The JACL National Board Meets to Discuss 2019 Goals.

Details on April’s 50th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage
Letter to the Editor

AN APOLOGY FOR TULE LAKE RESISTERS

For over 70 years, former Tule Lake resisters have been stigmatized for their difficult decisions of protest during World War II and have been negatively labeled as those “No, Nos” by the Japanese American community. It is time that the JACL finally admits that former Tule Lake resisters had the courage and the right to protest the injustice of America’s concentration camps.

Nearly two decades ago, the JACL finally, officially apologized to the Heart Mountain and all other draft resisters for their principled stand, but to this day, an apology to Tule Lake resisters has been its own No, No.

Past JACL leaders, members and ex-GIs long maintained animosity toward former Tule Lake resisters, but now a new generation of JACL leaders and members dominate. An official JACL apology is needed, admitting Tule Lake resisters had a right to protest the incarceration and were unfairly stigmatized all these years. This JACL apology should happen soon, before all incarcerated at Tule Lake pass away.

After the war, people asked, “What camp were you in?” I never hesitated to say, “Poston and Tule Lake,” but I was always surprised by the ever-must know responses.

The Japanese American community has been brainwashed by the JACL and the commonly used “No, Nos” slur that implied wrongdoing. They do not understand that Tule Lake resisters were put in difficult positions and were trapped into protesting the injustice of incarceration. They were punished by the government, many suffered significantly and in addition have been long stigmatized by their own community.

The JACL, with their super patriotism position during and soon after the war, were in strong opposition to Tule Lake inmates. They had urged their segregation from others in nine camps, would not help ACLU attorney Wayne Collins oppose deportation of over 5,000 refugees to Japan and would not support his heroic efforts to regain their citizenships.

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NIKKEI VOICE

IS NAOMI OSAKA JAPANESE ENOUGH?

By Gil Asakawa

I love following the exciting young career of Naomi Osaka, the world’s first Japanese tennis star, who has been ranked No. 1 by the Women’s Tennis Assn. after her recent win in the Australian Open.

I love her passion and skill and determination to win. And most of all, I love that she is mixed-race with a Japanese mom and Haitian dad. And, I also love that she’s culturally as American as she is Japanese or Haitian.

Osaka was born in Japan, and her family came to the U.S. when she was just 3 years old. They first lived with her father’s family in Long Island, NY, and by the time she was 10, the family (which includes an older sister who also competes in tennis) moved to Florida, where they still live.

Osaka claims both American and Japanese citizenship. She’s 21 now, and the media has begun pointing out Japan’s citizenship law: At 22, Japan doesn’t allow dual citizenship. Naomi will soon have to choose her nationality. Her sister, Mari, who’s already 22, is still listed as playing for Japan by the International Tennis Federation. The sisters have represented both countries.

World’s No. 1-ranked tennis sensation Naomi Osaka at the Australian Open

Japan even though they’ve been mostly raised in the United States because, as explained by her mom, they “feel” Japanese. It may have helped that the U.S. Tennis Assn. wasn’t interested in Osaka until she started to gain attention as a rising star. When the USTA invited her to join them, Osaka declined.

Now, she has sponsorship deals like any American athlete might. Except, of course, she’s representing Japanese companies. Nissin, for one — the company that invented instant ramen in the 1950s and Cup Noodles in the 1970s. Unfortunately, Nissin had to apologize recently for an animated TV commercial that gave the athlete oddly lightened skin and was accused of whitewashing the star.

Which brings us to the most striking part of Osaka’s stardom: She’s biracial Japanese and black. Most Japanese, especially the media, have embraced her for showing the world that a tennis player from Japan can be great.

But she’s received some flak from racists in her chosen country. It may be a further challenge that like many of us Japanese Americans, she can understand some Japanese but can’t speak fluently. So far that hasn’t hurt her. When a reporter asked her to respond to a question in Japanese, she replied in English. . . and her fans blasted the reporter for being rude and un-Japanese.

Unfortunately, other biracial stars in Japan have faced prejudice. The Pittsburgh, Pa.-born singer Jero, who is African-American and Japanese, moved to Japan and had a 10-year career as an “enka” star, performing the style of music that can be described as a mix of Japanese blues and big-band pop. He was treated as a novelty, gaining gaps and applause when he was introduced during the early part of his career. Last year, he announced he was putting his singing career on hold to become a computer engineer, which is what he had studied in college.

Ariana Miyamoto, a half-black, half-Japanese woman from Nagasaki, made headlines when she won the Miss Japan title in 2015. At the time, the media made a huge deal of her ethnicity, and she had to deal with a lot of racism. She used her one-year reign to speak out about prejudice and for biracial Japanese. Ironically, the 2016 Miss Japan was also biracial, Japanese and Indian.

A powerful documentary, “Hafu,” looks at the plight of biracial people in Japan and the challenges they face in a society that has historically valued racial homogeneity. It’s available on Amazon Prime and definitely worth watching.

> See NAOMI OSAKA on page 9

A MOTHER’S TAKE

BUILDING BRIDGES, NOT WALLS

By Marsha Aizumi

Recently, my husband and I saw the movie “Green Book.” It is a story about a world-class black pianist who hires an Italian man, not only to drive him around, but also to protect him as well. For two months in 1962, they toured around the country, even to the Deep South, to bring music to audiences, most of whom were wealthy and white. “Green Book” refers to “The Negro Motorist Green Book,” which was published annually from 1936-64 to show African-American travelers safe places to eat and sleep.

If you plan to see the movie, there might be some spoilers in my column, so you may want to read this after you see “Green Book.”

Tad and I walked out of the theater agreeing it was a great movie. Not only was the acting good, but it also educated us from a heartfelt perspective. Early in the movie, star Viggo Mortensen’s character, Tony Lip, wanted to throw away glasses that two black waiters drank from. His wife pulled them out of the trash, shaking her head. Tony was clearly racist.

