



# PACIFIC CITIZEN

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**  
**2019**

>> PG. 4  
**INSIDE!**

**JACL**



**NATIONAL  
BOARD MEMBERS  
FORECAST**

**CELEBRATES  
90 YEARS**







## 2019 LEGACY FUND GRANTS PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

**SAN FRANCISCO** — The JACL Legacy Fund Grants Committee is pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for the 2019 Legacy Fund grants. Committee Co-Chairs Roberta Barton and Toshi Abe encourage all eligible candidates to apply. Eligible applicants include all JACL chapters in good standing, District Councils and the JACL National Youth/Student Council.

The maximum grant award for 2019 is \$5,000.

Grants will be awarded for projects and activities that support JACL's mission and the 2019-20 Strategic Plan. Information on the Legacy Fund Grants Program and an application can be downloaded from the JACL website ([www.jacl.org](http://www.jacl.org)) under "Social Justice." JACL's Strategic Plan can also be accessed via the JACL website.

The Legacy Fund was established by the JACL National Council in 1990 at the JACL National Convention held in San Diego. Gifts were first donated to the fund by JACL members who gave a portion of their redress awards to further the legacy of patriotism and hard-won civil rights that is central to the story of Nikkei in America. A portion of the Legacy Fund Endowment is used to fund the grants program.

For additional information, contact LFG Committee Co-Chair Roberta Barton at [rbarton4106@comcast.net](mailto:rbarton4106@comcast.net) or LFG Committee Co-Chair Toshi Abe at [tabe@jacl.org](mailto:tabe@jacl.org).

Completed applications are due May 1. Grant recipients will be announced at the 50th JACL National Convention in Salt Lake City, to be held July 31-Aug. 4.

## JACLER KEITH KAWAMOTO Presented With Community Service Award

**K**eith Kawamoto was selected as this year's recipient of the George Inagaki Community Service Award during a New Year's program at the Venice Japanese Community Center in Los Angeles on Jan. 20.

Kawamoto, a board member of the Venice-West Los Angeles chapter, was recognized for his recent efforts in getting the state of Kansas to recall 731 license plates with the racial slur "JAP." He also received assurances from the Kansas DMV that it would no longer issue plates containing those three letters.

The award is named in honor of George Inagaki, former National JACL president from

1952-56 who is credited with starting the first JACL chapter in the West L.A. area in 1936.

A large gathering that included L.A. City Councilmember Mike Bonin and other city and state officials was in attendance.

The complete back story can be found in the *Pacific Citizen's* Sept. 7-28, 2018, and Nov. 16-Dec. 13, 2018, issues, as well as online at [www.pacificcitizen.org](http://www.pacificcitizen.org) under "digital archives."



*P.C.'s* Sept. 7, 2018, issue

Keith Kawamoto was recognized with the George Inagaki Community Service Award by the Venice-West Los Angeles JACL chapter.

### HOW TO REACH US

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# PACIFIC CITIZEN

The *P.C.'s* mission is to "educate on the past Japanese American experience and preserve, promote and help the current and future AAPI communities."

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## REIMAGINE EVERYTHING CARING FOR SOMEONE WITH DEMENTIA CAN TAKE ITS TOLL

By Ron Mori

A new AARP poll on dementia care that takes a closer look at the experiences of family caregivers for those with dementia found that more than half say their social life has suffered, and nearly 45 percent say they feel alone. In addition, family caregivers are more likely to grow further apart from the ones they care for and other family members because of their caregiving responsibilities. Both social isolation and loneliness are linked to poorer physical and mental health outcomes.

The national survey looked at the demands of about 700 caregivers of individuals with dementia or other forms of cognitive impairment (most often their parents), as well as 400 caregivers who cared for a loved one without dementia. Regardless of the situation, on average, caregivers report having been caring for their loved one for almost three years.

While 75 percent report that caring for someone with dementia has brought more meaning to their lives, most of the survey findings show the caregiving experience comes with greater challenges.

For example:

- Caregivers for those with dementia spend on average 13.7 hours per week caregiving, while other caregivers spend 11.7 hours.
- About 32 percent of caregivers cite managing emotions and the demands of care as the biggest challenges of caring for someone with dementia.
- Respondents indicate their health status is no different whether they care for someone with dementia or not, but dementia caregivers are more likely than others to say that they have delayed tending to health care for themselves due to caregiving — 55 percent, compared to just 38 percent among other caregivers.

Caregivers for those with dementia also are more apt to report that caregiving has led to less sleep, more anxiety and depression, less time for themselves and with friends and feelings of loneliness.

Furthermore, about 63 percent of dementia caregivers say their care responsibilities have led to working different hours, leaving work early or unexpectedly and worrying about finances — a higher percentage than other caregivers (36 percent).



Two-thirds of all caregivers surveyed report feeling closer to their loved one, but caregivers of those with dementia are more likely to say their relationship with their loved one over time has grown further apart (22 percent) than others (13 percent).

Those caregivers of loved ones with dementia are also more likely to say the relationship with other family has been strained. However, there were positive health behaviors identified in the poll as well — 79 percent took steps to maintain or improve their brain health, and 47 percent exercised more.

In general, caregivers by and large indicate that they are receiving what they need from health care providers, yet those caring for someone with dementia also seek out more

information about caregiving and from a greater variety of sources.

AARP helps family caregivers find the information and support they need to manage their own care along with their loved one's care. Visit [www.aarp.org/caregiving](http://www.aarp.org/caregiving) for more resources and information on family caregiving, including AARP's Dementia Care Guide.

To read the full report, visit <https://www.aarp.org/research/topics/care/info-2018/dementia-caregivers-experiences.html>.

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



## LEGAL-EASE: AN ATTORNEY'S PERSPECTIVE HOW TO SURVIVE A HOSPITAL STAY

By Judd Matsunaga, Esq.

Did you know that “medical errors” are the third-leading cause of death in the United States? According to a recent study by Johns Hopkins University, more than 250,000 people in the U.S. die every year because of medical mistakes, making it the third-leading cause of death after heart disease and cancer. (Source: [www.cnn.com](http://www.cnn.com), Feb. 22, 2018)

Dr. Martin Makary, head professor of surgery at Johns Hopkins University's School of Medicine, defines medical errors as lapses in judgment, skill or coordination of care, mistaken diagnoses, system failures that lead to patient deaths or the failure to rescue dying patients and preventable complications of care.

“People don't just die from heart attacks and bacteria, they die from system-wide failings and poorly coordinated care,” said Makary. “It's medical care gone awry.”

Furthermore, the Johns Hopkins study contends that death from medical error has been understated, in large part, because such error by health providers is not included on death certificates.

Interestingly, the study referenced another source that found that patients reported three times as many preventable adverse events than were indicated in their medical records.

“We believe this understates the true incidence of death due to medical error because physicians don't report mistakes,” Makary continued.

Nobody wants to go to the hospital. Hospitals are very dangerous places to be, and I hope you don't have to go there unless it is absolutely necessary. However, if you do, I have compiled a list of five Medical Survival Tips that should increase your chances of returning home safely and free from “medical errors.”

Perhaps the best approach to reducing “medical error” is to avoid all “unnecessary surgeries” in the first place. Every year, millions of Americans go under the knife, but many of them are enduring great pain and shelling out thousands of dollars for surgeries they don't really need.

### Medical Survival Tip #1: Question Your Doctor

According to *USA TODAY* (June 19, 2013), tens of thousands of times each year, patients are wheeled into the nation's operating rooms for a surgery that isn't necessary. Why do surgeons continue to perform unnecessary

surgery? You guessed it — MONEY.

The only people who seem to really benefit from these unnecessary medical procedures are the doctors who stand to make exorbitant amounts of money from performing them. The fee-for-service nature of U.S. health care, where the hospitals and doctors get more money for every operation they perform, essentially rewards those who put more patients under the knife.

### Medical Survival Tip #2: Get a Second Opinion

When you're sick, it is not always easy to find the best treatment or cure. With thousands of diseases, some with similar symptoms, two brains work better than one. “Say what?” When your regular health care provider recommends surgery or a major treatment, it might be a good idea to get a second opinion.

Researchers at the Mayo Clinic examined 286 patient records of individuals who had decided to consult the Mayo Clinic's General Internal Medicine Division in Rochester, Minn., for a second opinion between 2009 and '10. James Naessens, Sc.D., lead researcher at the Mayo Clinic, said there's an 88 percent chance your doctor is wrong.

Actually, researchers found that in only 12 percent of cases when someone sought a

second medical opinion, that second opinion actually aligned with the first opinion. Now technically, that doesn't mean it's wrong or incorrect. Perhaps the most accurate way to say this is: Eighty-eight percent of the time the first doctor's opinion is said to be wrong by the second doctor's opinion.

According to Naessens, “Effective and efficient treatment depends on the right diagnosis. Knowing that more than 1 out of every 5 referral patients may be completely and incorrectly diagnosed is troubling.” A second opinion may not only give you peace of mind, but also a second chance at survival.

Be sure to stay tuned for the remainder of my Top 5 Medical Tips to increase your chances of returning home safely from the hospital, free from “medical errors.”

*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](mailto: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.*





By Jeff Moy,  
JACL National President

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!** I hope 2019 is off to a great start for everyone. I'm excited to see what this year brings, especially as we celebrate JACL's 90th anniversary and consider

## 'It Will Take All of Us' for JACL to Find Its Way Onward From Its 90th Year and Beyond

what we need to do to ensure that JACL continues to thrive for years to come.

JACL's strength comes from our members, who are an amazing community of advocates, rooted in a history to fight for social justice and civil rights for all. However, in order to continue to be effective in a time when strong advocates are needed more than ever, we need to ensure that we have systems in place to build strong leadership across our organization. We need to improve our infrastructure so that we can support each other in the fight to secure and maintain the civil rights of Japanese Americans and all others who are victimized by injustice and bigotry.

For JACL, 2018 was a time of transition, as we experienced a number of changes at the staff and board level. After being elected, I had one-on-one conversations

with each of our board members to discuss their goals for the term and better understand how we can move forward as a group.

We worked quickly to appoint Marissa Kitazawa to the position of VP for General Operations and Mielko Kuramoto to the position of National Youth/Student Representative before the National Board meeting in September. Then, we appointed Rob Buscher to the position of *Pacific Citizen* Editorial Board Chair shortly after the board meeting. We also started monthly calls to provide an additional opportunity for board members to provide updates on the various initiatives we are working on.

