Spring is here, which means the Pacific Citizen’s 2018 Spring Campaign is in high gear! Have you sent your check in yet? I have! Sometimes, it helps to understand why something is important by looking “at the numbers.” So, let’s do that.

As of Dec. 31, 2017, there are 7,370 memberships in JACL nationally, which is down about 4 percent from 2016. The total 2017 revenue for the P.C. fell short of its target, despite the collection of an extra $17 per member who wanted to receive the newprint version of the P.C., which brought in $33,652 — in other words, 2,096 of the memberships opted to receive the newprint edition.

When we had 20,000 members, covering the cost to produce the P.C. was pretty easy. However, with our membership at 7,370, the P.C. “program” last year faced many challenges in raising revenue, even in these “good market” times.

Members with email addresses on file should also be receiving the electronic version for those who don’t live in California is that you get to read the P.C. about a week before you receive the newprint via U.S. mail, so it helps “all” JACL members read the P.C. at about the same time.

The goal for the Pacific Citizen’s Spring Campaign this year (and last year) is $100,000. That would be about $14 per member. So, with that said, let me leave you with two thoughts:

• If you think the Pacific Citizen is important to you and to JACL, please consider sending in $50 or $100 to the Spring Campaign. You can find the coupon with the address to send it to in this issue. It’s fully tax deductible to the extent of the law.

• If you think the Spring Campaign isn’t worth your time and money, send me a note. I’d like to understand why!

For long-term sustainability, please consider sending in your Planned Giving (Reprise) and JACL in your Planned Giving program. Last year, which will be held in Philadelphia from July 18-21. Full convention details will be coming out soon on the JACC website and in the P.C. and online.

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NIKKEI VOICE

IT’S MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER THAT WE REMEMBER TO NEVER FORGET

By Gil Asakawa

Day of Remembrance has grown to be a significant date not just on the Japanese American community’s calendar but for many non-JAs as well. The Mile High chapter of JACL, for which I serve as the current chapter president, has been hosting Day of Remembrance events for years.

For readers who may not know what the day signifies, the Day of Remembrance marks Feb. 19, 1942, when President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066. His signature approved the eventual rounding up and incarceration of 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry — both immigrants and U.S.-born American citizens, including entire families with elders and children — in American concentration camps during World War II.

In Denver, events are held across the country on or around Feb. 19 every year. A decade ago, Denver’s DOR was a quiet, small affair.

It used to be held at the University of Denver’s Sturm College of Law in the law school’s atrium. About 75 chairs fanned out from a podium where speakers gave presentations. One keynote speaker in particular that I remember was Dale Minami, the lead attorney who fought to overturn Fred Korematsu’s conviction for fighting the incarceration.

About five years or so ago, we moved the event to a large auditorium room at History Colorado Center, the history museum in downtown Denver that also has a permanent exhibit about Amache, the concentration camp in southeast Colorado.

We expanded our programming and brought in a variety of speakers and added panels of camp survivors. During the last presidential campaign, we began including discussions of the country’s growing anti-Muslim sentiment, reminding everyone that it happened before, and increasingly, the level of hate, ignorance and stereotypes aimed at Muslims was looking unsettlingly familiar.

The room would come to life with American swing music and Japanese songs of the 1930s and ‘40s. Videos and slides of the camps would play on a screen as people arrived. We even had a taiko drum performance one year in the atrium outside the auditorium. The audiences grew to around 150-200 people, but room is so large that for a few years, the crowd seemed, well, puny.

Then, Donald Trump was elected president of the United States.

Last year, we had 500 people, a standing-room-only audience that paid rapt attention to the event’s guest speaker, Lane Hirabayashi, as Asian American studies professor and nephew of Gordon Hirabayashi, one of the other men besides Korematsu who fought incarceration to the Supreme Court during the war. His topic was the resettlement of JAs to Colorado after the war and the thriving “Japantown” that developed in Denver.

This year, the unsettled spirit of social justice once again brought more than 400 people to DOR on Feb. 18 to History Colorado Center, and as always, we began the event by asking anyone who had been in a camp to stand and be acknowledged, followed by a request for anyone who had a family member or a friend who was incarcerated to stand as well.

The first request reflected the dwindling number of survivors still alive; the second was a much larger, breathtaking reflection of the ripple effects this American tragedy is still having, generations down the line.

>> See NEVER FORGET on page 12

A MOTHER’S TAKE

‘THIS IS ME’

By Marsha Aizumi

I always believe that when things repeat in my life, it’s a sign that I need to pay attention. Recently, I met a young artist named Jason Chu, who talked about the difference between someone performing and a true artist. He defined a true artist as one who vulnerably creates his or her work. I didn’t truly understand what he was trying to say until Aiden shared with me a song he had written — a song I thought I would like.

