

# PACIFIC CITIZEN

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A look at the true meaning of *o-hanami*.

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New tome tells of 'Life After Manzanar.'

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## HONORARY ALUMNA

**Donor of acclaimed JA incarceration photos receives WSU honor.**

*P.C.* contributor and Greater Los Angeles JACL member Patti Hirahara recently received the Honorary Alumna Award from Washington State University, the highest honor presented to a nonalumni. Hirahara is the first Japanese American to receive the award in 52 years. She is pictured here being congratulated by new WSU Athletic Director Patrick Chun.



PHOTO: STEVE NAKATA, WSU



# SPRING CAMPAIGN! SPRING CAMPAIGN!



I've been a member of the JACL for more than 25 years and have found everyone in the organization to be friendly and welcoming, even though I'm not of Japanese ancestry. I've had the privilege of working with a diverse group of JACL members and supporters from across the country. The tool most often employed when discussing membership is the *Pacific Citizen* newspaper.

The *P.C.* gets the word out on issues important to the JACL and the AAPI community. In many cases, it is the only source of news about our small, often isolated and marginalized, communities.

We need the *P.C.* to get the word out to our friends and families about issues that are important

to us and cannot be found in any other news source. A perfect example of this is the recent proposed cut in funding for the Japanese American Confinement Sites grants program by the current Trump administration.

Regarding this issue, JACL National released the following:

*"JACL encourages continued advocacy for the continuation of funding for the Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant program (JACS) in FY2019. With a bipartisan letter from the House of Representatives, we now look to the Senate for support."*

*JACL staff has been active on Capitol Hill, meeting with senate staff to explain the benefits of the program. We hope to obtain the same broad bi-partisan support in the Senate that we did in the House.*

*Now, we ask that you contact your senators to support continued JACS funding! Ask your senators to join Sen. Schatz (HI) in supporting JACS funding in FY2019 by signing on to this letter.*

As of today, eight senators have agreed to sign on in support of JACS funding:

- Sen. GARDNER (CO)
- Sen. HIRONO (HI)
- Sen. FEINSTEIN (CA)
- Sen. HARRIS (CA)
- Sen. MERKLEY (OR)
- Sen. DUCKWORTH (IL)
- Sen. WYDEN (OR)
- Sen. CANTWELL (WA)

Deadline for senators to co-sign is April 25.

I'd like to also provide an update on the *P.C.* hard-copy surcharge. Over 2,000 members have paid to receive the printed edition of the *P.C.*, resulting in more than \$36,600 in additional revenue, which is very helpful for both the *P.C.* and JACL. However, we still need Spring Campaign donations more than ever! With rising costs to produce the paper, your funds go directly toward paying for these expenses and the newspaper's daily operations costs. It's vital that the *P.C.* continue onward as it has since 1929. It's our direct link to the past and a future that needs to know our history!

Our "thanks" to the hard-working *P.C.* staff — Allison, Susan, George and Eva — who create a fine newspaper on a very slim budget. Thank you also to *P.C.* Editorial Board Chair Gil Asakawa and all *P.C.* Editorial board members representing their districts.

Now is the time to reach into your pocket and send a generous donation to the *P.C.*

Another way to support the *P.C.* is with your purchases from Amazon.com. This is how: When you log on to *PacificCitizen.org*, you will see an Amazon logo on the left-hand side of the page.

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Sincerely,

**Jim Duff,**  
P.C. Editorial Board  
Member, NCWNP

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

### STAFF

**Executive Editor**  
Allison Haramoto

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

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Susan Yokoyama

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Marie Samonte

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**JACL President:** Gary Mayeda  
**Executive Director:** David Inoue  
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## Step Up to Step Back

The JACL filing deadline to run for National Board is May 20.

By Eric Langowski

Every two years, JACL holds elections for its National Board and calls for individuals to "step up" their service. I asked every member of this committee why

they thought you should run for national office.

Here are some of their responses:

"To contribute to protecting and preserving our portion of who and what we are in our local, state, and national whole."

"I believe in the continued mission and vision of the JACL, and it is my hope that we see ongoing leadership in addition to some new faces and voices."

"Running for and serving in a national office position helps JACL continue to exist. Running

for and serving in a national office position helps the candidate grow professionally and personally and connects the candidate with API leaders across the country."

"Working with other community partners, JACL is leading its effort to fully fund the JACS grants. It is through engagement and effort where we can impact policy decisions on a local, regional and national level. You can make a real difference as a JACL National Board member."

Running for the JACL National Board is a commitment to service in a time where JACL

>> See STEP UP on next page

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

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# A MOTHER'S TAKE

## ROAD TRIP

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF MARSHA AIZUMI

By Marsha Aizumi

Recently, my husband, Tad, and I took a trip with my brother, Marty, to Las Vegas to celebrate the birthday and retirement of a second cousin. As I get older, these long drives aren't as much fun as they used to be. All of us (except the driver) are on our smartphones reading emails, playing a game or watching a video. The time goes by fast, but something feels missing. We don't talk and connect with each other now that we can be entertained by technology.

At Barstow, my husband asked for a driver change, and my brother volunteered to drive the rest of the way to Vegas. Then Tad asked, "Who is going to sit in the front seat while Marty drives? Tad looked directly at me with eyes that said 'your turn,' since I had been in the backseat catching up on emails. I happily said, "I will."

As Marty was driving, I put away my phone, and we began to talk about our childhood. I laughed about the time he hit me over the head with the butt of his cowboy pistol — I still have a dent in my head! He learned this from watching Westerns on television. I paused for a moment and wondered what other things young kids are learning from television, movies and the Internet that are not good, as I rubbed the dent in my head.

Marty told me things about his childhood that I would have never known. Things like our dad letting him jump off the roof of our house . . . Yikes! Meeting the famous actor Edward G. Robinson because Dad got to be friends with the school music teacher who was a bit actor at Paramount Studios.

I also learned about my grandfather, who wanted to come to the United States so he answered an ad to work on a plantation in Brazil. When he arrived in Brazil, he ended up being a slave. My grandfather and six other men decided to escape and traveled to Mexico hoping to make it to the U.S. Only three of them made it . . . the others died.



Marsha Aizumi with her brother, Marty, in a picture taken before "I didn't have a dent in my head yet!"

I have a newfound respect for my grandfather.

Listening to my brother's stories, I realized how much we miss because we are so consumed by technology. Listening to my brother, I also realized how we have become the parents we are today because of what we learned from watching Dad and Mom.

Marty shared that he felt he was a disappointment to our dad because he wasn't good in sports or music . . . two things our dad was good at. I am not so sure that Dad was disappointed in Marty, but he probably never told him how proud he was of him. It wasn't our parent's way to praise us because they wanted us to remain humble.

But as a parent, Marty says he never wants his kids to feel they are a disappointment, so he encourages them to follow their heart, and he makes sure they know how proud he is of them.

I think my brother is a wonderful father. He took everything he observed and felt, then decided the kind of parent he wanted to be and became that parent. In a way, by doing the best they could with what they knew, our parents helped Marty be the best parent he could be. Maybe they didn't do things like we would do it, but I am sure if they thought



The Ogino family. Pictured (front row, from left) are Paul Ogino, Marty Ogino, Jean Ogino and (back row, from left) Marsha Ogino Aizumi and Tak Ogino.

a different way was better, they would have made that choice.

Today, I see so many gifts my parents gave us just by being themselves. And Marty, just for the record, I remember Mom and Dad saying how proud they were of you after hearing you speak at a Visions for Keiro event.

I always believe I got the best from both

of my parents. Dad taught me to work hard, respect others and that anything can be fun with a good attitude. Mom filled our home with so much love. She taught me that being gentle, kind and gracious draws people closer to you. I am grateful for all the ways my parents were role models for me, so I could be the mother and advocate I am today.

Because of this road trip, I am vowing to spend less time on my "smart"-phone and more time with all the "smart" people around me. Instead of dreading traffic, I am going to relish those times in bumper-to-bumper gridlock with Tad, so I can capture some of his stories for a book (or maybe just some notes in a binder) for our children.

I never really appreciated the stories that my parents shared with me, but today, I wish I had more. And so, in hopes of documenting some of the things that have made Tad and I who we are today, I hope to give our children a blueprint to follow or do differently, so they can be the best parents they could possibly be.

