

PACIFIC CITIZEN

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THE CIVIL LIBERTIES ACT OF 1988 AT 30

A look back at the history-making legislation

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Reclaiming Our Histories at the 2018 Heart Mountain Pilgrimage



IMAGE: PETE HIRONAKA

REMEMBERING H.R. 442 ON ITS 30TH ANNIVERSARY

On Aug. 10, 1988, President Ronald Reagan signed into law the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which granted redress of \$20,000 and a formal presidential apology to survivors of the Japanese American concentration camps during World War II.

The legislation, also known as H.R. 442, stated that government actions were based on "race prejudice, war hysteria and a failure of political leadership" as opposed to legitimate security reasons. In total, 82,219 survivors received redress payments.

In recognition of this commemorative date, the *Pacific Citizen* presents



PHOTO: THE PACIFIC CITIZEN

President Ronald Reagan officially signs the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which granted reparations to Japanese Americans who had been wrongfully incarcerated by the U.S. government during World War II. Pictured at the signing ceremony with President Regan (center) were (from left) Hawaii Sen. Spark Matsunaga, California Rep. Norman Mineta, Hawaii Rep. Pat Saiki, California Sen. Pete Wilson, Alaska Rep. Don Young, California Rep. Bob Matsui, California Rep. Bill Lowery and JACL President Harry Kajihara.

in this issue a reprint of the original *P.C.* coverage of the historic event published in the Aug. 19-26, 1988, issue and written by former Editor Harry Honda.

This issue of the *P.C.* also features on the cover the extraordinary artwork of longtime *P.C.* cartoonist Pete Hironaka. Created for the *P.C.* in 2000, the image, titled "The Nisei," pays homage to important events in Japanese American history, including the passage of H.R. 442.

In today's ever-challenging political climate, this anniversary shows us how far we have come but how much further yet there still is to go. ■



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF AMACHE PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Baseball-sized hail destroyed several structures at Amache and the surrounding town of Granada, Colo. Repair donations are greatly needed to restore the damaged sites.

Hailstorm Causes Damage to Amache

Additional repairs are still needed for several structures at the historical site.

Following a severe hailstorm that hit Amache and the town of Granada, Colo., on July 29, several structures at the National Historic Site and surrounding town are still in need of repairs after baseball-sized hail driven by 70 mph

winds resulted in damage estimated at more than \$3,000.

The barracks building on the Amache site lost 65 of its small-pane windows during the storm, and damage was also assessed at the water tower and guard tower. In the nearby town of Granada, population estimated at 600, widespread destruction occurred to the windows of nearly every building and home, as the hail also punched through carports and heavily damaged cars. Fields were left in ruins.

"Amache Preservation Society

has been working hard to secure the site and was able to get all of the barracks windows fixed and protect all of the artifacts housed at the Amache Museum and Research Center. Thanks to generous donations from the Japanese Association of Colorado, National Park Service and Amache community, these immediate needs were covered," said Kirsten Leong, an Amache descendant and representative of the Amache Historical Society II. "The totality of the damage was extensive and widespread (in Granada), and it

will take quite some time for repair, cleanup and recovery. . . . Amache and the town of Granada have had a close relationship since the creation of the site, and preservation and maintenance of Amache would not be possible without the dedication of the people of Granada. Because Granada has so generously and unfailingly supported the preservation of Amache, the Amache Preservation Society will also be assisting Granada residents most in need."

JACL Youth Member and Amache Descendant Tomi Eijima, who participated in a dig at Amache this past summer, said, "Amache and the people of Granada, Colo., could use our support. . . . Donations would honor the 7,000-plus former Amache residents and allow others to experience this important part of American history."

Donations to repair and help restore the site and surrounding community can be sent to http://amache.org/giving_opportunities/ or mailed directly to Amache Preservation Society, P.O. Box 259, Granada, CO 81041-0259. ■

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REFLECTIONS

100 CRANES FOR HEART MOUNTAIN

By April Buscher

Aug. 6 seems like a good time to explain why I brought 100 paper cranes to Heart Mountain at the end of July. My great-grandmother was raised in Hiroshima, Japan, and from a young age, I knew the story of the bomb. I knew that some of her family had died there, and I knew that she was very lucky to have already been in the U.S. before then.

In 1995, my mother was a chaperone for a high school Peace Conference trip to Hiroshima. I didn't want her to go, but she told me it was important — people needed to know what happened there so it will never happen again, anywhere. And the victims need to be honored by spreading their stories and working for peace. She brought 1,000 paper cranes with her — explaining that it was meant as an offering to those who'd lost their lives — and my tiny fingers eagerly helped her fold them.

Fast forward to 2002 — at 12 years old, I received an assignment to learn the life of a notable person in history and later portray him or her for an interactive presentation.

I chose Sadako Sasaki, and I wore a kimono that had been passed down in my family. I don't remember a time when I didn't know Sadako's story — my mother told me when

I was very little and repeated it over the years.

During the research for this assignment, I read a biography called "Children of the Paper Cranes," which goes into heartbreaking detail about Sadako's life — standing barefoot at 2 years old when the A-Bomb exploded over her city, then a decade later when she came down with a mysterious illness that turned out to be leukemia due to her radiation exposure.

It's the story of a little girl who didn't want to die, who is going to die, and wants so badly to stay alive that when she hears about a Japanese folk legend that if you fold a thousand paper cranes your wish will come true, she spends her last months of life folding cranes.

And her classmates, teachers, family and a whole community rally around her to cheer her on, not because they think it will work, but because they, too, need some desperate hope to hold on to.

After she dies, her classmates, inspired by her perseverance, raise money to build a statue in her honor, as well as a memorial to all the children who lost their lives in the bombing. The memorial seeks to pay tribute but also spread the message of world peace and the hope that nuclear weapons will never be used again.

There's this common misconception/myth that persists in the child versions of this story that Sadako didn't make it to 1,000 cranes. But in this biography, I found out that she did. Her older brother started hiding the cranes so she didn't know how many she'd made because

he didn't want her to give up.

I've never understood why the falsehood is spread. Does that somehow make it less heartbreaking? Like, "Well, she didn't get her dying wish because she didn't get to 1,000," rather than, "She made it to 1,000 paper cranes, but wishes don't beat cancer"?

So anyway, I'm 12 years old and I read this and it destroys me; I knew the ending already, but I still wanted it to turn out differently. This was somebody's student, best friend, sister — this was somebody's baby.

And it was around then that I decided I would make 1,000 paper cranes and bring them to Peace Park to pay tribute to Sadako and the children of Hiroshima. Eight years later, in 2010, I did.

Then last year, I started talking about going to the pilgrimages for the Japanese American incarceration camps scattered across the U.S., and it made me realize that I needed to make another thousand cranes.

They would be not for the children of Japan, but for the children HERE that were turned against and locked up by their own government. The children of the incarceration who had YEARS of their lives taken away. Because they were also casualties of war. They were also someone's babies. And they deserve to be honored in the way I know how.

So, I left 100 cranes at Heart Mountain, and I'll do the same with the other nine

sites — Minidoka, Topaz, Gila River, Tule Lake, Manzanar, Rohwer, Poston, Jerome, Granada — so that when I'm done, I'll have left 1,000 cranes scattered across the camps as an offering, a tribute, a wish of peace. And a promise — never again.

No more Sadakos. No more Hiroshimas. No more Heart Mountains.

April Buscher is a board-certified music therapist who works in pediatric hematology/oncology at Tufts Medical Center. She is also director of extended day for the Brimmer and May School, who awarded her a summer study grant to attend the pilgrimage.



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF APRIL BUSCHER



LEGAL-EASE: AN ATTORNEY'S PERSPECTIVE

WHAT IS IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES?

By Judd Matsunaga, Esq.

I want to start off with some good news! People in America today can expect to live longer than ever before. If you're lucky enough to make it to 65 years of age, you can expect to live another 19.3 years (on average) according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

However, those extra 19 years could include managing chronic conditions such as: (1) arthritis — the CDC estimates that it affects 49.7 percent of all adults over 65; (2) heart disease — the leading killer of adults over age 65; (3) cancer — the second-leading cause of death among people over age 65; and (4) respiratory diseases — the third most common cause of death among people 65 and older.

Other common health concerns for seniors are Alzheimer's disease, osteoporosis and diabetes. The CDC estimates that 25 percent of people ages 65 and older are living with diabetes, influenza, pneumonia, falls, obesity and depression.

