Among its many orders of business, JACL celebrates the 30th anniversary of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 and installs a new National Board during its annual convention in Philadelphia.
P.C. WORKING TOWARD COMPLETING FULLY ACCESSIBLE DIGITAL ARCHIVE

The newspaper is on target to offer this free service to readers in 2019. The P.C. staff is currently working on assembling a completely free, digital archive that will consist of every article and issue in its history that will be available to the public on the newspaper's website in 2019. To date, bits and pieces of the P.C.'s archives are available online at the P.C. website and through the generous help and partnership of Densho Archives. However, there isn't one completely searchable archive available to readers.

"The P.C. is an invaluable source of historical information — we have realized from Day 1 how vital it is to offer this service to our readers. Thanks to the generous donation last year of a Spring Campaign contributor, we have been able to start work on assembling every issue into one searchable database. It's going to be a tremendous asset for our readers and the community at large," said P.C. Executive Editor Allison Haramoto. "It's a huge undertaking, but we are committed to completing it in time for our 90th anniversary."

>> See ARCHIVE on page 12

PACIFIC CITIZEN

Name: HIROSHI KASHIWAGI
Year of JACL Scholarship Award: 1980
Age: 95

HIROSHI KASHIWAGI is a poet, playwright and actor who was born in 1922 in Sacramento, Calif. During World War II, he and his family were sent to the Tule Lake Segregation Center, where he was defined as "disloyal" for refusing to answer the loyalty questions. He renounced his U.S. citizenship and later hurriedly worked on another play, which I completed. This play, "Live Oak Store," was produced by the NISEI Experimental Group. As a survivor, I am frequently asked to serve on panels discussing the unjust incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II.

WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER TO BE SOME OF YOUR CAREER/PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENT HIGHLIGHTS?

After retiring from my job as a librarian, I have published "Swimming in the American, a Memoir and Selected Writings," "Shoe Box Plays," "Ocean Beach, Poems," and "Starting From Loonos and Other Stories." I won the American Book Award for "Swimming in the American..." in 2005. Also, having been a "No-No" and incarcerated at Tule Lake Segregation Center, I am a regular attendee and participant at the Tule Lake Pilgrimages.

Nowadays, I spend most of my time reading — New York Review of Books, the New Yorker, and books that I feel I must read. I also spend time watching "politics" and San Francisco Giants games on TV. As a survivor, I am frequently asked to serve on panels discussing the unjust incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II.

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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>> See ARCHIVE on page 12
FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

A BUILDING BLOCK FOR THE FUTURE

By David Inoue,
JACL Executive Director

The completion of the 2018 National Convention in Philadelphia brought my first year as JACL Executive Director to a close, and with it, the first convention that I had a direct hand in planning. I am especially grateful that joining me in planning this convention was Rob Buscher from the Philadelphia chapter. We shared a vision for expanding what might be done at convention especially grateful that joining me in planning Philadelphia chapter. We shared a vision for this convention was Rob Buscher from. the that I had a direct hand in planning. I am for convention and the organization going forward.

My broader vision for convention is that it be much more than a meeting of JACL membership. As the only national Japanese American organization, we should be using our conventions to draw Japanese Americans regardless of membership. Our conventions should be seen as a gathering event for all Japanese Americans. As such, I believe we must begin a shift away from the organization’s business focus to one of expanded programming with an increased focus on education. Our mission is, after all, education." As we draw in a younger membership, some of our education efforts must also turn toward our membership. We have to ensure that future generations of JACL members are fully aware of the legacy we are being entrusted to continue. We must preserve the story of Japanese American incarceration so that it is not forgotten.

The Saturday panel with Grant Ujifusa, Karen Narasaki and Stuart Ishimaru discussing JACL’s role in redress and the continuing the fight for civil rights only scratched the surface of what they could have covered.

In listening to some of the conversations afterward, it became apparent that we need to do a better job, even within our own membership, of teaching the important role that JACL played in achieving redress and likely throughout civil rights history. Each of those three panels could have easily provided a 30-minute keynote address, and I wish we had that time to do that.

Ultimately, we need to be focused outside our current membership as well in order to draw in new members and reach those who don’t know the story. It doesn’t help our education efforts if we are only talking amongst ourselves.

Conventions should be the means for launching our outreach efforts to schools and other organizations so we can share our community’s story of incarceration and its relevance to today’s events like the Muslim ban, family separation and overall increasing hatred directed at immigrant populations, just like what we experienced in our own community’s early history.

We’ll pull all of our membership together annually at convention will be a wasted opportunity if we do not equip attendees with the tools to maintain a strong education committee that can conduct local trainings for history and civics teachers or implement programs to draw in new members and supporters. We can use these meetings to exchange ideas of what is working for some chapters and what has perhaps not worked in operating the chapters.

At this year’s convention, we sought to provide some of these tools with the film festival, breakout sessions on hate crimes, Japanese American Confinement Sites (JACS) funding opportunities and storytelling. It is hope that next year and going forward, we can devote more than just an hour session to topics like these.

This past year, I have had the opportunity to attend several pilgrimages with attendance exceeding the numbers we see at conventions. Some of the things that pilgrimages do well can serve as a model for our conventions.

The emphasis of conventions is to build a shared community based on the experience of that incarcerated community. Each one is different, but many of the components are the same.

The NY/SC did a great job with its trivia event, which is a lighter version of the multigenerational discussion groups that are central to pilgrimages. While the emotions shared were different, the foundational idea of building a shared community was identical.

It is my hope that our conventions will not be limited to JACL delegates and members, but will attract a broad representation from the full Japanese American community. I believe we have the resources of a national organization to offer to many of our fellow Japanese American organizations, and we have much we can learn from them as well.

Convention should be the clearinghouse where we can have that exchange. I look forward to seeing you and many more next year in Salt Lake City when we celebrate our 90th anniversary and propel JACL forward into the next decade toward our centennial.

NIKKEI VOICE

I'M PROUD OF JACL AND THE WORK WE DO!

