

PACIFIC CITIZEN

IN THE SPIRIT OF RECONCILIATION AND UNITY

In its 90th year, JACL comes together in Salt Lake City to ensure the Japanese American story continues and the message of 'ADVOCACY, INCLUSION, ACTION' remains at the forefront.

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Tom Brokaw and Judge Lance Ito Honored at Heart Mountain Pilgrimage

» PAGE 6

JACL Passes Resolution R-3, Offering a Formal Apology to Tule Lake Resisters

Contra Costa JACL's Ben Takeshita, who was incarcerated at Topaz, points to a picture of himself as a young boy at the site. On Aug. 4, JACLers who attended the National Convention were able to take part in an excursion trip to the "Central Utah Relocation Center," better known as Topaz, one of 10 American concentration camps administered by the War Relocation Authority to house Japanese Americans who were forcibly removed from their homes on the West Coast during World War II.

PHOTO: TOSHIKI MASAKI

Convention
Photo Spread
INSIDE!

2019 NATIONAL JACL CONVENTION COMPLETED IN SALT LAKE CITY

By Floyd Mori,
JACL 2019 National Convention
co-chair

The National Convention of the JACL, which was held in Salt Lake City, Utah, from July 31-Aug. 4, is now a memory and part of history. The convention, which was experienced by more than 500 people in some capacity, celebrated the 90-year anniversary of the JACL, which was established in 1929 to fight prejudice and discrimination.

This year's theme was "Advocacy. Inclusion. Action." The theme reminds us that the fight for civil rights is real and ongoing. Diversity in America is acknowledged and encouraged. It will take our continued advocacy, inclusion and action to help make a better nation and world.

Serving as convention hosts were the three Utah JACL chapters and their presidents: Mount Olympus, Dick Mano; Salt Lake, Michael Iwasaki and Devon Matsumoto; and Wasatch Front North, Sandra Grant. The co-chairs for the convention were Lynne Aoyama, Sandra Grant, Sherrie Hayashi and Floyd Mori. Janet Komoto, IDC Governor, was on the committee. Marissa Kitazawa, VP for General Operations on the JACL National Board, worked closely with the local committee, as did National President Jeffrey Moy, Executive Director David Inoue and other members of the JACL staff.

Wat Misaka, a Utah legend who was the first nonwhite person to play in what is now called the National Basketball Assn. after being drafted by the New York Knicks, was honored by the organization with a President's Award. Also receiving the President's Award was Arlene

Inouye, an activist and educational leader from Los Angeles. U.S. Sen. Mazie Hirono of Hawaii was given the Ralph Carr Award.

The Japanese American experience of incarceration and subsequent redress, which was achieved with the passage of HR 442 and the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, was one of the main topics of the convention.

The egregious act against Americans and immigrants of Japanese heritage during World War II of being imprisoned in concentration camps was a matter of discussion in plenary sessions, workshops, business sessions and films.

With the participation of the Japanese American Confinement Sites Consortium, there was also an emphasis on camp preservation. The JACL and other organizations have partnered with the JACSC to ensure that funding will continue for the preservation of the camps to teach and educate others.

Throughout convention, attendees enjoyed Open Mic night with the youth, a golf tournament, visits to the Family History Library and the Tabernacle Choir, a hike and films. The convention ended with an optional trip to the site of the Topaz camp and the new Topaz Museum in Delta, Utah. The bus ride started early on Aug. 4 with more than two busloads filled with participants.

Sponsors who helped make the convention a success were Platinum Sponsor: State Farm; Gold Sponsors: Comcast NBCUniversal, AARP, APIA Vote; Silver Sponsors: National JACL Credit Union, Motion Picture Association of America, Verizon; Community Sponsors: AT&T, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Foundation, Reagan Outdoor



Floyd Mori served as the 2019 JACL National Convention co-chair. The confab welcomed more than 500 JACLers.

Advertising, My529, Union Bank and the JACL Intermountain District Council.

