THE "HEART" OF HISTORY

The need to use the incarceration story to connect to other groups is a central theme at the annual Heart Mountain Pilgrimage.
The Japanese American Citizens League is deeply dismayed by the announcement by President Donald Trump that transgender people will be barred from serving in our military in any capacity.

This announcement is in direct contradiction to Defense Secretary James Mattis’ announcement less than a month ago that the Pentagon was seeking a six-month extension of time to analyze the policy and raises concerns for how this can and will be implemented.

We are concerned for the rights of those already serving and the potential infringements upon their civil rights.

Our community knows all too well the implications of a ban on military service. When more than 120,000 Japanese Americans were incarcerated during World War II, we were also initially barred from serving in the military.

Even when service was opened to Japanese Americans, we served in segregated battalions, which also became among the most highly decorated during the war.

Among the 14,000 who served, nearly 9,486 Purple Hearts were awarded along with numerous other decorations and recognition, including the Medal of Honor.

In 2010, the Japanese American WWII veterans were bestowed the Congressional Gold Medal. The lesson to be learned from our experience is that discrimination has no place in our armed services.

Patriotism and the ability to serve our country is not limited to certain people, and the JACL supports those transgender individuals who desire to answer our nation’s call to service.

Founded in 1929 the JACL is the oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization in the United States. The JACL monitors and responds to issues that enhance or threaten the civil and human rights of all Americans and implements strategies to effect positive social change, particularly to the Asian Pacific American community.

In 2015, the JACL National Council passed a resolution pledging to support “increased access, equity, and fair treatment of the transgender community” and “to be a vibrant ally to the transgender community.”
I have a dog named Mochi that I love and Aiden's dog Kuma, who is like my furry grandchild. I would have been devastated to leave them behind, not knowing how they would survive and knowing they wouldn't understand why we abandoned them.

I heard stories of children taking in a bird, snake or even a centipede as a pet at camp to fill the void and sadness of leaving their own pets behind. Those are stories I did not know before I came to Minidoka.

And then there was the shame and humiliation of camp. Many came to camp before it was even made livable. There were barracks that were so poorly constructed that the dust came through the cracks in the walls. The barracks did not have privacy, so sometimes only a sheet separated living spaces.

One woman talked about toilets made of a plank of wood with holes cut in them, and someone else mentioned chamber pots (a pot used as a toilet), which were in the barracks. So at night when it was freezing, they didn't have to trudge over to the communal bathrooms. There were so many stories.

And yet in the stories, there were woven also moments of pride, hope and perseverance. One woman shared she wasn't proud being a Japanese American, and then she went to camp. She left camp proud. She didn't describe what made her proud, but from

some stories that I heard, there was much to be proud about.

The ways the Issei parents kept their families together. The ways mothers persevered without complaint (gaman) and the ways they shielded their children from the horrors and humiliation as best they could. A lady I met named Lilly called her mother her heroine because of the way she handled going to camp and making it the best experience possible for the kids.

Some of the young children who are now in their late 70s and 80s talked about being fed candy and being told that they were going on a vacation and having fun. I can only imagine how much courage and love it took for these Isseis
TWO SEATTLE BROADCAST JOURNALISTS WIN AAJA NATIONAL AWARD

Ryan Yamamoto and Suzanne Phan are honored for their documentary work on ‘Arnold Knows Me: The Tommy Kono Story.’

Journalists Ryan Yamamoto and Suzanne Phan won the TV/Online category for coverage of Asian American Pacific Islander issues at the Asian American Journalist Assn.’s annual convention in Philadelphia on July 28. Director Yamamoto and producer Phan were honored for their work on the documentary “Arnold Knows Me: The Tommy Kono Story,” which depicts the Olympic hero at the peak of his powers at the Helsinki, Melbourne and Rome Summer Games.

Yamamoto is morning anchor at KOMO-TV in Seattle, and Phan reports from the field for the station’s newscasts. Both are members of the Seattle AAJA chapter.

Public TV stations originally broadcast “Arnold Knows Me” leading up to the Summer Olympics in Brazil last year. It continues to be shown on television and at community events.

Weightlifting Olympic champion Tommy Kono, who grew up slender and athletic in a vibrant Sacramento Japanese American community during the 1930s, inspired two generations of weightlifters and bodybuilders, including former California Gov. and bodybuilding champion Arnold Schwarzenegger.

Kono and his family were incarcerated at the Tule Lake Relocation Center during World War II. The mountain air cleared up Kono’s health problems, and a group of older teens got him interested in weightlifting.

When he came home after the war, Kono was passionate about the sport and started to win local competitions. But he was drafted into the U.S. Army during the Korean War and was trained to be a cook.

While waiting to be shipped out to Asia, his talents were recognized, and he instead was put into an Olympic training program in advance of the 1952 Olympics in Helsinki.

Surprisingly, Kono won a gold medal, and he did it again in 1956 in Melbourne. He then competed in the 1960 Olympics in Rome for an extraordinary third time, earning a silver medal.

Kono also excelled in bodybuilding competitions. He won a Mr. Universe title three times and Ironman Mr. World once.

As a teenager, Schwarzenegger watched Kono compete in Europe, and he became such a fan that he had a photo of Kono placed on his bedroom wall. Shortly thereafter, Schwarzenegger followed his idol’s path to international fame.