By Gil Asakawa

Reporting the news is an expensive proposition. It takes staff — reporters, editors, designers — as well as printing and distribution costs to put out a newspaper and even run a website. Yet, the Pacific Citizen has been reporting the news that affects JACL members since the JACL was born, through finances both flush and flat. It’s part of the organization’s DNA.

In its original incarnation, as the Nihonki Shumin, the newspaper’s main front-page article on Oct. 10, 1929, was about the formation of “the New American Citizens’ League.” As the P.C.’s Editorial Board Chair, I am proud to hold up examples of that issue and other significant front pages from over the decades during the recent JACL National Convention in Philadelphia. The Pacific Citizen covered the incarceration during World War II from JACL’s relocated offices in Salt Lake City and proudly displayed the “First Photo of Japanese American Doughboys in France” in the fall of 1944, running a famous Associated Press photograph of soldiers of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team sloging their way along a muddy road. And, I held up the Aug. 19-26, 1988 issue splashed with a photo of a smiling President Ronald Reagan with the banner headline, “Reagan Signs Redress Bill.”

We commemorate the 30th anniversary on Aug. 10 of the signing of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which took a long 20-year slog by community leaders and organizations, including JACL, to get passed.

The Pacific Citizen was there to report on all of these milestones, good and bad, and remains to this day the voice of JACL and the primary connection for many members to this important organization, which fights for our civil liberties and social justice. In fact, it can be argued that reporting on JACL is as important today as ever, given the current climate of political leadership and racial fear and ignorance. It feels a lot — too much in fact — like the social climate of the 1930s and 40s all over again.

The P.C. is inexorably intertwined with the past, present and future of JACL.

That’s why, during the convention’s financial budget deliberations for the next two years, the P.C. had no other choice but to use its reserve funds — an action that’s akin to National JACL dipping into its Legacy Fund — to help balance the national budget.

JACL is strapped financially — there’s no getting around it. Most critically, the organization is running on a minimal staff, and Executive Director David Inoue has not been able to fill two very important positions, the Midwest and Pacific Southwest District’s regional directors.

As I said two years ago during a panel discussion about killing the print edition of the P.C., a newspaper can’t be run by one person who sends out a newsletter by email. Journalism is a bigger job than a collection of blurbs. That’s not to slight anyone who puts together newsletters (like chapters and the wonderful D.C. Digest). Newsletters are important — I’ve written and managed e-newsletters for plenty of nonprofit organizations.

But newsletters don’t dig and investigate and hold people accountable. Newspapers do that job, along with reporting on the good news and goings-on that matter to its readers.

I fought to protect the P.C. from efforts to turn it into just a newsletter during the 2000s. The previous P.C. staff began the annual “Spring Campaign” to raise money earmarked for the newspaper’s operations, which helped because National JACL couldn’t afford to pass along the P.C.’s share of membership dues by the end of each year.

A budget crisis still faces the organization, and the P.C. has for years been given what was agreed by the national staff to be an “unrealistic” or “overly optimistic” revenue target that it needed to bring in to help balance the national budget.

We can’t continue to have the P.C. miss its budget target, realistic or not. The shortfall has historically amounted to upward of $125,000 annually, which means that the P.C. is tasked now more than ever before with increasing its revenues — including advertising, donations and sponsorships — in order to hit its budget.

So, what does this all mean? It means the P.C. continues to need your support because the future of JACL is part of the future of the P.C.
JACL COMMITTS TO RAISING ITS MEMBERSHIP

The organization convenes in Philadelphia to hammer out its biennial budget, elect new National Board members and ensure its future — one member at a time.

By Allison Haramoto,
Executive Editor

Increasing its membership was foremost on conventiongoers’ minds as JACLers gathered at the organization’s annual National Convention in Philadelphia July 18-22. With its ever-present financial constraints, membership growth remains key to sustaining the 89-year-old civil rights organization’s future — and a newly elected National Board, led by Jeffrey Moy, is committed to doing just that.

In a city known for its history in shaping the basis of America, JACL commemorated its own history as well, celebrating the 30th anniversary of the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 as part of its theme “Redress, Resistance, Reconciliation.”

Organized by the Philadelphia JACL Chapter and headed by Chapter Board Member Rob Busch, and JACL National Staff under the leadership of Executive Director David Inoue, this year’s convention also saw the passage of several resolutions, chief among them Resolution 1, which sought to hire new staff “as promptly as possible” to fill regional director vacancies at the Midwest and Pacific Southwest District offices.

In delivering his report to the National Council, Inoue highlighted JACL’s accomplishments in his first full year as Executive Director, as well as addressed JACL’s dwindling membership numbers, which have a direct financial impact on the organization.

“One of our challenges is the declining membership and that has an impact on our budget. The best way we can work with our budget holes is that we need to be acting as much as possible to demonstrate that JACL is alive, that we are speaking out on important issues and we are engaged,” said Inoue. “I hope by doing this it will bring in new members and show that JACL is a group that people would want to join.”

Highlights for Inoue were the trips he made to meet chapter members and the opportunities he had to discuss the organization’s needs and strengths.

In speaking with various districts, Inoue said that “it really does highlight the history we’re trying to preserve as an education focus for JACL — it emphasizes the importance we have to our community. Families were once incarcerated and still bear the scars of that. It’s still very important to education and our history.”

Other successes included JACL’s relationship with Congress, where Inoue cited JACL’s involvement in lobbying to save the Japanese American Confinement Sites Grants program, which had been among President Donald Trump’s proposed budget funding cuts. JACL also took part in APA Heritage Month, participating in a forum where chief concerns included Asian American civil rights, the Muslim Ban, and the Chinese Exclusion Act.

“This was an opportunity to have a discussion and express to the White House and its representatives that we do not agree to this... We all know how vitally important it is to us to make sure that all communities of color are counted correctly.”

He also spoke about JACL’s partnership with the Japanese government and the success of the Kakehashi program as a result.