But as Tony drove Dr. Don Shirley, played by Mahershala Ali, around the country, you saw their relationship grow through shared experiences and dialogue with each other. You saw that people from diverse backgrounds could find common ground, and their thoughts could evolve if they listened deeply with an open heart to each other.

You also saw how different personalities could come together with mutual trust and mutual respect. Tony Lip was a spontaneous, often emotional individual, and Dr. Shirley was a structured, more formal man. Yet, they learned from each other and in the end, lived life at a higher level because of their shared experiences. They remained friends throughout their lives.

Both of these individuals were good people, and their time with each other brought them greater awareness, understanding and empathy.

I left the theater remembering a story that a colleague told me about being mistaken for a transgender son. Basically, I put up a wall. I used to move away from religious people, afraid of their judgment on me as a mother of a transgender son. Basically, I put up a wall.

Today, I am more willing to share our story in churches and with religious individuals, so that compassion for the LGBTQ community might bring greater acceptance and openness to their thinking and institution.

In return, I have come to understand there are good people in churches who just don’t know how to support the LGBTQ community. Where do we start? What do we do? These are often the questions I am asked. Conversations I am having with churches and temples are helping us both come together as well as work together.

I am writing this article on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s birthday. I wonder what he would have thought about the way our world has progressed? Sometimes while reading the headlines and listening to the news, I am discouraged as a parent of a LGBT child. But then I remember King’s words, and I feel my strength return. Whispers right behind him is Yuri Kochiyama. And I know that together we can make this world better.

“We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope.”

— Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

“Don’t become too narrow. Live fully. Meet all kinds of people. You will learn something from everyone. Follow what you feel in your heart.”

— Yuri Kochiyama

Marsha Aizumi is an advocate in the LGBT community and the author of the book “Two Spirits, One Heart: A Mother, Her Transgender Son and Their Journey to Love and Acceptance.”
The JACL National Board met at its San Francisco headquarters on Feb. 2, where it outlined 2019 goals as the organization commemorates its 90th anniversary this year.

**JACL NATIONAL BOARD MEETS TO DISCUSS FUTURE PLANS AND GOALS**

Despite intense rain, thunder and lightning outside, making for a bleak day in the Bay Area, inside JACL’s San Francisco headquarters, the organization’s National Board had positive plans on its agenda during its quarterly meeting on Feb. 2.

Among the main items on its agenda was discussion on how best to continue the organization’s civil advocacy work and increasing membership numbers among challenging financial times and staffing issues, all while commemorating the 90th anniversary of JACL and its national newspaper publication the Pacific Citizen this year.

JACL’s current National Board is ready to meet these challenges head on.

“We have to make sure that we take care of ourselves and find the right balance ... and that this organization can thrive into the future,” said JACL National President Jeffrey Miy. “To think back on the last six months and when we started talking about what our goals for our term were going to be to what our long-term goals are now for JACL as an organization, I can see all the work we’re doing ... We’re at a place where we know what we want to accomplish, and that will help set us up for future success.”

JACL Executive Director David Inoue updated the board on his current search to fill the vacant business manager position.

At the moment, Inoue is interviewing potential candidates.

“I’m using this time where we are looking at how to revitalize our staff and how to operate with the best efficiency.”

Despite staffing vacancies, Inoue noted that JACL’s advocacy work continues on all cylinders.

In his report to the board, Inoue outlined JACL’s work regarding the Muslim travel ban, family separation and detention, its lead in the Japanese American Citizens’ evacuation site program, DACA and the DREAM Act, work with the MLK and NFL on providing broader training to their players regarding anti-Asian racism and JACL’s signing on several amicus briefs concerning hate crimes, the LGBTQ community and affirmative action.

Secretary/Treasurer James Kitazawa reported that YTD membership revenue yielded $548K, compared to 2017’s $541K. JACL also experienced a significant decline in equity net assets since August 2018 due to investment valuation declines based on the stock market.

He stressed the importance of the organization’s need to stay on top of the budgeting process and continued monitoring by the Financial Oversight Committee.

Although 2018 accounted for 20 fewer members, revenue finished ahead of budget expectations due to an increase in dues, reported VP Membership Haruka Roudebush.

He remains firmly committed to his goal of 10,000 members by the end of 2019, as well as the standardization of national dues rates.

Roudebush also praised 26 chapters for increasing membership for the year, including Sonoma Co., 42; Honolulu, 8; Silicon Valley, 11; and Fresno, 6. PSW, five chapters gained members; FNW, 5; IDC, 28; MDC, 6; EDC, 5; KRC, 3; and Harry Park added 13 members.

Planning for National Convention in Salt Lake City (July 31-Aug. 4) is well underway, reported VP General Operations Maria Kuzawa.

In his report, Matthew Furrer reported that a nationwide fundraising initiative will roll out soon.

JANM AND THE NIPPON FOUNDATION WORK TO GATHER RESEARCH ABOUT YOUNG NIKKEI AROUND THE WORLD

LOS ANGELES — The Japanese American National Museum is collaborating with the Nippon Foundation on a large-scale, global research project to learn how young people of Japanese ancestry (Nikkei) understand and express their Japanese heritage.

The project, the first of its kind, aims to deepen the understanding of Nikkei communities in the Japanese diaspora, including their differences and similarities, as well as their needs and challenges now and in the future.

The project will target Nikkei ages 18-35, regardless of where their ancestors migrated from Japan, their destination country or where the individuals now reside.

The research will gather data from participants regarding demographics, the prevalence of Japanese cultural activities and influences in their lives and their connectedness to local Nikkei communities and Japan.

As an online survey (https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TNFNikkeiSurveyEN), available in four languages (English, Japanese, Portuguese and Spanish), to gather this information was launched in late January and is available online until Feb. 28.

