OKADA
THE LIFE & REDISCOVERED WORK
OF THE AUTHOR OF NO-NO BOY
EDITED BY FRANK ABE,
GREG ROBINSON, AND
FLOYD CHEUNG

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MYSTERV
NO-NO MORE
The backstory behind
1957’s ‘No-No Boy’
ON THIS DAY OF REMEMBRANCE, JACL CALLS FOR THE NATION TO STOP REPEATING HISTORY

By JACL National

Feb. 19 is a significant date for the Japanese American community. On this day in 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, which gave the U.S. Army the authority to remove civilians from the military zones established in Washington, Oregon and California during World War II. This led to the forced removal and incarceration of some 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry living on the West Coast, who had to abandon their jobs, their homes and their lives to be sent to one of 10 concentration camps scattered in desolate, remote regions of the country.

No Japanese Americans were ever charged, much less convicted, of espionage or sabotage against the United States. Yet, they were targeted, rounded up and imprisoned for years, simply for having the "face of the enemy." Every February, the Japanese American community commemorates Executive Order 9066, which gave the military zones established in Washington, Oregon and California during World War II to the incarceration of nearly 120,000 Japanese and Japanese Americans. We remember the racism and xenophobia against Japanese and other Asian communities that led up to the issuance of Executive Order 9066. We remember how our government lied about the national security threat that we imposed, simply because of our Japanese heritage.

We remember how our community leaders were targeted by the FBI because of the groups they were in, members of Buddhist and Shinto churches, martial arts instructors, Japanese language school teachers and many others. We remember how the census was used against us to identify who was Japanese and needed to be rounded up and imprisoned.

Most of all, we remember the lives impacted: the dreams ended, the families torn apart, the lives destroyed. We remember that Japanese Americans were forced to prove their allegiance to our Constitution through the dedication of military service for a country that was imprisoning their families with no guarantee of release. We remember others who showed their patriotism by choosing to defy unconstitutional orders in support of Constitutional ideals. These are choices no one should ever have to make. We remember all these things especially because they are now repeating today.

It is not enough for today to be a Day of Remembrance. It must be a day that we say no more to Japanese American experience and periodical. We as a country formally recognized the wrongs we had done and offered an apology to those incarcerated during the war. We should not have to make another apology for what we do now. We can correct ourselves, we can do better.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — On this 77th anniversary of Executive Order 9066, we do more than just remember the presidential order that enabled the incarceration of nearly 120,000 Japanese and Japanese Americans. We remember the racism and xenophobia against Japanese and other Asian communities that led up to the issuance of Executive Order 9066. We remember how our government lied about the national security threat that we imposed, simply because of our Japanese heritage. We remember how our community leaders were targeted by the FBI because of the groups they were in, members of Buddhist and Shinto churches, martial arts instructors, Japanese language school teachers and many others. We remember how the census was used against us to identify who was Japanese and needed to be rounded up and imprisoned.

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By S. Floyd Mori

COME TO THE 2019 NATIONAL JACL CONVENTION IN SALT LAKE CITY, JULY 31-AUG. 4

After 13 years of living in Virginia and working in the nation’s capital, I (and my wife, Irene) have moved back to our roots in Utah, where I was born and raised. We relocated to Washington, D.C., in 2005 with the intent to join the staff of the National JACL as the director of public policy (formerly the Washington, D.C. rep) for two years. I was replacing Kristine Mihani, who had earned a law degree and was moving on to other endeavors. John Tateishi was the national executive director/CEO of the JACL.

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**A MOTHER’S TAKE**

**‘OKAGE SAMA DE’**

*By Marsha Aizumi*

February stands out as a month of love for me because of Valentine’s Day. Although it is not the only month I think of love, I wanted to share a couple of things that happened recently that highlight this theme.

I received a video from a young gay man named Brandon Ishikata. He gave me permission to share his story and his name. I have never met Brandon in person, but we are Facebook friends, and from his posts, I can see he is passionate and free to be all of who he is. He is currently a ballroom, Latin and swing dance instructor in training at May I Have This Dance studio in Chicago.

In a studio winter showcase, Brandon chose to dance the rumba, which is the dance of love, and he titled his performance “Okage Sama De,” which he says translates to “I am what I am because of you.” The dance was choreographed by Stephanie Hinterschied, and his dance partner was Anna Jatkowski. Brandon explained that the dance depicted his coming out process. At first, he said, “I was scared to come out of the closet, but in return, I was showered with the gift of unconditional love and support from BOTH my mom and dad. As a sign of their love, my mom played this famous Jackson 5 song, ‘I’ll Be There,’ as a reminder that they will always love me, no matter what.”

You will see an emotional ending, as Brandon takes his bow in the video link I have posted below. He dedicated this performance to his parents, and they were in the audience to support him. What an unforgettable moment that must have been for all of them. Here is the link below … Please consider sharing.

Brandon’s performance: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DS1mXDfJUuk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DS1mXDfJUuk)

Also, this month I have been very involved in a launch of a short documentary that my family is a part of: “A Love Letter” is a short film about two Asian American families’ journeys to stay together with love and acceptance. Through love letters, we shared our profound love for one another and vulnerably told the story of how having a transgender family member has powerfully transformed our lives.

Here is the link to the video, which, as of this writing, has been viewed close to 30,000 times. Please consider sharing it: [https://www.facebook.com/sygapflag/video/oa.37219490.2414911/](https://www.facebook.com/sygapflag/video/oa.37219490.2414911/).

The short film is commissioned by the GAP Foundation [https://gapfoundation.org](https://gapfoundation.org), produced by PFLAG San Gabriel Valley API [https://www.sangabrielvalleypflag.com](https://www.sangabrielvalleypflag.com) and directed by filmmaker Barney Cheng.

One of the most extraordinary parts of my family’s journey is the opportunity to hear the often-unspoken thoughts of my husband, Stefan, and Iden. How frequently do we actually share those kinds of vulnerable moments, whether spoken to each other in person, on film or at a presentation.

One of my relatives once said, “I knew my parents loved me, but they never really said the words.”

Saying the words is important. Saying that I will stand by you no matter what is important.

