



# PACIFIC CITIZEN

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PHOTO COURTESY OF ATHENAMARIASKLIPIDIS

# P.C.'S SPRING CAMPAIGN NEEDS YOUR HELP TO THRIVE



The *Pacific Citizen's* Spring Campaign is still going strong! Donate today to support our very own Japanese American newspaper and for the future of our community newspaper.

Growing up in Los Angeles surrounded by a large Japanese American community, I was privileged to have easy access to the community.

When I was younger, I thought the JA community was prevalent across the whole nation, and I didn't have second thoughts about how lucky I was to be surrounded by the community and to have the opportunity to learn about our values and culture.

As I grew older, I learned that many Japanese Americans across the country did not have the same access that I had to my Southern California JA community. Luckily, Japanese and Japanese American online and print publications allowed JA's from across the country to learn about news pertaining to Japanese Americans and connect people and communities nationally over shared stories.

It's important to recognize ethnic

news media, such as the *Pacific Citizen*, that have served their communities across the nation to provide news to their people. Surely, mainstream media still fails to cover much of ethnic news and neglects reporting on agendas that are important to many minority communities. Thus, making it more important than ever to value our community publications.

With the *Pacific Citizen*, we are able to learn more about news that is valuable to us. We have the power to acquire stories that mainstream media might not publish. Without outlets and publications such as the *Pacific Citizen*, communities cannot share and access stories that bring a community of people together.

Unfortunately, many ethnic news

media, including the *Pacific Citizen*, continue to struggle to keep operations because of advancing technology, social media and other means of disseminating news. Many publications have already faced the hard decisions to shut down. To make sure the *Pacific Citizen* can thrive and continue, we need your help!

To donate, mail in the donation slip attached to this paper or visit [PacificCitizen.org](http://PacificCitizen.org) to make your contribution.

*Thank you for your continuous support of the P.C.!*

Sincerely,  
**Juli Yoshinaga,**  
*P.C. Editorial Board Member,*  
 NYISC

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## APPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED FOR THE JACL'S YOUTH LEGACY PROGRAM

JACL is now accepting applications for its Youth Legacy Program, funded through a grant from the National Park Service. The

JACL Youth Legacy Program connects Asian American youth with the legacy of the Japanese American incarceration during World War II, as well as draws parallels to the hysteria that targeted Muslim Americans following 9/11.

The project aims to address the search for personal identity experienced by many young Asian Americans who seek greater affirmation and understanding about their collective history. The program also aims to foster within the next generation the importance of historical preservation by connecting them to the Manzanar Concentration Camp, a National Park Service historic site that has significance to Asian Americans.

The program will take place Aug. 15-18 in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo, one of three remaining Japantowns in the U.S. The program is open to Asian American youth between the ages of 18-25. Participants must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident. All expenses to participate will be covered.

Program information and an application can be accessed via the JACL website. The application filing deadline is July 6.

*For additional information, please contact Youth Legacy Program Coordinator Diane Matsuda at [dmatsuda@jacl.org](mailto:dmatsuda@jacl.org).*



## MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE HELD IN SAN BRUNO

A Memorial Day observance, co-sponsored by VFW Golden Gate Nisei Memorial Post #9879 and the JACL NCWNP District Council, was held at Golden Gate National Cemetery in San Bruno, Calif., on May 28.

The keynote speaker was San Mateo JACL President Steve Okamoto, who focused his remarks on the role of the Military Intelligence Service.

The program also featured an invocation and benediction by Rev. Chris Doi, a reading of the Honor Roll, a playing of "Taps" and introduction of the Gold Star parents and veterans' wives.

Pictured (from left) are Post Chaplain Omar Doi, Post Commander Glen Akagi, Post Adjutant Warren Takenouchi, Rev. Chris Doi and San Mateo JACL President Steve Okamoto.



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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# FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## RESISTANCE AND RECONCILIATION

By David Inoue,  
JACL Executive Director

With Asian Pacific American Heritage Month in the rear-view mirror, one of the most interesting events was a community leader's forum sponsored by the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. JACL participated in the forum with approximately 200 individuals from both the Washington, D.C., community and others around the country.

It is no secret that many of the policy positions JACL has taken are quite contrary to those of the White House, as is the case with most of the major Asian American civil rights organizations.

This was also on display earlier this year during the JACL-OCA Leadership Summit, held in Washington, D.C. At that event, we had a spirited discussion about issues such as family immigration, the Muslim travel ban

and the census question on citizenship. JACL has submitted an amicus brief on the Muslim travel ban that is especially critical of the government's position. Again, at the APAHM event, we used the opportunity to challenge the administration on its positions of family immigration and the Muslim travel ban.

Going into both events, it was clear on both sides that there was a disagreement, but we also made it clear that we were respectful of the other for what we each also represent. I often hear people talk about how President Donald Trump has diminished the Office of the President; however, it is still the president's office. We cannot ignore that fact. Similarly, WHIAAPI recognizes that JACL still represents the largest number of Asian American individuals in a member organization; that is a powerful position to have as well.

It is within this context that we move toward the 2018 JACL National Convention in Philadelphia next month. It is a delicate balance we find ourselves in today resisting many of the policies of the current administration, but also seeking reconciliation where possible to ensure that we maintain a respectful relationship to

continue a dialogue so that we will be heard.

Within JACL, there is even a tension of whether we are a civil rights organization or a social organization. As I talk to membership, there is sometimes a divide over the fun social activities such as picnics, mochitsuki and pot-lucks, versus can't we just tell people to get on board with the civil rights agenda or get out?

Ultimately, JACL is a civil rights organization. It is our fundamental role to use the experience of incarceration to educate others how we cannot, as a nation, afford to make that same mistake again. That is what makes us different from any other national member-based organization and will continue to be what gives us the moral authority to speak out on issues of injustice.

However, the social activities are also vitally important in this process. In fact, I see the loss of social interaction to be at the root of much of the dysfunction we now see in our national politics. It's a lot harder to demonize the other side when your kids play on the same T-ball team. As the parent of two elementary-aged children, I don't go into their school or sports practices wondering if the other parent is

aligned with me politically. JACL chapters can be one of the community organizations at the local level that provides the fundamental social interactions that break down the barriers of politics, gender or race.

Thirty years ago, redress was possible in significant part because of the shared experience of many members of Congress having served together in the military. They had their deep divisions, but they also had certain shared experiences that helped to overcome their differences, or at least see the good in the other side's positions.

JACL, both nationally and locally through our nearly 100 chapters, must continue the tradition of bringing communities together to find a balance between resistance and reconciliation, but above all, mutual respect.

We must have the space for respectful disagreement within our membership. That does not mean we will stray from our fight for social justice and civil rights, but we can maintain that others may see what that means in policy differently, and allow them to feel comfortable to express those differences.

*I hope you will join us in Philadelphia July 18-22 as we celebrate our shared community.*



# A MOTHER'S TAKE

## COURAGE, COMPASSION AND CONNECTION

By Marsha Aizumi

Last month, I had an experience that both made me stop and evaluate what it means to come out and soar with gratitude to those who would stand up and support in a positive way.

It all began when a high school classmate sent an update email to 15 classmates that lived in the same geographical area about people who were having health issues or were facing other challenges. One of the individuals, Fred, on this email thread, sent a response back about how he appreciated being part of this high school class because though we were different, there was a feeling of connection and inclusion.

I graduated from a conservative, predominantly white high school in Southern California. At the time, I was the only Asian in my graduating class. I did not feel a lot of discrimination, but I did not feel a lot of connection either. I was just someone who was different and only experienced an occasional derogatory reference to my Asian heritage. But it was enough to make me keep a low profile and study hard, so as not to make waves.

For some reason, after Fred sent this response talking about inclusion and connection, I felt like I wanted to "come out" to the people on this email thread in hopes of bringing more support for the LGBTQ community. I had hoped I would feel a greater connection to these

individuals and also bring some awareness to my classmates. And so, I wrote that I had a transgender son and hoped that our class would be kind to LGBTQ individuals, since they knew someone who graduated with them had a transgender child.

One hour later, a person on this email thread asked to be deleted from future emails. Perhaps it was a coincidence that after numerous emails, they asked to be deleted after my response. But I don't think that was the case. My heart sank, and my first thought was, "Why did I say anything?" I don't really know these people after graduating so many years ago and have not even attended most of the class reunions. What was the point?" I felt sick to my stomach.

Two hours later, I received a response from dear Fred. It was a lovely email of support and compassion. Fred said that he hoped I would come to a future reunion so we could truly have a reunion. I am not sure if Fred knows what his email meant to me. Perhaps I will send him this article once it is published.

Then, the next morning, I woke up and found another email from a classmate. It began with "I felt compelled, Marsha, to respond to you and your comments." I stopped reading and braced myself for a lecture on what a terrible mother I was, that God was going to condemn me to hell and how this was Satan's work to allow my child to transition to be my son. I could feel my heart begin to close up, waiting for the judgment and condemnation to follow.

Instead, this is what Jerry and Linda wrote . . .

"While we missed you at some of the reunions and haven't seen you for quite some time, we have been aware of your challenges, and we did see you on the Diane Sawyer special. Bless you and all that you are doing for your son and the LGBTQ community, and keep pressing on. It is people like you who will help ultimately make a difference. We're behind you. Best regards, Jerry and Linda."

My sinking heart began to open up, and I could feel tears form in my eyes. In the span of less than 24 hours, two people who I hardly knew gave me words of encouragement and love. Even as I write this, I want to cry. In that moment, I realized what the point in coming out was for me.

