HAPA DAYS ARE HERE AGAIN

Artist Kip Fulbeck reconnects with JANM in a new exhibit.
Dear Editor,

Currently being the director emeritus/archivist of the Yakima Valley Museum, I was the director of the museum at the time when the exhibition “Land of Joy and Sorrow—Japanese Pioneers of the Yakima Valley” was planned and opened in 2010. So, I would like to thank the Pacific Citizen for its coverage of our February 2018 Day of Remembrance program and exhibition.

We were so excited to see the coverage of our exhibit due to the coverage in the Pacific Citizen. We were so excited to see the coverage of our exhibit due to the coverage in the Pacific Citizen. We were so excited to see the coverage of our exhibit due to the coverage in the Pacific Citizen. We were so excited to see the coverage of our exhibit due to the coverage in the Pacific Citizen. We were so excited to see the coverage of our exhibit due to the coverage in the Pacific Citizen. We were so excited to see the coverage of our exhibit due to the coverage in the Pacific Citizen.

Patti Himakani, who is a contributor to the P.C., helped the museum start our development of the exhibit 10 years ago, and along with the help of the descendants of the Yakima Japanese American families across the United States, we have been able to chronicle their history.

This year, our exhibit is eight years old but still continues to be a popular attraction here.

Thank you so much again for featuring our story.

Sincerely,

John A. Boule
Director Emeritus/Archivist, YakiMA Valley Museum

March 9-22, 2018

The Pacific Citizen’s Spring Campaign is officially in full swing! As a P.C. Editorial Board Member, I’m here to encourage you to give to our annual fundraising efforts. First, a little about myself. I was born and raised in Utah, and I recently graduated from Utah State University. My family has been involved with JACL ever since I can remember, and in recent years I’ve expanded my personal involvement thanks to the leadership opportunities my district and local chapter have extended to me.

I joined the P.C. Editorial Board last year and have enjoyed getting to know my fellow board members and the amazing staff here at the P.C. In addition, I’ve also caught a glimpse of the challenges our newspaper faces because of the financial hardships of this organization.

The P.C. is an integral part of who we are as a Japanese American community. It truly shares our stories, promotes our businesses and connects us in a way that isn’t easily replicated. Not only does the P.C. need to stay—it needs to grow!

Here’s a personal anecdote to emphasize why the P.C. is important to me.

In Salt Lake City, our already-condensed Japan Town is being encroached on further by surrounding development projects. This threatens the vitality of many longstanding community events such as the Buddhist Temple’s Omen Festival, the Japanese Church of Christ’s Aki Matsuri Festival and Utah’s annual Nihon Matsuri Festival.

Althought these series of development events have rattled our local JA community, it has hardly been felt by the community at large. Why? Because people don’t know about it. The hard truth is that often times, the only people who tell our stories are us.

Today’s world is swirling with a vast influx of news and information. With so much going on, our presence as a JA community is crucial, now more than ever.

We need the Pacific Citizen because it amplifies our visibility as a unified community. So, here’s my call to action:

Support our community and support the growth of the P.C. by giving today. Please donate by using the coupon printed at the bottom of this page or else visit the P.C.’s website (www.pacificcitizen.org) to give through the site. You can even call the P.C. and a staff person will help you directly. Every bit helps—from maintaining the printed paper, office equipment, software, archives and much more. Give to not only sustain our beloved newspaper but also ensure that the value of our voices and presence aren’t forgotten.

Our history — yesterday, today and tomorrow — is our legacy.

Best,

Kayla Watanabe,
P.C. Editorial Board Member,

P.C.
FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
THREE STRIKES AND YOU’RE OUT!

By David Inoue
JACL Executive Director

A s a lifelong Cubs fan, the most exciting thing of the Major League Baseball offseason was the addition of Yu Darvish to the pitching rotation, and the excitement only mottls as opening day quickly approaches and will have passed by the time you are reading this.

Time will tell if this leads to a second Cubs pennant in three years, but thinking of Darvish, one cannot forget the ugly racism displayed toward him during the World Series last year as a member of the Los Angeles Dodgers. Unfortunately, racism in sports has become a growing phenomenon lately.

During the Winter Olympic Games in South Korea, a controversy-seeking writer tweeted a reference to Japanese American figure skater Mirai Nagasu as being a successful immigrant — she was born in the United States. In Boston, shortly after the Super Bowl in February, a radio host mocked New England Patriots’ quarterback Tom Brady’s agent, Don Yee, using a fake Asian accent to imitate his voice. Yee, like Nagasu, was born in the United States and does not speak with a foreign accent. Even if he did, would it then be fair game for mockery?

Striking close to home for me, during a high school basketball game in Cincinnati involving my alma mater, Saint Xavier High School, the other team mocked one of the St. X players, who is half-Asian, with chants of “PF Chang.” “Open your eyes wider” and, ultimately, “USA USA.” Again, the student was born in the United States. He was also not the only student singled out for racist taunts — an African-American student was also targeted.

It is clear that there remains a strong undercurrent of anti-Asian racism throughout sports and the media coverage of athletes as well. What makes these incidents especially notable is that given how few Asians there are in sports, nearly everyone seems to be subject to some form of racism.

Among the themes that seem to be constant between both sports racism and racism in society is that of the perpetual foreigner. Whether it is putting on a fake accent or, even more disturbing, the chants of “USA,” Asian Americans are not seen as American.

I have heard criticism that JACL should not bother itself with these petty issues and should instead focus on the more virulent forms of racism whether actual violence or more virulent language.

Unfortunately, it is exactly these types of racism that lead to the stronger language, or worse, violence. I would also suggest that for a high school basketball player born in the United States, hearing chants of “USA” in opposition is not a matter of sticks and stones. It is a delegitimization of that student’s identity as an American.

As a community, Japanese Americans are all too familiar with the experience of delegitimizing and actual withdrawal of our rights as citizens. Even those of us who have been in this country for generations also continue to be impacted by racist comments and taunts, we must make the connection between these attitudes and the broader anti-immigrant sentiment in this country.

It is impossible to not draw a parallel between the ongoing treatment of Asians as still foreign and the recent broad brush accusations of Chinese students as spies for China, or the many issues around those seeking DREAMer protection. We must not allow immigrants to be portrayed broadly as criminals or separated into good and bad immigrant classifications.