Other supporters included ABC, Caesars Entertainment, Mount Olympus JACL chapter, Salt Lake JACL chapter, Wasatch Front North JACL chapter, Snake River JACL chapter, Janet and Bob Komoto, WFC Insurance and Zions Bank.

In addition, many others donated, purchased tables of 10 for the banquet and placed ads in the program booklet. Thanks to all who contributed, including the exhibitors, vendors, committee members, speakers, filmmakers, color guard, volunteers and hotel staff.

It is always great to have Sec. Norman Mineta and his wife, Deni, participate in the conventions, as well as former Congressman Mike Honda. Dr. Brian Shiozawa, who is a regional director for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in the current administration and a former Utah State Senator, and his wife, Joye, attended the Sayonara Banquet.

In keeping with the spirit of diversity, Virgil Johnson, a Goshute

Native American, presented a blessing at the Sayonara Banquet. Elder Gary Stevenson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints gave remarks. The Honorable Midori Takeuchi, Consul General of Japan in Denver, spoke at the banquet and went on the Topaz tour.

Utah Attorney General Sean Reyes and Mayor Jenny Wilson of Salt Lake County spoke at the Opening Welcome Reception, as did Utah State Sen. Jani Iwamoto, who introduced other senators and representatives from the State of Utah.

Former JACL staff members Ron Ikejiri, John Tateishi and Ron Wakabayashi, as well as past National President Frank Sato were on hand to share their experiences on redress. Other former JACL staff and fellows who attended the convention were Kenzie Hirai, Paul Igasaki, Brandon Mita (currently general counsel on the JACL National Board), Debra Nakatomi, Jean Shiraki and Amy Watanabe.

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By David Inoue,
JACL Executive Director

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

On Aug. 3, we concluded our 50th JACL National Convention. The National Council passed Resolution 3, which offered a long-overdue apology to Tule Lake Resisters. At the Sayonara Banquet that evening, we recognized civil rights pioneers and leaders in Arlene Inouye, Wat Misaka and Sen. Mazie Hirono of Hawaii. All things to be celebrated. But the celebration has been tempered.

As we were beginning discussion of resolutions that Saturday morning, a gunman in El Paso, Texas, was entering a Walmart to ultimately kill 22 and wound another 24. Minutes after the Sayonara Banquet concluded, another gunman entered a Dayton, Ohio, bar and shot 27 people, 10 fatally, in the 34 seconds from his first shot until police arrived and killed the shooter.

Such horrific events came on the heels of another mass shooting in Gilroy, Calif., where the local JACL chapter had been tabling that day but had left an hour before the shooting that claimed four lives and injured another 13.

These are the shootings that make the national news. On the same night of the Dayton

shooting, seven people were shot, one fatally, in Chicago, Ill. The previous night, another seven were shot in another part of Chicago. In my own city of Washington, D.C., gun violence has become a part of the regular news, easy to fall into the background and be ignored.

We have a problem as a nation, and we need to do something now.

For JACL, we haven't waded into this area much. Perhaps it is our history of having our constitutional rights taken away that we are hesitant to challenge the Second Amendment right to bear arms. I would argue that it is exactly because of that history that we do have something to say about this issue.

Second Amendment proponents make the argument that the constitutional basis of gun ownership is to enable the citizenry to fight the tyranny of the government. I've even heard some make the ridiculous suggestion that the Japanese American incarceration could have been prevented had Japanese Americans been armed in opposition.

Our incarceration was going to happen however unfortunate or unconstitutional, and an armed uprising would have been disastrous.

Why that would have been especially disastrous needs to be looked at in the context of how gun rights, and many rights in this country, have been upheld.

From the beginning, the Constitution, despite its lofty rhetoric, was created to ensure the

rights of wealthy white men. Now, wealth may be less of a factor, but in the case of gun ownership, it remains a right of primarily white men. Black male gun ownership is almost automatically seen as illegal, without constitutional protection. Philando Castile is the perfect example of this double standard.

I see the recent increase in mass shooting events as a manifestation of this early American history pattern of using violence to intimidate minority communities. Although not on the scale of slavery, the intent is the same.