Following the survey, focus groups will be convened in 10 countries, including Australia, Brazil, Canada, Japan, the Netherlands, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, the United Kingdom and the U.S.

The team leading this research includes Dr. Curtis Takada Rocks, senior research associate and assistant professor of Asian Pacific American Studies at Loyola Marymount University; and Dr. Lindsey Sasaki Kogawara, assistant director of Study Abroad at Pomona College.

Rocks’ research focuses on ethnic and multiracial identity, ethnic community development and cultural competency in community health and wellness; Kogawara specializes in cultural identity, training, international migration and the Asian diaspora in Latin America.

The Nippon Foundation, which initiated this project and selected JANM as its partner, was established in 1962 as a nonprofit philanthropic organization, active in Japan and around the world. Its range of activities encompasses education, social welfare, public health and other fields — carried out in more than 100 countries to date. Together with numerous partner organizations in Japan and worldwide, it funds and assists community-led efforts aimed at realizing a more peaceful and prosperous global society.

And JANM is the first museum in the U.S. dedicated to sharing the experience of Americans of Japanese ancestry as an integral part of the nation’s history. Through its comprehensive collection of Japanese American objects, images and documents, as well as exhibitions, educational programs and publications, JANM shares the Japanese American story with local, national and international audiences.
THE 50TH ANNUAL MANZANAR PILGRIMAGE/ MANZANAR AT DUSK SET FOR APRIL 27

Preliminary details for the 2019 event have been announced, with bus transportation available from Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES — The 50th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage sponsored by the Manzanar Committee, is scheduled for April 27 at the Manzanar National Historic Site, located on U.S. Hwy 395 in California’s Owens Valley, between the towns of Lone Pine and Independence, approximately 230 miles north of Los Angeles.

Manzanar was the first of the American concentration camps in which more than 120,000 Japanese Americans and their immigrant parents were unjustly incarcerated during World War II.

Each year, more than 1,000 people from all walks of life attend the Manzanar Pilgrimage, including students, teachers, community members, clergy and former incarcerated.

Planning is underway for the afternoon event, as well as for the annual Manzanar at Dusk program, which follows the pilgrimage that evening.

The year’s Manzanar Pilgrimage will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the first organized Manzanar Pilgrimage in 1969.

“The fact that the Manzanar Committee and the Manzanar Pilgrimage have been in existence for 50 years, enduring and spanning generations, is very important to take stock of,” said Manzanar Committee Co-Chair Bruce Embrey. “The Manzanar Pilgrimage has endured. It has become an important part of our community’s effort to make sure our nation remembers what can happen when the rights of any community are trampled upon under the guise of national security concerns or because of xenophobia.

“The pilgrimages were a quest, searching for the truth of what happened, led mostly by young Sansei (third-generation Japanese Americans),” Embrey continued. “As it got more established, the pilgrimage became a safe place for the survivors of camp to talk story, revealing the atrocities of camp, and educating the younger generations and broader public about our story. In some ways, pilgrimages created the basis for the redress movement to be established and grow, and it helped prepare the community to talk about our unjust incarcerations at the Commissions on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians hearings in the early 1980s.”

Embrey added that over the past 50 years, the Manzanar Pilgrimage has sought to honor and remember the strength, endurance and dedication of the former incarcerated.

“We always try to remind everyone how the endurance and strength of those few, Nisei and Sansei and others who survived camp and the aftermath of their incarceration was remarkable,” Embrey stressed. “This year, we hope to capture how strength and endurance has been central to demanding justice over the decades, as well as to winning redress and reparations. It is this enduring spirit and search for truth that has kept the pilgrimage alive and relevant and has made it an important voice in our nation’s dialogue about civil rights.”

Cultural performances will begin at 11:30 a.m., while the main portion of the day’s program will begin at Noon.

Pilgrimage participants are advised to bring their own lunch, drinks and snacks, as there are no facilities to the Manzanar National Historic Site (restaurants and food outlets are located in Lone Pine and Independence, which are nearby). Water will be provided at the site, but participants are asked to bring a refillable water bottle that can be filled at refilling stations on site.

Those who wish to participate in the traditional flower offering during the interfait service are advised to bring their own flowers.

Pilgrimage participants should also be aware that weather in the Owens Valley can be unpredictable and can change rapidly. The Manzanar Committee advises participants that they should always wear a hat, use sunscreen (shrewd light is not affected by clouds and is more intense at higher elevations) and be prepared for any kind of weather, including high winds, heat, cold and rain.

The Manzanar at Dusk program, which is co-sponsored by the Nikkei Student Unions at California State University, Fullerton; California State University, Long Beach; California State Polytechnic University, Pomona; the University of California, Los Angeles; and the University of California, San Diego will follow a couple of hours after the Manzanar Pilgrimage at 5 p.m. at Lone Pine High School, which is located at 538 S. Main Street (U.S. Hwy 395), approximately 8 miles south of the Manzanar National Historic Site, across the street from McDonald’s.

Through a creative presentation, small group discussions and an open mic session, Manzanar at Dusk participants will have the opportunity to learn about the experiences of those incarcerated in the camps. Participants will also be able to interact with former incarcerated to hear their personal stories, share their own experiences and discuss the relevance of the concentration camp experience to present-day events and issues.

Further details about the Pilgrimage and the Manzanar at Dusk program will be announced at a later date.

The Manzanar Committee has also announced that bus transportation to the pilgrimage will be available from Los Angeles’ Little Tokyo.

The bus will depart at 7 a.m., arriving at the pilgrimage at approximately 11:30 a.m. and will also take participants to the Visitor Center at the Manzanar National Historic Site following the afternoon program. The bus should arrive back in Los Angeles at approximately 3:30 p.m.

Reservations for the Little Tokyo bus will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. The nonrefundable fare is $45 per seat, $10 for youth (7 years of age and younger).

