

# PACIFIC CITIZEN

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”*

*Special  
Convention  
Issue*

JACL affirms its civil rights mission as attendees gather in Washington, D.C., for the organization's 48th annual National Convention.

PHOTO: FUMIYOTSUDA

# Education Matters 'RIGHTING A WRONG: JAPANESE AMERICANS AND WORLD WAR II' IS A VERY SPECIAL EXHIBIT

PHOTO: GREG MARUTANI



The Shimomura family visited the Smithsonian Museum of American History during the JACL 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 Rutie 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.

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## TWIN CITIES HONORS 2017 HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES

The Twin Cities JACL's 54th annual Scholarship Awards banquet, honoring its 2017 high school graduates and scholarship recipients, was held on May 11 at the Normandale Hylands United Methodist Church in Bloomington, Minn. In total, \$11,500 in scholarships were awarded.

Honored during the program were 2017 high school graduates Madeline Bocek (Wayzata High School), Erik Dagoberg (Wayzata High School), Aria Flomer (Upper Mississippi Academy), Kaiji Iishii (Wayzata High School, North Education Center Academy), Benjamin Jourdan (Bloomington Jefferson High School), Nathan Noma (Bloomington Jefferson High School) and Kylie Noonan (White Bear Lake Area High School).

The chapter honored Iishii with the Shigeko Kirihara Memorial Scholarship, Jourdan with the Dr. Norman Kushino and Kay Kushino Memorial Scholarship/Tom and Martha Oye Memorial Scholarship; Flomer with the Susan Matsumoto Memorial Scholarship, Dagoberg with the Tom and Reiko Ohno Memorial Scholarship, Noma with the Annie Sakai Girard and Tsuyano Sakai Memorial Scholarship, Noonan with the



Twin Cities 2017 high school graduates and scholarship recipients (from left) Aria Flomer, Benjamin Jourdan, Nathan Noma, Madeline Bocek, Kylie Noonan, Erik Dagoberg and Kaiji Iishii

Earl K. and Ruth Tanbara Memorial Scholarship and Bocek with the Minoru and Mary Yoshida Memorial Scholarship.

The chapter congratulates and sends its best wishes to the 2017 graduates!

If you are interested in learning more about these scholarships, please contact [scholarship@tcjacl.org](mailto:scholarship@tcjacl.org). Donations may be sent to TC JACL Scholarship c/o Connie Tsuchiya, 6431 Mere Dr., Eden Prairie, MN 55346.

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."

JACL member?  Y  N

\$50  \$100  \$150  \$200  other \_\_\_\_\_

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## NIKKEI VOICE

# 'THE LITTLE EXILE' IS A GREAT ADDITION TO THE JA READING LIST

PHOTOS: GIL ASAKAWA

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 JAs' 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 couches 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 that starts in pre-war San Francisco and ends as her family returns to the Bay Area after the war, upon leaving the Rohwer camp in Arkansas.

Yet, that history is told in exquisite vignettes, as if she's savoring one memory at a time, turning them over like a Rubik's Cube in her mind and then lining up the colors 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 ducked under the dashboard. At that time, I could never go out during Dec. 7 because I felt like people were always . . . 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 back-

round 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.

Arakawa also wrote articles for her travel club.

"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 signed up for a continuing education program for writing skills.

"The instructor wanted us to write something about our unusual experience," she recalled. "I wrote something about 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?'"

The writing teacher's parents were professors, and he had gone to school in Little Rock, Ark., the state where Arakawa's family was imprisoned during WWII. But this was the first time he had heard about camps.

"He got so upset and said, 'You have to write this in a book.' That was like 15 years ago," she said.

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.

"Then 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



Author Jeanette Arakawa

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 a diverse perspective. She also co-authored a handbook on evaluating books 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.

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



## PERSONAL REFLECTIONS

# THE ADVANTAGE OF BELONGING TO THE JA CL

By Laurie Shigekuni

It 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 JA CL National Convention. I was an alternate delegate.

I want to give you an insider's view of traveling with Marion and Phil and my/our general observations and impressions.

I was able to see first-hand the advantage of belonging to the JA CL 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 interes-

ting 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 JA CL. 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 old-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 JA CL on page 9

# JACL 48th National Convention: STRATEGIC PLANNING IN ORDER

PHOTO: GIL ASAKAWA

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.