Kono noted that people asked him if he knew Schwarzenegger.

“At one point in my life, I was more famous than he was,” Kono said.

Kono passed away in Honolulu last year at 85 years of age, but in addition to all his Olympic medals, his legacy includes coaching Olympic athletes here and abroad and authoring several books on lifting techniques. There is also an annual weightlifting competition in Sacramento named in Kono’s honor.

“Do I know Arnold?” he recited in the documentary, to which he replied, “Arnold knows me!”

“It’s been great to have a project where we could really dive in,” said Phan. “As TV news reporters, we typically produce stories that are 60-90 seconds long. To have a project that we are passionate about, could devote a substantial amount of energy to producing and sharing is truly exciting.”

Phan and Yamamoto produced the program while working full-time for ABC10 in Sacramento.

David Hosley, who is an executive producer on the project, shared in the AAJA’s top award.

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SAVE REMAINING ARTIST LOFTS IN L.A. ARTS DISTRICT

A rally is held to support eight artists who are facing eviction from their homes.

By Miyuki Iswak

'It is ironic that on the 75th anniversary of the Japanese American concentration camps, we are once again being evicted from the same community, Little Tokyo.'

— Multimeda Artist Bruce Yonemoto

A coalition of Little Tokyo Arts District stakeholders held a spirited rally to support eight artists facing eviction from their homes at 800 Traction St. in the Arts District of Los Angeles on July 29.

Many of the artists facing eviction are Japanese and Japanese American seniors, longtime community artists who have enriched the cultural life of Little Tokyo. Their presence in the area since the early 1980s has been fundamental to the creation of what is now known as the Arts District. Now in their senior years, they face the threat of eviction in one month by DJL Real Estate Capital Partners (owned by Credit Suisse), which recently purchased the building.

More than 100 supporters gathered at 800 Traction St. to show their solidarity with the artists and expose the wider issue of gentrification as a continued destruction of the dwindling number of historic cultural centers.

Gentrification has eliminated most of the working artists who gave the Arts District its name and identity as a creative, cultural enclave. In their place are upscale apartments, offices, retail shops, galleries, restaurants and bars — leaving an Arts District with no artists.

In 1983, Nancy Uyemura, a mixed-media artist, and Mike Kanemion, an abstract expressionist, moved into a loft at 800 Traction St. in what was then still part of Little Tokyo. Back then, the building was an old warehouse. They built it out — putting in walls, then a kitchen, bath, electrical and plumbing. ‘Our dreams were to make art and to build a community and just live creatively,’ Uyemura said. ‘...to just ask us to leave like in a month without any kind of relocation assistance — there's something wrong about that.’

Photographer Jaimee Itagaki needed a larger space for shooting and began looking for a loft. Uyemura told her about an available space at 800 Traction St. and in 1997, Itagaki moved in. And now the threat of eviction is devastating to her.

‘The history of the location, the character of the buildings and tenants all were art inspiring,’ Itagaki exclaimed. ‘If I don’t live in a loft space as a creative person, and not have the creative community... my life will require a huge adjustment. So much so, I can’t even say or imagine.’

Stanley Baden, Aiko Sasaki Baden have lived at 800 Traction St. for 24 years. They saw it as a space where they could both reside and pursue their art simultaneously.

“We have stayed in the area because we enjoy the Japanese culture represented in Little Tokyo and its close proximity to the Los Angeles art exhibition and academic institutions,” Stanley Baden said. “In our space, we have a fine art printmaking studio where we produce our own work and the work of other artists, including artists that have been pivotal influences in the global art scene.”

Little Tokyo has survived 75 years of evictions; the unjust incarceration of Americans of Japanese ancestry into World War II concentration camps; tenants and residents forced out by big business in the 1970s and ’80s; and the gentrification during the 2000s slowly ripping out the cultural heart and soul of Little Tokyo. The artists and their supporters are calling upon DJL Real Estate Capital Partners to cease their attempts to evict the residents at 800 Traction St. The artists are also requesting an emergency meeting with Andrew Rifkin, DJL managing partner, to speak directly with the Traction residents prior to the Aug. 31 eviction date in order to personally address their concerns.

At this late point in my career and age, it is incredibly debilitating to have to move my art practice let alone to find another studio,” said multimedia artist Bruce Yonemoto, who moved into 800 Traction St. in 1999. “It is insane that on the 75th anniversary of the Japanese American concentration camps, we are once again being evicted from the same community, Little Tokyo.”

Petitions are being circulated online at https://www.gopetition.com/petitions/stop-the-evictions-at-800-traction-avenue.html.

For information on opportunities to get involved and to be notified about future events in support of the Traction Artists, contact Taji Miyagawa, coalition chair, at whatup@taijim.com.

JANM RECEIVES TWO GRANTS FOR 2017 FROM THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

LOS ANGELES — The Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles’ Little Tokyo has been awarded more than $427,000 in National Park Service Japanese American Confinement Sites grants for 2017.

The funds will support two projects — digitization of some of JANM’s moving image holdings and the development of a traveling exhibition featuring works from the museum’s Allen Hendershott Eaton Collection of art and artifacts made by Japanese Americans in America’s concentration camps during World War II.