We all know the saying that there is nothing more American than baseball and apple pie. It’s time that the pictures of who should be on the baseball field and who is truly American begin to reflect the rich diversity of who makes up our country.

David Inoue is the executive director of the JACL and is based at the organization’s Washington, D.C., office.

LEGAL-EASE: AN ATTORNEY’S PERSPECTIVE
TRUSTEE FAQS

By Staci Yamashita-Iida, Esq.

E very couple of months, my law firm holds seminars discussing Estate Planning, Trust Administration, Probate, Medi-Cal and other Elder Law topics. Usually at the end, three or four people will come up to me and ask very specific questions about the duties of a trustee. Some are posed by parents who are concerned about making things easy for their trustee children after they’re gone. Others are the children themselves, who want to know what responsibilities they will have once their parents pass.

To address the uncertainties of both parties, I’ve compiled a list of the most Frequently Asked Questions I’ve received regarding the role of a trustee.

FAQ #1: What’s the difference between a trustee and an executor?

The terms are often used interchangeably and while they have analogous responsibilities (distributing assets according to your wishes, making sure debts are paid, etc.), there are several key differences between a trustee and an executor.

First and foremost, a trustee deals with a Revocable Living Trust, and an executor pertains to a Last Will and Testament.

When you pass, your successor trustee takes over for you. A successor trustee’s job is to administer your estate pursuant to the terms you laid out in your trust (e.g., gift $5,000 to your church and transfer the home to your children).

A successor trustee’s responsibilities may be ongoing, depending on how your provisions are drafted. For example, if you wanted your grandkids to inherit $100,000 for college but they are only minors when you pass away, then the successor trustee will have to manage the funds until they become of age.

Like a successor trustee, an executor is also expected to carry out the terms you laid out as except within your Last Will and Testament. The main difference is that an executor must deal with probate, while a successor trustee does not. Probate is the court-supervised legal process of distributing one’s property and possessions. It is often expensive, lengthy and tedious.

Although every case is different and there are certainly exceptions the general sentiment for an average, middle-class family is that it is “easier” to be a successor trustee than it is to be an executor. Thus, a Revocable Living Trust is the preferred type of planning document of choice for most individuals.

FAQ #2: Does a trustee get paid?

A majority of trusts include a provision that states that the trustee is entitled to “reasonable compensation” (though they are not required to take a fee). With ambiguous language like that, you may ask, “What is ‘reasonable’?” Unfortunately, the answer is a very unhelpful, “It depends.”

A trustee’s fee hinges on a variety of factors, including the amount of time put into the administration process, the level of experience and skill the trustee has, the difficulty and complexity of the tasks required and what other comparable trustees in the area are charging.

To give you a general idea of what the fee is, a professional trust company like Farmers and Merchants may charge about one percent of the value of the estate as of 2018. A typical Joe Schmo who does not have any expertise as a trustee will probably charge less, unless the situation is extremely complicated.

Taking that into consideration, your next question may be, “Then isn’t it easier to specify a dollar amount or percentage?” Not necessarily.

Many of my clients created their trusts decades ago. At the time, $10 per hour may have seemed fair. But nowadays, the minimum wage (at least in my city) is $10.50 per hour. So, if you cap the fee too early on, it’s discouraging for the trustee, who may put in a lot of his or her own personal time into administrating the trust.

FAQ #3: Can I have two people as my trustees?

It’s often difficult for parents to appoint one trustee when they have multiple children. What’s an impartial way to choose, age order? What if you select your son, and your daughter’s feelings get hurt?

One possible solution is to appoint two (or more) individuals as “co-trustees.” That way, both your son and daughter can act as trustee and handle the affairs of the estate together.

While this is a good option for some families, it is not always recommended. If the co-trustees disagree or do not get along, problems could arise, and the administration process could drag on unnecessarily. It is truly a case-by-case determination of whether this type of arrangement is suitable for the family.

Staci Yamashita-Iida, Esq. is an Estate Planning attorney at Elder Law Services of California. She can be contacted at (310) 348-2995 or staci@elderlawcalifornia.com. The opinions expressed in this article are the author’s own and do not necessarily reflect the view of the Pacific Citizen or JACL. The information presented does not constitute legal advice and should not be treated as such.
HAWAII SAYS IT IMPLEMENTED MISSILE PLAN BEFORE FINISHING IT

HONOLULU — The Hawaii Emergency Management Agency began implementing its plan for responding to a ballistic missile attack before it was entirely drafted, a senior state official said April 5 at a hearing on why the agency mistakenly sent cellphone and broadcast alerts across the islands in January.

“We started flying the plane before we built the whole plan,” Maj. Gen. Arthur “Joe” Logan, head of the state Department of Defense, told a U.S. Senate committee hearing in Honolulu.

Logan told lawmakers he felt it was imperative to implement the plan, given North Korea’s repeated ballistic missile and nuclear tests and its threats toward Hawaii.

The plan also involved helping the state survive a possible attack.

U.S. Sen. Brian Schatz of Hawaii held the hearing to understand how and why the false alerts were sent.

Logan said the agency was expecting to develop its plan in three phases. The first involved conducting public outreach and speeding up public notifications in the event of an attack.

During the second phase, the agency intended to talk to stakeholders about how best to respond to and recover from an attack. The third phase was to write the plan.

Logan said January’s false alert went out because the agency lacked certain protocols to prevent such mistakes and immediately correct them.

Schatz, a Democrat and ranking member of the Senate Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation and the Internet, has introduced legislation that would give the federal government sole responsibility for handling missile alerts.

In January, the full committee examined policy concerns surrounding the use and effectiveness of the current warning system after the false alert was sent to Hawaii residents and visitors statewide. Schatz also requested the field hearing.

Schatz and other Hawaii lawmakers at the hearing acknowledged that emergency alerts for hurricanes and other natural disasters are issued by local and state governments.

But Schatz said there’s no reason not to warn all Americans if a ballistic missile is heading toward the U.S.

“This is federal by its very definition,” Schatz said.

U.S. Rep. Tulsi Gabbard asked Rep. Adam Smith, the U.S. Pacific Command’s director of operations, why his command didn’t directly inform the people of Hawaii if there is a missile attack instead of going through the state’s emergency management agency.

Piercey replied there are existing agencies that have the authority to do this.