PHOTO: SUSAN YOKOYAMA

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 Ishii-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



JACL delegates at the National Council meeting



Alan Nishi

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

"This report is a unique opportunity to share our vision and talk more 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



(From left) Brandon Mita, Stephanie Nitahara, David Inoue and Gary Mayeda

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 Haruka 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 Natio-



EDC Governor Scott Nakamura



(From left) Jeff Moy, Nisha Ramachandran, Heather Skrabak and Zaki Barzinji

nal 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 de 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 regarding the Dakota Access Pipeline on Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Land
- 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
- ER-1: 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
- ER-2: A resolution relating to the preservation of the Snoqualmie Falls Lumber Company (SFLCo) site, where Japanese workers harvested and milled timber and helped build forest rail lines from 1917 until 1942.



Mike Honda and Gary Mayeda



Mayeda with JoAnn and Hampden Macbeth

Stephanie Nitahara

# 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.

Mike Honda

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: Resilience, 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 involve-

ment 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 congressman 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 newscaster Joie Chen, the evening moved along and included remarks from new JACL Executive Director David Inoue.

Saying that he was “probably not what you’d expect for an executive director,” Inoue cited his Midwestern upbringing in which he was often the only minority, with a Shin-Issei father from Japan, a Chinese American mother and “no relatives who were incarcerated due to E.O. 9066.”

Inoue also referenced the 35th anniversary of the killing of Vincent Chin, which he described as “particularly poignant for me.”

“It was then that I realized that the system did not always work for everyone,” Inoue said. “This is also our story for the JACL. We learned through incarceration that the system failed us as a community.”

Inoue also said that the JACL must use the “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 Sasayama, 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 CWRIC as its chair.

Macbeth was in 1981 named special counsel to the CWRIC, 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 CWRIC, 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 Angus 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

testify, he’d spend four hours for 15 seconds in a documentary — somehow it seeped into 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.”

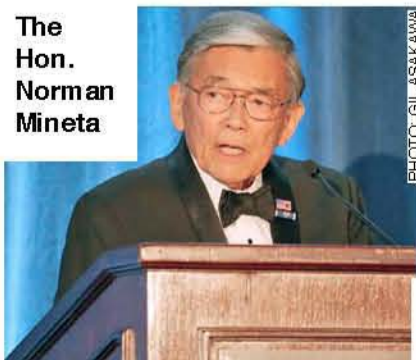
Bernstein mused about Macbeth with her own recollections after his widow, JoAnn, recalled his time on working with the CWRIC.

“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. I thank you for this honor, and I will cherish it all my life.”

The role of the evening’s éminence 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 Sens. Daniel Inouye and Spark Matsunaga, as well as Reps. Robert Matsui, who had just been elected to the House of Representatives in November 1978, and Mineta, who had been elected to the House in 1974.

>> See SAYONARA on page 12



The Hon. Norman Mineta



NY/SC’s Kenji Kuramitsu (left) and Kota Mizutani



Craig Shimizu (left) chats with former JACL National President Ken Inouye.



Mayeda and Joan Z. Bernstein



Award recipients Bill Yoshino (left) and Wade Henderson with Gary Mayeda



JACL members at the ambassador's residence



The Embassy of Japan's Atsuyuki Oike



Sheldon Arakaki and Eileen Yamada-Lamphere



(From left) Alan Nishi, Steve Okamoto and Carol Kawase



The Ambassador of Japan's personal chefs created an entire menu of original Japanese dishes.



The Hon. Norman and Deni Mineta

*Ambassador of Japan's Reception*

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. ■



(From left) Deborah Yano-Fong, John Ino and Anne Oda and Larry Oda



(From left) Amelia Huster, Valerie Yasukochi, Jim Duff, Tiffany Ikeda and Beth Uno



(From left) Hisami Yoshida, Louise Sakamoto and Marion Shigekuni



Mieko Kuramoto and Kenji Kuramitsu



(From left) Jeff Moy and Matthew Farrells



(From left) Alison Kunishige, Jacce Mikulanec and Trisha Nakamura



Ron Mori (right) eyes the camera.



Gary Mayeda welcomes the JACL.

# JACL National Council Meeting



Michelle Amano is prepared!

Marcia Holdren and Hiro Nishikawa



(From left) Rob Buscher, Austin Bennett and Nick Hori



(From left) Sylvie Shiosaki, Sarah Baker, Tammy Le and Theo Bickel



Delegates Voting



(From left) Steve Mitori and Kazuya and Betsy Sato



Registration Treats



Kent Kawai



(From left) Roberta Barton and Joy Goto



JACLers view items from the exhibit.