Last month, Aiden and I were booked to give the keynote for a huge speaking event — our largest one ever. About 900 people were gathering for an interfaith and intercultural breakfast. I was nervous on two levels: first, because of the sheer number of people we were addressing, and secondly, because it was going to be a large number of churches, temples and non-LGBTQ organizations.

The California Conference for Equality and Justice (CCEJ) was the host organization, and it wanted to introduce the topic of being transgender to groups and individuals many of whom were very little about the subject. It was going to be a different audience than what we are used to speaking to.

I am not a morning person, so getting ready for this breakfast at 5 a.m. had me moving very slowly, both because of the hour and the audience I would be facing very soon. But when Aiden has a song he likes, he puts it on repeat. So, as my nervous self was getting ready, I heard these words playing over and over again . . . “When the sharpest words wanna cut me down, I’m gonna send a flood; gonna drown them out. This is brave, This is proof, This is who I’m meant to be . . . THIS IS ME!” At 6:30 a.m., I walked over to the Long Beach Convention Center with a spring in my step ready to share our story from my heart.

At the interfaith and intercultural breakfast, the song that was performed was . . . yes, you guessed it . . . “This Is Me.” Actually, the night before, Aiden and I spoke to a group of young people — both queer and straight — and they were some of the youth singing onstage. When they sang, all I could see was the joy in their eyes and the pride in their faces as they stood before us claiming their place. There were many people in the audience reaching for their napkins to dab their eyes, including me.

One of the things I do when a song speaks to me is I go to YouTube to watch some video clips of the song or search for the lyrics, since I can’t always understand every word. The following week that was what I did. Here is the clip I found . . . https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xLFEvHWD_NE.

By the way, it has almost 14 million views. Watching Keala Settle perform this song live for the first time with the rest of “The Greatest Showman” artists showed me the power of bringing your vulnerability to your art no matter how scared, no matter how uncertain you are.

You can see the moment when Keala lowers the music stand and steps “into the ring” to declare that she’s here and she’s all in. From that moment on, she brings every single person in that room along with her. Her vulnerability is contagious, and it invites others to bring their whole heart to their art.

This year, 2018, will be 10 years since I sat across the table and saw the fear in my child’s eyes when he told me that he wanted to transition to be my son. These 10 years have brought me some of my greatest moments of adversity, but also some of my greatest moments of learning.

I know that in the beginning, I did not want to step into the arena of advocacy. I was too afraid of people’s judgment, criticism and rejection. I am a different person now.

When I speak, I cry when I feel the pain and cry when I feel the joy. When I write, I hope you feel I am speaking my truth, and it is coming from a place of realness and compassion. It is in these moments that my vulnerability shows me that I am stronger and more courageous than I ever thought I could be.

“Look out cause here I come, And I’m marching to the beat I drum, I’m not scared to be seen. I make no apologies, This is Me!”

Marsha Aizumi is an advocate in the LGBT community and author of the book “Two Spirits, One Heart: A Mother, Her Transgender Son and Their Journey to Love and Acceptance.”
A VISIT TO THE 2018 CRITICAL MIXED RACE STUDIES CONFERENCE

Leaders in the multiracial movement gather to ‘Resist, Reclaim, Reimagine’ – a direct call to action amidst the current political climate faced by historically underrepresented communities in the U.S.

By Rob Buscher, Contributor

Over the past few decades, the Japanese American community has become increasingly inclusive of multiracial and multietnic individuals. However, for those of us who appear less phenotypically Japanese, it is sometimes difficult explaining our connection to people who are less familiar with inter-racial marriage and mixed-race children.

Multiracial Japanese Americans are in many ways the direct result of institutionalized racism that stigmatized Japanese-Americans in the 20th century. From the Alien Land Laws to the mass incarceration during World War II, the very existence of our Japanese within the same mixed community (the fact within the spectrum of Japanese American and racial communities? attend an event like the Critical Mixed Race Studies Conference, where nearly everyone acknowledge the legitimacy of our existence different experience being mixed race (even of multiracial and multiethnic individu­als. However, for those of us who appear less phenotypically Japanese, it is sometimes difficult explaining our connection to people who are less familiar with inter-racial marriage and mixed-race children.

Multiracial Japanese Americans are in many ways the direct result of institutionalized racism that stigmatized Japanese-Americans in the 20th century. From the Alien Land Laws to the mass incarceration during World War II, the very existence of our Japanese immigrant ancestors was deemed objectionable. Is it any wonder that so many of our parents and grandparents would choose intermarriage with partners from other ethnic and racial communities?