The difference is that it is now individuals acting without explicit official sanction from the government that slavery had. Unfortunately, we do see rhetoric from even our president, which gives unofficial credence to the manifestos of hate that have accompanied several of these mass shootings.

It is also implicit to the regressive immigration policies that harken back to the discriminatory policies against Japanese immigrants at the turn of the last century.

And there is the epidemic of guns in minority communities that we must also address. It is not the high-profile shootings that kill or wound 20 or 30, but the steady impact of one or two at a time.

The stereotype is that it is criminals that are in these communities, and guns are therefore needed for self-defense in the home.

The reality is that more often, guns in the home result in accidental shootings of family members or friends, often children who inno-

cently come across an improperly stored gun in a bedroom and think it is a toy.

In fact, a strict reading of the Constitution says nothing about self-defense, rather the need for a militia is the basis for the right to bear arms. I will leave the constitutional arguments to a lawyer, but even an elementary school level reading comprehension would come to a very different understanding of the Second Amendment than the most recent Supreme Court interpretation.

Gun violence is an epidemic, and we need to treat it as such. It disproportionately affects minority communities, both directly and now in the fear that is felt from the possible terror of being a victim of a shooting.

This past week, a single gunman in Philadelphia held off police for hours, injuring six of them, and terrorizing that community.

Our Declaration of Independence has the line we all know, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

The Bill of Rights is intended to affirm these rights, but we now must recognize that the right of gun ownership has taken precedence over the fundamental unalienable rights of "Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

It is time to say enough is enough.

David Inoue is Executive Director of the JACL. He is headquartered in the organization's Washington, D.C., office.



By Marsha Aizumi

The week of the JACL National Convention really reinforced to me the incredible power of storytelling. Listening to the stories in favor of Resolution 3, asking for JACL to apologize to those imprisoned in Tule Lake, really opened my eyes to the negative impact and intergenerational trauma of being in Tule Lake, perceived as disloyal or called "No-No Boys."

And yet, those on the opposing side told emotional stories of fighting for their country and now feeling not respected and valued. So many stories just tore at my heart.

What I was equally moved by were the people who dedicated hours, late into the night, trying to bring the two sides together, so that if Resolution 3 was passed, both sides would have felt seen, heard and respected.

I hope that goal was accomplished, but I had a sense there might still be some hurt feelings, which over time can possibly be healed.

After an emotional morning of hearing stories from camp, it was off to my workshop called "Intersecting Identities:

Nikkei LGBTQ Stories."

I was so honored to be on a panel with Stan Yogi and Sarah Baker. Introduced by our moderator, Michael Iwasaki from Salt Lake City JACL, Sarah, Bill and I shared our stories of feeling invisible and not whole, but finding a place at "Okaeri: A Nikkei LGBTQ Gathering" in Los Angeles and realizing how empowering it is to be seen at the intersection of being Japanese American, mixed-race JA or gay, queer, transgender or, for me, as a mother and an activist.

When people see all of you and love you anyway, the feeling is overwhelmingly affirming. Having JACL provide a workshop on LGBTQ identities within the Nikkei community made me feel that here was another safe space that was being created. Thank you so much, David Inoue!

At the JACL conference, I also met Jim and Lois Azumano from Oregon, who shared with me that at their family reunions, they take photos in groups . . . and one of the groups is for their LGBTQ family members. How heartwarming it was to hear how they wanted to uplift their LGBTQ family members in such a special way!

While in Salt Lake City, I also had an opportunity to meet with a Mormon podcaster, Richard Ostler, whose podcast "Listen, Learn,



"Intersecting Identities: Nikkei LGBTQ Stories" workshop featured (from left) Sarah Baker, Stan Yogi, Michael Iwasaki and Marsha Aizumi.

Love" opened up my heart to the LDS (Latter Day Saints) community.

I took a Lyft to his home 20 minutes from SLC, and then we dialed up Aiden, who was just getting off work in California. It was 90 minutes of storytelling with much laughter and a few tears . . . from me, of course.