As Americans get grayer, their families are taking the lead role in providing care for aging adults. An estimated 43.5 million adults in the U.S. have provided unpaid care to an adult in the prior 12 months (Source: Caregiving in the U.S. 2015 — Executive Summary).

Adults ages 45-64 are the most likely to be caregivers. In fact, 23 percent of adults ages 45-64 cares for an aging adult. On average, they have been in their role for four years, with a quarter having provided care for five years or more (24 percent). Higher-hour caregivers are twice as likely to have been in their caregiving role for 10 or more years.

Adults help their parent(s) with errands, housework or home repairs. Caregivers may perform a range of activities, such as providing companionship, assisting with housework or providing medical and other forms of physical care. Relatively few caregivers say they helped with personal care, such as bathing or getting dressed.

The sad news is that our country's 40 million unpaid family caregivers devote a large portion of their own money toward the care of their loved ones. Family caregivers report dipping into savings, cutting back on personal

spending, saving less for retirement or taking out loans to make ends meet.

More than half of family caregivers reported a work-related strain, such as having to take unpaid time off. They're spending an average of \$6,954 a year — nearly 20 percent of their income — on out-of-pocket costs related to caregiving (according to a new AARP study, "Family Caregiving and Out-of-Pocket Costs: 2016 Report").

But wait — there's help! What if I told you that your 45- to 64-year-old adult child could get paid for their services (at least in part). "Say what? Do you mean that my 60-year-old daughter who is providing us 'unpaid' care can get paid?" You bet! It's a little-known public program called In-Home Supportive Services.

The goal of the IHSS program is to allow you to live safely in your own home and avoid the need for out-of-home care, i.e., nursing homes. Services almost always need to be provided in your own home or the home of a relative (such as a son or a daughter). That's right, IHSS will pay friends, family members and, in some instances, spouses, for help with housework, meal preparation and personal care.

Fortunately, most IHSS recipients can hire,

fire and supervise their own caregivers under the Independent Provider mode of service. Most IP's are relatives of the client. In other words, that means that IHSS will pay your son or daughter for your caregiving. Or, better yet, you can hire outside care so that your son or daughter can "visit" rather than "caretake."

Since IHSS is run by the Department of Social Services, all you have to do is first qualify for Medi-Cal. "But Judd, I was told I don't qualify since I have more than \$2,000 in the bank." Not true. You are **legally** allowed to convert nonexempt assets into exempt assets, "spend-down" excess assets or transfer them to a trusted adult child without triggering a three-year waiting period.

Judd Matsunaga is the founding attorney of Elder Law Services of California, a law firm that specializes in Medi-Cal Planning, Estate Planning and Probate. He can be contacted at (310) 348-2995 or judd@elder-lawcalifornia.com. The opinions expressed in this article are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect the view of the Pacific Citizen or JACL. The information presented does not constitute legal or tax advice and should not be treated as such.

Reagan Signs Redress Bill

Nakagawa New JACL National President

By George Johnston

SEATTLE — His first reaction: "Fantastic! It's time for a change! We've got it!" Surrounded by his screaming, ecstatic supporters, Cressey Nakagawa exclaimed his delight upon hearing the announcement of his victory for the office of JACL National president for the 1988-90 biennium.

Only two days before, however, Nakagawa had nothing to say during his chance to address the JACL Convention. On that day, his nominators used up the available time, leaving him literally speechless. Aug. 9, however, afforded him plenty of time . . . his time, a time to celebrate and a time to talk with well-wishers for as long as he wanted.

Before any celebration could occur, however, secret ballots were needed to decide who would win the available positions. Winning uncontested races were Priscilla Ouchida, who received 109 of 115 available votes for vice president, General Operations; Cherry Kinoshita, 113, vice president, Public Affairs; Robert Sakaguchi, 115, vice president, Membership/1000 Club; and Alan Nishi, 114, secretary/treasurer.

In a close race, Bill Marutani edged out Hank Tanaka for vice president of Planning & Development, 60-55. The nominations committee consisted of Cathy Maeda, Sharon Ishii-Jordan, J.M. Kometani and Maude Ishida.

In the presidential race, Nominations Chair Teresa Maebori informed the audience that a run-off election was required. Initially, the run-off tally was not going to be announced. PNW District Governor Denny Yasuhara, however, requested that the numbers be announced citing a past precedent at a National Convention where the figures were announced under similar circumstances.

Maebori decided to announce the votes, which were 49.5 for Mollie Fujioka, 37.5 for Cressey Nakagawa and 27 for Helen Kawagoe. There was one abstention. With this information, a motion motion for a 30-minute break to caucus was made and defeated. Ron Hatamiya made a similar motion, but for a 15-minute break. After being seconded by Tut Yata, the motion was approved and the delegates scattered. Maebori reminded them that no caucusing was permitted in the main room.

After the break, the ballots were distributed and the votes were then collected. By this time delegate Wilson Makabe of Reno, Nev. appeared, bringing the vote total to 116 for the run-off, making 58.5 the new number to win.

The anticipation was relieved by the arrival of the results. The final count was 61.5 for Nakagawa and 53.5 for Fujioka and the JACL had a new president. Although Fujioka said that she would not run again in 1990, Kawagoe told Pacific Citizen that she would run for the JACL presidency again in 1990 at the San Diego convention.



AP/WideWorld

JUBILATION!—President Ronald Reagan signed H.R. 442, the Civil Liberties Act of 1987, Aug. 10. In addition to a government apology, the law requires payment of \$20,000 to qualified Japanese Americans interned during WW2. In his remarks, the president referred to Pacific Citizen, which in 1945 published an article quoting the words of Capt. Ronald Reagan. Speaking of the heroic exploits of the late Staff Sgt. Kazuo Masuda and the 100th/442nd, Reagan quoted himself, saying,

"Blood that has soaked the sands of a beach is all one color. America stands unique in the world, the only country not founded on race, but on a way—an ideal. Not in spite of, but because of our polyglot background, we have had all the strength of the world. That is the American way." Pictured with the president (l-r) are Sen. Spark Matsunaga (D-Hawaii), Rep. Patricia Saiki (R-Hawaii), Sen. Pete Wilson (R-Calif.), Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska) and Rep. Robert Matsui (D-Calif.).

By Harry Honda

WASHINGTON — The day of Aug. 10 when President Ronald Reagan signed H.R. 442 to "right a grave wrong" and apologize for the WW2 removal and detention of 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry has eclipsed Feb. 19—the date when all this began in 1942.

It also set into motion the Justice Department's search for those eligible to receive individual apologies and \$20,000 payment signifying redress of grievances for being deprived of freedom because of race and of property during World War II.

It evoked messages of joy and jubilation from those who had recognized the wartime detention as a fundamental injustice.

And it was the biggest story for the Japanese American community, judging by the banner headlines in the vernacular press, since the Issei won citizenship rights in 1952 when the Congress overturned President Truman's veto of the measure.

Congressional Comments

Rep. Norman Mineta (D-Calif.) who spent his wartime years as a child at the Heart Mountain, Wyo., camp, said the redress bill dealt with fundamental questions of the U.S. Constitution. "Does our Constitution indeed

protect all of us regardless of race or culture? Do our rights remain inalienable even in times of stress, especially in times of war? Passage of this legislation answers these questions with a resounding YES."

Rep. Robert Matsui (D-Calif.) called the passage a "commitment to the Constitution that will be remembered in history books for generations to come . . . (the President's) signature demonstrates that principles of justice can transcend any partisan lines politics may draw up."

Chief sponsor in the Senate, Sen. Spark Matsunaga (D-Hawaii) was especially pleased since he himself signed the bill as acting Senate president pro tempore to certify passage. Mineta earlier had signed the same bill as acting Speaker of the House.

Matsunaga reminded: "Many believed we would never see this day, the issue was so controversial and emotional."

"Realization did not come overnight, but it did come across the political spectrum with a clarity which affirms our national purpose and bodes well for America's future."

Compensation to Evacuees

The redress law provides \$20,000 tax-free payment to Japanese Americans who were affected by E.O. 9066 with some exceptions (Aug. 5-12,

P.C.). And the Justice Department is required within 12 months to identify and locate each eligible individual "without requiring any application", as stipulated in the reconciled version of H.R. 442.

The JACL-LEC is expected to mount an information campaign to accelerate the process.

Individuals may submit documentation to the Attorney General, [Dept. of Justice, Washington, D.C. 20530] upon date of enactment of the redress bill, who then will acknowledge their receipt and compile a roster of eligible individuals.