“That program is actually fully funded,” he said. “It is an incredible program for JACL youth, our college students and young adults. Kakehashi is also a way to increase JACL membership. We don’t require that participants be JACL members, but we look at it and see if they can possibly be JACL members,” Inoue said.

“It is something we want to elaborate.”

Finally, Inoue reiterated JACL’s strength in its chapters and dedicated members.

“What does this coming year bear for us?” he posed to the National Council. “The theme of this year’s convention is ‘Resistance,’ something we have been doing a lot in the past year (citing JACL’s stance on the Muslim travel ban and the family separation issue, among others). The family separation issue, something so close to many of us. When I talk about the scars inflicted upon during incarceration... the children taken from their parents. This is extremely disturbing to me, and I think it’s a testament to our membership and how wonderful it’s been to see how the chapters have been rallying around this and speaking out in opposition from this.

“One of the things also with all the activity is an increase in membership growth,” Inoue continued. “We’re creating an excitement that is trickling down to the chapters as well. We’re seeing chapters engaging in marches in this resistance, and it’s so important that we are all together on this.”

Membership VP Haruka Roudedebush addressed membership concerns in a detailed plan he presented to the National Council. JACL currently has a total of 8,641 members, a decrease of 31 members since April and a net loss of 46 members so far in 2018. However, three districts grew their membership numbers in 2018: CCDC (11 new members), PNW (28 new members) and MDC (14 new members).

Roudedebush also stated that the chapter with the most growth is Sonoma County, followed by Chicago, Portland and San Jose.

In addition, he said in his report, he aims to grow the organization to 10,000 members by the end of 2020. Contributing growth factors include effective membership retention by the chapters, the “Trump bump” and JACL’s visibility in advocacy efforts, a decline in atonement rate as most Nisei have passed on and youth/young professional members gained through programs such as the Kansha project and Kakehashi program.

VP Planning and Development Matthew Farrells presented his development campaign titled “Remembering the Past, Motivating the Present,” the purpose of which is to create “an educational program to teach everyone about the injustices of the illegal imprison­ment.” Contributions raised will be used to fund a documentary on the “painful chapter in American history.”

Farrells also oversees the Legacy Fund Grants program, Scholarship program and national fundraising initiatives for the organization. He reported that in 2017, JACL awarded 33 national scholarships; this year’s program is well underway. Winners will be notified this month and highlighted in the Pacific Citizen’s Scholarship Special Issue in September.

National Youth/Student Council Chair Kota Mizutani and Rep Kenji Kuramitsu shared the NYSC’s year, which included several successful resolutions.

>> See MEMBERSHIP on page 11

JACL ELECTS JEFFREY MOY AS ITS NEW NATIONAL PRESIDENT

The former vp of public affairs defeats Michelle Amano.

The JACL’s National Council on July 21 elected Jeffrey Moy during its National Convention to serve as the organization’s national president for the 2018-20 biennium, defeating Michelle Amano in the convention’s only contested race.

Moy had served as vp for public affairs; Amano had served as vp of general operations.

As a member of the National Council, Moy said, “As I talked about in my campaign, I think we’re in a place where we’re looking to make some potentially larger changes. We’re looking to just really dig into those day-to-day issues that we deal with, I want to look at the bigger picture and work together with the rest of the board and obviously at our membership as a whole to think about how we can continue the advocacy work that we do.”

Also elected were Kota Mizutani (National Youth/Student Council chair), Haruka Roudedebush (VP, Membership and Services), Matt Farrells (VP, Planning and Development), Sarah Baker (VP, Public Affairs) and James Kikihara (VP, Secretary/Treasurer). All ran unopposed.

There were no candidates for the positions of national vp for general operations and National Youth/Student Council representative.

SECRETARY TREASURER ALAN NISHI PRESENTS THE JACL’S BIENNALE BUDGET.
Everyting.
Nothing.
That was the range given in the answers of two of the three panelists to a question from moderator Rob Buscher about how their Nikkei identities informed their respective experiences in working in film.

The panel, titled “JA Contributions to the Asian American Cinema Movement,” took place July 19 during the 2018 JACL National Convention in Philadelphia and featured Tad Nakamura, Peter Shinkoda and Mayumi Yoshida.

While all three panelists were of Japanese heritage, their individual backgrounds put on display the diversity of the Nikkei diaspora, as well as the sweep of their experiences.

A fourth-generation LA-based Japanese American and second-generation filmmaker, Nakamura is a documentarian focused on Japanese American subject matter and concerns. His filmography includes “Yellow Brotherhood,” “Jake Shimabukuro: Life on Four Strings,” “Mele Murals,” “A Song for Ourselves” and “Pilgrimage.”

Shinkoda, a Japanese Canadian from Montreal, has spent the past 25 years making a living pursuing acting gigs in Hollywood, with his most-recent prominent role being Nobi, a recurring part in the Netflix series “Marvel’s Daredevil,” as well as a role in the TNT TV series “Falling Skies.”

A multihyphenate Vancouver-based Japanese citizen with an international upbringing, Yoshida produces, directs and acts, with such roles as Crown Princess in the Amazon Video series “The Man in the High Castle” and appearances in ABC’s “The Good Doctor” and TNT’s “Marvel’s Daredevil,” as well as a role in the TNT TV series “Falling Skies.”

Expanding on his answer to the question put forth by Buscher — a Philadelphia JACL chapter board member and the festival director of the Philadelphia Asian American Film Festival — Nakamura said, “For me, almost all my films are about the JA community; therefore, I think I’m able to bring my full identity through the films. I think, for me, it was a given because I was going to join this lineage of Japanese American documentary filmmakers.” [Editor’s Note: Tad Nakamura is the son of pioneering documentary filmmaker Robert Nakamura and Karen Ishizuka.]

Nakamura said he also has brought his Yonsei perspective, as well as other parts of his identity, such as hip-hop culture and an L.A. California viewpoint, to his works. This ability to freely draw from his identity may be why Nakamura, when asked after the panel whether he might consider pursuing narrative or nondocumentary filmmaking, said his answer was no.