JANM began a pioneering work in collecting Japanese American artifacts in the 1980s and as a result, possesses a marvelous historically significant moving image collections.

A JACS grant of more than $176,000 will support the digitization of 35 rare and invaluable home movies of Japanese Americans dating from the 1920s-1950s. These moving images depict everyday life before, during and after World War II, and also include moving images of the wartime incarceration camp experience.

Following digitization, JANM will make the moving images accessible via its website. In addition, selected excerpts will be shared on the museum’s other digital platforms.

A separate JACS grant of more than $250,000 will support additional conservation of the Eaton Collection, which JANM acquired in 2015 following the cancellation of a public auction that would have disrespectfully and needlessly stripped the Japanese Americans who created the artifacts while incarcerated during World War II.

The Japanese American community joined together to speak out against the auction, and JANM’s acquisition ensured the preservation of the collection in perpetuity.

Following conservation, JANM will develop “Cultural Histories: Art and Artifacts From the Allen Hendershott Eaton Collection,” an exhibition that will travel to 13 venues, including former camp sites, community centers and other facilities that can safely house the project.

Information about artifacts will be sought from those who view the exhibition; that information will become part of an expanded presentation of the exhibition at JANM in 2020-21.

The JANM grant proposals were selected through a competitive process. For 2017, grants totaling $1.6 million were awarded to 14 projects in four states.

Since its establishment in 2006, the JACS grant program has awarded more than $22 million. In all, $38 million was authorized for the life of the program, whose mission is to teach future generations about the injustices of the WWII confinement of Japanese Americans and inspire commitment to equal justice under the law.

Polaris Tours 2017 Schedule

| Sep. 03 - Sep. 14 | Let’s Go Hokkaido: “Sapporo, Sorukyo, Shiretoko, Tomamu, Toyako” |
| Sep. 17 - Sep. 24 | Iceland Adventure: “Reykjavik, Borgarnes, Hofn, Lake Jokulsarlon, Vik.” |
| Sep. 25 - Oct. 09 | Western Explorer: “Scottsdale, Grand Canyon, Las Vegas, Yosemite” |
| Oct. 03 - Oct. 16 | Eastern US & Canada Discovery: “Boston, Quebec City, Toronto, NYC” |
| Oct. 29 - Nov. 08 | Islands of Okinawa & Shikoku: “Naha, Takamatsu, Matsuyama, Kochi” |
THE ‘HEART’ OF HISTORY

The need to use the incarceration story to connect to other groups is a central theme at the annual Heart Mountain Pilgrimage.

By Maggie Locker, Contributor

Sam Mihara, a former prisoner at Heart Mountain, looked at the crowd in the Grizzly Room of the Park County Library in Cody, Wyo., and asked, "Who has come to Heart Mountain for the first time?"

About two-thirds of the crowd raised their hands.

The attendance of close to 450 people of all ages and colors on July 28 and 29 set a record for the annual Heart Mountain Pilgrimage and the nearby Heart Mountain Interpretive Center.

The crowd, pilgrimage organizers said, reflected a growing public awareness of the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II and its increased relevance as the Trump administration institutes a ban on Muslim immigration and travel to the United States.

"Resisting failed policies from 75 years ago is not going to make America great again," said Ann Burroughs, the new president and CEO of the Japanese American National Museum, Los Angeles, during her keynote address at the pilgrimage.

Burroughs' comment reflected a common theme mentioned throughout the pilgrimage — the need to use the incarceration story to connect to other groups. She recounted how she was imprisoned during the 1980s for fighting the apartheid policies in her native South Africa and the injustice of World War II internment can be attributed to the "corrosive power of discrimination," Burroughs said.

Beyond the need to acknowledge that discrimination against one group of people can lead to others, the weekend's pilgrims also reflected on the fights against various other forms of injustice.

Mihara's presentation on the stories of five Nisei provided more than first-hand accounts of life behind barbed-wire fences. It also posed the question, "Could this happen again?" The consensus answer was yes.

Nancy Uchi gave a talk about the grassroots fight against the sale of 450 pieces of incarneesee artifacts, known as the "Eaton Items," two years ago by auction house Rago Arts. It was a fight she said raised the potential to use the artifacts to explore the personal stories and the political content of the incarceration.

The battle to save the Eaton Items in 2015 was bolstered by the legal advocacy of the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation, which helped force Rago Arts to stop the sale. That legal battle is chronicled in a new article in the University of California, Berkeley's Journal of Japanese American Law Journal.

"By rescanning the different objects and uncovering the human stories, we hope to let the artifacts ‘speak’ and become portals in this history, which is so relevant to society now," Uchida said.

Bacön, Subotai, who was incarcerated at Heart Mountain as a child, discussed the artwork of Estelle Ishigo, who was imprisoned with her husband at Heart Mountain. Ishigo also assisted Allen H. Eaton in collecting the objects that Rago Arts attempted to auction off in 2015.

The surge in pilgrims this year was sparked in part by an increasing awareness of the younger generation of Japanese Americans who have learned about the incarceration in recent years, often through response to books and other media.

Longtime NBC anchor and commentator Tom Brokaw returned to the pilgrimage this year to do a special report he participated in the 2011 grand opening. His report, which aired on the "Today Show" on Aug. 1, called the incarceration an outrage and featured former prisoners the Hon. Norman Y. Mineta, later a congressman and Cabinet official, Raymond Uno, a retired judge from Utah, Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation Chair Shirley Ann Higuchi, and board member Dana Uno.

