ALWAYS REMEMBER, NEVER FORGET

Little Tokyo commemorates DOR, vowing to keep fighting to ensure all Americans’ civil liberties are never again denied.

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Trump’s FY2019 Budget Proposal Eliminates Funding for JA History Preservation.

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Could JACL’s YPC Be the Answer to Membership Sustainability?
FY2019 Budget Proposal Eliminates Funding For Japanese American History Preservation

President Trump’s new budget proposal could mean the end to the Japanese American Confinement Sites Grants program.

By JACL National

The JACS Grant program, authorized in 2006, has provided more than $21 million in grants to 163 grantees representing states, counties, local governments and nonprofit organizations. Funds may be used to support the research, interpretation and preservation of Japanese American confinement sites.

The JACS Grant program has enjoyed broad bipartisan support and was initially passed through both the House and Senate without objection from either party. The program was initially authorized for up to $38 million, of which close to $17 million still remains available to support the ongoing preservation of Japanese American history.

It is especially disturbing that this budget proposal be released one week before the 76th anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066 on Feb. 19, 1942, by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. E.O. 9066 paved the way for the incarceration of 120,000 Japanese and Japanese Americans for the duration of World War II. The JACS Grant program is an important component of the country’s recognition of the egregious wrong that was done and the need to remember and preserve that history so that it is not repeated.

Japanese American and other partner communities around the country have planned activities to recognize this anniversary as a Day of Remembrance. JACL urges individuals to locate an activity in their community, attend and affirm the country’s belief in justice and that a mistake such as this will never happen again.

For more information about Day of Remembrance activities, please refer to the JACL website (https://jacl.org/FY2018/day_of_remembrance/.

The president’s budget proposal is but one step in the process for determining the funding for next year. JACL will work to impress the importance of this program upon the administration and members of Congress to ensure that 2019 funding is continued at the same level as what has been done in years past.

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Online: www.pacificcitizen.org
Tel: (213) 620-1767
Mail: 123 Ellison S. Onizuka St., Suite 313
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE
A MONTH RICH IN CIVIL RIGHTS HISTORY

By David Inoue, JACL Executive Director

The month of February is a hectic month for the Japanese American community. We are all busy with the many activities for Day of Remembrance this year being the 70th since the signing of Executive Order 9066. There is a tremendous richness in the variety of activities happening around the country that will expand the reach of our story to others outside our own Japanese American community.

February also happens to be Black History Month. We may not always be fully aware as a community how intertwined our struggles as minority communities might be, but it is important to recognize the alliances we can and must share with other communities of color.

While we are, justifiably so, excited by the 30th anniversary of the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, this is also a major anniversary for the broader civil rights movement. Fifty years ago, the Memphis Sanitation Workers Strike brought Martin Luther King Jr. to Memphis, Tenn., the site of his assassination later in the year. The sanitation workers strike is vitally important to the history of civil rights in the United States and ties together so many different issues we are faced with today. Fundamentally, the “I Am a Man” declaration was the rallying cry for the Memphis workers, organized by the Black Lives Matter movement. It is undeniable that today still, black lives are undervalued by our society.

Labor remains fundamental to erasing disparity of opportunity in this country. So, many Japanese Americans utilized education to enter professions that afford the opportunity to earn higher wages, though those wages are often lower than what a white person might make for the same work. Women are further exasperated by gender disparity as women tend to earn less and are less considered for advancement to management and executive roles. We join other minority communities in fighting the injustices of unequal wages. The Memphis Sanitation Workers Strike underscores the important role labor unions can play in helping to level the playing field.

JACL joined in an amicus brief this year in the case of Janus v. American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME). This case could do significant damage to the viability of union membership and, as a result, damage the ability for unions to advocate on behalf of workers. It is undeniable that employees represented by unions tend to have better wages and benefits than those left to negotiate their salaries and benefits independently.

As in the case of the Memphis workers, organized labor has often served as a galvanizing force in the civil rights movement. Even today, it is organized labor that is leading the fight for immigrant rights in the fight for DREAMers. We are proud to be working with our labor allies in the fight for immigrant rights.

There is one more important intersection between Japanese American redress and the wider civil rights movement. One of the key provisions of redress was that it was to be payable only to those still surviving who had been in the American concentration camps. This was widely known to be included as an exclusion, so as to not set a precedent for slavery reparations, as there are clearly no currently living former slaves.

I would argue that the time has come to revisit this “precedent” and recognize it for the concession it was to have redress pass. Just as our country was brought to provide an apology to our community, we need to be a voice for true racial reparations for our African-American brothers and sisters.

We can start by finally embracing the 50-year old demand for recognition in the statement of “I Am a Man!” Make one fundamental concession: Our society continues to devalue the lives of African-Americans in employment practices, educational opportunity, housing availability and so many other sectors of life. Without this basic acknowledgement, we cannot even begin to make an apology for the enduring legacy of slavery and racial discrimination in this country.

David Inoue is Executive Director of the JACL. He is based in the organization’s Washington, D.C., office.

A MOTHER’S TAKE
LIVING IN HOPE

By Marsha Aizumi

As many of you might be aware already, I have been appointed to the Biden Foundation’s LGBTQ Equality Advisory Council. When I first got the call, I was both surprised and honored to be even considered. Then, I saw the list of council members, and I was also very intimidated because many of the names are amazing activists for the LGBTQ community.

Some people see me as an activist as well, but I still consider myself first, as a mother who loves her sons. And though the work I do most visibly is for the LGBTQ community, I always feel that my voice is also supporting the Nisei and API communities. Therefore, I am working to make the world safer for both Aiden and Stefan.

My first conference call as an official member of the Biden Foundation was a short one...15 minutes. It was basically a welcome call from former Vice President Joe Biden. Listening to him, I felt so motivated to go out and do more, not afraid of what others are saying, but lifting my vision higher and believing I have the power to make a difference.

As I listened, I realized that some people use fear and scarcity to motivate others; then there is Joe Biden, who uses abundance, hope and compassion to cause us to feel empowered and confident that we can change the way things are. He is the kind of leader that can look up to. He is the kind of leader I aspire to be.