See HAWAII on page 12

CITIZENSHIP QUESTION HAS NO PLACE ON THE 2020 CENSUS

By JACL National

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See HAWAII on page 12

DANIEL AKAKA, FIRST NATIVE HAWAIIAN IN CONGRESS, DIES AT 93

HONOLULU — Former Sen. Daniel Kaahumanu Akaka, the first Native Hawaiian elected to Congress who served for more than three decades, died April 6. He was 93.

Akaka died in Honolulu after being hospitalized for several months, said John Yashima, the senator’s former communications director.

The Democrat served 14 years in the U.S. House before he was appointed to replace Sen. Spark Matsunaga, who died of cancer in spring 1990. Akaka won election that fall for the rest of Matsunaga’s term, and voters sent him back for consecutive terms until 2012, when he chose not to seek re-election.

Akaka developed a reputation as a congenial legislator who made many friends while making few waves in pressing the interests of the 50th state.

“Sen. Daniel Kaahumanu Akaka embodied the aloha spirit,” Sen. Mazie Hirono of Hawaii said in a statement. “He dedicated his life to serving the people of Hawaii as an educator, and in the U.S. Army, state government, the U.S. House and the U.S. Senate. In Congress, Sen. Akaka’s care, empathy and collegiality served as an example for us all.”

In 1996, Akaka sponsored federal legislation that ultimately resulted in Medals of Honor — the Army’s highest honor for bravery — for 22 Asian American soldiers who fought during World War II. Those soldiers included the late Sen. Daniel Inouye, who was severely wounded in Italy while serving with the famed 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

Born in 1924, Akaka grew up in a devoutly Christian home in Honolulu. He was the youngest of eight children of a Native Hawaiian mother and a Hawaiian-Chinese father.

After serving in the Army Corps of Engineers during World War II, Akaka earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in education at the University of Hawaii. He was a public school teacher, principal and program specialist for 18 years before becoming director of the Hawaii Office of Economic Opportunity in 1971.

Akaka is survived by his wife, Mary Mildred “Millie” Chong, four sons, a daughter and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Isao Takahata, Co-Founder of Studio Ghibli, Dies at 82

TOKYO — Isao Takahata, co-founder of the prestigious Japanese animation Studio Ghibli that stuck to a hand-drawn “manga” look in the face of digital filmmaking, died on April 5. He was 82.

Takahata started Ghibli with Oscar-winning animator Hayao Miyazaki in 1985, hoping to create Japan’s Disney.

Takahata succeeded to lung cancer at a Tokyo hospital, according to a studio statement released on April 6.

He was fully aware how the floating sun-brush sketches of pastel pastel in his works stood as a stylistic challenge to Hollywood’s computer-graphics cartoons.

In a 2015 interview with the Associated Press, Takahata talked about how Edora woodblock-print artists like Hokusai had the understanding of Western-style perspective and the use of light, but they purposely chose to depict reality with lines, and in a flat way, with minimal shading.

That, he said, was at the heart of Japanese “manga,” or comics.

“It is about the essence that’s behind the drawing,” he said at Ghibli’s picturesque office in suburban Tokyo. “We want to express reality without an overly realistic depiction, and that’s about appealing to the human imagination.”

Takahata’s last film, “The Tale of the Princess Kaguya,” based on a Japanese folktale, was nominated for a 2013 Oscar for best animation feature, though it did not win.

A native of Mie Prefecture, Takahata was a graduate of the University of Tokyo and initially worked at Toei, one of Japan’s major film and animation studios.

Medically assisted suicide becomes legal in Hawaii

HONOLULU — Hawaii became the latest liberal-leaning state to legalize medically assisted suicide April 5 as the governor signed a measure into law allowing doctors to fulfill requests from terminally ill patients to prescribe life-ending medication.

“It is time for terminally ill, mentally competent Hawaii residents who are suffering to make their own end-of-life choices with dignity, grace and peace,” Gov. David Ige said.

Ige said the law was written to ensure the patient is in full control, and it provides just one option available for end-of-life care, knowing assisted suicide is not for everyone.

“But we know that we have gotten to a point in our community that it does make sense to give the patient a choice to request the medication, obtain it and take it, or ultimately change their mind,” Ige said.

Hawaii’s heavily Democratic lawmakers approved the legislation late last month. The state joins California, Colorado, Oregon, Vermont, Washington state and the District of Columbia in allowing the practice.

“The time was right for Hawaii to adopt this law,” said Peg Sandeen, executive director of the Death With Dignity National Center, a nonprofit advocacy group.

See NEWSBYTES on page 5
WILBUR SATO TO RECEIVE THE SUE KUNITOMI EMBREY LEGACY AWARD

The Manzanar Committee awards the longtime community activist for his decades-long work for social justice.

LOS ANGELES — The Manzanar Committee announced on March 26 that former Manzanar incarceree and longtime community activist Wilbur Sato has been named as the recipient of the 2018 Sue Kunitomi Embrey Legacy Award.

The award, named after the late chair of the Manzanar Committee who was one of the founders of the annual Manzanar Pilgrimage and the driving force behind the creation of the Manzanar National Historic Site, will be presented to Sato at the 49th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage on April 28 at the Manzanar National Historic Site, located on U.S. Highway 395 in California’s Owens Valley, between the towns of Lone Pine and Independence.

Sato, 88, was raised on Terminal Island, a former fishing village that is now part of the Port of Los Angeles and the Port of Long Beach. While he was in seventh grade, Sato and his family were forcibly removed from their home and shortly thereafter, incarcerated at Manzanar.

Sato returned to the Los Angeles area after World War II and dove right into community activism, joining the Nisei Progressives and later, the Japanese American Democratic Club.

“Right out of camp, Wilbur was active in the community, trying to organize the community around independent political issues and labor issues,” said Manzanar Committee Co-Chair Bruce Embrey. “They demanded redress, at that point. They also demanded, ‘no more Hiroshimas.’ They opposed the restrictive immigration and alien land laws. They were kind of ahead of their time.”

In 1947, Sato entered at the University of California, Los Angeles. During his four years at UCLA, he founded the California Intercollegiate Nisei Organization, a statewide network of students who were involved in the Japanese American community.

After graduating from UCLA in 1951, Sato became an attorney, and after joining the Japanese American Citizens League, he was named its Civil Rights Chairman. He pushed the organization to get more deeply involved in political issues that affected the Japanese American community.