Complimentary fares are available for those who were incarcerated at any of the former camp or other confinement sites during WWII.

Anyone wishing to attend the Manzanar at Dusk program that evening should make other transportation arrangements.

Both the Manzanar Pilgrimage and the Manzanar at Dusk programs are free and open to the public.

For more information, or to reserve a seat on the bus departing from Little Tokyo, call (323) 662-5102 or e-mail 50thpilgrimage@manzanarcommittee.org.
A Bridging Opportunity

FEATURING THE BEST OF THE BEST IN JAPAN

Twenty-two JACL travelers from the NCWNP District recently embarked on a unique trip that created special memories to last a lifetime.

There are so many opportunities for youth to travel to Japan...what about adults and older Sansei? Are there Sansei still affected by the World War II incarceration of being taught that it was not good to be "too Japanese?" Are there a lot of Sansei who have never been to Japan? Why?

These questions posed by JACLers led to a Northern California-Western Nevada-Pacific District JACL trip to Japan, one that was specifically designed for the first-time Japan traveler, but with enough flexibility in the itinerary to attract even the most-frequent Japan traveler.

While there are other tours with a similar itinerary (Tokyo, Yokohama, Kamakura, Hakone, Kyoto, Hiroshima, Miyajima Island), the concept of "bridging" can't be found in a commercially coordinated trip. This "bridging" opportunity is something that was unique, special and memorable for the 22 JACL travelers who attended the recent 2018 NCWNP District JACL trip to Japan from Nov. 6-17, 2018.

Pam Yoshida and Meg Mizutani, NCWNP representatives to National JACL's United States-Japan Relations (US-JR) committee, created this concept more than two years ago in order to provide an opportunity to visit Japan for Sansei who have never traveled there. The intent of the trip was to provide the seasoned Japan traveler with flexibility to plan his/her own itinerary on "open" days on an otherwise "best of the best" Japan tour. The result was a fast-paced tour that included every mode of transportation (ferry boat, shinkansen train, streetcar, subway and taxi) and some of the most popular shrines, temples and castles in Japan.

Loosely thought of as the "Adult Kakehashi" trip, this NCWNP trip group consisted of 22 travelers (16 of whom were first-time Japan travelers) ranging in age from 28-82 years old. Travelers were from the JACL chapters of Contra Costa, Fresno, Gilroy, Placer County, Sacramento, San Jose, Selma, Silicon Valley, Stockton and West Valley. The itinerary consisted of five professionally guided tour days and five "free" days with optional planned itineraries.

"I knew this was going to be a great group when we got to our first escalator and as we rode up, I yelled out, 'Left side,' and everyone shifted over to the left," said Yoshida, who made her fifth trip to Japan with the group. "One goal was to show that Japan is easy to navigate, and at the end of the trip, several first-timers indicated that they would like to go back again—by themselves! The NCWNP had the welcome assistance of several tour guides and local friends! I didn't have any expectations other than to return everyone back to the U.S. safely!"

On the first full day in Japan, the NCWNP group planned a guided tour of the Edo Museum, Asakusa (Sensoji Temple and shopped along Nakamise), then to Kappabashi (Tokyo's kitchen district) to create wax-replica food followed by a Chanko Nabe dinner in the Ryogoku area famous for its history of sumo wrestling.

The Japan JACL chapter is one of the NCWNP District chapters, so it was natural to reach out to the Japan JACL chapter to develop an activity that would engage the Japan JACL with the NCWNP chapters. The Japan JACL developed not only one activity but several in the short time that the group was there. "The Japan JACL chapter were gracious and generous with their time and commitment to this trip, and it was wonderful to see so many of them attend our joint activities," said Yoshida.
Following a day of visiting Senakukai (the shrine of the 47 Ronin), Meiji Jingu, Harajuku, Omotedando and Shibuya, the group joined the Japan JACL chapter in the evening, with one of their monthly activities, an ESS (English-Speaking Society) session with native Japanese speakers.

Several groups of three to six persons combined with NCWNP and Japan JACL members to discuss their Japanese American history, which also soon deviated to conversations of common interests. Great food and snacks coordinated by the Japan JACL chapter followed the activity, and presentations of omiage from the Japan chapter and NCWNP members were presented by Debbie Yano (Japan JACL) and Yoshida (NCWNP).

The following day, there was a choice of three planned tours: The Tokyo National Museum in Ueno Park (led by Japan chapter member Takamichi Go, a Japan history instructor), the Samurai Museum (led by Gordon Koo, West Valley JACL), Odaiba Mega-Web Museum (led by John Ino and Debbie Yano of the Japan JACL chapter) and an afternoon at Kabuki theater at Kabuki-za (led by Joyce Iwasaki, San Jose JACL). The day ended with a tour by museum staff and an evening of kabuki theater.

The next day was an open day to tour Miyajima Island. The opportunity to walk up to the Shinto shrine of the 47 Ronin, Meiji Jingu, Harajuku, Omotedando and Shibuya, the group followed the activity, and presentations of omiage from the Japan chapter and NCWNP members were presented by Debbie Yano (Japan JACL) and Yoshida (NCWNP).

The next day, the trip participants went to Kiyomizu-Dera, Nishiki Market and then chose between an afternoon at Fushimi Inari or lantern making with a family who is known for its hand-crafted lanterns throughout Japan: Kobishiyu Chube: Kojima Shoten. The next day, the trip participants went to Arashiyama followed, where the group opted to see the bamboo forest and monkeys on the mountain. They then took a trip to Nijo Castle.

The next day, the trip participants made a farewell visit to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial. The late afternoon stroll to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial was sobering. In some ways, the visit at the end of the day was an appropriate time to visit this memorial, as this was a turning point of how the world and many of the group’s lives were changed forever. The devastation of the atomic bomb is unimaginable and the urgency of peace was a common theme, along with resilience.