Joe Biden has always been known for his love of family and country. Six weeks after he was elected to the U.S. Senate back in 1972, his first wife and daughter were killed in an automobile accident while they were out buying a Christmas tree. His two young sons were badly injured as well, and he considered resigning from the Senate to be with his boys, Beau and Hunter. Joe was convinced to stay on, and he was sworn into office from his son’s hospital room.

Once the boys were well, the newly elected senator rode a train from Wilmington, Del., to Washington, D.C., and home again, which was an average commute of three hours every day in order to be a senator and also a father, home to look after his son’s hospital room.

I often wonder what our country would look like today if he had become our 48th president. But while reading his book, “Promises to Me, Dad,” I could feel how it would have taken an emotional strength to campaign for president that he needed to reserve for his family in order to heal from Beau’s death from cancer in 2015. But through his foundation, he is still helping our country. He could have just retreated to a well-deserved private life of rest after over 40 years of service, but that was not what he has chosen.

The week after being welcomed to the Biden Foundation by the vice president, I returned to Denver to speak with Aiden at an event called “Living in Hope,” sponsored by the Sakura Foundation, Mile High JACL and the Tri-State Denver Buddhist Temple. They are shown here with Sakura Square CEO Gary Yamashita and Program Director Stacey Shigaya.

Marsha and Aiden Aizumi were guest speakers at the “Living in Hope” event, sponsored by the Sakura Foundation, Mile High JACL and the Tri-State Denver Buddhist Temple. They are shown here with Sakura Square CEO Gary Yamashita and Program Director Stacey Shigaya.

A poster image that was used during the 1968 Memphis Sanitation Workers Strike.

Marsha and Aiden Aizumi were guest speakers at the “Living in Hope” event, sponsored by the Sakura Foundation, Mile High JACL and the Tri-State Denver Buddhist Temple. They are shown here with Sakura Square CEO Gary Yamashita and Program Director Stacey Shigaya.

Marsha and Aiden Aizumi were guest speakers at the “Living in Hope” event, sponsored by the Sakura Foundation, Mile High JACL and the Tri-State Denver Buddhist Temple. They are shown here with Sakura Square CEO Gary Yamashita and Program Director Stacey Shigaya.
Tule Lake Resisters: My E.O. 9066 Story

By Yukio Kawaratani, Guest Columnist

The World War II American concentration camp experience was the darkest time in Japanese American history. It was also a black mark on America, as our constitutional rights were trampled. My family suffered lifelong consequences.

When Japan bombed Pearl Harbor, our whole family was saddened and worried about what was going to happen to us. We were a tiny minority, never fully accepted, and now we looked like and were being tied to the enemy.

The FBI immediately arrested and incarcerated Japanese leaders of the community and organizations, as well as Buddhist ministers, language teachers and people with contacts with Japan. Curfews and travel limits were imposed, and homes, businesses and farms were searched by the FBI. With wartime hysteria, racism and economic competition, soon newspapers, radio stations, politicians and farmers advocated for the removal of all people of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast because we could be spies or saboteurs.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the notorious Executive Order 9066 in February 1942. It authorized Lt. Gen. John L. DeWitt to remove and incarcerate 110,000 Japanese Americans in 10 concentration camps. Our family suffered a major financial loss, as we had to quickly sell, at a fraction of its value, everything we owned, including our home, farm, crops, vehicles and animals. We could only take what we could carry. I was 10 years old.

Our family’s camp experience was terrible. First, we were sent to Poston, Ariz. It was in the middle of the desert, and it was hot and dusty. Our family of 10 was jammed into a 20-by-50-foot room in a wooden tarpaper-covered barracks. There were no partitions or doors. Two bare light bulbs hung from the rafters. Initially, there were 10 metal Army beds and no furniture.

We had to go to the scrap lumber pile for wood to make crude benches, tables and shelves. The mess hall food, with a shortage of sugar and meat and prepared by inmates, was bad. There was a long walk to the toilets, and showers had no privacy partitions at all.

A year later, the constitutionally suspect “loyalty questionnaire” was mandated to be filled out by all inmates 17 years of age and older. Question 27 said, “Are you willing to serve in the Armed Forces on combat duty, wherever ordered?” Many men thought that answering “Yes” meant volunteering for the Army.

Question 28 asked, “Will you swear unqualified allegiance to the United States and faithfully defend the United States from any or all attack by foreign or domestic forces, and forswear any form of allegiance or obedience to the Japanese emperor, or any other foreign government, power or organization?” Some Issei did not want to renounce the only citizenship they had, as they were always denied American citizenship.

To play it safe, 90 percent of the adults answered “Yes, Yes.” However, there was confusion and no guidance. Some inmates were angry to be forced to answer a loyalty questionnaire while being incarcerated, and they protested on principle by refusing to fill it out. Others were conflicted and answered “No” to one or both questions. They did not know the severe consequences of their decisions.

Our family had a problem. One brother had already been tricked by the FBI agents searching our farm into joining the Army. Two brothers had gone to pick sugar beets for farmers in Utah because of the labor shortage. They had answered “Yes, Yes” to keep working outside of the camp.

We became a “No, No” family because my mother, with tears in her eyes, said, “I already have three sons who will end up in the Army and might be killed in the war. I cannot bear to have two more sons in harm’s way. Let’s keep the remaining family together by answering “No, No” and face whatever additional punishment the government gives us.”

Soon, eight members of our family and thousands from the nine camps that did not answer “Yes, Yes” were sent to the Tule Lake Segregation Center. It had been converted into a high-security prison for over 18,000 men, women and children. My father was shocked.

Tule Lake had protests and some strikes, which were mainly about farm working conditions, poor food and living conditions and the brutal treatment of protest leaders in the stockade.

There were constant rumors that we could be deported to Japan. We had better learn the language. He took three of us children out of the English-language school and enrolled us in the very strict Japanese school full time. We had to study all the time because we had a lot of catching up to do. Living in Tule Lake as prisoners facing deportation to Japan was serious business. There were no fun and games.

The next crisis came when Congress passed the “Renunciation Law.” At first, very few inmates applied. But in December 1944, the War Relocation Authority announced...