Fred, Jerry and Linda see all of me, and I don't have to hide who I am. I felt a connection to them that I never felt before, and it is based on honesty, integrity and compassion. When I go to a future reunion, they will be the first people I will seek out.

Then, I realized that this is

what our LGBTQ children, family members and friends go through when they come out to those around them. The worry of being judged, the thoughts of "Did I make a mistake to come out" and the cold, sick feeling that washes over them with the fear of rejection. I also realized the warmth and connection that can come with acceptance and understanding when someone sees all of you. And a sense of pride in oneself for the courage it takes to come out. It was a roller-coaster ride that day, but it taught me so much.

So, here is my call to action for those who will take up the challenge. If you are an ally to the LGBTQ community, I hope you will "come out" and show your support. I know I have talked about this before, but allies have the most powerful voices.

This week, I got an email from a mother who met with an old high school friend. This high school friend came out to her about her transgender son. She wrote to thank me and others for providing her resources, such as PFLAG San Gabriel Valley API, the book Aiden and I wrote titled "Two Spirits One Heart" and other parents who she could refer her friend to because we were not afraid to be a voice for our API LGBTQ loved ones. Our straight allies can also be someone who can connect their friends in need with resources and support. I am always available to help.

**>> See CONNECTION on page 12**

**Marching in San Diego Pride . . . a proud PFLAG mom!**



PHOTO: ROBERT PETERSEN

# 13 A GOOD OMEN FOR K. W. LEE CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP

PHOTOS: GEORGE TOSHIO JOHNSTON

The nonprofit celebrates its namesake journalist's 90th birthday and reunites *Koreatown Weekly* staff.

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

When the K. W. Lee Center for Leadership held its 13th annual fundraising dinner at Koreatown's Oxford Palace Hotel on June 8 in Los Angeles, the nonprofit decided to find future inspiration by looking back.

Part of that entailed celebrating the nearly five-year run of *Koreatown Weekly*, which was founded by K. W. Lee, dubbed the "godfather of Korean American journalism," whose career achievements inspired the center's name. The dinner also reunited members of the *Koreatown Weekly's* staff and marked Lee's 90th birthday.

Why revisit the *Koreatown Weekly* in 2018, which folded in 1984? Looking back on the newspaper, California State University, Northridge, journalism professor Taehyun Kim said *Koreatown Weekly's* mission was "to raise community consciousness" and noted how in 2018 a proposal by the City of Los Angeles to convert a city-owned parking lot in Koreatown into a homeless shelter came about without any input from local residents and business owners, implying that the existence of a news outlet like *Koreatown Weekly* might have precluded such a unilateral act by the city.

"Of course, we have Twitter, Facebook and Instagram to share our voices and information, but our community doesn't have an English voice. They don't get a seat at the table," Kim said.

As an investigative journalist working for the Sacramento Union, Lee is best known for a series of articles about Chol Soo Lee, a young



(From left) Steve Chanecka, K. W. Lee and Randy Hagihara reminisce about obstacles they faced in producing the paper.

Korean immigrant with a record of petty crimes who was improperly convicted and imprisoned for a brazen 1973 gang-related slaying in San Francisco's Chinatown. (See sidebar below.)

In July 1979, K. W. Lee launched *Koreatown Weekly*, an English-language newspaper for the Korean American community that proved to be an enterprise ahead of its time.

During its nearly five-year run, however, Lee worked with fellow Sacramento Union staffer Steve Chanecka, managing editor/business manager, and Randy Hagihara, news editor/photographer, to produce issue after issue using a most-unusual method they called "I-5 Journalism."

On a weekly basis, Lee and Chanecka drove nearly 800 miles from Los Angeles to Sacramento and back to produce *Koreatown Weekly*, doing prepress in Los Angeles and composing and printing the paper in Sacramento. But for that first issue, Lee and Chanecka used the equipment graciously provided by the *Pacific Citizen* and its then-editor Harry Honda.

The evening reunited Lee, Chanecka, Hagihara and staffers Sophia Kim and David S. Kim,

with each sharing memories of the *Koreatown Weekly* era. Chanecka started the traipse down memory lane, recalling how over lunch at the China Moon restaurant in Sacramento, Lee said he wanted to start an English-language newspaper for Korean Americans across the nation.

Chanecka related the first night of production at the *Pacific Citizen* with "Harry Honda guiding us on a single Compugraphic" (computer photo typesetter) and how they didn't finish until about 3 a.m. After that, they realized they would have to change how they produced the paper.

Hagihara, who would later work for the *Los Angeles Times*, looked back fondly at his experience, remembering details like trapping more than 30 mice over the years at the *Koreatown Weekly's* office space near Los Angeles' Koreatown, as well as the numerous trips made in the company car — a Ford Pinto



Sophia Kim embraces K. W. Lee, her former boss at the *Koreatown Weekly*.



K. W. Lee and Ranko Yamada are reunited for the first time in some 40 years.

station wagon — used to trek back and forth between L.A. and Sacramento.

"To me, working with Lee and Chanecka was the most fun I ever had in journalism, and I was lucky enough to realize it at the time," Hagihara said.

Sophia Kim remembered meeting Hagihara when he came to report on the Center for the Pacific Asian Family, where she was working at the time, for *Koreatown Weekly*. Intrigued, she got the address for the office. She drew laughs when she said, "I just knocked on that door the next day — and I got hired because he [K.W.] hires anybody off the street!"

>> See LEADERSHIP on page 12

## A TALE OF TWO Lees

For a slaying he didn't commit, Chol Soo Lee went to prison. While imprisoned, he killed a fellow inmate, claiming self-defense. He would spend nearly 10 years total in prison, five of those years on death row.

A group of young pan-Asian American community activists, convinced that Chol Soo Lee had been wrongfully tried and convicted for the gang-related slaying of Yip Yee Tak in Chinatown, found that no reporters at either of San Francisco's daily newspapers were interested in pursuing the case. They later learned of a Korean American investigative reporter who lived nearly 100 miles away in Sacramento who was interested. His name was Kyung Won Lee.

One of those community activists was Ranko Yamada. According to a note written by Chol Soo Lee and sent to K. W. Lee, Yamada had been trying to help Chol Soo since his 1973 arrest, which she had read about in the newspapers. According to Yamada, the June 8 dinner was the first time she and K. W. Lee had seen each other in person in 40 years.

Yamada had actually known Chol Soo Lee prior to his arrest, but he was using the name "Charles" at the time. When she read the news reports, she thought Charles and Chol Soo might have been the same person, which she later corroborated. She remembered a friendly young man; some-

thing about the news reports that said he had committed the Chinatown murder just didn't seem right.

Back then, it seemed that no one else cared about his plight, and K. W. would later write that it was Yamada who began the Save Chol Soo Lee committee and that the effort by Chinese Americans, Japanese Americans and Korean Americans to free Chol Soo was one of the first acts of pan-Asian American cooperation.

On his own, K. W. Lee began researching Chol Soo Lee's case, even visiting him in prison for an interview. Part of that research would entail driving to San Francisco, where he would meet many of those in the nascent drive to free Chol Soo.

Inspired by their commitment and intrigued by the seemingly obvious problems with Chol Soo Lee's arrest and conviction, K. W. Lee launched a series of investigative articles — eventually totaling nearly 100 — questioning everything about the Chol Soo Lee case, from why a Korean who spoke no Chinese and limited English was arrested in the first place to egregious mistakes made by a police department and judicial system under political pressure to quickly arrest and imprison someone — anyone — for a crime that could affect perceptions of whether it was safe for tourists to visit the City by the Bay.

"Until he came out with that series of articles, there was quite a bit of suspicion and many questions about supporting

someone who was being charged with murder," Yamada told the *Pacific Citizen*. "If not for those articles, that support would not have been generated."

K. W.'s articles and the community activism were instrumental in getting Chol Soo Lee (no relation to K. W. Lee) a retrial and acquittal nearly 10 years after the Chinatown slaying. But he remained in prison for murdering fellow inmate Morrison Needham. Lee's attorneys plea-bargained the conviction to second-degree murder, and he was freed after being credited for time served.

Freedom did not, however, free Chol Soo Lee from battling the trauma of having done hard time in behind bars. Even as he counseled young people to stay on the straight and narrow, he struggled with drug abuse and other problems and would again land in prison for 18 months on drug-related charges.

In 1989, the Chol Soo Lee saga was the inspiration for the movie "True Believer," starring James Woods, Robert Downey Jr. and Yuji Okumoto. Absent from the movie was anything about Asian American activists or an investigative reporter who brought the issue to light.

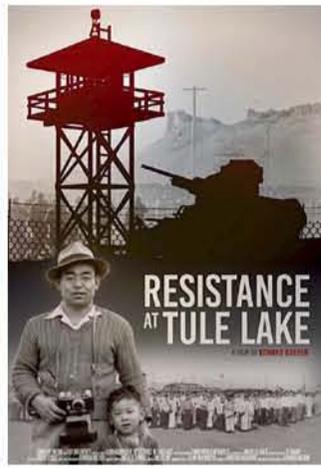
K. W. Lee was presented with the Asian American Journalists Assn.'s Excellence in Print Journalism award in 1987 at the first AAJA National Convention. He was also inducted into the Journalism History Gallery at Washington, D.C.'s Newseum in 1997.

Chol Soo Lee died in 2014 at age 62. ■

# FILM TAKES CENTER STAGE AT THE 2018 JACL CONVENTION



“Relocation Arkansas” title card



“Resistance at Tule Lake”



“For the Sake of the Children’s”  
Misako Shigekawa



“And Then They Came for Us”

Documentary films ‘highlight a multitude of perspectives from within the Japanese American experience.’