*"On the road again,  
just can't wait to get on the road again,  
The life I love is making music  
with my friends  
And I can't wait to get on the road again."*

— Willie Nelson

*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."*

### STEP UP >> continued from page 2

is as needed as it has ever been. The organization's membership is shrinking, and our incarcerated ancestors are passing on just as our community story of incarceration is being cited as a precedent for future injustice.

If you have a vision for empowering others, this is the time to run for office and incorporate your ideas into our electoral process. Stepping up, by running for office, is one of the best ways to step back and empower future and current JA CLers across the nation.

The initial filing deadline is May 20. After



that date, candidates must run from the floor of the National Convention, subject to additional requirements. Information and applications are available on the JA CL website ([www.jacl.org](http://www.jacl.org)).

If you are interested in running for office or have any additional questions, email [erhlang@gmail.com](mailto:erhlang@gmail.com).

*Eric Langowski is the chair of the Nominations Committee and the Midwest District Council Youth Representative on the National Youth/Student Council.*

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PHOTOS: BY ROB BUSCHER

Nishi Hongwanji with Kyoto Tower in the background



A Sakura Sunday cosplay contestant



PHOTO: COURTESY OF JAPAN AMERICAN SOCIETY OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA



A Shinto purification ritual at Sakura Sunday

# AMERICAN CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVALS and COMPETING VISIONS OF JAPAN

With spring in full bloom, a look at the true meaning of *o-hanami*.

By Rob Buscher, Contributor

There are few occasions that showcase the wide-ranging spectrum of Japanese culture as effectively as the American cherry blossom festival, but as more contemporary pop culture seeps into these celebrations, are the traditional elements at risk of being lost?

If you have never been to an *o-hanami* (flower viewing) in Japan, the experience is quite different from the manner in which it is typically celebrated in the U.S. Although there are designated areas in castle gardens and other parks that are known for their sakura, the celebrations are mainly held on an individual basis by groups of friends or colleagues who bring their own picnic supplies and entertainment. There are rarely scheduled performances, and the event consists mainly of conversation and community building within each group of friends over food and sake.

It makes sense in the American context, where there are less opportunities to celebrate Japanese culture, for the tradition to morph into a programmed festival

format. However, in recent years, there has been a growing number of non-Japanese participants whose primary motivation for attending seems to be actively performing their fandom of contemporary Japanese culture through cosplay. Short for "costume play," cosplay is the practice of dressing like the characters from anime, manga or video games in an expression of fandom that usually involves elaborate costumes, sometimes done in competition.

While this practice also originates in Japan, it is rarely seen outside the context of anime conventions or other fan events and would never be done at an *o-hanami* or other traditional festival. This would suggest that an increasing number of these American attendees are unaware of the original context of these celebrations.

There is nothing wrong with folks celebrating their appreciation of anime and other Japanese pop cultural commodities. If anything, it is a sign that Japanese-ness is closer than ever to being accepted within mainstream American soci-



Brooklyn Sakura Matsuri online advertisement

ety. However, in centering the performative aspects of fandom within the context of a Japanese cultural celebration, this effectively de-emphasizes the spiritual and community significance of *o-hanami*.

At its core, these viewing parties are meant to appreciate the ephemeral beauty of sakura as a symbol of the fleeting nature of life, bringing together individuals who care about each other to celebrate their shared connection and joy of human existence.

Bringing cosplay into these spaces has the potential to lessen the overall experience for those engaging with its more traditional aspects. It could be argued that the cosplayers are experiencing community in their own manner, but where do we draw the

line? Is it appropriate to come dressed as your favorite anime character to the obon, where most of the Japanese and Japanese American attendees are there to remember the spirits of their departed ancestors?

Cultural movements usually develop organically, but to a large extent, this trend of Japanese pop culture becoming mainstream can be traced to the Kankocho (Japan Tourism Agency) and Bunkacho (Ministry of Culture), who have embraced cultural commodities such as anime, manga, video games and idol groups as key elements of Japan's brand marketing over the last two decades - investing heavily to ensure that these cultural products are integrated into overseas markets.

In the aftermath of the 1990 stock market crash and subsequent decades of economic stagnation, Japan has struggled to maintain its relevance in the global marketplace. While automobiles and consumer electronics are still their chief exports, cultural products have contributed a significant amount to the Japanese export economy since the 1990s, which in turn has encouraged more overseas tourists to spend money traveling in Japan.

Noticing this trend, the Kankocho adopted "Cool Japan" as its unofficial tourism slogan after American journalist Douglas McGray coined the phrase "Gross National Cool" in his 2002 article of the same title to describe the economic powerhouse of Japan's soft power cultural exports.

Now throughout the last decade and a half, these agencies have fully integrated con-



Amateur sushi-making contest at Sakura Sunday



PHOTOS: ROB BUSCHER



Sakura



PHOTOS: ROB BUSCHER

**Sakura Sunday cosplay contest**



PHOTO: COURTESY OF JAPAN AMERICAN SOCIETY OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA



**A Nihon Buyo performance at Sakura Sunday**



**A Shiba Inu participates in the 'Prettiest in Pink' pet competition at Sakura Sunday.**

temporary pop culture within Japan's national brand, culminating in the creation of the Cool Japan Fund in 2013, a public-private partnership that is endowed with nearly \$1 billion to fund projects well into the next decade in order to disseminate Japanese culture abroad.

If the Japanese government views American cherry blossom festivals primarily as vehicles for increasing engagement with overseas audiences who are current or potential consumers of Cool Japan cultural exports, the growing presence of cosplayers is actually a sign that their campaign is working.

However, there is a good chance many have never considered what the long-term impact might be. If the central purpose of

these events becomes sharing the culture of Japan with non-Japanese, will Japanese and Japanese Americans still attend – and how authentic can a cultural festival be without individuals from that culture participating?

Perhaps this shortsightedness comes from the contradictory nature of contemporary urban Japan. In Japan, new and traditional culture coexists in a way that is difficult to comprehend unless you have witnessed it for yourself.

Americans may have trouble reconciling contemporary culture from their ancestral home in the context of a traditional community space.

As Japanese Americans, sometimes it feels like we missed a memo that after decades of purposely distancing ourselves from the culture of origin, it is now cool to celebrate it. For anyone old enough to remember a time when there was a negative stigma

Massive skyscrapers and transportation infrastructure encapsulate the distant horizon of ancient temples. Women in kimono shop for the latest Western-inspired trends in department stores modeled after the New York and Parisian fashion districts. Monks use cell phones. Perhaps from this context it doesn't seem like the integration of cosplay and other new Japan cultural products in a traditional space should matter.

to Japanese-ness, it is a strange phenomenon indeed to see the culture celebrated by non-Japanese to this extent.

It is also slightly unsettling how foreign this all seems. It makes sense since Japanese culture has been in a constant state of flux since our ancestors immigrated.

Having lived and studied in Japan from 2008-10, it became abundantly clear that the version of Japan I had grown up hearing about no longer existed. Even in the 1990s when my hibaachan took her last trip to Japan, it was virtually unrecognizable from the country she left in the early Showa era.

The shifting nature of American cherry blossom festivals are indicative of a larger disconnect between different communities and their understanding of Japan. They are certainly not the cause but are contributing to competing visions of Japan – fueled by Western cultural consumption and reinforced by the Japanese state.

Many consumers of Cool Japan pop culture only see part of the picture, with traditional aspects perhaps being lost in translation through lack of cultural fluency required to understand the reference points that connect contemporary Japan to its past. Inversely, Japanese Americans have our own vision of Japan colored by nostalgia and a longing for something that we could not have. Maybe that Japan is gone, or maybe it only ever existed in the rose-tinted glasses of our collective memory.

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

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# HONORARY ALUMNA

Patti Hirahara becomes the first Japanese American recipient of the WSU Honorary Alumna Award in 52 years.



By P.C. Staff

Ever since Patti Hirahara donated to Washington State University more than 2,000 photos taken by her father and grandfather while in a Japanese American incarceration camp during World War II, she has dedicated her life to serving as an ambassador for WSU in promoting the collection and educating others about the Japanese American legacy.

To recognize her many years of dedication in promoting that legacy, the WSU Alumni Assn. has honored Hirahara with its Honorary Alumna Award, which was presented to her following a recent speech she gave at WSU Spokane's Student Diversity Center.