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF YUKIO KAWARATANI

< In this photo, taken in 1946, Yukio Kawaratani is shown leaving Tule Lake with his sisters (from left) Fumiko, Tomiko and Yoshiko.

>> See STORY on page 9

Hoshidan members at Tule Lake Segregation Center are inspected in 1945.
YOUNG PROFESSIONALS CAUCUS: SOLUTION TO THE MEMBERSHIP CRISIS?

With youth the voices of the future, maintaining their involvement in JACL for the long-term is key to sustainability.

By Rob Buscher, Contributor

I t should come as no surprise to members of the JACL that our organization is in the midst of a demographic crisis. For much of our history, we have been driven and supported by the Nisei generation. As time slows for no person, and as our Greatest Generation fades, we as an organization must ask how the JACL can survive into the future.

Central to this conversation are the voices of YPSC (Youth Professionals Council) members involved in creating a comfortable space within the organization specifically for the young professional demographic,” said Roudebush, a Shin-Issei born in Japan and raised in the U.S. as a naturalized citizen. “It is our hope that having a supportive social space as well as supplementary programs and trainings through the YPC will also help prepare individual members to take on larger roles and responsibilities at the chapter, district and even national levels of JACL.”

The YPC was conceptualized, in part, as a successor to the National Youth & Student Council programs to help young adult members above the age of 25 remain engaged in the JACL and create an intentional space for this distinct peer group to interact with one another.

Contributor

National Vice President of Membership and San Francisco Chapter member Haruka Roudebush was one of the instigators of this movement, which he sees as critical to our organization’s survival.

“An essential component of keeping younger members involved is creating a comfortable space within the organization specifically for the young professional demographic,” said Roudebush, a Shin-Issei born in Japan and raised in the U.S. as a naturalized citizen. “It is our hope that having a supportive social space as well as supplementary programs and trainings through the YPC will also help prepare individual members to take on larger roles and responsibilities at the chapter, district and even national levels of JACL.”

A major issue that nearly all YPC members have identified is that once they have aged out of the Youth membership category, there isn’t much to keep them involved in JACL.

Seattle Chapter member Sylvie Shiosaki, who identifies as a multiracial Yonsei-Han (4.5) since her grandfather was Nisei and grandmother is Sansei, added, “In my chapter, we have noticed that very few youth members convert into regular memberships once they finish college. Youth are provided with lots of support and programming, but once they are no longer in that age group, they may feel that JACL has nothing more to offer. I am involved in YPC to help change this by developing the infrastructure to continue stewarding and supporting our young leaders.”

Considering that roughly half of the organization’s current National Board members are alumni of the NY/SC program, the opportunity that YPC presents as a potential continuation of that leadership pipeline cannot be overstated.

“I am excited at the prospect of having the YPC serve as a space that can play a role in developing our leaders after they’ve aged out of youth programs and activities, particularly if it leads to more representation from the next generation, who are knowledgeable and savvy on both the civil rights and social justice issues the organization addresses,” said Roudebush.

While the age-old question persists of whether JACL’s primary role is as a JA community convener or organization with predominant JA membership that conducts broader civil rights advocacy, it appears evident that young professionals care a great deal about the JACL’s activist mission.

“It is rewarding to be a part of an organization that affects change everywhere from a local level to the national stage,” said Nick Hori, one of the youngest Sansei members in his Silicon Valley Chapter. “I hope that the YPC will help my peers find a place of belonging and give us an opportunity to channel our energy toward positive social change.”

Data collected by the National Strategic Planning Committee also supports this assertion, since an overwhelming majority of chapters whose membership includes significant populations of young professionals listed social justice as their primary motivation for being a JACL member.

“While analysis of our recent Strategic Plan survey illustrates a spectrum of priorities and issues of importance throughout JACL chapters and districts, the most enthusiastic young professional members seem to want the JACL to be an organization that can serve as an outlet for civic engagement and advocacy on current civil rights and social justice issues,” said Roudebush, referring to the SWOT analysis presented at the 2017 National Convention in July. “Many young professionals have been encouraged to see the National JACL engage on issues such as combating Islamophobia and other discriminatory policies against the Muslim community, anti-Machnism and police brutality, compassionate immigration reform and equal marriage rights.”

The world of civil rights and social justice advocacy is constantly changing, and if JACL wishes to remain relevant within these spaces, it is paramount to allow young professionals to drive the direction of activism.

“Young professionals in our age group are best equipped to provide guidance and educate on current social justice issues, which are evolving perhaps faster than ever,” said New York Chapter member Takumi Harada, who was born in Japan to a Sansei father and Shin-Issie mother. “Our participation is necessary to provide direction on many issues that are relevant to our mission, which might otherwise be glossed over. There is a great opportunity in the JACL for us to shape the future of our organization and ensure that our mission remains relevant and valuable.”

YPSC is already providing a space for these types of conversations to take place, primarily in the form of monthly conference calls, an email listserve and annual meetings that were held at the most recent Las Vegas and D.C. conventions.

“YPSC has provided a venue to discuss topics and issues with other young professionals that are otherwise difficult to discuss with a larger audience,” said Shiosaki. “Topics such as domestic violence, the model minority myth and #metoo can be discussed in a safe space among my peers.”

YPSC members socialize after hours at the 2017 Washington, D.C., JACL National Convention.

See YPC on page 12
ALWAYS REMEMBER, NEVER FORGET
Los Angeles commemorates Day of Remembrance in Little Tokyo

By P.C. Staff

Find a way to be part of the resistance and join us in making Feb. 19 not only a Day of Remembrance but also a day of action.

Recasting words given by keynote speaker Alan Nishio of Nikkei for Civil Rights and Redress that echoed through the George and Shizue Aratani Central Hall at the Japanese American National Museum in Little Tokyo on Feb. 19, titled "The Civil Liberties Act of 1988: The Victory and the Unfinished Business," the 2018 Los Angeles Day of Remembrance program commemorated the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, the landmark legislation that provided the U.S. government's apology and monetary reparations to the survivors of the forced removal and mass incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II, as well as reaffirm their commitment to continue the fight for justice today.

