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

PHOTO: JEANEENE SUTTON.
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

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Please remember us in your legacy plans.

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Join JACL
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https://jacl.org/member/

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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2018 SPRING CAMPAIGN

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A MOTHER’S TAKE
CHANGING THE STORIES IN OUR HEAD

By Marsha Aizumi

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.*

LEGAL-EASE: AN ATTORNEY’S PERSPECTIVE

**HOW TO QUALIFY FOR MEDI-CAL**

By Judd Matsunaga, Esq.

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@elderlawcalifornia.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.

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 verbally express 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.”
California 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's that?"

"That plate," Kawamoto explained 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 and its state-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 these.

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 with 'JAP.'"

"... since its Sept. 5-18, 1997, issue. This was because the state had not received any complaints, the article headlined "Calif. Revokes License Plates With 'JAP'" reported that the state of North Carolina had followed up on to see what action could be generated to remedy the situation. He had spotted the mention in Herb Caen's daily column. "... a 10-year-old girl immediately contacted State Senator Jay Marks to turn in the list of offensive terms for personalized plates. Marks had earlier authored legislation allowing vanity plates to be ordered for "legitimate purposes," which was interpreted for a special conservation fund.

Before it or not, a National American chapter with JAP JAG plates 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, 1972."

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

It was reported that convicts at Folsom Prison, where license plates are produced, have caught onto the fad. A number of plates with "JAP" had been ignored. One Mexican caught the slang word that means prostitute and an inmate of Polish extraction regained a fabled word in that language.

In 1979, a law with JAPCAB on her Honda voluntarily surrendered itself, and the DMV was reminded of the list of terms that "carry connotation of caste or line of ancestry to lead to odium or disrepute." The quotas are in the legis­lative history of New Jersey July 1979.

The co-author, by Anonymous, is Robert Burchard (E-Newport Beach) and Sue Mit­chell-Marks (Bosworth, Calif.). Who else besides JAPCL and the State of Italy are in this fight?***

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

That article also noted: "Since the complaint was filed, the Petts' 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 revoked. They said some unacceptable license plates do slip by screeners."

"... the topic of license plates back to the 1970s, a column written by the late Larry Honda appeared in the next P.C., dated Sept. 19- Oct. 2, 1997, and in it, the longtime former staff writer 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, JAPCAB, JAPDMY, JAPJAG, JAPOL, JAPOL2, JAPP, JAPPAY, JAPJIN, JAPIN, JAP2. The list included NEI & JP-55, 12 plates starting with 'JAP,' at least 54 other license plates which use the same 'J' word. The DMV, since the case came up, has declared they will all be revolved, admitting some unacceptable personalized plates slip by the screeners."

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Kawamoto was pleased to have heard back from the state official, who had applied for EZI..AY and was quickly refused. The same state official did, however, add, "... because we feel the stereotypes that were applied were not appropriate..."

After being contacted by Kawamoto, the DMV has now declared all license plates bearing the initials 'JAP.' The plate used by Kawamoto was legal, issued in about a week. (see P.C. July 1997.)

**The traditional process, which included "JAP... the slurring word that meant prostitution," 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, 1972."

*****

A Pacific Citizen recently held a meeting with "JAP" national JACL called offensive: JAP, JAPA, JAPCAB, JAPDMY, JAPJAG, JAPOL, JAPOL2, JAPP, JAPPAY, JAPJIN, JAPIN, JAP2. The list included NEI & JP-55, 12 plates starting with "JAP" that National JACL called offensive. The state had not received any complaints, the article headlined "Calif. Revokes License Plates With 'JAP'" reported that the state of North Carolina had been pulled from circulation. Use 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 the 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 argued. "I've 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.

Early years of 'Jap' auto license plates

You're not in Kansas anymore..."
In Memoriam

The JACL Men of Redress

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 “RAPOJAP” was not meant to be offensive to anyone but spells out the initials of his wife, Robin Arnett Petty, and 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.

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

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

“Now, I’m not a statistician, but I’m just wondering, ‘What are the chances of this particular set of numbers 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.
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.

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 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.

George Hirahara's 1950 Ford pickup truck, which was on display at the Washington State Pioneer Power Show.
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 70-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 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 and grandmother, 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 many of my family members, my maternal 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. It was an amazing sight seeing my grandfather’s old pickup truck be refurbished by Kent, as well, made it a very special opportunity for me to see what they put together this two-day event. (https://youtu.be/ekBF99RtRPA)

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 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 they put together this two-day event. (https://youtu.be/ekBF99RtRPA)

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 smoke rings in the air.
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 bombed 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,” 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 buta or “stage” that frames the prints.

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.sonomacoj acl.org and click on “Speakers Bureau and Kamishibai Project.”

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.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF BECKY BRENDLIN SUGIYAMA

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

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF JACLYN RAPPARAH

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 buta or “stage” that displays one of the prints from their story “Yuki and Taro.”