Brokaw's story also focused on the friendship between Mineta and former Wyoming Sen. Alan Simpson, who met during World War II at Boy Scout camp held behind the camp's barbed wire.

The Washington Post was also present; reporter Lori Aung, whose uncle was incarcerated at Heart Mountain, was there to report on the pilgrimage and connect with her family's past.

Former prisoners and their families took part in multigenerational discussions about the impact of the incarceration on their families. Those panels were led by Aura Newlin, a board member whose great uncle, Clarence Matsumura, served in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and helped liberate the Dachau concentration camp in Germany.

The discussion sessions split into groups...
Heart Mountain babies and incarcerees gather in the Reflection Room of the Interpretive Center.

in which participants became emotional as they recounted their families' stories. Many said they only learned about their families' experiences as adults.

Not every camp experience was presented as negative. Uno, whose World War II veteran father died in camp, brought 47 family members to the pilgrimage. He talked about the unforeseen positives of incarceration and how it inspired a career working on civil rights.

Uno's remarks were followed by the presentation of videos created during a new feature of the pilgrimage—a Spoken Word Video Workshop inspired by the success of last year's Digital Storytelling Workshop. Emmy-winning filmmaker Jeff MacIntyre and artist G Yamazawa arrived a few days early to work with nine people of all ages with varying levels of poetry experience to write, record and edit together spoken word videos, music and family photos.

One participant was Phiona Gleeson, a 17-year-old from Huntington Beach, Calif. "I would like to step into the shoes of the people who shaped my life, understand the way it felt to wear their skin when it was the very thing they wanted to crawl out of. I'd like to know what it would be like to wear barbed wire around my neck instead of pearls," she said in her video. Her grandmother sat in the audience and watched as pictures of herself at camp shone on the screen.

MacIntyre and his documentary partner David Uno, an anchor at KABC-TV in Los Angeles, also previewed their new documentary "Faceism," which uses the incarceration to show other types of discrimination in the United States.

Other events throughout the weekend included a speech by Consul General Hiroto Hirakoba from Japan; a reading by Shig Yabu of his children's book "Hello Maggpie!"; guided tours of the Heart Mountain Interpretive Center; and a performance of folk songs by Brown PhD student Julian Saporiti. Pilgrims also raised more than $40,000 to help restore a former barracks from the camp that now sits near the Interpretive Center. There, former incarceree Yabu held court for much of Saturday with his stories about camp life.

Doug Nelson, the foundation's vice chair, said he would use the $40,000 to seek matching grants from other foundations, perhaps raising $120,000 to restore the barrack. After the closing of the camp in November 1945, the barracks were distributed to homesteaders and local residents. Many have been converted into homes and farm buildings, which is documented in a book and photo series by Sharon Yamato and Stan Honda. They are displayed in the barrack.

Before the closing reception, a storm rolled in, darkening the skies and nearly toppling over the tent. It was a brief glimpse of the unpredictable weather and dust storms that tormented the prisoners held there during the war. Just as the guests arrived, almost symbolically, the storm settled. After a long weekend of emotional healing and storytelling, the pilgrimage ended, with friends and family honoring their shared past as the sun slipped behind Heart Mountain.
At the JACL National Convention in July, the National Youth/Student Council held an orientation session for young delegates. During that workshop, I invited youth to survey some of JACL's history. In most tellings, including the History section on our website, our members tend to highlight our "historica altura," the soaring triumphs to which we can proudly point and puff. We were there — we stood, we fought, we showed up.

Some attendees at this workshop raised critical questions about our actions during World War II. I encouraged this "disruption," and in airing these concerns, we collectively approached a more holistic view of our past. As a group, we tried to trouble any neat sanitizing of our moral history, which elides honest talk about our own organizational baggage — those great depths of murkiness into which we are far less eager to wade.

Yes, we made some powerful decisions at proud times. We marched with Dr. King, we passed marriage equality before any other ethnic civil rights group, we spoke out after 9/11. But if you speak with JACL members who were intimately involved in these decisions, they will tell you what Sisyphean, gargantuan battles these were, filled with uphill climbs and narrow wins. (A JACL veteran once shared his view that the organization was originally going to renege on joining the controversial March on Washington — but we eventually attended because "we already bought the banner".)

I write this from Havana, Cuba, where I’m daily reminded of how we publicly make these critical linkages between history, memory and justice. There is a song here (from which elides honest talk about our own organizational baggage — those great depths of murkiness into which we are far less eager to wade.

But these stories are also, inextricably, our stories. Border patrol officers were mobilized to enact the internment of Japanese nationals; the first physical border wall between the United States and Mexico was constructed by recycling a chain-link fence from Crystal City(!); two of the Nikkei concentration camps were built without tribal permission upon Native reservation land(!); the state continues to practice techniques of racialized surveillance, detention and profiling, many of which were originally honed with our incarceration.

It’s not "out of place" for us to comment on Standing Rock, or immigration raids or the modern anti-black policing apparatus — it’s a moral obligation. It’s up to us to make these new linkages, to constantly excavate and redeploy our community history for radical, justice-oriented ends.