Janice Faden and John Tobe

## 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 Masaoka and Lily Okura.

It was an evening JACLers will never forget.



(From left) Smithsonian's John L. Gray, JACL's Stephanie Nitahara and AARP's Daphne Kwok



(From left) Judge Raymond Uno and Floyd Shimomura



Jose Fuentes and Michelle Amano



(From left) Gerald Yamada, Marielle Tsukamoto and Smithsonian's Jennifer Locke Jones



(From left) Kent Kawai and David and Carol Kawamoto



(From left) Smithsonian's Noriko Sanefuji, Gil Asakawa and Erin Yoshimura



# 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 inkling 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 won't necessarily be 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 NCPA, 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 refe-

renced 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."

"Are we better off sticking with what we have or is there a cheaper solution that is also more efficient?" he mused, weighing the cost for new software vs. the return on investment for JACL members.

On the personal front, Inoue, 45, was born in Fort Wayne, Ind., and grew up near Chicago and

Cincinnati.

A JACL member for more than 16 years, he 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.

He is married, and he and his wife, Kaori, are raising two children.

One change is the amount of travel that will be necessary as executive director, not to mention attendance at evening events.

For instance, in the run-up to and during the convention, his time was taken up with JACL matters.

"I've seen my kids off and on, but I haven't spent as much time with them as I typically do," Inoue said.

But, if Inoue's work experience — including sushi making — is any indication, he will be able to roll with the changes and see his family while getting done the work of JACL. ■



David Inoue (left) and the Hon. Norman Mineta

PHOTOS: GIL ASAKAWA

PHOTO: BRUCE HOLLYWOOD

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# 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 Steverman 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](http://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](http://www.aarp.org/OnlineCareerFair).

Most of us have the great 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.*

## JACL >> continued from page 3

The Japanese Embassy really knows how to throw a party. As soon as we walked in, there were servers there to offer us a drink. We waited in the reception area until the doors opened to the main dinner area, which featured tables complete with sushi, sashimi, wagyu beef, tofu lasagna with quail eggs . . . We were all very impressed by the staff's show of kindness and happy to be guests at Ambassador Sasae's home.

Ambassador Kenichiro Sasae was not able to attend because he was away at the G-20 meetings, but his assistant expressed that he considered Japanese Americans as "family." Those words rang true to us after being treated to such a lavish feast.

At the banquet, Wade Henderson was given the Gov. Ralph L. Carr Award for Courage, and longtime JACL Midwest Regional Director William Yoshino, who retired in March, was honored by the government of Japan with the Foreign Minister's Award for his decades-long commitment to the education of younger generations.

The panelists in the daytime sessions were impressive.

One of the plenaries was entitled, "Building Bridges: Sharing Our Experiences." One of the panelists, Emi Kamemoto, a Shin-Issei, said that one of her grandfathers was drafted at the age of 16 to be a kamikaze pilot, and her other grandfather was drafted by the Army to fight with Gen. Patton's troops in Europe.

She said that if those two men could learn to be family, then anything could be possible. "We need to be friends," Kamemoto said. "This is the way to prevent war. We will not go to war with our friends."

The panel's moderator was Stephanie Nitahara. Panelists included Kamemoto (Partnerships Coordinator, Bossed Up), Samantha Mori (2016 JACL Kakehashi Project participant), David Nakamura (Staff Writer, Washington Post) and Manabu Ota (Counselor, Embassy of Japan).

The other plenary session was "Resolve: A Dialogue on the Current State of AAPI Civil Rights." The participants all shared about the power of stories and the way people are moved by hearing about individuals' experiences.



**Laurie Shigekuni (left) with her parents, Marion and Phil Shigekuni, at the Ambassador of Japan's residence on July 7 during the JACL National Convention.**

Zaki Barzinji, who served as Muslim American community liaison for the White House in 2016, recalled campaigning door-to-door with his mother when she was running for local office. He recalled that during the closing days of the Obama administration, the advocates were hanging around together and feeling pretty demoralized. One was saying Black Lives Matter had participants but lacked funding. Some of the Muslim groups had funding and wanted to donate. "Intersectionality" happened — and it gave Barzinji hope.

