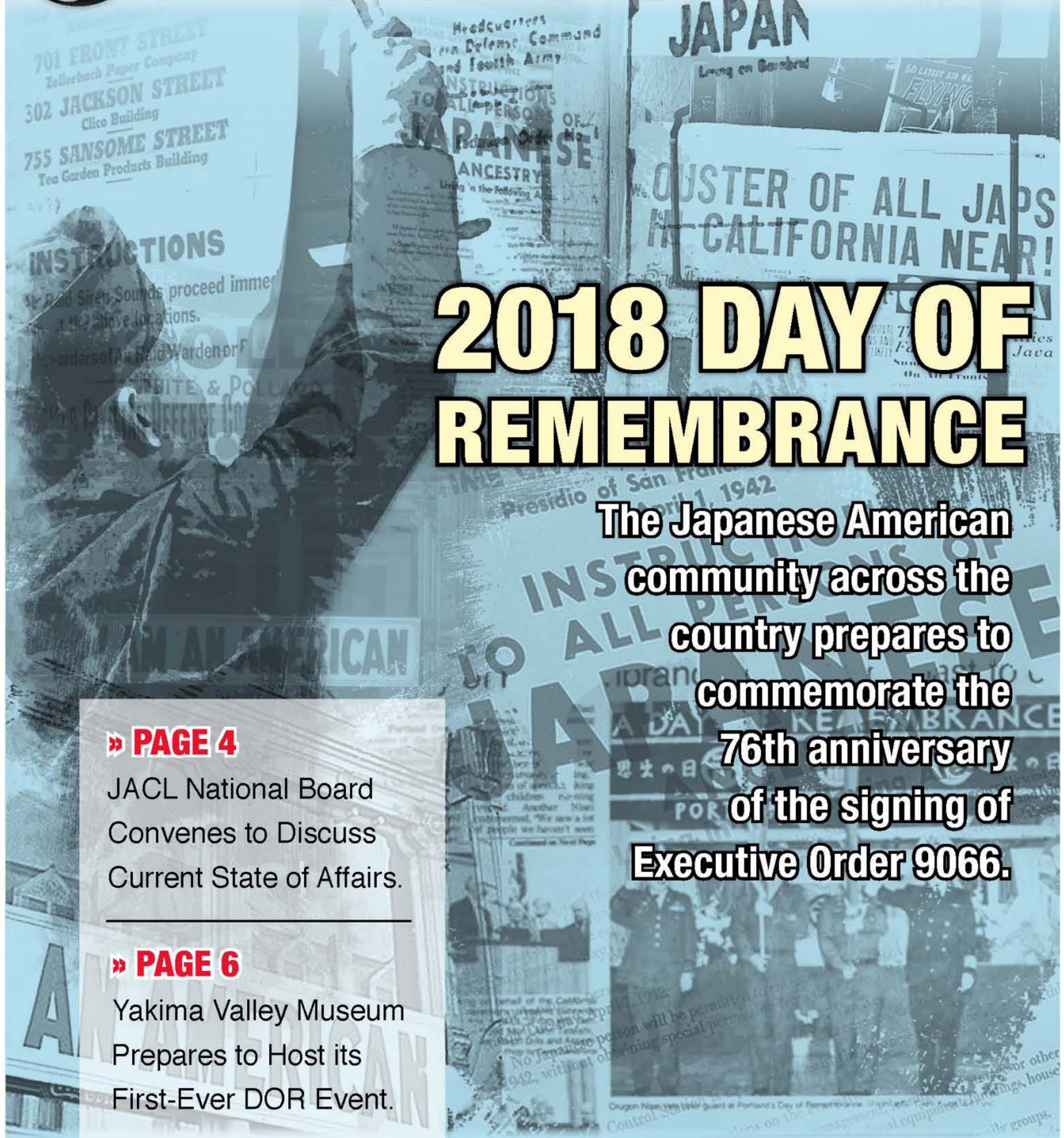




# PACIFIC CITIZEN



## 2018 DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

The Japanese American community across the country prepares to commemorate the 76th anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066.

» **PAGE 4**

JACL National Board Convenes to Discuss Current State of Affairs.

» **PAGE 6**

Yakima Valley Museum Prepares to Host its First-Ever DOR Event.



# GFBNEC AWARDED GRANTS FROM ARATANI FOUNDATION AND KEIRO

The funds will support and expand public education on Nisei WWII veterans' legacy.

LOS ANGELES — Go for Broke National Education Center announced Jan. 22 the awarding of two grants from the Aratani Foundation and Keiro that will support

the nonprofit center's national efforts to preserve and expand the legacy of Japanese American World War II veterans.

The substantial grant from the Aratani Foundation will support GFBNEC's "Defining Courage" educational exhibit in Little Tokyo by underwriting complimentary admission for teachers and students, as well as families, on designated dates in 2018. The grant will also help GFBNEC launch a new national exhibition that is currently under develop-

ment, as well as further support the organization's annual Evening of Aloha gala fundraiser.

The Aratani Foundation was launched in 1994 by Nisei entrepreneur and philanthropist George Aratani and his wife, Sakaye. Following his incarceration at the Gila River concentration camp during WWII, George Aratani served as a bilingual instructor at the Military Intelligence Service language school at Camp Savage, Minn.

"The Aratani family has supported GFBNEC since its inception in 1989, and we're extremely grateful for their generosity in helping us to educate the public about our Nisei veterans' values of duty, sacrifice, humility and honor," said GFBNEC President and CEO Mitchell T. Maki. "Today, the Aratani Foundation is helping us to reach a broader spectrum of Americans, both regionally and nationally, at a time when patriotism and social justice are more relevant than ever."

Separately, Keiro has awarded GFBNEC a grant of \$16,900 to provide transportation and support that will enable Nisei veterans to participate in the organization's regular meetings, special events and educational programs. Founded in 1961, Keiro is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of senior life in the Japanese American community.

"Keiro's support makes it possible for many of our Nisei veterans, who are in their 90s or even older, to attend GFBNEC's regular meetings and help to direct the organization's future," Maki said. "It's such a privilege to have our senior veterans share their experience and wisdom with schools, community groups and the public — they're part of our living history. The Keiro grant helps ensure that our vets can participate in a wonderful range of activities, from educational events and multi-generational social activities to our annual Evening of Aloha gala." ■

## HOW TO REACH US

Email: [pc@pacificcitizen.org](mailto:pc@pacificcitizen.org)  
Online: [www.pacificcitizen.org](http://www.pacificcitizen.org)  
Tel: (213) 620-1767  
Mail: 123 Ellison S. Onizuka St., Suite 313  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

### STAFF

**Executive Editor**  
Allison Haramoto

**Senior Editor  
Digital & Social Media**  
George Johnston

**Business Manager**  
Susan Yokoyama

**Production Artist**  
Marie Samonte

**Circulation**  
Eva Ting

The *Pacific Citizen* newspaper (ISSN: 0030-8579) is published semi-monthly (except once in December and January) by the Japanese American Citizens League, *Pacific Citizen*, 123 Ellison S. Onizuka St., Suite 313 Los Angeles, CA 90012. Periodical postage paid at L.A., CA. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to National JAACL, 1765 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94115

**JACL President:** Gary Mayeda  
**Executive Director:** David Inoue  
**Interim Assistant Executive Director:** Stephanie Nitahara  
**P.C. EDITORIAL BOARD**  
Gil Asakawa, chairperson; Jody Mitori, MDC; Joy Goto, CCDC; Jim Duff, NCWNPDC; Chip Larouche, PNWDC; Kayla Watanabe, IDC; John Saito Jr., PSWDC; Juli Yoshinaga, Youth Rep.

**SUBSCRIBE**  
Get a one-year subscription of the *Pacific Citizen* newspaper at: [www.pacificcitizen.org](http://www.pacificcitizen.org) or call (213) 620-1767

**ADVERTISE**  
To advertise in the *Pacific Citizen*, call (213) 620-1767 or e-mail: [pc@pacificcitizen.org](mailto:pc@pacificcitizen.org)

**LEGAL**  
No part of this publication may be reproduced without the express permission of the *Pacific Citizen*. Editorials, letters, news and the opinions expressed by columnists other than the national JACL president or national director do not necessarily reflect JACL policy. Events and products advertised in the *P.C.* do not carry the implicit endorsement of the JACL or this publication. We reserve the right to edit articles. © 2018

Periodicals paid at Los Angeles, Calif. and mailing office.

# ASSEMBLYMEMBERS AL MURATSUCHI AND JOINT AUTHOR ASSEMBLY MAJORITY CHAIR IAN CALDERON ANNOUNCE BILL ESTABLISHING SURFING AS OFFICIAL CALIFORNIA SPORT

TORRANCE, CALIF. — Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi (D-Torrance) and Joint Author Assembly Majority Leader Ian Calderon (D-Whittier) announced Jan. 17 the introduction of AB 1782, a bill that will establish surfing as California's state sport. Surfing is an iconic California sport that brings in significant economic activity to the state each

year; the state is home to several surfing museums, including the Surfers' Hall of Fame.

Both assemblymembers are avid surfers who have spent much time surfing in the waters off the coast of Southern California.

"Nothing represents the California Dream better than surfing — riding the waves and living in harmony with the beautiful

beaches and ocean of our Golden State. Surfing in California has a rich history and culture. The surfing lifestyle attracts people from all around the world and generates over \$6 billion in annual retail sales," said Muratsuchi. "Surfing is an iconic California sport and an important part of the multibillion-dollar California coastal economy, particularly in the



tourism and recreation industries. ... I am proud to introduce a bill that would make surfing California's official sport." ■

The *Pacific Citizen's* mission is to "educate on the past Japanese American experience and to preserve, promote and help the current and future AAPI communities."

JACL member?  Y  N

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

Name .....

Address .....

City .....

State ..... Zip .....

Phone .....

Email .....



Mail To Pacific Citizen Newspaper  
123 Ellison S. Onizuka St. #313  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

(213) 620-1767  
[www.PacificCitizen.Org](http://www.PacificCitizen.Org)

## JACL MEMBERS

### Change of Address

If you've moved, please send new information to:  
National JACL  
1765 Sutter St.  
San Francisco, CA 94115  
(415) 921-5225 ext. 26

Allow 6 weeks for address changes.

To avoid interruptions in delivery, please notify your postmaster to include periodicals in your change of address (USPS Form 3575)



## NIKKEI VOICE

# IF A BASEBALL TEAM CAN CHANGE, CAN'T WE GET RID OF RACIST KIDS' COSTUMES?

By Gil Asakawa

Recently, I was heartened to see the news that the Cleveland Indians Major League Baseball team is going to stop using its blatantly racist caricature of an American Indian, “Chief Wahoo,” on its uniforms starting with the 2019 season. The leering cartoon character is so obnoxious that my wife, Erin, has included it for years in a workshop she gives on racist icons in American culture — from Aunt Jemima to the Frito Bandito.