Among the first destination points was the popular Golden Pavilion. Arriving before busloads of school children, the group was in line at Kinkakuji temple. After a spectacular early-morning view of the temple and surrounding grounds, an excursion to Arashiyama followed, where the group opted to see the bamboo forest and monkeys on the mountain. They took a trip to Nijo Castle.

The group arrived in Hiroshima.

In the meantime, others planned adventures on the final day in Hiroshima, which included connecting with their family and heritage. Gilmy JACLers Lily Kawafuchi and June Otaguro reconnected with cousins whom they had only met once before. Teruko Takemoto of the Selma JACL, accompanied by two nieces and a nephew, visited her mother’s grave site in Hiroshima. Unexpectedly, she was reconnected with an aunt by a local police officer. And Stockton JACLer Karen Sakamoto ventured to an area in Hiroshima where she was raised to find that progress and development had displaced her neighborhood. The continuation of “bridging” was a memorable way to end the trip, and these amazing experiences became a part of all of the group’s experiences.

The Japanese tradition of omiage also became a common practice, with trip participants sharing gifts among themselves and others throughout the trip. While many are new JACL members, perhaps this can be a common bond of a shared experience that was not obvious until the trip began.

"Favorite memories included seeing our group members interact with our tour operators by giving omiage or taking pictures with them," Yoshida said. "Nearly two-thirds of the group had never been to Japan and were very overwhelmed in the beginning, but felt very comfortable at the end of the trip."

Many thanks to the NCWNP District and NCWNP District Governor Carol Kawase for their support and encouragement in planning this memorable trip to Japan. Special thanks to the Japan JACL chapter and Japan chapter Co-Presidents John Ino and Kristy Ishii, and to Debbie Yano for suggestions and providing the “bridging” component of this trip. It was a great pleasure to make the connections with you and meet members of the Japan chapter! Thank you, too, to Kintetsu International, who handled the travel arrangements (local General Manager Maki Hoshino assisted the group on the trip). This trip would not have been possible without all of you.

"I've gotten inquiries from several people about this trip from other (JACL) districts, and while I LOVE the cities that we went to, there is so much more of Japan to explore," said Yoshida. "Japan is so diverse and regional. So, if NCWNP plans another trip, the itinerary might be different, but this would be more challenging since the places we went to were easy to navigate. I'll be evaluating this in the next few weeks with the Japan JACL chapter members, NCWNP District Council and our trip participants will be meeting for a trip reunion this month — we'll evaluate all of this.

For some attending this trip, Japan had never been a travel plan before. But for all, it is hoped that this will be one of many trips to Japan. While the destinations the group traveled to were among the most-popular and most-frequented places to visit in Japan, the experience to travel as a JACL group was unique.

"My favorite memories," Yoshida recalled, "are all the times that I saw members of our group ‘connect.’”
REP. MARK TAKANO AND SEN. MAZIE HIRONO INTRODUCE THE FRED KOREMATSU CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL ACT OF 2019

WASHINGTON, D.C. — As California celebrated "Korematsu Day" on Jan. 30 to honor civil rights icon Fred Korematsu, Rep. Mark Takano (D-CA) and Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-HI) introduced the Fred Korematsu Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2019 to recognize his legacy.

"Nearly 75 years after the Supreme Court delivered a devastating blow to the civil liberties of Japanese Americans in the landmark Korematsu v. United States decision, we are witnessing and experiencing the progress we have made as a country. Progress that was made possible due to the tireless advocacy of civil rights icons like Fred Korematsu," said Takano.

"Mr. Korematsu was an outspoken activist for justice and a hero to many — including myself — he continued, "as a son of Japanese Americans who lived through Japanese internment during World War II. I find Mr. Korematsu's legacy to be a guiding light for the work that I do in Congress. His tireless work paved the way for the freedoms we enjoy today. It is a reminder that we must keep fighting to protect the rights of all people."

"My father, Fred T. Korematsu, was born in Oakland, Calif. 100 years ago today. A civil rights pioneer, he dedicated his life to fighting for the rights of all people, including the millions of Japanese Americans who were unjustly incarcerated during World War II. The legacy of Mr. Korematsu's commitment to justice and equality must continue to inspire us to stand up for what is right and to fight for the rights of all people," said Rep. Mark Takano and Sen. Mazie K. Hirono for their introduction of the Fred Korematsu Congressional Gold Medal Act. Through this bill it is a reminder that we must keep fighting to protect the rights of all people."

On Jan. 30, 1919, Fred Korematsu was born in Oakland, Calif., to Japanese immigrants. In 1942, after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, the United States Army issued a curfew order against American of Japanese descent on the West Coast, who were considered to pose a threat to national security under the authority of Executive Order 9066.

FILM ‘FOR THE SAKE OF THE CHILDREN’ SETS FUTURE SCREENING DATES

The documentary, recently profiled on "Asian Pacific America With Robert Handa," is set to screen additional showings in Seattle, Portland, British Columbia and San Diego throughout February and March.

The new documentary film "For the Sake of the Children" continues to gain traction as a unique journey to educate the public about the impacts of World War II incarceration on multiple generations of Japanese Americans.

Most recently, Marlene Shigekawa, the film's executive producer, discussed the film with Robert Handa, host of NBC Bay Area's "Asian Pacific America." Handa had moderated a panel discussion following a screening of the film in San Jose. The interview was broadcast on the CWZI channel on Dec. 2.

During her appearance on the show, Shigekawa shared the story of her family's incarceration at the Tule Lake Concentration Camp in Arizona. Shigekawa did not learn about the incarceration until she was a high school student; she did not know that her father's generation had that same experience. Most detainees, primarily those on the West Coast, were not told about the camps for decades due to the sense of shame and pain associated with their incarceration.

