

PACIFIC CITIZEN

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PRESERVING A FAMILY LEGACY

**Four generations of the Hirahara
clan come full circle at the
37th Washington State
Pioneer Power Show.**

Grand Marshall Patti Hirahara (left) with the
Yakima Herald's Tammy Ayer

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**'442 JAP' Plate Spurs
JACLER to Take Action.**

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**'Yuki and Taro' Free
Teaching Unit Is
Available Now.**

PHOTO: JEANENE SUTTON.

NPS AWARDS \$1.5 MILLION IN GRANTS FOR PRESERVATION OF JA CONFINEMENT SITES

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The National Park Service has awarded more than \$1.5 million in Japanese American Confinement Sites grants, the federal agency announced on Aug. 21. The money will fund preservation, restoration and education projects related to the forced incarceration of Japanese Americans by the U.S. government during World War II.

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

"Using both traditional and innovative techniques, we are working with communities and partner organizations to preserve an important part of our nation's history," said NPS Deputy Director P. Daniel Smith. "More than 75 years later, new generations of Americans can use these resources to learn the struggles and perseverance of Japanese Americans incarcerated during WWII."

Congress established the Japanese American Confinement Sites grant

program in 2006 and authorized a total of \$38 million in funding for the preservation and interpretation of associated sites. The Aug. 21 announcement brings the current award total to more than \$26 million.

The grants will fund projects that include:

- The Japanese American National Museum of Los Angeles will create an exhibit based on the diaries and letters of Stanley Hayami, who served in the U.S. Army's 442nd Infantry RCT and was killed in action while his family remained incarcerated at Heart Mountain in Wyoming.
- The University of Colorado Denver will digitally scan the landscape and building foundations at the former Amache incarceration site in Prowers County, Colo.
- The Oregon Nikkei Endowment of Portland will catalog and post online more than 1,500 photos, paintings and artifacts from its collection to shed more light on the Minidoka incarceration site in Idaho.

The grants are awarded to projects linked to the 10 War Relocation Authority centers, which were established in 1942, and more than 40 additional confinement sites. Projects are chosen through a competitive

process and applicants are required to match the grant award with \$1 in nonfederal funds or "in-kind" contributions for every \$2 received in federal money.

>> See NPS on page 12



Ask us about the

National Youth/Student Council

Contact us at
nysc@jacl.org



Please remember us in your legacy plans.

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Join JACL

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With the help of a 2015 JACS grant, the University of Colorado Denver's Center of Preservation Research used Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) scanning technology to document existing and reconstructed buildings at the Amache incarceration site in Prowers County, Colo.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF MICHAEL NULTY, UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO DENVER

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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By Marsha Aizumi

A MOTHER'S TAKE CHANGING THE STORIES IN OUR HEAD



Parents standing up for their LGBTQ children

This summer, I attended a conference in San Francisco with the National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance along with more than 600 other LGBTQ individuals, parents and allies. I am always so amazed at the connections and healing that happen at conferences like this. Often workshops, plenaries and conference activities spark conversations and bring about vulnerable interactions, whereas in everyday life, it may be harder to have these conversations or interactions, especially with family members.

Here are a few connections I was able to witness that just melted my heart . . .

On Day 3 of the conference, I saw healing descend upon a ballroom full of LGBTQ individuals. About 25 parents walked onstage and faced an audience of hundreds of LGBTQ individuals. One mother speaking for us all brought messages of love, hope and gratitude, which parents had submitted to her previously. Here is an excerpt:

We are parents who love our LGBTQ children. . . .

You are changing the world as you are changing us. You are changing the world by showing up as who you are and by the work that you do.

You are loved. We want you to know that no matter what anyone says — you are beautiful and lovable and deserving of love just the way you are.

We are on our own journeys. Some of us have done hurtful things to our children. We are sorry. We are learning to do better, and we are learning to forgive ourselves. We ask for your patience as we give you our hearts, full of love.

We are here for you. We will fight for you. We will talk to your parents if they are willing. We will go into spaces that aren't safe for you and try to make them safer. We will give you hugs (but only after asking permission) and we will be there for you when you need us.

People say there was not a dry eye in the audience. I imagine that to be true.

As the parents descended the stage after this heartfelt message was delivered, I saw a queer child walk down the aisle to meet their mother. The mom had tears in her eyes as she met her child. The child had a smile of pride and joy that I have never seen on their face before. It was a moment of deep connection

for that mother and child. And I believe that what that mother did by standing onstage told her child that no matter what, you will always be loved, accepted and have a place to belong. What a powerful moment for me to see.

I was also privileged to see a conversation that took place after one of the workshops. As the three of us were talking, the adult lesbian child turned to her mom with so much love in her eyes and said, "Mom, I knew you would always love and accept me, but I needed to know that you were proud of me. . . . When I told you and Dad (coming out as lesbian), I did it because I wanted to feel close to you and be honest with you. But I needed for you to tell me that different was wonderful."

I could see the mother processing what her daughter had just shared, and she slowly responded with thoughts that sounded something like this. "I accepted and loved you, and I didn't think I needed to say or do anything else," she said.

In that moment, I hope a mother realized that her daughter needed more — more words and actions of affirmation.

Aiden once told me that even though he knew I loved him, after he came out, he needed to hear those words more than ever. I didn't know that then, but I know that now.

Also in that moment, I saw a daughter verbalize something that had been in her heart for a long time. I hope that this conversation brought greater understanding between a mother and her child. Communication coming from compassion and love can bridge gaps and dispel stories we make up in our head.

I think we all have the ability to change stories that our children or our parents carry in their hearts that say they are not worthy of love and belonging. I wish I had some of those conversations with my mom and dad. I wish they knew how much I valued everything they taught me and how proud I was to be their daughter. They are no longer alive to hear those words, but somehow I hope they know how I feel.

I will not have those regrets with my two sons. Our vulnerable words and heartfelt conversations are etched in my memory. It takes courage to create those moments, but I believe it could be the greatest gift that I give my children even after I am gone. And I know it will be the greatest gift that my children will have given me when it is time for me to go . . .

Marsha Aizumi is an advocate in the LGBT community and the author of the book "Two Spirits, One Heart: A Mother, Her Transgender Son and Their Journey to Love and Acceptance."



By Judd Matsunaga, Esq.

LEGAL-EASE: AN ATTORNEY'S PERSPECTIVE HOW TO QUALIFY FOR MEDI-CAL

Every 66 seconds, someone in the United States develops Alzheimer's. The disease is debilitating and deadly. Day-to-day tasks become difficult or impossible. Caregivers sacrifice untold time and energy to keep patients safe and comfortable (Source: CNBC.com, March 5, 2018).

Frightening? You bet. No one likes to think about the possibility of becoming mentally incapacitated to the degree of not being able to handle day-to-day financial matters or make health care decisions. However, if you don't think about it and make plans, you are doing yourself and your loved ones a great disservice.

Making legal plans in advance is important for several reasons. One of the most important is that early planning allows the person with dementia to be involved and express his or her wishes for future care and decisions. This eliminates guesswork for families and allows for the person with dementia to designate decision makers on his or her behalf.

Early planning also allows time to work

through the complex legal and financial issues that are involved in long-term care. First and foremost, you must make plans for health care and long-term care. Long-term care can easily cost \$10,000-\$12,000 per month! How are you going to be able to afford that?