"I was so surprised when they presented me with the award at the conclusion of my diversity presentation in Spokane. I just thought Christina Parrish (assistant director of the WSU Alumni Assn.) and Anna Maria Shannon (interim director of the WSU Museum of Art) were there to hear the presentation I did at the FDR Presidential Library in New York last October," said Hirahara. "When they started reading the award and talking about my contribution to Washington State University, I started to tear up. Being the first Japanese American to receive this award in 52 years, I feel this is a tremendous honor, and it is a tribute to all the Japanese American alumni who have gone to WSU since its inception in 1890."

The Honorary Alumna Award is the most prestigious award given to non-WSU graduates by the WSU Alumni Assn. Established

in 1966, it honors friends of WSU who have given special service to the university.

"We are thrilled to honor Patti," said Tim Pavish, executive director of the WSU Alumni Assn. "She is a remarkable person, and we are lucky to have her in the WSU family."

Hirahara's dedication to preserving the Japanese American legacy extends far beyond her association with WSU.

Hirahara was a fixture in the Southern California Japanese community in the mid-1970s and early '80s as a print and broadcast journalist and photographer, a marketing consultant to Disneyland's Festival Japan and as co-host of the TV public affairs show "Images." She also started her own public relations company in 1980 after being approached by the Japan External Trade Organization, the trade promotion arm of the Japanese government. Representing the organization's L.A. office, Hirahara became the highest-paid public relations counsel among JETRO's worldwide network of 77 offices in 57 countries.

In addition, she served on the board of directors of the Nisei Week Japanese Festival, the Los Angeles Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists and the Southern California Chapter of American Women in Radio and Television.

"I became a pioneer of my time, in many meanings, but when I finally married and settled down, I slowly vanished into the sunset and enjoyed being a wife and doing things with my husband," Hirahara said.

But Hirahara's life changed drastically in 2006, when her father, Frank C. Hirahara, became ill and passed away.

"My life was never to be the same again," she said. "With both my father and myself being only children in the family, I was faced with the ultimate responsibility of taking four

generations of Hirahara family photographs, artifacts and documents and finding a home for the possessions that had been accumulating since my great-grandfather, Motokichi Hirahara, had arrived in America, in 1907, from Wakayama Prefecture in Japan."

As the last descendant of the Hirahara family in America, Hirahara knew she had a wealth of history that needed to be shared.

She initially began to archive some of the Hirahara family's history in 1999 with the establishment of the first Hirahara Family Collection with the City of Anaheim. Since participating in the "Shades of Anaheim" Digital Photo Project, her family has donated additional photographs, documents and artifacts that now make up the only four-generational family collection in the holdings of the Anaheim Public Library's Heritage Center.

In 2009, the City of Anaheim presented its newest exhibition "100 Years and Four Generations — Bridging the Past and Present: A Look Into the Life of the Hirahara Family." It was the city's first museum without walls exhibition, shown in three locations in the city's civic center, and was the first time a Japanese American family had been so honored.

"Having lived in Anaheim for 63 years, I have continued to help the City of Anaheim chronicle the history of its Japanese pioneers here as well as being involved in looking at the student history of my alma mater of Anaheim High School before and after World War II. I am very proud of what we have been able to accomplish in Anaheim. Being the first family to be profiled by the city — this shows what can be done in your local community," she said. (To view the Hirahara fam-



CAPTIONS:

- 1. Hirahara's father, Frank C. Hirahara, was photo editor of the Heart Mountain High School *Tempo Annual* and graduated there in May 1944, taking more than 2,000 photos in Heart Mountain with his father, George.
- 2. After leaving Heart Mountain, Frank Hirahara entered Washington State University in 1945 and joined the track team. He received his WSU Freshman Numeral and was junior manager of

- the team.
- 3. Patti Hirahara was co-host of the TV public affairs program "Images" in 1980 and covered the JAACL's "An American Testimonial" dinner in Los Angeles, which focused on the organization's redress lobbying efforts.
- 4. Patti Hirahara with Congressman Robert T. Matsui at the JAACL's "An American Testimonial" dinner in 1980.
- 5. Presenters Anna Maria Shannon (left) and Christine Parrish join Dion

- Crommarty, WSU Spokane student diversity coordinator, to congratulate Patti Hirahara for being the first Japanese American to receive the WSU award in 52 years.
- 6. WSU President Kirk Schulz congratulates Hirahara on her award, given for special service to the university.
- 7. An invitation by Patti Hirahara to WSU Japanese and Japanese American students on campus for an informal gathering in 2011.

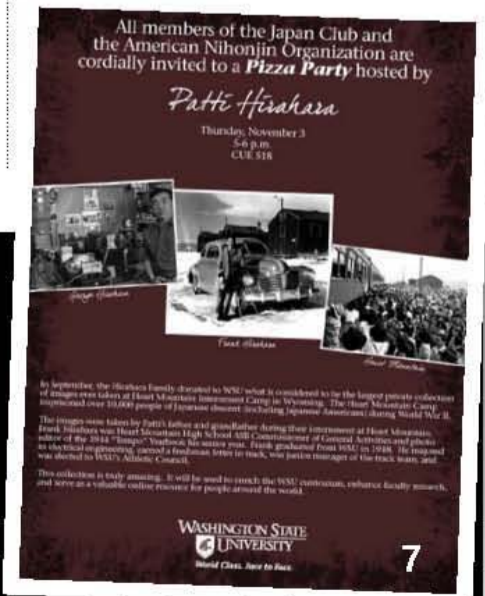




PHOTO: STEVE NAKATA, WSU



PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE FDR PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY



PHOTO: PATTI HIRAHARA

PHOTO: PAT KARIAK, AUHSD



PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION



PHOTO: STEVE NAKATA, WSU

ily's history on the Anaheim Public Library website, visit <http://anaheim.net/2626/Hirahara-Family-Photo-Collection>.)

In 2010, Hirahara began to look for a permanent home for her family's priceless Heart Mountain photo collection.

"My father said his last wish was to find a home where this photo collection would be treasured and preserved for generations to come," said Hirahara. "He wanted people to learn first-hand what happened to the Japanese and Japanese Americans during WWII.

"My father would have never imagined that the university that allowed him to get an education during WWII would become the home of his father's and his Heart Mountain photographic portfolio taken in 1943-45," Hirahara continued.

She donated the original negatives and photos to the WSU Libraries Manuscripts, Archives and Special Collections (MASC). It is considered to be the largest private collection of photos taken by amateur photographers incarcerated behind barbed wire in Heart Mountain.

During WWII, Hirahara's father, grandparents and great-grandparents were forced to leave their homes in Yakima, Wash., under the direction of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Executive Order 9066. While they lived in Wyoming's Heart Mountain Relocation Center, her father, Frank, and grandfather, George, documented everyday life inside the camp using camera equipment purchased from the Sears Roebuck and Montgomery Ward catalogs. They developed and printed their photos in a secret underground dark room built by George beneath the family's barrack apartment.

As a citizen of Japan, George was not allowed to possess camera equipment at the

time. Frank was born in Yakima, and as a U.S. citizen, could have photographic equipment that was ultimately used by the family. Together, they went about capturing history.

After graduating from Heart Mountain High School, Frank attended WSU, where he earned a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering in 1948.

Once WSU acquired the collection, MASC received funding from the National Park Service's Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program to preserve, clean and digitize the negatives for future generations.

After becoming accessible to the public online, documentary filmmakers, authors, the Broadway musical "Allegiance," the FDR Presidential Library and Museum and the Smithsonian National Museum of American History have all utilized the Hirahara family photographs. (The photos can be viewed online at [libraries.wsu.edu/hirahara](http://libraries.wsu.edu/hirahara).)

"I am amazed at how the WSU MASC has taken care of this collection and how it continues to grow with other donors adding their personal collections about the Japanese American incarceration," reflected Hirahara. "Everything is temperature controlled and labeled, with the Hirahara Collection having its own shelving as things are added every year from my travels and presentations."

For more than six years now, Hirahara has worked to locate many of the people featured in her family's photos. By sharing them with family descendants, she has offered them a piece of history that they never knew existed. Hirahara plans to donate, to WSU, additional information of what she has found.