I walked away with a whole different perspective of the Mormon community. Richard, a devout Mormon, is bringing our LGBTQ stories to over 7,000 listeners. As I left his home, this plaque that was hanging in Richard's home seemed to remind me of who



Jim and Lois Azumano

I need to be as I do this work

Go! Oh Go!

Go out to see the world!

And wherever you go . . . be brave

To whomever you meet . . . be kind

With whatever you have . . . be good

I am now a regular listener of "Listen, Learn, Love," and because of my time with Richard and the JACL National Convention, I will continue to strive to be brave, kind and do good.

Thank you to all the people who shared their stories so that I could leave Salt Lake City a more enlightened, empowered and loving human being.

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

HEART MOUNTAIN REVISITED

The eighth annual pilgrimage features newsman Tom Brokaw and Judge Lance Ito.

By Ray Locker

Race “is not in any fashion in America a measure of worthiness,” former NBC anchorman Tom Brokaw told attendees at the eighth annual Heart Mountain Pilgrimage on July 27. “We’re all the same.”

Brokaw received the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation’s LaDonna Zall Compassionate Witness Award, which goes to those who have provided exceptional service to the Heart Mountain community.

Zall is a Heart Mountain board member who lived as a child in nearby Ralston, Wyo., and watched the last train filled with Japanese American incarcerated leave the camp on Nov. 10, 1945.

In an at times tearful speech, Brokaw said Heart Mountain “was a concentration camp, nothing less,” as he waded into a debate that pervaded much of the three-day event that was located 14 miles north of Cody, Wyo.

A day earlier, former Cabinet Secretary Norman Mineta, a former Heart Mountain prisoner, and former Sen. Alan Simpson said they leaned away from using that term because of the sensitivity surrounding the Holocaust that killed 6 million Jews in what were also known as concentration camps.

That was one of the few differences between the three men, who appeared in a piece by Brokaw on MSNBC’s “Morning Joe” on July 30.

Dianne Fukami, the co-producer of a documentary about Mineta that showed Friday, also called Heart Mountain a concentration camp. “I didn’t want to go back to euphemisms” to explain what happened, she said.

Brokaw said the “race card” is played too often in American politics as a means to divide its citizens, which Mineta and Simpson echoed in their interview with Brokaw and their comments during a panel discussion on July 26.

Brokaw closed his speech with the story of former U.S. Rep. Sam Gibbons, a Florida Democrat who was a paratrooper who jumped behind German lines on D-Day on June 6, 1944. Brokaw quoted Gibbons, saying Gibbons didn’t care about the ethnicity of his fellow paratroopers, who could tell friend from foe by using a little brass clicker.

PHOTO: MARVIN INOUE



Honoree and former Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Lance Ito holds up a book about the farms at Heart Mountain during his keynote speech. Ito praised the work done by Heart Mountain farmers during the war. His father, James, led the farming efforts at the camp, where he also met Toshi Nagamori, who would become his wife and Lance’s mother.

When they clicked back, Gibbons told Brokaw, “They didn’t say, ‘I’m an Italian American.’ . . . Those are the guys I’m going to fight with.”

Brokaw was introduced and presented the award by Heart Mountain Board Chair Shirley Ann Higuchi, who has a book about Heart Mountain and the incarceration that is set to be published in the spring. Brokaw wrote that book’s afterword.

Dignitaries and a Record Crowd

For the first time ever, the Japanese ambassador to the United States appeared at a pilgrimage. Ambassador Shinsuke Sugiyama

Honoree and former NBC news anchor Tom Brokaw addresses the pilgrimage crowd. Brokaw has continued to report on the injustice of the Japanese American incarceration ever since first speaking at the 2011 grand opening of the Heart Mountain Interpretive Center.



Duncan Williams, a Buddhist monk and professor at the University of Southern California, said a Buddhist prayer at the Heart Mountain Pilgrimage. His latest book, “American Sutra,” explores the treatment of Buddhists during the World War II Japanese American incarceration.

told the attendees that every Japanese citizen needs to know about what happened to their friends and relatives in the United States during WWII.