Eligible individuals will have 18 months upon notification to accept payment or to pursue settlement of a claim against the U.S. arising from the Evacuation.

Eligible individuals living on the date of enactment—Aug. 10, 1988—now have vested rights to receive payment. If deceased, payment is limited to: (1) a surviving spouse of one year, (2) or in equal shares to all children living at time of payment, (3) and if there is no such surviving spouse or child, then in equal shares to parents living on date of payment.

If there is no surviving spouse, child or parent, then the payment remains in the redress fund.

Excluded from the eligibility list are

those who, during the period from Dec. 7, 1941, to Sept. 2, 1945, were "relocated to a country at war with the United States."

In accepting payment, evacuees agree to drop all legal claims pending against the government.

Appropriations Due from 1990

While the redress bill authorizes payment, Congress must still "appropriate" the funds on a yearly-basis through the budget, which must be signed by the President.

No more than \$500 million is to be appropriated for any fiscal year.

The JACL intends to monitor this process in the forthcoming sessions of Congress.

Payments are expected over a 10-year period starting with the most elderly as early as the next Congress which would pass an appropriations bill in 1989 with payment following from 1990, according to Grayce Uyehara, JACL-LEC executive director, who was responding to queries at the National JACL Convention in Seattle.

>>

She indicated even the renunciants present at Tule Lake at the end of war are eligible.

A Day to Remember

National JACL President Harry Kajihara, long identified with the redress effort at the grassroot Ventura County JACL level, later as district governor and national JACL redress campaign leader, issued the following statement upon Mr. Reagan's signing of the bill.

Today is truly a grand and glorious historic day that will be rejoiced and remembered by all Americans of Japanese ancestry. In 1942, at the hands of our own government, we were deprived of our freedom, our liberty, our pursuit of livelihood, and forcibly herded into ten incarceration centers located in God-forsaken barren wastelands of the United States.

Now 46 years later, our government has officially proclaimed that injustice was inflicted upon loyal Americans of Japanese ancestry. Today, President Reagan has affirmed this declaration by affixing his signature on to redress bill, H.R. 442.

Many people, inside and outside of the Japanese American community toiled long to right this wrong. We are ecstatically gratified that this redress pursuit has at long last come to a successful conclusion.

An Ironic Experience

Judge Raymond Uno of Salt Lake City had joined the Army after he got out of Heart Mountain, Wyo., because he noted that it was about the only option open to young Nisei after the war. He had served in the Korean war but it wasn't until he was in law school that he realized the irony of having fought to defend the freedom he was once denied.

"It brought out the best and worst of the Japanese American people," Uno told the Salt Lake Tribune the day after the House passed the conference report to the redress bill. "It taught a lot of us about self-government and self-reliance, but there was a lot of bitterness. A lot of tension."

Uno felt the \$20,000 being paid to internees is valuable because of its symbolism. "The apology is a good

thing, but there's something else. It is of sufficient economic value that people will realize this is a very serious thing," he said.

The same day in San Francisco, National JACL Executive Director Ron Wakabayashi said: "I am thankful to President Reagan for his expression of support for the redress bill. His efforts to indicate his position eases the remaining anxiety regarding the culmination of this community's long campaign to restore ourselves and strengthen the nation. I am personally pleased to have this take place in my mother's lifetime."

The P.C. Clipping

Reference by the President in his closing remarks about a newspaper clipping from *The Pacific Citizen* dated December, 1945, was from the Dec. 15 issue, which featured photos of General Stilwell presenting the Distinguished Service Cross posthumously for Sgt. Kazuo Masuda to his sister Mary Masuda on the porch of "her small frame shack near Talbert, Orange County (now Fountain Valley)".

George Johnston of the P.C. staff had researched the files for this story for Rose Ochi, who then sent the clipping to the President, as was acknowledged in his remarks.

Apparently, it was the many JACLers present who appreciated Mr. Reagan's mention of JACL's official publication, *The Pacific Citizen*, as most accounts the following day did not attribute the story of Gen. Stilwell's presentation nor the remarks by "one young actor (who said): 'Blood that has soaked into the sands of a beach is all of one color. America stands unique in the world, the only country not founded on race, but on a way—an ideal. Not in spite of, but because of our polyglot background, we have had all the strength of the world. That is the American way.'"

"The name of that young actor," Mr. Reagan concluded, "—I hope I pronounce this right (evoking laughter here by some who knew of the incident)—was Ronald Reagan." It drew

strong applause.

Last-Minute Switch

Over 100 Japanese Americans, plus the press corps accredited to the White House, congressional and White House staff witnessed President Reagan's signing of H.R. 442.

National JACL president Harry Kajihara was lone non-Congressional member among the 14 standing around President Reagan at the signing.

Spotted from the Congress were Sens. Daniel Inouye, Spark Matsunaga, Ted Stevens (R-Alaska), Reps. Norman Mineta, Robert Matsui, Toby Roth (D-Wis), Patricia Saiki, Dan Akaka, Guam Delegate Ben Blaz.

Change in the locale of the signing was announced by Rep. Mineta during the luncheon he had hosted. The ceremony had been scheduled for the White House Rose Garden but the heat (97° with humidity to match) forced the ceremonies indoor to the White House press briefing room in the Old Executive Office Bldg.

Among Those Invited

Here is a partial list of Japanese Americans invited by the White House to the signing ceremony. A number of lists were amalgamated to make up the group.

- Jerry Enomoto, Hitoshi H. Kajihara, Cherry Kinoshita, True Yasui, Denny Yasuhara, Shigeo Wakamatsu, Mollie Fujioka, Henry T. Tanaka, Thomas Y. Kometani, Hid Hasogawa, Cressley Nakagawa, Gene Takamine, Takashi Moriuchi, Tom T. Shimasaki, Clarence Nishizu, K. Patrick Okura, George Ogawa, Masaaki Hironaka, Marleen Kawahara, Sam M. Nakano.
- Homer Yasui, Junji Kumamoto, Judy Niizawa, George Sakaguchi, Gordon Yoshikawa, Frances Tojo, Betty Waki, Jefferson R. Itami, Frank Iritani, George K. Baba.
- Ted Inouye, Meriko Mori, John N. Kanda, Harry K. Honda, Wayne Kimura, Grayce K. Uyehara, S. Ruth Hashimoto, Sumiko Kobayashi, Charles T. Nagao, Sandi Kawasaki.
- Hiroshi Uyehara, Rudy Tokiwa, Mae Takahashi, Sumi Koide, Pete Oda, June Masuda Goto, Rita Takahashi, Mary Tsukamoto, Ai Tsukamoto, Ron Wakabayashi.
- Bob Moteki, Carole Hayashino Kagawa, Bob Sakaguchi, John Hayashi, Susan Kamei, Hiroshi Kamei, Peggy Sasashima Leggett, William Yoshino, Rose Ochi, Steve Nakashima.
- Mary Toda, Joseph Ichiuji, Frank Sato, Katherine Sasaki Nunotani, Joe Kosai, Aiko Takeshita, Alan Nishi, the Emon family of six, Susumu and Sumi, parents of David, Helen, Grace and Walter, Medford, Ore.; Doris and Brian Matsui.

Text of Reagan's Remarks

President Ronald Reagan signed the redress legislation into law on Aug. 10. Here are his remarks, released by the White House, Office of the Press Secretary.

... My fellow Americans, we gather here today to right a grave wrong.

More than 40 years ago, shortly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry living in the United States were forcibly removed from their homes and placed in makeshift internment camps. This action was taken without trial, without injury. It was based solely on race—for these 120,000 were Americans of Japanese descent.

Yes, the nation was then at war, struggling for its survival—and it's not for us today to pass judgement upon those who may have made mistakes while engaged in that great struggle.

Yet we must recognize that the internment of Japanese Americans was just that—a mistake. For throughout the war, Japanese Americans in the tens of thousands remained utterly loyal to the United States.

Indeed, scores of Japanese Americans volunteered for our Armed Forces—many stepping forward in the internment camps themselves. The 442nd Regimental Combat Team, made up entirely of Japanese Americans, served with immense distinction—to defend this nation, their nation.

Yet back at home, the soldiers' families were being denied the very freedom for which so many of the soldiers themselves were laying down their lives.

Congressman Norman Mineta, with us today, was 10 years old when his family was interned. In the congressman's words, "My own family was sent first to Santa Anita Racetrack. We showered in the horse paddocks. Some families lived in converted stables, others in hastily thrown together barracks. We were then moved to Heart Mountain, Wyoming, where our entire family lived in one small room of a crude tarpaper barrack."

