A UNIQUE RELATIONSHIP

A new exhibit at the FDR Presidential Library sheds light on the JACL's friendship with First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt.

In this photo, taken by Clem Albers on April 5, 1942, “Evacuees” arrive under guard at the Santa Anita Assembly Center in Arcadia, Calif. The image is part of “Images of Internment: The Incarceration of Japanese Americans During World War II” at the FDR Presidential Library and Museum in Hyde Park, N.Y.

Www.PacificCitizen.org #3309 / Vol. 165, No. 8 ISSN: 0030-6579
Members of the California Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus submitted a letter to Modoc County Road Commissioner Mitch Crosby on Oct. 10, opposing the proposed fence at Tulelake Municipal Airport in Modoc County.

The contents of the letter is as follows:

"On behalf of the California Asian Pacific Islander (API) Legislative Caucus, we are writing in strong opposition to the proposed fence at the Tulelake Municipal Airport in Modoc County. The California API Legislative Caucus prides itself in its work and advocacy to ensure that Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have a strong voice in our community and State Capitol. This is why we are standing behind the preservation of the Tule Lake War Relocation Center, a site that has been designated as a National Historic Landmark, California Historical Landmark and one of only nine sites of the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument.

"Tule Lake was a Japanese maximum-security internment camp where the federal government forced more than 24,000 Japanese Americans to relocate, including two former members of the California State Legislature. Not only was it one of 10 camps where Japanese Americans were sent during World War II, it was also considered to be the site of the harshest and most severe conditions.

"The site at Tule Lake remains as a physical reminder of the dark time in our history, marred with segregation and hatred against Japanese Americans during World War II. Preventing further damage to this landmark is imperative because it serves to educate future generations about the mistakes of our past in an effort to learn from them and make progress. Construction of a fence will impede access to a place that holds significance to our American history.

The API Legislative Caucus urges Modoc County to honor those Japanese Americans who were unjustly incarcerated and stop the proposed fence at the Tule Lake Municipal Airport. We appreciate your consideration of this issue.

The letter was signed by:

Assemblmembem Rob Bone (D-Oakland), chair, API Legislative Caucus
Assemblmembem Phil Ting (D-San Francisco), vice-chair, API Legislative Caucus
Assemblmembem Ed Chiu (D-Monterey Park)
Assemblmembem Karen Chu (D-San Jose)
Assemblmembem Todd Gloria (D-San Diego)
Assemblmembem Ash Kalra (D-San Jose)

Pictured (clockwise from front left) are San Fernando JACL's Phil Shigekuni and Harold Kameya with Tom Ige and San Fernando JACL's Ellen Kameya meeting this month.

Sincerely,

Phil Shigekuni
President, San Fernando Valley Chapter JACL
A MOTHER’S TAKE

‘The Great Nisei Reunion III’

By Marsha Aizumi

One of the things that my work in the LGBTQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer) area has done is bring me closer to my Nikkei roots, especially understanding the concentration camps during World War II.

My parents never talked much about their experience at Gila River. Growing up, my dad used to say, “If you can’t say something nice, don’t say anything at all.” And so, when I heard about Gerald Ishibashi’s dream of bringing together Niseis for one last time to hear music from the camp days, which included the Harry James Orchestra, the Modernaires, the Island Crooners and Mary Kageyama Nomura, the Songbird of Manzanar, I was really intrigued.

Gerald has been a promoter of music for as long as I can remember—the Beach Boys, Kool and the Gang, Three Dog Night (just to name a few)—and he even performs with the Society of Seven from Hawaii. But when I hear him talk about this project, it is different. He says these Nisei programs have been the most fulfilling events he has been a part of, and you can truly feel the passion, pride and gratitude in his voice.

I asked him where his strong feelings came from. He thought about his childhood and talked about the 442nd and the MIS. When he saw the “Go for Broke” movie, he asked his dad if this was a true story. His dad answered that it was. At that moment, Gerald said these individuals became his heroes.

As he grew up and learned more of the stories, Gerald realized what the Issei and Nisei had to endure after camp. Many had lost everything. Most had no home to go back to, no job waiting for them and society looked at them with suspicion. So, he wanted to do something to help the Issei and Nisei and his family was just as excited.

It was not until Gerald realized what his parents and grandparents moved forward with qualities such as integrity, honesty, responsibility and just hard working. They channelled their energy toward the future and contributed in a positive way.

And it is because of the Isseis, Niseis, the 442nd and MIS that Gerald believes he was given role models for never giving up on your dreams. Every time he faced a challenge of being a Japanese American in the entertainment field, he remembers individuals who had nothing—but came back to create a wonderful life for their family...for his family. He has been inspired over and over again and he is thankful for his parents and grandparents.

He says these Nisei programs have been the most fulfilling events he has been a part of, and you can truly feel the passion, pride and gratitude in his voice.

Four generations of the Ishibashi family attend a previous “Great Nisei Reunion” concert.

Mary Kageyama Nomura with her granddaughter, Brittany Ishibashi

LEGAL-EASE: AN ATTORNEY’S PERSPECTIVE

Let’s Talk About Taxes

By Staci Yamashita-Iida

As a CPA and an Estate Planning attorney, respectively, my fiancé and I often find our dinner conversations circling back to the topic of taxes. Exciting stuff, I know. But in our careers, it’s very helpful to pick each other’s brains and learn about our overlapping fields, especially because one of the primary concerns of our clients has to do with the issue of taxes.