“Heart Mountain is a place of moral significance,” Sugiyama said, adding that he first became interested in going to Heart Mountain after a visit to the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles. “I had to come here and see how you did it and got to redress.”

“Back in Japan,” Sugiyama continued,

PHOTOS: RAY LOCKER



Shinsuke Sugiyama (right), the Japanese ambassador to the United States, stands with Norman Mineta before the start of the Heart Mountain pilgrimage. Sugiyama later told the pilgrimage crowd that all Japanese citizens need to know about what happened to their kinsmen in the United States during World War II.

“Japanese people need to know better what happened here. I am here to lead a course of understanding.”

Sugiyama’s appearance was the result of extensive work with the Japanese Embassy by Higuchi and other members of the foundation who met with diplomatic officials several times in Washington, D.C. The embassy also held an event for members of the Japanese American Confinement Sites Consortium in Washington, D.C., in February that spurred the invitation to the pilgrimage.

Heart Mountain Board Members Claudia Wade and Kathleen Saito Yuille chaired the entire pilgrimage and took special care of the Japanese delegation.

The pilgrimage drew a record crowd to events in Cody and at the Heart Mountain Interpretive Center. Higuchi recognized the more than 50 Nisei former incarcerated who appeared at this year’s event, with many saying they would return next year with their families.

Authors Duncan Williams, Bradford Pearson, Andrea Warren and Higuchi appeared in two panels on July 26. Author and documentarian Frank Abe and California State University, Fullerton, Professor Arthur Hansen appeared in panels about the Heart Mountain draft resisters, who were convicted and sent to prison in 1944.

In addition, there were multiple multigenerational panels in which former incarcerated and their families talked about the trauma that still remains from the incarceration. Many of the former prisoners resisted talking about it for



(From left) Alan Simpson, Norm Mineta and filmmaker/producers Dianne Fukami and Debra Nakatomi speak during a panel held after a screening of their film “Norman Mineta and His Legacy: An American Story.”

PHOTOS: RAY LOCKER



Alan Simpson and Norman Mineta meet with former NBC anchorman Tom Brokaw (right) for an interview for a story that appeared on MSNBC’s “Morning Joe.”



Heart Mountain leaders and diplomats gathered for a photo at the Heart Mountain pilgrimage. Pictured (from left) are Midori Mukai, Minister Kenichiro Mukai, Cody Mayor Matt Hall, Yoko Sugiyama, Alan Simpson, Ambassador Shinsuke Sugiyama, Shirley Ann Higuchi, Norman Mineta and Doug Nelson. PHOTO: DAVID FUJIOKA



(From left) Tom Brokaw, Heart Mountain Chair Shirley Ann Higuchi and Executive Director Dakota Russell share a laugh while listening to Alan Simpson and Norm Mineta.

PHOTO: DAVID FUJIOKA



HMWF board members and dignitaries at the pilgrimage included (standing, from left) Midori Takeuchi, consul general in Denver; Midori Mukai, wife of Minister Kenichiro Mukai; Kenichiro Mukai; Marc Sugiyama; Raymond Uno; Bacon Sakatani; Shig Yabu; Claudia Wade; Hanako Wakatsuki; Kathleen Saito Yuille; R. Dana Ono; Prentiss Uchida; Kris Horiuchi; Sam Mihara; Eric Sandeen; Aura Matsumura Newlin; Takashi Hoshizaki; Ambassador Shinsuke Sugiyama; Dakota Russell; Yoko Sugiyama (wife of the ambassador) and (seated, from left) LaDonna Zall; Doug Nelson; Alan Simpson; Norman Mineta; Tom Brokaw; Shirley Ann Higuchi (HMWF chair) and Pete Simpson.

PHOTO: RAY LOCKER



Heart Mountain board member Shig Yabu, a former incarcerated, speaks to Japanese Ambassador Shinsuke Sugiyama and his delegation inside a reconditioned barrack at the camp site.