One convention member offered a call to action, asking everybody to question, "How can my story help someone else?" The moderator of the panel was Jeffrey Moy (JACL VP for Public Affairs). The panelists were Barzinji, who is now a public affairs consultant, Nisha Ramachandran (Policy and Operations Manager, National Council of Asian Pacific Americans) and Heather Skrabak (Associate Director of Policy and Advocacy, Asian Pacific Community Health Organizations).

I attended the workshop on "AAPI's Portrayal in the Media and Arts" led by Rob Buscher, the festival director of the Philadelphia Asian American Film Festival. Rick Shiomi, playwright and director, was one of the three panelists. There was an informative and stimulating discussion about Asians in the media, and we also saw two films, "Tadaima," directed by Robin Takao D'Oench, and "Good Luck Soup,"

directed by Matthew Hashiguchi.

"Good Luck Soup" has been broadcast on the PBS World Channel. If you Google the World Channel site before Aug. 7, you can find a link to watch the film.

Awards were presented at the Convention's Sayonara Banquet to Joan Bernstein and the late Angus Christian Macbeth, both of whom were instrumental in the success of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, which published the "Personal Justice Denied" report based on historical archives and testimony from more than 750 witnesses.

Throughout the convention, one of the continual themes was identity and the question of what it is that binds us together as Japanese Americans. Those acts of thoughtfulness toward others and the building up of other people are some of the characteristics I see in my Mom.

With the exception of Bernstein, the award recipients at the convention were male. So many thanked their wives in receiving the awards. With my own mother as an example, I think that one of the strengths of Japanese Americans is the loving self-sacrifice of Japanese women.

My Mom has been encouraged by the presence of the JACL National Youth/Student Council participants, and she yearns for young persons to be involved in the JACL.

Good things are happening around the country. Chapters are speaking out for the rights of Muslims, finding ways to support the arts, sharing our stories, talking about the ties that bind us together and building bridges to stop the spread of hate and violence. Intergenerational activities are happening, such as a mentorship program with the NY/SC.

Being at the convention made me proud to be Japanese American, grateful to be present at the convention and thankful for the many friends who my family and my parents have through membership with the San Fernando Valley JACL!

*Laurie Shigekuni, Esq., is the principal attorney of Laurie Shigekuni & Associates, an Estate Planning, Trust Administration, Medi-Cal Long Term Care and Probate law office with its primary office in San Francisco and satellite office in Pasadena, Calif. She grew up in the San Fernando Valley and graduated from Granada Hills High School in 1979.*

A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

# CALENDAR

## NCWNP

**San Francisco Giants Hello Kitty Day**  
**San Francisco, CA**  
**Aug. 6; 7:15 p.m.**  
**AT&T Park**  
**24 Willie Mays Plaza**  
**Price: \$59 (JCCCNC Members); \$64 (General)**

Come see the San Francisco Giants take on the Arizona Diamondbacks. Seats are located in section VR308, and guests will receive a limited edition Hello Kitty Giants lunchbox. The event is back by popular demand for a fourth consecutive season.  
**Info: Call (415) 567-5505 ext. 229 or email membership@jcccnc.org.**

**Buddhist Church of Sacramento's Japanese Culture and Food Festival**  
**Sacramento, CA**  
**Aug. 12-13; 11 a.m.-8 p.m.**  
**2401 Riverside Blvd.**  
**Price: Free**

This festival is a summertime tradition in Northern California. There will be everything from fresh sushi and teriyaki to sandwiches, Japanese pastries, noodles and much more! In addition, come see traditional performances by Japanese folk musicians, dancers and singers and taiko, as well as experience cultural exhibits featuring bonsai, ikebana and Japanese dolls. Games will be available for the kids, too! Come support this bazaar, a major fundraiser that benefits the church, Boy and Girl Scout programs, youth sports programs, the Japanese language school and youth and senior organizations.  
**Info: Visit [www.buddhistchurch.com](http://www.buddhistchurch.com).**

**Hawaiian Slack Key Guitar Festival 2017**  
**Honolulu, HI**  
**Aug. 20**  
**Kapiolani Bandstand and Park**  
**2882 Kalakaua Ave.**

This festival is a celebration of the uniquely Hawaiian style of guitar playing that commemorates the contributions made by native son and guitar virtuoso Gabby "Pops" Pahinui. The event features the single-finger picking (slack key) talents of emerging Hawaiian artists and legendary mainstays, and workshops are available for those interested in learning to play.  
**Info: Visit [slackkeyfestival.com](http://slackkeyfestival.com).**