Yet, despite the growing prevalence of mixed-race Japanese Americans, there are many outside our community who do not acknowledge the legitimacy of our existence within the spectrum of Japanese American identity. This is why it was so empowering to attend an event like the Critical Mixed Race Studies Conference, where nearly every one of the 200-plus participants were mixed race. While each individual has a totally different experience being mixed race (even within the same mixed community) the fact that multiracial folks were a super majority in this space meant that everyone had at least a basic understanding of the shared complexities surrounding our mixed identities.

Hosted at the University of Maryland on March 13, the 2018 conference’s theme was “Resist, Reclaim, Reimagine” – titled with a direct call to action amidst the current political climate faced by historically underrepresented communities in the United States.

“This is the fifth time our community of scholars, activists, students and artists have gathered to share our work about racial mixture,” said CMRS Association President Greg Carter. “The panels, roundtables, screenings, readings, films, poster sessions and exhibits addressed these three areas to uncover the ongoing relevance of white supremacy around the globe. As a system of organizing societies, white supremacy does not work by magic, but by the tools of homophobia, transphobia, colorism, sexism and greed. The conference theme has attracted work that examines this in innovative, exciting ways.”

While CMRS is primarily an academic conference, it is quite unique in the number of presenters and attendees who are not from a strictly academic background. Seemingly, there was an equal number of artists, activists and cultural producers represented amongst the convention attendees. Likely the underlying activism inherent in the conference theme was a driving force in creating this kind of unique space.

“As an organization, the CMRS Association has been at the juncture of resisting, reclaiming and reimagining since we last met in Los Angeles in 2017,” Carter continued. “By challenging ourselves to be critical and to engender racial justice, everyone involved with the organization has been doing this throughout the year.”

Thomas Lopez, a multiracial community organizer who has been active in this space for more than 25 years, expanded on the history of the organization.

“CMRS offers so much: cutting-edge research, diverse topics, arts and entertainment and a chance to build community,” said Lopez. “Every year is different with unique keynotes, performances, venues and themes. I never know who I will run into and what to expect, but I never leave dissatisfied. It is the rare occasion when so many leaders in the multiracial movement are able to get together in person. I always leave inspired and motivated to keep going in spite of what headwinds I may be facing.”

From the perspective of a multiracial Japanese American, I was pleasantly surprised to meet many people of mixed Japanese descent who were participating in the conference. One such person was Ken Tanabe, founder and president of Loving Day and another longtime supporter of the conference.

“You could say that my interest in CMRS started before there was a CMRS conference,” said Tanabe. “I launched the Loving Day Project six years before it started. For those who don’t know, Loving Day is a global movement to celebrate the June 12 anniversary of Loving v. Virginia, the Supreme Court decision that struck down all U.S. laws against interracial marriage.”

Notably, the JACL wrote an amicus brief in support of inter-racial marriage during this case, which was presented to the Supreme Court by late Philadelphia chapter member William Marutani Loving Day is especially resonant among multiracial families and their children but is open to anyone who believes in equality and building diverse communities.

Also in attendance from the Loving Day Project was Director of Technology Eddie Nwabuoku.

“CMRS is all about building uplifting and promoting the community. This is still a fairly new field of academic research, but CMRS is the center of it all. If you are interested in the concept of race and its intersections with class, power, privilege and impact on life worldwide, you simply must attend!”

Indeed, it is the intersectionality that truly makes this space special, allowing for the free exchange of ideas between a diverse group of backgrounds both ethnically and in terms of profession.

“I learn something important every time I attend CMRS. It provides context to my work with Loving Day and informs the conversations and presentations that come with it. As a member of the Hapa Japan Board, I also draw from these experiences to provide insights that help us to craft future projects,” Tanabe concluded.
Among the attendees were Athena Askiaipadi and Jeff Chiba Stearns (both pictured at right).
March 23-April 5, 2018

**IN-DEPTH**

**PHOTOS: FACEBOOK**

**DR. MICHIKO KAKU AND WHAT’S NEXT FOR HUMANITY**

A new book by the famed physicist tells of great adventures ahead.

For the present, we just need a settlement outside the Earth, an insurance policy, a plan B, in case something bad happens. We also should not go into space to avoid the greenhouse effect. These planetary problems are largely political and should be solved democratically and politically on the Earth.

**PACIFIC CITIZEN:** Much of what you describe in your book seems based on an assumption of continued exponential advances in technology. How will the tapering of Moore’s Law, which suggests that computing speed will double roughly every two years, affect the continued advancement of technology in the coming decades?