As a longstanding civil rights organization, we have been at the forefront of social change and human dignity-preserving action — even as we have at other times engaged in duplicitous and unethical behavior.

This is a reflection of our frail, bold yet imperfect humanity. As a friend told me recently, every "stance" that we take simultaneously exposes our own hypocrisy, the moral distance we have yet to close. (I feel this each time a "radical" resolution is proposed before the JACL National Council and needs to be "defanged" to be more acceptable.)

Leaving convention this summer, I feel so proud of the ways that the people who make up this organization continue to sharpen one another, laboring daily for a less lethal and vindictive United States.

I am reminded of how important it is that you are here. We have different stories and sometimes markedly different opinions, but we have so much work to do, and you are a critical part of it. We reach a more honest appraisal of the true heights and depths of history with all of you present.

*Hasta la victoria, siempre.*

Kenji Kuramitsu is the JACL NY/SC Youth Representative.
Volunteers Invited to Join Public Archeology Project at Manzanar

Manzanar’s award-winning public archeology program provides exceptional opportunities to learn about the past and help preserve the site and its stories for the future. This year marks the 75th anniversary of Executive Order 9066 and the 25th anniversary of Manzanar National Historic Site. In recognition of these significant milestones, Manzanar is hosting a public archeology project from Sept. 1-5. Volunteers will have the unique opportunity to assist the National Park Service in uncovering and stabilizing Manzanar’s historic administration and staff housing area. Participants will also learn about both the common and contrasting experiences of camp staff and incarcerated individuals as well as the differences between Japanese landscaping aesthetics and “Western” military-style landscaping.

Volunteer positions are available to anyone aged 15 and over who is physically able to work outdoors participating in moderately strenuous activities. Volunteers will be digging with shovels and small hand tools, cutting and loading brush, using wheelbarrows, collecting rocks to reconstruct landscape features, painting rock alignments and occasionally screening sediments to retrieve artifacts.

Previous archeological experience is helpful, but not necessary. Most of the work is physically demanding, but there will be a variety of tasks each day to suit volunteers’ varying interests and energy levels.

Volunteers just need an interest in history and a willingness to get covered with dust and/or paint spatter.

The work will be conducted outdoors, regardless of weather, from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., daily, including weekends. Volunteers may work any number of days or hours, but a full day or multiple days are preferred. Bring water, lunch and work gloves, as well as wear sunscreen, a hat and sturdy boots. Please bring any necessary medications.

Advance registration is required since the project is limited to 25 participants per day.

For more information and/or to sign up, please contact Manzanar Cultural Resources Manager Jeff Burton at (559) 878-2194, ext. 3305 or email jeff_burton@nps.gov.

American Holiday Travel 2017 Tour Schedule

Eastern Canada Holiday Tour (Carol Hida) WAIT LIST ... Feb 6-14
Montreal, Quebec, Ottawa, Toronto, Niagara Falls.

Classical Japan Autumn Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida) WAIT LIST ... Mar 17-25
Tokyo, Mt. Fuji, Yamanashi, Shizuoka, Nagoya, Gifu, Hiroshima, Kyoto.

Japan Autumn Countryside Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida). ... Oct 19-29
Tokyo, Sado Island, Kanazawa, Amanohashidate, Tottori, Matsue, Tanatsukuri Onsen, Hiroshima.

New Orleans & Deep South Holiday Tour (Elaine Ishida). ... Nov 5-12
New Orleans, Natchez, Lafayette.

So. America Patagonia-Easter Island Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida). ... Nov 7-22
Buenos Aires, Ushuaia, Calafate,(Perito Moreno Glacier), Paine National Park (Grey Glacier), Punta Arenas, Santiago, Easter Island.

2018 TOUR SCHEDULE

Hokkaido Snow Festivals Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida) ... Feb 3-12
Lake Akan, Abashiri, Soukoyo, Sapporo, Otaru, Norobetsu, Lake Toya.

Danube River Holiday Cruise (Carol Hida) ... Apr 23-May 4

Heritage of America Holiday Tour (Elaine Ishida) ... Apr 27-May 6
New York City, Philadelphia, Gettysburg, Shenandoah Valley, Charlotte ville, Williamsburg, Yorktown, Washington DC.

Cape Cod-Islands of New England Holiday Tour (Carol Hida & Elaine Ishida) ... Jun 1-8
Providence, Newport, Boston, Cape Cod, Martha’s Vineyard, Hyannis, Nantucket.

Grandparents-Grandchildren Japan Tour (Ernest Hida) ... Jun 17-26
Tokyo, Hakone, Atami, Hiroshima, Kyoto.

Hokkaido Summer Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida) ... July 21-28
Tokyo, Hakone, Atami, Hiroshima, Kyoto.

Classical Japan Autumn Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida) ... Oct 1-8
New England Autumn Holiday Tour (Carol Hida).

Costa Rica Holiday Tour (Carol Hida). ... Nov 7-15

Okinawa Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida). ... Nov 25-Dec 2

For more information and reservations, please contact:

American Holiday Travel
312 E. 1st Street, Suite 330 * Los Angeles, CA 90012
Tel: (213)625-2232 * Email: americanholiday@att.net

Appeals of ‘Never Again’ Heard on 72nd Anniversary of Atomic Bombing

HIROSHIMA, JAPAN — Hiroshima’s appeal of “never again” on the 72nd anniversary Aug. 6 of the world’s first atomic bombing attack has gained urgency as North Korea accelerates work on its nuclear weapons program, showing its growing prowess with increasingly frequent missile launches.