As Benjamin Franklin famously stated, “In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes.” Taxes mean less money for us all, so naturally, we fear and dread paying them. With Estate Planning in particular, taxes can serve as a menacing Boogeyman. But really that’s because most people do not understand them or are unaware of the differences in the types of taxes.

Although I am not a tax professional by any means, I have learned a few things along the way that I’d like to share in hopes of clarifying some of the confusion that surrounds the subject of taxes.

Estate/Death/Inheritance Tax

An estate tax (sometimes referred to as a death tax) is a tax on your right to transfer property at your death. An inheritance tax is a tax imposed on a person who has inherited assets from a deceased person.

The first thing to note is that California does not have an estate or inheritance tax. While there are several states that do impose these types of taxes, California is not one of them.

That being said, even though there is no state-specific tax, there is still a federal estate tax. The good news is that most Californians do not have to pay this tax, either.

As of 2017, the federal estate tax exemption is $5.49 million—that means you can transfer or inherit up to $5.49 million tax-free. It is estimated that only the richest .20 percent of Americans will be subject to federal estate taxes.

So, unless you’re one of the lucky ones who have to deal with this “problem,” you probably don’t have anything to worry about.

Gift Taxes

According to the IRS, the general rule of thumb is that any gift is a taxable gift. However, there are several important exceptions to the rule.

Gifts that fall below the annual gift tax exclusion are not considered taxable gifts. The annual gift tax exclusion is the amount that you can give away in one year without experiencing any gift tax consequences. You can give away this amount to as many people as you want without getting taxed as long as it falls below the annual gift tax exclusion. As of 2017, that amount is $14,000 per person per year.

This means you can make one gift of $14,000 or several gifts that add up to $14,000. For example, you can give $14,000 to your daughter in January. You can also give $5,000 to your son in January, another $5,000 in February and another $4,000 in March. Either way, you will not have to pay taxes all thanks to the annual gift tax exclusion.

Additionally, gifts to your spouse, gifts to a political organization for its use and gifts for education and medical purposes (such as paying for your grandson’s tuition or your daughter’s hospital bills) are not considered taxable gifts.

Income Tax

Sadly, we are all too familiar with the chore of paying income taxes. Fortunately, this is not something you have to worry about when it comes to an inheritance.

When you inherit money, real property or other assets, you do not pay income taxes as a result of that inheritance. (However if you inherit real property and decide to rent it out, then you may.)

Capital Gains Taxes

One of the biggest tax advantages to inheriting assets from a living trust is that the assets are “stepped up” to the fair market value at the date of the decedent’s death. For tax purposes, this means that if you have inherited assets that have appreciated in value and then you choose to sell them, you can eliminate (or at the very least, minimize) the “gain.”

For example, let’s say your parents bought their home in 1965 for $30,000. When they pass away in 2017, you inherit the home and end up selling it shortly thereafter for $630,000. You’ve made a $600,000 profit ($630,000 - $30,000). However, because you inherited the home through a living trust, the home is stepped up to the fair market value, and you end up paying no capital gains taxes ($630,000 - $30,000). Still confused about taxes? You’re not alone. Feel free to consult your local CPA or attorney for further clarification...or you can always join my fiancé and me for dinner!

Staci Yamashita-Iida, Esq. is an Estate Planning attorney at Elder Law Services of California. She can be contacted at (310) 248-2995 or stacielawcalifornia.com. The opinions expressed in this article are the author’s own and do not necessarily reflect the view of the Pacific Citizen or JACL. The information presented does not constitute legal or tax advice and should not be treated as such.
Sonoma State President’s Home Burns Down in the Northern California Wildfires

The home belong to SSU President Judy K. Sakaki was one of 158 homes destroyed in the Northern California wildfires.

SANTA ROSA, CALIF. — The home belonging to Sonoma State University President Judy K. Sakaki and her husband, Patrick McCallum, was just one of 158 homes destroyed in the Northern California wildfires that have ravaged parts of Napa and Sonoma counties the past few weeks.

Sakaki and McCallum, an educational consultant and lobbyist, narrowly escaped the flames that overtook their home during the early morning hours on Oct. 9. At approximately 4 a.m., the smoke alarms went off in their home in the Fountain-grove neighborhood of Santa Rosa. Within only minutes to spare, the couple escaped their home barefoot, wearing only their pajamas, to see that flames had completely engulfed their entire neighborhood.

A firefighter taking a final pass through their neighborhood located the couple and took them to safety.

In a Facebook post to the SSU community on Oct. 10, Sakaki wrote, “My heart goes out to everyone who has been affected by the destructive wildfires that have done so much damage in our region. Many faculty, staff and students have been evacuated from their homes, and some tragically have lost everything.

“Patrick and I lost our home,” Sakaki continued, “and this makes me think about what really matters and how important it is that we care for each other. I am grateful that our community is working together to support and help each other. Nothing is more important than personal safety and well-being. I urge everyone to be cautious and to stay out of harm’s way.

“It is still too early to assess all the damage our community has endured, but we know it is extensive and that it has taken a huge toll on many,” Sakaki concluded.

Sakaki officially became president of Sonoma State University on April 20, becoming the seventh president of SSU and the first woman in the office since Marjorie Wagner 40 years ago. She is also the first Japanese American woman in the country to head a four-year university.