**KAKU:** The wealth of today’s society depends on Moore’s Law — computer power keeps on growing exponentially, but this cannot last forever. Eventually, transistors become the size of atoms, and silicon becomes useless. Silicon Valley could become a rust belt. The age of silicon could be closing, and we need a new generation of computers, perhaps molecular or quantum computers. That’s why we physicists are furiously working on the next generation of computers.

Also, realize that the Space Race of the 1960s forced scientists to miniaturize computers. This, in turn, gave us the current computer revolution, with iPhones, the Internet, etc. Now, if we have a second golden age of space travel, perhaps a new generation of computers will emerge to energize the economy.

**PACIFIC CITIZEN:** As with many of your publications, you often reference both popular and lesser-known science fiction stories. What role does science fiction play in how you approach your work? What purpose do you believe it serves within our society?

**KAKU:** Science fiction inspires young people to become scientists. Edwin Hubble, who discovered the Expanding Universe theory, was a country lawyer who suddenly switched into astronomy. This was because he read Jules Verne as a child and was mesmerized by science fiction. Carl Sagan, the astronomer, was inspired by reading the “John Carter of Mars” series as a kid. Robert Goddard, the father of modern rocketry, read “War of the Worlds” as a kid and was inspired to build rockets. So, science fiction often not only points the way to a possible future, it also inspires the young.

**PACIFIC CITIZEN:** The ambitions you describe in “The Future of Humanity” will be accomplished mostly by individuals and groups strongly educated in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math). What countries do you see as best positioned to lead humanity into the future you describe and what does the U.S. need to do to remain a leader for the future of humanity?

**KAKU:** There is a brain drain currently into the U.S. of top scientists, mainly via the H-1B visa. Silicon Valley is 50 percent foreign born. But, this cannot last forever. China is rapidly catching up in science and technology. We must revise our science educational program to become modern and more relevant to peoples’ lives. Our educational system does a great job preparing us to live in the world of 1950. Unfortunately, we don’t live in 1950 anymore. So, education is the weak link. Only 30 percent of the public graduates from college, and they do very well economically. We have to make sure that everyone has the chance of getting a great education, so they don’t see a decline in their standard of living.

**PACIFIC CITIZEN:** Kaku’s new book is at once a hopeful, lively look into the future, a warning of the challenges time soon. No need for a crash program that would force scientists to miniaturize computers. This, in turn, gave us the current computer revolution, with iPhones, the Internet, etc. Now, if we have a second golden age of space travel, perhaps a new generation of computers will emerge to energize the economy.

**IN-DEPTH**

**By Alissa Hiraga, Contributor**

**M**ars colonization, the brilliance and menace of AI, humanity on the brink of extinction to salvation, the beauty and enormity of the universe — these dance in our minds as fantastically far-out mysteries and can be scary to think about. The popularity of science shows and podcasts are among the clues that show that humans want to unravel the mysteries of space and find a place in at all. Dr. Michio Kaku, professor, futurist and theoretical physicist, is a beloved figure in science for his ability to make complex, intimidating concepts accessible to all audiences. His best-selling books and talks reveal he is a scientist for the people, despite undeniable brilliance as co-founder of string field theory and the fundamental forces of nature.

Alissa Hiraga for the Pacific Citizen had the opportunity to ask Dr. Kaku a few questions inspired from his engaging new book “The Future of Humanity: Terraforming Mars, Interstellar Travel, Immortality, and Our Destiny Beyond Earth.” Kaku’s new book is at once a hopeful, lively look into the future, a warning of the challenges humans as a species must overcome and a call to action on what mankind must do in order to thrive in the Earth, an insurance policy, a plan B, in case something bad happens. We also should not go into space to avoid the greenhouse effect. These planetary problems are largely political and should be solved democratically and politically on the Earth.

**PACIFIC CITIZEN:** Your book describes an exciting future for humanity while also pointing out that 99.9 percent of species eventually become extinct. What factors do you believe could cause humanity to fall prey to extinction and thus, short of the potential you describe in your book?

**DR. MICHIKO KAKU:** We face both natural and self-inflicted disasters. Natural disasters include asteroid impacts, super volcanoes and ice ages. Self-inflicted ones include global warming, nuclear proliferation and bio-germ warfare. Remember that the dinosaurs had no space program, so, 65 million years ago, an asteroid or meteor probably wiped them out. Hopefully, we will not face such a disaster, but we need a backup plan in case it happens.

We do not have to evacuate the entire planet any time soon. No need for a crash program that would take funds from badly needed programs.