Like so many tens of thousands of others, the members of the Mineta family lived in those conditions not for a matter of weeks or months, but for three long years.

The legislation that I am about to sign provides for a restitution payment to each of the 60,000 survivors, Japanese—surviving Japanese Americans—of the 120,000 who were relocated or detained. Yet no payment can make up for those lost years.

"So what is most important in this bill has less to do with property than with honor. For here we admit a wrong. Here we reaffirm our commitment as a nation to equal justice under the law.

I'd like to note that the bill I'm about to sign also provides funds for members of the Aleut

community who were evacuated from the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands after a Japanese attack in 1942. This action was taken for the Aleut's own protection, but property was lost or damaged that has never been replaced.

"And now in closing, I wonder whether you'd permit me one personal reminiscence—one prompted by an old newspaper report sent to me by Rose Ochi, a former internee. The clipping comes from the *Pacific Citizen* and is dated December 1945.

"Arriving by plane from Washington," the article begins, "General Joseph W. Stilwell pinned the Distinguished Service Cross on Mary Masuda in a simple ceremony on the porch of her small frame shack near Talbert, Orange County. She was one of the first Americans of Japanese ancestry to return from relocation centers to California's farmlands."

"Vinegar Joe" Stilwell was there that day to honor Kazuo Masuda, Mary's brother. You see, while Mary and her parents were in an internment camp, Kazuo served as staff sergeant to the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. In one action, Kazuo ordered his men back and advanced through heavy fire, hauling a mortar. For 12 hours, he engaged in a single-handed barrage of Nazi positions. Several weeks later at Cassino, Kazuo staged another lone advance. This time, it cost him his life.

The newspaper clipping notes that her two surviving brothers were with Mary and her parents on the little porch that morning. These two brothers—like the heroic Kazuo—had served in the United States Army. After General Stilwell made the award, the motion picture actress Louise Allbritton—a Texas girl—told how a Texas battalion had been saved by the 442nd. Other show business personalities paid tribute—Robert Young, Will Rogers, Jr., and one young actor said: "Blood that has soaked into the sands of a beach is all of one color. America stands unique in the world, the only country not founded on race, but on a way—an ideal. Not in spite of, but because of our polyglot background, we have had all the strength in the world. That is the American way."

The name of that young actor—I hope I pronounce this right—was Ronald Reagan... and, yes, the ideal of liberty and justice for all—that is still the American way.

Thank you and God bless you. And now, let me sign H.R. 442—so fittingly named in honor of the 442nd. (The bill is signed.)

Thank you all again, and God bless you all. I think this is a fine day.



The National Publication of the JACL

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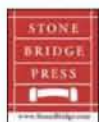
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JACL's David Inoue (second from left) with members of the Heart Mountain Pilgrimage committee and guests Sec. Norm Mineta and Sen. Alan Simpson (seated)



Rob and April Buscher at the Heart Mountain monument



The crowd reacts to former incarcerated Shig Yabu (left).

PHOTOS: ROB BUSCHER



JACL YPC members Kurt Yokoyama Ikeda (left) and Rob Buscher with Norm Mineta and Karen Korematsu

RECLAIMING OUR HISTORIES AT THE 2018 Heart Mountain Pilgrimage

Witnessing firsthand the trauma of incarceration while in Wyoming, the writer reveals closure to feelings of guilt and gains new insight for the JA community moving forward.

By Rob Buscher, Contributor

When my younger sister, April, asked me to join her on the 2018 Heart Mountain Pilgrimage, I didn't quite know what to expect. Although we grew up attending JACL events occasionally with my mother and I have been active in my local Philadelphia chapter for nearly a decade, visiting a former incarceration site had never really crossed my mind.

None of our immediate family were incarcerated because they were able to escape California during the "voluntary evacuation" period. While our family's sense of injustice over their loss of property, livelihood and community is certainly similar to those who were incarcerated, we lack the connection to a specific place that I suspect motivates most participants to embark on these pilgrimages. Nonetheless, as a historian and community organizer, I decided it was important to witness this place firsthand.

As luck would have it, I had already been saving that weekend on my calendar after learning that the 2018 pilgrimage program titled "Incarceration" would be focusing on aspects of creative storytelling, including music and film making, as a means of maintaining the legacy of those who had been imprisoned at Heart Mountain. Interesting especially given

the 2018 JACL National Convention program also revolved heavily around the arts, a hopeful sign of the direction our community is moving in and perhaps an indication of things to come within the Japanese American activist space.

After meeting at Denver airport on July 26 before the two-day pilgrimage programs began on July 28-29, we embarked on an eight-hour car journey to Cody, Wyo. — the nearest town to Heart Mountain. Although nothing can compare to the experience of being packed like cattle into windowless train cars and shipped through the night without food or water to the remote mountainous desert where Heart Mountain is located, the drive gave us time to reflect on the increasingly rural landscape.

As cities became towns and gradually receded into ranges with gaps of 30-40 miles between settlements, the reality of how desolate this region is began to sink in. Surely this was but one of many relative horrors they experienced going to camp, but the thought of urban-dwelling and coastal peoples being forced inland to such a remote place made my stomach turn.

Our pilgrimage began with an entire day of programs located off-site from the former incarceration camp, which were meant to prepare participants for the camp visit on the second day. While I was initially surprised that we would not be spending more time on-site at Heart Mountain, I realized after the fact that the workshops, panels, discussions and performances that first day were a necessary community-building aspect that prepared us for the site visit.

The welcome program opened with a series

of short films made by descendants of incarceration survivors, who each shared a piece of their family history through a particular artifact from camp.

Produced in partnership with filmmaker Jeff MacIntyre and ABC-7 Los Angeles journalist David Ono, subjects of these films ranged from wooden birds carved by inmates to a baseball glove belonging to a departed Nisei grandfather.

While each of these were powerful pieces in their own right, the short about Nisei Shig Yabu, whose childhood incarceration was made a little brighter by his camp pet, "Maggie" the Magpie, brought tears to most of the audience. Yabu also authored a children's book titled "Hello Maggie," illustrated by former Disney animator and fellow camp survivor Willie Ito, that was sold at the interpretive center.

Following the film screenings, former U.S. Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta, who was also incarcerated as a young boy at Heart Mountain, gave welcoming remarks and shared a clip from the new documentary about his life titled "An American Story: Norman Mineta and His Legacy." The clip focused on his friendship with Republican Sen. Alan Simpson, whom he befriended during a rare camp visit from a local Wyoming Boy Scout troop.

Next, pilgrimage committee member and incarceration survivor Sam Mihara gave a report on the ongoing conservation efforts to restore Heart Mountain's root cellar to a functional state, so that attendees will be able to visit it at future pilgrimages. Sec. Mineta (also former mayor of San Jose, Calif.) would later contextualize that it was the San Jose farmers who were responsible for the root cellar's success.

After digging an irrigation ditch that diverted water from the Shoshone River closer to camp, they transformed barren mountain

plains into arable farmland for the first time in documented history. The root cellar was a necessary improvement in order to store produce that was grown to supplement their meager WRA provisions. The farmers at Heart Mountain were so successful that they were able to ship surplus produce to other incarceration camps with less productive farms.

Having successfully won a grant from the National Parks Service Japanese American Confinement Sites program, the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation is responsible for raising \$35,000 in additional matching funds. While the fundraising campaign is ongoing, generous pilgrims donated approximately \$20,000 during the pilgrimage alone.

As this program came to a close, we decided to grab lunch with a few JACL friends who were also on the pilgrimage, including Executive Director David Inoue and Karen Korematsu. It was a valuable opportunity to break bread across generations and share perspectives on the morning's events.

Korematsu asked if our family was at Heart Mountain, so I told her how they fled California to seek refuge beyond Military Zone 1 in Ogden, Utah, where my great-grandfather had an uncle living amongst the small Japanese American farming and railroad worker camp there.

I was astonished when the daughter of Fred Korematsu responded, "Your great-grandfather was a resister!" — words that have echoed in my mind many times since. In all the years I have spent as a community organizer, artist-activist and scholar, I have never considered my own family's history from that perspective. It was a liberating idea that I am still coming to terms with.

While we were chatting, one of our lunch companions, Kurt Ikeda, was conversing with a couple of the locals who shared the deli counter that we were eating at. One man, who



2018 Pilgrimage program art borrowed from Estelle Ishigo



Estelle Ishigo works rescued from the Rago Auction





Pilgrims outside the interpretive center



Pilgrimage intern Kurt Ikeda (left) directs attendees to the next activity.