After initially being evacuated and closed on Oct. 9 due to the fires, SSU reopened its campus on Oct. 18, with classes resuming for students and faculty.

In all, more than 50 members of the SSU community — faculty, staff and students — lost their homes in the blaze.

The fires that continue to burn throughout Northern California have claimed the lives of two people to date, including Suiko and Arthur Grant, 75 and 95, respectively, who lost their lives in the Tubbs Fire, which ran through northern Santa Rosa on Oct. 15 and 16.

Asian American State Legislators Meet With Japanese Government and Business Leaders

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Six state-elected officials from diverse Asian American backgrounds and regions traveled recently to Japan as part of the 2017 Asian American Leadership Delegation program.

From Sept. 29-Oct. 7, the delegation traveled to Tokyo, Kyoto and Osaka, where they exchanged ideas with Japanese political and government leaders, business executives, nonprofit leaders and academics to further enhance networks that can mutually benefit the U.S.-Japan relationship.

Now in its fourth year, the 2017 AALD delegation included Assemblymember Rob Bonta (California State Assembly), State Rep. Aaron Shirima Ling Johansson (Hawaii State Legislature), Delegate Clarence K. Lam (Maryland General Assembly), Rep. Rady Mom (Massachusetts State Legislature), State Sen. Brian E. Shiozawa (Utah State Senate) and State Rep. Monica Jurado Stonier (Washington State Legislature).

Government leaders the legislators met included Daisaku Kadokawa, mayor of Kyoto, as well as members of the Kyoto City Assembly, who shared Kyoto’s efforts in tourism and beautification; the president and vice president of the Osaka City Council, who discussed the city’s hopes for hosting the World Expo in 2025, and members of the Tokyo Metropolitan Assembly, who led a tour of the construction of the 2020 Olympic Village, the new Olympic Stadium and the route of the marathon, which highlights many parts of Tokyo: Joseph Young, deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo; members of the National Diet; and officials at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, with whom they discussed the U.S.-Japan security alliance and current threats in the Pacific Region.

The delegates also spoke at a panel discussion in Tokyo entitled “Diversity in Leadership: The Journey of Asian American State Legislators,” which was co-hosted by the USJC and the Saskawake Peace Foundation. The delegates shared their varied personal and professional journeys as Asian Americans, including their careers before becoming politicians. They also spoke about the importance of diversity in politics, especially how it relates to current events.


Also accompanying the delegation was USJC President Irene Hirano Inouye, NAPACSL Director Irene Kawanabe and Rep. Rady Mom.

APAs in the News

Floyd Mori Announces Retirement from APAICS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — After five years as president and CEO of the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies, Floyd Mori has announced his retirement, the organization announced in a news release on Oct. 18.

The APAICS Board of Directors and leadership team will now begin a search for Mori’s successor. Mori will remain at APAICS until May 2018.

During his tenure at APAICS, Mori was instrumental in growing support and sponsorship of the organization, increasing the number of and level of participation in the APAICS leadership academies, cultivating and supporting APIA candidates for elected office and increasing the visibility of the organization in the community and in Washington, D.C.

Prior to his role at APAICS, he served as National Executive Director of the JACL, chair of the National Coalition of Asian Pacific Americans and has been on the executive council of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights.

He also served four years as JACL National President.

Mori began his political career in 1972, when he was elected to the city council for Pleasanton, Calif. He also was elected to the California State Assembly and served for six years as an assemblyman.

California Governor Signs AB 360 to Provide Legal Aid for Veterans

TORRANCE, CA — Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr. signed Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi’s (D-Torrance) Assembly Bill (AB) 360 on Oct. 5. This new law requires the California State Bar to administer a program to coordinate free civil legal assistance to veterans and their families who otherwise cannot afford legal services.

This new law also requires the State Bar to conduct a statewide survey of programs that provide legal assistance to veterans in order to better identify whether and where their needs are the greatest. AB 360 received unanimous bipartisan support in the Legislature.

“I know that many veterans often struggle to receive disability, health care, housing and other benefits that they have earned through their service and sacrifice,” said Muratsuchi. “California is home to not only the largest veteran population in the country, but also the largest number of homeless veterans. We need to give our veterans the support they deserve, including civil legal assistance, especially those who are struggling on the home front.”
API Contingent — Including JACL — Attends ‘No Muslim Ban Ever’ Vigil in San Francisco

More than 200 people gathered in attendance at the “No Muslim Ban Ever” candlelight vigil, which was held on Oct. 9 in front of San Francisco City Hall. An API contingent also participated in the event, which included three JACL chapters — San Francisco, Berkeley and Contra Costa — as well as JACL staff.

The group gathered on behalf of President Donald Trump’s “travel ban,” which denies entry to the U.S. to people from five largely Muslim countries: Iran, Libya, Syria, Somalia and Yemen. On Sept. 24, a new version of the “ban” added Chad, North Korea and Venezuela.

JACL’s presence demonstrated the organization’s position on the travel ban as well as its solidarity with its API allies.

The vigil was organized by CAIR-SFBA, the Arab Resource and Organizing Center, National Iranian American Council, the Black Alliance for Just Immigration and Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus.