In 2014, Hirahara spearheaded a series of workshops, films and presentations for an unprecedented campus-wide look at the

incarceration of Japanese Americans during WWII (<https://museum.wsu.edu/events/event-archive/>).

"This was quite an accomplishment for one entire fall semester and one that has not been replicated, to my knowledge, at any university or college in the U.S. When I share my family's story and the history of the photo collection to the over 1,000 WSU students on campus I have spoken to thus far, they are amazed at what happened to the Japanese and Japanese Americans during WWII and how it reflects on what is happening today," she said.

Hirahara continues to work with students on campus to ensure that they are aware of this dark time in history about the Japanese American incarceration.

"For many, 1942 was so long ago that it is hard for them to relate to what happened 76 years ago," she said. "They understand what happened during 9/11, and when I speak about that, they have a better understanding on how fear can change people's minds. I had a front-row seat in experiencing what happened that fateful day since my husband and I flew into Dulles Airport at 5:40 a.m., that morning, and I then understood what my family experienced on Dec. 7, 1941."

Through the years, Hirahara has been a guest speaker at several WSU Asian American and Pacific Islander Student Center activities on campus, and she recently established the Frank C. Hirahara Excellence Fund in his honor.

Remembering her father, Hirahara said, "I am particularly proud and astonished that in 1946, my father was elected by the Associated Students of WSU (ASWSU) to its Athletic Council. As a Japanese American and a track athlete just one year after the conclusion

of WWII, he received the second-highest vote tally of everyone on the ballot."

Outside of her work with WSU, Hirahara has developed additional collections that tell the history of her family and others at the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center and the Oregon Historical Society, both in Portland, and has donated family Heart Mountain artifacts to the Smithsonian National Museum of American History's Japanese American collection in Washington, D.C.

The Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center/Oregon Nikkei Endowment Frank C. Hirahara collection (<http://ddr.densho.org/ddr-one-1/>) has helped to fill the void of information that was missing in regards to the resettlement of the community of Portland, Ore., after WWII.

In addition, Hirahara's passion for telling the Yakima Japanese pioneer story continues, as she is currently working with the Central Washington Agricultural Museum, which is the largest agricultural museum of its kind in the Pacific Northwest. On Aug. 18 and 19, she is set to attend the 37th annual Pioneer Power Show in Union Gap, Wash.; her grandfather served as grand marshal in 1987.

"This will be the first time I will be attending the Pioneer Power Show. When I saw my grandfather's large purple ribbon with the words 'Grand Marshal' embossed on it, I was very proud to know what the pioneers thought of him," Hirahara said. "After being one of the first to return to Yakima in the fall of 1945, my grandfather decided not to run a hotel any longer and became a farmer in the early 1950s. He retired in his 50s and then started his hobby of collecting gasoline engines. I am particularly looking forward to seeing my grandfather's donated gas engine, which is

>> See ALUMNA on page 12

8. (From left) NPS representative Hank Florence, late WSU President Elson S. Floyd, Patti Hirahara, WSU Libraries MASC Director Trevor Bond and WSU Libraries Dean Jay Starratt gathered in 2011 to celebrate the donation of the Hirahara photo collection and the NPS JACS grant awarded to WSU.

9. Patti Hirahara, a featured speaker at the FDR Presidential Library in Hyde

Park, NY, in 2017, talks about the WSU Hirahara photo collection and the Japanese American incarceration.

10. The Hirahara Family has lived in Anaheim for 63 years, and Patti was a graduate of Anaheim High School. Her family's history is now part of the Anaheim Public Library website.

11. Patti Hirahara spoke at WSU in 2011 about the donation of her fam-

ily's Heart Mountain photographs to the WSU Libraries MASC and the announcement of the NPS JACS grant to WSU.

12. The history of the Japanese American incarceration is discussed during a class session at WSU.

13. Hirahara with Smithsonian National Museum of American History Director John Gray at the 2017 opening of the

Smithsonian's "Righting a Wrong — Japanese Americans and World War II" exhibit in Washington, D.C.

14. Patti Hirahara invited student members of the WSU Japan Club and American Nihonjin Organization to a meeting, in 2011, to discuss the donation of her family's photos from a Japanese American incarceration camp during WWII.



# NEW TOME TELLS OF 'LIFE AFTER MANZANAR'

Authors Naomi Hirahara and Heather C. Lindquist focus on the Nikkei 'resettlement' era.

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

In the forward to 2009's "Japanese American Resettlement Through the Lens," former U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta wrote: "The publication of this book is a milestone, if only because the history of Japanese American 'resettlement' is relatively unknown."

That book, by Lane Hirabayashi, Kenichi Shimada and Hikaru Carl Iwasaki, was a collection of the photos taken by Iwasaki, who served as a WRAPS or War Relocation Authority Photography Section photographer.

Its focus was on Japanese Americans who had been incarcerated as a result of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Executive Order 9066 and released from the 10 WRA Centers to join the work force or attend school.

Fast-forwarding nearly a decade later is the latest work to examine how Japanese Americans fared during post-World War II resettlement: "Life After Manzanar," a 208-page hardcover book from Heyday Books (ISBN: 978-1-59714-400-1, SRP \$28) written by Naomi Hirahara and Heather C. Lindquist.

As the title reveals, Hirahara and Lindquist's book focuses on what happened to some of the people who were incarcerated at Manzanar, the largest and likely best-known of the 10 American concentration camps for Japanese Americans.

At a packed multimedia and spoken presentation sponsored by Friends of the Torrance Library on April 12 at the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library in Torrance, Calif., the authors explained the genesis of the book and why they focused on Manzanar.

According to Lindquist, the idea came about when Maggie Wittenberg, former executive director of the Manzanar History Assn., and Art Hansen, professor emeritus of California State University, Fullerton, and initiator of a Japanese American Oral History Project, wanted to develop a book for general audiences that told the stories of "what happened after camp."

Using original interviews and the exist-

ing oral histories, the authors faced the problem of distilling the myriad stories — some 10,000 people who had been incarcerated at Manzanar, with each person having different experiences, circumstances, perspectives, attitudes and dispositions regarding what happened — down to 20-25 people to represent the overall picture.

"It turned out we followed about 50 people," said Hirahara, who noted that one of the book's subjects was the Ichisuke and Ume Fukuhara family, whose photo appears on the book's cover. Shot by Stone Ishimaru, the photo shows the Fukuharas post-Manzanar, when they lived in Farmingdale, located in Long Island, N.Y., a continent away from their former home in Santa Monica, Calif.

Three of the Fukuhara siblings — Willy, Jimmy and Grace Niwa — were in attendance that night, with Niwa shown in the cover photo, being held as a baby.

Hirahara, noting how she and Lindquist faced a "huge task" in producing the book, said they believed that Wittenberg, who died in December 2016, did not want it to be "an academic book," but rather for the focus to be on the people who had gone to Manzanar and their stories.

Another obstacle was where to start. Hirahara said the book's editor, Gayle Wattawa, suggested on focusing first on the "last people to leave Manzanar." By November 1945, not only was WWII over, incarcerated at all the camps had been free to leave for months. Still, there were some 200 people still at Manzanar, many elderly or very young, with no place to go, even with the promise of 25 bucks and a one-way bus ticket to somewhere.

"One person who decided to stay was Rev. Shinjo Nagatomi, a Buddhist priest," Hirahara said. "He felt it was his duty to see all the people through."

One of his daughters, Shirley Nagatomi, was quoted by Hirahara as writing: "The gates were closed after us. I still remember the loud clang of the gate closing as the station wagon drove off. Off to the free world."

According to Hirahara, Shirley Nagatomi also recalled that her family ended up living



Some members of the Fukuhara family of Santa Monica, Calif., in a photo taken post-incarceration in Farmingdale, N.Y., and used for the cover of "Life After Manzanar" (background), were in attendance for a discussion about the book. Seated (front row, from left) are Willy Fukuhara, Grace Niwa (née Fukuhara) and Jimmy Fukuhara. Standing (from left) are Ujinobu Niwa, Iku Kiriyaama, Paul Kashitani and Joyce Okazaki.

"Life After Manzanar" authors Naomi Hirahara (left) and Heather C. Lindquist discuss the making of their book to a packed audience at the Katy Geissert Civic Center Library in Torrance, Calif.