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**LEGAL-EASE: AN ATTORNEY’S PERSPECTIVE**

**HOW TO SURVIVE A HOSPITAL STAY: PART 2**

*By Judd Matsunaga, Esq.*

In my last Pacific Citizen article, “How to Survive a Hospital Stay,” I stated that I have compiled a list of five Medical Survival Tips that should increase your chances of returning home safely and free from “medical errors.” To review, Medical Survival Tip #1 is to Question Your Doctor, and Medical Survival Tip #2 is to Get a Second Opinion.

Medical Survival Tip #3: Keep a Log Book

You’ve heard the saying, “Doctors make the worst patients.” I thought it was because doctors often feel as though they “know better” than anyone else. However, after my research for these articles, I want to propose an alternate theory: Doctors make the worst patients because they know just how many things that can go wrong.

“What do you mean, ‘How many things can go wrong’?” In a nutshell — nurses. Now, I realize there are many wonderful, caring, compassionate nurses who really are trying to make a difference (thank God for them). But if you asked one of them, they would probably tell you about the incompetent nurses they have to work with.

For example, I read about one nurse who was supposed to give a patient one (1) dose of a medication four times a day. Instead, probably because he was lazy, he gave the patient four doses of medication all at once. That patient was given a lethal dose of drugs. But, if a nurse sees you writing down his or her name in your log book, guess what? You’re going to get better care.

In fact, the whole hospital staff will notice that you are keeping a log book. All of a sudden, you’re going to get better and more accurate attention because they don’t want to get sued and have your log book entered as evidence of any incompetence.

Keep a log book. Write down every intervention that they do to you, e.g., what time, what day, what dose, what orifice. Write it all down. And then they will start administering medications at the right time in the right dose.

Medical Survival Tip #4: Get an Advocate

If you’re the patient, you’re going to be busy resting and recovering. It’s very difficult to sit there being sick or recovering from surgery and also defend your rights and defend your health against this system that threatens to kill you. You need an advocate.

Before your hospital admission, ask a friend or family member to help monitor your care, since you might be too ill or distracted to do it on your own. Your hospital helper can assert your needs and preferences, ask questions, record the answers, retain copies of key medical documents and advocate for you if problems arise.

Have your advocate help navigate the hospital quagmire and forge a relationship with a medical professional in the hospital who can act as your point person. Be prepared to oversee the medications, double check the dosage and interface with the doctors and nurses. And make sure that advocate, i.e., that family member, has the “backbone” to stand up against medical staff.

Since you (the patient) may not be able to write down everything in your log book, have your advocate write down everything the doctor and nurses say. Ask him or her to write down every intervention that they do — what time, what day, what dose, what orifice. Write it all down. The hospital staff will notice and hopefully will stay at the “top of their game.”

Medical Survival Tip #5: Get Out as Quickly as You Can

Hospitals are a high-risk place to be, and you should get out of there as soon as possible. Don’t linger in the hospital longer than you need to just because it’s covered by the insurance or because you like the automatic bed and daytime television. You’re going to do better at home, and it’s a more sanitary place to be compared to the hospital.

Where do all the sick people go? They go to the hospital, not to your house. So, as long as you’re not compromising your health, get away from the hospital as quickly as you can. Even the doctors, nurses and other hospital staff are carrying germs around, spreading infections from one patient to another. Insist on clean hands. Anyone who touches you, including your visitors, should first wash his or her hands with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

Remember, hospitals are like “Superbug Central.” At least 2 million people in the U.S. acquire serious bacterial infections that are resistant to one or more antibiotics. According to the Center for Disease Control, 18 superbugs are identified as “urgent, serious and concerning threats” to humankind. Furthermore, at least 23,000 people die each year as a direct result of these infections.

Judd Matsunaga is the founding attorney of Elder Law Services of California, a law firm that specializes in Medi-Cal Planning, Estate Planning and Probate. He can be contacted at (310) 348-2995 or judd@elderlawcalifornia.com. The opinions expressed in this article are the author’s own and do not necessarily reflect the view of the Pacific Citizen or JACL. The information presented does not constitute legal or tax advice and should not be treated as such.
THE 2019 JALD DELEGATION SET TO TOUR JAPAN

The 10-member group will embark on their goodwill visit to Tokyo and Kumamoto from March 1-9.

By the U.S.-Japan Council

Members of the 2019 Japanese American Leadership Delegation gathered in Los Angeles on Feb. 1 and 2 for an intensive, two-day orientation. The meetings were held at the Japanese American National Museum in Little Tokyo and were facilitated by U.S.-Japan Council President Irene Hirano Inouye, Senior VP Kaz Mamiya and Consul Shigeru Kikuma of the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles. The annual orientation introduces delegates to the program, host organizations and each other; provides an overview of issues important to the U.S.-Japan relationship; and prepares them for their trip to Japan.

Selected as delegates this year were Andrew Fujimoto, CEO of Ameriben; Joy Goto, chair and professor of chemistry at California State University, Fresno, and current JACL CCDC governor; Mark Nakagawa, program manager for the U.S. Department of Defense: Kyle Nakamoto, data scientist for the Ford Motor Co.; Kurt Osaki, president/CEO of the Osaki Creative Group; Vicki Sakurada Schaepler, coordinator, Japanese Hall and History Project at the Legacy of the Plains Museum; Mariko Silver, president of Bennington College; Bryce Suzuki, office managing partner at Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP; Britt Yamamoto, and Kelly Yamashita, principal at OZ Architecture.

According to the U.S.-Japan Council, the Japanese American Leadership Delegation program provides the opportunity for a select group of Japanese American leaders from across the U.S. to travel to Japan to engage with Japanese leaders in the business, government, academic, nonprofit and cultural sectors. The trip also allows Japanese leaders to gain a greater understanding of multicultural America through the experiences of a diverse group of Japanese Americans.”

On Feb. 1, Mitch Maki (JALD’02), president and CEO of the Go For Broke National Education Center, led the group on an in-depth tour of JANM’s permanent exhibition, “Common Ground, the Heart of Community.”

In addition, Hideki Hara, director of the Japan Foundation Los Angeles, welcomed the delegates, and USJC Board Member Yuko Kaifu provided an overview of current social issues and Japanese business etiquette.

During the evening, Consul General of Japan in Los Angeles Akira Chiba and his wife, Yoko, hosted the delegates, along with several local JALD alumni, for a welcome dinner at their residence. The dinner allowed current and former participants to meet and for alumni to share stories and advice with the new class.