In more recent years, Sato has been a longtime member of NCRR (originally known as the National Committee for Redress/Repatriation, and now as Nikkei for Civil Rights and Redress) and has had two stints as a member of the Manzanar Committee.

Sato, who continues to be involved in the Democratic Party, has also worked to call attention to the little-known fact that 101 orphans were among those who were illegally incarcerated at Manzanar, and he served as a docent at the Manzanar National Historic Site.

“Since the very early days after camp, Wilbur has been a constant presence and a strong advocate for redress and reparations and later, in supporting the Manzanar

NCRR’s Kathy Masaoka and Wilbur Sato recite a poem during the 47th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage, which was held on April 30, 2016, at the Manzanar National Historic Site. 

National Historic Site,” said Embrey. “His roots in the struggle go back to his days as a Manzanar incarceree, just like my mother (Sue Kunitomi Embrey). His activism parallels hers in many ways.

“Wilbur is one of the few leaders who, right out of camp, worked to gain recognition of what happened to Japanese Americans during World War II, to try to right the wrong,” Embrey continued. “He did it in a lot of different ways, and he’s been such a consistent, steadfast presence in so many areas. His persistence and presence in the United Teachers Los Angeles educational seminars that we would conduct with Los Angeles Unified School District teachers, or with the reunions for the former orphans of Children’s Village — he was always trying to make the community and the world better places, and that took guts. He had to endure periods when there was a very unfavorable political climate, but he persevered.

“Wilbur is still persevering. He still attends the Manzanar Pilgrimage. He’s still active in NCRR and the Manzanar Committee. He’s constantly trying to educate people and agitate for social justice and a better world.

At 88 years old, that’s beyond admirable. That’s really something that very few people are capable of, and Wilbur has done it all with vigor. We are honored and privileged to name him as the recipient of the 2018 Sue Kunitomi Embrey Legacy Award.”

Embrey concluded.

UCLA Kyodo Taiko will open the Pilgrimage at 11:30 a.m., while the main portion of the program begins at Noon.

In addition to the afternoon event, the Manzanar at Dusk program follows that same evening, from 5:30 p.m., at the Lone Pine High School gymnasium, located at 588 S. Main St. (U.S. Highway 395), in Lone Pine, nine miles south of the Manzanar National Historic Site, across the street from McDonald’s.

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

Pilgrimage participants are advised to bring their own lunch, drinks and snacks, as there are no facilities to purchase food at the Manzanar National Historic Site (restaurants and fast-food outlets are located in Lone Pine and Independence, which are nearby).

Water will also be provided at the site, but participants are asked to bring a refillable water bottle that may be filled at stations located on-site.

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

The Manzanar Committee has also announced that bus transportation to the Pilgrimage is available from Los Angeles’ Little Tokyo and Gardena.

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

The bus from Gardena is sponsored by the Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute. Information can be found on the GVJCI’s web site (https://gvcj.wordpress.com/forms/manzanar-pilgrimage-2018), or by calling (310) 324-6611.

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

Both the Manzanar Pilgrimage and the Manzanar at Dusk programs are free and open to the public.

For more information, or to reserve a seat on the bus departing from Little Tokyo, call (323) 662-5102 or send an E-mail to 49thpilgrimage@manzanarcommittee.org.

NEWSBYTES >> continued from page 4

Shohei Ohtani Homers in Third Straight Game for the Angels

ANAHEIM, CALIF. — Shohei Ohtani homered in his third straight game for the Los Angeles Angels, launching a drive estimated at 449 feet versus the Oakland Athletics at Anaheim Stadium on April 6.

The two-way newcomer from Japan connected for a solo home run in the second inning against Oakland’s Daniel Gossett. The ball landed in the rocks beyond the center field wall and was measured with a 112.3 mph exit velocity according to Statcast, the hardest-hit and longest of Ohtani’s three major league home runs.

The homer lifted Ohtani to 6 for 11 (.545) with six RBIs at home. The 23-year-old won his major league pitching debut on April 1, throwing three-hit ball over six innings and leading the Los Angeles Angels past the Oakland Athletics, 7-4.

Ohtani, a two-way star from Japan, took the mound three days after he was the designated hitter in the season opener.

Reaching the upper 90s with his fastball and showing a nifty splitter, Ohtani struck out six and retired 14 of his final 15 batters.

Ceremony Scheduled for U.S. Warship Named After Sen. Daniel Inouye

HONOLULU — Irene Hirano Inouye, the widow of U.S. Sen. Daniel Inouye, will head to Maine in May for the keel-lowering ceremony of the $1.5 billion destroyer named after her late husband, who was a Medal of Honor recipient and legendary Hawaii lawmaker.

The Star-Advertiser reports that Inouye will be the ship’s sponsor at the ceremony scheduled for May 14.

Delivery of the USS Daniel Inouye has slipped more than a year due to a schedule change with the contractor, which means the 510-foot (155-meter) warship won’t arrive in Hawaii until 2020.

Then-Navy Secretary Ray Mabus announced in 2013 that the destroyer would be named after Daniel Inouye, whom he called “a true American hero.”

Daniel Inouye lost his right arm attacking multiple German machine gun positions in Italy in 1945. He served as a U.S. Senator from Hawaii from 1965 until his death in 2012.

— D.C. Staff and Associated Press
HAPA DAYS ARE HERE AGAIN

Artist Kip Fulbeck and JANM reconnect and revisit in a groundbreaking exhibition in Los Angeles.

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

Just after the turn of the 21st century, a man with many identities — artist, surfer, photographer, college professor, author, filmmaker — modestly launched an exercise in photographic documentation. It was simple conceptually: color photos of different people looking straight into the camera, shot bare-skinned from the shoulders up, unadorned by eyeglasses, hats, jewelry or other accoutrements, with but one overriding commonality: They all self-identified as being part-Asian or Pacific Islander and something else, be it white, black, Latino, Jewish, Middle Eastern and so on.

They were all Hapa, in other words, using the Hawaiian-derived word that has come to describe people of mixed racial heritage, when one of those “races” is, generally speaking, Asian and, as it turned out, more often than not, Japanese. Hence, the name of the undertaking: the Hapa Project.