Kishi Bashi (right) joins No-No Boy at their bar show.

A barrack interior with a dividing wall



was a retired high school teacher, spoke very highly of the interpretive center, saying he had visited several times with his students. It was a pleasant enough conversation until he referred to it as the “Jap camp” suggesting there is still much education to be done even in communities where these sites are located.

We spent the afternoon attending workshops on a variety of subjects such as oral history related to camp, digital storytelling and a conversation around the preservation and exhibition of artifacts from camp.

I was particularly interested in the artifacts panel because one of the main subjects was the Allen Hendershott Eaton collection of art and objects created by camp inmates that sparked national controversy when they were slated to be sold at auction by Rago Arts in 2015. Ultimately after George Takei and other prominent Japanese American leaders stepped in, ownership of the collection was transferred to the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles’ Little Tokyo.

Since many of the artifacts came from Heart Mountain, the foundation was heavily involved in the activism that helped stop the auction. Scholar Nancy Ukai spoke about her leadership role in the social media protests that brought the story to national attention, and she shared details of her “50 Objects” blog, which tells the stories behind the artifacts that were recovered from the Eaton Collection.

Next, I attended a musical performance by No-No Boy Project, a folk duo comprised of Erin Aoyama and Julian Saporiti, both PhD candidates in Brown University’s American Studies Department. A major component of their respective research, the project boasts a repertoire of about 60 songs that explores the history of Asian America. As regular participants in the Heart Mountain Pilgrimage (Aoyama’s grandmother was incarcerated here), their performance featured a selection of songs from their suite on Japanese American incarceration.

Saporiti described their project in his own words: “Think about a band playing a dance at an auditorium inside a concentration camp and those feelings, whether its lips on a trumpet or people on a date and giving these individual moments a story through song,” he said.

Between the heavily layered lyrics, Saporiti’s masterful guitar playing and their shared vocal harmonies, the duo breathed new life into these stories of the past. They were later joined by violinist Kishi Bashi — who would perform the following day at the interpretive center.

The afternoon programs concluded with an intergenerational group discussion to help better

understand the perspectives on the pilgrimage experience across generations.

My group included Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation Board Chair Shirley Higuchi and Friends of Minidoka Board Chair Alan Momohara — both Sansei who have been heavily involved in the pilgrimage movement for some time. Myself and a mid-30s-something woman were the two Yonsei in our group, both attending our first pilgrimage. What began as a fairly superficial conversation about what had brought us there quickly escalated into a deep discussion about the legacy of trauma and certain intergenerational fears around property ownership that have been hardwired into our community through the collective loss our ancestors experienced.

This discussion was one of the more rewarding parts of the pilgrimage for me. Aside from the incredible resources that Higuchi and Momohara provided in better understanding the history and significance of the pilgrimage, I came to an unexpected revelation about my own family’s relationship with intergenerational trauma.

Although my Obaachan was heavily involved with JACL during the redress years, most of her siblings never really engaged with those efforts. For some of the elders in my family, I suspect their detachment from activism is a manifestation of survivor’s guilt, which they suffer as some of the lucky few in their generation to experience the war years from outside the confines of a barbed-wire fence.

Even as a Yonsei, I find myself apologetically explaining how our family avoided going to camp, though arguably the challenges my great-grandparents faced outside of the community were at times more dangerous and resulted in a certain alienation from both Japanese American and non-Japanese communities. Through this discussion, I realized that the same legacy of trauma exists across both experiences and that our family’s history is also an important part of the Japanese American story during WWII.

Later that evening, we joined our group of new friends at a local bar where No-No Boy gave an impromptu performance to a mixed audience

of Cody residents and pilgrims. Although they repeated a few of the songs from their earlier set, much of the material extended beyond the incarceration to include stories like that of Saporiti’s Vietnamese refugee mother as she fled her homeland by sea.

After striking up a conversation there with Haako Wakatsuki, who works at the Minidoka National Historic Site, I learned that she had spent the last years of my great-uncle George Koyama’s life as his “adopted granddaughter,” driving him to the pharmacy or other errands and joining him for monthly steak dinners (his favorite). Meeting someone who had cared so deeply for our now-departed elder filled me with immense gratitude as I marveled at how small our extended Japanese American community is.

The next morning, my sister and I arrived at Heart Mountain just as the speaking program began under a large tent adjacent to the interpretive center. Sen. Mineta and Sen. Simpson gave welcoming remarks, where they each recounted aspects of their long friendship.

Mineta, a liberal Democrat, and Simpson, a conservative Republican — when asked what the biggest difference is between them, Mineta responded, “The size of our shoes.” Ever the comedian, Simpson quipped, “These days, our conversations consist mostly of organ recitals — how’s your heart, liver, prostate . . .” as he went on to describe their lifelong friendship.

It was encouraging to see two individuals at opposite ends of the political spectrum come together in mutual respect and admiration during this time of unprecedented division in our country’s history.

It was also fascinating to learn more about the local Wyoming perspective on the camp — something I had not given much thought to previously. Simpson spoke of waiting the first train coming and fears of the unknown as Heart Mountain War Relocation Center became his state’s third-largest city overnight. After meeting Mineta during a scout summit, he was shocked to learn that these boys were just like him. It was the perfect way to set the tone for the rest of the day.

My first activity was a guided tour of the original camp barrack with incarceration survivor and “Hello Maggie” author Yabu. Even after studying a place for the better part of a decade and growing up hearing stories

from elders about their experiences in camp, nothing could prepare me for my first visit to an incarceration site. Having seen the camp barrack at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles, I did not imagine the experience to be as impactful as it was. As I walked up the three steps from the dusty desert plains onto the ill-fitting plank wood floors, it struck me for the first time just how terrible this place really was.

I imagined the young families entering these spaces for the first time, lying to their children and themselves that everything was going to be alright. Mothers choking back tears as their child asked when they could go back home. I also thought of the Issei elders, those who came to this country with ambitions for something more. How many farm fields were left to rot alongside the dying embers of their American dreams?

The dry desert heat shocked me out of this daydream as I realized how hot and stuffy the barrack was. That day being fairly mild in temperature, it was difficult to fathom how the inmates dealt with days worse than these.

As Yabu led our group through the barrack, he explained some of the daily challenges living with three to four other families in such cramped quarters. He spoke of the winters, when a potbelly stove was the only heat source with a single dim light hanging in the middle of the barrack. Nights were difficult for families with young children since the lavatories were too far a walk for small bladders to handle, so empty peach tins would be used as an overnight potty that embarrassed mothers would hurriedly empty in the early morning hours.

These barracks were built in such haste that the wood used in their construction wasn’t even cured. Green wood shrinks and expands with the changing temperatures and humidity and after a season, many of the plank wall barracks and other camp buildings had half-inch gaps between them. One of the rare moments of levity was when Yabu spoke of the news circulating among many of the boys that the women’s showers were visible through one such gap. Almost as quickly as that news had traveled came the story that someone caught peeping had their eyes gouged out. Whether actual or imagined, that was enough to keep him from ever trying.

Yabu remembered a time when workers returning from furlough in Utah brought a bed-bug infestation back with them. The WRA



Paper cranes at the monument



sprayed DDT, a chemical pesticide that has since been proven to cause cancer, inside and out of the barracks claiming it had the added benefit of “clearing the breathing passages.”

In their first weeks at camp, the mess hall had no lids for food containers, which led to contamination by fly larvae. To solve the problem, the WRA offered camp residents a war bond stamp for every hundred flies killed, whose carcasses were to be stuffed into envelopes as proof. Yabu recalls earning about three stamps himself.

About 40 minutes into his talk, Yabu asked if there were any questions, and a young boy about 8-years-old asked, “Was it fun?” After pausing for a moment, Yabu replied, “You know, it wasn’t all bad” and continued to tell us a few stories about Maggie and some of the other pets he kept.

In the last year or so that the camp was open, security lessened significantly to the point that some 400-500 people would cross the barbed-wire fence on nice days to fish and swim in the Shoshone River. While Yabu and his family were obviously impacted negatively by the camp experience, Yabu’s words reveal a larger truth about this place as a space of community.

As bad as it was being imprisoned for the crime of ancestry by their own government, the camp residents found a sense of community that was lacking for most living outside of the densely populated urban Japantowns — one that many would never again partake in as the community dispersed across the country in the post-war era.