Having taken steps to fill out the board and better understand each other's perspectives, we are excited for 2019 and the bold goals we have moving forward. We know that in order for JACL to succeed

we need to continue to improve our communication and operations so that our members are well connected.

We are working on a membership survey that will help us better understand the capacity of all of our chapters so that we can determine what resources are needed to sustain our organization and leadership pipeline.

We are also thinking through ways to be more active in ensuring members are aware of advocacy and programming opportunities at the local, district and national levels. In addition, we are planning for an exciting National Convention in Salt Lake City that will provide more opportunities for our members to connect and learn from each other. We are taking a hard look at our internal structures and policies to ensure that we can operate efficiently and effectively. And we

are embarking on a bold campaign to ensure that the wonderful educational programming we do can continue to be strengthened and shared.

These are just some of the initiatives that we on the National Board are working on. It's been exciting and energizing working with this great team in setting an agenda to move us forward. It will take a lot of hard work, but we ran for these positions because we are willing to do what it takes to make sure JACL can rise to the challenges that we face every day, so that people all over this country know that they can turn to us when their rights are being threatened. And while we are willing to take the lead in this work, it will take all of us, bringing our ideas and energy working together, to make these changes and find new ways forward. See you in Salt Lake City!

## It Is Important for JACL to Look Forward and Equip Itself to Handle Current and Future Challenges

By David Inoue,  
JACL Executive Director

**A**s we begin a new year, it will be one of significance for JACL and the country. We will be celebrating our 90th anniversary as an organization. Several of our chapters have already had their 90th celebrations over the past year. We look forward to our celebration in Salt Lake City at the annual National Convention, set for July 31-Aug. 4.

For the country, this will be an interesting year to say the least. We are seeing the challenges of a politically divided government as the stalemate between Congress and the president are dragging the country down as the government begins its second month of the shutdown. We can expect to see more confrontation as the Democratically controlled House of Representatives begins to wield its oversight powers over the administration. And already, the field of candidates to challenge the president next year is substantial and continues to grow.

Regarding the issues, we will continue to fight many of the policies of the administration that fly in the face of our experience as Japanese Americans and the waves of discrimination we have faced over the years. We cannot forget the discrimination we faced as an

immigrant community as well.

Japanese immigration has not always been as welcome as it is today, and just because we are in a better place today, does not mean we can ignore what is being done to families and children seeking asylum here.

The recently released OIG report paints a picture even worse than we had believed with children lost in the system and no means for the government to recover them. We must continue to fight these efforts of our government to demonize immigrants like so many have done in the past.

The Muslim ban, though narrowed in scope from the original intent for a broad ban, still remains in place with severe human consequences. Families remain separated because of the country from which they are coming.

It may be a justification that passed Supreme Court review on the basis of security concerns from the administration, but we have all heard that reasoning from a previous Supreme Court to justify mass incarceration based on Japanese ethnicity.

There will be multiple efforts through the courts and through Congress to overturn and prevent discrimination such as this from continuing and happening again, and JACL will be joining those efforts.

We also enter this new year with a court decision affirming the admin-

istration's failure to follow proper procedures in implementing the citizenship question on the census. We are awaiting the court's decision on the Harvard affirmative action case.

We have also seen success in the courts in blocking child separations and preserving DACA rights. Increasingly, we are forced to litigate out policy issues in the courts, and JACL has been active in joining amicus briefs to support our positions.

Ultimately, we are encouraged by the unprecedented 20 Asian American members of Congress in the new Congress. The Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus has never been stronger or as influential in positions of leadership.

We hope that with this stronger presence of Asian Pacific American voices in Congress, the concerns of Asian Americans will have a voice in Congress.

With JACL's 90th anniversary, this will certainly be a year of looking back to some degree. But it is more important that we look forward. We are challenged with several staff vacancies, but as we fill those, JACL will be better equipped to face the future, and as a member organization, be able to respond to the needs of our membership and the long-term viability of the organization.

We need to strengthen our ability to raise funds both through member-

ship growth and funds development through the funding of grants and gifts. It has been challenging with our current staffing situation, but this presents tremendous opportunity to retool how we operate in a better way.

Our convention is where we showcase what JACL is and can be. The Salt Lake City planning committee is hard at work in developing a program that will engage and interest the full Japanese American community, not just those who come to represent their chapters as delegates.

The convention should be a time for the Japanese American community to gather from around the country to celebrate our Japanese American heritage and also show how "Japanese American" now has so many different meanings.

We continue to work with the Japanese government to sponsor the Kakehashi trips. These trips are invaluable to developing Japanese American identity in college and young adult Japanese Americans.

As I raise two children myself, I see the challenges of keeping them engaged and interested in who they are and how their Chinese and Japanese heritage plays a role in their identities.

Their Chinese is better than their Japanese, but they have Japanese first names. I see my own family as a microcosm of what many



other Japanese American families, and by extension, JACL chapters, are facing with how to connect to Japanese Americans and their ties to the community.

So much of what we as a community do is because of our children. I am passionate about the work JACL does because I believe it is to make a better world for all of our children.

I often think back to my own experiences as a child, particularly with discrimination, and hope that my children will not experience the same. It is sobering to see the actions of our own government against children, and I think that maybe things have not improved, or maybe have even gotten worse. Nevertheless, we must continue to fight for a better country and a better world for all of the children, not just our own.

*Kodomo no tame ni.*



# Key to JACL's Future Success — Community Spirit



By James Kiriha,  
JACL Secretary/Treasurer

**M**y Japanese family has been involved in the Twin Cities JACL chapter throughout my life, while my personal involvement has been focused at the national level, particularly in the National Youth/Student Council and now as a National Board member.

I naturally look back to my time in the NY/SC for some of my fondest JACL memories due to the relationships that were developed,

the shared vision among our group and a healthy mix of both fun and serious activities and programming.

The early development and facilitation of Youth Summits that the NY/SC has continued to grow was a big focus during my tenure. While they were a tremendous amount of work to organize, they were also a great opportunity to meet and connect with other young Japanese Americans from across the country and talk about the issues that mattered to us.

It is in the spirit of community that these summits appealed to me and other youth members, and I believe that community spirit is the key to JACL's future success and longevity.

JACL is unique in that it is both a civil rights organization as well as a Japanese American community group.

As someone who grew up in the Midwest with few people who shared my Japanese family history and background, JACL has represented a way for me to connect with my family heritage

and culture in a way that no other organization can mirror.

I believe in the organization's mission to uphold civil rights and continue to educate others about the history of Japanese Americans, but I also strongly believe in balancing the sense of community that has kept our membership for 90 years.

I am proud to contribute my small part to a larger group of passionate, dedicated and collaborative members, who regularly re-energize me and remind me why I serve. ■

# Fundraising Remains Key: National Campaign Coming Soon

By Matt Farrells,  
JACL VP Planning & Development

**H**appy New Year! I wish everyone a healthy and prosperous new year. As we enter 2019, I'd like to take a quick moment to reflect on the accomplishments of the previous year. The VP Planning & Development role has several programs under its purview, including internships and fellowships, scholarship, Legacy Fund grants and fund development programs.

This past fall, JACL completed another successful round of the scholarship program, where the organization awarded more than \$91,000 in scholarships to 42 deserving applicants. The scholarship program supports JACL's mission to assist young community members to

pursue higher education and elevate JACL's visibility within the civil rights arena. I believe this is one of the premier programs that ensures that JACL continues to engage young community members and hopefully contribute to filling the membership ranks of the JACL for years to come.

Looking ahead to 2019, the Legacy Fund Grant program and fund development are two areas of focus. First, the Legacy Fund Grant committee and staff are hard at work to deliver another successful round of legacy fund grants this summer. Each year, JACL awards approximately \$60,000 in grants to numerous applicants with the goal of furthering the mission of the JACL. In 2018, many well-deserving recipients received a grant, and the committee continues to seek ways

to grow the program into 2019.

In addition to the Legacy Fund Grant program, another major area of focus for JACL in 2019 is fund development. At the 2016 National Convention in Las Vegas, I ran on the platform of making fund development my No. 1 priority during my term, and I am happy to report that we've made significant strides in planning a national fundraising campaign.

We are currently in the process of interviewing JACL leaders, documenting a shared vision between the board and executive director as to the optimal use of funds, and designing the marketing collateral to convey our important message to the public. In addition, we are finalizing an implementation strategy to execute the fundraising plan. More details will be forthcoming.

In conclusion, as this New Year begins, JACL has many great opportunities ahead. From continuing the great work of the scholarship and Legacy Fund grant programs, to ushering in new interns and fellows to support programs and advocacy efforts of JACL, to reviving existing and forging new fundraising initiatives, JACL will continue to thrive and challenge the status quo.

Lastly, I'd be remiss not to recognize the hard work and dedication of staff and volunteers that carry out the good work of JACL. These individuals devote their time and a huge amount of effort to ensure our programs like the Legacy Fund grant and scholarship programs remain positively impactful on our community and organization's members. ■



## Save the Date!

**2019 JACL National Convention in Salt Lake City!**  
**July 31 - Aug. 4, 2019**

**Little America Hotel - 500 S. Main Street - Salt Lake City, UT 84101**

**Our Golf Tournament will be held on Wednesday, July 31 followed by our Welcoming Reception.**

**An all-day bus tour of Topaz is also scheduled for Sunday, August 4.**

**More details to be posted on our National JACL website, [www.jacl.org](http://www.jacl.org)**

**For convention sponsorships or donations, please contact**

**Mr. Dean Hirabayashi at the National JACL Credit Union, (801) 424-5225.**



# Looking Ahead to Salt Lake City: 'Advocacy, Inclusion & Action'

By Marissa Kitazawa,  
JACL VP of General Operations

JACL has always taken pride in our identity as one of the largest and oldest API civil rights organizations. The history of our organization has always been a complicated one filled with struggles for equality, unjust incarceration of our community and continued fight for social justice of all communities.

This year marks our 90th anniversary, and as I reflect on that history, I am galvanized by the resiliency of our community.

Growing up as a Yonsei, my view of history has been filtered through the lens of my paternal grandparents' incarceration, my maternal grandfather's service in the U.S. Army and my maternal grandmother's survival of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima.

The Japanese American community has been able to build significant political power to receive redress and reparations, and we continue

to speak out in solidarity with other communities as to not let the mistakes of 1942 repeat itself.