But this being America in 2018, the philosophy of yin and yang means that for this bit of good news (the chief will be benched from uniforms but not from team merchandise), there is a balancing blast of bad news, which came at practically the same time. I saw a

post on Facebook sharing a god-awful item from Walmart.com, a “Kids China Boy Costume,” complete with a photo of a young white boy dressed in an inappropriate, culturally appropriate and inexcusably phony polyester suit with baggy pants, a Mandarin-collared shirt with Chinese-style knot buttons and a matching hat (which is sold separately to “improve your costume”).

There’s been lively discussion about the item, which is currently sold out, by the way, on my Facebook page. An old friend from school pointed out the “hat sold separately” line, which actually seems hilarious to me. Why the hell would someone just buy the hat? Someone else who speaks Chinese (sorry, Nicholas, I forget if you speak Mandarin or Cantonese, or both) pointed out that the

Chinese characters on the shirt are gibberish. Another pointed out that upon close inspection, you can see that the kid has mascara to *make his eyes look slanted!*

Wow. Really?

Most people who saw it on Facebook think it’s awful, but one friend who I respect asked why the costume made me angry. She said that when she was young, she loved learning about other countries and their cultures, and she studied how people dressed around the world. She also had dolls in native costumes — hopefully, they were accurate and culturally respectful and educational.

I know, or hope, the child in the catalog photo is innocent. I doubt he understands anything about what he’s wearing. Hopefully, he didn’t go around saying, “Ching-Chong!” while posing for

the photo shoot.

But the child isn’t buying this stuff — it’s parents buying it for their children.

By doing that, parents perpetuate stereotypes of what Asians are like — it keeps Asian Americans as permanent foreigners, always the Other. Something exotic. Not really American. Ever.

If these costumes were accurate and came with some real history that a child could learn from, that might be acceptable. But really, when I (and I think most Asian Americans) see stuff like this, our stomachs clench because in our heads, we hear the taunts of “Ching-Chong Chinaman!” and “Remember Pearl Harbor!” — both are phrases hurled at me most of my life by ignorant kids whose parents probably bought them costumes like this to “play” the part of

a “Chinaman.”

On top of all that, the fact that this kid’s eyes are painted to look slanty just makes me want to throw up. . . .

No, I don’t think this kid is racist, or his parents, or anyone who had a childhood fascination for other cultures. That fascination is great; I wish more people had that and learned about the world. But I doubt any kids and their parents who think this costume is cool and worth spending \$24 on (\$40 list price!) is curious about world cultures. They’re just on an ignorant path.

They’re not looking for knowledge about China or Chinese history. They’re using the most shallow and fake surface elements to convey

>> See **COSTUMES** next page



## LEGAL-EASE: AN ATTORNEY’S PERSPECTIVE

### WHAT HAPPENS IF . . .

By Staci Yamashita-Iida, Esq.

My grade school teacher always used to tell me, “There is no such thing as a stupid question.” In my practice area, Estate Planning, I find this to be particularly true.

Oftentimes my clients, most of whom are Japanese and Japanese American, hesitate to ask questions during our meetings. They feel ashamed of their inquiries, fearing that they come off as being unintelligent or ignorant (which is definitely not the case!).

After speaking to many families, I began to notice a trend of similar questions. They would ask, “What happens if I do this?” Or, “What happens if I do that?” As a result, I began taking down a list of frequently asked questions posed by my clients. I figure if two or three people are thinking about these types of things, others are bound to be curious as well.

Accordingly, following is the first installment of “What Happens If . . .”

. . . I *handwrite a Last Will*

*and Testament before I go on vacation. Is it valid?*

A few years ago, a family friend came to see me to get her Estate Plan drafted. She had been meaning to get it done for years and years, but she never got around to it. When I asked her what finally motivated her to come in, she said it was because she had went on vacation with her entire family and realized if the plane went down, she had no legal documents in place to specify who would inherit her assets. So before she left, she printed out a fill-in-the-blank will template that she found online and taped it to her fridge. Thankfully, she returned home safely, but that fear was the push she needed to finally get things done.

In this situation, the question that usually arises is whether a “vacation will” has any legitimacy. Is it valid? Probably (assuming all of the legal requirements were met). Is it enough? Probably not. If you own a home, a Last Will and Testament does not necessarily save your family from the legal headache of the probate process. A more secure form of Estate Planning is to have a living trust prepared. Proper planning is always key.

. . . I *refinanced my house. Does*

*anything need to be done with my living trust?*

Many financial institutions will ask you to take your home out of your living trust before you refinance. Once the refi occurs, there are three possibilities: 1) the financial institution immediately puts your home back into the trust; 2) the financial institution waits until the loan is paid off before putting your home back into the trust; or 3) the financial institution does not put your home back into your trust.

If you experience possibility #1 or #2, then your home should be properly funded at the time of your passing. However, if you experience possibility #3, then your Successor Trustee may be in for a bit of a problem. Time, effort and money will be spent to ensure that your beneficiaries still receive the property.

If you’re worried about possibility #3, there are a few simple remedies. You can quickly check your property tax bill to see if the word “Trust” or “TR” appears next to your name. If so, chances are your home is in your trust (though it’s not 100 percent conclusive).

To be safe, I would recommend doing a title search to confirm that the last vesting deed shows that the

home is, in fact, in your trust. Your Estate Planning attorney (or even your realtor) should be able to assist you with this task.

*... What if my executor, successor trustee, power of attorney, etc. dies before me?*

If you created your Estate Plan 20-plus years ago, your children may have been too young for you to name them as your executor; you may have appointed siblings, friends or a financial institution instead.

If you chose an executor that has aged with you, then there’s a chance that you’ll outlive that person. What happens then?

In some cases, your Estate Plan will provide for that situation. For example, your Last Will and Testament may name Sister Sue as your Executor, but if she predeceases you, then Nephew Neal serves as the alternate.

It’s always a good idea to review your Estate Plan periodically to refresh your memory as to who your alternates are. One of my clients named her close friend and next-door neighbor as her executor. Years later, she retired and followed her children to another state. When it came time to update her living trust,

she was surprised — she had completely forgotten that she had chosen her neighbor for the role. They hadn’t been in contact for years, and she didn’t even have a correct telephone number or address for her.

Additionally, if your children are old enough to act as executor now, you may want to make modifications to your Estate Plan to appoint them instead. Reviewing your Estate Plan every so often is a great way to ensure that your wishes are correct and up to date.

Questions will always arise when you create your Estate Plan. As I mentioned, people tend to have the same ones, so please do not hesitate in asking them — you’ll never regret putting your mind at ease. As I collect more frequently asked questions, a second installment of “What Happens If . . .” will emerge. Stay tuned for more!

*Staci Yamashita-Iida, Esq. is an Estate Planning attorney at Elder Law Services of California. She can be contacted at (310) 348-2995 or staci@elderlawcalifornia.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.*

# JACL'S 2017 REVENUE OVER EXPENSES UP \$479K

Secretary/Treasurer Alan Nishi cautions that the organization needs to continue to have firm financial goals in place.

By P.C. Staff

To describe the state of National JACL's budget, one could accurately say it's "in the black" — but followed by an "ish."

In his preliminary treasurer's report on Feb. 3 to the JACL National Board at JACL headquarters in San Francisco, National JACL Secretary/Treasurer Alan Nishi reported net revenue over expenses was up \$479,000.

While the news is undoubtedly good for the organization, Nishi said, "The bottom line looks good right now, but you have to recognize what caused that, and it's nonrecurring revenue sources, which is not something you can budget on moving forward."

The major "nonrecurring revenue sources" Nishi cited were several 2017 bequeaths, noting, as an example, that in December, the JACL received an unexpected bequeath from an anonymous donor of about \$45,000.

"Public support exceeded the year-to-date budget by \$569,000. That's a lot. That includes donations," Nishi said. "It primarily includes a lot of bequeaths that we received." He also noted that nonrecurring revenue sources were something that JACL could not and should not rely on to reach its budgetary goals.

"Ideally, you want to see your membership and your regular expenses be able to cover itself," Nishi said. "In this case here, it took nonrecurring revenue sources to basically meet our expenses. If it hadn't been for that, we probably would have had an operating deficit of roughly \$277,000 for the year."

"We need reliable sources of revenue, and hopefully, if we can get fundraising off the ground, we can get a consistent level of rev-



PHOTO: SUSAN YOKOYAMA

Members of the JACL National Board listen to reports detailing the organization's current financial status at its Feb. 3 meeting.

enues coming in," he said, noting that in this area, JACL fell short of budget by \$145,000.

"I'm not counting on us getting more bequeaths this year. I'm really not. But if it comes in, I'll take it," Nishi added. "My agenda is to be in the black. I consider not only us lucky in 2017, I consider me as treasurer being lucky in 2017."

Other reasons cited for the good fiscal news were 2017's booming stock market, which translated into unrealized capital gains, as well as savings from unfilled and partially unfilled staff positions, which translated to savings of about \$72,000 in personnel costs.

Noting that the bulk of JACL's assets are in investment funds, Nishi said, "We've been very fortunate. Our stock market is at near historic highs for most of this past year, so we exceeded budget on our investment revenue income. Again, this includes unrealized capital gains, which can change in an instant, but we ended up with \$219,000 over budget. It's another area of concern that I have, although it's a good thing here."

Also good: Nishi said that on grants, JACL came in at \$164,481 vs. the budget of \$164,210.

"The grants that we received, we used to help fund our programing," he said. "Revenue side, we were on budget."

Other bright spots: Overall total expenses were \$26,000 under budget, as were

scholarship/fellow/intern expenses, which were \$30,000 under budget.

Meetings and conferences, however, were over budget by \$29,000, and Nishi broached his concerns over JACL's fiscal status in the coming months. For instance, he said fundraising fell short of the budget by \$145,000. "Not a good thing. We'll be depending on that for 2018," Nishi said.

Membership dues, meantime, were down about \$8,000.

For the *Pacific Citizen*, Nishi noted that the JACL newspaper's budget was \$172,000 short of the budget — but that December's numbers, which include Holiday Issue revenue, had not yet been included.

"That will probably knock it down another \$60,000 or so," Nishi said.

Nishi noted his concern for the *Pacific Citizen's* future fundraising revenue, saying that "we're going to be short at least \$100,000 going into the year, instantly."