For Shinkoda, his initial answer to the question of how much of his personal identity as a person of Japanese ancestry he brought to roles was blunt: “One-word answer: zero.” Expanding on that narrative, he said, “I bring nothing of myself because I am manipulated by the parameters of which the white writers create my character. And that’s being generous when I say they created a character because usually it’s just a two-dimensional, useless kind of a prop.

“I don’t know if it’s intentional or not, but I feel I’m always dying. I’m always a villain. If I’m a hero, I’ll be the first to die in service of the white characters. I’ve died 35 times in my 50-something professional gigs,” Shinkoda continued. “I die so much and so well that my last character in ‘Daredevil,’ his specialty is dying and coming back and fighting the hero who ultimately gets the Asian girl.”

For her part, Yoshida said she initially felt that a short she made ("Akashi") based on a true story between her Japanese grandmother and herself was so personal that it didn’t matter whether it was well-received because it was important to her and her family. But she realized, as she screened it at different film festivals, how important it was to share these very personal stories.

“It was surprising when I took it to the Urbanworld Film Festival in New York because, the majority of the audience was African-American. I was like, ‘What am I doing here?’ she said. “But after it ended, so many people came up to me — they all related to that story.”

The film showed Yoshida that a personal story, in this case with a Japanese cultural setting, can still be a universal story that crosses borders. “By being Nikkei, I realized that it’s a strength to own up to my culture.”

Eliciting more heartfelt responses was Buscher’s question about how they saw their roles as artists “in this age of political turmoil and rising social conservatism.”

Nakamura brought up his involvement with the Nikkei Democracy Project, which is described on its website as a “multimedia collective that uses video, art and social media to capture the power of the Japanese American imprisonment story and expose current threats to the constitutional rights of targeted Americans.”
JACL was presented with a special resolution at the Welcome Reception.

From all across the nation, JACL gathered in Philadelphia from July 18-22 to reiterate its mission to continue the fight for civil rights and pay homage to the 30th anniversary of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. Under the theme “Redress, Resistance, Reconciliation,” the jam-packed schedule featured a welcome reception, awards luncheons, premium member event at the Comcast building, numerous plenaries and panel discussions, breakout sessions, film screenings, National Council meetings and the Sayonara Banquet, all proving that the fight continues onward for the 89-year-old organization.

WELCOME to the 2018 JACL National Convention!

Caregiving at Any Age — A Multigenerational JA Perspective’s (from left) Kevin Onishi, Lindsey Wong, Scott Tanaka, Heather Harada and Gil Asakawa.
During the business session of the 2018 National Convention, the National Council was tasked with voting on the next biennial budget and several resolutions, in addition to hearing updates on the past year from JACL National Board members and staff. Delegates hailed from chapters spanning the nation—each committed to ensuring that JACL's education and advocacy efforts continue to focus on maintaining the civil rights of all Americans. And the breaks provided excellent opportunities for JACLers to catch up with friends, make new connections and talk about ways to strengthen the organization.
ARTIST BASH

JAClers were treated to a special ticket-only "Artist Bash" at the Barnes Foundation, home to one of the world's greatest collections of art from the Impressionist and early Modern movements. In its fourth year, the event featured flamenco dancers, Afro-Puerto Rico bomba, capoeira, tap dancing and was capped off with a musical performance by National Poetry Slam champion G Yamazawa, who wowed the capacity crowd with his moving lyrics that challenge the American perspective of race and culture, poetry and rap.

AWARD HONOREES

Several honorees were recognized at various awards functions held during convention, among them Kanji Sahara, JACLer of the Biennium; NY/SC awardee Beckie Masaki; Seattle JACL with the George Inagaki Chapter Citizenship Award; 2018 Legacy Fund Grant recipients; and Comcast, the President's Community Partner Award.

During its Premium Member Reception at the Comcast Building in downtown Philadelphia, JACL awarded Comcast with its President's Community Partner Award in recognition of the company's support and outreach that it offers to the Japanese and broader Asian American community. Pictured (from left) are Susan Jin Davis, chief sustainability officer, Comcast; Floyd Mori, past JACL national president/executive director; David Cohen, senior executive vp, Comcast; Gary Mayeda, JACL national president; Karen Korematsu, founder/executive director, Fred T. Korematsu Institute; Mini Timmaraju, executive director of external affairs, Comcast; and David Inoue, JACL executive director.
Convention wasn't all work and no play. Attendees were given ample time to enjoy and explore the “City of Brotherly Love.” From taking in historical sites to experiencing dozens of delicious food choices, among them famous Philly Cheesesteak sandwiches, convention featured film screenings, various breakout sessions, workshops, plenaries and panels, as well as musical performances at Madame Saito's HeadHouse, which featured JAACL's own Rob Buscher and Kota Mizutani. Thank you Philadelphia for opening up your city and allowing JAACL to make more history of its own.
JACL Installs ‘YOUNG-SEI’ Leaders at Sayonara Banquet

The civil rights organization also honors Lynne Nishijima Ward, Diane Narasaki and Harriet Beleal, plus Mitsuyee Endo and Floyd Mori during its National Convention awards gathering.

By George Toshi Johnston, P.C. Senior Editor, Digital & Social Media

Thirty years ago in August at its National Convention in Seattle, the JACL not only celebrated the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 but also for the first time honored three women — Sue Embrey, Yoshiko Uchida and Gayeke Ueyehara — as the winners of its Japanese American of the Biennium award, the criteria for which is individual distinguished achievement or community leadership.

More than a generation later, at its 2018 National Convention’s Sayonara Banquet on July 21 at the Sheraton Philadelphia Downtown Hotel, JACL for the first time in three decades again spotlighted three women with its Japanese American of the Biennium prize, this time honoring Lynne Nishijima Ward, Diane Narasaki and Harriet Beleal.