I've always admired that on a national level — JACL was quick to respond immediately after 9/11 that American Muslims should not be scapegoated like Japanese Americans were after Pearl Harbor.

This past year, we responded against the Muslim ban and family separation. In addition to the national level, we've made accomplishments through our grassroots efforts as well.

On a grassroots level, I am inspired by victories like Keith Kawamoto from the WLA Venice-Culver Chapter. He was able to get Kanas to recall license plates with the ethnic slur, J\*P.

Working on a grassroots level is equally as crucial as our national work. His story proves that you can take actions on all levels. This is just one of the reasons I'm proud to be a part of JACL, an organization that has a passionate membership that fights for social justice in their

local communities.

It is appropriate that the theme for this year's National Convention is "Advocacy, Inclusion & Action."

The convention will be hosted in Salt Lake City, Utah, on July 31-Aug. 4. We're working on shifting our focus this year to include more family oriented programing and engaging workshops and plenaries.

Convention planning is well underway and this year will be spearheaded by the mighty trifecta of Utah Chapters: Wasatch Front North Chapter, Salt Lake Chapter and Mt. Olympus Chapter. I am especially thankful for the leadership of the convention co-chairs, Floyd Mori, Sherrie Hayashi, Sandra Grant and Gary Okamoto. Please save the date, and more information will be sent out to your chapters soon.

In addition to a successful convention, in 2019 I hope to create meaningful change and build a strong and sustainable infrastructure for the organization.

I've always found a meaningful

attachment to this quote by Nelson Henderson, "The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit."

There has been a lot of transition and change in leadership and personnel the last several years. My goal is to work closely with the National Board and Executive Director David Inoue to build a strong base both organizational and financially and that so we can spend more time focusing on our mission.

Lastly, I am humbled and honored to serve as VP of General Operations and build upon the JACL legacy. Although I've only served in this position for the past four months, I am inspired and energized by the leadership on the National Board, especially our fearless leader, Jeffrey Moy. I am also thankful for all the dedicated staff members who work endlessly behind the scenes and really are the heart of this organization.

Thank you to everyone who has supported JACL. The strength of our organization is in the engagement of our membership, who are not afraid to stand up against injustice. As we celebrate all that we have accomplished in the last 90 years, I look toward what the future will bring.



At a time where there is so much uncertainty in the political landscape, JACL will continue to speak up for disenfranchised communities and remain vigilant.

Happy New Year, and I hope to see you all at the National Convention in Salt Lake City. ■

## JACL Membership Outlook for 2019



By Haruka Roudebush,  
VP of 1,000 Club, Membership & Services

Hello and *akemashite omedetou gozaimasu* (Happy New Year) to everyone in the JACL family! A new year is once again upon us, giving us a moment to look ahead and plot out our course for the immediate future.

When it comes to JACL membership, one of my stated goals during my campaign for election as the VP of 1,000 Club, Membership and

Services was to bring our national membership total back up to 10,000 members, which would match our membership numbers dating back to 2014.

We are currently at a little above 8,800 members, so while it will certainly take considerable effort from all of our chapters, an increase in 1,200 members nationally is within reach.

In addition, 2018 showed that we may be at the cusp of reversing the course of continued decline in our membership nationally as our rate of membership decline improved from -4 percent in 2017 to -0.7 percent in 2018.

We, in fact, had 35 different chapters that increased their membership in 2018. Increasing our membership is not only crucial in expanding the reach of our educational programs and civil rights advocacy, but also absolutely necessary to bring in the operating revenue for us to develop these programs and resources, and perhaps most importantly, fund additional staff positions to coordinate and carry out the work of the JACL.

With renewed focus on serving our mission and engaging our valuable members, we can make 2019 a year of growth for our chapters across the nation!

In order to reach our goal of 10,000 members, we are taking both structural and systematic approaches to revitalizing JACL membership nationally.

In 2018, we established a National Membership Committee with membership representatives from our various districts and chapters to help us develop membership initiatives and implement them on the ground at local chapters.

The National Membership Committee has convened open conference calls to brainstorm, troubleshoot and exchange ideas and best practices for membership recruitment and retention. In addition, under the leadership of Pacific Northwest District Governor Chip Larouche, the committee has begun working on developing and updating informational resources for chapter leadership, including updating the National JACL Chapter President's Handbook, which was last revised in 2007.

In addition to these membership initiatives, the National Membership Committee will be implementing a survey for all chapters to assess their current membership outreach and engagement practices and capacity, and it will work with each chapter based on chapter membership assessment survey results to formulate individualized plans for

each chapter to pursue growth in membership.

On top of providing resources, space and structure for our chapter leaders to better engage our general membership, we must work on streamlining our operations so that our JACL staff resources can be used more effectively.

A major structural change that I have proposed to our membership structure is to adjust our membership dues to a standardized rate nationally. Currently, JACL members pay both membership dues to the national organization and an additional chapter membership for 61 of our 102 chapters nationally.

Those chapters opting to assess an additional chapter membership fee from their members set their own separate chapter dues rates, which results in a dizzyingly complex dues structure for our hardworking membership staff to manage. Because of the complexities in our existing dues structure, we have been prevented from upgrading and updating our membership database software.

Standardizing our chapter dues structure would allow for database software upgrades, which would in turn enable JACL to implement additional features such as automatic

credit card renewals, which would ensure fewer lapsed and lost memberships and alleviate the administrative workload of staff, which would enable them to dedicate more staff time to pursuing membership campaigns and benefits as well as to our programs for members.

While there is much work to be done to achieve our goal of 10,000 members nationally, I hope what is not lost in the details and decisions is the experience our organization and chapters provide for our members.

We absolutely want members who support the JACL because of what it has accomplished for our community in the past and because of our ongoing educational, historical preservation and advocacy efforts.

More importantly though, our membership will be sustained because our members find that in JACL, not only are they able to support a worthy cause and engaging programs and activities, but they are also able to find a sense of connection to their families, culture and community.

I'd like to extend my thanks and appreciation to all of our JACL staff members, fellows, interns and volunteers for their continued diligence and dedication to the JACL and to all of our members nationally who keep us all going with your continued support.

May 2019 bring us good health and success — and 1,200 new members! ■



# 'We Must Carry Our Shared Passion Forward and Help This Organization Grow and Adapt'

By Sarah Baker,  
JACL VP Public Affairs

How is it already 2019? Wasn't 2000 just a couple of years ago? Every year I try and reflect on where I have been and the things I am proud of. My most proud memory of the JACL during my tenure (2014-present) is when, in 2017, the National Council adopted the resolution regarding the Dakota Access Pipeline.

The resolution was hotly debated at the National Convention in Washington, D.C., and it was unclear what the outcome of the final vote was going to be. In fact, debate went so long that time ran out and the session had to be continued into the next day.

That same evening, multiple districts came together to caucus and

discuss the content of the resolution and any potential changes that could be made to help it gain the votes it would need to pass.

The next day, debate continued, and the resolution was adopted with votes both for and against. The reason this memory stands out to me is because that process embodies what the JACL is about: We are an organization that truly values and practices democracy.

At the end of the day, not everyone agreed that the resolution should pass. But we were able to have critical and constructive conversations to hear out both sides that allowed the National Council to come to an informed decision.

Even if the resolution had not gone through, this memory would still be a favorite of mine — it's not always about the end result, but the

path we take to get there.

With our 90th anniversary coming up, I wonder what the next 90 will bring us. Will we exist as an organization? Will we change into something else entirely? There is no way to predict the future, but we can absolutely shape it.

Thinking about the year ahead, I believe key to the JACL's longevity is the passion brought to the table by its members. For some of us, it's the historical context that keeps our ties to the organization, while for others it's the thought of the impacts that we can make for future generations.

We each have our own personal reasons for being members, but underlying that I believe we all hold a commitment to social justice and activism.

As the social and political land-

scapes shift, the JACL has the opportunity to remain at the forefront of issues relating to communities of color and other marginalized groups. It is up to our members to carry our shared passion forward and help this organization grow and adapt with the times.

My goal for this year is to help empower JACL's members, chapters and districts to make change in their communities.

I think one of the largest challenges we are faced with currently is knowing what issues to address and when. There are just so many!

Every day brings something new and I cringe when I see notifications on my phone from NPR. But what we have to realize is that change doesn't have to be on a national scale. In fact, change is better started locally so that we can



gain power and constituents.

As such a large organization, we have not only the opportunity to make a difference, but also the obligation. Change starts with the individual, and it is up to each of us to step up to the plate. ■

## P.C. Aims to Increase Its Engagement With Readers

By Rob Buscher,  
Pacific Citizen Editorial  
Board Chair

Greetings JACL members and *Pacific Citizen* subscribers, and a very Happy New Year to you all. It is a great privilege to be taking the helm of *P.C.*'s Editorial Board during the start of our organization's 90th anniversary year.

So much has happened in the 90 years that the JACL and *P.C.* have been in existence, seeing our community of immigrants gradually acculturate to mainstream American ways of life and finding acceptance within many of this country's finest institutions and professions.

The world was a much different place in 1929 when our Nisei ancestors established this organization, when immigrants and other racial minorities faced threats of physical harm simply for existing. While much has changed from the era when our Issei forbearers were denied citizenship based on grounds of racial exclusion, some things are unfortunately as relevant today as they were back then.

In the last few years, political discourse scapegoating immigrants and refugees has been mainstreamed into the dominant party's rhetoric, leading to a resurgence of xenophobic bigotry that jeopardizes all communities of color. Emboldened by remarks that equate to hate speech within the highest

offices of this government, violent hate crimes have been on the rise since the incredibly divisive 2016 presidential campaign.

It is for these reasons that JACL has never been more important than it is today in relating contemporary issues such as immigrant detention centers and the Muslim travel ban to the historical prejudice faced by our ancestors during the exclusion of Asians from immigration and naturalization and mass incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II.

Although history may not repeat itself exactly, the current rise in xenophobic sentiment is undeniably an echo to these earlier times of oppression, against the backdrop of which our organization came to be.

As Japanese Americans continue

to diversify, our concept and understanding of what constitutes this community, and thereby our organization, must continue to adapt in order for this space to remain relevant for the current and future generations of Japanese Americans and others concerned with civil rights.