The man who initiated it was Kip Fulbeck, an art professor at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Fulbeck, who hails from Covina, Calif., in Los Angeles County’s San Gabriel Valley, would by 2006 morph the Hapa Project into a book titled “Fart Asian, 100% Hapa.”

“I really pushed to get Tiger Woods into the original series,” he laughed, noting that his attempts to include the self-described “Cablinasian” golf legend ended in the rough. “I’m thankful now. What if I had him on the cover of the book?” It would nevertheless go on to sell some 25,000 copies.

Going back to its origins, the Hapa Project, Fulbeck says, was not mainly about Hapa-related issues — multiraciality, multiethnicity and so on — so much as it was about “doing work about identity.”

Little did Fulbeck, who is of European American (English and Irish) background on his father’s side and Cantonese origin on his mother’s side, know that more than a decade and a half later, the Hapa Project would still be a big part of his life, now under the moniker Hapa.me.

Just like being Hapa can mean being many things at once, “Hapa.Me” (or just hapa.me) is a URL, the title of a new book of portraits and the name of JANM’s newest exploration of the themes that began in the first iteration of Fulbeck’s Hapa Project.

The description on JANM’s website reads: “In the new exhibition, the original photographs and statements from the 2006 exhibition are paired with contemporary portraits of the same individuals and newly written statements, showing not only their physical changes over 15 years, but also their changes in perspective and outlook on the world.”

Use the Equity in Your Home to Live Your Dream Now!

WHAT: ‘Hapa.Me — 15 Years of the Hapa Project’

WHERE: Japanese American National Museum, 100 N. Central Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90012,
(213) 625-0414

URLS: janm.org/exhibits/hapa-me/ and hapa.me
speech the language, didn't get the culture, didn't like the food.”

Meanwhile, at his elementary school where there were no Asian kids, he still recalls the pretty white girl who told him, "I know you like me, but why would I like you? You've brown."

Fulbeck says that the outgrowth of those kinds of experiences led to the Hapa Project and, later, the book “Part Asian, 100% Hapa” and were really motivated by “trying to make the book that I wish I'd had when I was a little kid.”

The Hapa Project and book were, therefore, an important form of representation in which people, accompanied by a photo, tell who they were and their own words. Fulbeck says he has had several people tell him the result changed their lives.

“You forget how much these things mean in your formative years and you haven’t had anyone ever reach out and tell your story,” he said.

Curtiss Rooks, himself a professor at Loyola Marymount University who was photographed for the original and current exhibitions (see photos on page 6 bottom), recalls participating in various panel discussions and IACL chapter meetings in which the topic of mixed-race identity in the years before Fulbeck's project and had his own reasons for being part of the original photo sessions.

“It seemed to me, really important to be able to help families understand the various identity issues and what it was like to grow up mixed,” said Rooks, who is of African-American and Japanese heritage, “and the importance of the support of the community in that process, if for no other reason that you didn’t get any slack thrown your way.

“If I was thinking of mixed kids it was obvious not to spend time in the community, it was probably because it wasn’t comfortable,” Rooks continued. “There was this huge assumption that mixed-race kids, particularly mixed-white kids, would prefer to be with the non-Japanese side of them. That seems to no longer be the case, but why would you go to some place that makes you feel uncomfortable?”

Fulbeck recalled that there were instances many years ago when the rhetoric at times seemed hostile toward Hapas. Corroborating that, Fulbeck said during the first show in 2006, “there was a hate letter written to the museum from an adult JA woman who said, ‘This is unforgivable that you’re showing this work, these Hapas are not part of our community you should not be encouraging this. It was a pretty scathing letter.” He did note that “we don’t get much of that anymore.”

Fulbeck’s participation was “really about being able to voice the community and say, ‘No, we feel every bit as much a part of the community as anyone else, if given half a chance.”

Last year, Fulbeck said his first Hapa book went out of print and the rights reverted to him — it was the perfect opportunity for a reversion, since that was the book by him people always wanted more of.

“I thought, ‘How cool would it be if I went back and found the people in the original series’ which was not that easy to do, actually. You’re talking 15, 16, 17, 18 years for some,” he said. “Photos numbers and email addresses changed, people moved, married, and, in some cases, died.

Fulbeck said that while there were exceptions, most people he was able to find were happy to participate again. One of them was businesswoman Ellen Endo.

“Fortunately, my contact information didn’t change, so he was able to call me and email me and ask me if I’d take part in this one more,” Endo said.

Referring to part-Japanese Hapas, Endo, whose Japanese American father met his native Italian wife while he was serving in the 442nd during World War II, said, “I feel like this exhibition is timely because it’s the only part of the community that’s growing.”

She cited figures from the last census, saying there are about 1.5 million people of Japanese ancestry in the U.S., but about 500,000 are mixed, so that means that “the Japanese population is actually shrinking in the United States, but the Hapa population is growing. So, it’s a group we have to pay attention to.”

Fulbeck says that when he put the word out about the new photo shoots, the response among Japanese Hapas was huge.

“The JA population was off the charts in terms of how big they were,” he said. “I photographed 2,000 people, and 1,500 were JA.” To Fulbeck, the awareness of Hapa issues in the Japanese American community seems to be further along than other Asian American groups on the main land, at least due to trends that began after the Japanese American incarceration that took a few decades to manifest.

For instance, a 1984 article written by Harry H. Kitano, Wai-Dang Yeung, Lynne Chai, and Herbert Hatanaka had in 1979 for Los Angeles Japanese rates of outmarriage at 60.6 percent vs. 41.2 percent for Chinese and 27.6 percent for Koreans.

“I grew up in a Chinese family. It was just never talked about, it was never discussed because we didn’t have to, because we were first generation, whereas after the camp it was like people were talking about these things left and right, if you’re talking about eligibility for the Blue Jay beauty pageant or who qualifies for the Tomodachi Basketball League, who gets to be in Nickel Student Union — these issues have all been upfront and talked about in the JA community, where it hasn’t been done in the CA community,” Fulbeck said.

“I think I’ve been making work for 25 years as a fairly well-known artist before the first Chinese American organization asked me to show my work. That was in New York. It’s telling that my shows are at the JA National Museum. It’s an audience that understands that if they don’t reach out to the Hapa generation, they have no more sons members.”