The evening also represented a generational shift as the nation’s oldest Asian American civil rights organization headed into its 90th birthday by electing a slate of still-youthful, if not downright young, leaders for the next two years, with Jeffrey Moy officially taking the reins of JACL National President from Gary Mayeda, who served a two-year term.

“You may have noticed something a little bit odd about tonight’s swearing in. I’m here to confirm that your worst nightmare is coming true: Young people are taking over,” said Moy, eliciting boos and applause from the 300 in attendance.

“I’m so proud of the newly elected officers,” he continued. “I know we have a lot of institutional knowledge in the room, but can anyone remember the last time JACL saw all the elected positions be people exclusively in their 20s and 30s?”

“Past National President Floyd Shimomura told me earlier tonight that I may be the youngest national president elected in the post-WWII era. It’s important that I add that although we may be young, we come with a lot of experience. We’ve served on committees, chapter boards, district councils, the National Board — we’ve truly done it all.

“And we bring diversity that is more than just our age. I myself am three-quarters Japanese American and one-quarter Chinese American and Yonsei. Our other newly elected board members are Yoneichi Shin-Nikkei, they’re full Japanese American, they’re Hapa — we truly represent the future of this great organization.”

Moy added that he was hoping to “bring a spirit of teamwork and camaraderie to JACL” as it faces a challenging fiscal environment and declining membership compared to a generation ago. He also wanted to connect with “those who have stepped away from JACL that we’re a family, and it’s time to come home.”

“The time for rhetoric is over. It’s time to get to work,” Moy concluded. He called up Mayeda and fellow outgoing board members Alan Nishi (National Secretary/Treasurer), Kenji Kuramitsu (NY/NC representative) and Michelle Amano (VP, General Operations), who vied against Moy for the office of national president, to be feted with applause and a small gift for their service over the past two years, with outgoing Nishi absent.

Also honored posthumously with the Edison Uno Civil Rights Award, which is not an annual award, was Mitsuyee Endo, who died in 2006, but was one of four Japanese Americans who challenged various aspects related to Executive Order 9066 that reached the Supreme Court during World War II.

Unlike past recipients Gordon Hirabayashi, Fred Korematsu and Minor Yasui, Endo actually won, leading the way for Japanese Americans to return to the West Coast and the closure of the remaining concentration camps. Present to receive the Edison Uno award for her mother was Endo’s daughter, Terry DeRiven,

The Japanese American of the Biennium award for Ward was for the category of political/public affairs/law, Narasaki’s category was civil/public affairs/law, and Beleal’s category was education/humanities. Beleal, who is of Japanese and Alaskan Native-Tlingit Indian heritage, accepted her award and reminded the audience that “freedom is not free” and, with her daughters, turned the tables on JACL by presenting gifts of salmon, seaweed, smoked fish, knitted and other handmade items and pictures from Alaska to JACL leaders.

Upon receiving her award, Narasaki thanked the National JACL, the Seattle Chapter and her sister, Karen Narasaki, who was present as a panelist for the discussion on the 30th anniversary of the passage of redress for being there and showing her support. She also thanked Alko Herzig Hoshiba, who died July 18, (Editor’s Note: See article on page 13).

Ward, who also won a raffle prize, showed the audience a broom made by her grandfather while he was incarcerated, which he used to keep their Camp Amache barrack tidy. She noted how it exemplified traits like resourcefulness, craftsmanship and sturdiness, all needed to endure the hardships of life in camp.

>> See BANQUET on next page

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL JACL CONVENTION COMPLETED

By Floyd Mori, JACL Past National President and Executive Director

It was a privilege to participate in the JACL National Convention that was held in Philadelphia under the direction of Rob Buscher, convention chair, and David Inouye, JACL Executive Director and others. Many interesting and entertaining events were held along with the work of the National Council. Thank you to the sponsors, which are an important part of convention.

A new National Board of the JACL was elected at the convention. Some are quite new to JACL, but they are all committed to the organization and its goals.

An important matter for JACL to face is membership. Mike Masaoka, an early leader of the JACL, stated more than 30 years ago that JACL should grow to 50,000 members. Instead, our membership has been declining to the point where it is now reportedly less than 9,000. In order for JACL to continue as the premier Asian American civil rights organization, increasing membership is vital.

It should not be difficult to increase membership. It will take the concerted effort of the National Board, staff and individual members of the JACL working together. The JACL has much to offer. Let’s share it with others.
“I’d like to challenge ourselves as Japanese Americans. I think our story is now so relevant, but I’d like to challenge all of us to push more,” said Nakamura. “We know our history so well, but how well do we know other people’s histories? How can we use our position and privilege as Japanese Americans, as filmmakers, to do more?”

Referring to the creation of the Nikkei Democracy Project, he said that after President Donald Trump’s election, “A handful of Japanese American media makers — myself, Renee Tajima-Peña, Sean Miura, Tani Ikeda, Joan Shigekawa — we basically were like, ‘How can we use our position and privilege as Japanese Americans, as filmmakers to do more?’”

For himself, he said one of the biggest ways to leverage the community’s position is to “utilize our own experience and try to connect our community with other communities, as well as explain to other communities the parallels, that we can help support and protect other communities that are currently under attack,” referring to Muslim Americans, those seen as Muslim Americans and undocumented immigrants.

For Yoshida, as a Japanese woman and filmmaker, she wanted to push back on the perception that she and other Asian females are “timid.”

“Someone told me that ‘Japanese or Asian girls are so timid. It’s so cute.’ I’m like, ‘Oh, you’ve mistaken my tolerance and grace as timid,’” which got elicited applause from the audience. “When you’re not aggressive — that’s the default — you’re timid. No, we’re not. We’re patient, and we’re disciplined, and we find the right time to be absolutely brilliant.”

Shinkoda, meantime, said he finally came to the “ultimate realization” that complaining about problems like whitewashing was no longer enough.

“We need people behind the camera because there’s so much power to dictate what eventually ends up on screen,” he said. “I’ve taken the initiative the last two years to develop my own projects.”