This presents a unique opportunity for our community to empathize and relate to the issues of other marginalized communities, when so many of our own Japanese American community are now of mixed heritage. Further, as more Japanese Americans whose families immigrated after the postwar era continue to join our ranks at the JACL, our relationship with Japan continues to expand in new and exciting ways.

One important goal of the *P.C.* this year will be to increase the

diversity of our contributors to accommodate more of these perspectives. I also hope to incorporate additional regional diversity from both the contributors and the types of issues that are being covered in our paper.

Most importantly however, I hope that we can increase our engagement with you, the readers, throughout this important anniversary year. What kinds of issues would you like to see covered in the pages of the *P.C.*? What do you like about our current publication, and what things would you like to see done differently?

Thank you for reading this paper, for your continued support of the Japanese American community and for advocating on behalf of the civil rights of all people. ■



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# 2019: INTO THE YEAR OF THE BOAR



By Kota Mizutani,  
JACL National Youth/  
Student Council Chair

**Happy New Year!**  
明けましておめでとう!

**A**mong the many reasons to be excited for this year as the National Youth/

Student Council (NY/SC) Chair, I am particularly thrilled to welcome 2019 as it is my zodiac year: the Year of the Boar. Despite my protests, my family refers to the boar as a pig, insisting that I am more reminiscent of the former's connotations. That's fair. In the Japanese version of the zodiac story that I grew up with, in which all the zodiac animals participate in a great race, the boar finishes last because it becomes hungry, decides to have a snack and falls asleep.

Rest assured, neither I nor the NY/SC will be resigned to such a fate in 2019. Yet, what we can take away from our beloved boar is a reminder to stop every now and then and reflect.

Here are some quick metrics from this past year. In 2018, the NY/SC:

- Organized six summits, two retreats and seven National Convention programs
- Hosted programs in nine cities, six states and six districts
- Published four *Nikkei-mashou* newsletters
- Engaged more than 200 youth in-person and 1,500 youth online

Beyond the numbers, though, we also achieved a few milestones last year. For the first time, the NY/SC held a summit in Milwaukee, Wis., coordinating a daylong event that centered the unique challenges Nikkei and AAPI members face in the Midwest, built solidarity among Nikkei and AAPI advocates across generations and planned for the future of the young Nikkei community in the region.

Similarly, for the first time in more than five years, the NY/SC organized a summit in the Inter-mountain District, hosting an event that brought more than 50 young Nikkei and AAPIs together to discuss Japanese American history and build a network among participants.

In addition to new locations, the NY/SC also took on new civil rights issues. Mostly notably, in light of the recent #metoo and #timesup movements, we highlighted sexual harassment and assault for the first time at convention during an NY/SC-organized panel at the 2018 National Convention in Philadelphia.

Panelists Beckie Masaki (former-

ly of the Asian Pacific Institute on Gender-Based Violence), Michelle Huey (NY/SC) and Nina Wallace (Densho) broke down the history of sexual violence in the Nikkei and AAPI communities and what we can do to address it.

With an eye toward the future, perhaps the most exciting NY/SC development for me this past year was the council's new membership. In 2018, we welcomed five new youth leaders to the NY/SC from three different districts: Jess Juanich, new PNW Youth Representative; Jaime Hasama, new MDC Youth Representative; Caitlin Takeda, new EDC Youth Representative; and Aiko Dzikowski and Kako Yamada of EDC.

With each new councilmember, the NY/SC gains unique experiences, perspectives and ideas on how to better engage young leaders in Nikkei and AAPI communities. It is a true honor and privilege to see the council grow and evolve over the years along with its councilmembers.

Moving forward into 2019, I look forward to activating and cementing much of the groundwork we accomplished over the past few years. After coordinating closely between the NY/SC, the newly formed Young Professionals

Caucus and other district leaders, we are beginning to see regionally based youth structures develop in robust districts, such as PSW and PNW.

While certainly positive that we've seen a recent hike in interest among young members, the NY/SC is limited by capacity and size to accommodate such interest. We hope district-based youth structures will continue to introduce opportunities for locally involved youth members, whether they be nearby college students or Kakehashi alumni, to contribute to the JACL and wield our unique resources for Nikkei and AAPI youth programming.

Last year also saw the first complete year of *Nikkei-mashou* issues, and 2019 promises to bring new and exciting modifications for the increasingly popular news source for NY/SC activities. In addition to regular NY/SC updates, we hope to introduce broader Nikkei and AAPI content, including interviews with prominent community leaders as well as opportunities for all JACL members to contribute to the conversation via written articles, artistic pieces and other media.

» See next page

**2019**  
**HAPPY NEW YEAR**



## Here's to prosperity in the Year of the Pig.

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If you're interested in the *Nikkei-mashou* and have not yet subscribed, please reach out to [nysc@jaccl.org](mailto:nysc@jaccl.org). Thank you to all who have taken the time to check it out!

Although still months away, the NY/SC is also gearing up for the 2019 JACL National Convention, which will take place in Salt Lake

City. Typically, we host a consistent set of tailored convention programs and events, but this upcoming convention looks to incorporate a new approach to convention youth programming.

Whereas youth participating in convention as chapter or district delegates previously could not always participate in concurrent

youth-oriented programming, the 2019 JACL National Convention will provide opportunities for all youth attendees — from chapter delegates to volunteers — to enjoy an enhanced slate of youth events.

Of course, neither the work ahead of us this year nor the preparation it took to get here would be made possible without the support of so

many JACL members who've either participated in NY/SC events, recruited youth members, shared the NY/SC's mission or even just read the *Nikkei-mashou*. We give special thanks to our JACL staff program manager, Mariko Fujimoto, who provides invaluable guidance and keeps us on task.

This year will undoubtedly pose

both new and familiar challenges for the NY/SC as well as the JACL overall. Yet, with the same commitment and enthusiasm that helped fuel us through these past few years, I am confident that, with eyes diligently affixed to an ever-expanding finish line, the NY/SC will charge forward into the Year of the Boar. ■

## The NY/SC Looks Forward to Continuing to Shape Its Identity Through Community and Activism

By Mieko Kuramoto,  
JACL National Youth/Student  
Council Youth Rep.

### Happy New Year to the JACL!

I am so proud to have served another year with the Japanese American Citizens League. From the moment I joined, it has felt so powerful to be involved with a historic organization deeply committed to civil rights, and over the years, my membership and my fellow JACLers have given me hope, inspiration and a sense of community.

As we enter 2019 and navigate an era of widening political divisions, we on the National Youth/Student Council find our role as political activists increasingly pressing. It is important to build foundations and strengthen ties both within our own Nikkei community and without so that we can continue to advocate for ourselves and other communities that are under attack.

In the past year, the NY/SC has worked hard to strengthen the Japanese American community across geographical and generational divides. We spent 2018 striving to find one another and create opportunities to come together as Japanese Americans because reminding ourselves of who we are, what is important to us and that we have each other is central to all the work we do.

As Mari Matsuda writes in her book of essays, "Where Is Your Body":

*"The Japanese American Citizens League takes positions on immigrant rights and against internments and relocations . . . because of a deliberate choice to remember what was done to us and to forge a political identity around it. . . . There is agency involved in the way one uses identity, but it is not completely autonomous from what history hands us."*

Indeed, the NY/SC and youth of the JACL are focused on finding ourselves as JA youth in this particular moment, and often we have asked the same question: What does it mean to be JA? How do we use the lens of our history to guide our actions today?

One of the best ways to understand oneself is to find your community, and across the country, we did just that.

We gathered together in the Midwest to discuss identity and carrying forth the Japanese American legacy in our work. Youth of the Intermountain District brought together far-dispersed youth of the communities in the Salt Lake City area to form a new multichapter group that meets regularly. NY/SC members in California also

joined youth of the Pacific Southwest, Central California and the Northern California Western Nevada Pacific districts to see the George Takei musical "Allegiance" and discuss JA history. In the Eastern District, Japanese and Asian American youth came together to experience the beauty of the Philadelphia Asian American Film Festival together and share a meal.

Across districts, the NY/SC reminded ourselves of the importance of staying connected to one another and recognizing the strength in our history, our diversity, our community and our identity.

We discussed our own experiences and those of our families with race, exclusion, immigration and identity, and through those conversations, we found similarities and differences to one another, as well as parallels to current political events. By finding each other, we were better able to

understand the question of what it means to be a Japanese American.

Moving into 2019, the NY/SC is excited to build strong relationships with other communities and extend our Nikkei family. Among the most notable of our upcoming events is our participation in the 2019 Convención Panamericana Nikkei (the Pan-American Nikkei Convention, COPANI), which will be held in San Francisco this September (the first time it will be back in the United States for several decades).

The body of COPANI is comprised of 13 countries in North, Central and South America, as well as Japan, and will be the first convention of its kind for the NY/SC. It's an incredible opportunity to meet with Latin American Nikkei community members and exchange cultures, histories and experiences. We hope

» See next page





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to be able to learn more about the diasporic Nikkei community all over the world as well as teaching our Latin American Nikkei family about the JA experience. Building bridges across continents is one of our greatest opportunities to make lasting connections worldwide.

Our hope for the New Year is that we can also extend our rela-

tionships beyond the Nikkei community. As the political climate intensifies, Japanese Americans are strongly reminded of our own experiences with racism and internment; ones that shaped the history and identity of our community today.

In November of 2018, for instance, the NY/SC held a summit in the Eastern District on Japanese internment and immigration de-

tention centers, bringing forward scholars to discuss the two events of mass incarceration.

In that same vein, we hope that 2019 will be a year of solidarity with communities that are experiencing similar oppressions; one in which we actively build bridges and strive to advocate for those who need our voices, too.

As Matsuda wrote, we must take what we are handed by history and

continue to forge our identity around it — and that identity extends to the nature of the work we do. To us as Japanese American youth, that means continuing to carry forward the legacy of survival, resilience and strength.

In 2019, the NY/SC looks forward to carrying on that legacy and continuing to shape our identity through community and activism. We hope to build networks that strengthen and

also extend beyond just the Japanese American community and share the experiences and histories that we have.

To quote the wise words of King T'Challa (of the 2018 Marvel movie "Black Panther"), "More connects us than separates us. But in times of crisis, the wise build bridges while the foolish build barriers. We must find a way to look after one another as if we were one tribe." ■

## The PSW District Is 'Committed to Advancing the Goals of the JACL'



By Carol Kawamoto,  
JACL Governor, Pacific Southwest District

On behalf of the Pacific Southwest District, I'd like to wish all of you a very Happy New Year. And, I'd like to also wish a happy 90th anniversary to the JACL.