About midway through the presentation, Lindquist's laptop, which powered the slideshow, crashed — but it afforded an opportunity for some audience members to relate their own stories.

Jimmy Fukuhara said he returned in a modest home in Gardena, Calif., near the Gardena Buddhist Church — but they were fortunate compared with the many other people living in the church's sanctuary (converted into a hostel), sleeping on cots.

On the topic of the chronic housing shortage faced by Japanese Americans trying to resettle, Lindquist said there were up to 4,000 people living in converted Army barracks, boarding houses and trailer parks, including one in Burbank, Calif. For some, conditions were worse than the camps.

Some Japanese Americans, while fortunate to have a place to return to, others who were former denizens of Little Tokyo found it had, during the years of the war effort, become known as "Bronzeville," where many African-Americans from the Deep South settled while they worked in the defense industry. Fortunately, the transition back ended up being smoother than it might have been.

The federal government, meantime, didn't want Japanese Americans congregating again in Japanese American enclaves, according to Hirahara, but, rather, spread out amongst the greater American population.

"One of the places that was identified for people to move from a place like Manzanar was Chicago," Hirahara said. "Chicago went from a city with about 400 Japanese Americans to 20,000 in just a few years. The city wasn't prepared." That spawned its own host of problems, from crime to a spike in out-of-wedlock births.

Other places new for Japanese Americans were Colorado, New York City and in Bridgeton, N.J., at the Seabrook Farm, where Birds Eye frozen foods were processed and packaged.

While Japanese Americans who relocated there were provided with employment opportunities, housing and schools, Lindquist said, "There was persistent discrimination. . . . Caucasians were always being favored for advancement."

to Santa Monica in 1950, following his older brother, Frank, who had a five-acre nursery there. "So many white neighbors helped us get back on our feet," he said.

"I play golf, and some of the golfers — they've even apologized to me, and I say, 'There's no room for apologizing, what happened, happened.' I always say, 'It's a beautiful day. Let's play golf!' and they say, 'You're right!'"

Iku Kiriyaama, a leader of the now-defunct Japanese American Historical Society of Southern California, who is also in the book, recalled that she and her brother never talked about camp.

"It was because of Naomi, when she came to interview me, I didn't really know the answers to some things, so then I emailed my brother," she said. "When he emailed me back — he's in New York — I was really shocked. He told me he had fights every day at school (in Torrance, Calif.) and that experience led to where he was very angry all the time."

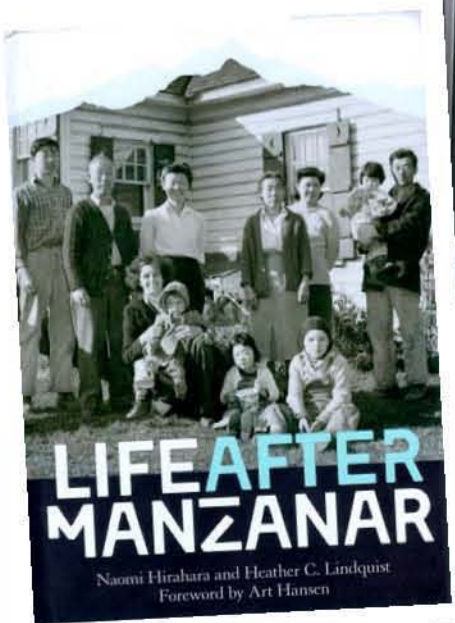
She and her late husband, George, who charitably described Iku's brother's personality as "assertive," eventually concluded that it was residual anger from being in camp.

"I was angry all the time, too. I didn't show it like my brother, but I was always angry. I was like 40 years old when I discovered it was the camp experience," Kiriyaama said. "It just stays with you, even if you were just a kid."

Later in the program, Kiriyaama's daughter, Traci Kato-Kiriyaama, did a live reading of her poem, "No Redress."

Other stories from "Life After Manzanar" were also discussed, but as Lindquist pointed out, there isn't a single story that exemplifies everyone's resettlement experience.

On that point, Hirahara added, "There just hasn't been that much scholarship about that particular time. There are some works out there, but there needs to be more. We don't pretend to be experts. This is not a comprehensive book. It's just a start."



"Life After Manzanar" authors Naomi Hirahara (left) and Heather C. Lindquist signed copies of their new book and chatted with audience members who attended the presentation.



# NPS AWARDS GRANTS FOR PRESERVATION OF JAPANESE AMERICAN CONFINEMENT SITES

Although the future of the grants program remains in question, \$1.3 million is awarded to educate the next generation.

WASHINGTON — The National Park Service announced more than \$1.3 million in grants to fund preservation, restoration and education projects at World War II Japanese American Confinement Sites on April 13.

These projects will help tell the story of the more than 120,000 Japanese Americans, two-thirds of whom were U.S. citizens, who were imprisoned by the U.S. government following the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941.

“Using both traditional and innovative techniques, we are working with communities and partner organizations to preserve an important part of our nation’s history,” National Park Service Deputy Director Dan Smith said. “More than 75 years later, new generations of Americans can use these resources to learn the struggles and perseverance of Japanese Americans incarcerated during World War II.”

Congress established the JACS grant program in 2006. To date, the announcement brings the current award total from the program to more than \$25 million.

However, the future of the program is in jeopardy. President Donald Trump’s new budget proposal, unveiled Feb. 12, called for the elimination of funding for the JACS grants program in FY2019.

In response, JAACL has been active on Capitol Hill, meeting with senate staff to explain the program’s importance. In addition, Sen. Brian Schatz of Hawaii has written a letter

of support to the U.S. Senate Committee on Appropriations Subcommittee. To date, eight senators have signed on in support of Schatz’s letter, including Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-Wash.), Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-Ill.), Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.), Sen. Cory Gardner (R-Colo.), Sen. Kamala Harris (D-Calif.), Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii), Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-Ore.) and Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.). The deadline for senators to co-sign on the letter is April 25.

This year’s grants will fund a diverse array of projects. Using grant funds, the Friends of Minidoka will digitize more than 1,000 items in its collection to share with the public the history of the Minidoka incarceration site in Idaho.

The Japanese American Service Committee, working in partnership with the Chicago Japanese American Historical Society, will preserve more than 140 oral histories focused on the Military Intelligence Service and the broader experiences of those impacted by the WWII incarceration and resettlement process. It will also develop two multimedia exhibits and conduct teacher trainings to help educators integrate these materials into Chicago middle and high schools.

JACS grants may be awarded to projects associated with the 10 War Relocation Authority centers established in 1942 and more than 40 additional confinement sites.

The program’s mission is to educate future generations about the injustice of the World War II confinement of Japanese Americans and demonstrate the nation’s commitment to equal justice under the law.

Successful proposals are chosen through a competitive process that requires applicants to match the grant award with \$1 in non-federal funds or “in-kind” contributions for every \$2 they receive in federal money.

# STOCKTON DOR EVENT FEATURES ‘ITO SISTERS: AN AMERICA STORY’

The Stockton JAACL Chapter along with the Asian Pacific Islander American Staff Association of Delta College held its Day of Remembrance Event at the Tillie



are Hedy Koda, Nancy Takahashi and Lillian Nakano), the film touched upon how the Japanese were faced with the Gentleman’s Act of 1909, discrimination, evacuation to the American

Lewis Theatre at San Joaquin Delta Community College on March 17 to bring the community closer to understanding that injustices of the past should never be repeated.

With nearly 400 guests in attendance, the program included a screening of the film “Ito Sisters: An America Story,” followed by a panel discussion of the film and a candle-lighting ceremony to mark the anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066.

Delta College President Kathy Hart welcomed the audience, followed by the presentation of several certificates commemorating the Day of Remembrance and an acknowledgement of Aeko Yoshikawa, DOR committee chair.

The mixed audience, ranging from seniors to young children, then viewed the “Ito Sisters” film, where they learned how Japanese endured life in America. Through the lives of the three close sisters (pictured, from left,

concentration camps and then life after the end of WWII. Each sister reflected upon her own experiences and pain of that time.

Following the film’s screening, a Q & A session expanded upon its theme. Panel members included Antonia Grace Glenn, director and producer of the film as well as a granddaughter to one of the Ito sisters; Evelyn Nakano Glenn, lead scholar and daughter of one of the Ito sisters; and Gregory Pacificar, producer and editor.