**Okinawan Festival 2017**  
**Honolulu, HI**  
**Sept. 2-3**  
**Kapiolani Park**  
**2738-2778 Monsarrat Ave.**

Established in 1982, the Okinawan Festival celebrates the Okinawan experience in the Aloha State and is the largest festival of its kind in Hawaii. Guests can taste authentic cuisine, enjoy numerous performances and visit various

cultural booths showcasing Okinawan, Japanese and Hawaiian culture.  
**Info: Visit [okinawanfestival.com](http://okinawanfestival.com).**

**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](http://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](http://www.sanjosejacl.org).**

## 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, 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](mailto: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/natsu](http://janm.org/natsu) matsuri2017 for updates.**

**2017 Nisei Week Japanese Festival**  
**Los Angeles, CA**  
**Aug. 19-27; times vary**  
**Little Tokyo, Los Angeles**  
**Info: Free**

The 77th annual Nisei Week Festival will feature the Queen's Coronation, Grand Parade, Awards Dinner, Pioneer Luncheon, Festival, Car Show, Day-Lee Foods World Gyoza Eating Championship, Ondo and Closing Ceremony. Come and celebrate Japanese American culture, food, exhibitions, arts demonstrations and much more at this beloved weeklong event in Little Tokyo. It's not to be missed!  
**Info: Visit [www.niseiweek.org](http://www.niseiweek.org).**

**Kanban: Traditional Shop Signs of Japan**  
**San Diego, CA**  
**Through Oct. 8**  
**Mingei International Museum**  
**Balboa Park, Plaza de Panama**  
**1439 El Prado**

Kanban is a fusion of art and commerce and refers to the traditional street signs Japanese merchants display to advertise their businesses. Created from wood, bamboo, iron, paper and even stone, kanban form a rich, visual vocabulary of traditional advertising.  
**Info: Visit <http://www.mingei.org/mim-exhibition/kanban/>.**

## PNW

**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](http://www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com).**

**Seattle Tibet Fest 2017**  
**Seattle, WA**  
**Aug. 26-27**  
**Seattle Center**  
**305 Harrison St.**

Explore the culture, history and

traditions of Tibet at Seattle Tibet Fest. Guests can immerse themselves in Tibetan culture through live performances, authentic cuisine, a wide range of games, group dances and educational opportunities.  
**Info: Visit [tibet.washingtontibet.org](http://tibet.washingtontibet.org).**

## MDC

**Destination Asia Festival**  
**Lisle, IL**  
**Aug. 4-6; Fri. (6-9 p.m.), Sat. and Sun. (10 a.m.-4 p.m.)**  
**4100 Illinois Route 53**  
**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 taiko, Thai and Philippine dance performances, Chinese lion dance performance, bonsai, ikebana and origami. The festival begins on Friday with a Toro Nagashi Japanese floating lantern display on Meadow Lake.  
**Info: Visit [mortonarb.org](http://mortonarb.org).**

**'Making It & Breaking It in Japan' Talk and Book Signing**  
**Chicago, IL**  
**Aug. 17; 6-7:30 p.m.**  
**1 N. LaSalle St.**  
**25th Floor, Conference Room**  
**Price: \$5 (JASC Member); \$10 (Nonmember)**

Join Author Steven Gan as he talks about his experiences as Japan's first foreign debt collector. Gan will share with the audience how he established a debt collection agency in Japan and the events to his being coined the "Blue-Eyed Debt Collector." Gan also has some interesting tales about some run-ins with the Yakuza . . .  
**Info: Visit [jaschicago.org](http://jaschicago.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.**

## EDC

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

Every year, Lowell's Khmer, Thai, Vietnamese and Laotian communities celebrate the preservation, protection and sharing of their cultural heritages in a Water Festival. This year's event will feature boat races, live entertainment, ethnic food, arts and crafts and community information.  
**Info: Visit <http://lowellwaterfestival.org/>.**

**Quincy August Moon Festival**  
**Quincy, MA**  
**Aug. 20; Noon-5 p.m.**  
**Coddington Street, 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 beat-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.  
**Info: Visit <https://quincyasianresources.org/august-moon-festival>.**

**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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**FOR MORE INFO:**  
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 (213) 620-1767

# IN MEMORIAM

**Amimoto, Yone, 101**, Monterey Park, CA, June 18; she is survived by her children, George, Seibo, Shun (Pat), Kanji Amimoto, Barbara Sarabia, Jerry (Pam) and Eugene Amimoto; sisters, Shikako Sogabe and Okuni Yamamoto; sister-in-law, Catherine Uyeda; gc: 12; ggc: 20; gggc: 1.