Nishi said that JACL business manager Matt Walters had been scheduled to provide details on the new bookkeeping arrangements between National JACL and the *Pacific Citizen*, but he fell ill and was absent from the meeting.

Nishi also included a breakdown of 2017 Legacy Fund distributions as follows: General Operations, 60 percent, or \$221,422; Chapter Rebates, 20 percent, or \$73,807; Grants, 10 percent, or \$36,904; Reinvestment, 5 percent, or \$18,452; and General Support/Reinvestment, 5 percent, or \$18,452, all for a total of \$369,037.

According to Nishi, JACL's reserve fund, which is used as a safety net to cover potential deficits, was at \$430,000 as of September 2017, and it includes excess cash received earlier in the year from the 2017 budget.

"The \$430,000 represents about 20 percent of our 2018 operating budget," Nishi said. "My goal is to preserve that in our treasury at all times. I really believe we're going to need it moving forward."

As for that 2018 budget, Nishi said he would get into that at the next National Board meeting, which is set for April 28, again at JACL Headquarters in San Francisco. A biennial budget committee meeting is tentatively set for March. ■

## COSTUMES >> continued from page 3

"Chineseness." If it were easy to put on yellow makeup (imagine a costume where a kid would put on blackface to appear African-American), I bet they'd do that in a second.

Now, going to *that* step would make them flat-out racist.

Walmart, go through your online vendors and clean out all the crap. It was just a few months ago when a Walmart vendor sold framed photos of Japanese American concentration camps as perfect wall decor, after all. We haven't forgotten.

Is there a pattern here?

**NOTE:** While I'm at it, let's not let Amazon off the hook. Search for "China Boy Costume" on Amazon.com, and you won't find the Walmart special (oddly, the search results show lots of fake glasses — what's with that???)

But Amazon in the U.K. is under fire for a vendor selling "Asian" costumes with white

kids wearing them while they pull their eyes back in a slant — another stupid unoriginal trick that was shown to me many times growing up.

Come on, world, GROW UP!

**UPDATE:** The costume (and the JA concentration camp photos from before) were sold by third-party vendors through Walmart.com. After JACL Executive Director David Inoue contacted the company, Walmart has removed the costume, along with other offensive items it found when it did a review. Walmart is reworking its vendor rules to prevent similar incidents.

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

## TIPS FOR THE WISE CAR BUYER

1. Before you leave home, visit our Auto Center at [jacu.com](http://jacu.com) to find the best deal.
2. Make your way to the dealer and purchase your new car.
3. Next call or head over to National JACL Credit Union.

Get a better rate and up to \$500 cash back.

Tell them you want to finance at JACL CU.

Call us to get pre-approved.



Use this innovative auto buying resource that connects you with comprehensive research and comparison tools. Make a smart buying decision with competitive credit union financing. *Know Before You Go!*

800-544-8828 [www.jaclcu.com](http://www.jaclcu.com)



National JACL Credit Union

# JACL NATIONAL BOARD CONVENES TO DISCUSS PLANS FOR 2018

July's National Convention, set for Philadelphia, is among the numerous topics discussed at the organization's San Francisco headquarters.

By P.C. Staff

**P**reliminary per-person costs and possible themes for the 2018 JACL National Convention in Philadelphia were among the items discussed at the Feb. 3 JACL National Board meeting, held in San Francisco, during a report given by JACL VP of General Operations Michelle Amano.

Prior to Amano's report, JACL National President Gary Mayeda announced the appointment of attorney George Kita as JACL National Legal Counsel; he succeeds Michelle Yoshida.

Kita, who graduated from the University of California, Hastings College of Law, is president of the Downtown Los Angeles Chapter of JACL, a position he has held for several years. The JACL National Board unanimously confirmed Kita's appointment.

Amano said the cost for the convention, which is set for July 18-22, would be about \$350 per person. Two possible themes discussed were "Activism: Redress and Resistance" and "A Lasting

Legacy: Celebrating Civil Rights Leaders," with the former chosen by consensus.

VP Public Affairs Jeff Moy kept his report brief, mentioning participation in events such as the recent Women's March, which he and National Youth/Student Council Chair Kota Mizutani took part in. Moy then ceded the floor to Greg Marutani, who reported that Ron Sakai has been appointed as the National Education Committee's MDC representative, succeeding Lisa Hanasono.

Marutani also reported that a new Teacher Training Workshop was under development with Go for Broke National Education Center chief Mitch Maki to "reinvigorate the interest of the chapters to deal with the issue of what's happening now" as it relates to the success of the Japanese American Redress Movement.

*Pacific Citizen* Editorial Board Chair Gil Asakawa then conveyed that 50 JACL chapters from all the JACL districts purchased ads in the *P.C.'s* 2017 Holiday Special Issue, which showed increased revenue compared to 2016. Asakawa also noted how the *P.C.* has recently experimented with putting ads that appear only in the PDF version of the *Pacific Citizen*, as well as touted the *P.C.'s* Amazon Affiliates program, which will get additional promotion in 2018, and how there will be more theme-based issues in addition to the usual Holiday and Scholarship issues.

Membership VP Haruka Roudebush reported that JACL membership was down 4.2 percent, ending the year with 8,887 members nationally from 9,277 members. Roudebush noted, however, that EDC grew 3.5 percent from 2016

to the end of 2017. In addition, he noted that there were several chapters that lost 10 percent or more of their members.

"Doing follow-up with these specific chapters . . . is going to be a priority I think for the National Membership committee so that we can assess factors as to why they're experiencing these levels of membership loss," he said.

Roudebush's written report noted that requests have been made to each district board to submit a representative to serve on the National Membership Committee, with the first monthly NMC conference call scheduled for Feb. 12.

Regarding the Young Professionals Caucus, which first met in 2016, Roudebush formally submitted a request that the YPC officially become a national standing committee of the JACL, with initial funding of \$3,000. After discussion,

Roudebush said he would rework and resubmit that proposal at a later date.

Planning & Development VP Matt Farrells reported on the Board Give-or-Get program, which is a policy that compels JACL leaders to commit pledging to give or raise an unspecified dollar amount to the organization. He said it looks like all but one pledge has been collected for 2017-18. He also introduced Alicia Green of Hendricks Drive, an advertising agency that is creating a fundraising brochure as part of the current development campaign. The brochure is set to be completed later this month.

Farrells said that Green, who gave a presentation to the board, has already interviewed leaders, including JACL President Gary Mayeda, to get some different perspectives to help define the marketing strategy JACL will be rolling

out, with a public launch set for July's National Convention.

As part of the fundraising campaign, Farrells said the goal is to raise \$1 million over two years, and that there will also be a focus on fundraising at the chapter level. He closed his report with updates on the scholarship program — including a new Dr. Newton K. Wesley optometry scholarship of \$25,000 — and the Legacy Fund Grant Program, the application deadline for which is May 1.

For the National Youth/Student Council Report, Mizutani and representative Kenji Kuramitsu split the duties on reporting its recent activity, including the EDC Youth Summit, which took place during the Philadelphia Asian American Film Festival last year and the continuance of its *Nikkei-mashou*

>> See PLANS on page 9

## AMERICAN HOLIDAY TRAVEL 2018 TOUR SCHEDULE

- Japan Yukkuri Holiday Tour** (Ernest Hida) **WAITLIST** . . . . . Apr 4-17  
Tokyo, Shimoda, Shizuoka, Takayama, Kanazawa, Noto Peninsula, Kyoto, Miyako Odori Show.
- Danube River Holiday Cruise** (Carol Hida) . . . . . Apr 23-May 4  
Prague, Vilshofen, Passau, Linz, Weissenkirchen, Vienna, Bratislava, Budapest. With AMA Waterways Cruise Line.
- Heritage of America Holiday Tour** (Elaine Ishida) . . . . . Apr 27-May 6  
New York City, Philadelphia, Gettysburg, Shenandoah Valley, Charlottesville, Williamsburg, Yorktown, Washington DC.
- Cape Cod-Islands of New England Tour** (Carol Hida & Elaine Ishida) . . Jun 1-8  
Providence, Newport, Boston, Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard, Hyannis, Nantucket.
- Grandparents-Grandchildren Japan Tour** (Ernest Hida) **WAITLIST** Jun 18-28  
Tokyo, Hakone, Atami, Hiroshima, Kyoto.
- Hokkaido Summer Holiday Tour** (Ernest Hida) . . . . . July 6-19  
Lake Akan, Furano, Asahikawa, Wakkanai, Rishiri Island, Sapporo, Noboribetsu, Lake Toya, Hakodate.
- Pacific Coastal Holiday Cruise** (Elaine Ishida) . . . . . Sep 19-26  
Vancouver, Victoria, Astoria-Oregon, San Francisco, Santa Barbara, Los Angeles. Island Princess Ship.
- Classical Japan Autumn Holiday Tour** (Ernest Hida) . . . . . Oct 8-20  
Tokyo, Mt. Fuji, Shizuoka, Nagoya, Gifu, Hiroshima, Kyoto.
- New England Autumn Holiday Tour** (Carol Hida) . . . . . Oct 12-19  
Boston, North Conway, Burlington, Portland, Maple Sugar Farm, Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream Factory, Washington Cog Railway.
- Costa Rica Holiday Tour** (Carol Hida) . . . . . Nov 7-15  
San Jose, La Fortuna, Monteverde, Punta Arenas, Rain/Cloud Forest, Volcano National Parks, Hot Springs, Coffee Plantation.
- Okinawa Holiday Tour** (Ernest Hida) . . . . . Nov 7-16  
Naha, Onnason, Islands of Ishigaki, Iriomote & Taketomi.