Members of the API contingent included members from JACL, Nikkei Resisters, Asian Pacific Islander Legal Orientalists, Japanese Latin Americans, the San Francisco Buddhist Church, Chinese Progressive Association, among others.

“...there is no place in the world that you see this much diversity, hear this many languages spoken,” said Hateem Bazian from the University of California, Berkeley, who is a professor of Near Eastern and Asian American Studies and Asian Diaspora Studies, as well as director of Zaytuna College, the first Muslim undergraduate college in the U.S. “Don’t let anyone tell you that you cannot change history. You can, and you will change history.”

Zahra Billoo, executive director of CAIR’s San Francisco Bay Area branch, thanked those who had gathered at the three-hour-long event as well as reaffirmed the purpose of the vigil.

“...When we say, ‘No Muslim ban ever,’ we say never again will a community have to suffer cruel, inhuman and unconstitutional targeting by the government under the guise of national security,” she said.

“When we say, ‘No Muslim ban ever,’ we mean that we will work tirelessly for justice for everyone impacted by this administration’s targeting of Arabs, Muslims, undocumented individuals, people of color and others.”

Twin Cities JACL Co-Sponsors Panel Discussion on ‘Art, Identity and Community’

The Twin Cities JACL and Historic Fort Snelling co-sponsored an artist panel titled “Arts, Identity and Community” on Sept. 23 at the Historic Fort Snelling Visitors Center in St. Paul, Minn.

Moderated by Kerry Morgan, director of Gallery and Exhibition Programs at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design, four local Minnesota artists shared their personal histories, as well as presented a selection of their past and current projects.

Painter Leslie Barkow and photographers Wing Young Huie, John Matsunaga and Steve Ozone have varied backgrounds, but they engaged the audience by sharing their experiences within their communities, especially in regard to marginalization, invisibility, stereotyping, racism and historical trauma.

In addition, each speaker offered insights into how the experiences of the communities to which they belong help shape their identities and influence their artistic work.

Les Suzuki, a former Twin Cities JACL board member, and his wife, Karen, helped to support the exhibit and programs. He acknowledged that the artists’ panel gave him an appreciation of the challenges and rewards of exploring social issues through art.

“Their panelists reinforced the idea that artists have a unique role in society, and that their work can connect people, create community, and carve space for the marginalized,” Suzuki said.

For more information, visit historicfortsnelling.org or call (612) 726-1171.

Showing their support at the candlelight vigil were JACL's John Hayashi, Nancy Satoda and Judy Hamaguchi.

JACL members were part of the API contingent that attended the Oct. 9 vigil.

More than 300 participants showed their support at the “No Muslim Ban Ever” vigil at San Francisco City Hall.

API Contingent — Including JACL — Attends ‘No Muslim Ban Ever’ Vigil in San Francisco

Photo: Courtesy of Judy Hamaguchi, San Fernando JACL

North Korea and Venezuela.

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Photo: Cheryl Hirata-Duls

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JACL and the FDR Presidential Library — A TIE THAT MANY MAY HAVE NEVER KNOWN

By Patti Hirahara, Contributor

The FDR Presidential Library and Museum is located in Hyde Park, N.Y., and it is very unique in many ways. According to the National Archives, “The Presidential Library system formally began in 1939, when President Franklin D. Roosevelt donated his personal and presidential papers to the Federal government. At the same time, Roosevelt pledged part of his estate at Hyde Park to the United States, and friends of the president formed a nonprofit corporation to raise funds for the construction of the library and museum building.”

Roosevelt’s decision stemmed from a firm belief that presidential papers are an important part of the nation’s heritage and should be accessible to the public. He asked the National Archives to take custody of his papers and other historical materials, as well as administer his library.

“The library opened June 30, 1941, and it is the first presidential library and the only one that served as a personal club while he was in office,” said FDR Presidential Library Director Paul Sparrow.

This year, in commemoration of the 75th anniversary of Roosevelt’s signing of Executive Order 9066, the FDR Presidential Library has opened its new exhibition “Images of Internment — The Incarceration of Japanese Americans During World War II.”

This exhibit is the result of two years of planning and development, and in seeing the exhibit’s name, a scholar might wonder why the words “internment” and “incarceration” were used in the title.

“The curator was very aware of the issues surrounding the use of the term ‘internment,’ and we wanted to be accurate,” according to Sparrow. “But most people know it by that name. So, we wanted to make it clear that this was a photographic exhibition about the ‘internment,’ but also that it involved the incarceration of American citizens, not just the internment of foreign nationals.

“This exhibit is really a companion to last year’s exhibit on Pearl Harbor — we wanted to show cause and effect,” Sparrow continued. “But the most important message is that to truly understand a great leader, you must look at both their accomplishments and their failures. In this case, one of the great champions of human rights was pressured to incarcerate 80,000 American citizens because of racist hysteria and ‘national security concerns.’ It is a common thread in American history that national security issues are used to violate constitutional rights, particularly of minority populations.”

The opening exhibition with a section that explores the following questions: “Why Did FDR Issue Executive Order 9066?” and “What Did the Executive Order Do?” The opening section also examines opposition to the Executive Order and the special role of First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt, who opposed her husband’s Executive Order and worked to assist Japanese Americans confined in the government camps.

The Japanese American Citizens League’s tie to this story is part of its relationship with Eleanor Roosevelt. On Jan. 13, 1942, Sam Hohri, national press agent for the JACL, wrote a letter to Mrs. Roosevelt at her 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. address.