Many Japanese and others in the region seem resigned to North Korea’s apparent newfound capacity to launch missiles capable of reaching much of the continental U.S. But the threat lends a deeper sense of alarm in Hiroshima, where 140,000 died in that first A-bomb attack, which was followed on Aug. 9, 1945, by another that killed more than 70,000 people in Nagasaki.

During a peace declaration held in Hiroshima on Aug. 6, Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui said “this hell is not a thing of the past. As long as nuclear weapons exist and policymakers threaten their use, their horror could leap into our present at any moment … Human-kind must never commit such an act.”

Matsui urged nuclear states, as well as Japan, to join the nuclear weapons ban treaty adopted by the United Nations in July.

“… We must eradicate nuclear weapons from the earth to make the world a safe place to live,” Matsui said. “There is still a lot to do, and we must keep working on it.”

— Associated Press

NATIONAL/COMMUNITY/COMMENTARY, Aug. 4-17, 2017

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

MINIDOKA >> continued from page 3

and Niseis to create this experience for their children, so that when they grew up, they did not lose their entire childhood years to fear, shame and sadness themselves.

I also heard stories of neighbors taking care of homes and belongings so that when families returned home, they did not lose everything. This actually happened to my family.

My family’s family home was taken care of by neighbor. The Hagars rented out the home, collected the rent and paid the bills, so their grandparents were to have people who cared and showed up for them.

The reason I go around the country to speak about being the mother of a transgender son is to raise awareness about transgender issues. I want to thank Lois from Southern California for telling me she learned so much from my keynote. It inspires me to keep speaking and sharing my story.

I also speak because I know that if I talk about my shame, sadness and fear, it helps me to heal and move on from those moments. It is not always easy, but I believe it is necessary for me to live a life of joy, gratitude and hope.

At Minidoka, I saw the same things happening to those participating. There were tears, there was pain, yet there was also so much gratitude and hope in the air.

One woman, who I fell in love with from Detroit and her name was Catherine. She was in a panel of women who talked about their camp experiences. Catherine is in her 90s, and she said, “I am at the end of my life, but I am grateful for this life, and I thank you for being part of it.” Here was a woman that was living to her last days with joy and appreciation.

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As Anna Tamura, the closing speaker at the pilgrimage so beautifully stated, “My hope is that you will draw inspiration from Minidoka, to be brave helpers that rise to the occasion and stand up and support individuals and communities who are being victimized like our Nikkei community was 75 years ago, here at Minidoka.”

I hope when I am gone, people will say I was a brave helper to both the Nikkei and LGBTTQ community. And whether you do something quietly or something loud, I hope they will say that about you too …
NCWNP
Buddhist Church of Sacramento’s Japanese Culture and Food Festival
Sacramento, CA
Aug. 26-27; 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, so come support this bazaar, a major fund­raiser that benefits the church, Boy and Girl Scout programs, youth sports programs, the JACL Japanese language school and youth and senior organizations.

Dorothy Lange: Politics of Seeing Exhibit
Berkeley, CA
Thru Aug. 13
Oakland Museum of California
1000 Oak St.
There are more than 100 photos on display in this exhibit featuring the beloved American photo­grapher. Through the lens of Lange’s camera, she documented American life with riveting, intimate photographs that showed the major issues of the times. This exhibit coincides with the 50th anniversary of the artist’s gift of her personal archive to the Oakland Museum of California.

Miki Vineyards Wine Tasting
San Jose, CA
Aug. 26; 5:30 p.m.
Issel Memorial Building
55 N. Fifth St.
Price: $20 (JAMSJ and SJ JACL Members); $25 (Nonmembers); RSVP required
Must be 21 years or older to attend. No children allowed.
This event, sponsored by the JAMSJ and the San Jose chapter JACL, will feature wine tastings of various selections from Miki Vineyards, which has been producing award-winning wines since 1896 in Lodi, Calif. Come and learn more about the Miki family story while enjoying their amazing wine selections.
Info: Call JAMSJ at (408) 294-3138 or email info@jamsj.org.

JAMSJ 30th Anniversary Celebration
San Jose, CA
Sept. 24; Noon
Hayes Mansion
200 Edenvale Ave.
Price: $129; register by Sept. 8
Come celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Japanese American Citizens League in San Jose.
The luncheon will feature master of ceremonies Mike Inouye from NBC Bay Area, as well as perform­ances by San Jose Taiko, silent auction and tribute to Ayako Hosokawa.
Info: Call (408) 294-3138 or email info@jamsj.org.

Food Festival at Buddhist Church of San Jose
San Jose, CA
Sept. 30; 4-8 p.m.
JCCCNJ
1840 Surter St.
Price: Ticket is $25 (early bird until July 15, after which it will be $30)
The Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California is proud to be the recipient of the proceeds of “Food Festival 2017,” which 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 tour and gain a new understanding of sake. Proceeds will benefit the center’s ongoing programs.
Info: Visit www.sakeday.com or call (415) 385-9555.