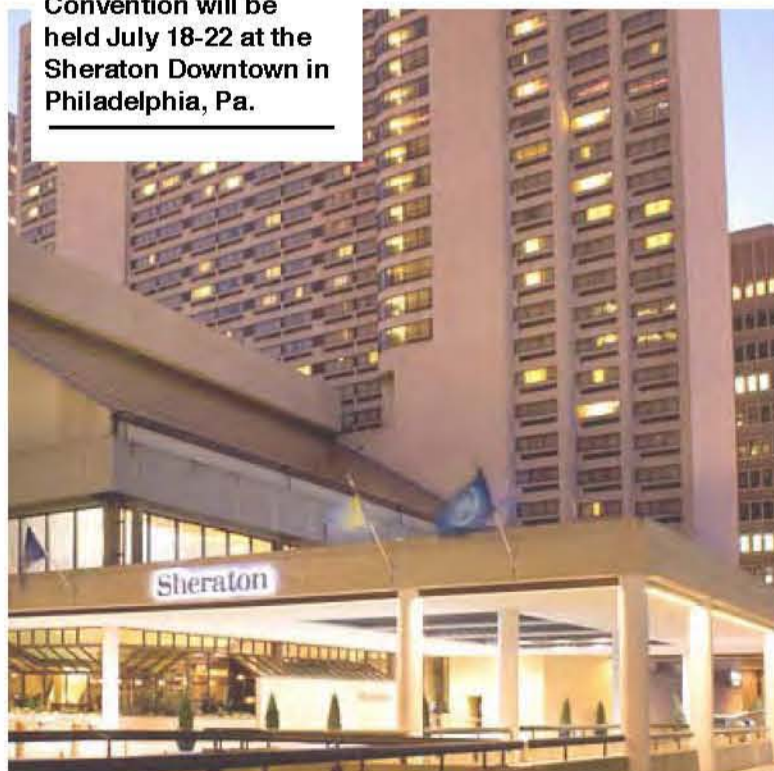
For more information and reservations, please contact:

AMERICAN HOLIDAY TRAVEL

312 E. 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Suite 240 \* Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Tel: (213)625-2232 \* Email: americanholiday@att.net  
Ernest or Carol Hida  
Elaine Ishida (Tel: 714-269-4534)

(CST #200326-10)

The 2018 JACL National Convention will be held July 18-22 at the Sheraton Downtown in Philadelphia, Pa.



# 'THE YAKIMA VALLEY JAPANESE PIONEERS'

Having successfully documented the valley's rich cultural and important history, the Yakima Valley Museum is now set to host its first DOR event.

By P.C. Staff

With the success of its exhibition the "Land of Joy and Sorrow — Japanese Pioneers of the Yakima Valley" now celebrating its eight-year anniversary in 2018, the Yakima Valley Museum is now set to hold its first-ever Day of Remembrance event on Feb. 18.

The exhibition has been one of the museum's most successful endeavors, collecting several accolades during its run, including the 2011 "Award of Exhibit Excellence," given by the Washington Museum Assn., which noted that "the museum went beyond textbooks and documentaries, seeking out personal histories and artifacts concerning the community's past and present. Not only is it a significant contribution to the understanding of a community, it also enhances the rich history of Washington State."



PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE YAKIMA VALLEY MUSEUM

"JAPANESE PIONEERS OF THE YAKIMA VALLEY": Pictured is one of the displays in the award-winning exhibit at the Yakima Valley Museum.

PHOTO: PATTI HIRAHARA

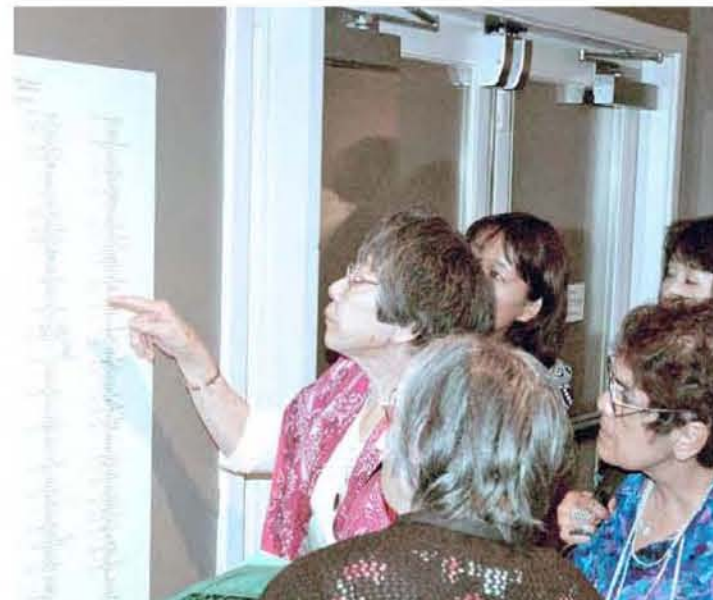


PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE YAKIMA VALLEY MUSEUM

## Japanese to Have Program

### Patriotism Theme Of Special Meet

Wapato, Jan. 1—(Special to the Republic)—While members of the Japanese American Citizens League are sincerely American, they feel it is necessary in these times of stress to affirm publicly their allegiance to the nation and to do more, if possible, than their white co-citizens.

In this article in the *Yakima Daily Republic*, published on Jan. 1, 1942, it stated that "while members of the JACL are sincerely American, they feel it is necessary in these times of stress to affirm publicly their allegiance to the nation . . ."

Last year, the museum commemorated the 75th anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, which resulted in the imprisonment of 75,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry and 45,000 Japanese nationals in prison camps across the country. The Yakima Valley has focused on this history, which devastated its vibrant Japanese community in 1942.

Tammy Ayer, features/reader engagement editor of the *Yakima Herald Republic*, started a yearlong monthly series highlighting this anniversary, in February of last year, to focus on this relatively unknown and vanishing community story.

"Concerning my series, I've most enjoyed solving mysteries created by the loss of local knowledge and the passage of time," Ayer said. "I relished seeing the response to the story about Japan Town in Yakima. The comments from readers amazed me;

so many were from people who grew up here, who have lived here for decades and never learned that Yakima had a thriving Japan Town.

"Readers have sent me snail mail and emails about the series, as well as adding their own memories," Ayer continued. "One woman was 4 years old when she heard her mom talking about members of the valley's Japanese community being forced to leave everything they had for imprisonment at Heart Mountain. 'I remember Mom saying it was wrong,' the woman said in a letter. Many of her friends were sent to Heart Mountain and never returned to the valley.

"In terms of what has resonated most for me while doing this series was that in the beginning, I didn't think much about the ramifications of just 10 percent of a community returning to the Yakima Valley. But the more I learned more about this community, I realized how much was lost.

(Left) THE MOST SUCCESSFUL OPENING IN RECENT MEMORY: When the Yakima Valley Museum opened its Yakima Japanese pioneer exhibit in October 2010, the opening had more than 300 people in attendance. Here, guests review the Exclusion Order #98 list of families that left the Yakima Valley from Wapato on June 4 and 5, 1942.

(Right) LIFE IN HEART MOUNTAIN: In the Japanese American incarceration section of the Yakima Valley Museum exhibit, this display includes artifacts from Yakima Valley families of their time in Heart Mountain, Wyo.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES MANUSCRIPTS, ARCHIVES AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS



(Left) SHARING THE YAKIMA STORY: Patti Hirahara shared her family's Yakima, Wash., story — and the history behind the more than 2,000 photos that were taken by her grandfather and father in Heart Mountain, Wyo., from 1943-45 — at the FDR Presidential Library in Hyde Park, N.Y., last October. She is shown standing next to five of WSU's George and Frank C. Hirahara Collection photos that were on display at the FDR exhibit. These photos are significant since they were taken by two amateur photographers who were incarcerated behind barbed wire during World War II.

(Bottom) PACIFIC HOTEL ENTRANCE PHOTOS THEN AND NOW: The George Hirahara family owned the 60-room Pacific Hotel in Yakima's Japan Town from 1926-42. The building still exists today. In an undated photo, two lodgers at the hotel are shown at the entrance before WWII; granddaughter Patti Hirahara is shown standing in the same spot as it exists today.



Japanese Community Float, Yakima, May 18, 1935

The Hirahara family then spent 79 years in the Yakima Valley. In 1987, Patti Hirahara's grandfather, George, was named grand marshal of the Washington State Pioneer Power Show; in 1988, he was named a pioneer of the Central Washington State Fair.

George Hirahara became active in establishing the Central Washington Antique Farm Equipment Club as a charter member and was the 49th member of the national Early Day Gas Engine and Tractor Assn. He enjoyed serving as a local ambassador to visiting Japanese businessmen and being part of the Yakima Valley community until he and his wife left Yakima in 1992 to come to California to be close to their only child and his family.

"I am very happy to come and participate in this very important Day of Remembrance program and share what I have learned about my own family history in the valley before WWII through documents in the National Archives and see what still remains of my family in the valley today," Patti Hirahara said. "This was my family's home and where two generations are buried. So, even though I was born and raised in California, this has become a second home to me."

In 2013, the museum held a Yakima Valley Japanese Pioneers reunion that was attended by more than 200 people. The first one was held in Yakima and Wapato in 1973 by the Yakima Valley Japanese community. But since those 40 years, many had never had a chance to return or learn about their family history. Therefore, this reunion, which was held at the museum, was a homecoming of sorts for family descendants to hear what really happened from those that survived. People still talk about this reunion to this day.

"The museum is proud to host its first Day of Remembrance event," said Peter Arnold, executive director of the Yakima Valley Museum. "The story of the Yakima Japanese community and E.O. 9066 encapsulates the very purpose of history — that is by studying the past, we can make better decisions in the future. We are very grateful to the panelists for all the work they have done to make this event a reality."

Following the panel, guests are invited to visit the "Land of Joy and Sorrow" exhibit. Admission to the panel and exhibit is free for all event attendees. Due to limited seating, the museum requests that attendees please RSVP by calling (509) 248-0747.

The valley would be a very different place today if E.O. 9066 had never happened," Ayer concluded.

Ellen Allmendinger, a Yakima historic tour guide and speaker, worked with Ayer, detailing the valley's rich history. Allmendinger has led walking tours of Yakima's Japan Town, Downtown Yakima, Historic Tahoma Cemetery and other vicinities since 2016.

"Researching the multilayered facets of the residents, businesses and buildings within Yakima's once-thriving Japan Town has been a fascinating journey. Having the means to share the information via tours and speaking engagements has been both an honor and a blessing," Allmendinger said.

Allmendinger is also a public speaker and has given many presentations on Yakima's history at a variety of venues, meetings and engagements. Currently, she is completing her first book, "The Hidden History of Yakima, Washington," with Arcadia Publishing. The book, which will include Yakima's Japan Town history, is scheduled to be published this year.

As a wrap-up of the *Yakima Herald Republic's* yearlong focus on the Yakima Japanese community and E.O. 9066, the Yakima Valley Museum will host "The Yakima Valley Japanese Pioneers — Their story Continues to Educate New Generations" event from 1-3 p.m. on Feb. 18, with the museum opening especially for this event from Noon- 5 p.m. that day.

A panel discussion and audience Q & A session will include Allmendinger, Ayer and Patti Hirahara, from Anaheim, Calif., whose personal family story has been instrumental in telling Yakima history across the U.S.,

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF THE HIRAHARA FAMILY COLLECTION, YAKIMA VALLEY MUSEUM AND JAKE PARRISH, YAKIMA HERALD REPUBLIC



as well as serving as the inspiration for the creation of the museum's current exhibit.

Hirahara has been promoting the Yakima story since 2008, when she contacted the Yakima Valley Museum to see if it had ever done an exhibition on the Japanese pioneers in the Central Washington region.