Fulbeck’s new book, also titled “Hapa Me,” and only for sale at JANM is, at 11 inches by 11 inches, much larger than his first Hapa book. It also contains essays by Valina Lum Houston, Cindy Nakamine, Kaisa Nisula, and Paul Spackard, in color and has more than 200 pages for just $20.

“I wanted to keep it affordable,” said Fulbeck. “This project has never been about making money for me. It’s been making me money (laughs). I’m sure it’ll go really quick.” Only 1,000 copies have been printed.

While one should never say never again, Fulbeck says that after this exhibition at JANM, he is closing the Hapa Project because there are newer generations of Hapas coming behind him that are “doing better work than I could ever do, in video and film, that is off the hook.”

“Feel like if we’ve helped in some ways open this door, if I’ve helped inspire someone, then take it and run. That’s what’s happening with guns right now. They’re going more than our generation ever did,” Fulbeck said.

“Sometimes, people come up to me and say ‘Hey this book (Part Asian, 100% Hapa) meant a great deal to me.’ That’s a big responsibility. That’s why we make art, and that’s why I did this. Somewhere there is that ‘me’ kid at 7 years old that’s dealing with something similar. It’s different generation, but maybe there’s something that’s parallel, and I feel that that’s a really important aspect of why I make art.

‘That’s why I’m so grateful that so many people participated in the project to begin with, because if they weren’t there to tell their stories, it wouldn’t exist,” said Fulbeck. "That’s been my main takeaway from doing this."
# WORKS OF ART

Poston watercolors by former Walt Disney Studios artist Gene Sogioka are celebrated in the first public presentation of his work.

Jean Sogioka La Spina, the daughter of former Walt Disney Studios artist Gene Sogioka (1914-88), gave the first public presentation of her father’s 1942–43 Poston watercolors at J-Sei in Emeryville, Calif., on March 24 during a special event sponsored by the Berkeley chapter of the JACL. JACL Executive Director David Inoue and former JACL Executive Director and National Redress Chair John Tateishi were among the capacity crowd from the San Francisco Bay Area, Sacramento and Santa Cruz that were gathered at the event.

The presentation included vivid pictures of Gene Sogioka’s paintings that depicted life at the Japanese concentration camp at Poston, Ariz., in which he was confined with his wife, child and in-laws in spring 1942 as a result of Executive Order 9066. Sogioka was 26 at the time and had been employed at the Walt Disney Studios, where he worked on films such as “Bambi,” “Dumbo” and “Fantasia.”

The paintings were originally made for Alexander Leighton’s research project at Poston and show rare scenes of the Poston Strike of 1943 in which work stoppages, bonfires and beatings of suspected informers captured national headlines.

Sogioka also used humor to show the lack of privacy in the barracks, a “mochi mishap” and the dating headaches of Nisei. The 134 paintings went missing after World War II and were found in a campus attic at Cornell University in upstate New York in 1980. Sogioka’s daughter, Jean, who resides in Florida, was a featured speaker. She reflected on her father’s work as well as spoke about her book, “An American Family Album,” which details the Japanese American internment experience as well as delves into her own family’s history as told through her father’s watercolor paintings.

In addition, the event allowed La Spina to meet for the first time three Sogioka relatives, Bessie, Suzie and Richard Masuda.

The Sogioka paintings are currently featured in the digital history project “50 Objects/Stories of the American Japanese Incarceration,” which is funded by a Japanese American Confinement Sites grant.

For more information on the Sogioka paintings, visit https://50objects.org/object/sogiokas-paintings/. For full details about the “50 Objects” project, visit https://50objects.org.
442ND VETERAN FRED YAMAMOTO PASSED OVER BY PALO ALTO SCHOOL BOARD

By P.C. Staff

The Palo Alto Unified School District’s five-member Board of Education voted unanimously late March 27 to honor Ellen Fletcher, a former councilwoman, and Frank S. Greene Jr., an African-American entrepreneur, in the drive to rename a pair of local middle schools.

The vote appears to have ended the bid to name one of the middle schools after the decorated war veteran, their work to have him acknowledged continues.

“The reason given was that he shared the surname was anathema to Asians from China, Korea and Southeast Asia. Both the Japanese American Citizens League and the local chapter of the OCA (Organization of Chinese Americans) wrote letters to the PAUSD Board of Education in support of having one of the schools named after Fred Yamamoto. The national office of the Japanese American Citizens League and the local chapter of the OCA, meantime, released its own letter in support of renaming the school after Fred Yamamoto.

However, in the then-U.S. territory of Hawaii, Opponents claim the Yamamoto surname was anathema to Asians from China, Korea and Southeast Asia. Both the Japanese American Citizens League and the local chapter of the OCA (Organization of Chinese Americans) wrote letters to the PAUSD Board of Education in support of having one of the schools named after Fred Yamamoto. The national office of the Japanese American Citizens League and the local chapter of the OCA, meantime, released its own letter in support of renaming the school after Fred Yamamoto.

The reason given was that he shared the same last name as Isoroku Yamamoto, the Japanese admiral who planned the attack on Pearl Harbor in the then-U.S territory.

Lawson Sakai, a veteran of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, patiently waited hours to address the Palo Alto school board in support of renaming the school after Fred Yamamoto.

Eight of Yamamoto’s nieces and nephews had a statement read on their behalf during the board proceedings, saying that their uncle “would have regretted how much time and attention has been squandered regarding the Yamamoto surname, hijacking the focus away from the real issue at hand of promoting and honoring future role models for students. But, he would just respond that there is much work to be done.”

Among the numerous Yamamoto supporters present at the meeting included Robbin Kawabata of Eden JACL, Judy Mine of Nihonmachi Outreach Committee in San Jose, local residents Jeannette Arakawa and Eimi Okano, Brad Shirakawa, Dr. Alan and Mary Seid of San Jose-based Asian Americans for Community Involvement and Lawson Sakai, a 442nd veteran and leader of Friends and Families of Nisei Veterans.

Although Yamamoto’s supporters did not emerge victorious in their efforts to have a middle school named after the decorated war veteran, their work to have him acknowledged continues.

“I’ve just finalized the details of a GoFundMe campaign to raise donations for a scholarship fund in Fred’s honor, to be awarded to student(s) who demonstrate civic leadership, inclusion and community service reminiscent of Fred’s spirit,” said Sara Armstrong, a member of the renaming committee.