THE 2019 JALD DELEGATION at JANM with Consul Shigeru Kikuma (bottom row, left) and USJC’s Irene Hirano Inouye. Pictured (top row, from left) are Bryce Suzuki, Kurt Osaki, Andrew Fujimoto, Mark T. Nakagawa, Kyle Nakamoto and Britt Yamamoto and (front row, from left) Kelly Yamashita, Vicki Sakurada Schaepler, Joy Goto and Mariko Silver.

The following day, Chiba presented a briefing on U.S.-Japan relations. USJC Board Member and JALD alumnus David Boone followed with a presentation on security in the Asia Pacific region. Along with Yoohe, program alumni Sheri Bryant, David Ono, Stan Koyanagi and Debra Nakatomi shared their experiences and advice with the new class.

That evening, the Japanese Business Association of Southern California hosted a lively networking dinner at the Miyako Hotel in Little Tokyo. The delegates enjoyed meeting JBA members at this event that concluded the orientation.

The 2019 delegation comprises 10 leaders in business, academia, government, nonprofit and legal sectors from Honolulu, Hawaii; Seattle, Wash.; Meridian, Idaho; Fresno, Calif.; Phoenix, Ariz.; Denver, Colo.; Gering, Neb.; Dearborn, Mich.; Bennington, Vt. and Springfield, Va., who are all active in their communities, engaged in U.S.-Japan relations and committed to furthering relationships between Japanese Americans and Japan.

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JACL NCWNP DISTRICT COUNCIL HOLDS QUARTERLY MEETING

The district meeting was attended by JACL chapter delegates representing 21 NCWNP chapters.

The Issei then started a fundraising drive for construction of a building called the Ashland Gakuen. It would be used for a Japanese language school, sports activities, movies, Buddhist Sunday School, social gatherings and the Eden Township JACL.

During the war, Japanese Americans were forcibly removed from the area by Executive Order 9066. Some years later in the 1950s, the building was vandalized and set afire, later to be condemned.

In 1962, JACL leaders and the community decided to keep the property and build a new center. Berkeley architect Arthur Iwata designed and developed the plans. The initial Sumitomo Bank loan to finance construction was made possible because Nisei members of the Eden JACL board of directors put up their nurseries as collateral. A donation drive was conducted during the construction phase, giving birth to the first annual Eden Bazaar in 1964. To this day, the bazaar continues to be an annual event featuring food, auction, games and crafts.

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See NCWNP on page 12
LOD ANGELES — The Manzanar Committee announced on Feb. 12 that attorney Dale Minami of Minami and Lew LLP and Karen Korematsu, founder and executive director of the Fred T. Korematsu Institute, will be the featured speakers at the 50th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage, scheduled for 11:30 a.m. on April 27 at the Manzanar National Historic Site.

Manzanar, located approximately 230 miles northeast of Los Angeles on U.S. Highway 395, between the towns of Lone Pine and Independence in California’s Owens Valley, 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 incarcerees. Planning is underway for the daytime event, as well as for the annual Manzanar at Dusk program, which follows each pilgrimage that same evening.

“The theme of this year’s pilgrimage is ‘50th Manzanar Pilgrimage: An Enduring Legacy for Civil Rights.’ The program will be preceded by former member of the California State Assembly Warren Furutani, one of the founders of the Manzanar Pilgrimage and the Manzanar Committee, and writer/artist traci kato kiyama of the PULL Project and one of the creators and stars of ‘Tales of Chacmut’ currently playing at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles,” a press release stated.

Minami is best known for being the lead attorney in Korematsu v. United States (1985), which vacated the United States Supreme Court’s 1944 ruling that upheld Fred T. Korematsu’s conviction for violating the forced removal orders in 1942.

Other landmark decisions that Minami has been involved in include United Pilipinos for Affirmative Action v. California Blue Shield, the first class-action employment lawsuit brought by Asian Pacific Americans on behalf of Asian Pacific American, Spokane JACL v. Washington State University, a class action on behalf of Asian Pacific Americans to establish an Asian American Studies program at Washington State University, and Nakashishi v. UCLA, a claim for unfair denial of tenure that resulted in the granting of tenure after several hearings and widespread publicity over discrimination in academia.

In addition, Minami is a member of the Asian Law Caucus and was appointed as chair of the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund by President Bill Clinton in 1996. He is also involved in many other community and legal organizations, along with several governmental agencies.

Korematsu founded the Fred T. Korematsu Institute in 2009, the 25th anniversary of the vacation of her father’s 1944 U.S. Supreme Court decision.

“Significant, she has worked as a civil rights advocate, public speaker and public educator, sharing her passion for social justice and education at K-12 public and private schools, colleges and universities, law schools, teachers’ conferences and organizations across the country,” the release continued.

“Continuing her father’s legacy, Korematsu has advocated for civil liberties for all communities and has addressed current issues that have drawn lessons from the past.

She has also signed on to amicus briefs in several cases opposing violations of constitutional rights arising after 9/11, including Odish v. United States, Turkman v. Ashcroft, Hedges v. Obama and Haskins v. City of New York. She also authored the foreword to ‘Patriot Acts, Narratives of Post-911 Injustice’ in 2011.

The recipient of numerous awards and honors for her work, Korematsu is also a leader of the National Advisory Boards of both the Fred T. Korematsu Center for Law and Equality at Seattle University School of Law and the Fred T. Korematsu Professor of Law and Social Justice at the William S. Richardson School of Law, University of Hawai’i at Manoa, among her involvements with several community organizations.

“We’re so pleased Dale Minami and Karen Korematsu will be speaking this year,” said Manzanar Committee Co-Chair Bruce Embrey. Dale and Karen have played key roles in the long struggle for redress and reparations, as well as the current efforts to challenge the Trump administration’s Muslim ban and xenophobic anti-immigration policies. Their experience, their message, is what our country needs to hear right now.

“Let’s remember that 2019 is the 75th anniversary of Korematsu v. United States,” Embrey continued. “Let’s remember that not that long ago, our government, the government of the United States, prosecuted and convicted a young man by withholding, altering and falsifying key evidence and then incarcerated him for no other reason than his ancestry. Fred took a stand against the unconstitutional and illegal incarceration of his family, of his community. But even though the law was on his side, a racist and undemocratic ruling prevailed. Let us not forget what can happen when hysterical, unfounded appeals to national security gain sway in our body politic.