With nothing ever being shown before, Hirahara donated her family's artifacts, documents and photos to help create a Japanese American collection that would allow the museum to develop an exhibition



that would educate the public at large.

Three generations of the Hirahara family lived in the Yakima Valley before World War II, where they made a living through farming and owning the 60-room Pacific Hotel in Yakima's Japan Town.

Of the 1,018 people that left from the Wapato, Wash., train station in June 1942 to the Portland Assembly Center and then to Heart Mountain, Wyo., only 10 percent returned following the war — the Hirahara family was among the first to return.

# 49TH ANNUAL MANZANAR PILGRIMAGE SET FOR APRIL 28

This year's gathering will pay homage to the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.



PHOTO: MARK KIRCHNER/MANZANAR COMMITTEE

Pilgrimage participants are shown gathered around the Manzanar cemetery monument for the interfaith service during the 48th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage on April 29, 2017.

LOS ANGELES — The 49th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage, sponsored by the Manzanar Committee, is scheduled for April 28 at the Manzanar National Historic Site.

This year's pilgrimage will commemorate the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which provided redress and reparations for the survivors of America's World War II concentration camps and other confinement sites, in which more than 110,000 Japanese Americans and their immigrant parents were unjustly incarcerated during World War II.

Cultural performances will begin at 11:30 a.m. PDT, while the main portion of the program begins at noon.

Each year, more than 1,000 people from all walks of life — including students, teachers, community members, clergy and former incarcerated — attend the pilgrimage at the Manzanar National Historic Site, located on U.S. Highway 395 in California's Owens Valley, between the towns of Lone Pine and Independence, approximately 230 miles north of Los Angeles.

Planning is also under way for the afternoon event as well as the

Manzanar at Dusk program, which is scheduled from 5-8 p.m. that same evening at Lone Pine High School, approximately eight miles south of MNHS.

Manzanar at Dusk is co-sponsored by the Nikkei Student Unions at California State University, Long Beach; California State Polytechnic University, Pomona; the University of California, Los Angeles; and the University of California, San Diego.

Through a creative presentation, small group discussions and an open mic session, Manzanar at Dusk participants will have the opportunity to learn about the experiences of those incarcerated in the camps. Participants will also be able to interact with former incarcerated in attendance to hear their personal stories, share their own experiences and discuss the relevance of the concentration camp experience to present-day events and issues.

Pilgrimage participants are advised to bring their own lunch, drinks and snacks, as there are no facilities to purchase food at the MNHS (restaurants and fast-food outlets are located in Lone Pine and Independence, which are near-

by). Water will be provided at the site.

Those who wish to participate in the traditional flower offering during the interfaith service are advised to bring their own flowers.

Pilgrimage participants should also be aware of the fact that weather in the Owens Valley can be unpredictable and can change rapidly. The Manzanar Committee advises participants to wear a hat, use sunscreen (ultraviolet light is not affected by clouds and is more intense at higher elevations) and be prepared for any kind of weather, including high winds, heat, cold and rain.

Further details about the 49th Annual Pilgrimage and the Manzanar at Dusk program will be announced at a later date.

The Manzanar Committee has also announced that bus transportation to the pilgrimage will be available from Los Angeles' Little Tokyo and Gardena.

The Little Tokyo bus, sponsored by the Manzanar Committee, will depart at 7 a.m., arriving at the pilgrimage at approximately 11:30 a.m. Participants will be taken to the visitors center at the MNHS following the afternoon program.

The bus should arrive back in Los Angeles at approximately 8:30 p.m.

Reservations for the Little Tokyo bus will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. The non-refundable fare is \$40 per seat, \$20 for students (proof of student status required). Complimentary fares are available for those who were incarcerated at any of the former American concentration camps or other confinement sites during World War II.

The Gardena bus is sponsored by the Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute. Information to the Manzanar Pilgrimage can be found on the GVJCI website (<https://gvjci.wufoo.com/forms/manzanar-pilgrimage-2018>) or by calling (310) 324-6611.

Anyone wishing to attend the Manzanar at Dusk program that evening should make other transportation arrangements.

Both the Manzanar Pilgrimage and the Manzanar at Dusk programs are free and open to the public. For more information, or to reserve a seat on the bus departing from Little Tokyo, call (323) 662-5102 or email [49thpilgrimage@manzanarcommittee.org](mailto:49thpilgrimage@manzanarcommittee.org).

## MANZANAR AUTO TOUR ROAD TO CLOSE FOR PAVING

Beginning Feb. 12, the 3.2-mile road will be closed through April.



PHOTO: COURTESY OF MNHS

A National Park Service composite image of the street north of Block 32 in Manzanar. The image on the left was taken by Toyo Miyatake during World War II. The image on the right is the same road in 2016.

The Manzanar National Historic Site's 3.2-mile auto tour road will be closed for paving beginning Feb. 12 through late April. Visitors can still explore the site on foot and/or drive to the camp cemetery via dirt roads on the north and west boundaries of the site.

The road's current dirt surface has been subject to dust, erosion and occasional flooding through the years. The paving project will restore the road to its World War II-era appearance when the camp's streets were hard surfaced. It will also improve access and safety, as well as help preserve historic resources by clearly delineating where visitors should drive. Paving the road also addresses deferred and future maintenance. Correcting low, flood-prone areas will eliminate annual grading and repairs.

"This project has been a long time coming, but there's no better time than now," said MNHS Superintendent Bernadette Johnson. "The number of people visiting Manzanar each year is increasing dramatically. We apologize for the inconvenience to visitors now, but this project will benefit site visitors for years to come."

While Manzanar does not collect entrance fees, the paving project will be funded by entrance fees paid at other National Park Service sites around the country. S. T. Rhoades Inc. of Redding, Calif., a small business contractor, has been hired to complete the paving project using materials purchased from Owens Valley businesses.

While the road is completely closed, the visitor center will remain open 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. daily. It features extensive exhibits and a 22-minute introductory film, "Remembering Manzanar." Admission is free. Nearby, a World War II-era mess hall, two reconstructed barracks and a latrine interpret the challenges of daily life. Visitors who choose to explore Manzanar on foot should wear sturdy shoes, hats, sunscreen and carry water.

For more information, call (760) 878-2194, ext. 3310, or visit [www.nps.gov/manz](http://www.nps.gov/manz). Manzanar is also on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/ManzanarNationalHistoricSite](http://www.facebook.com/ManzanarNationalHistoricSite).

## 2018 Legacy Fund Grants Program Announcement

SAN FRANCISCO — The JACL Legacy Fund Grants Committee is pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for 2018 Legacy Fund grants. Committee Co-Chairs Janice Faden and Jane Katsuyama encourage all eligible candidates to apply. Eligible applicants include all JACL chapters in good standing, District Councils and the JACL National Youth/Student Council.

The maximum grant award for 2018 is \$5,000.

Grants will be awarded for projects and activities that support JACL's mission and the 2017-18 Strategic Plan. Information on the Legacy Fund Grants Program and an application can be downloaded from the JACL website ([www.jacl.org](http://www.jacl.org)) under "Social Justice." JACL's Strategic Plan can also be accessed via the JACL website.

The Legacy Fund was established by the JACL National Council in 1990 at the JACL National Convention in San Diego. Gifts were first donated to the

fund by JACL members who gave a portion of their redress awards to further the legacy of patriotism and hard-won civil rights that is central to the story of Nikkei in America. A portion of the Legacy Fund Endowment is used to fund the grants program.

Completed applications are due May 1; grant recipients will be announced at the 49th JACL National Convention in Philadelphia, set for July 18-22 at the Sheraton Downtown.

For additional information, email Janice Faden at [jfaden1@verizon.net](mailto:jfaden1@verizon.net), Jane Katsuyama at [yjkcello@gmail.com](mailto:yjkcello@gmail.com) or JACL Regional Director Patty Wada at [pwada@jacl.org](mailto:pwada@jacl.org).





# PATRICK CHUN SELECTED TO LEAD WASHINGTON STATE ATHLETICS

Chun, the university's 14th athletic director, began his duties Feb. 5.

By Washington State Athletic Communications



PULLMAN, WASH. — Washington State University President Kirk Schulz has selected Patrick Chun as WSU director of athletics, it was announced Jan. 22. Chun was officially introduced at a press conference at Martin Stadium on Jan. 23. He is the 14th individual to lead Cougar athletics in school history; Chun began his duties Feb. 5. "This is a game-changing day for our athletics program," said Schulz. "We were focused on finding a leader with the right blend of experience, vision and passion to lead Cougar athletics to the next level of success. In Pat, we're confident we found that person. His achievements in fundraising, boosting the academic success rate of student athletes and building strong relationships with the community — on- and off-campus — are exemplary."

Chun, 43, is the first Asian American athletic director to lead a Power 5 school. He has spent the past five and a half years leading Florida Atlantic University athletics and the previous 15 years at Ohio State University in a multitude of roles from 1997-2012.

"I am honored to serve the Washington State University family, and I want to thank President Schulz and the search committee for entrusting me as the steward of the Department of Athletics," said Chun. "The passion and pride of Cougar Nation is renowned and revered across the country, and I will work with our great coaches and staff to impact the lives of our student-athletes and build upon our past successes to achieve new heights. My family and I are looking forward to joining the WSU community, and we are excited to get started."

During his time at Florida Atlantic University athletics, Chun guided the Owls to unprecedented successes across academics, athletics, student-athlete development and fundraising.

His top priority upon arriving at FAU was

academics, which saw tremendous growth. Entering the 2017-18 academic year, FAU student-athletes have posted a combined GPA above 3.0 for each of the past four semesters, a first in school history. School records were also posted for Graduate Success Rate (GSR) and Academic Progress Rate (APR) in 2016-17.

Along with the academic improvement, the FAU athletics department developed a comprehensive life skills program featuring career services and a speakers program, as well as a concerted effort to provide community service to the South Florida area.

"Throughout the process, it was exciting to see the number of tremendous candidates who applied," said WSU Faculty Athletic Representative and search committee member Nancy Swanger. "It reaffirmed what I believed from the start, that this position is a nationally coveted job. Pat will be a wonderful addition to our campus and a person who understands the growing time demands of collegiate athletics, places a premium on academics and has great vision for the future with student-athlete welfare at the forefront."

Under Chun's leadership, FAU athletics rose to some of its greatest heights, winning multiple championships, individual and team.