“There is also interest in working on a longer-term project to have a physical space (park, building, etc.) dedicated in Fred’s honor. The GoFundMe page (https://www.gofundme.com/fred-m-yamamoto-scholarship-fund), launched on March 30 by Yamamoto’s supporters, includes the following regarding the school board’s decision:

**See YAMAMOTO on page 12**
NCNWNP

Northern California Cherry Blossom Grand Parade
San Francisco, CA
April 22; 1 p.m.

Post and Fillmore Streets
Price: Free

This year’s parade will feature San Francisco’s Taiko Dojo, along with this year’s Cherry Blossom queen and her court, as well as Boy Scout Troops, special guests and much more as the parade makes its way from Japantown to the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco. The highlight of the parade will be the Tanuki Mokichi, which will be hosted in the air by more than 100 individuals from throughout the Bay Area. It’s an event not to be missed!

Info: Visit sfcherryblossom.org

2018 Berkeley JACL Scholarship and Pioneer Awards Luncheon
Richmond, CA
April 25; 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Richmond Country Club
1 Markovich Lane
Price: $40; $20 Students

Join the Berkeley JACL as it honors its scholarship recipients and Pioneer Award recipient Lee “Cuba” Nakamura, co-owner of Tokyo Fish. The chapter is proud to recognize Nakamura for his long-time service to the East Bay community and JACL. Scholarship recipients include Jared Akiyama, Alyssa Cho, Maya Kashima, Kaliee Nabetta, Alexander Tsutakwa, Luka Uchiyama and Sydney Wong.

Info: Call (502) 932-7947 or email ron.tanaka@yahoo.com.

S.F. Giants Japanese Heritage Night
San Francisco, CA
April 30; 7:15 p.m.

AT&T Park
24 Willie Mays Plaza
Price: $18 for JCCNC Members; $23 General Public

Join the JCCNC to cheer on the San Francisco Giants as they take on the Cincinnati Reds during Japanese American Heritage Night, honoring the 150-year culture of the San Francisco Japantown community. Tickets also include a seat in the designated JCCNC section, collective JN-Cherry Blossom printed backpack and admission to the pregame JHN event. Seating is limited.

Info: Contact Andrew Sumi at (415) 555-3229 or email asumi@comcast.net.

Exquisite Art Under Adverse Conditions — From the Japanese American Incarceration Camps: 1942-1945
San Jose, CA
April 15-27

San Jose Japanese American Museum
555 N. Fifth St.

This extensively remodeled and enhanced section of the museum is dedicated to the art and craft creations by many artists who were forcibly held in the camps during World War II. Using natural materials for the 10 descriptive incarceration camps, the artwork comes alive in a very naturalistic way reflecting the “Art of Ga­man” — the seemingly unbearable patience and dignity.

Info: Visit www.jamsj.org

PSW

‘Hapa Me — 15 Years of the Hapa Project’ Exhibit
Los Angeles, CA
April 10-Sept.

Japanese American National Museum
100 N. Central Ave.

In this new exhibition by artist Kip Fulbeck, it pairs photographs from his groundbreaking 2006 exhibition “Kip Fulbeck: Part Asian, 100% Hapa” with new portraits of the same individuals. The photographs explore each subject’s handwritten responses to the typically posed question, “What are you?” Fulbeck created the Hapa Project in 2001, traveling the U.S. and Japan to photograph more than 1,200 volunteers who identified as Hapa.

Info: Visit www.jannm.org/hapa-me

Rotary Community Peace Conference 2018 — Waging Peace Perspectives for Action
Pasadena, CA
April 14; 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Japanese American Cultural and Community Center
Aratani Theatre
244 S. San Pedro St.

Price: Free; There will be $12 box lunches available to purchase.

What can we do in today’s conflicted world to make a meaningful impact on progress towards peace? This major conference will examine the future through presentations made by today’s children and yesterday’s survivors. The conference is an inspiring program featuring Glendale Unified School District English-Japanese Immersion Program students, survivors of the Hiroshima Atomic Bombing, Japanese Americans who were interned during World War II, Rotary Peace Fellows and more.

Info: Visit causeusa.org

Japanese Cultural Festival
Seattle, WA
April 20-22

Fisherman’s Park
Armory Main Level
305 Harrison St.

Explore and experience the cultural roots and contemporary influences of Japanese through live performances, visual arts, hands-on activities, food and games, Taiko drumming and artisan demonstrations. The festival was founded more than 40 years ago in appreciation of the 1,000 cherry trees given to Seattle on behalf of the Japanese government in commemoration of the nation’s bicentennial.

Info: Visit cherryblossomfest.org

‘Year of Remembrance: Glimpses of a Forever Foreigner’
Seattle, WA
April 27-12; 1-4 or 6-9 p.m.

S.F. Giants Japanese Heritage Night
1800 Seventh Avenue
Price: $12 box lunches available to purchase.

Info: Visit http://sanfranciscojapaneseheritagenight.com

EPW

Empower United Methodist Church
Spring Bazaar
Portland, OR
April 29; 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Come and support the Empower United Methodist Church’s Spring Bazaar, which will feature special lunch and various vendors and activities. Food is for sale only; all proceeds benefit the church.

Info: Visit empowerumc.org

Asian Fest: Year of the Dog
Fresno City College
1101 E. University Ave.
Price: Free

Join the Fresno Chinese Student Association as they celebrate Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, Japanese American Heritage Month and Earth Day. The event will feature poetry, dance performances, visual arts, hands-on demonstrations, children’s craft area. This event is coordinated by the Asian American Studies Program.


EDC

Jake Shimabukuro
New Bedford, MA
April 12; 9 p.m.

Zeiteron Performing Arts Center
634 Main Street
Price: Tickets begin at $29.

The ukulele virtuoso returns with his inspired touch on everything from American, Hawaiian, popular tunes and classic symphonic concertos.

Info: Visit https://zeiterion.org/jake-shimabukuro/

Japan Festival Boston
Boston, MA
April 29; 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

This year’s festival will feature 50 food booths, 50 stage performances, 50 arts and crafts booths, silent auction and various information booths, as well as 50 workshops and cosplay demonstrations.

Info: Visit http://www.japanfestivalboston.org/

‘Then They Came For Me: Incarceration During World War II’
New York City, NY
May 5; 6-10 p.m.