**PACIFIC CITIZEN:**How will the tapering of Moore’s Law, which suggests that computing speed will double roughly every two years, affect the continued advancement of technology in the coming decades?

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KAKU: Mark Zuckerberg of Facebook is right. That for many decades to come, AI will create jobs and prosperity. But eventually, robots will become self-aware and a threat to us by the end of the century, perhaps.

At that point, I think we need a fail-safe, a chip in their brain to shut them off if they have murderous thoughts. But, this crisis is still perhaps a century away. Right now, robots have the intelligence of a cockroach.

Eventually, they will be as smart as a mouse, rat, rabbit, cat and dog. When they reach monkey intelligence, we need to put a chip in their brain to shut them off just in case.

PACIFIC CITIZEN: The Drake Equation, designed to estimate the number of communicating civilizations in the cosmos, suggests that a key reason we have not discovered intelligent life could be that intelligent life may have an inclination toward self-annihilation shortly after becoming technologically advanced. As you envision how humanity may evolve socially and culturally over the coming decades and centuries, how do you feel about our ability to become a functioning multiplanetary species in time to mitigate the risk of any self-inflicted causes of extinction here on Earth?

KAKU: We face many self-inflicted dangers until around the end of the century. Our savage Type 0 civilization will then become a planetary Type I civilization, with planetary politics and culture to deal collectively with these problems. Right now, we are a fragmented Type 0 civilization, with all the savagery of fundamentalism, nationalism, sectarianism, etc. But by the end of the century, we should become planetary, and hence many of these problems will be resolved. (Within a few thousand years, we will become a Type II civilization, with stellar power, like in “Star Trek”). Within a hundred thousand years, we might become a Type III civilization, a galactic one, like in “Star Wars.”

So, the most dangerous period is the transition from a fragmented Type 0 civilization to a Type I planetary civilization.

PACIFIC CITIZEN: Your passion and enthusiasm for your chosen profession repeatedly comes through in both your published and televised works, and it serves as an inspiration for people of all ages and backgrounds. You talked about your father’s incarceration in a Japanese American internment camp. What impact did your family’s experiences have on your childhood, how you approach your life and your profession?

KAKU: My parents were locked up in Tule Lake, Calif., from 1942-46. After they left the camps, they were penniless, with nothing. So, as a child, I realized that we were not rich and that if I was to succeed in life, I would have to do it myself.

But my parents never held a grudge or felt self-pity or anger. Their attitude was the past is the past, and that we must forge on, to make sure that such disasters do not happen again, and also to bring honor to our people.

For more information on Dr. Michio Kaku and his works, visit http://mkkaku.org.
JALD Delegation Returns from Japan

The 2018 JALD delegates sightseeing in Yamaguchi Prefecture.

The 2018 JALD delegates with U.S. Ambassador to Japan William Hagerty and USJC President Irene Hirano Inouye (center).

The delegates had the opportunity to meet Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. He is pictured here with JACL Executive Director and JALD participant David Inoue (right).

The delegates had the opportunity to meet Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. He is pictured here with JACL Executive Director and JALD participant David Inoue (right).

The Riverside JACL chapter is celebrating its 50th year of service. Pictured at the chapter’s recent installation luncheon are (from left) Willie Takano, Nancy Takano, Dolly Ogata and Doug Urata.

Riverside JACL Kicks Off ‘Year of Celebration’

The Riverside JACL chapter has begun a celebratory year for its 50th anniversary of service. The “Year of Celebration” was kicked off recently with the chapter’s annual installation luncheon for members, guests and community partners.

During the luncheon proceedings, Chapter President Michiko Yoshimura, herself a member of the chapter’s original board of directors, introduced and thanked several of the group’s charter members, including Willie and Nancy Takano. Other longstanding members present included Bette Brown, Charles Fugimoto, Dolly Ogata and Lily Taka.

In addition, Robyn Peterson, newly appointed director of the Riverside Museum, updated attendees on the museum’s current remodeling project and apprised guests of the current state of renovation on the Harada House, a National Historic Landmark in the city.

The event’s featured speaker was JACL National President Gary Mayeda, who spoke on the importance of the work of JACL now as well as in the past. Mayeda also installed the chapter’s 2018 board of directors.

A slide presentation of the chapter’s activities of the past 50 years was created and presented by member Doug Urata.

Community partners and friends included representatives from the Harada Foundation, Multicultural Council, Riverside Art Museum, Riverside Metropolitan Museum, Save Our Chinatown Committee and the Sendai Committee of the International Relations Committee.