By Rob Buscher,  
Member, JACL Philadelphia  
Board of Directors

This year at the 2018 JACL National Convention, attendees will have the opportunity to enjoy half a dozen compelling documentary film titles that highlight a multitude of perspectives from within the Japanese American experience. Presented in partnership with Philadelphia Asian American Film Festival, the East Coast’s premier festival specializing in Asian American and Pacific Islander content, the film program seeks to address aspects of the Japanese American story that are often neglected.

“Relocation, Arkansas” is one film that exemplifies this diversity within the saga of wartime incarceration, which was shot primarily in the Deep South. Although life in Arkansas’ Jerome and Rohwer camps was similar in many ways to those in the Western Intermountain region, the stories of the few families who stayed behind in Arkansas after the camps closed provide a wholly different narrative. Director Vivienne Schiffer’s 2016 film features original interviews with Japanese Americans who lived through the last decades of Jim Crow in the rural segregated South, offering an insightful take on racial triangulation and the othering of Asians as neither white nor black.

In addition to screening this film at PAAFF as part of its 2017 Japanese American Showcase, JACL Philadelphia recently presented the title for an audience of state legislators and commonwealth employees at the Pennsylvania State Museum in Harrisburg. The film has been well-received by all audiences and helped foster earnest dialogue across ethnic and racial divides.

Another film in the 2018 JACL National Convention program that demonstrates the regional diversity of the Japanese American community is “The Registry,” a documentary feature co-directed by longtime JACL Twin Cities chapter member Steve Ozone and his cousin, Bill Kubota, who is a senior producer at WTVS Detroit Public Television.

Shot largely in the Great Lakes region, their film chronicles the efforts of aging Japanese American veterans as they document the history of their fellow Military Intelligence Service comrades.

The translation work and other tasks completed by Japanese American MIS soldiers was crucial to the U.S. victory over Japan, yet many of these stories have gone untold within the better-known 442nd narrative of JA service during World War II. Much of the information surrounding their service was previously classified under the Defense Secrets Act, but as information becomes declassified, many of these veterans are beginning to share their stories in their twilight years.

“The Registry” refers to a database being compiled by the documentary’s principal subjects, Seiki Oshiro and Grant Ichikawa, who are both veterans themselves. Their hope is that the registry will allow their fellow MIS veterans to connect with each other and preserve the historical legacy of their service for future generations. This is an exciting film for military and community history buffs alike,

providing a unique insight into an understudied group within the Japanese American veteran community.

“Resistance at Tule Lake” tells a very different kind of story about the wartime experience, seen through the lens of camp survivors who actively resisted the loyalty questionnaire during their incarceration ordeal. In stark contrast to the “model minority” myth that has oftentimes been thrust upon the JA community, this film comprehensively documents the large-scale protests, hunger strike and eventual declaration of martial law that resulted in a prison stockade being built within the existing prison camp to isolate the instigators of the resistance movement.

This film is highly impactful, in that it shows the absolute worst of the incarceration experience, including documented cases where inmates were tortured by U.S. soldiers and the mass coercion of resisters to renounce their U.S. citizenship, which led to thousands of deportations following the end of WWII.

When PAAFF first presented this film to the Philadelphia audience last November, JACL Philadelphia chapter member Ed Kobayashi shared his family’s experience at Tule Lake, including photos of his father, C. Y. Kobayashi, who was detained in the stockade and separated from his family as punishment for his role in the resistance movement.

Director Konrad Aderer is expected to be in attendance at the convention, where he will participate in a post-film Q & A and discussion with Tule Lake incarceration survivors.

Offering yet another perspective on incarceration is director Marlene Shigekawa’s film “For the Sake of the Children,” which focuses primarily on the unique challenges faced by mothers who either gave birth in camp or otherwise raised young children during the incarceration.

Largely centered around the Poston camp, the film addresses a complex interplay of culture, racial prejudice, history and intergenerational differences as it explores the legacy of incarceration.

The last feature in this program is titled “And Then They Came for Us,” a 2017 film from experienced documentarian Abby Ginzberg, whose 2011 short “The Barber of Birmingham” was nominated for an Academy Award.

Ginzberg’s latest project retells the story of incarceration from the framework of contemporary discourse around the Muslim travel ban, drawing parallels between our communities’ respective experiences.

Narrated in part by George Takei, this film presents a direct call to action for individuals and organizations to oppose legislation made on grounds of ethnic or religious discrimination.

In addition to the feature documentary titles, a collection of short films will be presented as a thematic program called “Legacies of Camp,” a version of which premiered at the 2017 PAAFF. Short film titles will be announced at a later date but are anticipated to address a wide array of subjects spanning Issei immigrant experiences, wartime incarceration, reintegration and assimilation after camp, as well as intergenerational trauma experienced by descendants of the incarceration survivors.

While the full feature version of the film is still making its way through the festival circuit, JACL will also be presenting a short excerpt from director Dianne Fukami’s documentary biopic “An American Story: Norman Mineta and His Legacy.” Having recently premiered at the Center for Asian American Media Festival in San Francisco, the film is the first to tell the life story of former U.S. Secretary of Transportation Mineta, which includes an emphasis on his role in the Redress Movement.

>> See FILM on page 12



“The Registry’s” Seiki Oshiro (left) meets Grant Ichikawa in person for the first time after years of collaborating via the Internet on compiling a registry.



Ed Kobayashi at PAAFF’s “Resistance at Tule Lake” panel



“An American Story: Norman Mineta”

# PRESENTING CANDIDATES FOR THE 2018-20 JACL NATIONAL BOARD

Among the important business aspects of this year's JACL National Convention in Philadelphia will be the election of a new JACL National Board for the next biennium. Following are candidates' statements of those who submitted their application before the nominations deadline. Floor nominations are allowed and are subject to additional requirements, in addition to turning in the Candidate's Application Form. For more information, visit the JACL website.

## CANDIDATES FOR NATIONAL PRESIDENT

**Michelle Amano,**  
Washington, D.C., Chapter



The primary challenging issue I see facing JACL is fundraising. This has and will continue to be something that will affect all aspects of JACL. Without the appropriate funding, JACL cannot hire adequate staff to assist the Executive Director or manage programs such as college outreach, fellowships and internships, membership retention, social justice and voting rights. Funding is required to adequately compensate our hard-working and dedicated staff. It is important that JACL is addressing the many issues where our voice can be heard.

Everyone can help with fundraising — it can be as simple as increasing your membership level within the organization or giving gifts to memorialize present and future generations. I have been a Millennium Club member since joining the National Board as Governor from the EDC. Therefore, I understand there is a significant amount of sacrifice in time and money to be working for a volunteer organization like JACL.

I graduated from Goucher College, the former sister school of Johns Hopkins University, where I received a bachelor of arts degree in communications. Since graduating from college, I have had many life experiences by working with a law firm and receiving my paralegal certification and earning my Maryland Real Estate license.

I had the experience of working as an eldercare caregiver to my grandmother. However, to understand how I could better help my grandmother, I took a two-year course at Johns Hopkins University and received my Elder Care certification. I have

grown to empathize with Nikkei who are caring for their parents or grandparents.

Taking care of the elderly creates additional responsibilities and greater burdens for many of our JACL families.

**Please state your definition of leadership and your perception of the role of the JACL National Board.**

*To me, the definition of leadership is someone who is able to work with everyone within the confines of the group, and it includes respecting those who want to be involved and allowing them to participate in the discussion. New ideas and views make sure that everyone can express their opinion and hopefully expand the thinking of the group.*

*One of the ways of achieving success is the teaming up of group members to work on various aspects of the same project. We have done this successfully within the Washington, D.C., chapter by having co-presidents. Many of the people in our area travel for business and are not readily available on a full-time basis. By sharing responsibilities, there is consistency and continuity in carrying out our programs. The JACL National Board could be working in a similar manner with the vice presidents with different particular responsibilities working for an overall similar goal.*

**Jeffrey Moy,**  
Washington, D.C. Chapter



My name is Jeffrey Moy, and I am running for National President. I am currently Senior Program Manager for Culture of Health Leaders, an opportunity for people across the country to form new partnerships to build healthier communities. I have managed programs for several nonprofit organizations, received a master of public administration from

Baruch College and a bachelor of arts in philosophy and psychology from the University of Southern California.

In my time with JACL, I've been fortunate to work with many amazing members across the country. But I've also found myself wondering why so many of my friends and colleagues have left the organization and what we could have done to retain such amazing leaders. Perhaps it's due to changes in their lives, or burnout, or frustration; there are plenty of good reasons. But JACL is something special: a family of fierce advocates brought together by a shared heritage, fighting against future injustices. Unfortunately, I think that special quality has become all too easy to forget.

It's time for us to come together and reinvest in this organization, to dig deep and find new solutions so that JACL can thrive as we move forward. With the right team in place, I know that we can ensure that JACL continues to be a beacon of hope and justice for decades to come. We are at a critical juncture: We can have business as usual, or we can approach JACL with renewed excitement and energy and remind all of us why we are privileged to be a part of this incredible community. Thank you for all that you do for JACL, and thank you for your consideration.