A Salute to Mike’ a Champion for All People
San Jose, CA
Oct. 1-21, 5-9 p.m.
Hedley Clubhouse — San Jose
1350 N. First St.
Price: Individual $140, San Jose JACL Member $125
The JCL, 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.

PSW
Manzanar Reunion
Los Angeles, 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-tonight NOON program presented by NPS Rangers from the Manzanar National Historic Site. All are welcome to join the reunion, which will also feature displays of past reunions and other memories. Registration is required and closed 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 eda.dorothy@gmail.com or call (808) 529-1067.

EDC
Meet the Author: Ruth Chan
Baltimore, MD
Aug. 18; 5:30 p.m.
Poe Arts Center
99 Albany St.
Price: $15 suggested donation per family
Author Ruth Chan will be reading from her latest children’s book “George’s Best Bad Day,” which is described as being for “any kid who has spent part of the day face down on the ground in utter defeat. George and his pals make great negotiating compa­nions.” The reading, sponsored by the Boston Chinatown Neighbor­hood Center, will be followed by a book signing and light refreshments.

Second Annual PAFF
Asian Chef Experience
Philadelphia, PA
Sept. 14; 6-9 p.m.
Price: $5 (General Admission); $3 (Seniors/Students); Free for Friends of Oregon Nikkei Endowment
Rev. Yoshiho Iwamatsu, who introduced the tradition of Oho­no to numerous Nikkei communi­ties along the West Coast in the 1980s, will be celebrated in this exhibit that traces the develop­ment of Japanese American food in California through archival photographs, audio and rare video footage. Join the Iwamatsu family, dance scholar Linda Akiyama and the Buddhist Churches of America. In addition, the Okinawan tradition in Portland will be highlighted with photographs from the Oregon Nikkei Endow­ment’s Frank G. Hihara Collection.

MDC
Twincities Golf Tournament
Bloomington, MN
Sept. 5; 1:30-4 p.m.
Hyland Golf Course
10100 Normandale Blvd.
Price: $20 (Members); $25 (Nonmembers)
Come support this fundraiser and enjoy a day out on the golf course.
Info: Contact Zen Matsuda at zen@matsudafundraising.com.

FDR Library’s Images of Internment Exhibition
Hyde Park, NY
Thru Dec. 31
Price: Free
This special exhibit provides a visual record of the forced removal of Japanese Americans during World War II and displays more than 200 photographs by WRA photographers Dorothy Lange, Clem Albers, Francis Stewart and Hickaru Iwasaki from the National Archives.

Second Annual PAAFF
Asian Chef Experience
Los Angeles, CA
Aug. 26; 2-4 p.m.
Price: $75
Presented by the Philadelphia Asian American Film Festival, this special chef tasting event will feature 12 of the city’s most prominent Asian American and Pacific Islander chefs preparing tasting-sized portions of their best dishes. This year’s theme is “Food, Film and Market” Each ticket includes samplings with complimentary beer and wine.

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Memoriam

Chomori, Raymond, 90, Torrance, CA, July 21; he is survived by his wife, Michiko; daughter, Nancy Kasukabe; brothers-in-law, Richard (Ellen) and Edwin (Cynthia) Oye; he is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 1.

Furuya, Alice Yoshiko, 89, Alhambra, CA, June 19; she is survived by her husband, Michael; children, Pearl, Jean and Setsuko Matsusaka; sister-in-law, Helen (Ben) Hara; 2 nieces.

Gee, Carolyn Kazue, 64, Los Angeles, CA, July 6; she is survived by her husband, Edmond Gee; children, Jason Peterson, Bryan Gee and Kevin Gee; daughter-in-law, Amy Gee and Kevin Gee; nieces, nephews, friends and other relatives; gc: 1.

Harano, Chieko, 95, Los Angeles, CA, July 22; she is survived by her children, Woody Harano, Wendy (Roy) Yumori and Winifred Harano; sister, Reiko Haranmi; she is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 1.

Hayakawa, Judy Kikue, 91, Gardena, CA, June 27; she was predeceased by her husband, Toshio; she is survived by two sisters and other family members.

Harakuni, Albert Masachi, 86, Torrance, CA, July 1; he is survived by his wife, Doris Yakutura; daughters, Helen Hikari (Scott) Suni and Iris (Peter) Lyon; sisters, Masayo Harakuni and Miyoko (Ezra) Koike; he is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 4.

Kato, Stella J., 89, San Francisco, CA, July 22; during WWII, her family and she were incarcerated at the Amache WRA Center in Granada, CO; she was predeceased by her husband, Yosio; she is survived by her children, Sue (Steve) Shackleford, Irene and James; sister, Masako Shimamoto.

Kunishi, Michiko, 95, Sacramento, CA, July 15; during WWII, her family and she were incarcerated at the Tule Lake WRA Center in CA; she was predeceased by her husband, Hiroshi; she is survived by her children, Akina (Hiroshi) Hosokawa, Michiko (Dennis) Muramoto, Jo-Anne (Robert) Fujita and Tamiko (Clyde) Uchida; sister, June Hayashi; gc: 7; step gc: 2; step gc: 3.

Matsufuji, May Melko, 77, Sacramento, CA, July 4; she is survived by her son, brother and their families.