He stated on behalf of the JACL: “We wish to express our deep appreciation for your timely expressions relative to aliens, which you made over your national network radio program Sunday.”

“Moonlight Over Topaz, Utah” watercolor on silk 1942, was painted by artist Chiura Obata (1885-1975) and was presented to Eleanor Roosevelt by the JACL in a 1943 White House ceremony. Mrs. Roosevelt displayed this painting in her New York City apartment until her death.
A SECRET DARKROOM

How a father and son documented life in Heart Mountain, Wyo.

George Hirahara, with the help of his teenage son Frank, built a six-foot darkroom and miniature photo studio under their barrack apartment “15-9-A” in Heart Mountain, Wyo., in 1943 in order to document life inside the camp.

Unlike the consequences, the two amateur photographers from Yakima, Wash., took and developed more than 2,000 images inside the camp and gave their own personal narrative of what they saw through the camera lens from 1943-45.

The reason the darkroom was a secret was due to the fact that George Hirahara was an alien and was prohibited from using or owning a camera. His son, Frank C. Hirahara, however, was an American-born citizen and could possess and use a camera but not take any photographs of military-sensitive locations.

In reviewing WRA Hirahara family files, it appears the administrators in Heart Mountain may have been aware of the family’s photographic activity but felt the Hirahara’s were preserving history during a time that should never be forgotten and did not report their activity.

— P.H.
JACL Legacy Fund Grant Supports the Japanese American Showcase at the Philadelphia Asian American Film Festival

By Rob Buscher, Contributor

F

rom silent film actor Sessue Hayakawa to James Beard Award-winning chef Nobuo Fukuda and everything in between, Japanese Americans are the subject of this year’s Philadelphia Asian American Film Festival’s (PAAFF) main program showcase, which runs from Nov. 9-19. Established in 2008 and operated by a team of dedicated volunteers since its inception, in 2015 the PAAFF grew to become the largest Asian American and Pacific Islander film festival on the East Coast. This year as the festival celebrates its 10th anniversary, its programs probe the intersections of art as activism and historical memory within the AAPI community. Recognizing that 2017 is also the 75th anniversary of Executive Order 9066, the PAAFF is hosting the Japanese American Showcase as part of its ongoing collaboration with the Philadelphia chapter of the JACL.

The showcase is made possible by support from the Legacy Fund Grant, which was established by the JACL National Council at the 1950 convention in San Diego. The fund originated from monies donated by JACL members who gave a portion of their redress awards to further the legacy of Nikkei in America through a variety of chapter-led educational and cultural programs. This showcase embodies the Legacy Fund, since the majority of selected film titles involve the legacy of incarceration as it relates to ongoing social justice causes that affect our community today.

While there have been dozens of films made about the incarceration experience, three new documentaries included in the showcase were chosen for their unprecedented approaches to telling this story. Feature documentary “Relocation, Arkansas” explores the experiences of two Japanese American families who chose to remain in the Deep South after the Jerome and Rohwer camps were closed following the end of World War II. Navigating racial segregation in the Jim Crow era, these families worked as sharecroppers living in shotgun houses amongst descendants of African slaves, yet were allowed to attend white-only schools.

A fascinating reflection on the racial dynamics of pre-Civil Rights Era America, the film also tells the unlikely tale of the small-town Arkansas mayor of Italian descent who worked tirelessly to ensure the preservation and remembrance of these two incarceration sites. Documentary subject and Jerome incarceration survivor Alice Takemoto and her son, Paul, are expected to be in attendance for a post-film Q & A session.

Another film “Resistance at Tule Lake” recounts in unvarnished detail an aspect of the incarceration that is often overshadowed by the dominant narrative of cooperation and military service. Director Konrad Aderer dispels the myth by telling the long-suppressed story of the Tule Lake Segregation Center through his enrossing documentary that exposes the worst of the U.S. government’s violations of civil liberties and the organized resistance by Japanese Americans behind bars. Aderer is expected to be in attendance to lead a post-film discussion with Tule Lake camp survivor and Philadelphia JACL Chapter member Eri Kobayashi.

The documentary “And Then They Came for Us” narrated in part by actor-activist George Takei, brings history into the present by contextualizing the incarceration story within the efforts of several contemporary activists as they speak out against the Muslim registry and travel ban. An inspiring and cautionary tale for these dark political times, this film will be preceded by the short documentary “One-Two-One-S convoy” that tells the story of a Nisei woman whose parents decided to commit suicide rather than suffer the indignity of incarceration. In addition to this three-film series of documentaries related to wartime incarceration, the showcase also highlights inter-generational trauma experienced by Sasebo and Yossei community members through a community program of four narrative and documentary short films titled “Legacies of Camp.”

“Legacies of Camp” offers a broad range of perspectives from the narrative short “The Orange Story,” which is about a grocer who must abandon everything as he prepares for evacuation, to experimental short “Sansei Dream,” about a young farmer who uncovers the truth about his Nisei mother’s dark past through a subconscious dream state. Another short in this program, “9066,” conveys an intimate documentary portrait of Yonsei filmmaker Andrew Okada’s grandmother and the unspoken bond of trauma that exists between them. Lastly, in the short documentary “Cliff Superfan” the audience learns about amateur historian Cliff Hayakawa’s attempts to preserve the history of incarceration. In addition to films dealing with incarceration, the Japanese American Showcase also highlights community history in a variety of creative pursuits that explore the diversity of experience within the Nikkei diaspora.