The Owls' football team won its final 10 games of 2017 to finish 11-3 with a bowl victory over Akron while receiving votes in the final national poll. Entering the 2017-18 academic year, FAU athletics posted an overall winning record the previous three years, while women's volleyball, women's soccer, beach volleyball, men's tennis, women's tennis, baseball and softball have either won conference championships, been ranked

highest in school history or finished with winning seasons. The men's and women's diving teams, women's track and field and cross-country programs produced conference champions along with all-conference honorees.

On a national level, Chun currently serves on the NCAA Baseball Rules Committee. He also was named to the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics executive committee in 2016. Chun completed a three-year term on the NCAA Division I Baseball Committee from 2013-16.

He also serves as a mentor in the NCAA Pathways program. Chun had previously served on the executive committee for the National Association for Athletics Development Directors and was a longtime board member for the Columbus, Ohio, chapter of the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame.

In 2011, Chun was selected for the inaugural class of the Division IA Athletics Directors Association Fellowship Program.

Prior to FAU, Chun spent 15 years at Ohio State University working at his alma mater. During his tenure, he ultimately became executive associate athletics director for external relations.

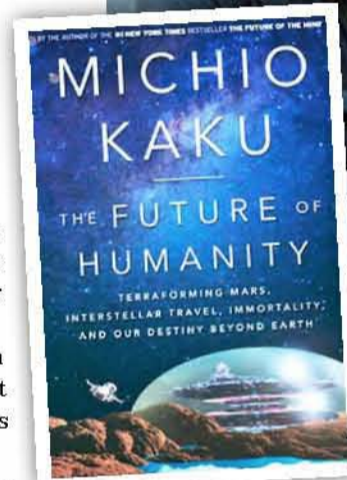
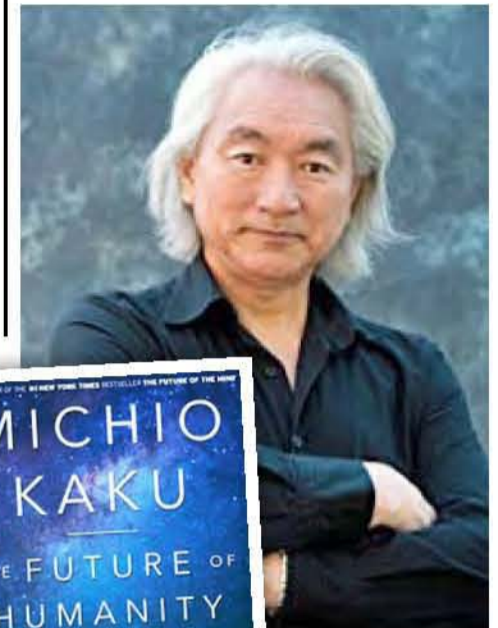
In his last role at Ohio State, Chun provided leadership and oversight for all facets of the external relations division from 2009-12.

Chun also was a lead member of the athletics department senior team that authored the then-largest multimedia rights deal in intercollegiate athletics history: a 10-year, \$128 million partnership with IMG College in 2009. Chun also served as the daily administrative liaison with the football program.

A native of Strongsville, Ohio, Chun earned a bachelor's degree from Ohio State University and a master's degree from Duquesne University. He and his wife, Natalie, also an OSU alumna, have three daughters, Vanna, Kennedy and Gretta.

When asked during his initial press conference to comment about his thoughts about WSU's athletics program, Chun replied, "Well, I think it's all sports here. We're all looking for comprehensive excellence. We want excellence in everything we do, whether it's sports, sports information and fundraising. For us to accomplish our goals as an athletic department, it's just not two sports, it's not just a couple of coaches, it's our entire athletic department coming together for our student athletes and for this university."

# DR. MICHIO KAKU SET TO RELEASE 'THE FUTURE OF HUMANITY'



No. 1 best-selling author Dr. Michio Kaku is set to release his latest book, "The Future of

Humanity: Terraforming Mars, Interstellar Travel, Immortality and Our Destiny Beyond Earth," on Feb. 20.

In his latest offering, Kaku traverses the frontiers of astrophysics, artificial intelligence and technology to offer a vision of man's future in space, from settling Mars to traveling to distant galaxies.

These topics are explored in rich detail to deliver a compelling vision of how humanity may develop a sustainable civilization in outer space. He also reveals the developments in robotics, nanotechnology and biotechnology that may allow humans to terraform and build habitable cities on Mars and beyond, as scientists have already discovered numerous planets orbiting stars. Even the possibility of the discovery of a twin of Earth is examined.

In all, "The Future of Humanity" investigates some of the hottest topics in science today — from warp drive, wormholes and hyperspace to parallel universes and the multiverse — to show how humans may one day achieve immortality and port to new havens in space.

Kaku is an American theoretical physicist, futurist and professor of theoretical physics at the City College of New York and CUNY Graduate Center. He has written several best-selling books including 2008's "Physics of the Impossible," 2011's "Physics of the Future" and 2014's "The Future of the Mind"; nearly 1.5 million copies of his books have been sold. In addition, he is the science correspondent for "CBS This Morning" and he has also hosted several TV specials for the BBC, the Discovery Channel, the History Channel and the Science Channel.

A feature on Kaku will appear in an upcoming issue of the *Pacific Citizen*.

## PLANS >> continued from page 5

newsletter, which published its second edition in December, with a third edition on the way in a few weeks. They also reported that the NY/SC spring retreat will take place Feb. 23-25 in Los Angeles, as well as a PSW/CCDC/NCWNP summit, also in Los Angeles, March 10-11. The latter will include the opportunity to see the stage musical "Allegiance."

Chip Larouche, the new chair of the Dis-

trict Governors' Caucus, discussed the negative ramifications for the governors' meeting when the start time of the National Board meeting is moved up 30 minutes. He also requested that board meeting materials be sent out with more lead time in order to study the many reports. Another item he reported on from the Governors' Caucus meeting was reservations regarding the policy of the voluntary return of Legacy Fund checks, a

policy that had been introduced a few years back, according to Treasurer Alan Nishi, to help stop potential staff cuts.

Before closing the meeting, Mayeda discussed how best to provide JACLER Tom Ige, who made a substantial donation in 2017 to both National JACLER and the *Pacific Citizen*, a Lifetime membership to the organization. Mayeda also discussed the recent Kakehashi trip and reported that Meg Mizutani had expressed interest in becoming more involved with the program and that she would be a valuable resource in the future as the Kakehashi special committee chair.

A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

# CALENDAR

## NCWNP

**San Jose's DOR Event 'Speak Out for Justice'**  
**San Jose, CA**  
**Feb. 18; 5:30-7:30 p.m.**  
**San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin**  
**640 N. Fifth St.**  
**Price: Free and open to the public**  
 The Nihonmachi Outreach Committee presents San Jose's 38th annual DOR event "Speak Out for Justice," which will commemorate E.O. 9066 and celebrate the 30th anniversary of the 1988 Civil Liberties Act. This year's theme speaks to the plethora of voices that are speaking out against injustice through their activism, stories and personal experiences. Scheduled to speak are former U.S. Congressman Mike Honda, Richard Konda, Lawson Sakai, Athar Siddiquee and Bekki Shibayama.  
**Info: Call (408) 505-1186, visit [www.sjnoc.org](http://www.sjnoc.org) or email [info@sjnoc.org](mailto:info@sjnoc.org).**

**Films of Remembrance**  
**San Francisco, CA**  
**Feb. 24; 10 a.m.-8 p.m.**  
**New People Cinema**  
**1746 Post St.**  
**Price: Ticket prices vary. Please visit website for more information.**  
 Films focusing on the wartime incarceration of Japanese Americans during WWII will be presented by the Nichi Bei Foundation. Films to be screened include "And Then They Came for Us," "Florin JACL/CAIR Manzanar Pilgrimage," "Moving Walls," "The Colorado Experience: Freedom & Poverty," "Voices Behind Barbed Wire: Stories of Hawai'i Island," "Yamashita" and "Speak Out for Justice."  
**Info: Visit [www.nichibei.org/films-of-remembrance](http://www.nichibei.org/films-of-remembrance) or email [programs@nichibeifoundation.org](mailto:programs@nichibeifoundation.org).**

**'Dowa No Omatsuri: A Festival of Children's Stories'**  
**San Francisco, CA**  
**Feb. 25; Silent Auction at Noon; Performance at 1:30 p.m.**  
**Palace of Fine Arts Theater**  
**3301 Lyon St.**  
**Price: \$30 advance tickets (\$25 two or more); \$40 at the door; \$10 youth 5-17**  
 Nihonmachi Little Friends presents its annual theater production and auction featuring GenRyu Arts and the students of NLF. In addition to the theater performance, a silent auction will also be held in addition to live entertainment provided by the JoRoBoMoLo Brothers. A raffle and refreshments in the lobby will follow the theater performance. Proceeds from the fundraiser will benefit the programs and operations of NLF.  
**Info: Call NLF at (415) 922-8898 or email [nlfchildcare@gmail.com](mailto:nlfchildcare@gmail.com).**

**J-Sei 27th Annual Crab Feed &**

**Drawing**  
**El Cerrito, CA**  
**Feb. 25; 4-7 p.m.**  
**El Cerrito Community Center**  
**7007 Moesner Lane**  
**Price: \$45 presale; \$50 at the door; \$15 children 12 and under**  
 Join J-Sei at its annual event featuring fresh Dungeness crab, Asian salad, pasta, rolls, desserts and beverages. Live entertainment at each seating will be provided as well as a drawing, with raffle tickets selling for \$2 each or \$10 for six. Come out and support the organization at this community event sure to be a hit for all!  
**Info: Visit [www.j-sei.org](http://www.j-sei.org) or call (510) 654-4000.**

**Stockton Day of Remembrance**  
**Stockton, CA**  
**March 17; 1 p.m.**  
**San Joaquin Delta College**  
**Tillie Lewis Theatre**  
**5151 Pacific Ave.**  
**Price: Free**  
 Join the Stockton JACL and Asian Pacific Islander American Staff Association of Delta College as it offers the Central Valley Premiere of the new documentary "The Ito Sisters, an American Story." The film's director-producer Antonia Grace Glenn will also take part in a Q & A session following the screening.  
**Info: To RSVP and for more information, contact Aeko Yoshikawa at (209) 470-5578 or email [aeko@sbcglobal.net](mailto:aeko@sbcglobal.net).**

## PSW

**2018 Day of Remembrance — The Civil Liberties Act of 1988: The Victory and the Unfinished Business**  
**Los Angeles, CA**  
**Feb. 17; 2 p.m.**  
**JANM**  
**100 N. Central Ave.**  
**Price: Pay What You Wish**  
 In addition to marking the 76th anniversary of E.O. 9066, this event will commemorate the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Civil Liberties Act. Featured speakers include Alan Nishio, who will speak about the importance of the Civil Liberties Act and what it did not accomplish and its relevance today.  
**Info: Visit [janm.org](http://janm.org).**

**'Allegiance'**  
**Los Angeles, CA**  
**Feb. 21-April 1**  
**JACCC Aratani Theatre**  
**244 S. San Pedro St.**  
**Price: Ticket prices vary**  
 East West Players and the JACCC by special arrangement with Sing Out, Louise! Prods. and ATA present the Broadway musical "Allegiance," starring George Takei. Inspired by Takei's true-life experience, this musical follows one family's extraordinary journey in this untold American story. The production also features Greg Watanabe as Mike Masaoka and Elena Wang as Kei Kimura.