**Please state your definition of leadership and your perception of the role of the JACL National Board.**

*Leadership involves listening to those you represent and working collectively to find solutions for the greater good. Leaders serve their communities by developing an understanding of the issues that need to be worked on, as well as the actions that will create change.*

*The National Board serves the JACL in executing the vision and mission, serving the membership and ensuring the success and sustainability of the organization. Although part of this responsibility is fiduciary, ultimately, National Board members are elected because delegates trust that these officers will do what is best for the organization and the greater community JACL represents.*

## NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT FOR GENERAL OPERATIONS

No applications submitted.

## NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

**Sarah Baker,** Seattle Chapter



My name is Sarah Baker, and I am running for the position of Vice President for Public Affairs. I work as a program manager for Wayfind, a nonprofit based out of Seattle that provides legal trainings and pro bono services to NPOs within the State of Washington. I graduated from North Seattle College with a B.A. in international business.

One challenging issue I feel the JACL must address is an internal one: How do we plan to remain at the forefront of civil rights groups while simultaneously retaining our legacy? As the United States' oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization, we have a duty to our members to represent Japanese American history through the lens of social justice and advocacy. But as our numbers continue to dwindle, we must draw upon other sources outside of our immediate community to replenish and revitalize our membership base. How do we expand our network to be inclusive of non-Japanese American identities?

The answer to this question is unfortunately not a simple one, and I believe that we must take a critical look at our organization to find ways to broaden our horizons for the continued growth and success of the JACL in the future. Our organization has a long and illustrious history that cannot be forgotten, lest we see history repeat itself. It is up to us to keep that story alive while continuing to stay relevant with current events. Moving forward, I see us building deeper relationships and coalitions that will hopefully strengthen us as a membership-based organization and continue to keep us on a path that aligns with our mission and vision.

It has been an honor to be a member of the JACL, and I look forward to continuing to serve in whatever capacities I am able.

**How would you implement the JACL's Strategic Plan in your elected office?**

*If elected to the position of VP for Public Affairs, I would ensure that the voice of the organization be representative of the Strategic Plan by working with other officers on the National Board, specifically the Executive Director and National President. Having an awareness of the organization's past and current positions on national issues pertaining to civil rights and social justice will be key in carrying out the roles and duties of this position, in addition to clearly and concisely communicating with other community leaders and advocates on behalf of the organization.*

## NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT FOR PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

**Matthew Farrells,**  
Twin Cities Chapter



Thank you for the honor of serving as Vice President for Planning and Development during the 2018-2020 biennium. It is truly a great pleasure to fulfill this role and lead JACL toward continued prosperity. I owe the success of this term to my fellow colleagues on the JACL National Board, the dedicated and hard-working staff and to the membership, who have given me their trust to serve in this important role.

When I ran for office during the period leading up to the 2018 National Convention, I was committed to these vital initiatives: 1) Continued support of existing grant and scholarship programs and 2) an increased effort

>> See next page

>>>  
 on fundraising. Not only were these the platform initiatives I ran on, but more importantly the goals, which will define my term as VP for Planning and Development. Despite our past accomplishments in these areas to date, I believe there is always room for improvement. So, as I prepare to continue to serve the membership in this role, I look forward to focusing on and improving our grant and scholarship programming and fundraising efforts as an organization.

In closing, I believe my experience serving on the National Board as well as my personal and professional experiences will greatly aide me in contributing toward the success of the organization during the 2018-2020 biennium.

**How would you implement the JACL's Strategic Plan in your elected office?**

*I will provide leadership in executing the JACL'S Strategic Plan in several major ways. First, I will push for programming at the National Board level that is vital to grow awareness of our organization, issues and mission throughout the communities we work and live. JACL programs, including scholarships and grants, create the means of providing education on advocacy, leadership, social justice and community preservation. Second, I will support the fundraising and budget allocation efforts to allow the JACL programs to flourish and succeed. Without the proper funding of these crucial programs, we will set them up to fail.*

**NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT FOR ONE THOUSAND CLUB, MEMBERSHIP AND SERVICES**

**Haruka Roudebush,**  
 San Francisco Chapter



I am Haruka Roudebush, and I am running for Vice President of 1,000 Club, Membership and Services. I work as the programs manager at the

Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California in San Francisco's Japantown, where I administer ongoing classes and activities, as well as plan and coordinate cultural, educational and recreational workshops, activities and festivals. I am a Shin-Issei and was born in Tokyo, Japan, and immigrated to San Francisco at the age of 2. I became a naturalized U.S. citizen at 12. I grew up in the Bay Area in Lafayette, Calif., and received my bachelor's degree in political science with a minor in Japanese studies from UC San Diego. My previous career was as a paralegal for a civil rights law firm working on California state prison reform and prisoner rights advocacy, and I appreciate that the JACL continues to provide me with means to engage in both the Japanese American community and with civil rights issues and policy.

A challenge JACL faces is the struggle to remain visible and effective as an advocacy organization while contending with generational change and leadership succession. I believe the JACL can continue being an exciting and effective organization to be part of, so long as we take actions that are impactful, develop skills and leadership experience of our younger members and can market our organization as one that is a dynamic and exciting cause to sustain and an authoritative voice for our community that commands respect.

As the JACL's current VP of Membership, I was appointed mid-term and believe I can accomplish my plan of action if given an additional term to see it through. From technical improvements to activating our members, I intend to stem the long-running trend of declining membership and reinvigorate the ranks of our organization. I understand that people are members for a multitude of reasons, but I understand even better that strong memberships are built on a sense of pride and achievement through the organization, and even more importantly, the social bonds and cherished connections developed through the JACL.

**How would you implement the JACL's Strategic Plan in your elected office?**

*The Strategic Plan provides several points to form strategies for membership retention and recruitment around. If elected for an additional term, I intend to continue working on the goals set forth for membership, which incorporate priorities set forth in the Strategic Plan, including continuing to support the establishment and growth of the Young Professionals Caucus. I believe that effective membership engagement is crucial to any future growth in JACL membership and will require us to implement other areas of the Strategic Plan beyond*

*just the section specifically pertaining to membership, including visible advocacy, social and community enrichment and outreach and partnerships with other communities and new constituents.*

**NATIONAL SECRETARY/TREASURER**

**James Kirihara,**  
 Twin Cities Chapter



Hello, my name is James Kirihara, and I am running for National Secretary/Treasurer. I am a fourth-generation Japanese American, and my family has been involved in the JACL Twin Cities (Minnesota) chapter for decades after my grandparents were interned at the Topaz internment camp in Utah and the Tule Lake internment camp in California. JACL has been a presence throughout much of my life, from local JACL meetings and potluck dinners during my childhood, to scholarship support during my college education and my involvement as Treasurer of the National Youth Student Council (NY/SC) during the early part of my career. I would be honored to give back to the organization by serving as National Secretary/Treasurer and believe I have sufficient qualifications to successfully serve in the role.

I have worked professionally for over 10 years, first as a public accountant at KPMG and then as a management consultant at Accenture. I completed my bachelor's and master's degrees in accountancy at the University of Notre Dame and recently completed a master's degree in Business Administration at Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management.

As Secretary/Treasurer, I would prioritize fiscal responsibility for the organization to ensure we can continue to support key programs and initiatives in the short term as well as the long term. I believe it is crucial for the organization to continue to reassess sustainable sources of funding for the future and maintain budget discipline and agility to quickly react to ever-changing circumstances and unpredictability. I will advocate for reshaping the organization to align

with its strategic priorities in contrast to doing things for the sake of tradition or "because it is the way it has always been done." Thank you for your consideration and support.

**How would you assist in or actively participate in raising funds for JACL?**

*Given the nature of the role of Secretary/Treasurer, fundraising would be a key focus area for me to ensure the organization can meet its obligations and support its programs and initiatives. I would promote regular reviews of actual fundraising efforts and outcomes vs. plans to identify potential shortfalls that may require board attention to resolve in current budgets and spending. Additionally, I would actively promote fundraising efforts both within JACL membership, as well as through outside supporters and partners. I believe having additional corporate/business sponsors would be beneficial for fundraising, as well as diversifying the funding sources so that we are not overly dependent on one or a handful of companies.*

**NATIONAL YOUTH/STUDENT COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON**

**Kota Mizutani,**  
 Washington, D.C. Chapter



Ask what single factor has contributed most to my life, and I will always give the same answer: the JACL. From offering leadership opportunities to support my journey through Brown University to providing the guidance and resources needed to pursue a career as a Congressional staffer on AAPI issues, the JACL has consistently contributed to my personal, academic and professional life. My own experiences as a lifelong beneficiary of the JACL's mentorship lies at the center of why, as current NY/SC Chair, I hope to continue leading one of JACL's greatest programs: National Youth/Student Council.

Throughout my experience with the JACL — as Chapter Youth Represent-

tative, District Youth Representative and Chair — I have encountered an array of levels of youth engagement. From some chapters with active youth groups to whole districts with little to no youth engagement, the JACL has long suffered from a disjointed youth leadership pipeline. Indeed, one of the JACL's most significant challenges regarding youth membership is that, oftentimes, young leaders who become involved with their chapters or districts find few opportunities to engage in advocacy work and eventually discontinue their involvement.

In my second term as NY/SC Chair, I will continue to work with the rest of the NY/SC to develop a stronger and more coordinated youth leadership pipeline across the JACL. Through coordinated Youth Leadership Summits, a robust communications strategy and stronger district-based youth structures, the NY/SC can dramatically expand its reach beyond the national level. After all, if JACL, can, on all levels, invest in each youth member the same way it invested in me, then perhaps one day the JACL will become not only the "oldest and largest civil rights organization in the United States," but also the "most effective and innovative civil rights organization in the United States."