"For the Sake of the Children" executive producer Marlene Shigekawa recently appeared on "Asian Pacific America with Robert Handa" to discuss the genesis of the film and the long-term impact the incarceration experience had on the people and families whose lives were directly affected by Executive Order 9066.

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**Sherry Hirota Named Health Equity Advocate of the Year**

Families USA recognizes the health care leader for her advocacy work in advancing social justice.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Families USA has announced Sherry Hirota as the winner of its Health Equity Health Advocate of the Year award on Jan. 25 for her efforts in advancing social justice through health care advocacy.

Hirota has been a leader in working with immigrant communities to access and maintain health care coverage and has led numerous advocacy efforts. She has championed underserved communities for 40 years.

“This recognition from Families USA comes at the perfect moment to bring together communities across the country around health careforall and while stopping Public Charge, which threatens health care for immigrants,” said Hirota.

**American Holiday Travel**

**2019 Tour Schedule**

- Splendid Sicily Holiday Tour (Elaine Ishida) ............. April 6-15
  Palermo, Corleone, visit a family farm, Agrigento, Taormina.
- 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, Matsuura, Azu 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, Guassus Falls.
- Alaska Land & Cruise Tour (Elaine Ishida) ............. July 1-11
  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) .......
  Rome, Gibraltar, Malaga, Barcelona, Provence, Monte Carlo, Monaco, Florence/Pisa, Holland America Line
- New York City Tour (Carol Hida) ............. Sept 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
- Kyushu-Shikoku Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida) ............ Nov 10-22
  Fukuoka, Nagasaki, Ibusuki, Kagoshima, Miyazaki, Beppu, Matsuyama, Kochi, Takamatsu, Shodo Island, Tokushima.

For more information and reservations, please contact:

**American Holiday Travel**

312 E. 1st Street, Suite 240 * Los Angeles, CA 90012
Tel: (213)625-2232 * Email: americanholiday@att.net
Ernest or Carol Hida  Elaine Ishida (Tel: 714-269-4534)

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**LETTER continued from page 2**

They also contributed to long stigmatization by the community. Now ironically, JACL strongly supports minority communities in their resistance and protest against injustices. What about the Tule Lake inmates and their protests against a huge injustice?

Writer Martha Nakagawa wrote an extensive three-part article in the Rafu Shimpo about the Tule Lake pilgrimage held this past July with over 400 participants. She noted that both Gary Maeda, then-JACL national president, and David Iwory, JACL executive director, attended the pilgrimage.

Maeda was asked about a JACL apology to former Tule Lake inmates. His answer: “That might be a good idea.” Iwory in a July/August Pacific Citizen article said, “Pilgrimages are vitally important to our community in healing the deep and lingering wounds of incarceration especially true of Tule Lake, where the scars of injustices inflicted by our government were compounded by the ostracism many experienced from others in the Japanese American community.”

Although thoughtful and sympathetic, words are quickly forgotten. Now is finally the time for action toward an official JACL apology to all former Tule Lake inmates.

Sincerely,

Yuki Kawanotani,
Longtime JACL member and former Tule Lake inmate

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**NAOMI OSAKA continued from page 3**

Debito Arndt, a Caucasian American who moved to Japan to teach and married a Japanese woman, changed his name (he was born David Ardwrinkle) and nationality and even became an expert on racism in Japan. He warned Osaka in a Japan Times commentary that even without the challenge of her identity, Japanese fans have been brutal on top athletes who peaked and couldn’t regain their heights. Adding her mixed ethnicity, herperspectives will be a tough challenge to overcome.

In another Japan Times commentary, former diplomat Kunii Miyake pointed out that xenophobia exists in every society, and Osaka represents contradictions in modern Japanese society and raises the question of who is Japanese. In the end, she noted that Japan is naturally becoming more multicultural, and Osaka conducts herself with a humility that is deeply, well, Japanese.

But being ranked at the top of the world helps. Let’s hope Osaka can keep winning and maintain her star status. It could be really interesting to follow her career if she chooses to become an American athlete in October when she turns 22. Would her Japanese fans continue to love her?

Let’s hope so. But myself, I’m hoping she chooses Japanese citizenship. I think her celebrity in Japan can help change some attitudes about race across the Pacific.

NCWNP

‘Then They Came for Me: Incarceration of Japanese Americans During World War II and the Demise of Civil Liberty’s’ Exhibit
San Francisco, CA
Thru May 27; Wed.-Sun., 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

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 Tyo Mitsuaka and Mine Kubok. 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.

Inlo: Visit www. ThenTheyCame.org or email info@thentheycame.org.

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Inlo: Visit www. ThenTheyCame.org or email info@thentheycame.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 Jose Taiko. Don’t miss the traditional candlelit procession through Japantown!

Inlo: Visit www.sjnoc.org or call (408) 505-1186.

Dowa No Orasutri 2018: A Festival of Children’s Stories
San Francisco, CA
Feb. 24; Noon; Silent Auction; 1:30 p.m. Theater Performance
 Palace of Fine Arts Theater
3031 Lyon St.
Price: $30 Advance Purchase Tickets; $40 At Door; $10 Youth 5-17
Nihonmachi Little Friends presents its annual theater production and auction featuring hosts June-ko Nakagawa and Benh Nakajo. It will feature students of the NLF with performances of “Swimming for Swallow” and “A Journey Together,” inspired by various children’s stories. All proceeds will benefit the programs and operations of Nihonmachi Little Friends.

Inlo: Call NLF at (415) 922-8898 or email nlfchildcare@gmail.com.

Spring Kaiseki Workshop
San Francisco, CA
Mar. 16; Noon-3 p.m.
JCCNC
1049 Sutter St.
Price: $40 Member; $55 Nonmember

The popular seasonal Kaiseki workshop continues with a spring menu featuring an elegant multicourse meal in the Kaiseki tradition using fresh ingredients with the flavors and colors of the season. This workshop will feature four dishes including chirashi sushi, Kaiseki-style miso soup, tempura, and scallops with fitch and dashi soup stock made with kefir and dired bonito.