Seniors need to plan for long-term care. California seniors need to know that Medi-Cal is designed to cover long-term custodial care. Medi-Cal is California's largest payer of long-term care. Medi-Cal is California's version of the Medicaid program that is funded jointly by the state and federal governments.

Medi-Cal will pay for long-term nursing home care for as long as you need it. However, Medi-Cal is not an entitlement — you have to qualify to receive benefits. Most "middle-class" families are told they do not qualify for Medi-Cal because they make too much money or have too much in assets. Not true! You can qualify for Medi-Cal benefits and keep your home, your income, your savings, retirement accounts and your car!

What seniors are not told is that they have a legal right to spend down excess assets in order to qualify. Medi-Cal classifies property as "exempt" and "nonexempt." The real secret is how to convert "nonexempt" assets into "exempt" assets. That means you could be

a millionaire and still qualify for Medi-Cal, provided your excess assets are "exempt."

Still, other seniors are told that the State will take the family home upon death to recover Medi-Cal benefits paid during life. They don't want that. So, they sell their home. What a mistake! They just turned their biggest exempt asset into a nonexempt asset, making it that much harder to qualify for benefits.

To be clear, the home is "exempt" as long as it's the applicant's principal residence or the applicant has a "subjective" intent to return home. "Subjective" means a person hopes to return home, even though he/she "objectively" may never have the ability to return home (it's just a box that's checked on the application).

"But Judd, what about the State taking the home after I die in recovery?" That's partially true — when a Medi-Cal recipient dies, the state can seek repayment for the cost of certain services received that were paid for by Medi-Cal. The whole truth is that there are legal ways to protect your home so that your children will inherit it free of any Medi-Cal recovery.

If you were told you have too many assets to qualify, you may convert nonexempt assets into exempt assets. You may also "spend-down" excess assets to qualify for Medi-Cal.

For example, you can pay off your mortgage, remodel or repair your home, buy new furniture, pay off other bills and debts, buy new clothing or medical equipment. You may also buy a new car even if you don't drive.

But — be careful. Any assets above the property reserve limit of \$2,000 (or \$122,900 if married); or any asset that is not exempt will be counted by Medi-Cal in determining eligibility. These include cash, savings, stocks, the cash surrender value of whole life insurance if the face value exceeds \$1,500 and any other nonexempt resource.

Simply put, even if you have been told you have too much money to qualify for Medi-Cal, you can legally gift away excess money if done properly. The rules are very tricky. It would be advisable not to gift or transfer any assets away without first consulting with an attorney with experience in Medi-Cal qualifications.

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.

LICENSE TO ILL: '442 JAP' PLATE DRIVES JACLER NUTS

Californian sees offensive out-of-state plate, thinks **'You're not in Kansas anymore.'**

By P.C. Staff

Keith Kawamoto couldn't believe his eyes.

As the Culver City, Calif.-resident was driving near his home last October, he spotted a Nissan Versa with a license plate that nearly had him jumping the curb.

It read "442 JAP" — and it was from Kansas.

"My gosh! '442 J-A-P' I said, 'What is that?!'" said Kawamoto to the *Pacific Citizen* of his reaction.

Before he lost the car in traffic, the quick-thinking Kawamoto pulled out his digital camera and snapped a picture of the car with the slur-sporting license plate. Although traffic was slow, his mind was racing. Was it a vanity plate? A twisted tribute to the 442nd Regimental Combat Team? Or worse yet, an intentional slight against Japanese people or, perhaps, Japanese cars?

According to Kawamoto, it would turn out to be none of those.

The saga of states issuing license plates containing "JAP" in their alphanumeric combinations is not new. For example, a front-page article from the June 4, 1982, *Pacific Citizen* reported that the state of North Carolina had "... recently recalled automobile license tags beginning with the letters 'JAP'."

Interestingly, the article reported that while the state had not received any complaints, the decision to recall the 90 plates containing "JAP" was not because it was an ethnic slur against Americans of Japanese ancestry or other Asian Americans, but, rather, according to the official quoted, "... because we feel that this is something that might be offensive to the Japanese government."

The same state official did, however, add, "I feel like this is something that we would do for any foreign government or any group that considered a plate offensive."

The 1982 article also noted that "more than 20 Japanese-owned manufacturing plants are operating in North Carolina and another 60 have expressed interest in the state."

Fifteen years later, the *P.C.* published an article headlined "Calif. Revokes License Plates With 'JAP'" in its Sept. 5-18, 1997, issue. This article pitted attorney Harvey Horikawa vs. Mission Viejo, Calif.-resident Robin Arnett Petty*, whose license plate read "RAPNJAP."

On behalf of a Japanese American client, Horikawa, who died in 2017, complained to California's Department of Motor Vehicles about that plate, which Petty said combined his initials with those of his wife, Judy Ann Petty. Then-JACL PSWD Regional Director Albert Muratsuchi was consulted after the complaint and said "... the term 'Jap' is as offensive to Japanese Americans as the 'N-word' is to African-Americans."



JACler Keith Kawamoto is shown holding his phone and the picture he took of the questionable Kansas license plate.

The original photo

PHOTO: GEORGE TOSHIO JOHNSTON

PHOTO: KEITH KAWAMOTO

That article also noted: "Since the complaint was filed, the Pettys' research has found at least 54 other license plates which use the initials 'JAP.' The DMV has now declared all license plates bearing the initials be revoked. They said some unacceptable license plates do slip by screeners."

Taking the topic of license plates back to the 1970s, a column** written by the late Harry Honda appeared in the next *P.C.*, dated Sept. 19-Oct. 2, 1997, and in it, the longtime former editor wrote: "Twenty-five years (a generation) ago (Oct. 5, 1972, to be precise), there were 12 plates starting with 'Jap' that National JACL called offensive: JAP, JAPA, JAPCAD, JAPDMY, JAPJAG, JAPOL, JAPOL2, JAPPAP, JAPPAY, JAPTIN, JAP1, JAP2. The list included NIP."

More recently, in 2013, the Canadian province of New Brunswick recalled more than 1,000 plates that contained "JAP" in its six-character combination and that the three-letter combination would be added to a prohibited list.

Armed with the digital photo, Kawamoto broached the issue of the "442 JAP" plate at a subsequent meeting of the Venice-WLA JACL chapter. (Kawamoto said he has been a member of the Venice-Culver chapter for about nine years, well before its recent merger with the West Los Angeles chapter.) The consensus was that something had to be done about the plate.

Kawamoto decided to take matters into his own hands, eventually firing off a letter to Kansas Gov. Jeff Colyer. In it, Kawamoto informed Colyer about the plate and "told him that this is very offensive and that I don't think it's right. It's very derogatory, it's a racial slur, it's very offensive to a lot of people. I said no other state in the union would allow this."

"I gave him a brief history in case he didn't know it," Kawamoto continued, "of what happened to the Japanese American people on the West Coast during the Second World War, the majority of them being Japanese Americans, with an emphasis on that, if that makes any difference, of them being put in concentration camps and being the most egregious violation

of the United States Constitution ever in history."

Kawamoto also informed Colyer of WWII's highly decorated 442nd Regimental Combat Team, whose members were mostly Japanese American.

Kawamoto never heard back from Colyer. But he did hear back from Lee Ann Phelps, the vehicle services manager at the Kansas Department of Revenue, Division of Vehicles.

