friends.

Yanaga, Toshio, 95, Los Angeles, CA, June 26; she was predeceased by her daughter, Kay Kayoko (David) Endow; daughter-in-law, Tsuruoka; sister-in-law, Diane (Marty) Cogburn; and many other relatives.

PLACE A TRIBUTE

"In Memoriam" is a free listing that appears on a Memorial Issues available for an additional fee. Tributes honor your loved ones with text and photos and appear in a timely manner at the rate of $20/column inch.

Contact: busmgr@pacificcitizen.org or call (213) 620-1767

BUSINESS OFFICE

PACIFIC CITIZEN

NATIONAL CONVENTION ISSUE

July 21-Aug. 3, 2017
According to Mineta, Inouye said to those gathered, “You know, you’re asking of us a tall order because the American people really don’t know about evacuation and internment, and if they don’t know, then our U.S. senators and House members don’t know, and they won’t know how to deal with this.”

“He said there was a Warren Commission about the Kennedy assassination… and people got to know about the assassination,” Mineta continued. “Then there was another commission, about the students at Kent State when they were killed by the Ohio National Guard, to study that. We need a commission to try to figure out what motivated the government to do this.”

Mineta then related how Matsunaga and his staff put together legislation – known as the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians – that President Carter signed, which led to nine commissioners being appointed and hearings being held at various locations across the country.

“I attended seven or nine of these Commission hearings, and I cried at every one of them,” Mineta said, recalling the often-emotional testimony by Issei and Nisei.

“After about two years, the report – ‘Personal Justice Denied’ – was written, which concluded that what happened to ethnic Japanese along the West Coast during WWII resulted from racial prejudice, war hysteria and the failure of political leadership, with a recommendation that Congress issue a national apology and have the U.S. government make redress payments of $20,000 to surviving victims of Executive Order 9066.”

Mineta related one problem, however, and that was how to pay for it.

“We had turned to an actuarial specialist to figure out how many of the 120,000 who were evacuated in 1942 would still be living, and the actuary told us, ‘Somewhere around 80,000,’” Mineta recalled. “So, we wanted our budget to authorize and the amounts to be authorized for redress payments as well as for the educational fund, based on what they told us.

“After the legislation passed and as we were making the payments,” Mineta continued, “we realized that there weren’t 80,000 people out there, there were something close to 90,000, and we weren’t going to have enough money in just the redress payments account, so we had to take money away from the education fund and move it over to the amount to be given to the internees.”

“And then Sen. Inouye said, ‘You know, for the seven years, we’re going to have to come up with an appropriation of $800 million for this program, and as chair of the Appropriations Committee, I don’t know where we’re going to get that money.’

“So, one night, he put a one-sentence amendment to some legislation that was going through, and the redress payments were to be considered entitlement payments, so that means you don’t have to appropriate the money. If you’re a member of this class that is eligible to receive this money, it’s an entitlement, and it comes automatically. It was a brilliant move… and we didn’t have to appropriate the funds.

“And then the first woman to receive her redress was a 102-year-old woman from Los Angeles whose family flew her to D.C. for the attorney general and President George H.W. Bush to make that initial payment,” Mineta said. “Very, very moving ceremony at the Department of Justice, and I know many of you were there at the presentation of that first award.”

Mineta closed his speech with an anecdote about early redress advocate Edison Uno, who would make sure to attend every function possible at which Supreme Court Chief Justice Earl Warren was speaking and ask him if he would apologize for his role as California’s attorney general as a proponent of the forced evacuation.

Mineta noted that Uno never got the satisfaction of hearing an apology from Warren. “The only time I think… it could be corrected on this — he ever apologized was in his book, and he then apologized nationally for his role as attorney general in the state of California in 1942 and, of course, we all know his record as chief justice of the Supreme Court… unfortunately, Edison had passed away before the book came out,” Mineta concluded.

Following Mineta’s address, Chen recognized Stephanie Nitahara for serving as the organization’s interim executive director, and then the first woman to receive her redress was a 102-year-old woman from Los Angeles whose family flew her to D.C. for the attorney general and President George H.W. Bush to make that initial payment,” Mineta said. “Very, very moving ceremony at the Department of Justice, and I know many of you were there at the presentation of that first award.”

Mineta closed his speech with an anecdote about early redress advocate Edison Uno, who would make sure to attend every function possible at which Supreme Court Chief Justice Earl Warren was speaking and ask him if he would apologize for his role as California’s attorney general as a proponent of the forced evacuation.

Mineta noted that Uno never got the satisfaction of hearing an apology from Warren. “The only time I think… it could be corrected on this — he ever apologized was in his book, and he then apologized nationally for his role as attorney general in the state of California in 1942 and, of course, we all know his record as chief justice of the Supreme Court… unfortunately, Edison had passed away before the book came out,” Mineta concluded.

Following Mineta’s address, Chen recognized Stephanie Nitahara for serving as the organization’s interim executive director, and then the first woman to receive her redress was a 102-year-old woman from Los Angeles whose family flew her to D.C. for the attorney general and President George H.W. Bush to make that initial payment,” Mineta said. “Very, very moving ceremony at the Department of Justice, and I know many of you were there at the presentation of that first award.”

Mineta closed his speech with an anecdote about early redress advocate Edison Uno, who would make sure to attend every function possible at which Supreme Court Chief Justice Earl Warren was speaking and ask him if he would apologize for his role as California’s attorney general as a proponent of the forced evacuation.

Mineta noted that Uno never got the satisfaction of hearing an apology from Warren. “The only time I think… it could be corrected on this — he ever apologized was in his book, and he then apologized nationally for his role as attorney general in the state of California in 1942 and, of course, we all know his record as chief justice of the Supreme Court… unfortunately, Edison had passed away before the book came out,” Mineta concluded.

Following Mineta’s address, Chen recognized Stephanie Nitahara for serving as the organization’s interim executive director, and then the first woman to receive her redress was a 102-year-old woman from Los Angeles whose family flew her to D.C. for the attorney general and President George H.W. Bush to make that initial payment,” Mineta said. “Very, very moving ceremony at the Department of Justice, and I know many of you were there at the presentation of that first award.”