Ninety years! What a phenomenally long and distinguished history for our organization.

JACL has been a notable presence for our community. In our early years, the Nisei worked hard in combatting racial prejudice, bias in the workplace and discriminatory statutes. They successfully overturned discriminatory labor laws in California.

My own San Diego chapter played a significant role in 1934 in obtaining a judicial ruling overturning a California law that prohibited Japanese Americans from obtaining commercial fishing licenses.

The National JACL resolved in 1950 to actively pursue equality in naturalization in the United States, and naturalization rights for Japanese (and others) was included in the McCarran-Walter Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952.

Soon thereafter, the JACL continued its educational objective when chapters organized classes to prepare the Issei for their successful applica-

tion for naturalized U.S. citizenship. The early legislative work of the JACL proved invaluable in its contributions in the battle for Constitutional redress for our community's forced incarceration during World War II.

We have also developed supportive coalitions working to help new immigrants battle unfounded hysteria and ethnically motivated discrimination. In 2001, JACL was the first organization to publicly express support of the Muslim American community after the terrorist attacks on 9/11.

We reminded people of the admitted mistakes made against people of Japanese ancestry during WWII and urged everyone not to make the same mistakes against other groups. We built strong coalitions with Arab American groups, and these ties continue to this day.

In recent years, it has become more and more distressing to see the mistreatment of our country's new immigrants and the overt prejudice faced by people of color. It is obvious that the work of the JACL is far from done.

This is our opportunity to give significant meaning to our corporate identity as an educational organization. It is very important that we continue to teach the lessons of the Japanese American experience and provide valuable support to all others. This is who we have been for 90 years and who we will continue to be.

I am proud to be a member of the JACL. Being a Sansei, I have seen the great work of our Nisei predecessors and truly benefited from their mentorship and generous support in my leadership in JACL.

I'm now observing a new generation of dedicated JACL leaders. Your current group of National JACL officers is comprised entirely of young professional leaders. It is an honor to work with this group of intelligent and motivated individuals. They share a passion for improving our community and understand the value of being part of a league.

The Pacific Southwest District is committed to advancing the goals of the JACL. Many of the members have served as watchdogs for our community. Others have volunteered on JACL's district and national pro-

grams. And many have taken leadership roles at the various levels of our organization.

PSW is blessed with great volun-

teers who continue to selflessly give their time and effort. For 90 years, JACL has prospered through the volunteer efforts of its membership.

With our multiple generations working together, I foresee many more great years for the JACL in carrying out our mission. ■

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- Charleston-Savannah-St. Augustine Tour** (Carol Hida) . . . . . April 7-13  
Charleston, Fort Sumter, Beaufort Horse Drawn Carriage Tour, Savannah, Jekyll Island, St. Augustine Trolley Tour
- Japan Spring Countryside Holiday Tour** (Ernest Hida) . . . . . April 12-23  
Tokyo, Sakata, Akita, Oga Peninsula, Hanamaki Onsen, Matsushima, Aizu Wakamatsu, Ouchijuku, Iwaki Hawaiian Show, Ashikaga Flower Park.
- South America Japanese Heritage Holiday Tour** (Ernest Hida) . . . . . May 9-24  
Argentina – Buenos Aires; Brazil – Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Iguassu Falls;
- Peru – Lima, Machu Picchu.** Meet local Japanese and learn their history.
- Iceland Explorer Holiday Tour** (Elaine Ishida) . . . . . June 5-11  
Reykjavik, Blue Lagoon, Strokkur Geyser, Gullfoss/Golden Falls, Thingvellir National Park, Viking Ship Museum, Lake Kleifarvatn.
- Grandparents-Grandchildren Japan Tour I** (Ernest Hida) Waitlist . . . . . June 17-27
- Grandparents-Grandchildren Japan Tour II** (Ernest Hida) . . . . . July 1-11  
Tokyo, Hakone/Atami, Hiroshima, Kyoto
- Alaska Land & Cruise Tour** (Elaine Ishida) . . . . . July 16-28  
Fairbanks, Denali National Park, Talkeetna, Anchorage, Hubbard Glacier, Glacier Bay, Skagway, Juneau, Ketchikan, Vancouver, Seattle.
- Hokkaido Summer Holiday Tour** (Ernest Hida) . . . . . July 17-29  
Chitose, Furano, Asahikawa, Rishiri Island, Wakkanai, Sapporo, Otaru, Lake Toya, Hakodate, Tokyo
- Western Mediterranean Holiday Cruise** (Carol Hida) . . . . . Aug 18-31  
Rome, Gibraltar, Malaga, Barcelona, Provence, Monte Carlo, Monaco, Florence/Pisa. Holland America Line
- Yellowstone & Mt. Rushmore Holiday Tour** (Elaine Ishida) . . . . . Sep 22-29  
Jackson Hole, Yellowstone National Park, Sheridan, Mt. Rushmore.
- Japan Autumn Countryside Holiday Tour** (Ernest Hida) . . . . . Oct 17-28  
Tokyo, Sado Island, Kanazawa, Shirakawago, Amanohashidate, Tottori, Matsue, Tamatsukuri Onsen, Kobe.
- Kenya Wildlife Safari Holiday Tour** (Carol Hida) . . . . . Oct 9-21  
Nairobi, Amboseli-Nakuru Lake-Masai Mara National Parks, Mt. Kenya Safari Club, Sweetwaters Tented Camp, Jane Goodall Chimpanzee Sanctuary.
- Kyushu-Shikoku Holiday Tour** (Ernest Hida) . . . . . Nov 10-22  
Fukuoka, Nagasaki, Ibusuki, Kagoshima, Miyazaki, Beppu, Matsuyama, Kochi, Takamatsu, Shodo Island, Tokushima.

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# Let's Be Grateful for the 'Glass Half-Full' and Smile!

By Chip Larouche,  
JACL Governor, Pacific  
Northwest District

I think 2018 was the year of the frown. I like to observe people, and it was quite noticeable that people with smiles were definitely in the minority. The 21st century is not only in a 24/7 news cycle, but if you're carrying a smartphone, you're likely being notified of every bad thing happening in the world every 10 minutes! Even my beloved National JACL published 21 official statements in 2018. I list key words from the headlines for each of them below, and even without reading the rest of the statement, most of these few words probably bring a frown to your face, too.

- JACL Condemns Use
- JACL Convention
- Continues Attack
- Eliminates Funding
- Help Us Fund
- Mourns the Passing
- Question Has No Place
- JACL Deplores
- Needs a Refresher
- Continues Inhumane Treatment
- JACL Disappointed

- Learned All the Wrong Lessons
- Established Japan Flood Friendship
- Respond to Racial Slur
- Racist Comment
- Anti-Asian Attitudes
- Joins Walkout
- Support for Survivors
- Condemns Proposed Changes
- Applauds Proposal
- Better Hate-Crime Tracking

On the plus side, the chapters in the Pacific Northwest District are doing great things in their neighborhoods. Portland continues to be JACL's largest chapter, and Seattle is now the third-largest.

Even though our aging JACL members are passing away with uncomfortable regularity, the Pacific Northwest District grew its membership by 12 members in 2018, while the National JACL numbers continued to decline.

Smaller Chapters like Alaska, Olympia, Gresham-Troutdale, Puyallup and Spokane are key organizations in their communities where festivals, civil rights challenges, scholarships and tributes happen throughout the year. These are the kinds of thoughts I prefer to

dwel on, which bring a smile to my face.

We lost Sen. John McCain this year. He always had the ability to put things in perspective, and he had a great smile, too. He once said, "Our political differences, no matter how sharply they are debated, are really quite narrow in comparison to the remarkably durable national consensus on our founding convictions."

How true. I guess I'm old enough to remember when you could have different thoughts on an issue, even debate an issue with a colleague, and still be friends afterwards and go out for dinner or a cocktail, with continued respect and civility for each other!

On July 25, 2017, John McCain had a pretty famous speech on the Senate floor, and he said lots of great things that day, but the one that really made me think was when he said, "Stop listening to the bombastic loudmouths on the radio and television and the Internet. To hell with them..."

So, I'm thinking, perhaps that's part of what we need to do so we can smile more in 2019.

For example: If you're watching

your favorite news station, and they've just finished their third bad news story and are heading to the next one, change the station to the Animal Planet. There is bound to be a puppy or a kitten or maybe a penguin that will put a smile on your face and make your frown go away, even if it's only for 10 minutes!

If I'm reading about the latest injustice of the day, sure I want to empathize with the victim or the bad situation, but I find that dwelling on it with a frown on my face isn't going to do much good (for me or the victim), but it helps me get back to a smile if I remember that I'm an American and how lucky I am.

We have three branches of the Federal government that keep each other in check (although sometimes, it seems messy and not terribly efficient). I live in a great little city and work in another great one. There are lots of opportunities to volunteer (like JACL!) and help out lots of people who didn't have as many of the breaks that I did growing up.

And one of the things that always puts me in a good mood is remembering the JACL slogan that was coined by Mike Masaoka:



"For Better Americans in a Greater America."

So, those are my resolutions for the year: Try to be a better American, support JACL in many ways and smile more!

Happy New Year everybody. ■

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# IDC Is Remaining 'Strong and Vibrant,' With Much in Store for 2019



By Janet Komoto,  
JACL Governor, Intermountain  
District

**H**appy New Year or *Gung Hay Fat Choy* to all JACL members! Looking back

on 2018, I am happy to report that all nine chapters of the Intermountain District are strong and vibrant, retaining their membership numbers and consistently taking the time and effort to have social/cultural activities that bring their members together and organizing fundraising events that sustain their chapter programs and often fund their scholarship opportunities. Some of the larger chapters took on more ambitious projects to inform and educate, which brought hundreds of participants together.

Our district was fortunate to have three projects funded by Legacy Fund grants last year. Idaho Falls utilized its grant to put on a successful teacher-training educational workshop in October that included a trip to the Minidoka camp. The grant to the Snake River chapter supported year-round student visits to the Four Rivers Cultural Center's Museum, which houses Japanese American artifacts, World War II photos as well as a replica of a camp barrack

room. And the Mt. Olympus chapter used its grant to reprint 2,000 copies of the "Power of Words" pamphlet.