The main highlight of this section is being hosted during the PAAFF’s Opening Night and will feature musician Goh Nakamura, who will give a live performance of the original score he was commissioned to compose for the folk-silent film “The Dragon Painter.”

Starring Japanese immigrant Hayakawa, “The Dragon Painter” is a fantasy romance about love and creative inspiration. Tatsu (Hayakawa) is a reclusive painter who lives in the mountains, painting images of the dragon princess he loved in another life. Tatsu comes to believe the daughter of a wealthy art collector is his lost princess, but as he finds happiness in love, his art begins to suffer.

In his prime, Hayakawa was as popular as Charlie Chaplin, as rich as Douglas Fairbanks and, to this day, the only Asian American to own his own Hollywood studio. Although set in Japan, the film was shot on location in Yosemite National Park and stars a preeminent Japanese American cast, including his wife, Tsuji Aoki.

Produced by Hayakawa’s own Haworth Pictures, “The Dragon Painter” deliberately provides an authentic perspective on Japanese culture that counters the dominant narrative of stereotypes, violence, and the Cold War conflict expected in so-called “Oriental” films of the period. For these reasons, it can be considered one of the first Asian American films in history.

Nakamura makes a natural choice for this program since he has been scoring films for just over a decade, with his work featured prominently on the scores of Ridley Scott films “A Good Year,” “American Gangster” and “Body of Lies.” His song “Daylight Salvation” was included on the soundtrack to the 2007 Robert Benton film “Feast of Love,” starring Morgan Freeman and Greg...
Kinnear. In addition, Nakamura starred in two indie feature films inspired by his music: 2011’s “Surrogate Valentine” and 2012’s “Daylight Savings,” for which he composed the soundtracks.

Another musical highlight will be a mixed-media theater performance of “Aunt Lily’s Flower Book,” starring Emmy-winning jazz musician Mark Izu and his wife, Brenda Wong Ani. These two acclaimed artists share touching and personal family histories from a recently discovered diary, expanded through story and song.

Tracking more than 100 years of history in the American West — this story takes audiences from the Transcontinental Railroad to WWI incarceration, 442nd Infantry Regiment and beyond. Joined by koto master Shoko Fikage, the performance will consist of a 20-minute excerpt out of the larger play, followed by an interactive discussion activity.

The last two films in this showcase expand the definition of Japanese American to include Shin-Nikkei, new first-generation immigrants, whose post-WWII immigration experience offers a completely different narrative from that which is often attributed to our community.

Feature documentary “Far Western” follows a group of Japanese musicians as they pursue their passion for American country and bluegrass music 70-plus years after the end of WWI. A music-fueled, character-driven film about the lasting impact of the U.S. Occupation in post-war Japan, audiences will not soon forget scenes of Japanese-American western icon Charlie Nakatani playing the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville, Tenn. Following the film screening, audience members will be treated to a live performance from local Filipino American father-son bluegrass duo Rick and Chris Marcera, as well as a short reception kicking off the Closing Weekend of the PAAFF.

The final program in this series tells the story of free-spirited Chef Nobuo Fukuda in the feature documentary “Kakehashi: Portrait of Chef Nobuo Fukuda.” Not to be confused with the Kakehashi Program that sponsors youth travel to Japan, this film is titled after the vision that Chef Fukuda’s father had for his future — to bridge the gap between Japan and the rest of the world.

Rising from humble origins as a dishwasher in the kitchen of Benihana in 2007, Chef Fukuda was awarded the James Beard Award for Best Chef: Southwest. Today, he continues bridging the gap between the U.S. and Japan through his Phoenix, Ariz., restaurant Teeter House, where he serves a unique menu that blends Southwestern ingredients with traditional Japanese cooking techniques.

In recognition of JACL’s partnership with the PAAFF, current JACL members are eligible to receive free tickets to attend all of the Japanese American Showcase programs. (For details, email Rob Buscher at rob@philly.asianfilmfest.org)

Several Eastern District Council chapters are organizing group travel to visit the festival, and the National Youth/Student Council will be hosting a Youth Summit in conjunction with the opening weekend of the festival on Nov. 9-12. JACL Youth Members wishing to attend the NY/SC Summit may be eligible for free travel and accommodations. Please contact your local NY/SC representative for further details.

The JA Showcase programs are listed in order of sequence. Full program listing available online at tiny.cc/PAAFF17 program.

The Dragon Painter’ — Opening Night Film

Nov. 9 from 7-11 p.m. at Lightbox Film Center, 3701 Chestnut St.

And Then They Came for Us

Nov. 9 from 11:30 a.m.-12:50 p.m. at Institute of Contemporary Art, 118 S. 36th St.

Relocation, Arkansas

Nov. 11 from 3:30-5:20 p.m. at Lightbox Film Center, 3701 Chestnut St.

Aunt Lily’s Flower Book’

Nov. 11 from 6:15-7:15 p.m. at Lightbox Film Center, 3701 Chestnut St.

Far Western’

Nov. 16 from 7:45-9:45 p.m. at Fleisher Art Memorial, 1919 Catherine St.