These are the kinds of stories that are lost in the few paragraphs of euphemistic history textbooks that were taught to me and countless others in the American public-school system. Hearing Yabu speak about these experiences over the course of an hour inside of an actual barrack on the former incarceration site helped me understand the camp experience better than my entire lifetime of scholarship on the subject.

As I walked out of the barrack into a sunlit plain of purple sagebrush with the silhouette of Heart Mountain off in the distant blue sky, I felt a certain numbness as I grappled with the fact that immense suffering and pain took place in these beautiful surroundings. Under normal circumstances, many would consider this a paradise, but for our community, it — and the other places like it — is the root of many generations of dysfunction and trauma.

Trying to make sense of the powerful emotions I was feeling, I eventually wandered into the interpretive center, where Kishi Bashi was just beginning his presentation of “Omoi-yari” — a song film that features his original violin compositions alongside a visual history of the former incarceration sites. Still a work in progress, he performed live accompaniments to most of the film clips that were shown. As



Judge Raymond Uno (left) with HMWF’s Shirley Higuchi and Bacon Sakatani



Chicago-based filmmaker Jason Matsumoto (right) leads a folk song chorus with Karen Korematsu (left) and others.

I watched, I reflected on the visceral sensory experiences I had just encountered in the hot barrack where the dusty air had a faint scent of sagebrush permeating through the dryness.

In his final song clip, Kishi Bashi began humming a chorus that encapsulated the feelings of remembrance, resilience and resistance that are central to the pilgrimage experience. Without a single word of instruction, the entire room of 100 participants began humming in unison — in what I felt was a collective tribute to our ancestors. I suspect I was not the only person shedding tears by this point in the program, a necessary release after the life-altering experiences I had taken part in that day.

Inoue also gave a powerful keynote speech at the lunch program that followed. Beyond his call-to-action for pilgrims to get more involved in the contemporary activism that JACL engages in, Inoue also called for JACLers to take a more active role in the pilgrimages. At a time in our country’s history when xenophobia and bigotry have placed us closer than ever before to the conditions that led to the wartime incarceration, Inoue appealed, “We must stand together as a community, otherwise, we fall.”

Aside from our initial journey to Cody, my sister and I had not spent much time together during the pilgrimage programs until we visited the Heart Mountain Monument later that afternoon, located at the former site of the mess hall chimney.

April had folded 100 origami cranes that she strung together and left at the monument in the tradition made popular by the story of Sadako Sasaki.

Our Issei great-grandparents immigrated from Hiroshima with relatives who both perished in and survived the atomic bombing, so the origami crane as a symbol of peace has always held special significance for our family.

April plans to deliver 100 cranes to each of the 10 incarceration camps, totaling the symbolic number of 1,000 cranes meant to grant its bearer a wish. It was a fitting tribute that made this big brother proud.

After walking through the barren landscape to the hospital compound, we boarded a bus back to the hotel, where the Sayonara Banquet took place later that evening. In yet another creative means of telling the incarceration story, Grant and Rachel Sunada gave a swing dancing demonstration to kick things off, the style of dance that was most popular in the camps. It was a poignant reminder, like so much of the other arts-related programming at this pilgrimage, that there were brief moments of joy amidst the sorrow of camp life.

Korematsu was the featured banquet speaker,

and she spoke passionately about the important work she is doing to keep her father’s legacy alive through the Fred T. Korematsu Institute, where she serves as executive director. Bridging Korematsu’s story with various topics related to civil rights and Asian American history, the institute makes connections to present-day issues related to discrimination such as mass incarceration, xenophobia and Islamophobia.

In a particularly heartfelt moment, Korematsu spoke about the Supreme Court’s recent overturning of the *Korematsu v. United States* verdict, which was done in a poorly worded majority statement that upheld the Trump administration’s Muslim Travel Ban. Brought to tears at the thought of her father’s would-be devastation knowing this was how his verdict would finally be overturned, a middle-aged Sansei man stood up in tears to tell her that Korematsu was his hero — she was following in his footsteps.

As the program came to an end, JACLer Judge Raymond Uno (who was incarcerated at Heart Mountain as a child) invited pilgrims to attend the 2019 JACL National Convention that will be hosted in his hometown of Salt Lake City.

Pilgrims were slow to leave the banquet room, many engaged in meaningful conversation with friends both new and old who had shared this powerful experience.

We ended the night singing Japanese folk

songs together in a house that the Minidoka Pilgrimage Committee rented amongst individuals who came from Chicago, Philadelphia, Boston, Idaho, California, Rhode Island and Hawaii. We ranged from recent college graduates to civil rights and community leaders (including Korematsu). It was a meaningful and fitting way to conclude this incredible experience, one that I will cherish for the rest of my life.

As a JACLer, I think it is extremely important for our membership to become more engaged in the pilgrimage movement. I find it strange that our organization hasn’t been more involved in past pilgrimages, given the similar themes and activism that is inherent in the work that is being done here.

Perhaps it requires a critical mass within both the younger generation of JACL and pilgrimage attendees, but I see a great deal of potential for our movements to merge. This is a great time to get involved with the pilgrimages especially with the recent formation of the Japanese American Confinement Sites Consortium earlier this year. JACSC is already helping to pave the way for a collaboration between pilgrimage committees, camp interpretive centers and community organizations like the JACL.

At times, the JACL community can feel a bit insular, especially as our annual conventions have moved farther from past models that were more inclusive of nondelegates in their programming. I was greatly encouraged by the fact that such a tight-knit community of Japanese Americans exists elsewhere outside of our organization.

On a personal note, the last time my sister and I have been this close was before I moved out of our parents’ home over a decade ago. Participating in the pilgrimage gave me a sense of closure with previously unresolved issues of guilt of coming from a Japanese American family who was not incarcerated during WWII. Each pilgrim’s experience will be different based on his or her own connection to the history of that space, but as Japanese Americans, we owe it to our ancestors and ourselves to participate in this important movement. ■

**AMERICAN HOLIDAY TRAVEL
2018 TOUR SCHEDULE**

- 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**

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In Memoriam

The JACL Women of Redress



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Cherry Kinoshita
Seattle



Peggy Liggett
Fresno



Mae Takahashi
Clovis

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SEABROOK JACL CONDUCTS ANNUAL AWARDS LUNCHEON

The Seabrook Chapter of the JACL held a luncheon at the Ramada Inn in Vineland, N.J., on June 24 to recognize the recipients of its JACL Citizenship Awards. Honorees were selected by the area's high schools, as well as graduates from amongst the local membership of the JACL.

Approximately 70 people gathered to honor the graduates at the luncheon; guests also witnessed the installation of the chapter's JACL officers and board for 2018-20. Michelle Amano, former JACL national vp for operations, conducted the installation ceremony.

The event's keynote speaker was Teresa Maebori, Philadelphia JACL chapter vp, who relayed her experience in



The Seabrook chapter of the JACL installed its new officers and honored its Citizenship Awards recipients during a luncheon in Vineland, N.J. Pictured are this year's honorees with Seabrook Chapter President Michael Asada.

discovering her familial roots while on a personal journey to Caldwell, Idaho. During World War II, her family was incarcerated there and put to work in the farm labor camps that supplied sugar beets for the war effort at the time.

Recipients of the 2018 Seabrook JACL Citizenship Awards were Citlalli Jiminez (Bridgeton High School), Jenna Silvers (Cumberland Co. Technical Education Center), Sarah Fath (Cumberland Regional High School), Hailei Markee (Millville Senior High School), Morgan Dempsey (Arthur P. Schalick High School), Jamilex Vicente (Vineland High School), Amanda Volk (Woodruff School) and Mitchell Coulter (Woodruff School).

A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

CALENDAR

NCWNP

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 with this boutique featuring handcrafted jewelry, clothing, pottery, and much more. 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 or call Phyllis Osaki at (925) 596-1770 or Marsha Baird at (510) 579-1518.

Workshop: 'Creating Inclusive Youth Programs; Supporting LGBTQ Youth and Families; Nurturing Compassionate Communities'

Berkeley, CA
Sept. 29; 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Jodo Shinshu Center
2140 Durant Ave.

Price: \$20 Registration (includes lunch); deadline Sept. 21

The Buddhist Churches of America Center for Buddhist Education presents this workshop that will feature keynote speaker Aiden Aizumi, a national PFLAG, API educator and co-author of the book "Two Spirits, One Heart: A Mother, Her Transgender Son and Their Journey to Love and Acceptance." The workshop will also include an LGBTQ youth panel, interfaith clergy panel and training resources.

Info: Call (510) 809-1460 or email cbe@bcahq.org.