Meda No Gakke 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

This two-day event is for aspiring kaiseki chefs to explore the preparation of kaiseki courses and learn about the art and culture of the Kaiseki tradition. The week-long program will also feature guest speaker Kishi Bashi, who will share his music and performance skills with students.

Inlo: Call (650) 281-5474 or email makedakoko@palotoalto@gmail.com; and for additional parent information, email naoko.lujii@gmail.com

Tsuruya Koked: Modern Kabuki Prints Revised & Revisited
Pasadena, CA
Thru July 14
USC Pacific Asia Museum
46 N. Los Robles Ave.
Price: Admission free for members; $10 General Admission; $7 Students and Seniors; Free for Children Under 12

This new exhibition celebrates the 30th anniversary of the contemporary artist’s first solo show and features the complete collection of his actor prints from 1984-93. The exhibition also showcases artwork prints by Haruka as well as two-dezen prints by contemporary Japanese and western artists.

Inlo: Visit pacificasiamuseum.usc.edu or call (626) 449-2742.

GUJC Day of Remembrance Gardenia, CA
Feb. 23; 1-3 p.m.
Gardenia Heights JCI Hall
196 W. 162nd St.
Price: Free

This year’s GUJC Day of Remembrance will examine the parallels between what happened in America 77 years ago and what is happening today. It will also feature the premiere of John O’Rourke’s documentary “Alternative Facts: The Lies of Executive Order 9066.” O’Rourke will be in attendance to present his film followed by a discussion between several panelists, including Dale Minami, who led the legal team that represented Fred Korematsu.

Inlo: Email info@jci-gardenia.org, visit jci-gardenia.org or call (310) 324-6611.

Kishi Bashi
Orange, CA
Feb. 28; 7:30 p.m.
Musco Center for the Arts
Chapman University
50 W. Ninth St. Fifth Ave.
Price: Tickets $25-$45

This play tells the story of the Japanese American who refused to enlist in the WWII draft while her family was unjustly incarcerated during the war. This is their story of why. This play invites you to hear this true story of American citizenry and patriotism.

Inlo: Visit 4RCG.com or call (647) 889-8919.

CCDC

CCDC’s Annual Day of Remembrance Luncheon & Officer Installation
Fresno, CA
Feb. 17; Noon Social Hour; Program/ Luncheon 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.


PNW

Day of Remembrance Taiko Concert to Benefit Pilgrimage to Minidoka Incarceration Camp in Idaho
Seattle, WA
Feb. 17; 1 p.m.
University Auditorium, PCC Auditorium 901 12th Ave.
Price: $20 General admission; $10 Students with identification

This year’s keynote speaker will be Sueko Iki, 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: Misuye Endo, Iva Toguri Dohi and Satsuki Ina, who will focus on the internment experience as an incarcerated Japanese American.


conflictive forces to enact social change. The event will feature 94-year-old Dr. Yutaka Kobayashi’s experience as an incarcerated Japanese American during WWII.

Inlo: Email inlo@jci-gardena.com.

Screening of ‘The Ilo Sisters’
Somerville, MA
Mar. 1; 5:30-9 p.m.
Tufts Alumnae Lounge
40 Talbot Ave.
Price: Free; dinner will be provided.

This event features a screening of the film “The Ilo Sisters,” followed by a panel discussion featuring Antonia Grace Glenn, the filmmaker; and her mother, Christine Grace Glenn. This film focuses on the experiences of Issei and Nisei women whose voices have largely been excluded from American history. This event is sponsored by the Tufts Japanese Culture Club.

ADVERTISE HERE

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:
pc@pacificcitizen.org (213) 620-1767
Ando, Eunie, 93, San Jose, CA, Dec. 24, during WWII, she was incarcerated at a WRA Center. She was preceded in death by her older siblings, Marietta Takunaga, Noboru Ando, Eddie Ando, Mary Minabe and Albert Ando. She is survived by her husband, Emily, son, Chris (Julie) siblings, Ruby Kurita and Lloyd (Eunie) Ando and Lillian (Jim) Junkake.

Matsumura, Machiko, 90, Los Angeles, CA, Dec. 12, she is survived by her four children, Toshi and Dan, and nieces and nephews.

Nakayama, Seiko Tamiko "Mary," 96, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA, Dec. 21, she is survived by her husband, Shinichiro Nakayama, and their children, Yoko Nakayama, Debbie Pauline, 56, and Matsushige, 70, who is survived by his wife, K Infrastructure, and their children, Taro, 54; and 44, 34; and her nieces and nephews.

Nakayama, Seiko Tamiko "Mary," 96, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA, Dec. 21, she is survived by her husband, Shinichiro Nakayama, and their children, Yoko Nakayama, Debbie Pauline, 56, and Matsushige, 70, who is survived by his wife, K Infrastructure, and their children, Taro, 54; and 44, 34; and her nieces and nephews.

Matsuo, Setsuko, 70, Stanton, CA, Oct. 9, she is survived by her husband, Toshikazu Matsuo, their children, Toshikiro (Dawn) and Takayuki (Catherine) Matsuo, and their grandchildren, Yoko and Matsuo, 3, and Nakayama, Seiko Tamiko "Mary," 96, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA, Dec. 21, she is survived by her husband, Shinichiro Nakayama, and their children, Yoko Nakayama, Debbie Pauline, 56, and Matsushige, 70, who is survived by his wife, K Infrastructure, and their children, Taro, 54; and 44, 34; and her nieces and nephews.

Matsushige, Debbie Pauline, 56, Los Angeles, CA, Dec. 15, she is survived by her husband, K Infrastructure, and their children, Taro, 54; and 44, 34; and her nieces and nephews.