In her correspondence to Kawamoto that he provided to the *Pacific Citizen*, Phelps wrote: "We do have a screening process for plates and some combinations that have been pulled from circulation. Use of the specific combination you are concerned with is certainly not intended by the State of Kansas to portray any derogatory intent. The combinations on our standard plates (which this plate is) are a random sequence of letter and numbers and not designed to portray words or abbreviations of words. I would say in this circumstance, this specific plate combination is a coincidence and not intended to degrade any one person or group of persons. I apologize if this plate is offensive to you personally."

Kawamoto was pleased to have heard back from a state official representing Kansas, but the response still left him unsatisfied. While there was some consolation that the plate was not a vanity plate, Kawamoto found it disconcerting that no one in the system would red flag a plate with "JAP" on it.

"To me, that's even worse than a vanity plate because you don't have one plate running around, you've got maybe thousands of them running around like that," Kawamoto said. In other words, could there be plates that read "440 JAP," "441 JAP," "443 JAP," etc.? Kawamoto thinks the answer might be yes.

For the record, according to JACL National Headquarters, there are a total of four JACL members in the state of Kansas.



Very Truly Yours

By Harry Honda

Early years of 'Jap' auto license plates

APPARENTLY a new generation is witnessing the case of the California Department of Motor Vehicles recalling a personalized license plate, RAPNJAP, that contains an offensive word. (See the Mission Viejo datelined story in our last issue.) Richard Petty argued in court before an administrative law judge that the seven letters on the license plate spell out the initials of his wife Robin Arnett and daughter Judy A. The judge said his decision will be issued in about a month's time (circa Sept. 26).

JACL regional director Al Muratsuchi testified the term "Jap" appearing on the plate is as offensive to Japanese Americans as the "n-word" is to African Americans. Petty found at least 54 other license plates which use the same "J" word and the DMV, since the case came up, has declared they will all be revoked, admitting some unacceptable personalized plates slip by the screeners.

Twenty-five years (a generation) ago (Oct. 5, 1972, to be precise), there were 12 plates starting with "Jap" that National JACL called offensive: JAP, JAPA, JAPCAD, JAPDMY, JAPJAG, JAPOL, JAPOL2, JAPPAP, JAPPAY, JAPTIN, JAP1, JAP2. The list included NIP. A look into some 138,000 personalized plates at the time for the "J" word elsewhere on the plate was not made. RAPNJAP is in this category.

During the 1972 furor, an Encino resident hired an attorney to carry his personal fight against the license recall by going on a local radio station. "It is a restraint of free expression. Who has the right to decide what's decent or indecent?" The Encino gent had UP UR22 on his sports car. Another citizen, who had applied for EZLAY and was quickly refused, testified in court that his right to free speech was violated. The judge threw the case out of court.

As a wrap up, then-national JACL director David Ushio reminded that the stereotypes that were applied to Japanese Americans in World War II had resurfaced as animosity was being generated by the trade competition between U.S. and Japan. "The term [JAP] has no place in our everyday use, especially not in official state-sanctioned institutions such as DMV." (see P.C. July 27, 1973.)

When JAP TIN (two words) was ordered by a couple from Portola Valley, Dr. Harry Hatasaka of Palo Alto, then NCWN governor, asked National Headquarters to

follow up to see what action could be generated to remedy the situation. He had spotted the mention in Herb Caen's daily column. *Nichols Times* editor Yas Abiko immediately contacted State Senator Marks to have JAP put on the list of offensive terms for personalized plates. Marks had earlier authored legislation allowing vanity plates to be ordered for \$25 extra, which was earmarked for a special conservation fund.

Believe it or not, a Japanese American couple with JAP JAG was going to appeal the revocation, according to the DMV director. A month later they voluntarily gave up the plates, shortly before the hearing in September 1973.

JAPPAY turned out to be the name of the owner, of French ancestry, who said he was proud of his name. JACL, understanding this, did not contest his license plate.

It was reported that convicts at Folsom Prison, where license plates are produced, have caught questionable words which DMV had missed. One Mexican caught the slang word that meant prostitute and an inmate of Polish extraction recognized a filthy word in that language.

In 1979 a lady with JAPCAR on her Honda voluntarily surrendered hers, and the DMV screeners were reminded of the list of terms that "carry connotation of offensive to good taste and decency." The quotes are in the legislation signed July 13, 1973, by Gov. Reagan. The bill, co-authored by Assemblyman Robert Badham (R-Newport Beach) and Sen. Milton Marks (R-San Francisco) was the result of JACL action.

In 1990, carrying on the fight were the Sons of Italy, who found 333 plates inscribed with WOP or DAGO. According to the *Dictionary of American Slang*, WOP stood for "without papers," describing immigrants who entered the U.S. without passports. Italian Americans who had purchased such plates as a somewhat tongue-in-cheek tribute to their ethnic heritage protested when DMV mailed notices to recall the targeted plates, and warned refusal meant their vehicle registration would not be renewed.

Listening last month to talk shows about the Mission Viejo story, most (non-Japanese) saw nothing offensive about the term. Who else besides JACL and the Sons of Italy are in this fight? ■

After being contacted by Kawamoto, the *P.C.* followed up with an email to Phelps, and referencing Kawamoto's contact with her, inquired whether Kansas had since added "JAP" to the list of letter combinations to be avoided, regardless of whether it was a random occurrence or a vanity plate. Also asked was whether any extant plates containing "JAP" would be recalled.

A reply to the inquiry came from Rachel Whitten, director of public relations for the Kansas Department of Revenue, and she answered that the state has just launched the first major change in more than 100 years in the process for making its license plates.

The traditional process, which included embossed lettering, has been replaced with a

In Memoriam

The JACL Men of Redress



Mike Masaoka



Min Yasui



Denny Yasuhara

Brains, Heart, Guts, Touch

August 10, 1988

Gratefully sponsored by Grant Ujifusa

digital printing process. According to a news release, the new process will be quicker and cheaper — and on demand instead of in bulk. Furthermore, the “printed numbers and letters will then be applied to a flat sheet of aluminum and then stamped out in the shape of a license plate,” to be mailed out to vehicle owners. The new plates will also contain a bar code.

In addition to the modernized license plate-making process, Whitten wrote: “The process of exploring plate combination changes will begin now, and as described, it’s a pretty big undertaking considering the required coordination with law enforcement and programming.”

As to whether “JAP” would be added to a list of proscribed letter combinations for plates issued by the state of Kansas and if any extant plates containing “JAP” would be recalled, Whitten replied, “Those are policy decisions that will be made in the course of the process of determining new plate combinations. Please check back in a few months.”

Calif. revokes license plates with ‘JAP’

MISSION VIEJO, Calif.—A chance spotting of a racially insensitive term on a California license plate has led to the revoking of all plates bearing the initials “JAP,” the Associated Press reports.

Richard Petty of Mission Viejo argued before the Department of Motor Vehicles on Aug. 26 that his license plate “RAPNAP” was not meant to be offensive to anyone but spells out the initials of his wife, Robin Arnett Petty, and his daughter.

Attorney Harvey Horikawa complained to the DMV that a Japanese American client who works as a police officer saw the license plate while on patrol. Albert Muratsuchi, a spokesman for the

Japanese American Citizens League in Southern California — who was consulted after the complaint — said the term “Jap” is as offensive to Japanese Americans as the “n-word” is to African Americans.