Special Issues Coming Soon

MAY .................. Senior Caregiving
JUNE .................... Travel & Food

Do YOU have a story from your community that you would like to see in the Pacific Citizen?

Contact Susan at (213) 630-1767 ext.103
Email: BusMgr@pacificcitizen.org or PC@pacificcitizen.org
PALO ALTO SCHOOL BOARD TO VOTE ON RENAMING SCHOOL AFTER 442 VETERAN

‘Yamamoto’ surname provokes emotional opposition by some recent immigrants.

By George Toshio Johnston, Senior Editor, Digital & Social Media

The push to rename one of two Palo Alto, Calif., middle schools after a local man who was awarded the Silver Star after being killed in action in Europe while serving in the U.S. Army during World War II seemed like a layup just a few weeks ago.

But after several local residents voiced opposition to having either Jordan Middle School or Terman Middle School renamed for Fred M. Yamamoto, a graduate of Palo Alto High School’s class of 1936 and former incarceree at the Heart Mountain WRA Center in Wyoming who volunteered to serve in the storied 100th Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team and was killed Oct. 28, 1944, the chances of the Japanese American being so honored may be in doubt.

It will come down to a vote by the five members of the Palo Alto Unified School District’s Board of Education, set to take place on March 27.

Ironically, most of those opposing the name change to that of an Asian American appear to be recent immigrants from China, and the reason for their opposition: Fred Yamamoto’s last name is the same as that of Isoroku Yamamoto, the admiral who served in Imperial Japan’s Navy and is credited with planning the attack on Pearl Harbor, attacking the U.S. forces during WWII when an airplane transported him was shot down by American P-38 Lightning aircraft Dec. 7, 1941, attack on the Pearl Harbor naval facility in Hawaii.

When Brad Shirakawa, 62, learned in February that Fred Yamamoto was among a group of candidates to have a Palo Alto middle school named after him, the Sunnyvale, Calif., resident said, “I was shocked and kind of happy about it.” But he also wondered how Fred Yamamoto could beat out all the suggested names, which included Steve Jobs and Mahandas Gandhi.

Then, Shirakawa learned that Yamamoto was the No. 1 recommendation among just six finalists, and he thought, “Hey, we’ve got a great shot at this!” The other finalists with ties to the local community are Ellen Fletcher, Edith “Eugenie” Johnson, Frank Greene Jr., William Hewlett and Anna Zschokke, as well as two place names.

The drive to rename the schools arose when it was learned in 2015 that namesakes Lewis Terman and David Starr Jordan were said to be proponents of eugenics, which has become associated with racist ideology and practices such as forced sterilization of people deemed unfit to reproduce.

But following the vocal opposition to renaming one of the schools for Fred Yamamoto at a recent school board meeting, as well as an online petition opposing using Yamamoto as a name for the school, Shirakawa is no longer hopeful that Fred Yamamoto will get the nod.

Asked whether he thinks the board will vote against Yamamoto being named for one of the schools, Shirakawa said, “Frankly, I could not blame them if they did. The vocal opposition has become very loud.”

JACL National President Gary Mayeda weighed in on the issue, writing in an email, “In a multicultural society, we cannot afford to trip over misplaced confusion of identity. Two very different people can have the same last name and should not be confused, especially when one is an American citizen.”

JACL Executive Director David Inoue, in a letter to PAUSD Interim Superintendent Karen Hendrick, wrote, “I am writing to express our support of honoring Fred Yamamoto with the naming of one of your middle schools,” adding that Yamamoto’s legacy “is one that not only deserves to be memorialized but also one that all Americans can learn from.”

According to the Washington, D.C., office of the Organization of Chinese Americans, its Palo Alto chapter is working on contacting the local school board on the issue, with the national organization working in concert with the National JACL.

Meantime, JACL’s Northern California-Western Nevada-Paciﬁc District Regional Director Patty Wada also sent a letter in support of the renaming of the schools for Fred Yamamoto, who was an “American hero but also someone whose life and death are a testament to the very definition of a loyal and dedicated citizen.”

Attempts by the Pacific Citizen to contact the five school board members and opponents with Chinese surnames listed in online news reports for comment were unsuccessful.

Interestingly, while the online petition to block Fred Yamamoto’s surname states: “There exist certain hurt feelings when the last name ‘Yamamoto’ is mentioned, especially for Asian immigrants whose families were tragically affected in China, Korea and Southeast Asian countries during World War II, and that ‘our middle schools should never be affiliated with such a person,’” historians say that Adm. Isoroku Yamamoto was against Japan’s invasion of Manchuria and Japan’s war with China, and despite his part in planning the attack on Pearl Harbor, he was against going to war with the United States.