Tammy Ayer and Patti Hirahara

Ellen Allmendinger and Patti Hirahara

In talking to the many volunteers that worked that weekend, it was a great opportunity to hear stories about the good of 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 Republican newspaper and author Ellen Allmendinger on her new book “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_forgetten).
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

NCWNP
Watsonville 57th Annual Teriakyi Dinner
Watsonville, CA
Sept. 22; 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Watsonville Buddhist Temple
420 Bridge St.
Watsonville Buddhist Temple
Watsonville, CA
Price: $13
Don’t miss this annual tradition, as the Watsonville Buddhist Church celebrates its 57th year in offering delicious teriakyi chicken dinners. Available as take-out only, with a drive-thru pick-up service being offered.
Info: For tickets and information, call (831) 724-7800 or email Buddhist@wbtemple.org.

Workshop: ‘Creating Inclusive Youth Programs; Supporting LGBT Youth and Families; Nurturing Compassionate Communities’
Berkeley, CA
Sept. 29; 1-2 p.m., 2-3 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) 889-1460 or email cb@bcnca.org.

Health, Sports & Culture Day at JALS
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 JAMS 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!

PSW
2018 Never Forget — Justice for All Gala
San Diego, CA
Sept. 15; 5:30 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 charter is honoring civil rights leaders and local Japanese American internees of the WWII camps. John Tateishi and Karen Koren­ matsu are among those receiving recognition.
Info: Visit jachtsandiego.org,
email info@jachtsandiego.org or call (868) 965-2021.

Kaiju vs. Heroes: Mark Nagata’s Journey Through the World of Japanese Toys
Los Angeles, CA
Sept. 15-24, 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.

Akai Matsuri 2016 — 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 Akai Matsuri, with this year’s theme being “Takumis: 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 kids. 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
Workshops for Washington State Teachers: Resisting the World War II Japanese American Incarceration
Yakima, WA
Sept. 22
Spokane, WA
Sept. 27
Workshops 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
These two half-day professional development workshops on resistance of the World War II Japanese American 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 Koren­ matsu of the Fred T. Koren­ matsu Institute; Lorraine Ban­ nai, professor and director of the Fred T. Koren­ matsu Center for Law and Equality at Seattle University School of Law; and Tetsuden Kashima, professor emeritus of American studies at the University of Washington.
Info: Email info@koren­ matsu­ institute.org.

Japan Week 2018
Bellevue, WA
Oct. 6; 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Bellevue College
3000 Landmark 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 more! Check out this exhibit!
Info: Visit https://studentweb. bellevuecollege.edu/japan-week/.

EDC
The Center for Asian Pacific American Women Denver Reception
Denver, CO
Oct. 26; 5:30-8 p.m.
Temal 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 CAPAWLI’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 americans­women­denver-reception­ tickets-4866368221.

MDC
Viewing of Yasuhiro Ishimoto: Someday, 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: Visualizing 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/ Institute at NYU.
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/ the-virtual-asian­american­art­ museum­vaam­launch­party­ and­panel­on­postwar­japanese­ american­art­tickets­4757126790.

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 saunited.org.

Japanese House Gallery Exhibit: Home Portland, OR
Thru Sept. 30
Portland 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 Tokoho University of Art & Design in Japan.

Japana­onian Japanese Art Goes Global
Salem, MA
Thru Dec. 30
Peabody Essex Museum
161 Essex St.
This exhibit covers the beauty and complexity of the two countries’ relationship in the 1500s through Japan’s emergence on the world stage in the late 19th century and beyond. Visit https://www.pem.org/american­art-goes­global.

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MEMORIAM

During WWII, he was incarcerated 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; daughter, Shannel Fujita; Kathy (Bill) Pett and Judy (Chuck) Holmes; brother, Yoshio (Betty) Fujita; gc: 4.

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

Hamada, Noriko, 70, Gardena, CA, May 28; she is survived by her children, Jim Hamada and Kathy (Bob) Kawahara; gc: sister-in-law, Judy Kawahara; gc: 4.

Hokama, Pastor Shinsel, 94, Los Angeles, CA, May 25; he is survived by his children, Dennis (Pat), Inouye, Michiko Marlene, Yosie Yoshimura, Lisa (Tom) Thompson and Eiko Moriyama; sisters, Eiichi (Donna) Kamiya, Lily (Ken) Sugino and Bessie James; siblings, Bessie James and Betty (Judi) Phil (Judi); gc: 2.

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 Elko Mortemore; gc: 2.

Inouye, Michiko Marlene, 92, Lakewood, WA, May 16; during WWII, her family and she left the West Coast for CA, Jun 22; 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.

Nishiguchi, Enen (Robert) Sasamoto.

Kawano, Kats,
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 she knew that it was definitely a scam. The caller was trying to confirm her new Medicare card had arrived. In short, if you receive a call from someone claiming to be from Medicare, hang up.

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