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

**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 Carter (Luke), Jone Sun (Fred), Carolyn Larsen (Herb) and Rodney Endow (Janet); sister, Ayako Konma (Satoru); gc: 9; ggc: 8.

**Enkoji, George, 96**, Sacramento, CA, June 29; he is survived by his wife, Eunice; daughters, Margaret, Frances (partner Bob Shuker),

Therese Enkoji Scott (Jeff); siblings, Satsumo, Terry Kagiya, Midori Sunahara (Rio) and Yoshie; gc: 2.

**Fujimoto, Yukio Fred, 94**, Culver City, CA, June 11; he 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, Michito Frank, 93**, Gardena, CA, June 24; he is survived by his wife, Namiye; children, Sheryl Iijima and Leigh (Katie) Fukuzawa; sisters, Barbara, Florence (Leo) Nakamura, Martha Tanji and Frances Kozaki; gc: 3.

**Goya, Nancy Sakae, 94**, Temple City, CA, June 21; during WWII, she was incarcerated at the Gila River WRA Center in AZ; she was predeceased by her husband, Kaz; she is survived by her daughters, Sharon Oh and Joanne (Art) Iwasaki; brother-in-law, David (Asami) Goya; she is also survived by many other relatives.

**Haruyama, Sara Hamilton, 82**, Oakland, CA, June 29; she

was predeceased by her husband, Justin Giichi; she is survived by her children, Andrew (Cynthia), Stephen (Robin) and Amy (Akemi); gc: 10; ggc: 1.

**Hashimoto, Teruko, 85**, Sun City, CA, June 19; she is survived by her siblings, Chika Ryono, Hitoshi Nishioka, Mitsue Nishimoto and Reiko Sanada.

**Ige, Vivian Ogimi, 96**, San Francisco, CA, July 11; she was predeceased by her husband, Richard, and her siblings, ChoTaro, Jerry, Sub and June Toy; she is survived by her daughters, Patricia Peak and Elizabeth (Tom) Eisenbeis; sisters, Tomoye Ogimi, Chiyoko (Stanley) Arakaki, Matsue (John) Bergen, Asako (Danny) Hirahara and Fumichan Solomon; gc: 3, ggc: 4.

**Ikeda, Sumi, 90**, Portland, OR, July 1; during WWII, she and her family were incarcerated at WRA Centers in Tule Lake, CA, and Minidoka, ID; she was predeceased by her husband, Sab, and her son, Jerry; she is survived by her children, Marleen Wallingford (Roger) and Ken Ikeda (Marlene); sister, Yoko Iwata; gc: 4.

**Ikegami, Mikiyo, 100**, Los Angeles, CA, June 23; she is survived by her children, Jean Toyama, Judy (Dick) Yamane and Nancy (Hito) Muneno; gc: 3; ggc: 4.

**Kamei, Kiyoshi 'Joe,' 86**, Santa Ana, CA, June 21; he was predeceased by his wife, Eleanor; he is survived by his children, Marlene (Kevin) Kuroda, Denise (Greg) Sullivan, Shirley Kamei, Lisa (Don) Bowman, Michael (Joy) Kamei; sisters, Kay Nakamura and Miyo Matsubara; partner, Ofelia Mullins; gc: 12; ggc: 2.

**Kawashima, Chiyeko, 96**, Los Angeles, CA, July 7; she is survived by her children, Janie (Kenneth) Teshima, Steven and Linda; sister, Toshii Osaka; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2; ggc: 1.

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

**Mine, Tomiko Kato, 93**, Hilo, HI, July 9; she is survived by her children, Claton (Jodi) Mine and Shari (Russell) Chapman; brother, Terry (Trudy) Kishimoto; sister-in-law, Mitsue Okimoto; gc: 2.

**Nakayama, Carey Thomas, 54**, Monterey Park, CA, July 2; he is survived by his mother, Annie Nakayama; siblings, Christopher (Denise) Nakayama, Cynthia (Tony) Fabela and Craig Nakayama.