**Articulate the current ideological differences between youth and older members and how you would address them.**

*Like most other AAPI communities and communities overall, the JACL faces ideological schisms between its younger and older members. While older JACL members tend to assess young people as incapable, inexperienced and perhaps radical, younger JACL members are often frustrated with the organization's lack of activism despite its civil rights-based mission and vision. This tension has undoubtedly entrenched itself over the years and created a deep generational divide.*

*To address these differences, I would continue to support ongoing NY/SC programs that develop stronger intergenerational understanding by highlighting the mutually beneficial relationship possible between younger and older members. Programs like the National Convention Mentorship program, for example, help younger members learn from the experiences and expertise of older mentors, while providing opportunities for mentees to educate older mentors on contemporary issues.*

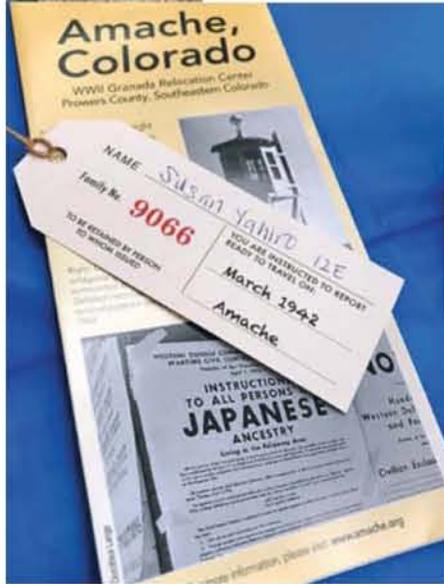
**NATIONAL YOUTH/STUDENT COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE**

No applications submitted. ■

PHOTOS: ATHENA MARI ASKLIPIADIS



Amache entrance



Amache camp

Susan (Yahiro) Asklipiadis stands by the original guard tower.



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF THE YAHIRO FAMILY

# MY PILGRIMAGE TO AMACHE AS A YONSEI JAPANESE AMERICAN

Susan and her brother, Stephen Yahiro, in front of their barrack



memories of my still-living relatives, I feel like time and opportunity are now escaping us very quickly.

It is sad to think our family history at Camp Amache could certainly be lost forever unless we younger generations take it upon ourselves to preserve it now while we still can.

When my uncle passed away, I came across old Amache reunion shirts and programs when going through his things. One such program had this quote by Amache internee and family friend George Y. Hirano, who said, "Barbed wire, barracks and towers — gone. Now . . . only friendships live on and on."

This place and experience, as difficult as it was, was clearly an important part of understanding the fabric of my family. But somehow, many of the details remained between the internees, a secret of sorts.

I had often heard that other people had gone on pilgrimages to places like Manzanar or Tule Lake over the years, but no one in my immediate family had been on a pilgrimage to Amache yet. Some didn't even know there were Amache pilgrimages until I used good ol' Google and discovered *Amache.org* and the amazing resources available made possible by the Amache Preservation Society.

After doing some hours of online research, I was in awe of all the current efforts being done in Granada, Colo., to not only preserve and excavate the site, but also even reconstruct some parts of the camp so that visitors can see original structures.

APS Founder John Hopper teaches at Granada High School, where he and his students dedicate countless hours each year to the pilgrimage events, operating the Amache Museum and preserving and restoring the campsite.

Leading up the excavation and research side is University of Denver's Dr. Bonnie Clark, who I learned also personally gives tours to Amacheans wishing to visit their barrack's location.

And probably one of the most amazing resources I came across was the Library of Congress' collection of camp newspapers all in digital form online.

Reading archived copies of the *Pioneer*, Amache's newspaper, was an incredible way for me to connect with the lives of my grandparents and aunts and uncles, seeing headlines and articles about their time in camp. It soon became imperative that I had to start docu-

menting my family's stories as soon as possible and make plans to see Amache for myself.

On May 18, my mother and I took a flight to Denver and then a three-hour drive to Granada for the annual Amache pilgrimage on May 19. What struck me the most about the scenery driving there was how flat and desolate the area was.

Seeing miles and miles of open road, I kept repeating, "Wow, there's a whole lot of nothing!" to which my mom replied, "Well that's why they stuck us out here!"

Seeing how far outside of Denver it was and thinking about how long that train ride was from California, I began to immediately feel a sense of sadness. How could the government just pluck Americans out of their comfortable lives and leave them in a deserted field in the middle of nowhere like that? I really cannot imagine the depths of pain and anger adult internees must have felt.

When finally entering Amache, it was such an eerie experience. It was like stepping out of a time machine. The original guard tower, water tower and a recreation hall were all brought back in their original locations, in addition to a barrack replica built recently to exact scale and design. These fixtures evoked so many bittersweet feelings for me.

I was really excited to finally see this part of my history, but it starkly juxtaposed my thoughts of anger that the internees were imprisoned here against their will. I immediately thought about how it was for my family seeing this scenery daily and having to call this place home for three years — the same skies, the same dirt, the same trees, but for them, behind barbed-wire fences with an

### YAHIRO IS ACTING CHRISTIAN PASTOR

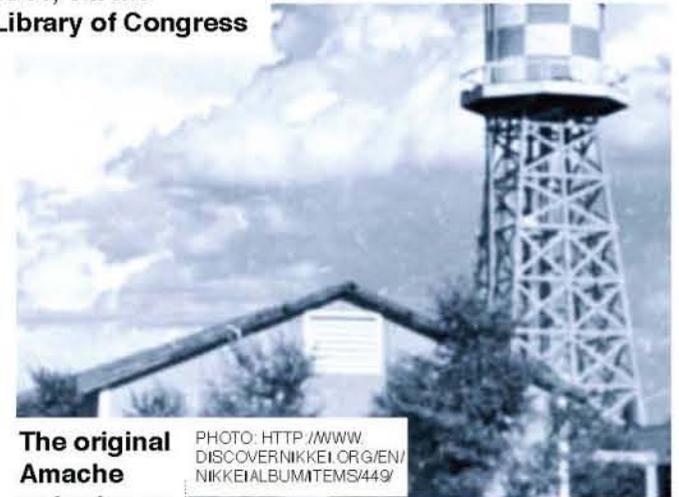
Rev. George Y. Yahiro will be acting pastor pro tem of the Granada Christian church until Rev. Nakamura arrives from Jerome relocation center to take over the duties vacated by Rev. Lester Suzuki. Rev. Nakamura was a pastor of the Methodist church in Sacramento, Calif., before evacuation.

Rev. Suzuki recently relocated to Los Moines, Ia., to promote public relations for the Methodist church. Shiro Abe was chosen acting chairman.

Granada Pioneer newspaper, May 3, 1944, via the Library of Congress



The Yahiro family: Rev. George Yahiro, Hatsu, daughter Esther, daughter Eunice (back) carrying Susan and son Andrew



The original Amache water tower

PHOTO: HTTP://WWW.DISCOVERNIKKEI.ORG/EN/NIKKEIALBUMITEMS/449/



Susan (Yahiro) Asklipiadis looks at an overview of Camp Amache.

By Athena Mari Asklipiadis

My mother, Susan (Yahiro) Asklipiadis, was just 1-1/2 years old when she was interned at Camp Amache in Granada, Colo., in 1942. Because her childhood recollections were limited due to her young age, hearing about camp through the stories of her siblings, who were 10 or more years older, was something I began to appreciate more and more over the years.

I would hear how fun it was for my aunts to sneak out to a dance or movie — something their strict minister father was very opposed to. But besides the good times, I would also hear about the lack of privacy in the shared restrooms and the harsh winters or how sand would fly into their barrack and pelt their legs during walks when the wind was strong.

Their storytelling was a mishmash of the good and the bad, but overall, my family mostly saw their internment as just a part of life, something unavoidable. It wasn't until my twenties, though, that I began to take careful mental notes and realize how my family's experiences were a very unique part of U.S. history.

My now-late Uncle Stephen, who had quite the memory, would illustrate his childhood recollections with vivid detail, something I have really begun to miss recently.

He would talk enthusiastically about working for pennies doing farm work, playing sports and how his ride to the Merced Assembly Center when first relocating was so exciting because it was his first time taking a train. He told me he was even the envy of a young naive non-Japanese classmate who told him "he sure was lucky" to be able to ride a train.

The past few years though, I started hearing these types of camp stories less and less. Whether it was because of the passing of older family members or because of the fading

PHOTOS: ATHENA MARI ASKLIPIADIS

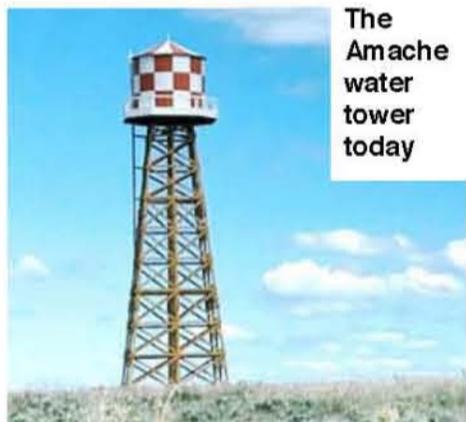
**Min Tonai pays tribute to the lives lost at Amache.**



**Dr. Bonnie Clark with Minoru Imamura at the site of his barrack**



**Amacheans**



**The Amache water tower today**



**Former Amache 12-E residents meet again: Jim Fukui and Susan (Yahiro) Asklipiadis.**

unknown release date.

The first event of the pilgrimage was the memorial ceremony at the camp cemetery. Both locals and quite a few visitors from out of town gathered to pray and share memories of Amache.