In 1943, Adm. Yamamoto was killed by U.S. forces during WWII when an airplane transporting him was shot down by American P-38 Lightning aircraft.

The March 27 meeting is set for 6:30-10 p.m. at the boardroom of the Palo Alto Unified School District Board of Education, located at 25 Churchill Ave. in Palo Alto. The members of the PAUSD board can be found at tinyurl.com/yc4nn5q.
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J-Sei's Flavors of Spring
to the pregame JHN event.

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Richmond, CA
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Price: $250

Seattle, WA
Price: $5-

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Price: Free

100 N. Central Ave.

Price: $12 Adults; $6 seniors 62 and over; students & youth; $5, children 6 and JANM members, free

Edward Lee

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**IN MEMORIAM**

Ando, Dora Shizuko, 92, Morgan Hill, CA, Jan. 18; she is survived by her children, Steven (Janet) Ando and Kathy (Jeff) Honda; siblings, Dorothy Tazumi and Eddie Nishimura; gc: 4.

Bredeen, Toyoko, B1, Portland, OR, Feb. 12; she was predeceased by her husband, Perry A. Bredeen Jr.; children, Grant (Donna), Georgia (Hiroshi) Ieha, Adele (Isaac) Inouye and Eric; gc: 2.

Chan, Albert, B7, Albany, OR, Feb. 10; during WWII, his family and he were forcibly removed to the Puyallup Fairgrounds but avoided the mass incarceration of Japanese Americans by moving to Malia, MT; he was predeceased by his wife, Patricia Ann Kennedy; children, Nancy MacDonald (Tom), Christine Larson (Doug), Leslie Parker (David) and Amy DeYoung (Bill); gc: 1.

Fujinami, Noriko, B104, Los Angeles, CA, Feb. 7; she was predeceased by her husband, Yoko Fujii; siblings, Chieko; gc: 2.

Hieshima, Asaichi Shimizu, MD, 98, Seal Beach, CA, Jan. 10; he was predeceased by his wife, Yoko Fujii; children, Steven (Janet) Ando and Becky Jacobs.

Kametsu, Yoshiyuki George, 99, Whitter, CA, Feb. 14; during WWII, he was incarcerated at the Poston WRA Center in AZ and the Tule Lake WRA Center in CA; he was predeceased by his wife, Marjorie; children, Karen (Tom), Delana Webber (Jon Alan); gc: 8.

Matsumoto, Chiyoko T., 95, Waialua, HI, Dec. 29, 2017; she was predeceased by her husband, Taoshi Matsumoto; children, Yvonne Fong; she is survived by her children, Claude (Annette), Allison Matsumoto and Lois Kiyonaga (Kevin); sisters, Jeanette Kawakami, Mildred Sakanoue, Alan; he is survived by his children, Grant (Donna), Georgia (Hiroshi) Ieha, Adele (Isaac) Inouye and Eric; gc: 2.

Tator, UCSF, 93, San Francisco, CA, Dec. 18, 2017; he is survived by his brother, Phillip Ito (Sharon Ito), sister-in-law, Kazue Ito.

Taniguchi, Akira, 91, Gardena, CA, Dec. 21, 2017; he is survived by his siblings, Jimmy (Grace) Taniguchi and Tsuneo (Tom) Matsumoto; step-brothers, Henry (Emiko) and Joe Taniguchi; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

Ueda, Charles Shiro, 65, Torrance, CA, Feb. 14; he is survived by his wife, Chieko; children, Karen (Richard) Shephard, Kevin (Nikkei) and Kyle, sister, Alice Umeda; gc: 5.

Watanae, Louie Mitsu, 82, Sacramento, CA, Feb. 14; he is survived by his wife, Betty; children, Alden (Peter) and Julie Lefler (John); he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and cousins; gc: 4.

Geisel, Sadako, 95, Kettering, OH, Feb. 18; she was predeceased by her husband, Adam; she is survived by her daughter, Danielle (currently a medical student at Yale); and three sons, John, Frank and Carlos. Eldest child is Joseph Gallegos, married to Amy Soto with son, Juan Carlos.

Fujinami, Noriko, 104, Los Angeles, CA, Feb. 7; she was predeceased by her husband, Perry A. Bredeen Jr.; children, Grant (Donna), Georgia (Hiroshi) Ieha, Adele (Isaac) Inouye and Eric; gc: 2.

Hieshima, Asaichi Shimizu, MD, 98, Seal Beach, CA, Jan. 10; he was predeceased by his wife, Yoshie Hieshima; children, Steven (Janet) Ando and Becky Jacobs.