District youth participated in the three Kakehashi trips to Japan, and four attended the National Convention in Philadelphia.

I want to quote one student's comments on his convention experience: "Upon completion of the convention, I was filled with hope and excitement for the future of JACL. Being around so many inspiring youth of diverse backgrounds with a passion for civil rights and social justice lit a fire within me. I am optimistic that JACL will continue to fight for all oppressed persons and communities as we move forward in the world. It is my wish that all young people with even the slightest yearnings for a more understanding society will join the JACL and become the change this country needs. Although not perfect and immune to flaws, I believe that JACL has a bright future when the

youth become more involved."

The future of JACL is truly in the hands of the youth we bring in today.

This takes us to the big event for our district this year — the 90th anniversary National Convention in Salt Lake City! All three Utah chapters are diving in to put on the best convention they can. Soon, all the chapters in our district may be involved in contributing their time and talent.

I've been involved in the Convention Planning Committee meetings, and there's a lot of energy and excitement around the educational exhibits they'd like to possibly bring in from organizations such as Go For Broke, the Japanese American National Museum, Topaz Museum and Golden Spike 150.

The interactive workshops may focus on family history/ancestry/genealogy, immigration/deportation, LGBTQ issues, camp consortium or chapter membership.

We are also trying to bring in a variety of vendors with unique

products such as a woman's clothing maker, a skin-care consultant and a kamon designer.

The youth will have their own tract of activities, including a talent showcase. We'd like to start off the convention with golf and taiko and top off the convention with an optional day trip to the Topaz camp.

The theme of this year's National Convention is "Advocacy, Inclusion and Action," and we'll be headquartered at the beautiful Little America Hotel downtown. So, save the dates of July 31- Aug. 4 to attend the convention, and encourage your youth to attend as well.

Almost every chapter will have a Day of Remembrance event in mid- to late February. Idaho will have its 17th consecutive ceremony in the governor's office on President's Day, Feb. 18. Denver's DOR attracts hundreds and has become standing-room only. I congratulate all of the chapters for all the good work they have been doing in their communities.

Keep up the GREAT work! ■

## JACL CALLS FOR END TO GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN AND CONDEMNS BORDER WALL

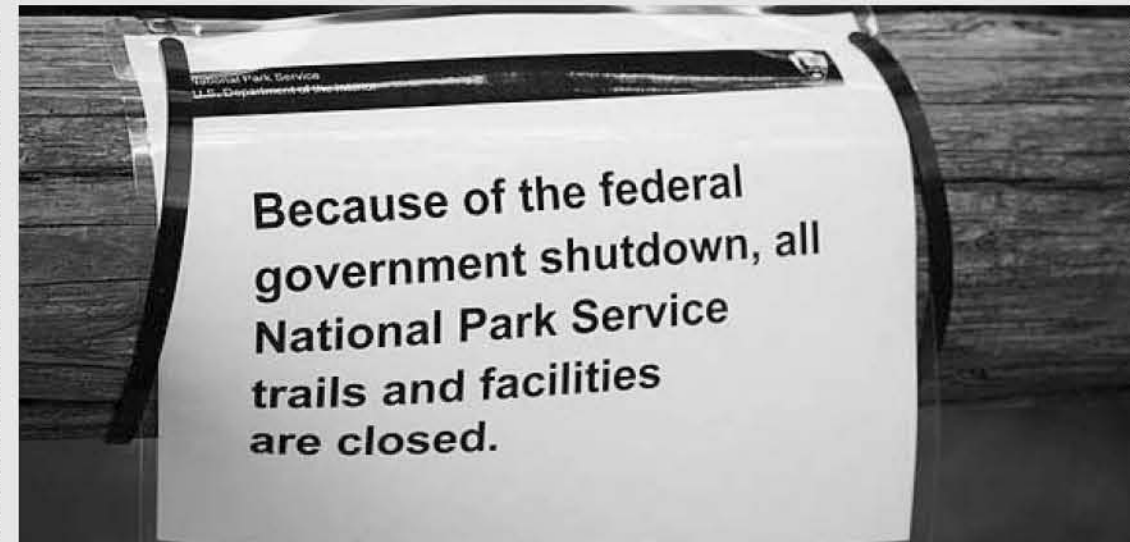
By JACL National

WASHINGTON, D.C. — As the government shutdown enters its fourth week, approximately 800,000 government workers are missing their first paycheck of the year. The result for many of these workers will be an inability to pay for fundamental expenses such as mortgages, rent, car, utilities and food.

The closure of our government affects us all as our national parks have been overrun into disrepair; our food is endangered as inspections are curtailed; farmers are unable to purchase the seeds they need because they are unable to access the support programs provided by the government in response to tariff battles.

The reduced economic activity will have a ripple effect to businesses facing less demand for services or unpaid bills. The damage being done to our country is deep and far reaching.

The shutdown is due to the president's demand that the American taxpayers fund the construction of a southern border wall. Claims of a national emergency due to security threats ring hollow as we



approach the two-year anniversary of the Muslim travel ban, also supported by flimsy claims of a national security threat.

The president has continued to use falsehoods to promote his position, painting an incorrect picture of immigrants and asylum seekers as a danger to our country. The national emergency we face now is the one created by the government shut down.

This tactic has been used throughout history against immigrant communities in our country. The xenophobia that served as the

basis for anti-Asian immigration policies in the late 1800s and early 1900s culminated in the mass incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II, a chilling reminder of what this type of demagoguery can lead to.

We reiterate our past calls for the president to abandon his strategy of promoting false fear of immigrants. Border security can be accomplished without scapegoating immigrants and without an expensive and ineffective wall paid for by American taxpayers.

We have not always lived up

to our ideal as the nation whose Statue of Liberty welcomes,

"Your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free."

Building a wall sends a clear message: that we have abandoned these ideals and reject the strength that immigration has brought to our continuously evolving and growing country.

**UPDATE:** As of press time, President Trump announced Jan. 25 a potential deal to reopen the government for three weeks — a move that comes weeks after a protracted shutdown. Both the House and the Senate need to vote on the issue. In addition, the president said that he has decided not to declare a national emergency at this time. "Over the next 21 days, I expect both Democrats and Republicans will operate in good faith. This is an opportunity for all parties to work together for the benefit of our whole, beautiful and wonderful nation," Trump said. ■

For Sale: \$14,000 (Negotiable)  
Steinway Grand Piano

Steinway M medium grand piano belonged to my mother, noted Washington, D.C. area pianist Aiko Tashiro Hiratsuka. Made in 1916, rebuilt with Steinway parts in 1972. 5 ft. x 7 ft., with ebony satin finish. Good condition. Recently appraised by Steinway at \$18,000. Piano is in Arlington, VA.

jaybird002@yahoo.com or  
703-243-0608.





A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

# CALENDAR

## NCWNP

**'Then They Came for Me: Incarceration of Japanese Americans During WWII and the Demise of Civil Liberties' Exhibit**  
**San Francisco, CA**  
**Thru May 27; Wed.-Sun., 10 a.m.-6 p.m.**  
**The Presidio**  
**100 Montgomery St.**

Presented by the Jonathan Logan Family Foundation, this exhibit offers an expanded focus on the experiences of those returning to Northern California following the closing of the incarceration camps following the end of World War II. It also features imagery by American photographers Dorothea Lange and Ansel Adams, alongside works by incarcerated Japanese American artists Toyo Miyatake and Mine Okubo. Combined with additional artifacts made by camp survivors, historical documents, videos and a wide array of cultural, curatorial and political programs, this exhibit illuminates this historical event from several vantage points.  
**Info: Visit [www.TheyCame.org](http://www.TheyCame.org) or email [info@theycame.org](mailto:info@theycame.org).**

**39th Annual San Jose Day of Remembrance**  
**San Jose, CA**  
**Feb. 17; 5:30-7:30 p.m.**  
**San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin**  
**640 N. Fifth St.**  
**Price: Free**  
 Commemorating the 77th anniversary of E.O. 9066 on Feb. 19, 1942, this year's event, presented by the Nihonmachi Outreach Committee, will feature speakers Don Tamaki, Teresa Castellanos and Chizu Omori, as well as a performance by San Jose Taiko. Don't miss the traditional candlelight procession through Japantown!  
**Info: Visit [www.sjnoc.org](http://www.sjnoc.org) or call (408) 505-1186**

**WakamatsuFest150:**  
**The Sesquicentennial Wakamatsu Farm Festival**  
**Placerville, CA**  
**June 6-9; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. daily**  
**Price: Ticket prices vary, packages available; \$5 parking (includes free shuttle); enter coupon code [goldhillsamurai2019](https://www.wakamatsufest150.org) for \$5 discount on multiday festival passes until June 5 only.**  
 Don't miss the world's one and only celebration of 150 years of Japanese American heritage, arts and cuisine at the site of the first Japanese colony in the U.S. This four-day festival will celebrate the arrival at Wakamatsu Farm of the first Japanese colonists on June 8, 1869 and will feature Japanese American performances, music, speakers, demonstrations, vendors, food, crafts, kids activities and much more!  
**Info: Visit [www.ARConservancy.org/wakafest150](http://www.ARConservancy.org/wakafest150).**

**Medaka No Gakko Japanese Culture Summer Day Camp**

**Palo Alto, CA**  
**June 24-July 12; 8:45 a.m.-1 p.m.; 1-4 p.m. Extended Care**  
**2751 Louis Road**  
**Price: \$450 per child by Jan. 31; \$500 after Feb. 1; \$400 per child for extended care**

The mission of Medaka is to convey the customs, values and aesthetics of Japanese culture. This three-week day camp, open to K-6th grade students, has been in operation since 1982, featuring a dedicated team of teachers that provide lessons in art, music, cooking, Japanese language and history. Parent participation is required: half-day in class, activity team and Obon shift.

**Info: For more information, email [MedakanoGakkoPaloAlto@gmail.com](mailto:MedakanoGakkoPaloAlto@gmail.com) and for additional parent information, email [naoko.fujii@gmail.com](mailto:naoko.fujii@gmail.com).**

## PSW

**Private Connoisseurs, Public Collections: A West Coast Perspective on Collecting Japanese Prints in the U.S. — Talk by Dr. Jeannie Kenmotsu**  
**Los Angeles, CA**  
**Feb. 7; 4-5:30 p.m.**

This lecture explores the lesser-known contours of collecting Japanese art on the West Coast. It reframes the story of early print collecting in the U.S. through an alternative but foundational case study: an early donation of nearly 750 Edo period (1603-1868) woodblock prints to the Portland Art Museum in Oregon. This event is organized and sponsored by the USC Department of Art History and East Asian Studies Center.