Min Tonai, a fixture in the JA community and proud Amachean, was among those who shared his thoughts and paid his respects that morning. It was particularly touching for attendees to be able to place a flower at the stone memorial, which features engraved names of 442nd Regimental Combat Team casualties, as well as a written dedication reminding us of the lives lost while interned at Amache — many

of whom were likely babies and the elderly who never saw life again outside of the camp.

Following the memorial service, my mother and I wandered through the cemetery as attendees dispersed to the next destination on the schedule. We scanned the names on the various graves to see if we recognized anyone familiar.

At the last row of graves, we found a man doing the same. I figured he looked around the age of a possible internee, so I asked, “Were you interned here?” He answered yes, and my mom said she was, too. The man, asked, “Which block were you?” And my mom answered, “12-E.” To our surprise, he said he was also from 12-E.

His name was Jim Fukui, and it turned out he knew my mother’s siblings, and he even remembered my late Uncle Stephen, who was close in age. What were the odds that the first internee we would meet was someone from the same block? And then to hear his recollection of my family members was so touching. It instantly reconfirmed why I made the trek out to Granada.

Listening to first-hand stories and understanding how camp life was like from people who actually knew my family is something I could not have easily found without attending this pilgrimage.

It was so emotional to think that we were standing on the grounds where over 75 years prior, my mom was just a baby and this man was just a kid unaware of the significance of their circumstances at the time, but now many years later, fully knowing the weight of that experience on their families and that they would actually become a part of America’s dark WWII history.

After the memorial gathering ended, we made our way to Granada High School for a much-needed light-hearted potluck lunch organized by the school’s Amache Club. It was a larger crowd than what was at the cemetery site.

Former internees and locals socialized over plates filled with sandwiches, inari sushi, potato salad, BBQ chicken wings and spam musubi as they sipped Japanese Ramune soda.

Lunch guests included U.S. Senators and a representative from the office of the Consulate General of Japan, Denver, all of whom spoke

about being dedicated to the preservation of Amache and the importance that history not repeat itself.

The most poignant point of the lunch program was when Sen. Cory Gardner (R-Colo.) announced that Bill 2870 was in its first stage of the legislation process, which could potentially turn Amache into a national park. It made my mom and I incredibly touched to see how many wonderful people there were in the state of Colorado who were all working together to make sure the people of Amache and their experiences would never be forgotten.

The event concluded with the presentation of scholarships by the Japanese Association of Colorado to graduating seniors of Granada High who were in the Amache Club.

Following the lunch, my mother ran into another gentleman from block 12-E, Richard Hidaka, who she discovered was the older brother of her preschool camp friend. He traveled from the Chicago area for this pilgrimage. It was really something for my mom to reconnect with old family friends, many of whom had not been in contact since their camp days.

While my mom was reminiscing, I was busy making new friends. During the lunch program, the emcee asked how many in the audience were from the Yonsei generation, and I along with a few others raised our hands. It was heartwarming to see other young people supporting their family legacy by attending the pilgrimage.

It was even more impressive to meet people like Kimiko Marr of the aptly named film production company Hapa Yonsei Productions, who was there to film an internment camp documentary.

Being a fellow filmmaker, and also a hapa Yonsei myself, I had to meet her. I was so excited to hear about her goal in filming at all 10 camps and telling these important stories.

Meeting people like her and John Tonai (Min Tonai’s son), a photographer also documenting internment stories, really encouraged me to continue inquiring about my family’s experiences. Every family has a unique camp story, and I really need to make sure I record ours. I encourage other Japanese Americans of my generation to do the same.

The second half of the day was filled with an amazing tour led by Dr. Clark, who took my mom and I, as well as fellow Amachean Minoru Imamura, 92, and his family, to see the remnants of our families’ barracks. Imamura was not only an internee, but also a 442nd veteran.

While walking to the place of his former barrack, he recollected about his family’s life leading up to camp. He shared that it was filled with promise of a new broccoli farm, but that it was all cut short by internment. His family lost their land, their brand-new tractor and the belongings they did not have time to sell.

Hearing him share his family’s difficulties so matter-of-factly echoed the same tone in which my family speaks of their own hard times. They don’t dwell, they move forward — *shikata ga nai* (it can’t be helped).

I remained in awe as Imamura whizzed through the overgrown weeds and brush, keeping up with the group as Dr. Clark effortlessly pointed out almost invisible building foundations.

My mom and I were so grateful to Dr. Clark for bringing us to what remains of my family’s barrack at 12-E, 2-E and to also see the foun-

ation of Terry Hall, where my grandfather, Rev. George Yahiro, would deliver sermons. Being in the exact spot where my family’s barrack was located was definitely humbling.

As the wind rustled through branches and birds chirped, I tried to imagine the feelings each of my family members must have felt. Their sacrifices and hard work following internment to survive is something I am so proud of when looking at the dusty barren land they rose up from.

Throughout the tour with Dr. Clark, it became clear she knew Amache like the back of her hand, and her deep knowledge of the terrain and the way life was in camp shows how passionate she is about her work.

The endless hours of research and getting to know internees’ stories was obvious in her ability to simply pick up things like a vague looking piece of glass and identifying that it was from an old ketchup bottle in the mess hall. I was also shocked at her ability to recognize various plants, flowers and trees on the grounds, distinguishing which were native to the area and which were planted by internees. She mentioned that her team would like to next reconstruct a garden to resemble the types of plants the internees managed to grow while there.

Dr. Clark is like the Jane Goodall of Amache — she lives and breathes this research, and our community is so blessed to have someone like her preserving our histories.

The pilgrimage ended in the best way — a casual dinner with our new and old Amache friends sitting close together. My mom and her fellow Amacheans also gathered for a group photo. It was incredible to learn that nearly half of this year’s attending internees were from my family’s same block!

Our pilgrimage experience was such a memorable time for my mom and me. We learned so much about Amache thanks to the amazing folks in Colorado like Mr. Hopper and Dr. Clark. It is also incredibly touching to know that many of these Amache supporters are non-Japanese locals who feel strongly about honoring the Japanese American community and its history. These allies and our relationships with them are truly the best gift born out of such a segregated, racist past.

It is also reminiscent of the good stories from my family about the various groups like the Quakers or other noninterned folks who supported and showed love to our community during its most fragile time.

The war did bring out the worst in a lot of Americans, but it also brought out the best in many as well.

The trip also taught me how vital visiting your family’s camp is — a definite must for any Japanese American to understand where you come from. But just as important, it is extremely beneficial for non-Japanese Americans to learn about this part of history as well.

I encourage everyone to take the time to talk to your obachan if she is still living or your Japanese American neighbor who lived in an internment camp and write those stories down. As young JA’s, I truly believe it is our duty to do our part in recording these personal histories so we may never forget and so it is also never repeated.

*Athena Mari Asklipiadis, a hapa Japanese L.A. native, is the founder of Mixed Marrow, a filmmaker and a diversity advocate.*

A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

# CALENDAR

## National

**JACL National Convention Philadelphia, PA July 18-22 Sheraton Downtown 201 N. 17th St.**  
Join JACL at its National Convention, themed "Redress, Resistance and Reconciliation." JACL will look back on the success of redress in this, the 30th anniversary of the passing of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. Don't miss this opportunity to support JACL and help further its mission of ensuring civil rights for all.  
**Info: Visit <https://jacl.org/2018-convention/>.**

## NCWNP

**Eighth Annual Northern California Soy and Tofu Festival San Francisco, CA June 30; 11 a.m.-5 p.m. The Event Center at Saint Mary's Cathedral 1111 Gough St. (at Geary Boulevard) Price: \$5 for Adults; Free for Children 10 and Under**  
There will be a free revolving shuttle to and from the Japantown Peace Plaza to the Event Center, so come on down and enjoy a day of great food, entertainment and fun! Proceeds will benefit the Nichi Bei Foundation.  
**Info: Visit [www.soyandtofufest.org](http://www.soyandtofufest.org).**

**Midori Kai Arts & Crafts Boutique Mountain View, CA Sept. 8; 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Mountain View Buddhist Temple Gym 575 N. Shoreline Blvd. Price: Free**  
Don't miss this excellent opportunity to get a head-start on Christmas. There also will be food to purchase, as well as entertainment and prize drawings. All proceeds will benefit community nonprofit organizations.  
**Info: Visit [www.midorikai.com](http://www.midorikai.com) or call Phyllis Osaki at (925) 596-1770 or Marsha Baird at (510) 579-1518.**

**Sake Day 2018 San Francisco, CA Sept. 29; 4-8 p.m. Hotel Kabuki 1625 Post St. Price: Early Bird \$70; General Admission \$80**  
Come to the original and largest sake day celebration outside of Japan! Enjoy more than 200 different types of sake, as well as learn about all things sake from sake education stations. All proceeds from this event will benefit the JCCNC.  
**Info: Visit [www.jccnc.org](http://www.jccnc.org).**

## PSW

**'What We Carried: Fragments & Memories From Iraq & Syria' Los Angeles, CA**

**Thru Aug. 5 Japanese American National Museum 100 N. Central Ave.**  
This exhibition of photographs by Jim Lommasson captures cherished personal objects brought to the U.S. by Iraqi and Syrian refugees who successfully resettled in the States. This traveling exhibition's theme echoes one found in discussions of the JA incarceration experience during WWII.  
**Info: Visit [janm.org](http://janm.org).**