“What we want to project at this year’s pilgrimage is that our history, our experience, is a cautionary story that our country must take to heart,” Embrey added. “We cannot stand by and allow this administration’s undemocratic, racist immigration policies to go unchallenged, and that is exactly what Karen and Dale have been doing by fighting in the courts and in the realm of public opinion. They are two of the most effective leaders linking our community’s experience with the struggles against the anti-immigrant hysteria and Islamophobia of the Trump administration, so really, we couldn’t ask for better speakers.”

For the daytime pilgrimage program, cultural performances will begin at 11:30 a.m., while the main portion of the program begins at noon. Pilgrimage participants are advised to bring their own lunch, drinks and snacks, as there are no facilities to purchase food at the Manzanar National Historic Site (restaurants and fast 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 interfaith 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, sunscreen (ultraviolet 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 will follow the Manzanar Pilgrimage at 5 p.m. at Lone Pine High School, located at 538 S. Main St. (U.S. Hwy 395), approximately eight 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 incarcerees in attendance to hear their stories.

Karen Korematsu is the founder and executive director of the Fred T. Korematsu Institute and the daughter of the late Fred T. Korematsu.

For information on how to join the pilgrimage, visit: www.manzanarcommittee.org.

For more information on the 50th Manzanar Pilgrimage, call (424) 247-1123 or email staci@tojilaw.com.

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MYSTERY NO-NO MORE: NEW BOOK EXPLORES JOHN OKADA'S LIFE, LOST WORKS

By P.C. Stoff

In "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid," the titular on-the-run-from-the-law characters ask over and over again about their dogged pursuers the question, "Who are those guys?"

For a generation of Asian American writers, scholars, historians and fans of literature, the novel "No-No Boy" and its elusive author John Okada, it was those pursuers who asked, "Who was this guy?"

Answers about who Okada was, his "lost" writings and the continuing impact and import of his one and only novel were presented on a recent rainy Saturday in Little Tokyo at a Japanese American National Museum-sponsored event.

A book's editors discuss the backstory behind 1957's 'No-No Boy.'

I "No-No Boy" was rediscovered by a younger generation of Asian American writers and beginning of July 2018 by the University of Washington Press, that would take more than 10 years to complete, from the time Abe and Robinson met in early 2007 at dinner party in Seattle, hosted by mutual friend Chizu Omori, sparked by a mutual interest in Okada.

One of the outcomes of that continuing fascination with Okada was Robinson's discovery in different Nikkei community English-language newspapers more writings by works other than Okada.

According to Robinson, his discovery in microfilmed editions of the Northwest Times of one-act play and several short stories by Okada left Abe in a state of amazement. He recalled Abe saying, "Okada scholars are going to go nuts when they hear this!"

Robinson also found in a Toronto Japanese Canadian newspaper called the Continental Times the fall 1957 "No-No Boy" review, the long-missing source for an excerpt that was used in the CARP (Combined Asian American Resources Project) reprint.

It was, it seemed, time to compile the new writings found by Robinson, the biographical material compiled by Abe and combine that into a new book along with literary analysis that appeared in "Armed Forces Management in 1961." It was, it seemed, time to compile the new writings found by Robinson, the biographical material compiled by Abe and combine that into a new book along with literary analysis that appeared in "Armed Forces Management in 1961."

The Okada book cover

It also led to the new book, published in July 2018 by the University of Washington Press, that would take more than 10 years to complete, from the time Abe and Robinson met in early 2007 at dinner party in Seattle, hosted by mutual friend Chizu Omori, sparked by a mutual interest in Okada.

The Okada book cover

For years, little was known about the author of 1957's "No-No Boy," published originally by the Charles E Tuttle Co. — and that only fueled the mystery surrounding him. While not a flop, the Seattle-set novel about a Japanese American draft resister named Ichiro in the resettlement years following World War II failed to produce "No-No Boy" to subsequent generations — and the reverberations from that continue to this day, with the novel, in all its different iterations, having sold more than 200,000 copies since 1957, such that "No-No Boy" has "spawned a cottage industry in graduate-student theses and dissertations," said Abe, visiting Los Angeles from Seattle.

But thanks to their rediscovery of John Okada, they were able to reprint and reissue Okada's "No-No Boy." And the Okada book cover

The Okada book cover

With a decade and a half, however, "No-No Boy" was rediscovered by a younger generation of Asian American writers in search of role models from the previous generation who didn't write sanitized, bowdlerized and committee-approved model-minority stories.

Those Asian American writers who came of age in the late 1960s and early 1970s — among them Jeffery Chan, Frank Chin, Lawson Inada and Shawa Wong — who had rediscovered Okada's "No-No Boy" wanted more. But there was "no-no" more. Okada's one novel, it seemed, was it.

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Had Okada been silenced by a conservative Japanese American establishment that didn't like his writing style or his sympathetic take on those who chose not to serve their country? Was he an embittered expat in exile country? Was he buried in a pauper's grave after having committed suicide, thwarted by his lack of success?

Who was this guy, indeed.

Those then-young writers who had rediscovered Okada's "No-No Boy" started digging, only to learn that their hero had died already in 1971 at 47 — and then were shocked to learn that his widow, Dorothy Okada, who they tracked down and interviewed, had incriminated, along with photos and letters, the manuscript for the second novel her late husband had been writing!

But thanks to their rediscovery of John Okada, they were able to reprint and reintroduce "No-No Boy" to subsequent generations — and the reverberations from that continue to this day, with the novel, in all its different iterations, having sold more than 200,000 copies since 1957, such that "No-No Boy" has "spawned a cottage industry in graduate-student theses and dissertations," said Abe, visiting Los Angeles from Seattle.

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who was the voice of JACL in the Pacific Citizen... wrote a review of "No-No Boy,"

Abe said, and in it praised Okada as a writer of promise who might someday write the great Nisei novel. "I maintain he did," said Abe.

So — who was John Okada? It turns out he was neither a so-called No-No Boy or a resister of conscience, but, in fact, an Army veteran who served as a linguist during WWII for the Military Intelligence Service and went to Guam and post-war Japan's occupation period.

According to Robinson, Okada was an empathetic writer in many disciplines: poetry, short stories, satirical essays, parodies, plays and technical writing. What was most surprising to Abe, however, was learning that later in life Okada had worked in advertising.

Said Abe: "John Okada was a chain-smoking, 1960s Nisei Mad Man, who may have written ad copy for products like Tide detergent and Osmen toothpaste." Or, as he later put it, Okada was a "Nisei Everyman," who followed the "study hard, work hard, raise a family" eton — a typical Nisei father who died too young.