Robin Petty expressed dismay that his license plate would turn into a “PC (political correctness) crusade.”

Since the complaint was filed, the Pettys’ research has found at least 54 other license plates which use the initials “JAP.” The DMV has now declared all license plates bearing the initials be revoked. They said some unacceptable license plates do slip by screeners.

If Judy Petty loses her case, she said, she wants to put the “DMV Stinks” on her license plate.

Gov. Reagan signed legislation July 13, 1973, authorizing the DMV to recall personalized license plates already issued but found by the DMV to “carry connotation offensive to good taste and decency.”

National JACL supported the bill, introduced by Assemblyman Robert Badham (R-Newport Beach) and Sen. Milton Marks (R-San Francisco), empowering the DMV.

Administrative Law Judge Jerry Mitchell will hand down his decision on the Petty’s license plate in approximately one month. ■

all those plates because you know that would have been done if it was about any other ethnic group, except us, which is the kind of thing that irritates me also,” he said.

Kawamoto also waxed philosophical about how it was he who stumbled across the license plate that raised his ire.

“Now, I’m not a statistician, but I’m just wondering, ‘What are the chances of this particular set of letters being put right next to this particular set of numbers?’ And my happening to be following it down the street thousands of miles from where it was issued? To me, that’s a funny coincidence, don’t you think?”

• *The Pacific Citizen article misreported the person’s name as Richard Petty.*

• *The column also misreported Robin Arnett Petty as Richard Petty and misidentified his wife, Judy A. Petty, as his daughter.* ■

For now, “The (442 JAP) plate is currently actively registered in the state of Kansas,” Whitten wrote.

Kawamoto, meantime, would like Kansas to drive the extra mile.

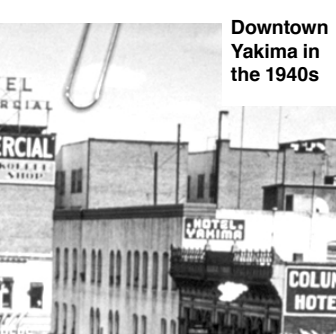
“I would like the state of Kansas to recall



Patti Hirahara as grand marshal of the Washington State Pioneer Power Show



The Central Washington Agricultural Museum sign



Downtown Yakima in the 1940s



The Hirahara home, built in 1925, was located at 21 E. Washington Ave. in Yakima, Wash.

A Story of Four Generations COMES FULL CIRCLE

The writer reflects on the importance of preserving the Japanese pioneer legacy in the U.S. and follows in her grandfather's footsteps as she is named grand marshal of the 37th Washington State Pioneer Power Show.

One of the exhibits at the Central Washington Agricultural Museum in Union Gap, Wash.



By Patti Hirahara, Contributor

When I became the last of four generations of the Hirahara family who immigrated to the United States from Wakayama Prefecture in Japan, I never fully understood how significant this journey would be, for me, in preserving the Japanese pioneer legacy



Koto Hirahara and the Hirahara family used Buick in Heart Mountain

in the United States as well as creating an opportunity for other Japanese American families to be recognized for their contributions in their communities and the mark they would make in history for future generations.

My great-grandfather, Motokichi Hirahara, took the chance to come to Tacoma, Wash., in 1907, alone — leaving his wife and son back in Japan — to see what kind of life he could make for his family here in America.

Luckily, he came at the right time due to the Gentlemen's Agreement of 1907. This was an informal agreement between the United States and the Empire of Japan, whereby the U.S. would not impose restrictions on Japanese immigration, and Japan would not allow further emigration to the U.S.

The goal was to reduce the tensions between the two nations, and though the agreement was never ratified by Congress, it was ended by the Immigration Act of 1924.

My great-grandfather stayed in Tacoma until 1909 and then went back to Japan to

bring his family to the State of Washington the following year in 1910.

These dates had me puzzled for a number of years since immigration and passenger manifests showed both 1907 and 1910 as the years my family came to the U.S. In light of further investigation, I now understood why the year 1907 was recorded as the official year my family came to this country.

Instead of staying in Tacoma when they arrived, my great-grandparents, Motokichi and Sato Hirahara, brought their 5-year old son, George, to the Yakima Valley in Central Washington, where they stayed until the incarceration of Japanese and Japanese Americans during World War II.

Motokichi Hirahara leased land in Wapato, Wash., in 1919, and his signed lease document is now part of my family's collection at the Yakima Valley Museum.

Also, according to War Relocation Authority documents, my great-grandfather farmed a 160-acre truck farm in Yakima, Wash., from 1921-26 and then continued to work on other farms from 1936 until the evacuation.



Visitors watch the Farm Equipment Parade at the Pioneer Power Show.



George Hirahara's 1950 Ford pickup truck, which was on display at the Washington State Pioneer Power Show

PHOTOS: PATTI HIRAHARA



Motokichi and Sato Hirahara's headstones at Tahoma Cemetery in Yakima



George Hirahara and his 1950 Ford pickup truck on his Wapato, Wash., farm



PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE ANAHEIM PUBLIC LIBRARY

Motokichi and Sato Hirahara



The Hirahara family's Heart Mountain history display at the Washington State Pioneer Power Show



The Hirahara family history at the Pioneer Power Show



Patti Hirahara was gifted this award in recognition of having served as the grand marshal in the 2018 Washington State Pioneer Power Show.



George Hirahara served as grand marshal in 1987.

My family's history has been well-documented in articles in the *Pacific Citizen*, but in having the opportunity to personally go to the National Archives in Washington, D.C., this was the gold mine that helped me understand the early years of my family's 79-year history in the Yakima Valley.

My family was very fortunate that it did not lose as much as others due to the advice my grandfather received from his Yakima friends while running the Pacific Hotel. He hired a Yakima attorney and real estate broker to look after their small Yakima house and property, from 1942-45, that they had at the outskirts of town.

These WRA letters asked my grandfather to consider coming back to Yakima due to the closing of the Heart Mountain, Wyo., camp. In a letter dated June 15, 1945, WRA Yakima Office Relocation officer Murray E. Stebbins wrote, "Mr. Hirahara enjoys a very fine reputation in Yakima, and I am very anxious to be of assistance to him in every possible manner."

In reading this letter and another one dated Oct. 4, 1945, from Heart Mountain to the Yakima WRA office, it said, "Please refer to our letter of June 11, 1945, regarding this party. Mr. & Mrs. Hirahara left on October 2 for Yakima. He was driving his own car and has a small home at First and Washington Streets in Yakima. A son, Frank, is in college at Pullman, Washington. Mrs. Hirahara's mother, Mrs. Sato Hirahara, accompanied them. This completes the relocation of this family unit. Yours truly, Joe Carroll, Relocation Program Officer."

Their return was bittersweet since my great-grandfather, Motokichi, died at Heart Mountain in February of that year. But they were one of the first families to return to Yakima in the fall of 1945.

With only about 100 people returning to the Yakima Valley area after the war for their resettlement, my family was able to return to the same house that they had owned in 1942. It was here that I found many of the Hirahara family's artifacts, photographs, documents and books in 1992.