The event offered the standing-room-only audience the opportunity to pause and reflect upon the 76th anniversary of Executive Order 9066 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on Feb. 19, 1942.

The event featured a keynote speech by longtime civil rights activist Alan Nishio, as well as reaffirm their commitment to continue the fight for justice today.

The program, co-hosted by Kirstin Fukushima, managing director of the Little Tokyo Community Council, and Carla Komi, board chair of the LTCC, opened with a taiko performance by Yujiro Yagami, head of the Katori Shinto Shinkwan-ryu-ryu, based in Los Angeles, Calif., and affiliated with the Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute.

Fukusilima and Komai then welcomed JANM President Ann Burroughs, who echoed the importance of coming together to fight for the truth of history, as she, too, was denied due process in her native South Africa while opposing apartheid.

"It's very hard to think that the turmoil and divisions in the country could be further deepened in this last year: Prejudice, bigotry and exclusion is rising again, so we know that at this time there is an enormous amount of work to do on our own, as communities, as colleagues," said Fukusilima. "For me, the passage of [the Civil Liberties Act of 1988] and the redress movement that led to the passage of this act will always be one of the greatest examples of the potential to achieve justice through the democratic process."

Murakami then presented Fukushima a framed poster that will also be displayed in all of the State of California's 58th District about the importance of DOR and how he introduced a resolution declaring Feb. 19 as a Day of Remembrance throughout the State of California.

"For me, the passage of [the Civil Liberties Act of 1988] and the redress movement that led to the passage of this act will always be one of the greatest examples of the potential to achieve justice through the democratic process."

As a Day of Remembrance throughout the State of California.

Members and friends of Nikkei for Civil Rights and Redress posed for a photo following the DOR program.
movements were more significant in my personal life than that of redress.

The Civil Liberties Act of 1988 was not ideal, Nishio said, as it did not provide redress for those who were not alive when the bill was passed, nor did it include Japanese Latin Americans and other groups that were denied because of that initial legislation. But it was an official government acknowledgment of a wrong that had been committed.

“My participation in the redress campaign was really a highlight of my life’s involvement,” Nishio reflected, adding that it was the people’s movement that saw redress through. “Let us not forget the importance of this movement because many will tell you that it was a phone call to President Reagan that got him to sign the legislation. . . . Believe me, it was the people’s movement, that got us redress, and let’s not forget that.

“Many want us to feel powerless, that against overwhelming odds, they want us to feel that there is nothing we can do. . . . But the Civil Liberties Act affirms that there’s a history lesson. They are a cautionary tale; they are a cautionary tale; it is a story of importance not only to Japanese Americans. It is important because it is the story of a group that was profiled and scapegoated in the name of national security. We want redress, but redress would be a hollow victory for our community if we choose to stand still by while others are threatened. . . . We know the cost of silence. . . . We cannot choose to remain silent in light of the things we know that can directly impact our own experience.”

Nishio also stressed the importance of remaining vocal and to never stop fighting for what is right.

“This is not the time to retire. This is the time to use our experience for wisdom and to be engaged and use that as part of creating change. . . . We need to continue to support future Day of Remembrance programs to ensure that our stories are passed on to future generations,” Nishio concluded.

The first-place winner in the Manzanar Committee’s Student Awards Program then addressed the audience with his award-winning essay “Keep Our Families Together.”

The speaker remained anonymous due to the current political climate as he spoke about being connected to similar feelings of what Japanese Americans experienced during WWII and what immigrant families are facing today.

“I’m migrarant communities are being torn apart just like Japanese Americans were during the war,” he said. “Moving a family by force can cause great harm. Similarly today, families also face such injustices. . . . No matter what ethnicity you are, never let yourself be labeled with something you know isn’t true. The Japanese Americans weren’t at all what the government labeled them as and they didn’t let themselves be identified as that. Nor should you let yourself be identified by the labels others put on you. Families should always be kept together because no matter how diverse our country becomes, the family unit will endure and fill our lives with love and strength.”

In attendance at the program was JACL Executive Director David Ione, who reflected upon the day’s events.

“Hearing the story of the student’s family and how it was torn apart really drives home how intertwined today’s immigration debate is to our community’s experience,” he said. “Too often I hear JACL members argue that we should not be speaking out on issues such as immigration, but that story drew the direct parallel between the two experiences,” he said. “It is important that the enthusiasm that we felt this afternoon is carried throughout the year.”

The program ended with a “Call to Action” on various issues affecting the Japanese American community. JACL Associate director Stephanie Nitahara, representing the Pacific Southwest District, spoke about the devastating consequences that could result if President Trump’s 2019 budget proposal eliminates the Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant program.

“Join us in fighting to continue the JACS funding by calling your representatives and letting them know what you think,” she said. “Resources and a script to call your representatives may be found on the JACL website (http://jacl.org/help-us-fund-the-japanese-american-confinement-sites-program/).”

The program was co-sponsored by the Go for Broke National Education Center, JACL/Pacific Southwest District, JANM, Manzanar Committee, NCRR, Nikkei Progressives, Organization of Chinese Americans/Greater Los Angeles and Progressive Asian Network for Action/PANA.
MARCH 10 PROGRAM RECOGNIZES THOSE WHO BATTLED WORLD WAR II ‘FAKE NEWS’

While President Trump may have popularized the term “fake news,” the late Nisei journalist Jimmie Omura and the draft resisters who battled fake news long before Trump was even born.

During a special program on March 10 at the Mezzanine meeting area of Sakura Square in Denver, Arthur A. Hansen, professor emeritus of history at California State University, Fullerton, will share excerpts from an upcoming memoir of Omura, which will touch upon the journalist’s World War II court trial that stemmed from his support of the Heart Mountain draft resisters, his subsequent ostracism from the Nikkei community and his re-emergence as a civil rights leader during the 1980s.

Omura’s memoir, “Nisei Naysayer,” will be published by Stanford University Press in late 2018 and is based, in part, on journals kept by the Bainbridge Island, Wash., born Omura, who moved to Denver, Colo., to avoid war incarceration and lived out his post-war years in the area.