**Info: Call (213) 680-3700 or visit [allegiancemusical.com](http://allegiancemusical.com).**

**Asian Pacific American 2018 Gubernatorial Debate**  
**Pasadena, CA**  
**April 27; 7-8:30 p.m.**  
**Pasadena City College**  
**Sexson Auditorium**  
**1570 E. Colorado Blvd.**  
 Save the date for the first APA-focused gubernatorial debate in California history. Scheduled to discuss issues pertinent to the state of California are candidates Travis Allen (R), John Chiang (D), John H. Cox (R), Delaine Eastin (D), Gavin Newsom (D) and Antonio Villaraigosa (D). Viewers can also tune in at [apagovdebate.eventbrite.com](http://apagovdebate.eventbrite.com). This event is presented by the Center for Asian Americans United for Self-Empowerment (CAUSE).  
**Info: Visit [causeusa.org](http://causeusa.org).**

**'Contested Histories: Art & Artifacts From the Eaton Collection'**  
**Los Angeles, CA**  
**Thru April 8**  
**Japanese American National Museum**  
**100 N. Central Ave.**  
**Price: \$12 Adults; \$6 seniors 62 and over; students & youth, \$6; children under 5 and JANM members, free**  
 Come view the collection that was almost auctioned off in 2015, all of which are now at JANM. The Allen Hendershott Eaton collection includes more than 450 paintings, photographs, sculptures, jewelry and other objects from the camps. Each item has been conserved and on exhibit in the museum's Hirasaki National Resource Center with support from the National Park Service's Japanese American Confinement Sites grant program.  
**Info: Visit [www.janm.org](http://www.janm.org).**

## PNW

**Portland JACL 90th Birthday Bash**  
**Happy Valley, OR**  
**Feb. 17; 11:30 a.m.**  
**Aerie at Eagle Landing**  
**10220 S.E. Causey**  
**Price: \$50**  
 The Portland JACL is excited to celebrate the 90th year of the JACL. Please join the chapter at this luncheon event, which will include stories of the organizations early history by former presidents, as well as music provided by the Minidoka Swing Band. RSVP by Feb. 1.  
**Info: Call (503) 698-4656.**

**2018 Day of Remembrance Event**  
**Yakima, WA**  
**Feb. 18; 1-3 p.m.**  
**The Yakima Valley Museum**  
**2105 Tieton Dr.**  
**Price: Free; seating is limited.**  
 This DOR event "The Yakima Valley Japanese Pioneers: Their Story Continues to Educate New Generations" will feature panelists Tammy Ayer, Yakima Herald Republic editor; Ellen Allmendinger, local historian who offers tours on the Yakima Valley Japanese community before World War II; and Patti Hirahara, whose Yakima family roots has

been instrumental in telling this story across the U.S. Following the panel discussion and Q & A, guests will be able to view the museum's award-winning exhibition "Land of Joy and Sorrow — The Japanese Pioneers of the Yakima Valley."  
**Info: Call (509) 248-0747, as RSVP is requested.**

## CCDC

**Annual Day of Remembrance Luncheon and Officer Installation**  
**Fresno, CA**  
**Feb. 18; Noon-3 p.m.**  
**Pardini's**  
**2257 W. Shaw Ave.**  
**Price: \$40 per person**  
 Join the JACL's CCDC at its annual DOR luncheon and officer installation. Scheduled to speak are Elizabeth Laval and Jeff Aiello, who will discuss their new documentary, an original local production of Valley PBS, based on the experiences of Japanese Americans before, during and after WWII, with a focus on the Merced, Tulare, Fresno and Pinedale Assembly Centers. In addition, the district will honor Sierra Nisei Post 8499 and Hanford Nisei Liberty Post 5869 as recipients of the 2018 Distinguished American Award for the Spirit of Courage.  
**Info: RSVP required by Feb. 14. Call (559) 281-6497 or email [tsnishi@aol.com](mailto:tsnishi@aol.com) for more information.**

## MDC

**Day of Remembrance 2018**  
**Chicago, IL**  
**Feb. 18; 2-4 p.m.**  
**Chicago History Museum**  
**1601 N. Clark St.**  
**Price: Free and open to the public**  
 Each year, the Japanese American community in Chicago comes together to commemorate E.O. 9066 as a reminder of the fragility of civil liberties in times of crisis and the importance of remaining vigilant in protecting the rights and freedoms of all. Day of Remembrance 2018 will feature a keynote address from attorney Dale Minami, who has been involved in significant litigation involving the civil rights of Asian Pacific Americans and other minorities. Gary Johnson, president of the Chicago History Museum and an attorney, will lead a follow-up discussion along with civil rights activist and attorney Azam Nizamuddin. The program will conclude with a performance by Ho Etsu Taiko.  
**Info: Visit [www.chicagohistory.org/event/day-remembrance-2018](http://www.chicagohistory.org/event/day-remembrance-2018) or call (312) 642-4600.**

**Nidoto Nai Yoni: Forgetting and Remembering the Wartime Incarceration of Japanese Americans**  
**St. Paul, MN**  
**Thru Feb. 24; discussion panel on Feb. 10 from 1-3 p.m./Artists Panel on Feb. 17 from 1-3 p.m./ Film Screening and Discussion of "And Then They Came For Us" on Feb. 19 from 7-9 p.m.**  
**East Side Freedom Library**

**1105 Greenbrier St.**  
 This exhibit presents photographs of the physical remnants of the 10 American concentration camps that were used to incarcerate Japanese Americans during World War II. The works explore the themes of memory and forgetting, particularly in regards to the loss in our understanding of this history when the last of those who experienced this reality pass away. The Discussion Panel will include members of Minnesota's Japanese American, immigrant and refugee communities; the Artists' Panel will feature various artists, including John Matsunaga, in a conversation about how they have used their art to engage the historical injustices that have challenged their communities.  
**Info: Visit <http://eastsidefreedomlibrary.org/>.**

## EDC

**'No-No Boy'**  
**New York, NY**  
**Thru Feb. 18; Tues-Sat. 7:30 p.m./ Sat. & Sun. 2:30 p.m.**  
**Studio Theatre at Theatre Row**  
**410 W. 42nd St.**  
**Price: Regular \$43.25; Students (Code TRNoNoStu) \$27.25; Seniors (Code TRNoNoSr) \$38.25; JACL NY Members/Friends (Code TRNoNoSr) \$38.25**  
 Come see the limited return of the iconic "No-No Boy" by Ken Narasaki, directed by Ron Nakahara and adapted from the novel by John Okada. This adaptation follows Ichiro's search for resolution among family, friends and a community in transition following the resettlement of Japanese Americans on the West Coast after World War II.  
**Info: Visit [www.telechargeoffers.com](http://www.telechargeoffers.com) or call (212) 947-8844.**

**Tufts Day of Remembrance: 'Incarceration and Resistance'**  
**Medford, MA**  
**Feb. 21; 6-8:30 p.m.**  
**Tufts University, Alumnae Lounge**  
**40 Talbot Ave.**  
**Price: Free and open to the public**  
 The Tufts University Culture Club presents "Incarceration and Resistance" at its DOR program, which will also feature a screening of "Resistance at Tule Lake." Following the film, students from the Japanese Culture Club and United for Immigrant Justice will lead a panel to look at how the Japanese American incarceration relates to the present immigration controversy.  
**Info: Visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/549614742068747/>.**

## ADVERTISE HERE

Events in the calendar section are listed based on space availability. Place a 'Spotlight' ad with photos of your event for maximum exposure.

**FOR MORE INFO:**  
[pc@pacificcitizen.org](mailto:pc@pacificcitizen.org)  
 (213) 620-1767

# IN MEMORIAM

**Asahara, Francis, 79**, Sacramento, CA; during WWII, his family and he were incarcerated at the Manzanar and Tule Lake WRA Centers; he was predeceased by his wife, Ikuko; he is survived by his daughters, Nora and Jenny; son-in-law, Scott; siblings, Paul and Lois; gc: 2.

**Hamachi, Tak, 85**, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA, Nov. 17; she is survived by her husband, Joe; sisters, Michiko Hamada and Chizuko Hara; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

**Hirakawa, Lily Yuri Oka, 95**, Folsom, CA, Dec. 1; she was predeceased by her husband, Harry, and her sister, Mary Toyoda; she is survived by her sons, Gary, Ken and Warren; siblings, Eva Nakano and George, Amos Oka, James Oka and Robert Oka.

**Igarashi, Richard, 82**, Santa Ana, CA, Jan. 1; he is survived by his wife, Ann; children, Cary, Christi and Ryan Igarashi; sister, Matsuko Ikeno; sisters-in-law, Teru Kawa, Yaeko Shibata, Emy Sakamoto and Betty (Al) Kubota; he is also survived by many other relatives.

**Ishigaki, Akiko, 84**, S. El Monte, CA, Dec. 2; she is survived by her children, Steven Mitsuhiko, Douglas Tsugumi, Nancy Yoko Ishigaki and Marjorie Iyo Garcia; siblings, Reiko Ito, Saeko Nishio and Masaki Hashimoto; step-brother, Ronald Teruo Ishigaki; gc: 8; ggc: 4.

**Kageyama, Chitose, 96**, Los Angeles, CA, Dec. 19; she was predeceased by her husband, Sei; she is survived by her children, Reiko Kageyama-Weaver (Gary) Weaver, Noriko Maurine Kageyama, Takashi Richard (Lois) Kageyama and Grace Mitsuko Sakamoto; sister, Motoko Saneto; gc: 5; ggc: 1.

**Kinoshita, Sue, 84**, Santa Clara, CA, Nov. 17; she was predeceased by her husband, Joshyo; she is survived by her children, Michael (Anita) and Ann (Mark); gc: 3.

**Masada, Aiko, 99**, Los Angeles, CA, Jan. 3; she is survived by her children, Cathy Akiko (Gene) Sato, Sachiko (David) Sato, Jimmy (Carmille) Masada and Donna (Myron) McHenry; gc: 4; ggc: 5.