Oba, Mitsuye, 96, Los Angeles, CA, Jan. 11; she is survived by her husband, Minoru; children, Rev. Gary (Rev. Janet Cromwell) Oba and Don (Robert Morrison) Oba; she is also survived by many other relatives.

Rikimaru, Kazu, 90, Los Angeles, CA, Jan. 13; he is survived by his children, Marilyn (Andy) Baccero, Tyra (Gina) Rikimaru and Annie (Evan) Chase, siblings, Ken Rikimaru and Reiko Nimura; gc: 11; gc: 4.

Sato, Edward, 83, Santa Monica, CA, Dec. 25, 2017; he was predeceased by his wife, Karen; he is survived by his sister, Grace Kato.
I

n the first article that I wrote for the Pacific Citizen, I mentioned that prior to pursuing a career in social work, I was working full-time for a small bookkeeping and tax preparation business. I definitely do not miss those months leading up to the tax filing deadline!

With the April 17 deadline fast approaching, I want to talk about a few scams that you should be aware of. Older adults are often more vulnerable to these types of scams, especially those who live alone and are not familiar with the Internal Revenue Service’s protocol. The first one I want to talk about is the IRS Imposter Scam.

This scam is not a new one. I remember back in 2015 when I was still working in accounting, clients would call us about how they received a phone call from the IRS demanding payment for past-due taxes owed. We would always tell them that the IRS never uses the telephone as a first method of communication; it always mails the IRS never uses the telephone as a first method of communication; it always mails their information from professional tax preparers to file fraudulent tax returns.

The scammers use the data to arrange to send refunds to the taxpayers’ real bank accounts. Then, a scammer posing as a debt collector tells the taxpayer that a refund was erroneously deposited in his or her account and that it should be forwarded to a fake collection agency.

The IRS also warns that taxpayers who file electronically might find that their tax return is rejected because a return bearing their Social Security number has already been filed by a scammer. If that happens, taxpayers should follow the IRS’ Taxpayer Guide to Identity Theft, which can be found online (https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/taxpayer-guide-to-identity-theft).

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Also, always be on the lookout for TAX ID Theft. AARP Fraud Watch Network explains: Tax ID Theft is when your personal information is stolen for a fraudulent refund. More specifically, tax identity theft can involve:

- Filing a tax return using another person's Social Security number.
- Claiming someone else's children as dependents.
- Claiming a tax refund using a deceased taxpayer’s information.

Your personal information can be stolen in a number of ways, including theft of mail or tax returns, corrupt tax preparation services or phony emails from imposters. Con artists can quickly learn a lot about you in order to take your money while also defrauding the government.

What to Do?

To avoid tax identity theft:

- Do mail tax returns as early in the tax season as possible before the cons beat you to it.
- Don't give out personal information unless you know who's asking for it and why they need it.
- Do shred personal and financial documents.
- Do know your tax preparer.

Do check the status of your refund after filing at irs.gov/Refunds.

For help, contact the IRS Identity Protection Specialized Unit at (800) 908-4490 and visit irs.gov/IdentityTheft.

If you've spotted a scam or think you may have been scammed, call the AARP Fraud Watch Network helpline at (877) 908-3360 for advice and guidance.

Scott Tanaka is a board member of the Washington, D.C., JACL chapter and project coordinator for AARP Multicultural Leadership.

By Scott Tanaka

Peggy Nagae, this year's keynote speaker, paid tribute to a longtime Denver hero of civil rights and social justice, Minoru Yasui.

Yasui was the third man who fought incarceration all the way to the SCOTUS during the war, and lost. Nagae was the lead attorney who fought to overturn his wartime conviction in the 1980s. She was able to get his conviction for breaking curfew overturned, but Yasui unfortunately died in 1986 before SCOTUS could rule on the other aspects of his appeal.

But his standing as a giant in JACL history wasn't all Yasui accomplished. After the war, he settled in Denver and began fighting for the civil rights of all people, not just JAs. He was a founder of the Urban League, an African-American organization, and he also helped start organizations for Latinos, American Indians and LGBTQ communities.

Yasui was a lifelong supporter of JACL, and he served as president of the Mile High chapter. He was also a founding member of JACL's Redress Committee and served as the head of the City of Denver’s Commission on Community Relations for decades.

Nagae gave a compelling history of Yasui's legal battles and career-long commitment to civil rights, and the audience went away fascinated and inspired, and also about Min Yasui, and we gave out copies at DOR in a number of ways, including theft of mail or tax returns, corrupt tax preparation services or phony emails from imposters. Con artists can quickly learn a lot about you in order to take your money while also defrauding the government.

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