Candle presentations by students then honored each of the 10 Japanese American concentration camps during WWII. An eleventh candle was lit in honor of Tillie Lewis, a highly respected woman from Stockton who developed a major cannery business and was lauded for her nondiscriminatory hiring practices that included Japanese Americans before and after WWII.

— Stockton JAACL Chapter

FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF PROJECTS RECEIVING FUNDING:			
GRANTEE	PROJECT TITLE	PROJECT SITE	GRANT AMOUNT
Colorado Preservation, Colorado	“Amache Recreation Hall Restoration, Reconstruction and Interpretation”	Granada Relocation Center (Amache), Prowers County, Colo.	\$290,344
Densho, Washington	“Stories Less Told Part III: Oral Histories of Resettlement and Return”	Multiple Sites	\$112,688
Fred T. Korematsu Institute, California	“Developing Curriculum and Educating Through Film: ‘And Then They Came for Us’”	Multiple Sites	\$100,579
Friends of Minidoka, Idaho	“Friends of Minidoka Collection Densho Digital Repository Project”	Minidoka Relocation Center, Jerome County, Idaho	\$13,464
Full Spectrum Features, Illinois	“Resistance & Resettlement: A Cinematic Digital History Project”	Heart Mountain Relocation Center, Park County, Wyo.; Rohwer Relocation Center, Desha County, Ark.	\$398,272
The Internet Archive, California	“Digital Library of Japanese American Incarceration”	Multiple Sites	\$47,624
National Japanese American Historical Society, California	“Bear Witness: Camp Oral History Digital Collections”	Multiple Sites	\$119,750
Japanese American Service Committee, Illinois	“Bridging Voices Project: Japanese American WWII Oral History Collection, Digitization and Dissemination”	Multiple Sites	\$191,226
Stanford University, California	“Office of Redress Administration (ORA) Oral History Project”	Multiple Sites	\$72,871
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$1,346,818</b>

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A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

# CALENDAR

## NCWNP

### 2018 BERKELEY JACL SCHOLARSHIP AND PIONEER AWARDS LUNCHEON

Richmond, CA  
April 29; 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 "Cubby" Nakamura, co-owner of Tokyo Fish. The chapter is proud to recognize Nakamura for his longtime service to the East Bay community and JACL. Scholarship recipients include Jared Akiyama, Alyssa Cho, Maya Kashima, Kailee Nabeta, Alexander Tsuetaki, Luka Uchiyama and Sydney Wong.  
Info: Call (925) 932-7947 or email [ron\\_tanaka@yahoo.com](mailto:ron_tanaka@yahoo.com).

### BUENA VISTA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 59TH ANNUAL SPRING FESTIVAL BAZAAR

Alameda, CA  
May 6; Noon-5 p.m.  
Buena Vista United Methodist Church  
2311 Buena Vista Ave.

Price: Free

Come celebrate this year's festival featuring live music, arts and crafts boutique, kids games, raffle and cultural activities for all ages. Delicious food including teriyaki chicken, sushi, manju, kal-bi, lumpia and much more will also be sold. Free parking is available at City Garage.  
Info: Call (510) 522-2688 for more information.

### BUILDING BELOVED COMMUNITY: BOOK READING, FILM SCREENING AND PANEL

Alameda, CA  
May 6; 12:30-4:30 p.m.  
Buena Vista United Methodist Church  
2311 Buena Vista Ave.

Price: Free

This program, honoring the Japanese American legacy, will feature a book reading by Karen Tei Yamashita from her recently published book "Letters to Memory." The program also includes a film showing of "And Then They Came for Us" by Abby Ginzberg and a panel discussion featuring Cookie Takeshita, civil rights attorney Don Tamaki and the Asian Law Caucus' Sacha Maniar.  
Info: Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/building-beloved-community-book-reading-film-screening-and-panel-tickets-45126966973>.

### 26TH ANNUAL KODOMO NO HI CHILDREN'S DAY FESTIVAL

San Francisco, CA  
May 5; 11 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Peace Plaza, Japantown  
Price: Free

This traditional youth celebration will feature Japanese performances, youth art contests, arts and crafts activities, games, bounce house and much more. Come and enjoy this annual tradition that honors our youth!  
Info: Visit [www.jccnc.org](http://www.jccnc.org).

### 'GAMBATTE! LEGACY OF AN ENDURING SPIRIT' EXHIBIT

Roseville, CA  
Thru June 2  
Blue Line Arts  
405 Vernon St., Suite 100

This exhibit, "Gambatte! Legacy of an Enduring Spirit: Triumphing Over Adversity — Japanese American WWII Incarceration Reflections, Then and Now" by Paul Kitagaki Jr. is on display now on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. and Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m.-3 p.m.  
Info: Call (916) 783-4117 for more information.

## PSW

### 'HAPA.ME — 15 YEARS OF THE HAPA PROJECT' EXHIBIT

Los Angeles, CA  
Thru Oct. 28  
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 are accompanied by each subject's handwritten responses to the typically posed question, "What are you?" Fulbeck created the Hapa Project in 2001, traveling the country to photograph more than 1,200 volunteers who identified as Hapa. Its goals were to promote awareness and recognition of the millions of Hapas in the U.S. and to give a voice to multiracial people and various ethnic groups.  
Info: Visit [www.janm.org/hapa-me](http://www.janm.org/hapa-me).

### ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN 2018 GUBERNATORIAL DEBATE

Pasadena, CA  
April 27; 7-8:30 p.m.  
Pasadena City College  
Sexson Auditorium  
1570 E. Colorado Blvd.

Save the date for the first APA-focused gubernatorial debate in California history. Scheduled to discuss issues pertinent to the state of California are

candidates Travis Allen (R), John Chiang (D), John H. Cox (R), Delaine Eastin (D), Gavin Newsom (D) and Antonio Villaraigosa (D). Viewers can also tune in at [apagovdebate.eventbrite.com](http://apagovdebate.eventbrite.com). This event is presented by the Center for Asian Americans United for Self-Empowerment (CAUSE).  
Info: Visit [causeusa.org](http://causeusa.org).

### FIESTA MATSURI

Los Angeles, CA  
May 6  
JACCC  
244 S. San Pedro St.  
Price: Free

Fiesta Matsuri combines the Children's Day celebrations of two communities: Kodomo No Hi in Japan and Dia De Los Ninos in Mexico. Both holidays celebrate the growth, happiness and success of children. Come out and enjoy a fun-filled day including cultural performances, arts and crafts workshops and much more for the family.  
Info: Visit [www.jaccc.org](http://www.jaccc.org).

### KILLER KIMCHI

Los Angeles, CA  
May 27; 10-11 a.m.  
JACCC  
244 S. San Pedro St.  
Price: \$25 General; \$20 JACCC Member

In this demonstration, join Hae Jung Cho of the Institute of Domestic Technology as he makes "poggi kimchi." This stuffed kimchi made out of nappa cabbage and daikon radish, along with herbs, garlic and chili seasoning paste is incredibly delicious and will knock your socks off!  
Info: Call (213) 680-3700 or email [boxoffice@jaccc.org](mailto:boxoffice@jaccc.org).

## PNW

### EPWORTH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH SPRING BAZAAR

Portland, OR  
April 29; 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Come and support the Epworth United Methodist Church's Spring Bazaar, which will feature special lunch take-out, bake sale as well as a plant and produce sale. Delicious food options include teriyaki beef bowls, chow mein, inarizushi and Asian chicken salad. Food is take-out only; all proceeds benefit the Epworth United Methodist Church.  
Info: Call (503) 232-5253.

### 2018 ASIAN HALL OF FAME

Seattle, WA  
May 5; 6-10 p.m.  
Fairmont Olympic Hotel  
411 University St.  
Price: \$200 General Admission  
Join the 2018 Asian Hall of Fame Celebration where this year's honorees, includ-

ing writer-producer Kourtney Kang, author Kevin Kwan, TV host Melissa Lee and chef Roy Yamaguchi will be feted for their contributions to the AAPI community and beyond. Proceeds from the event benefit the Robert Chinn Foundation programs.  
Info: Visit [asianhalloffame2018.shindigg.com](http://asianhalloffame2018.shindigg.com).