**Info: Please RSVP to <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfqpwzAUygzncRuRMBnOBnYCV5DrDbkBJRPaqdZHYWEYMQmQ/viewform>.**

**'Resistance at Tule Lake' Discussion and Screening**  
**San Diego, CA**  
**Feb 9; 1 p.m.**  
**Price: Free**  
**Mission Valley Public Library**  
**2123 Fenton Pkwy.**

Presented by JACL's San Diego chapter, this event will feature a screening of Konrad Aderer's "Resistance at Tule Lake," which tells the story of the 12,000 Japanese American "no-no's" branded as "disloyals" and moved to the Tule Lake Relocation Center during WWII. Following the screening, there will be a discussion led by Susan Hasegawa, professor of history at SD City College, and Simeon Man, PhD, Department of Ethnic Studies at the University of California, San Diego.

**Info: Please preregister by Feb. 8 to <https://bit.ly/2EDpQpp>.**

**Behind Barbed Wire: Keeping Children Safe and Families Together**  
**Los Angeles, CA**  
**Feb. 16; 2 p.m.**

## JANM

**100 N. Central Ave.**  
**Price: Pay What You Wish**  
 Please join JANM at the 2019 Los Angeles Day of Remembrance as it honors and remembers those who were incarcerated during WWII. The event will address the theme, "Behind Barbed Wire: Keeping Children Safe and Families Together," which will explore the racist parallels of past and present. This event is presented in partnership with Go For Broke National Education Center, JACL PSW District, JACCC, Kizuna, Manzanar Committee, Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress, Nikkei Progressives, Organization of Chinese Americans-Greater Los Angeles and Progressive Asian Network for Action.

**Info: RSVPs strongly encouraged at <https://9644p.blackbaudhosting.com/9644p/tickets?tab=2&txobjid=a657e29b-efd0-46af-ab34-4ac8b0b22978>.**  
 Event information visit [www.janm.org](http://www.janm.org).

## PNW

**Day of Remembrance Taiko Concert to Benefit Pilgrimage to Minidoka Incarceration Camp in Idaho**  
**Seattle, WA**  
**Feb. 17; 1 p.m.**  
**Seattle University,**  
**Pigott Auditorium**  
**901 12th Ave.**

**Price: \$20 General admission; \$10 Students with Identification**  
 Sponsored by the Seattle University International Student Center and the Minidoka Pilgrimage Planning Committee, this concert will feature performances by several renowned taiko groups from the Seattle area, as well as show educational exhibits through the collaboration with the Minidoka Pilgrimage, Seattle University, National Park Service and the Minidoka National Historic Site. A silent auction and general store will also be in the atrium to help support the work of the Minidoka Pilgrimage. The concert will benefit youth and senior scholarship programs for the 17th annual Minidoka Pilgrimage.  
**Info: Tickets are available at <https://dor2019.bpt.me> (bring identification for Will Call tickets); International Student Center of Seattle University in the James C. Pigott Pavilion; and day of the show at the Paccar Atrium. For questions, email [minidokapilgrimage@gmail.com](mailto:minidokapilgrimage@gmail.com) or call (206) 296-6260.**

## CCDC

**Livingston-Merced's Day of Remembrance Banquet**  
**Merced, CA**  
**Feb. 16; Social hour 5 p.m.; Dinner 6 p.m.**  
**Merced County Fairgrounds,**  
**Pavilion Building**  
**900 Martin Luther King Jr. Way**  
**Price: \$50 per ticket; deadline is Feb. 8.**

Join the Livingston-Merced chapter as it presents its Day of Remembrance Banquet. Presenters will feature the Speakers Bureau of the Livingston-Merced chapter, a group of dedicated volunteers who speak

at schools and organizations about the WWII internment experience of Japanese Americans. Its mission is to educate both young and old about U.S. history and the importance of safeguarding our civil rights. A catered dinner is included by Five. Ten.Bistro.

**Info: For questions, contact [Janett127@gmail.com](mailto:Janett127@gmail.com) or call (209) 631-1933.**

**CCDC's Annual Day of Remembrance Luncheon & Officer Installation**  
**Fresno, CA**  
**Feb. 17; Noon social hour; Program/Lunch 1-3 p.m.**  
**Price: \$40**

Join CCDC at its annual Day of Remembrance luncheon and officer installation that will also feature guest speaker Tom Ikeda, founder and executive director of Densho, whose mission is to preserve and share the history of the World War II incarceration of Japanese Americans to promote equity and justice today. Prior to the luncheon, join the second annual Yonsei Memory Project Memory Bus Ride from 8:30-11 a.m.

**Info: Luncheon RSVP before Feb. 13. For more information, contact Travis Nishi at (559) 281-6497 or email [tsnishi@aol.com](mailto:tsnishi@aol.com); for Bus Ride RSVP, visit <https://www.yonseimemoryproject.com/dor-february2019/>.**

## IDC

**Mile High JACL's Day of Remembrance**  
**Denver, CO**  
**Feb. 17; 1-3 p.m. (additional events Feb. 15 and 16 detailed below)**  
**History Colorado Center**  
**1200 N. Broadway**  
**Price: "Contested Histories" and JACL events are free; museum admission is required to view additional exhibit galleries.**

This year's keynote speaker will be Satsuki Ina, who will focus on the women of the Japanese American experience, who often have been relegated to the shadows of history. She will spotlight specifically on three women: Mitsuye Endo, Iva Toguri and Aiko Herzig Yoshinaga. A panel discussion and Q & A with audience members will follow. In addition, the History Colorado Center will host a special three-day exhibit (Feb. 15-17) from L.A.-based JANM's "Contested Histories: Art and Artifacts From the Allen Hershott Eaton Collection." On Feb. 16 at 7 p.m., there will be a free but limited seating (RSVP required: [info@milehighjacl.org](mailto:info@milehighjacl.org)) for a special screening presented by History Colorado Center on "Children of the Camps" and the short feature "Seppuku," followed by a discussion with the filmmakers. And on Feb. 17, Denver University's Archeology Dept. will display artifacts during the Sunday event from Colorado's concentration camp Amache, as well as share students' ongoing historical dig at the site, located in southeast Colorado.

**Info: Visit [info@milehighjacl.org](mailto:info@milehighjacl.org); <http://www.janm.org/exhibits/contested-histories/>; <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt1436341/>; <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt14968024/>; <https://portfolio.du.edu/amache>.**

**www.imdb.com/title/tt4968024/; https://portfolio.du.edu/amache.**

## MDC

**Asian Americans in Science: A Science Fusion Event**  
**Saint Paul, MN**  
**Feb. 2; Noon-4 p.m.**  
**Science Museum of Minnesota**  
**120 W. Kellogg Blvd.**  
**Price: Members are free; \$18.95 Nonmembers**

Meet science and technology professionals from a variety of Asian backgrounds and have a blast with their interactive displays and presentations. Bring the whole family to these fun events, as each full-priced adult admission will get four free kids admissions (17 and under).

**Info: Call (651) 221-9444 to purchase tickets. Special rates are available for people with limited income.**

## EDC

**Ansel Adams in Our Time**  
**Boston, MA**  
**Thru Feb. 24**  
**Museum of Fine Arts**  
**465 Huntington Ave.**

This exhibit traces the iconic visual legacy of Ansel Adams, presenting some of his most-celebrated prints. It looks both backward and forward in time with Adams' photographs displayed alongside prints by several survey photographers and works by other contemporary artists.

**Info: Visit <https://www.mfa.org/exhibitions/ansel-adams-in-our-time>.**

**Bruce Lee: A Life (Book Talk)**  
**New York, NY**  
**Feb. 1, 2019; 6-8 p.m.**  
**Asian American/Asian Research Institute CUNY**  
**25 W. 43rd St.**  
**Room 1000**  
**Price: Free**

Journalist and best-selling author Matthew Polly will talk about his book "Bruce Lee: A Life," the definitive account of the legend's life, 45 years after his sudden death at age 32. Following a decade of research that included more than 100 interviews with Lee's family, Polly offers a thorough look into the martial arts master's life, his rise and career in Hollywood and the challenges he endured in juggling his career and family life with that of his Asian roots and success in America.

**Info: Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/bruce-lee-a-life-book-talk-registration-50914470552?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>.**

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Events in the calendar section are listed based on space availability. Place a 'Spotlight' ad with photos of your event for maximum exposure.

**FOR MORE INFO:**  
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# In MEMORIAM



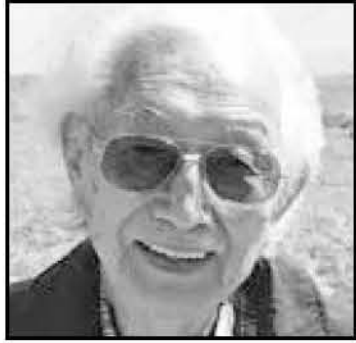
**Asaba, Pauline, 97**, Seattle, WA, Dec. 17; she was predeceased by her husband, Wataru Asaba; she is survived by a sister, Yoshi Kanemori; sister-in-law, Yoshi Mamiya; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and great-grandnieces and great-grandnephews.

**Chan, Alice, 90**, Los Angeles, CA, Dec. 24; she was predeceased by her husband, Wallace Kai Chan; she is survived by her sons, Milton Chan and Wallace (Ellen Natsume) Chan Jr.; gc: 2.

**Ezaki, Mitsuko, 99**, Campbell, CA, Dec. 19; she was predeceased by her brothers, James Hajime Yamaguchi, Tomeki Matsubara, Kazuma Maruyama and Minoru

Maruyama; she is survived by her son, Larry Brian Ezaki (Iona Jean); brother, Frank Maruyama.

**Hioki, Shigeo 'Shig,' 95**, San Jose, Nov. 22; he is survived by Robbie (Candace) Hioki, Mel (Mari) Hioki and Shari (Craig) Kittaka; gc.



**Horiguchi, Ben Hisashi, 92**, Burbank, CA, Jan. 4; he was predeceased by his wife, Beth; he is survived by his sons, James and Jeff; gc: 5.