Sake Day 2018
San Francisco, CA
Sept. 29; 4-8 p.m.
Hotel Kabuki
1625 Post St.

Price: \$70 Early Bird; \$80 General Admission

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. You'll also have the opportunity to meet master sake makers from many of the top breweries of Japan. All proceeds from this event will benefit the JCCCNC.

Info: Visit www.jcccnc.org.

PSW

2018 Never Forget — Justice for All Gala
San Diego, CA
Sept. 15; 6:30 p.m. Dinner/Program
Town & Country San Diego Convention Center
500 Hotel Circle North

Price: \$100 JACL Member; \$125 General; \$65 Children Under 12

The JACL San Diego chapter pre-

sents its gala commemorating the 30th anniversary of HR 442. In addition, the chapter is honoring civil rights leaders and local Japanese American internees of the WWII camps. John Tateishi and Karen Korematsu are among those being recognized. Please RSVP by Aug. 31. Info: Visit jaclsandiego.org, email info@jaclsandiego.org or call (858) 565-2021.

Kaiju vs. Heroes: Mark Nagata's Journey Through the World of Japanese Toys
Los Angeles, CA
Sept. 15-March 24, 2019
Japanese American National Museum
100 N. Central Ave.

Immerse yourself in the world of Mark Nagata, a toy designer and fervent toy collector, who brings to the museum his amazing collection of dazzling vintage and contemporary Japanese vinyl toy monsters and heroes. Nagata's pursuit of these toys took him on an unexpected journey that brought new realizations about his cultural identity as an American of Japanese ancestry. Don't miss this amazing exhibit! Info: Visit www.janm.org.

Aki Matsuri 2018 — Japanese Fall Festival
Albuquerque, NM
Sept. 23; 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
New Mexico Veterans Memorial
1100 Louisiana Blvd. S.E.
Price: \$5 Admission

The New Mexico JACL chapter presents its annual Aki Matsuri, with this year's theme being "Takumi: The Way of Japanese Craftsmanship," which will highlight various artisans within the Japanese culture in New Mexico. This family-friendly event will feature arts, music and crafts along with a variety of vendors and activities for all ages. There will also be a ramen-eating contest and short kabuki play.

Info: Advance tickets are available for purchase online at www.nmjacl.org.

PNW

'Food and Social Justice' Banquet
Seattle, WA
Sept. 7; 6 p.m.
Bell Harbor International Conference Center
2211 Alaskan Way
Price: \$150 at the Door

The Seattle chapter of the JACL presents its 96th annual banquet and fundraiser which, among its highlights, will feature a keynote address by Shota Nakajima, winner of "Beat Bobby Flay" on the Food Network, as well as honorees Pike Place Market Foundation, Asian Counseling and Referral Service, AT&T, Karen Akada Sakata, Keiro Northwest and FareStart. Info: To purchase tickets online, visit seattlejacl.org.

The Art of Jimmy Tsutomu Mirikitani
Portland, OR

Thru Sept. 16
Emerson Street House
1006 N.E. Emerson St.

Emerson House presents the artwork of Jimmy Mirikitani, "a fiercely independent outsider artist who achieved international fame in 2006 after being featured in a major art-house documentary." This exhibit features 30 of Mirikitani's drawings and showcases his life, having survived incarceration during World War II and homelessness in the years following — what helped him survive was his artwork.

Info: Visit emersonstrethouse.com.

IDC

Asian American Pacific Islanders Commission Resource Fair
Denver, CO
Sept. 8; 9 a.m.-Noon
Place Bridge Academy
7125 Cherry Creek North Dr.
Price: Free

Sponsored by the Denver Asian American Pacific Islanders Commission, this resource fair will help attendees with important topics such as economic development, health care and immigration information. This event is free and open to all. Info: Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/denver-asian-american-pacific-islanders-commission-hosts-a-resource-fair-tickets-48275289691>.

MDC

'Courage and Compassion: Our Shared Story of the Japanese

'American WWII Experience'
St. Paul, MN
Thru 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. In addition, the TC JACL education committee has produced a local component that consists of stories involving JA community building and civic engagement throughout Minnesota.

Info: Contact tcjacl.org.

EDC

22nd Annual Mid-Autumn Festival
Philadelphia, PA
Sept. 23; 12:45-6 p.m.
Chinatown Friendship Gate
10th and Arch Streets
Price: Free

Don't miss this year's festival, which will feature music, dance, tai chi, kung fu, the Beijing Opera and a mooncake-eating contest. Overall, this festival seeks to promote culture and well being of Asian Americans.

In addition, there will be a dragon dance, lion dance and lantern parade through Chinatown.
Info: Visit aaunited.org.

Japanomania! Japanese Art Goes Global
Salem, MA
Thru Dec. 30
Peabody Essex Museum
161 Essex St.

This exhibit covers the beauty and complex stories behind the museum's celebrated Japanese export art collection from the period of Portuguese merchants in the 1500s through Japan's emergence on the world stage in the late 19th century and beyond.

Info: Visit <https://www.pem.org/exhibitions/japanomania-japanese-art-goes-global>.

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IN MEMORIAM

TRIBUTE

GEORGE TAIZO MUKAI

Mukai, George Taizo, 98, New York City, Aug. 1. Artist from Spring Valley, Calif.; brother of Tom, Crom, Susie, Hank and Abe. 442nd, Company M. Memorial Service: Sept 9, 1:30 p.m. at JAUC, NYC.

TRIBUTE

ART (ISAMU) SHIBAYAMA

Art (Isamu) Shibayama, civil rights champion of the Japanese Latin Americans and the recipient of the 2002 Fighting Spirit Award, died peacefully with family by his bedside on July 31 in San Jose, Calif. He was 88.



alien status in 1956. It wasn't until 1972 that Art was finally allowed to become an American citizen.

Having been excluded from the settlement of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which granted redress to Japanese Americans, former Japanese Latin American internees revived their own struggle for redress

Born in Lima, Peru, in 1930, Art was 13 years old when he, along with his family,

was kidnapped and transported to the U.S. aboard the USAT Cuba in 1944. Immediately upon their arrival in New Orleans, they were arrested by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service and transported by shuttered train to Crystal City, Texas, where they were held hostage, to be used in prisoner of war exchanges with Japan.

In 1946, a year after the war ended, Art's family was finally released from captivity, only to find themselves stranded in the U.S. because Peru refused to take them back. Through the humanitarian efforts of attorney Wayne Collins, they fought deportation to Japan and were

allowed to remain in the U.S. on condition that they obtain the support of a sponsor. Seabrook Farms, a New Jersey vegetable processing plant eager to find a cheap source of labor, offered to become the sponsor of many Japanese Latin Americans. Art and his sister, Fusa, worked to help support their family, thus forfeiting any opportunity to continue their education.

In 1952, Art was drafted into the U.S. Army. When Shibayama was stationed in Germany, his superior officer applied for U.S. citizenship on his behalf, but the U.S. government declared him ineligible, claiming he had entered the U.S. illegally.

After being betrayed by Peru, the country of his birth, and then having been made to live as a stateless person in the U.S. for over a decade, Art finally achieved legal

with the founding of the "Campaign for Justice: Redress NOW for Japanese Latin Americans!"

In 2000, Art and his two brothers launched the *Shibayama, et al. v. U.S.* lawsuit for their discriminatory exclusion for redress under the Civil Rights Act of 1988. But Art's lawsuit was dismissed on procedural grounds in federal claims court.

Unable to find justice in the U.S. courts after four more lawsuits and two pieces of failed legislation, in 2003, Art and his two brothers filed Petition 434-03, *Shibayama et al. v. United States* with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, a body of the Organization of American States (OAS). This petition argued that crimes had occurred under the American Declaration of the Rights and Duties of Man, an international human rights accord.

In March 2017, 14 years following the submission of the Shibayama brothers' petition, Art and his daughter, Bekki Shibayama, traveled to Washington, D.C., to testify before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. A ruling by the OAS Commission is still outstanding.

Art was predeceased by his parents, Yuzo and Tatsue Shibayama; and siblings, Fusa Sumimoto, Susan Hikida and Kazuko Shibayama. He is survived by his wife, Betty; children, Bekki and Brian; brothers, Kenbo, Tac and George; sister, Rose Nishimura.

A celebration of life to honor Art was held at the Wesley United Methodist Church in San Jose on Aug. 25.