### GAMAN FESTIVAL

Portland, OR  
May 11 (6-9 p.m. film showing) and May 12 (10 a.m.-4 p.m. art booths)  
Portland Community College  
705 N. Killingsworth St.

Gaman Fest is an intergenerationally inspired event showcasing art as activism, sponsored by O.N.E. and Portland JACL.  
Info: For volunteer information, contact Sachi Kaneko at [sachi@pdxjacl.org](mailto:sachi@pdxjacl.org).

## IDC

### ASIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER LGBTQ PANEL

Denver, CO  
April 28 2:30-4 p.m.  
Cheesman Mansion  
1290 Williams St.

Price: Free

Community Forum this month is sponsoring Marsha Aizumi's endeavor to educate the community on LGBTQ issues and provide support.  
Info: Visit [milehighjacl.org](http://milehighjacl.org).

## CCDC

### ASIAN FEST: YEAR OF THE DOG

Fresno, CA  
April 28  
Fresno City College  
1101 E. University Ave.

Price: Free

AsianFest celebrates Asian American culture and showcases the talents of community performers, martial artists and cultural organizations. There will also be numerous exhibits, craft booths and amazing food, in addition to a children's craft area. This event is coordinated by the Asian American Faculty and Staff Assn. at Fresno City College.  
Info: Visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/182918448976717/>.

## MDC

### FESTIVAL OF NATIONS 2018

St. Paul, MN  
May 3-6  
175 W. Kellogg Blvd.  
Price: \$11/\$8

The Festival of Nations is the longest-running multicultural festival in the Midwest, featuring more than 100 ethnic groups in a celebration of this nation's cultural heritage. In

addition to cultural booths, there will be ethnic cuisine, entertainment and much more for people of all ages! Twin Cities JACL will have a merchandise booth at this festival.

Info: To volunteer at the Twin Cities JACL booth, email [katalucas@aol.com](mailto:katalucas@aol.com); for general information, visit [www.festivalofnations.com](http://www.festivalofnations.com).

## EDC

### JAPAN FESTIVAL BOSTON

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

This year's festival will feature 30 food booths, 50 stage performances, 80 arts and crafts booths and various information booths, as well as 50 workshops and cosplay events.  
Info: Visit <http://www.japanfestivalboston.org/>.

### 'THEN THEY CAME FOR ME: INCARCERATION DURING WORLD WAR II'

New York City, NY  
Thru May 6  
International Center of Photography  
250 Bowery

The ICP examines a dark episode in U.S. history through this exhibit, which includes photos by Toyo Miyatake as well as Dorothea Lange, Ansel Adams and other noted photographers.  
Info: Visit <https://www.icp.org/exhibitions/then-they-came-for-me-incarceration-of-japanese-americans-during-world-war-ii>.

### '70 YEARS OF HONORING SERVICE AND SACRIFICE' MEMORIAL SERVICE

Arlington, VA  
May 27; 9:30-10:30 a.m.  
Arlington National Cemetery  
Columbarium

JACL-DC and JAVA present the 70th anniversary of this ceremony, the longest, continuous annual ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery. The event, started originally by the Kobayashi family, will feature guests Sandra Tanamachi, a retired teacher from Beaumont, Texas, and Kim Minh Thai, a student at Spark M. Matsunaga Elementary School. Following the ceremony, attendees are invited to lay floral arrangements at the gravesites of our fallen heroes.  
Info: Contact Turner Kobayashi at [turner@audleyfarm.com](mailto:turner@audleyfarm.com) or call (540) 539-1080.

## ADVERTISE HERE

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

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(213) 620-1767



# IN MEMORIAM

**Aoyagi, Harold Setsuo, 82**, Torrance, CA, Feb. 11; he is survived by his children, Dawn (Brad) Sawyer, Glenn (Nancy), Scott (Janet) and Julie (Darin) Honda; brothers, Wallace (Connie) and Elvin (Cheryl); he is also survived by nieces, nephews, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, other relatives and friends.



**Aoyama, Sakae, 99**, Seattle, WA, Feb. 25; during WWII, his family and he were incarcerated at the Minidoka WRA Center in Idaho, and he went

on to serve in the Army's 442nd Regimental Combat Team, 3rd Battalion, Company M; he was predeceased by his wife, Ruby; he is survived by his children, David (Karen), Steven (Joyce), Miki Conrad (Bob) and Kimi Reiner (Fred); siblings, Mariko Mano, Anne Moriyasu and George Aoyama; gc: 8; ggc: 3.

**Goya, Yoshikazu, 94**, Torrance, CA, Feb. 13; he is survived by his wife, Yoshiko Jane Goya; son, Allen Wayne Kazuo (Gayle) Goya; siblings, Harriet Harue Owara, Taro Goya (Helen), Sue Ann Shiroma (Thomas) and Janice Fumie Ganeku; sister-in-law, Emi Goya; gc: 2.

**Hiraoka, Anthony 'Tony,' 90**, Monterey Park, CA, Jan. 24; he is survived by his wife, Dorothy 'Truckie'; daughters, Janet (Steve) Yamanaka, Janice (David) Levasheff and Juli (Grant) Nakagawa; gc: 4.



**Hori, Margaret, 94**, Encinitas, CA, Feb. 17; she is survived by her children, Susan Miyagi (Michael) and Patricia Velasco (Clifford); gc: 3; ggc: 1.

**Ikegami, Russell, 65**, San Jose, CA, Feb. 8; he is survived by his wife, Jan; sons, Rick and Steve (Stephanie) Tomisaka; brother, Dennis (Susan); sister-in-law, Diane; gc: 3.



**Ishihara, Joey Takeshi, 86**, Sacramento, CA, Jan. 21; during WWII, his family and he were incarcerated at the WRA Center in Tule Lake, CA; he is survived by his sisters, Teiko Matsuo, Mary Kuwabara and Judy Sakamoto; he is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

**Kamita, Michiko, 100**, Reno, NV, Jan. 13; she was predeceased by her husband, John; she is survived by her children, Mason (Carol), Nancy, Jean (Yosh) and Sayo; gc: 7; ggc: 13.



**Koyano, Wesley Kaname, 93**, Thousand Oaks, CA, Jan. 25; during WWII, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and served in the 100th Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team; he was predeceased by his wife, Sumi; siblings, Atsuko (Jim) Shimizu and

Mason (Lily) Koyano; he is survived by his children, Duane (Karen) Koyano and Yoko (Wayde) Shimoda; siblings, Setsuko (Roy) Mikawa, Roy Koyano, Arthur Koyano and Lily (Bernie) Brenes; gc: 3.

**Maeda, Yoshiko, 83**, Azusa, CA, Feb. 4; she is survived by her sons, Michael (Shannon) and Keith; siblings, Kyoko Kusano, Norma Domalaoan and Tsutomu Miyagishima; gc: 5.

**Nakayama, Toshio, 95**, Los Angeles, CA, Jan. 30; he was predeceased by his sons, Grant and Steven Nakayama; he is survived by his wife, Rose; daughters, Janet (Brad) Fujikuni and Carol (Todd) Inatomi; sisters, Sachi (Shiro) Kawamura and Amy Ishimoto; gc: 3.



**Nanjo, Henry, 89**, Lincoln, CA, Jan. 15; he is survived by his wife, Frances; sons, Henry D. and Peter; brothers, Ben and Jim; gc: 5.



**Omura, Masayoshi, 96**, Willoughby, OH, Feb. 21; he is survived by his wife, Sugako; sons, Michael (Chong) and Kenneth; gc: 1.

**Shimasaki, Edward Katsuhiko 'Eddie,' 76**, Los Angeles, CA; he is survived by his wife, Mabel; children, Nolan Makoto (Arlene), David Yutaka (Ronnie) and Trina Kaori Shimasaki. Suenaga, Herbert Shiro, 89, Daly City, CA, Jan. 27; he is survived by his wife, Annie; children, Steven, Laurie and Stan; brother, Saburo (Koz) Suenaga; gc: 2; ggc: 2.



**Shinmoto, Betty Chiyoko, 92**, Los Angeles, CA, Dec. 10, 2017; she was predeceased by her husband, Tony Tsuneo; she is survived by her children, Julie Shinmoto (Cary) Uyemura, Lynn Shinmoto (Donald) Devirian and Mark Sukio (Sharlene) Shinmoto; sister, Gladys (Toshio) Shimamoto; gc: 6.