He proceeded to delight the crowd with news that he had helped to develop a new series to be shot in Mexico’s Baja Studios in September.

In “Kenze,” Shinkoda’s samurai character is a refugee who escapes political repression in Japan and becomes a bounty hunter.

In her closing remarks, Yoshida, who said she had shot three short films in the past few months, noted how it is important for audiences to support a studio movie like “Crazy Rich Asians,” set for release Aug. 15.

“That’s not particularly my narrative,” she said. “But still, for us to support that film, it lets studios like Warner Bros. know there’s a big audience that wants these people on the screen.”

Representing Comcast, which JACL presented with the President’s Community Partner Award on July 19, was Susan Jin Davis, Comcast’s chief sustainability officer. She gave Karen Narasaki yet another shout-out, crediting her for holding Comcast’s feet to the fire to “do the right thing” regarding Comcast’s Memorandum of Understanding on media diversity, inclusion and economic diversity.

A surprise President’s Community Partner Award went to Floyd Mori, past JACL National President and former JACL Executive Director. “We cannot thank you enough for all you have done,” said JACL Executive Director David Inoue to Mori.

Serving as the mistress of ceremonies for the affair was Loraine Ballard Morrill, now and community affairs director for iHeartMEDIA’s six local radio stations.

Another award that was presented during the convention before the Sayonara Banquet were JACLer of the Biennium, which went to Kanji Sahara; the George J. Inagaki Award, which went to the Seattle Chapter; and the NY/SC Vision Award to Becky Masaki.

“I go back and forth on this issue, having been in the military for two terms,” said Ujifusa. “Today there is no way that we could be working on something that was an important piece of it. I think for me, what I took away from this is that you can’t do this on your own. . . . The redress fight was the question of how do you enlist others with you, how do you get them to understand your story? I’m glad we’re talking about this and still talking about this.”

Narasaki, an independent civil and human rights consultant who serves on the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, recounted that she was just finishing up her 9th circuit clerkship as redress was making its way through Congress.

“It took more than a decade from start to finish, and the finish wasn’t just the passage,” she said. “It still needed to be funded.”

Hired in 1992 by JACL as its Washington, D.C., rep, Narasaki said that the redress fight amounted to people having the right conversations, all made a significant difference that changed the course of history. Inoue then asked the panelists if obtaining redress would be something that could be done today.

“I go back and forth on this issue, having been in Washington for over 25 years,” said Narasaki. “I have seen that elections have consequences. . . . What has improved is the number of Asian Americans in Congress — we are more robust as a community today.”

She also recalled how “scary” things are now. “What we’ve moved on to is what do you to people who are not American citizens? That’s where the fight is now.”

Added Ujifusa, “Today there is no way that we can accept something like this. It’s my hope that the experience of Japanese Americans can be a lesson.”

A lesson that must continue on with each new generation.

“JACL is in a fine position and needs to continue to communicate with our communities. There could very well be a day when these stories could literally go away and people may not care a generation or two from now,” said Ishimaru. “One of JACL’s huge challenges going forward is how do you continue these stories? How do you work with current events while making sure that our story is not forgotten? That is the key.”
ARCHIVE >> continued from page 2

The archive project involves scanning and converting each page of the newspaper — every issue since 1929 — into a PDF, then running it through OCR (optical character recognition) and finally coding it. The P.C. staff is currently conducting the work in three phases:

Phase 1: Digitizing and coding all in-house material together, which includes scanning bound hardcover archives and updating years that were previously digitized. Target end date: September.

Phase 2: Convert to OCR and download the P.C. archives currently being housed on the Denso website.

Phase 3: Final conversion of the entire archive on a server that will house the massive memory file, which will then be installed on the P.C. website. Target end date: July 2019.

When completed, the archive will be searchable by decade, year, month, issue date and keyword. Best of all, it will be free to all users.

"Our office consistently receives calls from readers asking for specific articles and photos, but 99 percent of the time, they don't have specific date information to give us. Before we would have to go page by page through issues to find the information," said Haramoto. "With this new archive, once completed, readers will be able to search the archive themselves and easily find the information they are looking for. We cannot wait to provide this service."

WORK >> continued from page 3

The P.C. needs JACL districts and chapters to make the "Holiday Issue" mentality a year-round effort. If you buy ads in the P.C., you'll get a discount and money back for your efforts while helping the P.C. continue its work. Contact Susan Yokoyama at susan@pacifcitsion.org about advertising in the P.C. It's our primary goal — to increase the number of ads in every issue.

Also, the Spring Campaign will continue as a year-round effort. You can support the P.C. any time online at https://www.pacifcitsion.org/donations. Absolutely 100 percent of your donation goes toward continuing daily operations, printing the paper and ensuring that this soon-to-be 90-year-old publication continues to record our history and our future.

And if you buy two nonmember gift subscriptions to people or organizations you think would appreciate the P.C., I will autograph a copy of my book "Being Japanese American."

It's a small effort, but every little bit helps. Subscription information can be found here: https://www.pacificcitizen.org/subscriptions.

Thanks for your past support and for your future involvement as a partner to guarantee the Pacific Citizen will continue its important work as the voice of JACL!


Archives of the Pacific Citizen are housed on the P.C. website. Target end date: February 2019.

Our office consistently receives calls from readers asking for specific articles and photos, but 99 percent of the time, they don't have specific date information to give us. Before we would have to go page by page through issues to find the information, said Haramoto. "With this new archive, once completed, readers will be able to search the archive themselves and easily find the information they are looking for. We cannot wait to provide this service."
The researcher, activist played a vital role in redress, *coram nobis* cases.

By George Yoshiho Johnston, P.C. Senior Editor, Digital & Social Media

Aiko Herzig-Yoshinaga, 93, Dies

Aiko Herzig-Yoshinaga, whose research at the National Archives led to a fateful discovery that proved instrumental to the success of the Japanese American Redress Movement and in the revival of three Japanese American Supreme Court cases, has died. She was 93.