How an Army vet like Okada came to write a book with a draft resister protagonist was also fascinating. According to Abe, following Japan's Dec. 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor, Okada's father, Yoshiko, was among the group of Seattle's many Nisei men rounded up by the FBI for suspicion of possibly being disloyal to the U.S. and therefore separated from their families. Soon, like other Japanese American families from the area, the remaining members of the Okada family were sent to Camp Harmony, aka the Pay-uploy Assembly Center.

There, in what may have been up to that time his most important writing assignment, Okada wrote a letter to William Collins, a boatser at the hotel operated by Okada's parents. In that letter, he asked Collins to write a letter to Attorney General Francis Biddle urging for his father's good character, in the hope of having him released early. Collins did so, and six other hotel residents signed it. It worked. Okada's father was released.

Okada's family would be sent to a concentration camp, but he only spent three weeks at Idaho's Minidoka WRA Center — he was among a group of young Japanese Americans released to attend Scottsbluff Junior College in Nebraska. From there, he and some friends enlisted to serve in the MIS, to be trained at Camp Savage, Minn.

After the war, Okada used the GI Bill and enrolled at the University of Washington to pursue his interest in writing. What he needed, though, was a story that mattered for him to write about.

"That changes when a guy he knew from Broadway High School, Hjimmo 'Jim' Akutsu, is released from federal prison," said Abe. "Jim Akutsu had resisted the draft at Minidoka. He was convicted of draft evasion and like Ichiro (the protagonist in 'No-No Boy') had spent two years in federal penitentiary on McNeil Island."

They reconnected, and though their wartime experiences were different, they became friends and drinking buddies, along with some other Nisei draft resisters.

Okada learned that Akutsu's father had also been arrested the same night as his father had been and separated from his family. Unlike Okada's father, who was released relatively quickly, Akutsu's father was held at a Justice Department camp much longer.

"He's finally released back to Minidoka after two years, and both father and son had changed so much that neither recognized the other," Abe said.

During those nights at places like the Wallowa Club, Okada learned about what Akutsu and other Nisei draft resisters had endured. He asked questions and took notes.

For the empathetic Okada, the seed of what would become "No-No Boy" was planted.

During the event's Q&A, a fan commented: "I've been working with Cheung on collecting and translating the Japanese-language writings of U.S. soldiers who were incarcerated during the war. With the publication of 'John Okada: The Life & Red Recovered'..." Someone asked what would happen if more writings of Okada's works were to be published. While the odds of that happening are slim, Abe said he'd be happy to publish any additional writing by Okada on his blog, resistem.com.

For now, however, the saga of John Okada is a closed book.

"Those who answered 'no' to both of those questions, whether because they believed it or were protesting, were segregated from the others and sent to the Tule Lake segregation center," Abe said, explaining further that the draft resisters were those who a year later in 1944 protested by refusing the military draft so as to get a court case to contest the legality of internment and incarceration.

"Jim Akutsu was a draft resister, and Ichiro Yanada is the novel... was a draft resister," Abe added. The title character in "No-No Boy," in other words, was not a no-no boy. Then, Robinson put forward a theory that Okada had nothing to do with naming the book.

"Very often, the publisher decides on the title, and since John Okada did not propose a title for the novel in his pitch letter to Tuttle, it's very probable — not certain — that it was Tuttle's initiative to call it 'No-No Boy,'" said Robinson.

As the event wrapped up, Abe told the audience he was working on a sequel to "No-No Boy," which would become "The Life & Red Recovered" of the Author of "No-No Boy," someone asked what would happen if more writings of Okada's works were to be published.

"I'll be there with a love so strong," said Abe.

"I'll be with a love so strong, I'll be your strength," continued from page 3

Saying that I love you no matter who you love or how you identify is important. And saying that you are loved for all of who you are has brought validation to the hearts of those who feel marginalized and judged.

I applied Brandon's parents, who have said the words in more than one way. I applaid my husband, who was willing to go on camera and share his personal thoughts in the most vulnerable of ways.

It is unlearned, unscripted and whole-hearted moments like these that are the precious gifts of our journeys.

Brandon shared with me that when he gets married and has that special dance with his mom, he already knows the song they will be dancing to... "I'll Be There!"

Just imagining that moment makes me emotional, hopeful and oh so grateful.

I'll be there with a love so strong. I'll be your strength. You know I'll keep holdin' on. Let me fill your heart with joy and laughter. Togetherness, well it's all I'm after. Just call my name, and I'll be there.

— The Jackson 5

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

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A FAMILY HISTORY REDISCOVERED

College student Allison Maryoung connects with long-lost relatives in Japan, made possible through her participation in the Kakehashi Project.

By Allison Maryoung

As a half-Japanese American who was raised in a predominately Caucasian neighborhood, I had very little knowledge about Japanese culture or even my Japanese ancestry. I was unable to learn about my Japanese ancestry and speak with my grandparents because they only spoke Japanese. As a result, I had only heard small parts of their history when my mother was there to translate.

I was told that I had relatives living in Wakayama, Japan, and that my grandfather’s relatives, whom we have not spoken to or seen in more than 30 years, lived on a plum farm. Being unable to have a full conversation with my grandparents made me feel an extreme disconnect from them and my culture.

So, when I learned about the Kakehashi Project, I jumped at the chance to experience Japanese culture, history and cuisine.

On the fifth day of the Kakehashi Project, we traveled to a small town called Inami in the Wakayama Prefecture. There, we were fortunate enough to experience Japanese life first-hand through a homestay with a family in the area.

A group of three girls and myself met our host mother, Tokumi Shota.

However, I did not realize that this trip would give me one of the most emotional and memorable experiences of my life.

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A group of three girls and myself met our host mother, Tokumi Shota.

Maryoung with (from left) Tokumi Shota, who helped Maryoung find her relatives; Chiyoko Wong; Mrs. Shota’s student; Kiana Shibata; and Kellie Goya. “I was very fortunate to have Chiyoko, Kiana and Kellie come with me to visit, my relatives because they could translate for me since I don’t speak Japanese,” said Maryoung.

On the way to her farm, she asked us if we had family in Wakayama. I told her that I had relatives in Wakayama, but I did not know which town or city because my family had lost contact with them over 30 years ago. Mrs. Shota asked for their last names, and she immediately recognized my grandfather’s last name.