**Takemoto, Tsugie 'Rose,' 101**, Loomis, CA, Jan. 1; she was predeceased by her husband, 'Doc' Takemoto; she is survived by her children, Jean Tanaka, Gordon Takemoto (JoAnn) and Irene Okusako (Gary); gc: 6; ggc: 6.



**Toyama, Chizuko, 85**, Montebello, CA, Jan. 15; she was predeceased by her husband, Sam I. Toyama; she is survived by her children, Craig, Jim, Jon, Suzanne Bodnar (Peter) and Lori Santore (Stephen); siblings, Raymond Iwamoto (Louise) and Afton Pocock; gc: 9; ggc: 9.

**Watanabe, Toyoko, 97**, Seattle, WA, Jan. 8; during WWII, she was incarcerated at the Tule Lake WRA Center in CA; she was predeceased by her husband, Yuzuru "Yutch" Watanabe; she is survived by her children, Kenneth, Russell and JoAnn Hayes (Scott); sister, Ikue Iseri; sister-in-law, Nobi Le May; gc: 2; ggc: 6.

**Yamashita, Junwo, 93**, Los Angeles, CA, Dec. 19; he is survived by his daughters, Nancy (Howard) Hawkins and Wendi (Michael) Coombs; daughter-in-law, Noel Kinoshita; siblings, George (Carol) Yamashita, Meri Kuroshima and Lily (Ted) Yamaguchi; gc: 7; ggc: 1.

TRIBUTE

EMI SHINAGAWA



Emiko "Emi" Shinagawa entered peacefully into Nirvana at home on Feb. 25 at the age of 88. Emi was born to Issei parents Shizuo and Kimiyo Sasaki on Jan. 7, 1930, in Berkeley, Calif., where she grew up with older brother, Ichiro, and younger sister, Sachiko. Two months after Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor, Emi's father, a community leader, was arrested by the FBI and transferred to Bismarck, N.D. In May 1942, Kimiyo and her three children were evacuated to the Tanforan Assembly Center in San Bruno, Calif., and four months later

transferred by train to the Topaz War Relocation Center in Utah, where they were held until their release to San Francisco in October 1945. Five months after WWII ended, Shizuo remained imprisoned for "administrative reasons" until his release in February 1946.

After camp, Emi worked as a school girl in San Francisco while graduating from Balboa High School and Lux College for Women. In 1950, she was hired as a secretary at the Irwin Memorial Blood Bank (IMBB) in San Francisco. Emi met her future husband in February 1951 at a Young Buddhist Assn. dance in San Jose, Calif. On Nov. 23, 1952, she married John Tetsuomi Shinagawa at the Berkeley Higashi Honganji Temple, where she remained a lifelong member. During their near-50-year marriage, Emi and John raised four children in Richmond, Calif., and were active volunteers in Japanese American Services of the East Bay (now J-SEI), Sakura-Kai Senior Center, San Francisco Nikkei Lions Club and JACL-Contra Costa Chapter (Thousand Life Trust Members). After 32 years with IMBB, Emi retired as administrative director in 1982. She established Emi Enterprises, selling hand-crafted calligraphy, greeting cards and *washi ningyo*. Emi loved to travel and enjoyed puzzles, playing mahjong with friends, bingo and penny slots at casinos and pinochle with her sister, Sachi, and brother-in-law, Hiro. In October 2015, she adopted Mitzy, her beloved dog and constant companion.

Emi is survived by her children, Robert, Susan (Rob Norberg), Arthur (Robin) and James; grandchildren, Richard, Austin, Courtney, Michael, Galadriel and Claire; great-grandsons, Joel and Cooper; sister, Sachiko (Hiro) Ando, and many nieces, nephews and great-nieces and great-nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, John; grandson, Thomas; and brother- and sister-in-law, Ichiro and Fumiko Sasaki.

Memorial services were held March 8 at the San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin. Her ashes were interred next to her husband, John, at the Cypress Lawn Memorial Park in Colma, Calif., on April 14.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations be made in Emi's memory to Yu-Ai Kai Japanese-American Community Senior Service, 588 N. 4th St., San Jose, CA 95112-5311, <http://yuaiikai.org>.

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**ALUMNA >> continued from page 7**

currently fully operational and spouts smoke rings to the delight of visitors.”

Hirahara has also been working with Ellen Allmendinger, author of the upcoming book “Hidden History of Yakima” (Arcadia Publishing & The History Press). Set to be released in October, the book highlights the Hirahara family’s ownership of the 60-room Pacific Hotel in Yakima, Wash.

“I am eager to see Ellen’s book being published since it will have a more detailed look at the history of the Japan Town in Yakima from the early 1900s-1942. She could not cover everything, but it will give readers a better idea of the robust town of Yakima during that time,” Hirahara said.

Last year, Hirahara, a member of the Greater Los Angeles JACL, closed her company and is now fully focused on continuing her work in promoting the Japanese American legacy.

The wording on the WSU Honorary Alumna Award perhaps reflects Hirahara’s own personal journey: “You have tirelessly worked to tell your father’s story

and utilize his photography to enhance the public’s knowledge of Heart Mountain and the Japanese American experience during WWII. Your efforts have helped to illuminate a painful chapter in American history. You have honored your father’s legacy and brought distinction to his alma mater, Washington State University. Your generous donations of his collections have informed and inspired people today and for generations to come. For all this and much more, the WSU Alumni Association is proud to bestow upon you the Honorary Alumna Award.”

“Receiving this award now is significant because this year marks the 75th anniversary of when my father and grandfather began taking photos in the camp,” said Hirahara. “WSU’s history is unknown to many people, especially the fact that the university allowed Japanese American students to continue their education during WWII. It is an extreme honor to be recognized by my father’s alma mater, and it has been a wonderful partnership with WSU over the last eight years.” ■

# JANM PRESIDENT/CEO ANN BURROUGHS TO BE KEYNOTE SPEAKER AT 49TH ANNUAL MANZANAR PILGRIMAGE

LOS ANGELES — Ann Burroughs, president and CEO of the Japanese American National Museum, will be the keynote speaker at the 49th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage, sponsored by the Manzanar Committee, on April 28 at the Manzanar National Historic Site, located on U.S. Highway 395 in California’s Owens Valley.

Karen Umemoto, Ph.D. the new director of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center, will also speak at the gathering.

Under the theme “Silent No More: Liberty and Justice for All,” the pilgrimage will also pay tribute to the 30th anniversary of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.

Each year, more than 1,000 people from diverse backgrounds attend the pilgrimage, which commemorates the unjust incarceration of more than 110,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry in 10 American concentration camps, and other confinement sites, located in desolate regions of the U.S. during World War II. Manzanar was the first of the American concentration camps to be established.

Burroughs has worked with leaders, organizations and networks in the U.S. and around the world to promote social justice and human rights for more than 26 years.

Prior to joining JANM, she was the senior consultant at Social Sector Partners, an organization that focuses on supporting social sector organizations through strategic adaptation and repositioning.

Burroughs also previously served as executive director of the Taproot Foundation in Los Angeles and as the executive director of LA Works. In addition, she serves on the board of directors of Amnesty International, USA, as well as on the organization’s International Council.

Burroughs’ lifelong commitment to racial and social justice was shaped by her experience as a young activist in her native South Africa, where she was jailed as a political prisoner for her opposition to apartheid.

“Ann has played a such a significant and leading role in her short tenure at the Japanese American National Museum that her impact has been felt

PHOTO: GANN MATSUDA/MANZANAR COMMITTEE



**Ann Burroughs welcomes the crowd during the 2018 Day of Remembrance Program, held at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles on Feb. 17.**

far beyond the walls of the museum,” said Manzanar Committee Co-Chair Bruce Embrey. “Her commitment to civil and human rights is both admirable and a tremendous example. For these and many other reasons, we are honored to have her as our keynote speaker for this year’s pilgrimage.”

*For more information, call (323) 662-5102 or send e-mail to [49thpilgrimage@manzanarcommittee.org](mailto:49thpilgrimage@manzanarcommittee.org).*

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*AMERICAN HOLIDAY TRAVEL*

**2018 TOUR SCHEDULE**

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

For more information and reservations, please contact:

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