"It's a shock that we lost her," said David Kawamoto, an attorney and past national president of the Japanese American Citizens League.

During World War II to West Coast Japanese Americans, as well as legal permanent resident Americans as a group — into camps.

"It was a shock that we lost her," said David Kawamoto, an attorney and past national president of the Japanese American Citizens League.

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Japanese Summer Festival
Aug. 11, 1-9 p.m.; Aug. 12, 10th Annual Tanabata Festival Noon-8:30 p.m. Los Angeles, CA Diablo Japanese American Club

Concord, CA
575 N. Shoreline Blvd.

Don't miss this opportunity to experience Japanese culture in Concord! This year, the festival will feature traditional Japanese crafts, music, and dance performances. There will also be a range of vendors offering unique Japanese products.


Midori Kai Arts & Crafts Boutique
Mountain View, CA
Sept. 6; 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Mountain View Buddhist Temple
575 N. Shoreline Blvd.
Price: Free

Don't miss this excellent opportunity to get a head-start on Christmas with a range of Japanese cultural workshops. This year, the festival will feature a workshop on 'Creating Inclusive and Accessible Spaces' on Aug. 18; 11 a.m.-5 p.m.


PNW

The Art of Jimmy Tsutsumi Mirikitani
Port Townsend, WA
Sept. 16 Emerson Street House 1006 N.E. Emerson St.
Emerson House presents the art of Jimmy Mirikitani, a fiercely independent outsider artist who achieved international fame in 2006 after being featured in a major art exhibition.


Live Aloha Hawaiian Cultural Festival
Seattle, WA
Sept. 9; 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

Seattle Center 305 Harrison St.

This cultural festival serves to promote, perpetuate and share the Hawaiian culture. The event is free to the public and features performances, food booths, and vendors.

Info: Visit seattlelivealohafestival.com.

EDC

Last Defense: The Genius of Japanese Meiji Metallurgy
Worcester, MA
Thru Sept. 2

Worcester Art Museum

55 Salisbury St.

This exhibition focuses on the genius and versatility of metallaworkers during the transitional period of the Meiji Restoration. With the decline in the samurai class, armymakers applied their skills and artistry to new types of metal products, from toys to decorative art. Visit: http://www.worcesterart.org/exhibitions/last-defense-japanese-metalwork/.

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For More Info: pc@pacificcitizen.org (213) 620-1767

Scholarship Special - September

VETERAN'S ISSUE - NOVEMBER
HOLIDAY ISSUE - DECEMBER

Contact Susan at (213) 620-1767 ext.103
Email: BusinessManager@pacificcitizen.org or pcc@pacificcitizen.org

Pacific Citizen

PACIFIC CITIZEN
MEMORIAM

Fujimoto, Masanori, 82, Los Angeles, CA, April 11; he is survived by his wife, Saka; sons, Masafumi (Hisako) and Kenneth Kenji; brother, Tsugio; gc: 3; gc: 2.

Furuta, Carl, 84, Manhattan Beach, CA, April 26; during WWII, he was incarcerated at the Heart Mountain WRA Center in WY. He is survived by his brother, Akin; sisters-in-law, Barbara Agonia (Bob) and Martha Robinson; gc: 1.

Komatsu, Gene K., 71, Manhattan Beach, CA, April 1.

Matsuda, Manabu Ronnie, 70, Los Angeles, CA, March 6; he is survived by his mother, Misao Matsuda; siblings, Delores Matsuda, Doug Matsuda, Kathy (Martin) Umamoto and Patty (Marvin) Furuya; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Matsuno, George Taka, 98, Gardena, CA, May 18; he is survived by his son, Stanford; brothers, Yoshihiko (Frank) Matsuno and Hiroshi Matsu; he is also survived by his family.

Nakata, Larry L., 72, Seattle, WA, April 23; he is survived by his wife, Aileen; children, Tracie and Ryan (Amy); brother, James (Joy); gc: 4.

Shigemoto, Iwa, 98, San Francisco, CA, April 1; he is survived by his wife, Miyo; children, Joanne (Dennis) Makishima and Bob (Lisa); gc: 1.

Takasugi, Max Masaji, 92, Caldwell, ID, May 7; he is survived by his wife, Michiko; children, Ronald, Dennis, James, Katherine and JoAnn; siblings, Yoshiko and Manny; gc: 3.

Tanikawa, Charles Susumu, 86, Los Angeles, CA, April 24; he is survived by his siblings, George Tanikawa, Ruby Tanikawa and Mac Y. (Jane) Tanikawa; he is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Tanisaki, Ronald Seigo, 74, Los Angeles, CA, May 7; he was born at the Manzanar WRA Center in CA; he is survived by his mother, Marie Tanisaki; siblings, Dana Yoko (Roy) Rico and Jun (Jennifer) Tanisaki; he is also survived by nieces, nephews, a grandniece and other relatives.

Ueki, Harue, 98, Culver City, CA, April 2; she was predeceased by her husband, Sadamu; she is survived by her children, Kaiko (Tom) Uyeda; Masaki (Sumiko) Ueki and Tomoko (Kiy) Fukuda; siblings, Morito Ogata, Hideko Onishi, Yukie Inouye and Noriko (Masafumi) Yamashita; brother-in-law, Hitoshi (Noriko) Uyeki; sister-in-law, Toshibie Uyeda of Seattle, WA; gc: 7; gc: 4.

TRIBUTE

HENRY UYEDA

Henry Uyeda, San Jose JACL’s oldest member, passed away on May 4 at 103. He was born in Salt Lake City. Utah. He and his parents moved to San Juan Bautista and resided there until the outbreak of WWII. Recuperating from tuberculosis, he remained at the Alum Rock Sanitarium, helping around the grounds, while his wife, Ada, and their family were incarcerated at Poston, Ariz. Henry attended watchmaking school in the Delta area and was a watchmaker at two jewelry stores. He attended district meetings and national conventions. In 1965, he encouraged and supported the formation of a Junior JACL Chapter. Henry was married for 66 years to Ada Oyakata. They had two daughters, Sharon and Caroline; two grandchildren; and three great-grandsons.