With my grandfather, George, passing away in 2000 and my father, Frank, in 2006, I was left with all of the Hirahara family possessions. I did not want to throw every-

thing away since I felt these items could tell the history of not only my family but also the many Japanese descendants that came to the Pacific Northwest and in my hometown of Anaheim, Calif.

I created the Hirahara Family Collections in the City of Anaheim and at the Yakima Valley Museum; the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center and Oregon Historical Society in Portland, Ore.; and Washington State University, as well as donated two family artifacts to the Smithsonian National Museum of American History's Japanese American Collection.

In seeing how these collections have been utilized to tell the Japanese American story, my family's roots in the Yakima Valley have made me understand how important this small community was to Central Washington.

In the 1930s and '40s, the town of Yakima was a thriving metropolis, complete with tall buildings and a large Japan town. Due to research done by Dr. Isao Fujimoto of the University of California, Davis, and the late Tom Hide of Anaheim, Calif., a map was created by the Yakima Valley Museum to show the number of Japanese farms in the Yakima Valley at that time. There were about 99 farms in the valley before the war, and some have speculated that there may have been many more.

The contributions of the Japanese to the Yakima Valley became Hide's passion since his family farmed in Wapato and Toppenish before the war. He would hold Yakima Valley breakfasts and luncheons during the Heart Mountain reunions and with his sudden death in 2012, the baton of keeping the legacy of Yakima alive was then passed on to me.

Not being born in Yakima, like my father was, I could understand Hide's passion for not wanting to forget this very special place. He wrote, "It seems that no matter how far away you've relocated or how long you've been away — one always refers to the 'Valley' as home. What a tremendous feeling it was to be amongst the people you grew up with. There were so many 'old' faces, some new faces and the matured faces of the little children we once knew," he wrote for the first Yakima Valley Reunion in 1973.

So, when I was asked to be grand marshal of the 37th Washington State Pioneer Power Show on Aug. 18 and 19, I was so honored to be selected to follow in the footsteps of my grandfather, who had been given the same honor in 1987.

George Hirahara played a large part in the continued development of the Central Washington Agricultural Museum in Union Gap, Wash. The museum, which is the largest agricultural museum of its kind in the Pacific Northwest, was the site of this year's pioneer power show, and its volunteers were amazing in how they put together this two-day event. (<https://youtu.be/eahdBz1rRPA>)

My grandfather donated one of his large engines, in 1986, to the agricultural museum, and a friend donated his 1950s Ford pickup truck, which he used on the Hirahara Farm in Wapato.

Since I had never seen my grandfather's Fairbanks Morse "Big Boy" 25 horse single-cylinder engine running before, Kent Blomgren and his son worked on the engine one week before the show so I could see the large engine in action. It was an amazing sight to see it create perfect white circle smoke rings in the air and see the sign that noted that this engine was donated by George Hirahara.

Seeing my grandfather's old pickup truck be refurbished by Kent, as well, made it a very special opportunity for me to see what my family used more than 60 years ago.

Although George Hirahara retired at an early age, he also helped establish the Central Washington Antique Farm Equipment Club as a charter member and was the 49th member of the national Early Day Gas Engine and Tractor Assn. In 1988, he was named a Pioneer of the Central Washington State Fair.

>>



George and Koto Hirahara



Kent Blomgren worked to restore George Hirahara's Big Boy 25 Horse Cylinder Engine, which was a big hit at the show, as it created white circle smoke rings in the air.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE YAKIMA VALLEY MUSEUM

PHOTO: PATTI HIRAHARA



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF BECKY BRENDLIN SUGIYAMA



Various prints telling the story of "Yuki and Taro" that are available as part of the teaching unit

'YUKI AND TARO' — A FREE EDUCATIONAL KAMISHIBAI STORY

The teaching unit, created by three former teachers from the Sonoma County JACL, is available to educate others on the incarceration experience.

Three women from the JACL's Sonoma County Chapter received a National JACL Legacy Grant to implement a teaching unit about the Japanese American incarceration experience during World War II. Storywriters Sachiko Knappman, Cynthia Kishi and artist Becky Brendlin Sugiyama came up with the idea for their project in January 2017 and received the support of their JACL chapter to develop this teaching unit.

Their idea was to create an engaging means of educating students about the history of the injustice served to people of Japanese ancestry. The project taps into young children's sense of compassion and through conversation, brings out concepts of civil rights and social justice. Its original intent was to be used primarily in elementary school, but it has been adapted to other grades and even service groups as well.

Keeping in mind that a story about children would be relatable for younger children, the main characters are siblings Yuki and Taro, who are 8 and 12, respectively. Their family is forced to leave their farm in Northern California after Japanese planes bomb Pearl Harbor in 1941.

The story takes participants through the family's experience, from packing only what they could carry to leaving treasured animals and possessions behind, as they travel by train to an assembly center and then on another train to an unknown destination.

The family ends up incarcerated in a "camp,"



In May, Knappman (left) and Sugiyama appeared on "Asian Pacific America With Robert Handa" to discuss their storytelling teaching unit.



(From left) Sachiko Knappman, Becky Brendlin Sugiyama and Cynthia Kishi with their butai that displays one of the prints from their story "Yuki and Taro."

and the children are shocked to discover that they are prisoners behind barbed-wire fences. Life for the family has been forever changed, and they must now learn how to endure and make the best out of a situation that has been forced upon them. When the family finally returns home four years later, they find that some things are the same, but many things are also very different.

Knappman, Kishi and Sugiyama, all former teachers, have taken their project into classrooms to perform their story using *Kamishibai* or "paper theater." There are 20 colorful prints of paintings that were created especially for the story. Through the use of *Kamishibai*, the story comes alive from behind the doors of a wooden briefcase that opens to create

a butai or "stage" that frames the prints. Participants gather in front of it and listen as the story unfolds.

In addition, follow-up questions and activities are included with the teaching unit. Suggestions include role-playing, hands-on cultural activities and a book and movie list for different grade levels.

The entire project is available free of charge and includes scans of the paintings, the story, educational documents and supplements and PowerPoint presentations — all available on the Internet through the Sonoma County chapter's website.

In May, Knappman and Sugiyama appeared on an episode of the Bay Area's "Asian Pacific America With Robert Handa" to discuss their

storytelling project.

"Our show, 'Asian Pacific America,' has addressed the Japanese American internment ordeal in many ways, and the 'Yuki and Taro' *Kamishibai* project was one of the most effective," said the show's host, Robert Handa. "[It] is one of the most interesting and important efforts launched with the noble mission to enlighten elementary grade youth to an important part of history. The traditional method of storytelling keeps the educational process visually interesting, compelling and authentic for youth."

And the women have also received much positive praise and feedback from teachers and students who have participated in the teaching unit.

"Thank you so much for speaking to our class," one teacher commented. "Your message was so powerful and has sparked very meaningful class discussions. We really loved hearing your story, witnessing your illustrations and learning about origami. Thank you again for your engaging and meaningful presentation."

Added several students, "Thank you for showing us no matter what, don't give up," "I learned not to judge people by how they look," "It taught me to be nice to everyone and treat everyone like I want to be treated" and "Thank you for teaching us that we can make a difference!"

For more information on how to bring this project into your local JACL chapter, visit www.sonomacjocl.org and click on "Speakers Bureau and Kamishibai Project."