Arima, Joyce, 60, Meridian, ID, June 30; she is survived by her husband, Robert; children, Marc (Krysten) Arima and Katie (Cody) Laws; siblings, Dennis (Kay) Itami, Richard

(Terry) Itami, Ronald Itami, Robert Itami, Judy (Wayne) Crosby, Janine (Chris) Hopkins and Joanne Itami (Tim Craig); gc: 3.

Fujino, Tsugie, 91, Pearl City, HI, June 22; she is survived by her children, Larry (Momo), Wayne and Laura; siblings, Paul Ishihara and Frances (Sam) Sato; and sisters-in-law Florence Ishihara and Alice Ishihara.

Gonong, Katsuyo Yamashita, 50, Chula Vista, CA, July 27; she is survived by her husband, Jufael "Joe" S. Gonong.



Hara, Shuko, 103, Seattle, WA/Hockessin, DE, June 10; she was predeceased by her husband, James; siblings, Ken, Teruo and Yukiye; and grandson, Peter; she is survived by her children, Lloyd Hara, Mitzi Sakata and Marsha DeFeyer; gc: 6; ggc: 4.

TRIBUTE

TOKE YONEKAWA

Toke Yonekawa of Roseville, Minn., born Oct. 11, 1920, in Guadalupe, Calif., died on July 31. He was 97. During WWII, he was incarcerated at the Gila River WRA Center in Ariz. After joining the military, he served in the South Pacific, the MIS and the U.S. Expeditionary Force to Japan. He was predeceased by wife, Tae Monden Yonekawa, and is survived by his children Wayne (Diane), Patricia (Mike), Mark and Paul (Meg); seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

TRIBUTE

TORU MIYOSHI



Toru was born in Guadalupe, Calif., in 1928 and moved to Santa Maria in 1933. He attended local schools and graduated from Butte High School while incarcerated at Arizona's Gila River Concentration Camp in 1945. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1946 and was recalled to the Korean Conflict in 1950. Toru graduated cum laude from the University of Southern California in 1955 and married Jeanne Kojima before returning to Santa Maria in 1957.

Toru first served on the Santa Maria City Council from 1978-82. He was elected to

the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors in 1982 and served two terms. He returned to the City Council in 1992 and completed 20 years of public service in the year 2000.

During his political tenure, he served on various appointments such as the State Regional Coastal Commission, Southern California Hazardous Waste Management Authority, Santa Barbara County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, Tri-Counties Oil Committee, and the Area Agency on Aging. He played important roles in closing the Casmalia Toxic Dump and restoring Waller Park.

Toru had the privilege of meeting Queen Elizabeth of England during her visit to Santa Barbara. He also had the unique opportunity to attend a luncheon where the famous gourmet chef and author, Julia Child, was also a guest. He attended an International Ecological Conference in Venice, Italy, and was invited to a Pentagon tour of military bases from Washington, D.C., to the West Coast, which included a refueling exercise of a B-52 bomber while flying over the state of Utah.

Toru and his wife, Jeanne, had two daughters, Joni and Lisa. He was most proud of his grandchildren. Laura graduated summa cum laude from the University of Oregon, majoring in music performance. He delighted in hearing his granddaughter perform on her viola. She is married and raising a family in Boise, Idaho. Logan graduated from MIT in Cambridge, Mass., with two degrees (physics and chemical engineering). He went on to earn a MS at Carnegie Mellon University in computational finance. Toru enjoyed hearing of his grandson's travels and meeting his girlfriend, Ya. He is working in Austin, Texas. Toru welcomed his great-grandson, Lane Akira, in 2015. Embracing four generations was the highlight of his illustrious career.

He is survived by his wife, Jeanne; daughters, Joni Miyoshi and Lisa (David) Daum; grandchildren, Laura (Douglas) Campbell and Logan (Ya) Daum; and great-grandson, Lane Akira.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Friends of Waller Park or nonprofit organizations of choice.



Imai, Mary, 87, Lodi, CA, Aug. 3; she was predeceased by her husband, Oswald; and son, Joe; she is survived by her sons, David, Stephen and Tim; sisters, Ayako and May; gc: 2.

Kanai, Fusako, 90, Los Angeles, CA, July 5; she is survived by her children, Dr. Scott Hiroto (Taeko) Kanai and Atsuko Kanai; sister, Keiko Tomobe gc: 3.

Nagata, Amy, 98, Los Angeles, CA, June 10; she was predeceased by her husband, Kazuji; she is survived by her children, Arleen (Isaac) Hirano, Wayne Nagata, Pauline (Norman) Schutzberger, Julie (Dale Lewis) and Margie (Blair Sillers) Nagata; she is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives.



Shinmoto, Tokue Helen, 93, Sacramento, CA, June 19; she was predeceased by her husband, Takeo Victor; she is survived by her children, Thomas and Arlane Wong; siblings, Etsuko Yamasaki, Minoru Okida and Hitoshi Okita; gc: 1.

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REIMAGINE EVERYTHING

AARP PANELISTS SHARED STORIES AT THE JACL CONVENTION TO 'PREPARE TO CARE'

By Scott Tanaka, MSW

I'm a member and board member of the Washington, D.C., chapter of JACL, so I had planned to attend the recent National JACL Convention in Philadelphia. I'm also an employee of AARP, so I was honored to organize a panel discussion for JACLers about caregiving, one of AARP's core areas of focus. This work is especially important to me as a social worker who has worked with family caregivers as part of the care team made up of doctors, nurses and other health care professionals.

I think it's really important for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to have family conversations about the topic of caregiving and "Prepare to Care," which is the title of an AARP resource that helps walk you through these difficult conversations and decisions that caregivers often face.

AAPIs are typically reluctant to talk about such serious topics because of our cultural values. It can be shameful to ask for help, for instance, because it might reveal weakness. Our elders might be very direct when they see us and say, "Hey, you gained weight," but

they avoid conversations about illness or end-of-life planning.

For JACL's annual convention in Philadelphia last month, I put together panelists who can speak openly about caregiving and their personal experiences. The panel, "Caregiving at Any Age—A Multigenerational JA Perspective," was held during a break-out session and drew an attentive audience of JACLers who represented a diversity of generations.

The panelists included Lindsey Anne Keiko Wong, a millennial who, at her young age, has already served as a caregiver for both her uncle and her grandmother. She's a Yonsei on her JA side and third-generation Chinese American who lives in Oakland, Calif. Lindsey spoke eloquently about accepting her role as a caregiver in her 20s and how she gave culturally-appropriate care for the JA and Chinese sides of her family.

Many of you are familiar with Gil Asakawa, who is the *Pacific Citizen's* Editorial Board Chair and a columnist in the *P.C.* Earlier this year, Gil and his brother moved their mother, who has dementia, into a Memory Care Center near where they live. He spoke about his mother's deterioration over the years and the difficulties of placing his mom, who is an Issei from Hokkaido, in a place without any Japanese-

speaking residents or staff, and how she lights up when he brings her familiar Japanese snacks like osembe or mochi manju. Gil lamented that there wasn't an organization like Los Angeles-based Sakura Gardens (formerly Keiro Nursing Home) in Colorado.

The final two panelists, Heather Harada and Kevin Onishi, are employees of Keiro, an organization that focuses on improving the quality of life for older adults and their caregivers in the Japanese American and Japanese community in the Los Angeles, Orange County and Ventura County areas.

Heather is senior manager of policy and administration, and Kevin is Keiro's program and innovation manager. They spoke about Keiro's services and the organization's mission of serving older JAs and the difficult decisions families have to make when a loved one needs to be placed in a facility, whether it's Sakura Gardens or the center where Gil's mom now lives.

Members of the audience asked questions and shared their family caregiving stories at the end of the panel. It was an important subject to cover with JACL members, and I was honored to be able to moderate the panel.



Pictured (from left) are "Caregiving at Any Age — A Multigenerational JA Perspective" panelists Scott Tanaka, Lindsey Anne Keiko Wong, Gil Asakawa, Kevin Onishi and Heather Harada.

My hope is that we will have more opportunities to have these types of conversations at JACL events because as we like to say, "You either are a caregiver, will be a caregiver or will need a caregiver at some point."

AARP has all sort of resources for caregivers and about family caregiving. You can go to www.aarp.org/caregiving to find the Prepare to Care guide that I mentioned earlier, as well as other caregiving resources. There are great resources related to caregiving at home, financial and legal resources and much more.

Scott Tanaka is a project specialist for AARP Public Policy Institute's Center to Champion Nursing in America and previously worked with AARP's AAPI team.

Do you know a former JACL Scholarship recipient?

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