Fairmont Olympic Hotel
200 Sixth Avenue
Price: $200 General Admission

Join the 2018 Asian Hall of Fame Celebration where this year’s honorees, including writer-producer Kourtney Kang, actor Kevin Kwan, TV host Melissa Lee and chef Roy Yamaguchi will be feted for their contributions to the AAA community and beyond.

Info: Visit asianhalloffame2018.shindigg.com

AsianFest celebrates Asian culture and contemporary music.

Info: Visit https://www.asianfestivals.com

Dowery

The ICP examines a dark episode in U.S. history through this exhibit, which includes photos by Toyo Miyatake as well as Dorothy Lange, Ansel Adams and other noted photographers.


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**MEMORIAM**

Arata, Walter Yoshio, 94, Honolulu, HI, Jan. 3; he was predeceased by his wife, Floria; sons, Kirk; he is survived by his son, Eric (Leann); sisters, Thelma Yamasaki and Myrtle Miyahiro; gc: 2.

Kawamura, Dave, 87, Sacramento, CA, Nov. 25, 2017; he is survived by his sister, Alice Linn; he is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

Kubota, Shirley Sun, 73, Los Angeles, CA, Dec. 15; she was survived by her husband, Ted; children, Russ and Sara (Tim) Hartwig; sister, Henry (Betsy) Sasaki; gc: 1.

Nakayama, Tokiko, 88, Mountain View, CA, Feb. 15; she was predeceased by her husband, Jim; she is survived by her children, Carolyn, Lynn (Jim) Lally, Lon, Dale (Gayle) and Casey; gc: 5; ggc: 8.

Ogami, Kenneth Yuji, 60, Seattle, WA, Jan. 31; he is survived by his wife, Dori Kobayashi Ogami; children, Kyle Yuichi Ogami, Korwin (Korry) Satoshi Ogami and Midori (Korry) Satoshi Ogami; gc: 5; ggc: 8.

Wake, Lloyd Keigo, Rev., 95, San Francisco, CA, Dec. 27, 2017; he is survived by his wife, Marion Naotue Wake; children, Cathy Quezales, Wesley Wake, Sandra Wake and Steven Wake; sisters, Florence Nagano, Lilian Koda and Betty Machida; gc: 6; ggc: 3.

Yamamoto, Calvin, 80, Sacramento, CA, Dec. 28, 2017; during WWII, his family and he were incarcerated at the Tule Lake WRA Center in CA and the Heart Mountain WRA Center in WY; he is survived by his wife, Jean Mazda; children, Vince and Angela; son-in-law, Jeremiah; siblings, George, Henry, Marilyn, Jesse and Alice; gc: 2.

**TRIBUTE**

**ARD AVEN Kozono**

Kozono, Arvo Aven, 101, Sacramento, CA, March 24, 2018. Arv grew up in Sacramento and in 1942 was incarcerated along with his family at the Tule Lake WRA Center. During WWII, he served in the Army's MIS in the U.S. and the Philippines. Along with other former members of the MIS, 442nd RCT and 100th Infantry Battalion, he was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in 2011. He was predeceased by his wife, Mary, and son Gary; he is survived by his children, Ronald (April), Dale Kazuo (Michelle) and Celia Sachi Adams (William), brother, Hideo Machikawa; sisters-in-law, Sue Miyazaki and Lillian Yurie Yamasaki; gc: 3; ggc: 1.

**TOMIYE IINO**

On April 4, 2018, Tomiye Nakano incoquently at the age of 92. Tomi was predeceased by husband William T. Iino (“Bill”). She is survived by daughters Cheryl (Gray), Leslie (Dale), and Terrie (Scott) and grandchildren Michael and Riley, and great-granddaughter Mina. A memorial service will be held for close family and friends. Memorial donations may be sent to J-Sei, 1285 66th St, Emeryville, CA 94608.

**PLACE A TRIBUTE**

In Memoriam is a free listing that appears on a limited, space-available basis. Tributes honor your loved ones with text and photos and appear in a timely manner at the rate of 620/column inch. Contact: Editorial@pacificcitizen.org or call (213) 620-1767 ext. 104.
I am excited to share new survey findings from an AARP study that found a majority of LGBT adults are concerned about social support and discrimination in long-term care. This survey, "Maintaining Dignity: Understanding and Responding to the Challenges Facing Older LGBT Americans," was led by my colleague, Nii-Quartelai Quartey, Ed.D, AARP senior adviser and LGBT liaison.

The survey found that 76 percent of those surveyed reported being worried about having adequate family and/or social support on which to rely. Gay men are more likely than lesbians to be single, live alone and have smaller support systems, which may put them at higher risk for isolation as they age. The survey also found that transgender adults also reported smaller support systems and are at an increased risk of isolation, while bisexuals are least likely to "out" within health systems.

In a previous article, I shared how isolation has been shown to have a detrimental effect on health, especially for adults ages 50 and older. The health risks of prolonged isolation are equivalent to smoking 15 cigarettes a day.

I know that conversations around this are not always easy, but it is important to acknowledge that the LGBT community also faces challenges of social isolation that all older adults are vulnerable to and especially bring attention to the discrimination experienced in long-term care.

The Japanese American community and the Asian American Pacific Islander community in general have experienced discrimination and can acknowledge how discrimination faced by the LGBT community in long-term care and in other settings can be detrimental to one's health and quality of life.

On April 7, I will attend and volunteer at the 20th Annual National Cherry Blossom Freedom Walk at the National Japanese American Memorial in Washington, D.C. The Freedom Walk, co-sponsored by the JACL D.C. Chapter, Japanese American Veterans Assn. and National Japanese American Memorial Foundation, commemorates the signing of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which formally apologized for the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II and stated that the decision to forcibly remove and incarcerate Americans of Japanese Ancestry was based on "race, prejudice, war hysteria and failure of political leadership."

The Freedom Walk seeks to raise awareness of the wartime internment and highlights, like the cherry blossom, the fragility of our civil liberties and the vigilant role everyone must play in upholding the constitutional rights of all Americans. This continued work needs to include the LGBT community.

As a social worker, I am called by my profession's code of ethics to be sensitive to cultural and ethnic diversity and strive to end discrimination, oppression, poverty and other forms of social injustice. I am also called to help meet the basic human needs of all people, with particular attention to the needs and empowerment of people who are vulnerable, oppressed and living in poverty.