Nguyen, Huy, 70, Covina, CA, Jan. 2, he is survived by his wife, Dinh Van Nguyen, their children, Elie and Hurd, parents, Hoi and Thu Nguyen, their in-laws, Chester and Margaret Tadakawa, their children, Chau (Jeff) Reyes, and their nieces and nephews.

Ono, Stanley, 70, San Francisco, CA, Dec. 28, she is survived by her husband, K Infrastructure, and their children, Taro, 54; and 44, 34; and her nieces and nephews.

Miyamoto, Elaine, 69, South Palm, 53, Oct. 4, she is survived by her son, Randi Miyamoto, her wife, Shinichiro Miyamoto, and their children, Taro, 54; and 44, 34; and her nieces and nephews.

Miyamoto, Katagoe, 85, Cudahy, CA, Dec. 14, she is survived by her daughter, Eunice (Kiyokazu), and her nieces and nephews.

Miyamoto, Kiyokazu, 85, Cudahy, CA, Dec. 14, she is survived by her daughter, Eunice (Kiyokazu), and her nieces and nephews.

Miyamoto, Masaoka, 90, Los Angeles, CA, Dec. 24, during WWII, her family and she were incarcerated first at the Santa Anita Racetrack in CA, then the Heart Mountain WRA Center in WY, she was preceded in death by her husband, Ben, her siblings, Edith and Jirou, and their families.

Miyamoto, Patricia Matsuo, 66, Northridge, CA, Jan. 1, she is survived by her husband, K Infrastructure, and their children, Taro, 54; and 44, 34; and her nieces and nephews.

Miyoshi, Shirley, 74, Monterey Park, CA, Dec. 27, during WWII, she was incarcerated at the assembly center.

Miyashiro, Shirley, 74, Monterey Park, 96, Los Angeles, CA, Dec. 23, she is survived by her children, Wayne (Jan), Ronald (Cynthia), Hailo (John) Yoshida and Anna (Robert) Hirama, and their nieces and nephews.

Takamisahito, Wallace, 90, Los Angeles, CA, Dec. 19, he is survived by his first wife, Martha, their children, Chiyoko, Stephen, Allen, George and Thomas, their grandchildren, K Infrastructure, and her nieces and nephews.

Takai, Glenn, 71, Sacramento, CA, Dec. 14, during WWII, he was preceded in death by his first wife, K Infrastructure, his children, Allen, George and Thomas, their grandchildren, K Infrastructure, and her nieces and nephews.

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Terakeshi, Ryo Nagata, 95, Bellevue, WA, Dec. 11, during WWII, he was preceded in death by his wife, Terakeshi, his children, Shigeho, their grandchildren, K Infrastructure, and her nieces and nephews.

Umamoto, Maye, 88, Kirkland, WA, Dec. 24, during WWII, her family and she were incarcerated at the Heart Mountain WRA Center in WY, she was preceded in death by her husband, K Infrastructure, and their children, Jirou, Wayne, Tadakawa, and their families.

Watanabe, Sachiko "Karen," 86, Gardena, CA, Dec. 14, she is survived by her husband, Donald, their children, Wayne (Patricia), Susan (Robert) Nakashita, their children, Michael, Tadakawa, and their families.

Yamaguchi, Ken, 92, Richfield, MN, Oct. 24, during WWII, his family and he were incarcerated at the Granada WRA Center in CO, he served in the Army's 442nd Regimental Combat Team, he was preceded in death by his wife, Miyako (Miki) Ono, their children, K Infrastructure, and their families.
REIMAGINE EVERYTHING

TECH TRENDS IN 2019 AND THE 50-PLUS

By Ron Mori

Are you feeling a bit overwhelmed or just don’t know what to do with a holiday gift that can understand your every command? If so, there is no getting around the fact that technology is all around us and a central part of life for all of us— even more so, our connections with our devices is only expected to grow! By the year 2030, nearly 132 million Americans age 50 and older will spend upward of $84 trillion a year on technology products, a new AARP survey projects.

Today, 91 percent of those age 50-plus report using a computer, and 94 percent say technology helps them keep in touch with friends and family. In fact, the assumption that older individuals rely less on technology than others may be increasingly inaccurate. More than 80 percent of Americans age 50–64 have smartphones, which is about the same as the ends and family. In others may be increasingly inaccurate. Older Americans rely less on technology than 80 percent of Americans age 50–64 have a smart TV (defined as one that is digital and Internet connected) and nine million more plan to buy one within the year. The popularity of home assistants, such as Google Home or Amazon Alexa, is growing and will continue to grow. The survey finds nearly one in seven Americans over 50 own such a device.

Privacy and security issues remain a concern for many in the older age bracket, with Americans over 50 not placing much trust in institutions to keep their personal data safe. AARP finds fewer than one in four trust online retailers, the federal government and telecom service providers, among others. A related finding, meanwhile, highlights an opportunity to provide more education to older adults specifically on safe tech practices. Nearly one in five indicates they have low confidence in their safety online. Online safety is a topic I have written about in the past, and I will continue to remind readers of our AARP Fraud Watch Network to stay on top of the latest scams.

For technology in home life, about half of older Americans own a smart TV (defined as one that is digital and Internet connected) and nine million more plan to buy one within the year. The popularity of home assistants, such as Google Home or Amazon Alexa, is growing and will continue to grow. The survey finds nearly one in seven Americans over 50 own such a device.

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More than ever, technology is becoming a medium for education, and that trend has significant implications for lifelong learning. The survey shows that 23 percent of older adults are embracing technology-enabled lifelong learning by taking online classes for certificates or degrees, in addition to how-to tutorials. About 13 percent of adults over 50 say they use virtual reality technology; while that number remains modest, it is nevertheless up for percentage points from the previous year. A free resource for online learning, interactive workshops, local in-person events and life skills for people over 50 is AARP Learn@50+. Visit https://learn.aarp.org for more information.

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