The program, set to begin at 1 p.m., is being co-sponsored by the Japanese American Resource Center of Colorado, the Japanese American Association of Colorado and the UCLA Asian American Studies Center’s Egi Suyama Endowment, which strives to preserve the history of Japanese American dissent during World War II.

This 60-minute program will begin with a short introduction about the Suyama Project by Professor David K. Yoo, vice provost for the Institute of American Cultures and professor of Asian American Studies and History at the University of California, Los Angeles. There will also be a website presentation on the Suyama Project.

You will then be followed by Hansen, in dialogue with Lane Hinabayashi, professor emeritus of Asian American Studies and the former George & Sakaye Arakawa Endowed Chair at UCLA.

In addition, there will be a question and answer session, as well as a light reception.

The Sakura Square Mezzanine meeting area is located at 1905 Larimer St. in downtown Colorado. To get to the meeting room, the Sakura Square Mezzanine is located at ground level on Larimer Street, between 19th and 20th streets, and not at the regular Sakura Square address.

For more information or to RSVP, please contact Marge Taniniwaki at margetaniniwaki@aol.com or call (303) 333-2130.

“Nisei Naysayer,” about the life of journalist James “Jimmie” Matsumoto Omura, is set to be published this year.

JACL MOURNS THE PASSING OF JOHN YASUMOTO: A VISIONARY LEADER IN THE JA COMMUNITY

Among many accomplishments, Yasumoto was instrumental in developing a health insurance program for the organization’s national membership.

Yasumoto was the membership vp for the San Francisco chapter. As he struggled to recruit new members, he recalled that the most commonly asked question was, “What does JACL do for me?”

One day when visiting a friend in the hospital, he could see many others suffering, and in that moment, he recognized the importance of health care coverage and how difficult it could be for Japanese Americans.

In 1960, as the San Francisco chapter president, Yasumoto tried to start a health insurance program as a JACL member benefit but failed. In 1964, as District Governor for the Northern California Western Nevada Pacific District Council, he successfully proposed a health insurance program.

On March 10, 1965, the JACL Blue Shield Health Plan was founded with the help of the late Man Satow, then-JACL National Director.

Steven predicted, “Johnny, this program probably will not last more than three years.” Against the odds, the plan flourished with members in several states, from over 74 chapters in eight District Councils and eventually provided this important benefit to over 7,000 members and their families.

Through the years, Yasumoto continued to develop the Plan into a Trust, with staff, legal counsel and a board of directors from three District Councils.

Eventually, the Plan had to organize separately from JACL, but Yasumoto and the board continued to be supported by the participating chapters and required JACL membership to be covered by the Plan. Yasumoto also felt strongly that the JACL never stop supporting the good work of the JACL — that support continues to this day.

With the passage of the Affordable Care Act, the separate subscriber group that was maintained by Blue Shield for the JACL could not continue. As a tribute to the loyalty of the covered members, almost 100 percent of them agreed to become covered by individual plans offered by the Trust.

Because of the change in the law, a premium stabilization fund, carefully built up over 45 years to help minimize insurance premium fluctuations, was refunded to the Trust.

To maximize the good that could continue to be done, the Trust created a 501(c)(3) nonprofit called the JA Community Foundation, which in turn makes grants to support the JA community, focusing on the more senior members who were the heart of the previous plan.

Today, the Trust and Foundation continue to provide benefits and support the JA community, ever mindful of the vision and legacy of John Yasumoto.

Yasumoto passed away at the age of 88 on Jan. 15 in San Francisco. He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Chibi, and his son, Jack, and daughter, Liane.

For information about his memorial service, visit http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/sf-gate/obituary.aspx?n=john-yasumoto&pid=19920536&fhid=2318.

Manzanar Committee Calls on Huntington Beach City Council to Act to Preserve, Protect Historic Wintersburg

LOS ANGELES — The Manzanar Committee calls on the City Council of the City of Huntington Beach to act to preserve and protect the site of Historic Wintersburg, which is currently threatened by the proposed sale of the land by Republic Services to Public Storage.

Historic Wintersburg, the former site of a late 1800s Japanese American farming community, was named as one of America’s Most Endangered Places in 2014 and a National Treasure in 2015. Both designations were made by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

The Manzanar Committee first announced its support for the protection and preservation of Historic Wintersburg in July 2013.

“The Manzanar Committee is shocked and dismayed that, despite previous assurances, Republic Services has moved to sell Historic Wintersburg, a site of conscience and important landmark, to Public Storage,” said Manzanar Committee Co-Chair Bruce Embrey.

“Despite its significance to the local community, the Japanese American community and our nation, it appears these companies have placed their narrow interests above all else.”

“We call on the Huntington Beach City Council to listen to its constituents and concerned parties from around the state and work to preserve this site,” Embrey continued.

“Preserving the site rather than building a public storage facility, should be an easy choice, with the site being right next to a school — the educational value for the entire community alone outweighs the alleged need for a storage facility. The City of Huntington Beach should intervene to promote the public good above the narrow interests of two corporations.”

Embrey also noted that preserving Historic Wintersburg would likely have positive impacts for Huntington Beach that have not been considered.

“Our experience with establishing the Manzanar National Historic Site demonstrates the overwhelming positive impact preserving our nation’s history can have,” he said. “The economic, social and cultural benefits to the Owens Valley site of the Manzanar National Historic Site are tremendously positive, bringing economic development and jobs.

“The Manzanar Committee urges everyone to continue to support Historic Wintersburg, and to work to ensure that this historic landmark is preserved and protected,” Embrey concluded.

“The Huntington Beach City Council should not act accordingly and without delay.”
Looking around the room as we spoke, I saw people who loved their LGBTQ children, people who wanted to raise their awareness about the LGBTQ community, but most of all, I saw people who are looking for greater hope and humanity, so that they and their children — whether LGBTQ or not — can live in a society free from discrimination, hatred and hurt.

By being part of this LGBTQ Advisory Council, I seek to bring the perspective of an Asian American parent who loves her LGBTQ child and also a person who is working every day to make the world safer for my children and, I hope, your children as well.