Mizushima, Barbara Kyoko, 85, Clovis, CA; she was predeceased by her husband, Raymond; she is survived by her children, Cheryl (Dominic) Puleo, Craig (Nina) and Marcia (Frank) Shimunia; siblings, Ellen Jane Murakami and Andrew (Allene) Nishimura; gc: 1.

Murakami, Fusako, 95, Los Angeles, CA, June 2; she is survived by her children, Takao (Toyo), Jeanne Hiroshi, Terry Murakami and Yasuko Yamada; she is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 9; gc: 6.

Murayama, Herbert Takashi, 95, Los Angeles, CA, July 17; during WWII, he served in the Army MIS; he is survived by his wife, Yuri; he is also survived by nephews, nieces and other family members.

Nakahara, Hiroko Helen, 96, Santa Clarita, CA, May 23; she is survived by her daughter, Elaine (Kazuyuki) Furuya; she is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2; gc: 3.

Nakano, Roshi Shizuko, 93, Irvine, CA, June 11; she is survived by her children, Amy (Paul) Bih, Mary (Lee) Rising, Ida (Daren) and Mieko Rogers; she is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 1.

Ohara, Setsue, 96, Los Angeles, CA, July 6; she is survived by her children, Tatsuo (Izumi) Ono, Akina (Hiroshi) Hosokawa, Michiko (Dennis) Muramoto, Jo-Anne (Robert) Fujita and Tamiko (Clyde) Uchida; sister, June Hayashi; gc: 7; step gc: 2; step gc: 3.

Ono, Masumi, 86, Culver City, CA, May 30; she is survived by her children, Keichi (Sueko) Ono, Rikako (Kazuhito) Kaneko and Rachel (Steve) Noguchi; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 10.

Oshima, Alan, 78, Sacramento, CA, July 17; an active JACL; he is survived by his wife, Yukiko; daughters, Seiko Monahan, Tracy and Mieko Rogers.

Terasawa, Suezi Suzuki, 90, Los Angeles, CA, May 24; she was predeceased by her husband, Toshiko (Toshi) Terasawa; she is survived by her children, Joji, Keiko and Naomi (James) Anderson; brother, Ken Kasukabe; she is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2; gc: 3.

Tsubora, Shigeru, 84, Santa Ana, CA, July 14; he was predeceased by his wife, Tomiko; he is survived by his children, Toru Shigenobu (Mary), Michael (Antonio) Palomo and Lynn Satsuki (Dok Thatasonphon); he is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 5.

Uyeda, Bruce, 78, Mountain View, CA, July 21; he is survived by his wife, Kyoko; sons, Kurt and Elaine (Karen); brother, Lance (Susie); he is also survived by many in-laws, nephews, nieces and other relatives; gc: 1.

Wada, Yoshie, 96, Los Angeles, CA, July 18; she was predeceased by her husband, Hisashi Wada, daughter, Margie Okita and great-granddaughter, Dena Smith; she is survived by her children, Wayne Wada, Victor Wada, Terry Wada and April (Richard) Shidama; sons-in-law, Yoshio Okita and Ron Kubo; sister-in-law, Non (Dr. Julius Frank) Naka; she is also survived by nieces, nephews, friends and other relatives; gc: 5; gc: 2.

Yamada, George Tatsu, 93, Spokane, WA, July 1, 2015; he was predeceased by his wife, Suzie; he is survived by his children, Cathy, Linda, Jerry, Patty, John and their spouses; gc: 14; gc: 5.

Yamamoto, Patricia Ann “Pat,” 89, Los Angeles, CA, July 11; she is survived by her husband, Gary Yamamoto; daughter, Tricia (Ryan) Nakashita; brother, Dennis Sano; step-sister-in-law, Jan (Karen) Yamamoto; she is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 3.
REIMAGINE EVERYTHING

IT’S NEVER TOO EARLY TO START SAVING FOR RETIREMENT

By Ron Mori

At my first “real” job out of school, my supervisor was a very stern retired Army Captain. He sat all of the new supervisors down in a conference room and proceeded to tell us why we needed to start our retirement planning today in a very direct way. I was 22 with no responsibilities, and Bob’s message hit home. I started saving for my retirement planning by my next paycheck. Nearly 30 percent say paid off mortgages, student loans or credit card balances. 67 percent have saved for a family vacation.

A recent AARP survey showed that 76 percent of respondents have accomplished significant financial goals for their financial future for a variety of reasons, including lack of knowledge of how to save.

However, there’s a need for Americans with more modest retirement planning resources and interactive tools aimed at energizing and empowering you to maximize your retirement goals at www.AceYourRetirement.org.

“Retirement planning can sometimes leave people anxious, confused or even paralyzed,” said Debra Whitman, AARP executive VP and chief public policy officer. “This campaign will break down retirement savings into easy, actionable steps for all Americans.”

AceYourRetirement.org features a digital retirement coach named Ava, a chatbot that will ask the user questions about his or her life, savings goals and retirement plans. Ava then provides personalized action items, including steps the user can take now to save for the future.

For example, Ava might suggest strategies on how to turn a hobby into a source of income, how to have a conversation with a family member about financial priorities or how to maximize a 401(k) contribution.

It’s never too late to start. Looking back, I was fortunate enough to have a real in-person Ava way ahead of his time in my first supervisor.

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