**Iwai, Shiro 'Sam,' 82**, Montebello, CA, Dec. 15; he is survived by his wife, Aimee Iwai; children, Rick (Corrine), Perry Iwai, Julie (Daniel) Kitaguchi and Lorie Iwai; gc: 6; ggc: 2.

**Joko, Doris, 82**, Monterey Park, CA, Dec. 3; she was predeceased by her husband, Todd; and son, Jack; she is survived by her children, Michael (Yessenia) Joko, Susan (Gregg) Masada and Alex (Nicole) Joko; siblings, May Nagafuchi and Kazuki (Hiroko) Nakano; gc: 8.



**Kamigawachi, Thomas, 93**, Fresno, CA, Jan. 5; during WWII, he was incarcerated at the Granada WRA Center (Camp Amache) in CO, the Tule Lake WRA Center in CA and the Crystal City Internment Center in TX; he was predeceased by his wife, Mae; and son, Gary; he is survived by his daughters, June (partner Masud Mansuri) and Elaine Mah (Phillip); gc: 3.



**Kimura, Buddy William, 81**, Tryon, N.C., Dec. 21; he served in the Navy Reserves during the Vietnam War; he was predeceased by his siblings, Haru, George, Jack and Jim; and an

infant son, Patrick; he is survived by his wife, Pat; sister, June Kimura; brothers-in-law, Malcolm M. Dunn and John L. Dunn (Netherlands); sister-in-law, Alexandra M. Freeman; he is also survived by many nephews and nieces.

**Maki, Chieko 'Ann,' 94**, Monterey Park, CA, Nov. 3; she is survived by her son, Mitchell (Cayleen Nakamura) Maki; gc: 2.

**Masatani, Ben, 90**, San Jose, CA, Dec. 25; he is survived by his wife, Kaye; daughter, Sally (Joel, deceased); siblings, Lena Neff, Jits

## TRIBUTE

### HARRY ICHIUJI



March 7, 1930-Oct. 20, 2018. Harry Ichijui, 88, a longtime resident of Los Gatos, Calif., passed away in his home with his children by his side. Harry was born and raised in Pacific Grove, Calif. He was the youngest in his family of brothers Mickey, Joseph, Jimmie and Paul and sister, Kazumae Oishi. He was predeceased by his wife of 57 years, Hideko Hamasaki, and survived by his three children, Craig (Mina Ho-Ichijui), Judy (Gary Monji) and Anne (Todd Humphrey),

and his grandchildren, Brett, Sean, Erin, Grant, Halle and Katherine. A memorial in celebration of his life will be held on Feb. 16, 2019, 11 a.m., at the Santa Clara Valley Japanese Christian Church.

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The National Publication of the JACL

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B E R K E L E Y

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# 2019



# In MEMORIAM



(Terri), Koji (Susan), Ralph (Kanoko) and Robert (Carolyn); gc: 2.



**Matsumoto, Tamiko Katherine (Tanaka) 'Dee,' 94**, Spokane Valley, WA, Nov. 8; she was predeceased by her husband, Tad; she is survived by her brothers, Haruo "Pat," "Coba" Tanaka, Hare "Harry," "Shad" (Laurie) Tanaka; daughters, Susan (Butch) Wright and Linda (Gary) Molsness; son-in-law, Sherwin Eng; gc: 4; ggc: 3.

**Nagai, Shozo, 90**, Cerritos, CA, Dec. 13; he was predeceased by his wife, Setsuko; he is survived by his children, Carolyn (Dr. Frank) Ogata and Dr. Barnard (Dr. Yen) Nagai; gc: 4.

**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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## TRIBUTE

### MIYUKI YASUI



"Miki," 92, died Dec. 14, 2018, of pneumonia. Born in Pasadena, Calif., on Sept. 18, 1926, she lived in the Los Angeles area until her incarceration at Heart Mountain, Wyo. Miki left to work at Seabrook Farms in New Jersey in 1944, graduated from Drexel Institute of Technology in Philadelphia and married Homer Yasui in 1950.

Miki and Homer eventually settled in Portland, Ore. Miki was a dedicated member of the Japanese American community and was active in Portland JACL affairs for several decades. She was a founding member of the Issei Appreciation Committee, Folkfest of Portland and Oregon Nikkei Endowment.

A loving mother and grandmother, Miki leaves behind her husband, Homer; children, Barbara, Meredith and John ("Kip"); her sister, Rayko; grandchildren; great-grandchildren; and many friends and relatives. She was preceded in death by her parents, Kenden and Mitsuye Yabe; sisters, Elosa and Emi; and her son, Allen. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Oregon Nikkei Endowment, Portland JACL or Ikoi No Kai.

## TRIBUTE

### GORO ASAKI



Goro "George" Asaki died peacefully in his sleep of natural causes on Oct. 31, 2018, in Ellicott City, Md. Born on Dec. 25, 1923, in Hanford, Calif., he was one of 13 children of Japanese immigrant parents, Masuji and Mine Asaki. He was predeceased by his parents and by siblings Shichiro "Tom" Asaki, Teruko "May" Ishimoto, Teiko, Nobuko, Fumiko "Fumi" Inada and Hiroshi. He is survived by his siblings, Aiko Imagawa, Kiyoko "Koko" Wittenburg, Yoshiko "Yo" Seltzer, Isamu "Sam" Asaki, Yutaka "Jack/Skip" Asaki and Sei "Stephen" Asaki.

He and his family were relocated to a Japanese internment camp in Jerome, Ark., after the outbreak of WWII. He later enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1944 and sharpened his existing Japanese language skills at the Military Intelligence Language School at Ft. Snelling, Minn. Although he was qualified to be an officer, he was restricted to the rank of Technician 3rd Grade because of his Japanese ancestry. As an Interpreter, he was assigned to a unit of the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) and was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, among other awards.

He earned a B.S. in electrical engineering from the University of Illinois, and became a certified Professional Engineer. He worked for Westinghouse in Baltimore for over 30 years until he retired.

Goro married Nobu "Nobie" Sekiguchi of Seattle in 1950 in Chicago. They and their children, Arthur, Howard and Esther, lived in the Baltimore and Annapolis area. Eventually, they had grandchildren, Sarah Yukiko, Rebecca, Andrew, Samuel and Miriam.

Goro was an amateur "ham" radio operator (W3MPN), making contact with other "hams" in every foreign country except one, and was instrumental in forming a chapter of the Quarter Century Wireless Assn. He was a member of the Japanese American Citizens League and the Cub and Boy Scouts. Goro was a longtime member and one-time president of the Lake Shore Rotary Club. From the mid-1960s to late 1980s, he was active in public school education. After president of two school PTAs, he served as president of county and (MD) state boards of education. He was later appointed to the (Md.) Governor's Task Force on AIDS in 1987 regarding fairness and safety of students at school during an early, scary period of the epidemic. Although he was 94, his mind was sharp to the end. His last act of service was to donate his body to the Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences for education and research.

Goro was well-liked and took his family on educational outings and vacations. He picnicked with his extended family, and for relaxation, he liked to go fishing, though sometimes without a hook.

## TRIBUTE

### BETTY KURIHARA OZAWA



Betty Kurihara, born May 2, 1931, in Tulare, Calif., to Kumaki and Tomi Kurihara of Kumamoto, Japan, Betty Kurihara grew up on a farm, the youngest of eight siblings. In 1942, she was one of 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry who were forcibly relocated to Poston III, an internment camp in Arizona. Betty remained in camp for three years. After returning to the West Coast, she graduated from Orosi High School in 1949, finishing at the top of her class. Betty went on to the

University of California at Berkeley and graduated from the UCSF School of Nursing in 1954.

On Nov. 6, 1960, Betty married the love of her life, Koji Ozawa of San Francisco. They shared 58 years of a blessed marriage and had three children: Carol, Donna and Bryan.

As an RN, Betty worked at UCSF Hospital, then at the California Pacific Medical Center in San Francisco for 20 years, serving on the specialty IV team and cardiology floor. She was a compassionate and thoughtful provider and an ardent advocate of patients and families.

Among her many artistic interests, Betty enjoyed singing choral music, performing with the UC Berkeley Chorus, the SF Bach Choir and the SF Municipal Choir under the direction of Dr. Hans Leske. She cherished her friends and was enlivened by conversation and learning from others. Of profound importance to her were her sisters Marie and Velma, with whom she shared a sacred friendship. Betty's greatest joy was her family, especially her 11 grandchildren, who gave her purpose and much delight with their activities and accomplishments. She was a devoted daughter-in-law to Joe Iwao and Ayako Ozawa for many years.

Betty had a phenomenal memory and astute wit, a generous and loving spirit, and an exceptional optimism and cheer that brightened the days of those around her. She died unexpectedly of complications of pneumonia on Oct. 21, 2018, and is deeply missed.

Survivors include her husband, Koji; sister, Marie; daughter, Carol, with son-in-law, Robert Burns; and grandchildren, Brendan, Caitlin, Alana, Aislinn, Aodhan, Curran, Brian, Caera and Cevan Ozawa Burns; daughter, Donna; son, Bryan, with daughter-in-law, Carla Mau; and grandchildren, David and Tommy Ozawa; sisters-in-law, Sumiko Sugihara and Ruth Kurihara; and many nieces and nephews.

Predeceased siblings include Nellie (and Henry) Furubayashi, Sam, Don (and Alice), John, Walter and Velma.

A private burial was held Dec. 23, 2018, at the Japanese Cemetery in Colma, Calif. The Rev. Nobuaki Hanaoka officiated at the Celebration of Life, which took place Dec. 29 at the Sequoias, San Francisco. Memorial donations may be sent to the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of San Francisco, 1840 Sutter St., SF, CA 94115; the National Japanese American Historical Society, 1684 Post St., SF, CA 94115; or a charity of choice.

## TRIBUTE

### HERBERT OKAMOTO



Herbert Mitsuru Okamoto, 88, passed peacefully on Dec. 8, 2018. Coal miner, U.S. Air Force veteran, IRS executive, JACL advocate, fly fisherman, swing dancer, disc jockey and loving dad, grandpa, uncle and friend. Born in Hanna, Wyo., and a resident of Denver, Reno, Los Angeles, Portland, Ore., and Helena, Mont. Predeceased by his parents, siblings and spouses. Survived by children, Jeri and David and many relatives. Funeral with military honors at West L.A. UMC; interred at Green Hills in Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif., on Dec. 21.





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