Our children need to believe that they are beautiful, worthy and loved for all of who they are, but they also need to live in a world where schools, universities, workplaces and homes are free from violence. I may not have all the answers on how to create this world I envision, but I will never stop believing that this world is possible. This is how I live in hope.

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

After the devastating atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the war ended in August 1945. A few months later, the government prepared two ships to deport Department of Justice detention center inmates and Tule Lake renunciants to Japan. But, due to the amazing legal intervention by American Civil Liberties attorney Wayne Collins, the mandatory deportations were stopped, and only those volunteering to go would be deported.

Tragically, my father was so angry and disillusioned with America that with two of his sons, he boarded the ship to Japan. My mother was in a quandary about what to do. But two of my brothers in the Army came to Tule Lake and convinced her not to take us children to devastated Japan to starve. A fortunate decision.

Through two decades of dedicated and heroic efforts, Collins, aided by attorney Tets Nakamura and others, was able to, one by one, regain the American citizenship of almost all of the 5,000 Tule Lake renunciants. With years in Japan, my two brothers had married Japanese wives and were able to return to California. Again, tragically, my poor father had not survived long and had passed away in Japan — I believe primarily of a broken heart.

For all these years, former Tule Lake inmates and their descendants. Please do not continue to call us the “No-No” or, worse yet, the “No-No Boys.” These have derogatory slurs — sometimes hateful and hurtful — for over 70 years as stigmatizing put downs of Tule Lake inmates. We were severely victimized by the government for resisting the major injustice of the American Concentration camps, so I request understanding and eventual reconciliation by all Japanese Americans before the Nisei generation is gone.

PHOTO CREDIT: C.B. Tho

For more information, visit

http://www.tulelake.org

Contact Ron Okimura (916) 202-4589 or ronokimura@comcast.net

We seek to raise $250,000 by
July 2018

8”x8” Bricks with wisteria crest
(shown above) are $2,500
Bench plaques (shown to the right)

“Honoring Our Past, Celebrating our Future”

Contact Ron Okimura (916) 202-4589 or ronokimura@comcast.net

florinbuddhist.org

Buddhist Church of Florin
100th Anniversary
Preservation Project
1919-2019

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NCNWPN
Camp and Campus
University of California, Berkeley
March 1; 5:30-7 p.m.
University of California, Berkeley
Center for Japanese Studies
654 Barrows Hall
The Center for Japanese Studies, Asian American &
Asian Diaspora Studies 122, UC
Berkeley Japanese Studies
Advisory Committee and
Japanese American Alumni
Association of UC Berkeley welcome
Cal alumna Joyce Nao Takahashi
(‘55), who will speak about her
personal experience during the
"war years," which were spent in
Tanforan, Calif, as well as
Topaz, Utah, and Chicago, Ill. As
board member, Takahashi will
be the first for the monograph "Japanese
American Alumnae of the
University of California, Berkeley: Lives and Legacy."
Info: Visit cjs-event@berkeley.edu
or call (510) 642-3415.

PSW

March 17, 1 p.m.
San Jose City College
Tillie Lewis Theatre
501 Pacific Ave.
Price: Free
Join Stockton JACL and Asian
Pacific Islander American Arts
Association of Delta College as
it offers "The Ito Sisters, an American Story." The film's director-producer
Antonia Grace Gesien will also take part in a
Q&A session following the screening.
Info: To RSVP and for more
information, contact Aeko Yoshikawa
at (209) 477-5578 or
email aeko@sbiglobal.net.

BSNWPN

March 10; 5-7 p.m. opening
reception
Keyesan Buddhist Temple
Datsch-Do (2nd floor)
345 E. First St.
Price: Free
This special two-hour exhibition will feature the
work of artist Wakanaka Kimura in Koyasan
Temple's sacred hall, which is normally only visited
by Buddhist priests. The installation is part of Kimura's
larger series of works that deals with combined
collaboration of a common ground with unconventional spaces.
Info: Call (626) 318-5742 or email
wakanakakimura@gmail.com.

Author Discussion: 'Hiroshima Boy' by Naomi Hirahara
Los Angeles, CA
March 17, 2 p.m.
Japanese American National
Museum
100 N. Central Ave.
Price: Free for museum members and
includes general admission for nonmembers.
The latest and final installment in the beloved Mas Ara mystery series finds the detective
returning to Hiroshima to bring his best friends' ashes to a
relative. However, Ara becomes embroiled in the mysterious death of
ea teenagers boy who was about the
same age he was when he
survived the atomic bomb in 1945.
Award-winning author Naomi Hirahara will lead the reading
and discussion event of her book,
which will be available at the
JANN store.
Info: RSVP is encouraged.
5okbka3wus.com/x65d4p/
/tickets?etab=2&sql=07d5e7a5-
03b16-3bb-b028-d2406df226c

Agnance
Los Angeles, CA
Thru April
JACCC Aratani Theatre
244 S. San Pedro St.
Price: Ticket prices vary.
East West Players and the JACCC
by special arrangement with

Singing Out, Louise Probs. And ATA
present the Broadway musical
"Alegiance," starring George Takei.
Inspired by Takei's true-life experiences,
the musical follows one family's extraordinary journey
in this untold American story. The production also features
Greg Watamura and Elenna Okita. The show will take part in a
Q&A session following the screening.
Info: To RSVP and for more
information, contact Aeko Yoshikawa
at (209) 477-5578 or
email aeko@sbiglobal.net.

Asian Pacific American
2018 Gubernatorial Debate
Pasadena College
April 7; 8:30-10 p.m.
Pasadena City College
Saxton 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. Doo (D), Dawn Cenkar
(Green) (D), Genovev (O) and
Antonio Villaraigosa (D). Viewers
can also tune in at apage-debate,
event.org. The debate is presented
by the Center for Asian Americans
United for Federal Action (CAUSE).
Info: Visit causeusa.org.

Asian Festival: Year of the Dog
April 28
Fresno City College
1101 E. University Ave.
Price: Free
The Fresno Asian Festival
celebrates Asian American and
Pacific Islander Heritage.
In-lo: Visit www.janm.org.