TRIBUTE

JACK HAJIME NAKASHIMA

Jack Hajime Nakashima was born on May 1, 1929, in Tacoma, Wash., and passed away peacefully on July 6 at his home in Walnut Creek, Calif. During WWII, he resisted the internment of Japanese Americans, and his family was incarcerated at Tule Lake and Topaz. After the war, Jack graduated from Galileo High School in San Francisco. He attended City College of SF and went on to earn a master’s degree in psychology from San Francisco State University. While studying at City College, Jack met his future wife, Sumi Kansaya. They were married for 64 years and had two sons, Steve and Dave. Jack served in the Army during the Korean War in Fort Sheridan, Ill. He returned to the Bay Area, where he worked for the San Pablo, Oakland, and Mt. Diablo school districts as a school psychologist before retiring in 1990. Jack was active in the redress movement and helped start the JACL chapter in the Diablo Valley area. He also gave educational talks about his camp experience to a wide range of audiences.

Jack will be lovingly remembered by his extended family and dear friends for his quick wit and corny jokes, teaching his numerous nieces and nephews to play pinochle, and for being a huge music aficionado. Jack will be missed by all his friends and family, and he will be deeply missed by everyone who knew him. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Japanese American Citizens League (https://jacl.org/) or the Polycystic Kidney Disease Foundation (https://pkdcure.org/).

PLATE A TRIBUTE

In Memoriam: 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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Jack will be lovingly remembered by his extended family and dear friends for his quick wit and corny jokes, teaching his numerous nieces and nephews to play pinochle, and for being a huge music aficionado. Jack imparted his love of jazz to his family and friends. His home was a grandniece and other relatives.

Memorial donations may be made to the Japanese American Citizens League (https://jacl.org/) for the Polycystic Kidney Disease Foundation (https://pkdcure.org/).
Aiko Herzig-Yoshinaga moved to New York City, divorced and was remarried to Davis Abe, an Army officer. They were transferred to Japan and had two children, David and Lisa, who were born in Kyoto, Japan. They lived in Japan for about five years before returning to the U.S. The couple divorced, and Herzig-Yoshinaga returned to New York City with her three children.

She became involved with a group called Asian Americans for Action, and for the first time began questioning why the federal government locked up Japanese Americans. The seed of her future research at the National Archives was planted.

She married Jack Herzig in 1978, and they moved near Washington, D.C. It was then that she began conducting research at the National Archives — that would prove to be instrumental in the success of the Japanese American Redress Movement, which culminated in the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 and included monetary compensation to surviving detainees and an apology from the U.S. government.

Herzig-Yoshinaga’s discovery of the original draft of the “Final Report” would also be the fuel to the re-examination of three failed WWII-era Supreme Court cases involving Gordon Hirabayashi, Fred Korematsu and Minoru Yasui.

When legal historian Peter Irons learned that Herzig-Yoshinaga and her husband, Jack Herzig, were researching materials at the National Archives and discovered a government memorandum, which was supposedly destroyed, he reached out to Hirabayashi, Korematsu and Yasui and with a team of attorneys, used an arcane legal procedure, writ of error coram nobis, invoked when a court of law is purposely misled by an action such as prosecutorial misconduct that taints a judicial decision.

The revived cases of Korematsu and Hirabayashi resulted in their WWII-era convictions being vacated. Yasui died in 1986 as his case was pending; a district court had already vacated his conviction in 1983, but his death led to the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals dismissing his claims of governmental misconduct and the unconstitutionality of his conviction under a curfew law.

“The work that she and Peter Irons did was just invaluable to us, and we can never really thank them enough for what they did,” said Kawamoto.

In a statement issued at the 2018 National JACL Convention in Philadelphia, the JACL said it was “deeply saddened by the passing of Aiko Herzig-Yoshinaga on July 18, 2018. Her volunteer research at the National Archives uncovered the ‘smoking gun,’ which was the key evidence in the successful coram nobis cases and led to the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.”

“In 1978, Aiko Herzig-Yoshinaga and her husband, Jack Herzig, were researching materials at the National Archives and discovered a government memorandum, which was supposed to have been destroyed. This surviving government document, ‘Final Report on Japanese Evacuation From the West Coast,’ concluded that ethnic Japanese living on the West Coast posed no threat to national security and that there was no military necessity to remove and incarcerate West Coast Japanese Americans.

“The Japanese American community is eternally grateful for the contributions of Aiko Herzig-Yoshinaga to the redress effort.”

— JACL

Aiko Herzig-Yoshinaga was posthumously honored by the Japanese American Citizens League for her community service.

Herzig-Yoshinaga was the subject of a 2016 documentary by Janice D. Tanaka, “Rebel With a Cause: The Life of Aiko Herzig-Yoshinaga.” She was also honored in April by the Japanese American National Museum with its Award of Excellence. In 1989, she finally received her diploma from Los Angeles High School, thanks to the efforts of her son-in-law, Warren Furutani, who at the time was on the Los Angeles Board of Education.

Herzig-Yoshinaga was predeceased by her husband, Jack Herzig, in 2005. She is survived by her children, Lisa Abe Furutani (Warren), Gerrie Miyazaki and David Abe; a brother, John Yoshinaga (Lucienne), and a sister-in-law, Reiko Yoshinaga. She is also survived by grandchildren Joe Furutani, Sei Furutani (Tace), Laurence Yoshiro Moore, David Abe Jr., Kimberly Abe and Lea Krogman, as well as by great-grandchildren Harlee Furutani and Ki-yomi Pizarro.

In Bill Hohri’s January 2000 Pacific Citizen essay, he wrote: “We owe a debt of gratitude to the efforts of this Nisei woman with only a high school diploma and the intelligence, grace and grit to do the work summa cum laude.”