**2018 Nishi Hongwanji Buddhist Temple Obon Los Angeles, CA July 7 and 8; 2:30-9 p.m. Nishi Hongwanji Buddhist Temple 815 First St. Price: Free**  
Don't miss this year's Obon festival featuring Bon Odori, live music and taiko, flowers, carnival games, farmer's market, cultural exhibits, bingo and delicious food. All are welcome to attend this annual celebration to honor and remember loved ones.  
**Info: Visit [nishihongwanji-la.org](http://nishihongwanji-la.org).**

**Sake on the Rocks Los Angeles, CA July 20; 7-10 p.m. Japanese American Cultural & Community Center 244 S. San Pedro St. Price: Early Bird Tickets (\$100 thru June 30); General Admission (\$125 starting July 1)**  
U.S. Bank presents Little Tokyo Service Center's 12th annual sake and food tasting event. Admission is for adults 21 years of age or older. Don't miss this great opportunity to sample fine food and drink from such establishments as Feast From the East, Prime Pizza, Shakas, Roy's, Far Bar, Sake Duju and more. All proceeds will benefit the LTSC.  
**Info: Visit [ltsc.org](http://ltsc.org).**

## PNW

**'A Dragon Lives Here' — Part 4 Seattle, WA Currently on exhibit The Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience 719 S. King St. Price: \$17 General museum admission for adults**  
Created in partnership with the Bruce Lee Foundation, this exhibit, Part 4 in a series, hones in on the legendary martial artist's Seattle roots and the fact that the city, now known as a city for innovation, technology and entrepreneurs, also played a key role in shaping Bruce Lee and his groundbreaking approach.  
**Info: Visit [wingluke.org](http://wingluke.org).**

**All Things Japanese Sale Seattle, WA Aug. 17-19 JCCCW 1414 S. Weller St.**  
Save the date for the All Things Japanese Sale, a large rummage sale hosted by the Hosekibako:

Japanese Resale Shop at JCCCW. **Info: Visit [jcccw.org](http://jcccw.org).**

## IDC

**2018 Minidoka Pilgrimage Twin Falls, ID July 5-8 See Registration information for event address, lodging information and more.**  
This is a great opportunity to learn, share memories and ask questions about the Minidoka experience. Consider participating as a way to bring your family together and reconnect with friends. Several trip packages are available that include lodging and transportation options.  
**Info: For online registration, visit <http://minidokapilgrimage2018.bpt.me/>.**

## MDC

**'Restoring America's Promise' Minneapolis, MN June 30; 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Christensen Center at Augsburg College Marshall Room 720 22nd Ave. South Price: Free, but participants must register. Light breakfast and lunch included.**  
Mitch Maki, president and CEO of Go for Broke National Education Center, will present a special program designed for young people that tells the story of the World War II Japanese American experience. Twin Cities JACL hopes that future generations will continue to educate the public in order to ensure that such injustices never happen again. All are welcome to attend. Registration deadline is June 27.  
**Info: To register, email Carolyn Nayematsu at [nayem001@umn.edu](mailto:nayem001@umn.edu) (include your name, high school or college, email address, phone num-**

**ber and any dietary restrictions). For more information, call (651) 699-7407.**

**'Courage and Compassion: Our Shared Story of the Japanese American WWII Experience' St. Paul, MN June 30-Sept. 3 Historic Fort Snelling Visitors Center 200 Tower Ave. Price: Free and open to the public. Viewing hours are Tues.-Fri., 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sat., Sun. and Labor Day, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.**  
The Twin Cities chapter of the JACL and Historic Snelling present this traveling exhibition developed by the Go for Broke National Education Center, which chronicles the Japanese American WWII experience.  
**Info: Contact [tjjacl.org](http://tjjacl.org).**

**Tomodachi Super Senior Luncheon Minneapolis, MN July 14; 11:30 a.m. Hibachi Buffet 111 E. Lake St. Price: Adults 75+ are free; \$11 buffet lunch**  
Co-sponsored by the Twin Cities JACL, Nikkei Project and the Twin Cities Buddhist Assn., this is a great excuse to visit with longtime friends in this community appreciation event! All are welcome to attend!  
**Info: For reservations, call Todd Tsuchiya at (952) 975-0047 or email [ttsuchiya@comcast.net](mailto:ttsuchiya@comcast.net).**

## EDC

**Philadelphia Chinese Lantern Festival Philadelphia, PA Thru June 30 Franklin Square 200 N. Sixth St. Price: Free**  
The Philadelphia Chinese Lantern

Festival returns for its third year of illuminating Franklin Square with grand, artistic creations. The area will come alive with 15,000 LED lights across 28 different displays featuring 1,500 works of art.  
**Info: Visit [www.visitphilly.com](http://www.visitphilly.com).**

**Last Defense: The Genius of Japanese Meiji Metalwork Worcester, MA Thru Sept. 2 Worcester Art Museum 55 Salisbury St.**  
This exhibition focuses on the genius and versatility of metalworkers during the transitional period of the Meiji Restoration.  
**Info: Visit <http://www.worcesterart.org/exhibitions/last-defense-japanese-metalwork/>.**

**Japanese House Gallery Exhibit Home Boston, MA Thru Sept. 30 Boston Children's Museum 308 Congress St.**  
This exhibit explores the meaning and influence of home from the perspective of Japanese students. It also showcases artwork created by the students of the Art Thinking project team at Tohoku University and Design in Japan.  
**Info: Visit <http://www.bostonchildrensmuseum.org/exhibits-programs/exhibits/japanese-house-gallery>.**

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**AMERICAN HOLIDAY TRAVEL**  
**2018 TOUR SCHEDULE**

Hokkaido Summer Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida) WAITLIST . . . . .	July 6-19
Lake Akan, Furano, Asahikawa, Wakkanai, Rishiri Island, Sapporo, Noboribetsu, Lake Toya, Hakodate.	
Pacific Coastal Holiday Cruise (Elaine Ishida) . . . . .	Sep 19-26
Vancouver, Victoria, Astoria-Oregon, San Francisco, Santa Barbara, Los Angeles. Island Princess Ship.	
Classical Japan Autumn Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida) WAITLIST . . . . .	Oct 8-20
Tokyo, Mt. Fuji, Shizuoka, Nagoya, Gifu, Hiroshima, Kyoto.	
New England Autumn Holiday Tour (Carol Hida). . . . .	Oct 12-19
Boston, North Conway, Burlington, Portland, Maple Sugar Farm, Ben & Jerry's Ice Cream Factory, Washington Cog Railway.	
Costa Rica Holiday Tour (Carol Hida). . . . .	Nov 7-15
San Jose, La Fortuna, Monteverde, Punta Arenas, Rain/Cloud Forest, Volcano National Parks, Hotsprings, Coffee Plantation.	
Okinawa Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida) . . . . .	Nov 7-16
Naha, Onnason, Islands of Ishigaki, Iriomote & Taketomi.	

**2019 TOUR SCHEDULE (PARTIAL-TENTATIVE)**

JAPAN SPRING COUNTRYSIDE HOLIDAY TOUR . . . . .	April
CHARLESTON-SAVANNAH-ST AUGUSTINE TOUR . . . . .	April
SOUTH AMERICA JAPANESE HERITAGE HOLIDAY TOUR . . . . .	May
ICELAND EXPLORER HOLIDAY TOUR . . . . .	June
GRANDPARENTS-GRANDCHILDREN JAPAN TOUR . . . . .	June

For more information and reservations, please contact:

AMERICAN HOLIDAY TRAVEL  
312 E. 1st Street, Suite 240 \* Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Tel: (213)625-2232 \* Email: [americanholiday@att.net](mailto:americanholiday@att.net)  
(CST #200326-10) Ernest or Carol Hida Elaine Ishida (Tel: 714-269-4534)

# IN MEMORIAM

**Ando, Michael, 28**, Milwaukie, OR, March 8; he is survived by his parents, Kevin and Tammy Ando; he is also survived by his grandparents, numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

**Hirayama, Isao, 83**, Los Angeles, CA, March 18; he is survived by his wife, Lyn Hirayama; daughter, Leina Wakamiya (Mike); stepson, Richard Reyes (Annie); stepdaughter, Maricel Pe (Reginald); two brothers and one sister; gc: 8.

**Hirooka, Junian, 86**, Monterey Park, CA, March 11; she was predeceased by her husband, George; siblings, Takashi, Haru Shiba and Masa Neishi; she is survived by her daughter, Jill (Kenneth) Israels; gc: 2.

**Inouye, Mabel, 92**, San Jose, CA, Jan. 19; she was predeceased by her husband, Takeshi Inouye; she is survived by her children, Dean Inouye and Julie Wolfgram (Randy); sisters, Fumi Urabe and Dorothy Takatsuno; gc: 2; ggc: 1.

**Iseri, Roy, 81**, Campbell, CA, March 29; he was predeceased by his siblings, Shoji Iseri, Masami Iseri, Tayeko Iseri and Yvonne S. Kobata; he is survived by his siblings, Meriko Ishigaki, Mieko Morikawa, James Iseri (Irene), Walter Iseri and Wayne Iseri; he is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

**Ito, Kazuko, 83**, Oxnard, CA, Jan. 4; she is survived by her husband, Ritsuo; daughters, Susan (Tim Van Loon) Ito, Joyce (Glenn) Ichimoto and Nancy Yamamoto; she is also survived by many other relatives; gc: 2.



**Iwata, Izetta 'Iz' Kahau-nani, 79**, Honolulu, HI, Feb. 26; she is survived by her husband, Richard Iwata; children, Noreen (Paul) LeSage, Dale (Gregg) Aipa, Tracey (Lane) Hirano, Joey (Robert) Mielke and Ryan (Jane) Iwata; siblings, Odetta Fujimori and Wayne Kealalio; gc: 12.