"Nisei Naysayer" Presentation
by Professor Arthur Hansen
Denver, CO
March 10; 1 p.m.
Sakura Square Mezzanine
Meeting Area
1908 Larimer St.
Price: Free
Professor Arthur Hansen, professor emeritus of history at California State University,
Fulerton, will share excerpts from
his WWII court trial that stemmed
from the passenger of the Golden
Venture, a ship carrying 266
immigrants that ran aground in
In-lo: Visit http://www.mocanyc.
org/150-exhibit/missionfield Hurt
venture_paper_sculptures.

National Women's Political Caucus Welcomes
Elena Wang as Kei Kimura.
Pasadena, CA
Thru April
Koyasan Buddhist Temple
342 E. First St.
Price: Free
The Festival of Nations is a
celebration of ethnic groups
from around the world. The festival in the Midwest, featuring
touring multicultural festival in the Midwest, featuring
more than 100 ethnic groups in a celebration of this nation's
cultural mosaic. In addition to cultural booths, there will be
ethnic cuisine, entertainment, fun for people of all ages! Twin Cities JACL will have a
merchandise booth at this festival.
In-lo: To volunteer at the Twin
Cities JACL booth, email
kalucosa@aoi.org.

Economists for Democracy and
Equal Opportunity - EDCE
FOLD: Golden Venture Paper
Sculptures
New York, NY
March 25; 7-8:30 p.m.
Miami Dade College
Sexson Auditorium
1891 S.W. 1st St.
Price: Free
Andreas Schedler, who is one of the
original passengers of the Golden
Venture, a ship carrying 266
immigrants that ran aground in
In-lo: Visit http://www.mocanyc.
org/150-exhibit/missionfield Hurt
venture_paper_sculptures.

Takeshi Murakami:
"Lineage of Eccentrics"
Boston, MA
Thru April
Museum of Fine Arts
456 Huntington Ave.
Contemporary works by Takeshi Murakami are juxtaposed with treasures from the museum's
collection of traditional Japanese art. This exhibition shows how Murakami's contemporary work
is influenced by the historical past.
In-lo: Visit http://www.mfa.org/
exhibitions/takeshi-murakami.html.
TRIBUTE
KIMIYO EVELYN FUKUHARA
Kimiyo Evelyn Fukuhara, 93, of Monterey, Calif., passed away peacefully on Monday, Oct. 30, 2017, in Belmont, Calif. Born in Pu‘unene, Maui, she was predeceased by her husband, James C. Fukuhara, who was an attorney in Monterey, after retiring as Lt. Colonel in the U.S. Army. She received her B.A. degree from San Jose State University.
She is survived by her daughters and sons-in-law, Carole and Mark Louie of Menlo Park, Dr. Riane Dahi and Roger Dahi of Montara and Elaine and Spencer Schilling of Moraga. Her granddaughter, James, Nicholas and Amanda, her sister, Masayo Matsui of Wailuku, Maui, and many nieces and nephews.
At Evelyn’s request, no service was held. Interment will be next to her husband, James, at Golden Gate National Cemetery, San Bruno, Calif.

TRIBUTE
DR. RAYMOND S. MURAKAMI
He was a member of the ADA, ADA Dental Society, Federation Dentaire Internationale and Academy of General Dentistry. He was elected to the Omicron Kappa Upsilon Society (PiPi Chapter) for honorary dental academic achievement. He was also a recipient of the First Student Clinician Award and later became president and a member of the Board of Governors. He was an American College of Dentists Fellow, a member of the official delegation of the ADA to represent the United States at the first Federation Dentaire Internationale (FDI) held in Japan; and a dental consultant at the U.S. Department of State. He was a past president of the Maimonides Dental Assn.
Dr. Murakami was born in San Martin, Calif., on May 6, 1927, and during World War II was incarcerated in an internment camp in Tule Lake, Calif., where he attended high school. He earned his AA from UC Berkeley, BA from UCLA and DDS at the College of Dentistry, Howard University, Washington, D.C. He volunteered for the U.S. Army and was awarded the WWII Victory Medal, the Army of Occupation Medal and the Congressional Gold Medal.
He was a life member and past president of the Japanese American Citizens League (D.C. Chapter); life member of the Japanese American Veterans Assn.; and member of the board of the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation. In recognition of his contributions to the Japanese American community, he received the Order of the Rising Sun from the Government of Japan.
He is survived by his wife of nearly 70 years, Mary Tamaki Murakami; daughters, Diane Murakami and Kim Murakami and her husband, Kerity Hoover, and grandchildren, Christopher and Michelle Drake and Anna and Carolyn Hoover.
A private interment will be held at a later date. Donations in Dr. Murakami’s memory may be made to National Japanese American Memorial Foundation, 4200 Wisconsin Ave., NW, #106-236, WDC 20016 or to Howard University Dental School at www.howard.edu/give.

PLACED 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

Akashi, Takako, 88, Honolulu, HI, Dec. 27; she is survived by her daughters, Lorraine Kunysuki and Marlene (Bob) Arnett; gc: 2.

Hashiguchi, Lester Ichino, 76, Everett, WA, Jan. 8; he is predeceased by his brother, Wayne (Jill), and his partner, Anita Joy

Hoshizaki, Irene, 91, Los Angeles, CA, Dec. 20; she is survived by her husband, “Ko” Kotori; children, Glen (Deborah), Carole, Russell (Elizabeth), Dale (Robert) Klagawa, Lori (David) Sunahara and Julie (Martine Gaudissart) Hoshizaki; gc: 8.

Ishii, Annabelle, 89, Los Angeles, CA, Dec. 13; she is survived by her son, Dane; gc: 1.

Ishimitsu, Kazuo 88, Seattle, WA, Jan. 4; he was predeceased by his wife, Masue; he is survived by his children, Peter, Mike (Carrie) and Paul; siblings, Nobi (Jim) Murakami and Kich (Bobbi) Ishimitsu; gc: 4.