Kakehashi: A Portrait of Chef Nobuo Fukuda

Nov. 18 from 11 a.m.-Noon at Asian Arts Initiative, 1219 Vine St.

Resistance at Tule Lake

Nov. 18 from 3:30-5:15 p.m. at Asian Arts Initiative, 1219 Vine St.
Aoki, Jimmy Shinichi, 96, Lake­wood, CA, Sept. 19; he was pre­deceased by his wife, Alice; he is survived by their sons, James and Thomas; he is also survived by other relatives.

Arakaki, Richard, 82, Anaheim, CA, Oct. 9; he was predeceased by his wife, Lillian; he is survived by his children, Sharon (Gary) Wright, Craig (Caroline), Cleve (Sun), Grant (Cathy) and Blake; gc: 12.

Daikoku, Tatsuku, 91, San Mateo, CA, Oct. 8; during WWII, he and extended family; gc: 4; ggc: 5.

Dote, Harumi, 104, Sacramento, CA, Sept. 25; she and her husband, Asato, and their children were incarcerated at the Tule Lake WRA Center in CA; she is survived by her children, Hiroaki (Amy), Emiko and Nobuko (Nancy) (Hiroshi) Taya; she is also survived by nieces, nephews and extended family; gc: 4; ggc: 5.

Fu, Elko, 88, Haleiwa, HI, Sept. 14; she was predeceased by her husband, George; she is survived by her four children, Annie (Dave), Charles, Margaret (John) and James.

Hiramoto, Sumiko, 96, Los Angeles, CA, Oct. 5; she was predeceased by his sons, John (Debbie) and Paul (Sue); she is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2.

Hirota, Masako, 92, Alhambra, CA, Aug. 25; she was predeceased by her husband, Koichi; she is survived by her children, Akemi (Mark) Masuzumi, Janice (Mark) Masuzumi-Matsunaga and Sharon (Paul) Sawai; brother, Bob (Chris); children-in-law; Vivian Masuzumi, Mildred Castro and Kathleen (Steve) Kubota-Fox; gc: 5.

IBATA, Agnes, 96, Beach Park, IL, Oct. 8; during WWII, her family and extended family; gc: 4; ggc: 5.

Ishibashi, Eiko, 92, Los Angeles, CA, Oct. 8; she was predeceased by her husband, Norito, and his sons, Kenneth and Raymon Tsuboru Ishibashi; she is survived by her daughters, Sharon, Kazue Ishibashi and Joanne Hideri Ishibashi (David Jung); daughter-in-law, Michiko Honda; gc: 3.

Iwai, Rhoda T., 79, Los Angeles, CA, Sept. 17; she was predeceased by her husband, Seiji, children, Terri Kawai-Matsuda, Stacey (Daniel) Ishimaru and Kent Iwai; sister, Grace (Hank) Yamada; she is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 3.

Iwanaga, Ross Rauso, 94, Diamond Bar, CA, Aug. 12; he is survived by his son, Rick (Emi) Iwanaga; sister-in-law, Taye Iwanaga; gc: 3.

Kojima, Yasunobu, 82, Sacramento, CA, Sept. 8; during WWII, he was incarcerated at the Tule Lake WRA Center in CA; he is survived by his wife, Yuri; children, Rev. Brian Masao Kojima, Sharon (Lloyd) Gong, Laurie (Ken) Kojima-Black and Jennifer Kojima; brothers, Tore (May), Satsoko (Christine) and Norio (Dorothy); gc: 10.

Masuzumi, Paul Katsuyuki, 77, Gardena, CA, Ot. 5; he was predeceased by his wife, Peggy, and his brother, Ralph; he is survived by his children, Glenn (Ana) Masuzumi, Janice (Mark) Masuzumi-Matsunaga and Sharon (Paul) Sawai; brother, Bob (Chris); children-in-law; Vivian Masuzumi, Mildred Castro and Kathleen (Steve) Kubota-Fox; gc: 5.

Miyamoto, Emiko, 86, Camarillo, CA, Sept. 25; she is survived by her children, Jeffrey (Wende) and Alan (Julia) Miyamoto; siblings, Sue Yamanaka and Mikko (Sanaye) Miyamoto; sisters-in-law, Bessie and Yonelko Shimodi; Yuriko Kuma­to, Molly Takahashi and Emiko Miyamoto; she is also survived by nieces and nephews and other relatives; gc: 5.

Morii, Tsutsaye, 96, Los Angeles, CA, Sept. 11; she is survived by her husband, Johnny (Wendy); sisters, Dorothy Nakayu and Sue Kuvusta; gc: 2.

Munekata, Ryo, 96, Los Angeles, CA, Sept. 29; he is survived by his wife, Yoko, children, Emi Munekata (Myles Morimoto) and Mark (Nancy); gc: 4.

Nakai, Mitsuko, 90, San Francisco, CA, Sept. 15; she was predeceased by her husband, Michikazu; she is survived by her children; gc: 7.

Oyama, Kenneth K., 78, San Francisco, CA, Aug. 14; he is survived by his wife, Alice; siblings, Janet, Robert (Pat), Carol and Clifford (Beverly); he is also survived by cousins, a nephew and nieces.

Saito, Shinobu James, 94, San Pedro, CA, Sept. 26; he is survived in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team; he is survived by his wife, Yoko; sisters-in-law, Carol Ann Saito, Natsumi Abe and Tereu Shibuya; he is also survived by nieces and nephews.