Tammy Ayer and Patti Hirahara



Ellen Allmendinger and Patti Hirahara

PHOTO: DAVID LYNX

>>

In talking to the many volunteers that worked that weekend, it was a great opportunity to hear stories about the good ol' days. John Baule of the Yakima Valley Museum also helped me create a display about the Hirahara family and the history of the Japanese pioneers of the Yakima Valley.

This was a wonderful experience to share the story of the Japanese farmers of this region more than 75 years ago and remind people of how much they contributed to the agricultural community

in Central Washington.

In being able to visit two generations of my family that are buried at Tahoma Cemetery in Yakima, I am happy that I am able to preserve the legacy of this special community.

I have also been working with Tammy Ayer of the *Yakima Herald Republic* newspaper and author Ellen Allmendinger on her new book the "Hidden History of Yakima," which will be released on Oct. 29 and sold on Amazon.com. The Japanese pioneer story in the Yakima Valley will continue to be told.

The Yakima Herald Republic is also planning a special project that will focus on every article it has ever published about the Japanese pioneers in the valley — from the early settlers to current day. You can see the newspaper's current stories on its special web page (http://www.yakimaherald.com/special_projects/not_forgotten/).

This year has been a special year for me in being named an Honorary Alumna by the Washington State University Alumni Assn., being part of the first "Day of Remembrance" panel at the Yakima Valley Museum, receiving a proclamation from the Anaheim City Council and being named grand marshal of the Washington State Pioneer Power Show, something that I never imagined would happen to me.

My family and others gave their trust in me to be able to tell the Yakima story, not only in the State of Washington, but also across this great country.

It has been an honor to tell their story as my family's history has come full circle. This is truly my second home, one whose people inspire me every day. I hope future generations will not forget the Japanese pioneers of the Yakima Valley and the sacrifices that they made to help us be what we are today. ■

In Memoriam

The Senate Champion of Redress



Spark Matsunaga

“The man who should take nearly all of the credit for Senate passage of the redress bill is Sen. Sparky Matsunaga. He is the one who sponsored the bill and organized the vote on that in the Senate. If Sen. Matsunaga’s efforts were to be weighted at 10, mine would be one.”

--Senator Daniel Inouye

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A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

CALENDAR

NCWNP

Watsonville 57th Annual Teriyaki Dinner
Watsonville, CA
Sept. 22; 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Watsonville Buddhist Temple
423 Bridge St.
Price: \$13

Don't miss this annual tradition, as the Watsonville Buddhist Church celebrates its 57th year in offering delicious teriyaki chicken dinners. Available as take-out only, with a drive-thru pick-up service being offered.

Info: For tickets and information, call (831) 724-7860 or email Buddhist@wbtemple.org.

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.

Health, Sports & Culture Day at JAMsj
San Jose, CA

Oct. 21; 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.
Japanese American Museum of San Jose
535 N. Fifth St.

Price: Free with admission to the museum

Please join the JAMsj for an afternoon of cultural demonstrations that bring health, sports and culture together. There will be various performances by local talent in addition to relay races and various games for kids. Don't miss this family-friendly activity that celebrates health and culture!
Info: Visit www.jamsj.org.

NJAHS Annual Veterans Day Event 2018
San Francisco, CA
Nov. 10; 10 a.m.-Noon
MIS Historic Learning Center
640 Old Mason St.

Save the date for this annual event hosted by the National Japanese American Historical Society that honors our veterans. Following the program, a lunch will be served. Details will be forthcoming.
Info: Visit www.njahs.org.

WakamatsuFuEst150
Placerville, CA
June 6-9, 2019

Wakamatsu Farm
941 Cold Springs Road

To celebrate the site of the first Japanese colony in America, this festival will celebrate 150 years of Japanese American heritage, arts and cuisine. Wakamatsu Farm also is the site of the birthplace of the first Japanese American and the gravesite of the first Japanese woman in the U.S. Don't miss this special anniversary presented by the American River Conservancy.

Info: Visit www.ARConservancy.org/wakamatsu or email wakamatsu@ARConservancy.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 presents 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.

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.

Kokoro Craft Boutique
Los Angeles, CA

Oct. 7; 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
JANM
100 N. Central Ave.

Price: Free
The 10th annual Kokoro Craft Boutique, organized by volunteers at JANM, will feature more than 50 vendors selling unique jewelry, kimono fabric fashions, T-shirts, Giant Robot merchandise, ceramics, origami and glass art and much more! There also will be a featured performance by Yuujou Daiko, a taiko performance group based in South San Gabriel. Proceeds will benefit JANM's education programs. Those who make a purchase of \$20 or more will receive free same-day museum admission and a 10 percent discount at participating Little Tokyo restaurants.
Info: Visit www.janm.org.

PNW

Workshops for Washington State Teachers: Resisting the World War II Japanese American Incarceration
Yakima, WA

Sept. 22
Spokane, WA
Sept. 29
8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

These two half-day professional development workshops on resistance of the World War II Japanese incarceration will allow participants to learn about and discuss how Americans of Japanese ancestry responded to and resisted U.S. military orders that forcibly removed and imprisoned them without due process. Distinguished speakers include Karen Korematsu of the Fred T. Korematsu Institute; Lorraine Bannai, professor and director of the Fred T. Korematsu Center for Law and Equality at Seattle University School of Law; and Tetsuden Kashima, professor emeritus of American Ethnic Studies at the University of Washington. The first 35 teachers per workshop will secure spots.
Info: Email info@korematsuinstitute.org.

Japan Week 2018
Bellevue, WA

Oct. 6; 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Bellevue College
3000 Landerholm Circle S.E.
Price: Free

This event is dedicated to celebrating Japan's rich culture and history. There will be a day of games, music, workshops, activities, foods, a Flea Market, cosplay contest, karaoke and plenty of food.
Info: Visit <https://studentweb.bellevuecollege.edu/japan-week/>.

IDC

The Center for Asian Pacific American Women Denver Reception
Denver, CO

Oct. 26; 5:30-8 p.m.
Tamai Tower Penthouse at Sakura Square
1255 Ninth St.

Price: Free
This free reception sponsored by the Center for Asian Pacific American Women will offer participants the opportunity to interact with community partners including the Asian Chamber of Commerce, Sakura Square and CU-Denver, as well as network with leaders from the private and public sectors and meet board members and graduates from the CAPAW's leadership program, APAWLI. There will also be music, food and nonalcoholic beverages.
Info: Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-center-for-asian-pacific-american-women-denver-reception-tickets-48665968221>.

MDC

Viewing of Yasuhiro Ishimoto: Some-day, Chicago and Launch Party
Chicago, IL

Oct. 3; 5:30-7 p.m.
DePaul Art Museum
935 W. Fullerton Ave.

The Virtual Asian American Art Museum is a large-scale digital humanities project that will feature a launch party for a panel discussion on the "Chicago-Midwest" module of VAAAM, which focuses on the work and transnational lives of four Japanese American postwar artists — James Numata, Yasuhiro Ishimoto, Ray Yoshida and Michiko Itatani. The event will be moderated by Alexandra Chang, curator of special projects and director of global arts programs at A/P/A Institute at NYU.
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-virtual-asian-american-art-museum-vaaam-launch-party-and-panel-on-postwar-japanese-american-art-tickets-47571216790>.

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 aauited.org.

Japanese House Gallery Exhibit: Home Boston, MA

Thru Sept. 30
Boston Children's Museum
308 Congress St.