Halfway through dinner, Mrs. Shota was on the phone with people who we thought could be my relatives, and she began asking me questions. After a lot of questions, it turned out that Mrs. Shota had found my great-uncle and his son and that they wanted to meet me!

The next morning, Mrs. Shota, the three girls, and I drove to my great-uncle’s house, which happened to be six minutes away from my host mom’s house. I was very nervous yet excited to meet my relatives because I had never seen a picture of them and rarely heard about them. As we entered the house, I was greeted by my great-uncle’s wife and her daughter-in-law, who were both very kind.

However, when I saw my great-uncle, I immediately started to cry because he looked and acted exactly like my grandfather, who passed away two years ago. Through all of the tears, I was able to show my relatives pictures of my grandfather, my brother and my mother. They were shocked by my grandfather’s resemblance to my great-uncle and asked if their personalities were the same. My great-uncle was very interested in the pictures of my younger brother and thought that he was the older sibling because he was taller and bigger.

My relatives were very shocked that I was able to find them because they said that my mother and grandfather had visited them over 30 years ago, but had been unable to get in contact with them. After all of the laughter, my relatives showed me to the family shrine, where I was able to pray to my ancestors and to my grandfather. Unfortunately, we had to leave my relatives and meet up with the rest of the Kakehashi group, but I promised that I would bring the rest of my family back to Japan to visit.

Whether or not this experience was due to chance or fate, without the hard work and dedication of the JACL, JICE and Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who all worked to make the Kakehashi Project possible, I would not have been able to meet my great-uncle or seen the area my grandfather grew up in. I am also very thankful for everyone in Group D and my supervisors, David Inoue, Sharon Uyeda and Midori Koga, for being so supportive and wonderful!

As a Sansei, I was able to discover some family history that I thought was lost forever and form a bridge that connected me to my ancestry and Japan.

Allison Maryoung traveled to Japan as part of the Winter Kakehashi Project from Dec. 12-19, 2018. She is 22 years old and is currently in her fourth year at the University of California, Los Angeles. Next year, she will be attending UC Berkeley Optometry School.
This year marks the 90th anniversaries of the JACL and the Pacific Citizen. Through these many years, the organization and its national newspaper have been fighting for the civil liberties of all and reporting on the most important news events in our history. In the months leading up to October’s monumental anniversary, the P.C. will be including “Historical Headlines” that were featured in the newspaper to reflect, never forget and always remember.

**Army Announces Japanese American Unit for Combat Service Overseas**

Riot Leaders Segregated at Camp in Utah

Selective Service Board Urges Industries to Employ Nisei

OGDEN, Utah—An appeal to industrial and business leaders of Ogden, as well as to employers of all kinds, to make room for and accept in war and post-war industries and businesses American-born Japanese who have been passed by proper investigating authorities as worthy of their American citizenship was made last week by the Selective Service board No. 4 of Ogden.

These men and women have the same right to serve their country, if they have been properly investigated by the authorities, as other groups of national and racial origin and no one has the right to improperly discriminate against them, the board members declared.

Not all would have been allotted the same amount of deferments as were granted to the Nisei of the United States by the Justice Department.

Masaoka Volunteers For Service With New Nisei Battalion

Robert O’Brien Resigns from Student Group

Relocation Chairman Is Called Back to Post at University of Washington

NEW YORK CITY—The resignation of Robert W. O’Brien, who for the past three months has been director of the National Japanese Student Relocation Council, was announced today by Dr. John Nason, chairman of the National Executive Committee meeting held here last week.

Mr. O’Brien, who has been on leave of absence from the University of Washington, has returned to his post as assistant dean of the College of Arts and Sciences by President King because of the illness of the dean of the college.

He is to resume his duties Februrary 15.

While regretfully accepting his resignation, the committee expressed its appreciation for the excellent work Mr. O’Brien had done during his months in office. Chairman Nason announced that a letter of appreciation had already been dispatched to President King for his kindness and helpfulness.

This year marks the 90th anniversaries of the JACL and the Pacific Citizen. Through these many years, the organization and its national newspaper have been fighting for the civil liberties of all and reporting on the most important news events in our history. In the months leading up to October’s monumental anniversary, the P.C. will be including “Historical Headlines” that were featured in the newspaper to reflect, never forget and always remember.

Voluntary Induction Procedure To Be Set Up to Enlist Nisei In Wartime Relocation Centers

No Effort Will Be Spared to Make It Efficient, Hard-Hitting, Well Rounded Outfit, Declares Secretary Stimson; Tells Nisei Requests

WASHINGTON—The War Department announced Thursday the organization of a special Japanese American battalion in the Army of the United States for combat service in an active theater of war.

Plans have been completed, the War Department announcement said, for nationwide voluntary induction of American-born Japanese now in the ten relocation centers and elsewhere in the United States and the Hawaiian Islands.

The War Department announced: “Local American-born Japanese ancestry will compose a special unit in the United States Army. The War Department announced today that plans have been completed for enrollment of a substantial number of American-born Japanese ancestry by the Army of the United States. This action was taken following study by the War Department of the ability and qualifications of these loyal American citizens of Japanese ancestry for the organization of the Army in which they could have their share in the fight against the nation’s enemies.”

The War Department’s action, it is announced, is a part of a larger program which will enable the loyal American citizens of Japanese ancestry to make their proper contribution toward winning the war through employment in war production as well as military service.

The following statement was issued Thursday by Mr. L. Stimson, secretary of war:

“It is the inherent right of every faithful citizen, regardless of ancestry, to bear arms in the nation’s defense. When subject to the free expression of that right are imposed by emergency considerations, these barriers should be removed as soon as humanly possible. Loyalty to country is a voice that must be heard, and I am glad that I am now able to give active proof that this basic American belief is not a casualty of war.”

The War Department announced that the initial procedure in the formation of the unit authorized by Secretary Stimson will be voluntary induction. Facilities for this would be nationwide. It was stated, and would include the Hawaiian Islands and the war relocation centers in this country.

No individual will be inducted, it was stated, if doubt exists as to his loyalty. Upon induction, the American-born citizens of Japanese parentage will begin training as a combat team for service in an active theater. This combat team will include the customary elements of infantry, artillery, engineer and medical personnel. No effort will be spared in developing it into an efficient, well-rounded, hard-hitting outfit. It was declared.