Sakamoto, Emi, 90, Buena Park, CA, Sept. 28; she is survived by her sister, Fumi Sakamoto; she is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Sakamoto, John, 97, Sacramento, CA, Sept. 18; he is survived by a daughter, three step-children, two sisters; he is also survived by nieces and nephews; gc: 10; ggc: 23.

Shimabukuro, Karen Elko, 77, Gardena, CA, Sept. 13; she was predeceased by her husband, Raymond; she is survived by her son, Edward; her twin, Mary (Andrew-Berkim); sister, Florencio Goya; she is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 1.

Shimizu, Tommy Watara, 85, Gardena, CA, Oct. 23; he was predeceased by his wife, Joyce Mitsue; he is survived by his sons, Duane (Julie) and Randy (Yaeko) Shimizu; siblings, Ethel (Daniel) Chang and Iwao (Katherine) Shimizu; gc: 3.

Sugiyama, Irene, 91, Los Angeles, CA, Sept. 11; she is survived by her children, Sharon (Brian) O’Rourke, Kit Sugiyama and Rod (Claire) Sugiyama; sister, Elsie Higa; she is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 4.

Tada, Chieko, 98, Los Angeles, CA, Sept. 12; she was predeceased by her husband, Percy; she is survived by her nieces and nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews and other relatives.

Tanaka, Rose Masako, 93, Los Angeles, CA, Sept. 16; she is survived by her children, Brian (Josephine) and Michael (Julie); brother, Masahisa Kozen; gc: 2.

Toyoshima, Suyeko, 83, San Jose, CA, Aug. 26; she was predeceased by her husband, Akiyoshi; she is survived by her children, Randy, Penny (Alvan) and Peggy; gc: 2.

Usui, Roy Mitsuo, 91, Torrance, CA, Sept. 15; he is survived by his children, Frances, children, Doug (Julie) and Chris (Dave) Ishikawa; she is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 4.

Yoshikawa, Helen, 67, Elk Grove, CA, Oct. 7; she was predeceased by her husband, Ted; she is survived by her nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2.

Yoshikawa, Yujiri, 94, Pomona, CA, Sept. 23; he was predeceased by her children, Kenneth Kenji (Lucy) and Alice Marko (Steve) Baba; she is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 3.
I recently had a conversation with my mom that was unlike any other conversation that I have had with her in my life. She’s going to be 90 in two weeks, and she started out the phone conversation by saying she’s going to clean out the garage to make it easy on us.

I asked, “Easy on us?” This was my “in” to having a planning conversation regarding her caregiving.

Caregiving conversations are difficult to have no matter how old your loved one is. And if you are like most families, it’s not the right time to have a discussion when you’re facing an unanticipated caregiving situation. So, I’m glad my mom gave me the “in.”

At AARP, we want to be able to help you think about and start caregiving plans early, before a family crisis. I’ve written about the importance of planning when it comes to caregiving, and November is the perfect time to start or reassess your family caregiving plans with loved ones.

We are all in this together, so we should include young adults in family caregiving discussions as well. The “Caregiving in the U.S. 2015” report, published by the National Alliance for Caregiving and AARP, found that nearly 25 percent of caregivers are millennials — between roughly the ages of 20-36. I was amazed to read this statistic, and it hit home the point of having everyone involved in the conversation.

How to start? Look for an opening that “in” Start with questions like the following:

**“I recently read an article in the newspaper about gathering all your important papers. So, I organized mine and filed them in one drawer. Would you like me to help you with yours?”**

**“Are there too many stairs in your home? Should we look for a single-story home for you? Or, a condo with an elevator?”**

**Another entry point would be to talk about a family friend or a relative who may be in a similar situation:** “Auntie Jane told me that she completed her advanced directives. Have you done yours or thought about getting yours done? I can help you.”

Don’t anticipate what your loved one may say or how he or she may react. It’s most important to start the conversation, which will hopefully be an ongoing discussion. Be open to the responses. Listen carefully, and express your love and concern for your loved one.

If your loved one is open to pursuing the issue, then it’s time to take the next steps in preparing to care. Central to the process is the core value that the wishes of the person to receive the care must be paramount.

The plan should be made with the participation, knowledge, and consent of your loved one. A person with a cognitive impairment such as dementia or Alzheimer’s should be able to participate as much as possible.

Determining who should be part of the planning team is next, and the loved one should be asked who to include. The tasks of the team will be to figure out the priorities of the loved one where to live, nature of care needed. Finances are always difficult to discuss among family members but is at the core of many decisions that will be made around housing, health care and other expenses.

What to do if your loved one doesn’t want to discuss caregiving issues? Don’t give up! Start with small discussions, talk about one aspect of your concerns. AARP has “Prepare to Care” workbooks available as a guide. The workbooks walk you through the first steps needed to prepare for your role as a caregiver.

- Start the Conversation
- Form Your Team
- Make A Plan
- Find Support
- Care for Yourself
- Resources
- Goals & Needs Checklist
- Charts & Checklists
- Sample Caregiving Plans

For a copy of the workbook, visit aarp.org/caregiving or call (877) 333-5885.

I have mine ready for my talk with mom!

**Caregiving Among Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders Age 50+: Executive Summary. AARP Report. November 2014.**

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