This exhibit explores the meaning and influence of home from the perspective of Japanese students. It showcases the artwork created by the students of the Art of Thinking project team at Tohoku University of Art & Design in Japan.
Info: Visit <http://www.bostonchildrensmuseum.org/exhibits-programs/exhibits/japanese-house-gallery>.

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

Doami, Junji, 90, Alameda, CA, July 4; during WWII, he was incarcerated at the Topaz WRA Center in UT before serving in the Army; he is survived by his wife, Patsy; daughter, Linda (Chris) Wolff; he is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

Fujita, Mitsuo, 92, Torrance, CA, July 20; he is survived by his wife, Marianne; daughters, Sharon Fujita, Kathy (Bill) Puett and Judy (Chuck) Holmes; brother, Yoshio (Betty) Fujita; gc: 4.

Furuno, Arata Art, 98, Torrance, CA, July 4; he is survived by his sons, Roger (Wendy) and Gary (Wendy); siblings, Kiko Naruo and Jun Furuno; gc: 4; ggc: 3; step-ggc: 1.

Hamada, Noriko, 70, Gardena, CA, May 29; she is survived by her children, Jim Hamada and Kathy (Bob) Okajima; sisters, Junko Yamasaki and Nobuko Oe; brothers-in-law, George (Kathy) and Masao (Satomi) Hamada; sister-in-law, Judy Kawahara; gc: 3.

Hokama, Pastor Shinsei, 94, Los Angeles, CA, May 25; he is survived by his children, Dennis (Pat), Galen (Elizabeth), Carolyn Madeo, Calvin (Mutsumi) and Mory (Aiko); brothers, George and Tommy Hokama; gc: 12; ggc: 14.

Iida, Yosie Yoshimura, 77, Torrance, CA, Jun 11; she is survived by her husband, Harry; son, Brett (Susan); siblings, Eiichi (Donna) Kamiya, Lily (Ken) Sugino and Eiko Moriyama; gc: 2.

Inouye, Michiko Marlene, 92, Lake-wood, WA, May 16; during WWII, her family and she left the West Coast for Gunnison, UT; she was predeceased by her husband, George; she is survived by her sons, Paul (Lora) and Roger (Karla); gc: 1.

Kaku, Laura Haruko, 79, Torrance, CA, June 18; she is survived by her husband, Herbert Kaku; children, Jeri (Chester) Ritchie and Douglas Kaku; siblings, Aileen Kuboyama, Thelma Okino and Stella Uehara; brother, Grant Uehara; gc: 2.



Kawano, Nobe, 95, Los Angeles, CA, July 27; longtime Los Angeles Dodgers baseball team equipment manager; he was predeceased by his brother, Yosh.



Kawano, Yosh, 97, Los Angeles, CA, June 25; during WWII, he served in the Army and was later the longtime equipment manager of the Chicago Cubs baseball team; he is survived by nieces, a nephew and other relatives.

Maruyama, Yoneo, 97, Gardena, CA, June 21; he was predeceased by his wife, Amie; he is survived by his sons, Paul Maruyama and Gerald (Vy) Maruyama; sister, Asako Nishimura; gc: 2.

Mayekawa, Eiji, 97, Torrance, CA, June 19; he is survived by his wife, Chizuko; daughter, Suzette (Vic) Matsufuji; gc: 2; ggc: 1.

Miura, Koichi 'Ken', 89, Torrance, CA, June 4; he is survived by his daughters, Lisa (Tom) Thompson and Karen Miura-Conklin; gc: 4.

Nakaji, Setsuko Agnes, 93, Los Angeles, CA, May 23; she is survived by her children, Dennis (Edith) Nakaji, Patricia (John) Kocker, Michael, Kenny and Mary Nakaji; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.



Nishi, John Saburo, 90, Sacramento, CA, July 22; during WWII, his family and he were incarcerated at the Gila River WRA Center in AZ; he was predeceased by his older siblings, Ellis, Dick and Aiko; he is survived by his wife, Mary; children, Patricia, Alan, Jerry, Karl, Darrell and Mitchell (Erin); siblings, Bessie James and Edward; gc: 1.

Nishi, Koko, 96, Gardena, CA, July 8; she is survived by her children, Katsuya Kay (Lila), Hiroyuki (Debra), Nobuko (Tom) Okada and Sumiko Kato (Arnold) Grant; three sisters, two brothers and cousins; gc: 8; ggc: 10.

Osaka, Toshii, 100, Walnut, CA, July 3; he is survived by his children, Janet, Dennis and Carol (Rex) Namba.

Oshiro, Betty Miyoko, 87, Torrance, CA, July 5; she is survived by her hus-

band, Seitoku "Jack"; children, Shirley Ann (Reese) Salazar and Michael (Raena) Oshiro; sisters-in-law, Eileen (Frank) Yamashiro and Sue (Kogen) Yamashiro; she is also survived by many nephews and nieces.

Osumi, Shizue 'Shiz', 84, Villa Park, CA, June 23; she was predeceased by her husband.



Potter, Lawrence Gale, 80, Los Angeles, CA, June 30; he is survived by his wife, Ryoko Takata; children, Kathryn and Glenn; sister, Irene Pitcher; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Sato II, Peter Toshiro, 75, Gardena, CA, June 17; he is survived by his wife, Arlene; sons, Peter (Ingrid) and Andrew (Chii); mother, Hazel; siblings, Steve (Jane), Barbara (Vahe) and Phil (Judi); gc: 2.

Sato, Yaeko, 91, Dayton, OH, July 9; during WWII, she was incarcerated at Topaz WRA Center in UT and was an active member of the Dayton JACL Chapter for more than 65 years; she was predeceased by her husband, Yoichi; and son, Richard; she is survived by her son, Toshio Henry Sato.



Sonoda, Fujie, 100, San Mateo, CA, July 25; she was predeceased by her husband, Henry; she is survived by her daughters, Annette Yoshino, Janice Fujikawa and Sharon Wong; gc: 6; ggc: 3.



Tachiki, Curtis Tadashi, 47, Los Angeles, July 1; he was predeceased by his son, Joseph; he is survived by his wife, Christine; sons, Daniel and Jonathan; parents, Norman and Yoshie Tachiki; siblings, Kimberlee (Brian Chin) Tachiki-Chin and Scott (Mandy) Tachiki; parents-in-law, Richard and Marcella Tyler; siblings-in-law, Marcella (Jeff) Ketelhut, Mark (Karen) Tyler and Scott (Marie) Tyler; he is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

Takahashi, Teruko Ruth, 97, Gardena, CA, May 24; she was predeceased by her husband, Teruo; she raised 8 children; gc: 12; ggc: 19.



Uriu, Bobbi, 80, Fruitland, ID, July 4; he served in the Air Force for 4 years and was a JACL member; he was predeceased by his daughter, Staci; and siblings, Shaw and Kay; he is survived by his children, Robert (Bonnie) and Daphne (Joel); siblings, Tom (Gail) and Jean; gc: 4.

Yabuno, Katsumasa 'Kats', 90, North Hills, CA, July 25; a military veteran, he is survived by his wife, Aiko; children, Yolanda, Steve (Vicki), Randall (Ellen) and Wayne (Sue); siblings, Sadao, Satomi and Ethel (Tony) Suzuki; gc: 3.