**Nishimori, Chiyoko, 89**, Camarillo, CA, June 29; during WWII, after her family was forced to move to the Santa Anita Assembly Center, her family avoided being sent to the Jerome WRA Center in AR when her father moved them to CO; she was predeceased by her husband, Minobu; she is survived by her children, Steve (Karen), Lori (Yoshi) Usuki, Craig and Sharon; siblings, Hisao (Hisako) Hiji, Lily (Frank) Sawai, Mae (Shogo) Kanamori, Frank (Betty) Hiji and Robert (Harriet) Hiji; gc: 10; ggc: 4.

**Oda, Jack, 91**, Chicago, IL, July 13; he was predeceased by his wife, Toshi, son, Robert, and sister, Alice; he is survived by his children, Dave (Julie), Paul, Jane, Nancy

(Robert) Takagi and Daniel (Dawn); sister, Mary Harakawa; gc: 7.

**Okamoto, Mary Nobuko, 96**, McLean, VA, June 12; she was predeceased by her husband, Fred; she is survived by her daughter, Arlene Minami (Wayne), and four siblings; gc: 1; ggc: 4.

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

**Onchi, Toby T., 94**, Portland, OR, June 8; she was predeceased by her husband, Joe; she is survived by her children, Douglas, Valerie (Carl Itamura) and Brent; gc: 1.

**Ong, Jack, 76**, Castle Rock, CO, June 13; he is survived by his sisters, Lily and Glenna; brothers-in-law, Jim Lee and Ray Lew; sister-in-law, Bette Ong Yasui; 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 Topaz WRA Center in UT; she is survived by her husband, George; children, Sue Ann (Curt) Finley, Alan (Anne) Sakamoto and Julie (Phillip) Chew; sister, Yuki Muramoto; she is also survived by nephews and nieces; gc: 3; ggc: 1.

**Sugiyama, Sandra Reiko, 84**, Sacramento, CA, July 6; she is survived by her husband, Arthur; children, Karen (Marty) Tokunaga and Diane (Marty) Cogburn; sister-in-law, Lucille Hitomi; she is also survived by nieces, nephews and cousins; gc: 5.

**Takeda, Mary Yukiko, 90**, San Jose, CA, June 29; she was predeceased by her husband, William; she is survived by her children, Carol, Mark (Beverly), Janice (Calvin) Takeshita, Kenny, Dale and Cindy Takeda; gc: 7.

**Tomoda, Diane Gail, 60**, Sacramento, CA, June 27; she was predeceased by her parents, Henry and Rosie Tomoda; an active JACLer, she is survived by her sister, Linda (Henny) Toy; she is also survived by relatives and friends.

**Yanaga, Toshie, 95**, Los Angeles, CA, June 24; she is survived by her daughter, Kay Kayoko (David) Endow; daughter-in-law, Tsuruye Yanaga; sister-in-law, Miyo Yanaga; gc: 6.

TRIBUTE

**EDWARD KAZUO OKADA**



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 Student Body Vice President, a three-sport letterman and sports editor for the Plainsman 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 operator's 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 forward. 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 had moved from the Presidio at Monterey, Calif. When he finished school, he went to Camp Shelby, MS, to receive his Basic Training. It was here that he discovered salt tablets and chiggers. Because Ed already had his radio operator's license, he was assigned to the "Radio Shack," upon his return from Basic. He listened to and translated the Domei 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 RCT, 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. When the store closed their service department, Ed started his own business as a radio and TV repairman. Ed and Sara remained in south 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 other Nisei made to benefit the next generations.

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

TRIBUTE

**HARUNO TAJIRI TSURUOKA**

Mrs. Haruno Tajiri Tsuruoka, beloved sister of Yoshino Tajiri Hasegawa (formerly of Sanger) and Dr. Akira Tajiri (formerly of Reedley), passed away last month as she lived — independent, self-sufficient and surrounded by love. Mrs. Tsuruoka was born in Dinuba in March 1924 and will join her husband, Shotaro Tsuruoka; son, Rabbi Theodore Tsuruoka; brothers, Taneharu and Kazuo Tajiri; and sisters, Yoshino Hasegawa and Kikuno Okamoto in heaven. Mrs. Tsuruoka is survived by her brother, Dr. Akira Tajiri; daughter-in-law, Linda Tsuruoka; grandson, Jeffrey Tsuruoka, and his wife, Ilene Tsuruoka; granddaughter, Amy Paymer; and great-grandchildren, Sarah Paymer and Noah Paymer. A graveside service will be held at the Sanger/Del Rey Cemetery, 568 S. Rainbow Ave., Sanger, CA 93657 on July 21 at 10 a.m. The family requests that donations be made to Haruno's Ikenobo flower group (Please send to: New York Tachibana, c/o Marilyn Needleman, Treas., 721 A Heritage Hills, Somers, NY 10589 or the Foundation founded by her brother, Akira Tajiri, OD (please send to: PVE — Precise Vision Enhancement Non Profit Foundation, c/o Patty Huss, Treas., 2083 E. Mursiled Dr., Fresno, CA 93730. The family can be reached via emails addressed to drchasegawa@gmail.com.