The War Department said that the new unit will be trained separately from the battalion of Americans of Japanese extraction, originally a Hawaiian national guard organization, which is already a component of the army.
### National

**The 2019 JACL National Convention**
Salt Lake City, UT
July 31-Aug, 4
Little America Hotel
500 Main St
Save the date: Join JACL at this annual National Convention in Salt Lake City! Details regarding registration information will be forthcoming. Don’t miss this opportunity to connect with JACLers from across the country as the organization continues its civil rights advocacy mission.

**Info: Visit www.jcac.org.

**NCWNP**

*Then They Game for Me: Incarceration of Japanese Americans During World War II and the Demise of Civil Liberties* Exhibit
San Francisco, CA
San Francisco, CA
July 31-Aug. 4

**Info:** Visit www.JCCCNC.org

**wakamatsu Fest150: Then They Came for Me**
San Francisco, CA
San Francisco, CA
March 10; 1 p.m.

**Info:** For more information, email M!dakanoGakkoPaloAlto@gmail.com and for additional parent information, email nanke.jufiji@gmail.com.

**PSW**

Tsuruga Kokei: Modern Kabuki Prints from a Kyoto Workshop
Palo Alto, CA
San Francisco, CA
June 24-July 12; 12:45 a.m.-1 p.m.; 1 p.m.-4 p.m. Extended June 27; 12:45 a.m.-1 p.m.

**Price:** $50 per child by Jan. 31; $90 per child after Feb. 1; $50 per adult for extended care

**The mission of Medaka is to convey the customs, values, and aesthetic of Japanese culture. This three-week day camp, open to grades 1-6th grade student, has been in operation since 1962, featuring an inclusive nature of teachers that provide lessons in art, music, cooking, Japanese language, and history. Parent participation is required: half-day in class, activity team and OZen shift.

**Info:** For more information, email MedakaGakkouPaloAlto@gmail.com and for additional parent information, email nanke.jufiji@gmail.com.

### EDC

**Screening of ‘The 110 Sisters’**
San Jose, CA
San Jose, CA
March 1; 5:30-8 p.m.

**Turf Alumnae Lounge 40 Talbot Ave.

**Price:** Free; dinner will be provided.

Don’t miss the opportunity to attend this event that will feature a screening of the documentary focusing on the lives and times of civil rights activist Minoru Yasui, who initiated a legal case during WWII, challenging military orders that led to the incarceration of more than 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry.

**Info:** Visit [https://www.ticketmaster.com/events/boisevalley/22018](https://www.ticketmaster.com/events/boisevalley/22018).

### MDC

**AAPI Youth Summit: Rooting Our Stories, Rooting Ourselves**
Pasadena, CA
Pasadena, CA
March 10; 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

**Price:** Free and open to all students; lunch will be provided.

During this biennial event, students will have the opportunity to discuss the following topics: how their stories are connected, how they identify themselves as AAPI, and how they imagine their futures.

**Info:** Visit https://www.sbc.edu/com/events/19789637825812/.

### PNW

**Structural Racism in Oregon: A History From 1492-2018**
Portland, OR
Portland, OR
March 10; 10 a.m.

Faith United Methodist Church
214 W. 126th St

**Price:** Free

This program, featuring a panel of former JACL officials, is co-sponsored by the Greater L.A. JACL and Faith UMC’s Social Action Committee. Panelists include Ron Ikeji, Frank Sato, Floyd Shimomura, John Takeda, and Ron Watanabe, who will discuss JACL’s national legislative effort to seek redress for the incarceration of Japanese Americans during WWII. They will also discuss how Senators Daniel Inouye, Spark Matsunaga, and Representatives Norman Mineta and Robert Matsui laid the foundation for the creation of the Reparations Act of 1988.

**Info:** Visit [https://www.lacrit.org](https://www.lacrit.org).

### IDC

**Holly Yosu and Peggy Nagase Present: Never Give Up! Minoru Yasui and the Right for Justice**
Boston, MA
Boston, MA
March 2; 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

**Price:** $50 per individual

Don’t miss the opportunity to attend this one-time event that will feature a screening of the documentary focusing on the lives and times of civil rights activist Minoru Yasui, who initiated a legal case during WWII, challenging military orders that led to the incarceration of more than 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry.

**Info:** Visit [https://www.tdicf.org](https://www.tdicf.org).
Harada, Henry, 98, Dec. 21, Gardena, CA; he is survived by his son, Scott (Dr. Melgan M. Everest); gc: 2.

Kimura, Diane Kiyomi, 65, Milliani, Hil, Dec. 9.

Kimura, Hanaye, 95, Van Nuys, CA, Dec. 8; she is survived by her children, Stanley (Ann), Ronald, James (Susan) Kimura, Frances Horii and Marian (Jim) Mason; sister, Setsuko Kadowaga; gc: 9; gc: 1.

Matsuda, Tanya, 61, Columbus, OH, Dec. 14; she is survived by her husband, Kenichiro Matsuda; daughters, Lilian Matsuda, Nicky Atkinson, Steve (Gail), sisters, Yvonne (Norma) Shimozono, sisters-in-law, Chisato Morohoshi, sisters-in-law, Jeanie Shimozono, sisters-in-law, Okada, Sandie Sumie, 92, Gardena, CA, Dec. 9; she is survived by her husband, Ernest; children, Anna, Sherry and Lori (Rocky) Palombo; mother-in-law, Akiko (Sadao) Iwashita, Teruko Seki, Shinji, 75, Los Angeles, Dec. 13; he is survived by his wife, Eiko (Rick) Nakata; children, Dean (Cristina) Nakata and David Nakata; sisters, Mary Nishi and Kurumi Shimozono; and other relatives.

Yamashiro, Lillian Miyeko, 90, Los Angeles, CA, Dec. 27; she is survived by her husband, Richard; children, Dennis, Claire, Karen, Darrell and Greg; gc: 3.

Yamaguchi, Violet Hiroko, 84, Gardena, CA, Dec. 25; she is survived by her children, Teri (Mo) Noma; and other relatives.

Fukui, Ken, 78, The Dalles, OR, Feb. 5; he was a calm, dignified man and will be missed.