**Kato, Mineko, 97**, Whittier, CA, March 23; she is survived by her children, Alan (Cathy) Kato, Karl (Terrie) Kato and Karen (Abbas) Shokrai; gc: 5.

**Kenmotsu, Miyono, 86**, Chicago, IL, Jan. 28; she is survived by her children, Keith (JoAn), Diane (Mike) Kaneshiro and Steve (Sharon); siblings, Kathy Saiki and Robert Higashi; she is also survived by her grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

**Kuwada, Kay Toshiko, 93**, Kona, HI, Jan. 15; she is survived by her children, Carl (Yvonne) and Carrie (Mark).

**Mino, Helen, 90**, La Mirada, CA, Feb. 28; she was predeceased by her husband, Stanley; she is survived by her children, Don and June.

**Miyagi, Alan, 67**, Oceanside, CA, April 5; he is survived by his wife, Mury; siblings, Mike (Susan), Jim, Patti and Karen (Walton Kaleiwahea); brother-in-law, Miles Ueda (Jennifer); sister-in-law, Rikki Ueda; he is also survived by nieces and a grandnephew.

**Morita, Leatrice Shigeko, 93**, Honolulu, HI, March 9; she is survived by her daughters, Gail (Gary) Lum, Camille (Wendell) Mayeda, Corinne Shigemoto and Lynette (Darrel) Lum; gc: 4; ggc: 5.



**Nishisaki, Masaji, 95**, Sacramento, CA, Jan. 18; during WWII, his family and he were incarcerated at the Jerome WRA Center in AR; he is survived by his brother, Joichi; he is also survived by several cousins.

**Nobuyuki, Kenneth**

**Masanori, 76**, Fountain Valley, CA, Jan. 10; he is survived by his wife, Linda Reiko; son, Tony Kenichi (Kori); brother, Karl (Sandra) Nobuyuki; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2.

**Noguchi, Danko, 67**, Los Angeles, CA, Feb. 17; he is survived by his son, Noboru (Corinne); sister, Akemi Noguchi; he is also survived by other relatives.



**Nojima, Itoko, 97**, Bonita, CA, Feb. 18; during WWII, her husband, Ryohe, and she were incarcerated at the Manzanar WRA Center in CA; she was predeceased by her husband.



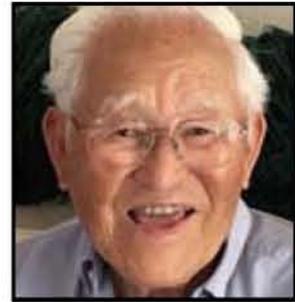
**Oshida, Dorothy Y., 94**, Orange, CA, March 4; she is survived by her children, Bob (Miranda), Jim (Ginny), Gary (Patty) and Cheryl (Parvaze); gc: 10; ggc: 1.

**Otomo, John, 78**, Park Ridge, IL, March 5; he was predeceased by his son, David; he is survived by his wife, Ellen; children, Daniel, Susan (Jim) Ardizzone and Julia Otomo; stepchildren, Matthew (Melissa) Atwood and Eric Atwood; gc: 1.



**Otsuki, Toshio David, 87**, San Jose, CA, March 19; he is survived by his wife, Satoko; children, Carl, Lisa,

John, Brian and Shawn; three sisters; gc: 9.



**Segawa, Ben Satoshi, 87**, Bonita, CA, Jan. 26; he was predeceased by his first wife, Keiko Katherine Tasaki; he is survived by his wife, Grace Mioko (Matsumoto) Karamoto; children, Mike (Mary Beth), Randy, Rev. Eric and Debra (Ken) Kodama; gc: 4.

**Signa, Miyoko, 89**, Azusa, CA, March 19; she was predeceased by her husband, John Charles Signa; siblings, Hiroyo Fujioka and Mamoru Minami; and niece Marilyn Taeko Horita-Hill; she is survived by her sister, Shizuko (Ted) Horita; nephew-in-law, Cameron E. Hill; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

**Tasaka, Wendy, 62**, Los Angeles, CA, March 26; she

is survived by her brother, Kenneth (Lai Nguyen) Tasaka; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

**Tokuyoshi, Kazuo, 89**, Elk Grove, CA, March 19; he is survived by his wife, Dorothy Setsuko Tokuyoshi; daughters, Judy Tokuyoshi-DeShaw (Don DeShaw) and Marsha Tokuyoshi (Mike Reitmann); sister, Gale Hamatani; brothers-in-law, Jim Tanaka and George Tsuboi; sister-in-law, Nancy Tokuyoshi; gc: 2.



**Yano, Alva, 84**, Berkeley, CA, March 13; during WWII, his family and he were incarcerated at the Poston WRA Center in AZ; he is survived by his wife, Fleur; son, Robert; sister, Grayce Befu; he is also survived by other family; gc: 2. ■

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 'In Memoriam' is a free listing that appears on a limited, space-available basis. Tributes honor your loved ones with text and photos and appear in a timely manner at the rate of \$20/column inch.  
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CONNECTION >> continued from page 3

All of us have the power to radically change people's lives. Fred, Jerry and Linda — three high school friends — changed my life that day. And a mother who was there for her high school friend did the same for another mother.

Let's use our voices in a respectful way that empowers and inspires others. We can change

the world one heart at a time . . . .

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."

LEADERSHIP >> continued from page 4

David S. Kim noted that while he didn't continue to pursue journalism, Lee "instilled in me his passion for activism and public service and community service."

Lee, Chanecka, Hagihara, Sophia Kim and David S. Kim were presented appreciation plaques by the K.W. Lee Center for Leadership for their work on Koreatown Weekly. They also each received a collection of all the issues of the newspaper hardbound into one book.

Preceding the reunion was a spoken word performance by Natalie Castaneda and David Contreras. The reunion was followed by In Khang Hyun Jeong Shim singing "Arirang," Korea's unofficial national anthem and the presentation of a birthday cake for K. W. Lee. Hanah Lee Cook then led a toast to her grandfather and shared her childhood recollections of him.

The closing remarks were made by K. W. Lee, who remembered the man he helped free.

"Do you know why Koreatown [Weekly] was born? Because I spent two years as a reporter at the Sacramento Union to bring out the Chol Soo Lee murder case in Sacramento. . . . My management said, 'K. W., we can't let you do any more because nobody will give a damn to

Chol Soo Lee," said Lee. "We cannot afford to cover Chol Soo Lee." I said, 'All right, dammit. I'm going to start my own newspaper.' That's how Koreatown was born."



A 1988 issue of the Pacific Citizen showing K. W. Lee and Harry Honda.

FILM >> continued from page 5



Tadashi Nakamura



Mayumi Yoshida as crown princess



Peter Shinkoda as Nobu

Perhaps the most exciting aspect of the convention film program is the plenary panel discussion that will be held on the afternoon of July 19. In an effort to better contextualize the role of Japanese Americans in the film and media industry, both historically and today, three leading artist-activists will share their experiences on the frontlines of Hollywood.

Confirmed panelists include documentary filmmaker and Nikkei Democracy Project member Tadashi Nakamura ("Mele Murals," "Jake Shimabukuro: Life on Four Strings"),

Japanese Canadian actor-producer Peter Shinkoda (best known for his role as Nobu in Marvel's "Daredevil" series) and Japanese-born actress Mayumi Yoshida ("The Man in the High Castle").

Considering that these programs are just one aspect of the convention, nondelegate members and guests will find plenty to do in Philadelphia this July. Screening times for each film will be announced at a later date and will be shown between July 19 and July 21 at the convention hotel.



Peter Shinkoda as Nobu



D.C. JACL and JAVA HOLD ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVANCE

The Washington, D.C., JACL and the Japanese American Veterans Assn. presented the 70th annual Memorial Day ceremony and grave visitation at Arlington National Cemetery's columbarium courtyard on May 27.

Chaired by the Kobayashi family since 1948, the ceremony is organized annually to honor the nearly 90 Japanese American veterans buried at ANC. The program included greetings from Turner Kobayashi, JACL D.C. President Georgette Furukawa-Martinez and JAVA's Al Goshi.

Among the speakers were Kim Minh Thai, a student from Spark Matsunaga Elementary School, who spoke about the sacrifices U.S. military service members are making on behalf of their country; Maj. Gen. David Clary, retired from the U.S. Air Force, who recapped the service and sacrifice of Nisei veterans in World War II; and Sandra Tanamachi, a reti-



Pictured at the Memorial Day ceremony are (from left) Turner Kobayashi, Sandra Tanamachi, Al Goshi, Kim Minh Thai, Terry Shima, Maj. Gen. David Clary, Georgette Furukawa-Martinez, Michelle Amano and Mackenzie Hirai.

Saburo Tanamachi's family also was in attendance at the event. Pictured (from left) are Diana Parr, Debbie Galvan, Sandra Tanamachi, Kennedy Kaiser, Ichiro Tanamachi and Jay Tanamachi.

red Texas teacher and activist, who spoke of her uncle, Saburo Tanamachi, a 442nd veteran who was one of the first individuals of Japanese descent

interred at ANC 70 years ago.

The program culminated in the acknowledgement of veterans and active service members who were present at the ceremony, as well as a playing of "Taps" and gravesite visitations with flowers. Thank you to everyone who made this event a special day.

— Mackenzie Hirai, JACL Norman Y. Mineta Fellow

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