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More JACL Photos . . .

A view of the Washington Memorial outside the Smithsonian Museum of American History



PHOTO: GIL ASAKAWA



(From left) Mariko Fujimoto, Masako Takiguchi, Miyako Kadogawa and MasYamaoka

PHOTO: KRIS IKEJIRI



Rob Buscher leads the "AAPI's Portrayal in the Media & Arts" workshop.

PHOTO: GIL ASAKAWA

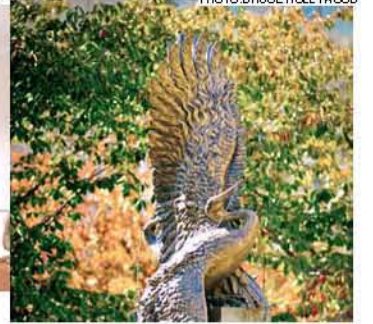


PHOTO: BRUCE HOLLWOOD

The Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism During World War II



(From left) Scott Tanaka, Daphne Kwok and June Kao

PHOTO: GIL ASAKAWA

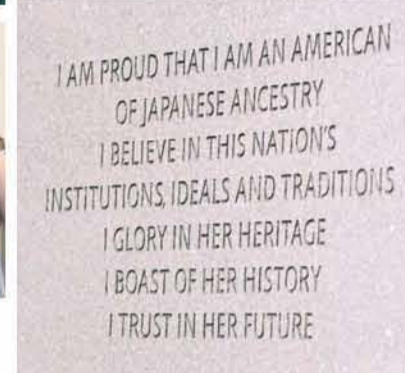


PHOTO: KRIS IKEJIRI



Larry Oda checks in.

SAYONARA >> continued from page 5

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 issue redress payments of \$20,000 to surviving victims of E.O. 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 geared 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



PHOTO: JOE SHIMANSKI

The JACL's Legacy Fund Winners were recognized during the banquet.

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 payment 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 next three 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 the 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 funds 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. "A 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 — I 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, who in turn recognized Bill Yoshino, who retired in March after serving for 38 years as JACL's Midwest Regional Director. Yoshino's career was remembered with a tribute video featuring comments from the many JACLers who worked with and were inspired by him.

Chen also also called up Legacy Fund Grant Committee Co-Chairs Janice Naka-

no Faden and Jane Katsuyama to present the 2017 Legacy Fund awards.

The Legacy Fund Winners Were:

- Snake River Chapter, represented by Cathy Yasuda, for its "Social Justice" eight-weeklong film series
- Sonoma County Chapter, represented by Marie Sugiyama, for its *kami shibai* educational project
- New Mexico Chapter, represented by Victor Yamada, for its "Prisoner Rosters for Confinement Sites" in New Mexico project
- Twin Cities Chapter, represented by Ben Hartmann, for its "Collaborative Storytelling as Resistance in the Age of Islamophobia" project
- Philadelphia Chapter, represented by Rob Buscher, for the Japanese American Showcase at the Philadelphia Asian American Film Festival
- Boise Chapter, represented by Micki Kawakami, for a 60-minute documentary titled "Gaman," the story of the Minidoka WRA Center
- San Diego Chapter, represented by David Kawamoto, for its educational documentary movie about the 75th anniversary of Executive Order 9066 and its effects on Japanese Americans during WWII and now
- Ventura Chapter, represented by Elizabeth Hirayasu, for its Manzanar documentary movie
- Alaska Chapter, represented by Suzanne Ishii-Regan, for its project to memorialize the histories of Japanese and Japanese American families living in Alaska during the time of WWII, as well as the history of the JACL's Alaska Chapter
- National Youth/Student Council, represented by Kota Mizutani, for its 2018 Mentorship Program
- Salt Lake Chapter, represented by Jeanette Misaka, for its redress exhibit at the Topaz Museum
- Puyallup Valley, represented by Janet Lamphere, for its 75th remembrance of the Puyallup Assembly Center