Victor Sato, 93, passed away peacefully in his home in The Dalles, Ore., on Feb. 5. Victor was a charismatic leader in Japanese American affairs and an advocate for the rights of Japanese Americans. He was a member of the JACL and served as its President in 1978-1979. He was also a member of the National Committee for Redress and Reconciliation and an active participant in many other organizations and activities. He will be missed by his family, friends, and colleagues. Remembered as a gentleman and scholar, Victor will be remembered with affection and respect.

Lily Aono, 88, of Mission Viejo, Cali., passed peacefully on Feb. 5. Lily was a brave and determined woman who fought for justice and equality for all people. She was a member of the JACL and was involved in many other organizations and activities. She will be missed by her family, friends, and colleagues.

Grayce & Hiro Uyehara:

Memorial after five years

September 20, 2014
Medford, New Jersey

It was a great privilege to be among the few who lived to see this day. And as we all know, she had the smile of a complete gentleman and scholar.

As husband and wife, Hiro and Grayce were at least 50 years ahead of their time. Hiro was a national Japanese American leader, and as he traveled the country, Hiro was often with her, playing a gracious supporting role. Both were always a generation removed from the cultural norms of traditional Japan.

Remarkable, really, because they worked together, no one sensed any kind of role reversal - all seemed perfectly ordinary. We knew, of course, that Hiro was a leader and the much more consequential Japanese American in Japanese American history. She was, in fact, the moral and political epicenter of Japanese American redress. Wherever he went - Washington, Los Angeles or Baltimore - that's where Hiro was. Grayce, a quiet, sweet nature, everlasting gratefulness.

For the IRS in Philadelphia for a day? Maybe a change of scene. But the fact is - and the fact is that Hiro and Grayce were her heroes to me. Hiro Uyehara was a precise, learned man, having mastered some of the most difficult and obscure Kanji characters in the Japanese written language. And as we all know, she had the smile of a complete gentleman and scholar.

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REIMAGINE EVERYTHING

AARP FOUNDATION TAX-AIDE
AVAILABLE NOW THROUGH APRIL 15

By Ron Mori

The 2018 tax season is upon us, and all of us are in store for some surprises based on the new tax code changes that were passed last year. In the case of my mother, she’s fairly stress-free after making her free appointment to meet with an AARP Foundation Tax-Aide program volunteer next week.

From now through April 15, AARP Foundation is providing free tax assistance and preparation through its Tax-Aide program (https://www.aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp_taxaide/). AARP Foundation Tax-Aide is the nation’s largest free tax assistance and preparation service. Since its inception, the program has served more than 68 million taxpayers.

Tax-Aide started in 1968 with just four volunteers working at one site. Today, nearly 35,000 volunteers serve low- to moderate-income taxpayers at almost 5,000 locations in neighborhood libraries, malls, banks, community centers and senior centers nationwide. There’s no fee, and AARP membership is not required.

AARP Foundation Tax-Aide provides free tax assistance to those who need it most,” said AARP Foundation VP of Tax-Aide Lynnette Lee-Villanueva. “For over 50 years, Tax-Aide has provided help to millions of low- and moderate-income taxpayers. This worthwhile program helps older adults by building economic opportunity and enables them to preserve as much of their income as possible.”

Tax-Aide volunteers are trained and IRS-certified each year to ensure they know about and understand the latest changes to the U.S. Tax Code. In 2018, the program’s volunteers helped 2.5 million people navigate complicated tax codes, ensure proper credits and deductions, and file their federal and state tax returns.

Taxpayers who used Tax-Aide received $1.3 billion in income tax refunds and more than $212 million in Earned Income Tax Credits (EITCs). They also avoided tax preparation fees and pitched for high-interest tax credit or refund loans.

To find an AARP Foundation Tax-Aide site or more information, including which documents to bring to the tax site, visit or call (888) AARPNOw (227-7669). AARP Foundation Tax-Aide is offered in conjunction with the IRS. You can also visit the website at https://www.aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp_taxaide/.

Be Alert for Tax Scams

While we’re on the topic of taxes - As a reminder to all Pacific Citizen readers, the IRS will not call and threaten arrest for taxes owed, and it certainly won’t ask for a gift card as a form of payment. But scammers will try and get your personal information. In a survey, AARP found that many consumers are woefully at risk for the onslaught of Internal Revenue Service scammers. Key findings include:

• IRS scammers keep calling until they land victims, with one in four respondents (25 percent) receiving a phony call from someone impersonating an IRS agent over the last year.
• Nearly four out of five respondents (79 percent) haven’t ordered a free copy of

JALD » continued from page 4

JALD delegates look on as David Boone (JALD ’17) gives a presentation.

The group will travel to Tokyo and Kumamoto from March 1-9, where they will meet with top business and government officials and participate in a symposium in Kumamoto City, co-sponsored by the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership. “Three Sectors, Three Approaches: Cities That Attract Youth.” Now in its 19th year, the trip provides an opportunity for Japanese American leaders to deepen their understanding of Japan and promote the value of sustained people-to-people relationships as a critical factor in ensuring the long-term success of U.S.-Japan relations.

According to the U.S.-Japan Council, delegations of Japanese American leaders from throughout the U.S. have visited Japan every year since 2002. The Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, represented in the U.S. by the Embassy of Japan in Washington, D.C., and 17 consulate general offices, sponsors the program. The U.S.-Japan Council provides administration and support for the program.

Complete information on the JALD program as well as the biographies of this year’s participants can be found online at http://www.usjapancouncil.org.

NCWNP » continued from page 4

Among JACL business covered at the meeting was the adoption of the District’s 2019 budget, an update on the District Gala slated for April 6, the National Convention scheduled in July, JACL membership numbers and recruitment, the idea of creating a District Youth Council, the $1 Million Fundraising Campaign by National JACL and Memorial Day services, which the district co-sponsors each year with Nisette VFW Post 9879.

A special guest that afternoon was former Congressman Mike Honda, who addressed the District Council about a possible convention resolution to repeal the Alien Enemies Act of 1798.

MANZANAR » continued from page 5

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 seats are already going fast for bus transportation to the Pilgrimage from Los Angeles’ Little Tokyo.

The bus will depart at 7 a.m., arriving at the pilgrimage at approximately 11:30 a.m. It 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 5:30 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, $30 for youth (17 years of age and younger). Complimentary fares are available for those who were incarcerated at any of the former American concentration camps or other confinement sites during World War II.

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, call (323) 662-5102, or send an e-mail to 50thpilgrimage@manzanarcommittee.org.