TRIBUTE

ALICE ETSUKO ETO SUMIDA



Alice Etsuko Eto Sumida, 104, wife of the late Mark Masuo Sumida of Portland, Ore., passed away peacefully on Aug. 16, in Beaverton, Ore.

Born near San Luis Obispo on California's Central Coast on July 18, 1914, Alice was the third of Tameji and Take Eto's eight children. An Oregon resident for nearly 80 years, Alice was a woman of great character, intelligence and generosity. She made lasting friendships

throughout her long life, and her active support of more than 14 community service organizations reflected her many interests and core values.

An alumna of Mills College in Oakland, Calif., Alice promoted education and worked tirelessly to expand cross-cultural understanding. She supported the arts, respect for all faiths and the preservation of ethnic traditions. She was recognized many times for her efforts and honored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan.

Alice loved to dance. At age 84, she began ballroom dancing and went on to win competitions in both the United States and abroad. Her motto was always, "You have to keep moving!"

Alice's life and many achievements were captured in print in "Music for Alice" by Allen Say, a Caldecott Medal winner; "If I Live to Be 100: Lessons From the Centenarians" by Paul Mobley and Allison Milonitis; and "Bend With the Wind: The Life, Family, and Writings of Grace Eto Shibata" by Naomi Shibata.

Alice is survived by her sisters, Susy Sumuko Eto Bauman of San Luis Obispo, Calif., Nancy Eto Mihara of Sunnyvale, Calif., and Grace Eto Shibata of Atherton, Calif.; as well as nieces and nephews, Samuel Nakamura, Ronald (Jean) Kikuchi, Gerald (Margie) Kikuchi, Lauren (Jim) Eto, Lois (Kenichi) Hanaki, Alan (Janis) Eto, Marilyn Eto Fleisher, Linda (Gene) Moriguchi, Nathan (Suzanne) Mihara, Ted (Susan) Mihara, Naomi Shibata, Robert (Nancy) Shibata, Michael (Yuko) Shibata, Paul (June) Sumida, Ben Sumida and Ellen (Robert) Sasamoto.

A private interment service was held on Sept. 8 at the Oregon Buddhist Temple, 3720 S.E. 34th Ave., Portland, OR. A second memorial service will take place on Oct. 6 at 11 a.m. at the San Luis Obispo Buddhist Temple, 6996 Ontario Road., San Luis Obispo, CA 93405.

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

PLACE A TRIBUTE

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

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By Ron Mori

Among the steady calls of telemarketing calls that my mother receives daily, she recently told me about a call she received from Medicare. Luckily, she knew that Medicare would never call her unsolicited, and the nice voice on the other end was not really trying to confirm if her new card had arrived.

In short, if you receive a call from someone claiming to be from Medicare, hang up.

REIMAGINE EVERYTHING

BE AWARE OF MEDICARE FRAUD!

Unless you've left a message asking for a return call, no one from Medicare — or from Social Security, for that matter — will ever call you on the phone, email you or visit you in person. It's a scam.

What are the scammers after? Most often, it's our personal financial information, which they can sell or use to steal our identities, run up our bills or empty our bank accounts.

Every U.S. citizen or permanent resident age 65 or over qualifies for Medicare, and there is no shortage of greedy people eager to take advantage of this large population. All too often, they succeed.

Some 5 million older adults are taken in by

financial fraudsters annually, who steal about \$37 billion from them every year.

Here is how the con artists work:

The caller claims to be from Medicare or the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. The ploy varies, and it can be someone telling you that you need to update your information, you owe money or you qualify for more benefits. In order to help you, the caller insists that you must verify your personal financial information.

It's easy to be taken in because scammers are experts in gaining our trust and preying on our fears.

They will probably make you believe that you have only a limited time to supply the information before you suffer some awful consequence. Often, they have partial information about you already, such as your name and address and sometimes even your Social Security number. This might tempt you to trust that they are official. Don't fall for it. Hang up.

Scam artists know our weak spots, and they are relentless. They will call over and over and over again, at all hours of the day and night. They can be frighteningly aggressive. They chip away at our resistance and beat us down. They don't give up easily. The best defense is not to talk to them at all. Hang up.

Medicare knows these criminals are out there, and it has taken steps to help make you safer.

A new Medicare ID card replaces your Social Security number with a randomly generated 11-digit code. This card will arrive in the mail automatically if it hasn't already, and it is free of charge.

No surprise, crooks are already using the new card as an opportunity to perpetrate a brand-new fraud. These new calls ask victims to verify their Social Security numbers as a prerequisite to getting a replacement card. Or, they say that the card costs money and thus demand a processing fee. Other fraudsters tell beneficiaries they are owed a refund from a transaction on their old card and then ask for bank account information to process the reimbursement.

Seriously, you cannot hang up fast enough.

AARP commissioned a survey to assess the extent to which Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders age 50-plus and their families are affected by fraud. The study found that 39 percent have been victims, and one in three of the victims lost money, costing them \$15,000 on average. The overwhelming majority of victims (72 percent) experienced an emotional, mental or physical outcome from the experience.

AARP is involved in the fight against Medicare and other scams. To stay on top of fraud schemes that may target you, or if you think you've been a victim of fraud, contact AARP's Fraud Watch Network at (877) 908-3360 or visit <https://www.aarp.org/fraudwatchnetwork>.

Ron Mori is a member of the Washington, D.C., JACL chapter and manager of community, states and national affairs — multicultural leadership for AARP.

NPS >> continued from page 2

Grantee Project Title Project Site	Amount
Anaheim Public Library, California "Anaheim Japanese American Heritage Project" Colorado River Relocation Center (Poston), La Paz County, Ariz.	\$38,833
Friends of Minidoka, Idaho "The Lessons of Minidoka: Broadcast Documentary and Education Project" Minidoka Relocation Center, Jerome County, Idaho	\$247,716
Japanese American National Museum, California "On My Honor: Scouting in American Concentration Camps" Multiple Sites	\$155,952
Japanese American National Museum, California "The Stanley Hayami Diary: A Virtual Exploration of Camp Through the Eyes of a Teenaged Boy" Multiple Sites	\$331,779
Japanese American Service Committee, Illinois "Bridging Voices Project: Japanese American World War II Oral History Collection, Digitization, and Dissemination, Phase II" Multiple Sites	\$61,007
Musical Traditions, Inc. (dba Paul Drescher Ensemble), California "Both Eyes Only' Chamber Opera" Multiple Sites	\$40,000
National Japanese American Historical Society, Inc., California "We Are All Americans: Teacher Education Project" Multiple Sites	\$142,468
Northwest Film Forum, Washington "Japanese American Pilgrimage Website" Multiple Sites	\$194,101
Oregon Nikkei Endowment, Oregon "Preserving and Sharing the Minidoka Collection of Oregon Nikkei Endowment" Minidoka Relocation Center, Jerome County, Idaho	\$67,155
San Francisco Film Organization, California "United States Japanese Alien Camps of World War II" Multiple Sites	\$204,302
Smith College, Massachusetts "Graphic Language: The Art of Munio Makuuchi" Minidoka Relocation Center, Jerome County, Idaho	\$37,822
University of Colorado Denver, Colorado "Amache 3D Digital Documentation, Phase II" Granada Relocation Center (Amache), Prowers County, Colo.	\$37,047
TOTAL	\$1,558,182

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