Ito, Shigeji, 95, Los Angeles, CA, Jan. 2; he is survived by his wife, Fumie; children, Christine T. Ito and Kenneth T. Ito; he is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Iwasa, Jeanette Fusano, 94, Kalua, HI, Dec. 4; she was predeceased by her husband, Richard; she is survived by her daughters, Pauline (Michael) Oshiro and Mie (Kent) Kuriyama; siblings, Thomas (Mabel), Wilfred (June), Ruth (Winston) Shigenaga and Judy (Donald) Takayama; gc: 5; ggc: 3.

Koba, June, 91, Sedona, AZ, Sept. 18; she is survived by her sons, Dennis and Michael; sisters, Mei and Elk; gc: 3.

Kuromiya, Emiko, 99, San Gabriel, CA, Jan. 2; she is survived by her son, Larry (Ann) Kuromiya; gc: 1; ggc: 3.

Kuwano, Stanley, 75, Santa Monica, CA, Dec. 6; he is survived by his wife, Suzanne; children, Jill and John; sisters, Rose Sumi and Mari (Joe) Sato; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 1.

Matsushima, Hiroshi Charles, 78, Portland, OR, Dec. 18; during WWII, he was incarcerated at a WRA Center; he is survived by his wife, Jane; children, Becky (Stacy) Talus, Darrin and Ryan (Kelly); gc: 7.

Mizokawa, Louise Yukime, 94, Bellevue, WA, Dec. 29; during WWII, her family and she were incarcerated at the Tule Lake WRA Center in CA; she is survived by her children, Gerald (Linda) Mizokawa and Mary Ann Mizokawa; gc: 3; ggc: 2.

Mizuno, Kelly, 64, Folsom, CA, Dec. 26; he is survived by his wife, Stephanie; mother, Shimako; brothers, Steve (Lisa) and Philip (Wendy); he is also survived by nieces, nephews and many cousins.

Nakashioya, Kenichi, 96, Los Angeles, CA, Nov. 29; he is survived by his wife, Kazuko; children, Nancy (Ed) Hayashibara, Judy (Paul) Isozaki and Howard (Suzanne); gc: 6; ggc: 5.

Nakasone, Kazue N., 92, Cerritos, CA, Jan. 7; she was predeceased by her husband, Sammy; she is survived by her sons, Emerick (Masumi Kanaya) and Warren (Elaine Yasui); sisters, Masako Nagoshi Yamaguchi and Alice Nagoshi Shoji; gc: 6; ggc: 5.

Shimizu, Jimmie, 93, Monterey Park, CA, Dec. 6; he is survived by his children, Jimmy (Ann Vernon) Lee, Nancy (Mayson) Kodama, Ruth Matsumoto and Kathy (Michael) Ozawa; brother, Takeo (Makoto) Shimizu; gc: 10; ggc: 13.

Shimizu, Marc, 50, Seattle, WA, Jan. 4; she is survived by her husband, Eric; children, Ryan, Sydney and Ty; mother, Patricia Toshiko Fukuhara; siblings, Cathy (Mark) Takisaki, Teresa (Victor Jay) Mori and David (Sandra) Fukuhara.

Shishido, Wallace Tadao, 85, Diamond Bar, CA, Nov. 29; he is survived by his wife, June; daughters, Stacy Yoder (Steven) and Tessa Whittington (Blair); brother, Lowell Hicks; gc: 5.
A QUESTION OF SAVING FACE AT THE RISK OF BEING A SILENT VICTIM

By Ron Mori

A new AARP survey of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders 50 years and older on fraud and scams found that nearly four in 10 older AA PIs report that they or their family members have experienced fraud schemes. Additionally, one-third (33 percent) of victims lost $15,000 or more. Nonfinancial costs are even more widespread, with most fraud victims (72 percent) experiencing some sort of emotional, physical or mental health impact, including anger, stress and anxiety, difficulty sleeping and shame. In short, everyone is at risk no matter your age, income or education level.

This fraud survey underscores the need to raise awareness around fraud and scams in order to protect against financial and nonfinancial loss — especially for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Awareness and education are major factors in avoiding fraud, but many AA PIs age 50 and older may be overconfident in their ability to spot common scams. In the survey, nearly three of four of participants (73 percent) were confident they could spot a fraudulent offer, yet the majority (71 percent) failed a general fraud knowledge quiz of six questions, unable to correctly answer more than half of the questions.

Some of the most common types of fraud targeting AA PIs age 50 and older include:
- Foreign lottery scams (36 percent)
- Crisis-related charitable donations (33 percent)
- Tech support scams offering virus removal (32 percent)
- IRS impostor calls to collect back taxes (24 percent)
- Phishing emails — emails that ask for your personal contact information (20 percent)

AARP urges people who have lost money to a scammer to report it immediately to the consumer credit bureaus (directions available on their websites) and credit card companies if a charge card was involved. Victims should also report scams to the Federal Trade Commission and your state Attorney General’s office.

The YPC's first annual meeting at the Las Vegas 2016 convention

In the past, younger members who expressed progressive political views may have felt alienated by local chapters that were not engaged in the advocacy efforts of the national organization. Through YPC, these individuals can now connect with other members around the country who are actively addressing these issues, bringing the best practices back to their own chapters.

“While the work the organization does is impactful, JACL has also been an incredibly enjoyable organization to be a part of because it connects me with so many great people from other parts of the country,” said Roudebush.

To this effect, YPC recently collaborated with the NYSCA to host its first joint regional summit in November 2017, which convened approximately 30 members from Chicago, New England, New York, Philadelphia and Washington, D.C., at the Philadelphia Asian American Film Festival.

It is through collaborations like these that YPC hopes to strengthen the pipeline from one membership category to the next.

“I think that the YPC is a fantastic vehicle to promote this type of involvement across the JACL so that future leaders of the organization can be identified and motivated,” elaborated Roudebush.

Ultimately, as important as our advocacy work is, the JACL has always been about creating space for community. In an era where it has become increasingly difficult to define what theJA community is, the kinship fostered through YPC may be our best chance at sustaining this organization into the next generation.

Rob Buscher is a member of the JACL Philadelphia board of directors.

Ron Mori is a member of the Washington, D.C., JACL chapter and manager of community, state and national affairs — multicultural leadership for AARP.