**Masuda, Dorothy, 98**, San Jose, CA, Dec. 27; she was predeceased by her husband, Robert; she is survived by her children, Ronald (Patricia), Don (Doug Baird), Earl (Patricia) Masuda; gc: 6; ggc: 2.

**Nakamura, Edward, 67**, Los Angeles, CA, Dec. 15; he is survived by his wife, Lyslie Renee; sons, David James Teruhiko and Michael Cary Shuji; he is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives.

**Ogata, Mae, 99**, Sacramento, CA, Nov. 19; she was predeceased by her husband, Charles; she is survived by her children, Kazuko and Karl (Barbara); gc: 4; ggc: 1.

**Saito, Paul S., 95**, Los Angeles, CA, Dec. 19; he is survived by his wife, Kathy; children, Karen, Gail, Pat, Mike and Reuben Sr.; gc: 5.



**Shimamoto, Masuko, 86**, Carson, CA, Dec. 26; she was predeceased by her husband, George; she is survived by her daughter, Cathy Shimamoto.

**Soyama, Lorraine Sadako, 87**, San Jose, CA, Nov. 21; she was predeceased by her husband, Akinori; she is survived by her children, Cheri Contreras, Sandi Fer-

andez, Karen Fujishin and Marty Soyama; siblings, Ben (Dora), Tosh (Betty) Tsuchimoto and sister, Sally Miyamura; gc: 3; ggc: 6.

**Tagashira, Hirotohi 'George,' 87**, Gardena, CA, Dec. 8; he is survived by his sisters, Shigeko Down, Sumie Tagashira and Natsuye Tsuchihashi, nephews, Clifford (Donna) Yamamoto and Perry Tsuchihashi.



**Tanaka, Richard, 86**, Chicago, IL, Jan. 5; he was predeceased by his son, Richard; he is survived by his wife, Dorothy; children, Robert (Julie) and John (Jeanne); daughter-in-law, Margaret; gc: 8; ggc: 1.

**Tani, Joji, 94**, San Diego, CA, Nov. 24; during WWII, his family and he were incarcerated at a WRA Center; he is survived by his wife, Hideko; daughters, Miki (Jim) Aeling, Patti Tani (Ron Bowditch), Nancy (Tom) Cochran and Joyce (Neal) Waner; gc: 9.

**Tsuno, Shizue, 97**, Gardena, CA, Dec. 16; she was predeceased by her husband, Akira ("Skeets"); she is survived by her children, Randy (Linda Shima-Tsuno), Vicki (Wayne) Higa and Jeff (Carmen)

Tsuno; siblings, Yoneo Maruyama and Asako Nishimura; gc: 4; ggc: 14; gggc: 4.

**Uneda, Harry Kazushi, 92**, Gardena, CA, Dec. 24; he is survived by his wife, Yoko; children, Chikako Kojima, Ronald (May) and Joanne Uneda; sister, Takaye Fujita; he is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives.

**Watanabe, Janice, 75**, Glendale, AZ, Jan. 1; she is survived by her siblings, Richard Watanabe and Susan (Dan) Hancock; sister-in-law, Flo.



**Yamamoto, Fusako, 97**, Sacramento, CA, Dec. 8; during WWII, her family and she were incarcerated at the Tule Lake WRA Center in CA; she was predeceased by her husband, Masa; she is survived by her children, Kay Yamamoto, Ken (Terease Chin), Lynn Yamamoto and Akira Yamamoto; gc: 2.

TRIBUTE

LILY MASAMORI



Lily passed away on Jan. 24, 2018. She was born on July 20, 1928, and raised in Denver, Colo. Lily was married to Tom Masamori for 54 years before Tom's death in 2001.

She was a dedicated and loving wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Along with her husband, she was devoted to serving the community and active with Simpson United Methodist Church and the Tri-State/ Denver Buddhist Temple. She was a member of

the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Auxiliary and Japanese American National Museum. She enjoyed traveling, cooking, sewing, crocheting, gardening, puzzles and family gatherings.

She is survived by her children: Robert (DJ), Cyd (Jack Anderson), Mike (LuAnne Garvin), Ron (Christine Rodgers, MD), John (Rachel), Dan (Patty Schmalz) and Susan; six grandchildren: Michael Okimoto (Han), Michelle Okimoto (Christian Rask-Madsen), Jonathan, Lily, Matthew, Marcus; six great-grandchildren: Caspian Rask-Madsen, Sofia Rask-Madsen, Stella Rask-Madsen, Kirin Okimoto and Ellis Okimoto. She is also survived by her siblings: Frances Hamai (Jun, deceased), Al (Fran), William (Gail), Jeanette Tomomitsu (George); and sisters-in-law, May Kawamura (Ted) and Diane Kawamura (Bryan). She was preceded in death by her husband, Tom; siblings: Katherine, George, Ted, Bryan, Ike (Diane, deceased); and great-grandchild, Camden Okimoto.

She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

TRIBUTE

TAEKO SANO

April 15, 1934-Jan. 11, 2018

Taeko Sano passed away peacefully on Jan. 11, 2018, at the age of 83. Born and raised in Berkeley, Calif., Taeko earned a bachelor's degree in education from the University of California, Berkeley. In 1957, she married the late Toshio Sano and later moved to Yuba City, Calif., where she and Toshio started their careers in education.

Taeko Sano is survived by her daughters, Suga Ikeda and Dana Sano, her two sons-in-law, Ed Ikeda and James Meyers, and four grandsons. She also has two brothers, Kaz Inoue and Ryu Inoue.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. on Sat., Feb. 24 at Sunset Mausoleum and Columbarium, Fairmount Avenue and Colusa Avenue, El Cerrito, CA.

TRIBUTE



JANET GRANT

**Grant, Janet Lloyd, 67, Layton, UT; Feb. 5;** beloved wife, mother and grandmother; in lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Intermountain Donor Services, LDS Humanitarian Fund or the Daughters of the Utah Pioneers; she is survived by her husband of 45 years, Larry W. Grant, former IDC governor and JACL supporter for numerous years; children, Micah (Kaelyn), Rebecca (Walter) Gillis, Jacob (Alyson) and Timothy; sister, JoAnne Williams, brothers, Phillip (Johanna) and Stanford; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and cousins; gc: 8.

PLACE A TRIBUTE

'In Memoriam' is a free listing that appears on a limited, space-available basis. Tributes honor your loved ones with text and photos and appear in a timely manner at the rate of \$20/column inch.

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

福井 FUKUI MORTUARY Five Generations of Experience FD #808

707 East Temple Street Los Angeles, CA 90012 Gerald Fukui President Ph. 213/626-0441 Fax 213/617-2781

久保田日系葬儀社 KUBOTA NIKKEI MORTUARY

Reliable, personalized care 日本語でも親切にお世話させていただきます。

T (213)749-1449 F (213)749-0265 911 VENICE BLVD LOS ANGELES, CA 90015 www.kubotanickeimortuary.com



# REIMAGINE EVERYTHING

## FREE TAX PREPARATION SERVICE CELEBRATES 50 YEARS AND 50 MILLION SERVED

By Ron Mori

Now through April 17, AARP Foundation is providing free tax assistance and preparation through its Tax-Aide program. AARP Foundation Tax-Aide is celebrating its 50th year. Not many people know that it is the nation's largest free tax assistance and preparation service. Since its inception, the program has served more than 50 million taxpayers, including my parents — even before I knew about this free program provided by the AARP Foundation.

Tax-Aide started in 1968 with just four volunteers working at one site. Today, nearly 35,000 volunteers serve low- to moderate-income taxpayers at 5,000 locations in neighborhood libraries, malls, banks, community centers and senior centers nationwide.

It's true, there are no fees, and AARP membership is not required. Some locations even offer assistance in additional languages, which can be found at the Tax-Aide website.

Tax-Aide volunteers are trained and IRS-certified each year to ensure that they know



PHOTO: AARP

**Pictured are some of the Asian American AARP volunteers who offer free tax help for people every year.**

about and understand the latest changes to the U.S. Tax Code. In 2017, the program's volunteers helped 2.5 million people navigate complicated tax codes, ensure proper credits and deductions and file their federal and state tax returns.

Taxpayers who used Tax-Aide received \$1.37 billion in income tax refunds and more than \$222 million in Earned Income Tax

Credits. They also avoided tax preparation fees and pitches for high-interest tax credit or refund loans.

I also want to remind everyone that tax time is yet another opportunity for scammers trying to take advantage of trusting people. Just the other day, I received an automated call that the local Sheriff would arrest me if I didn't call a toll-free number to address an IRS inquiry.

This is an example of just one tactic — the IRS is warning taxpayers that they should not be fooled by individuals who call or email about issues related to their taxes. Be especially vigilant of demands for immediate payment or inquiries for personal information.

The IRS says it contacts taxpayers by mailed letters — not email, texts or social media. The IRS rarely, if ever, contacts taxpayers by phone, and it will never call you asking for your debit or credit card information. If you doubt the authenticity of an IRS phone call, you should contact the IRS at (800) 829-1040.

Tax-Aide has helped millions of low- and moderate-income taxpayers for 50 years, a truly valuable service. To find an AARP Foundation Tax-Aide site or for more information, including which documents to bring to the tax site, visit [aarpfoundation.org/taxaide](http://aarpfoundation.org/taxaide) or call (888) 227-7669. AARP Foundation Tax-Aide is offered in conjunction with the IRS.

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

# LIVING TRUSTS

## STACI YAMASHITA-IDA ATTORNEY-AT-LAW



- MEDI-CAL PLANNING
- WILLS & TRUST
- PROBATE
- POWERS OF ATTORNEY
- CONSERVATORSHIP

### OFFICE LOCATIONS:

- TORRANCE
- LOS ANGELES (LAX)
- PASADENA
- ENCINO
- FOUNTAIN VALLEY
- SAN DIEGO
- SAN JOSE



Judd Matsunaga  
Attorney at Law



Staci Yamashita-Ida  
Attorney at Law

Home/Hospital Appointments Available

# 800-411-0546

STARRING GEORGE TAKEI

# “POWERFUL!”

— Entertainment Weekly

ONE FAMILY, INDIVISIBLE.  
ONE EPIC STORY,  
UNFORGETTABLE.

# ALLEGIANCE

A NEW MUSICAL INSPIRED BY A TRUE STORY

SAVE 15%  
USE CODE JACL



FEB 21 - APR 1, 2018 \* ARATANI THEATRE

Get Exact Seats: [AllegianceMusical.com](http://AllegianceMusical.com) or call: (213) 680-3700  
244 S. San Pedro St., Los Angeles, CA 90012, in the heart of Little Tokyo