PHOTO: DARRELL KUNITOMI

years, even with their closest family members.

There was also footage shown of a documentary in progress called "Return to Foretop's Father," about Crow Nation elder Grant Bulltail, who participated in a panel discussion with documentarian Preston Randolph and University of Wyoming Professor Mary Keller.

The Crow, who were driven from the land in the 1880s, gave the mountain its name and also called it Foretop's Father, Bulltail said.

Remembering James and Toshi Ito

Former Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Lance Ito, whose parents met at Heart Mountain, gave the keynote address to the pilgrims on July 27, honoring the farmers who turned the dusty high desert soil of the Big Horn Basin into rich farmland.

Those farmers were led by his father, James Ito, who used his skills developed at the University of California, Berkeley, to analyze the area's soil and determine which crops could thrive when the farms finally received irrigation.

Ito showed a series of seven posters highlighting the work done by his father and the fellow farmers, who raised more than 1 million pounds of produce that they stored in a root cellar, which is currently being restored by the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation.

"You talk about organic farming," Ito said. "They had to pick the bugs off the plants."

Like Brokaw before him, Ito grew emotional when talking about his parents and their fellow

incarcerated, many of whom lost everything when they were forced to leave their homes and businesses on the West Coast due to Executive Order 9066.

"My parents never talked about [the incarceration]," Ito said. "Every now and then, they would say, 'I knew him in camp.' Until I was in middle adulthood did I persuade my parents to tell me about it."

Eventually, however, James and Toshi Ito became fixtures at Heart Mountain events, and Toshi Ito even gave the Heart Mountain Foundation's Interpretive Center some of its most treasured artifacts.

Ito showed the audience a poster of his mother's high school diploma, which was delivered to her at the Santa Anita Assembly Center by the principal of Los Angeles' John Marshall High School. Toshi Nagamori Ito had to leave school six weeks before graduation because her family was forced from their

home and into Santa Anita before the end of the school year.

James Ito died at age 98 in 2012, while Toshi Ito was 93 before she passed away last July.

The Mineta Documentary

Mineta appeared throughout the pilgrimage, starting with a morning screening on July 26 of the new documentary by Fukami and Debra Nakatomi that features him — "Norman Mineta and His Legacy: An American Story."

The documentary, which has aired nationally on PBS, tells about Mineta's journey as a child from San Jose, Calif., to Heart Mountain and then to the U.S. House and the Cabinet under Democratic President Bill Clinton and Republican President George W. Bush.

During the documentary and a panel discussion that followed afterward, Mineta said he cherishes the term "citizen" because he and his family were called "enemy non-aliens" at

the beginning of World War II when they and 120,000 other Japanese Americans were incarcerated in the series of 10 camps run by the War Relocation Authority.

"I cherish the term 'citizen' because of our own government being unwilling to acknowledge us," Mineta said. "That threat still exists. What's our democracy all about?"

Simpson, who first met Mineta in 1943 when his Boy Scout troop from Cody traveled to Heart Mountain for a jamboree with the scouts behind barbed wire, said he has to "keep it light because [the incarceration] is heavy on the heart."

He told the crowd to get a copy of the dissent in the 1944 Supreme Court decision *Korematsu v. United States* by Justice Frank Murphy.

"He used the word racism six times," Simpson said, adding that Murphy called the incarceration a product of war hysteria and racism. ■

MAKING A FAMILY DISCOVERY

A Japanese TV reporter uncovers his family's roots while at Heart Mountain.

By Ray Locker



In this photo in the Heart Mountain Interpretive Center, Asa Ideishi looks toward the camera as she eats in one of the camp's mess halls. Her grandson, Tadashi Ideishi, discovered this photo while visiting Heart Mountain to conduct interviews for his report on NHK World, a Japanese TV network.



Shirley Higuchi, chair of the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation board of directors, speaks with NHK World reporter Tadashi Ideishi. Ideishi's grandparents were incarcerated during WWII. Ideishi's father, Hajime, was in Japan for school when the war broke out and never made it back to the U.S., where he had been born.

PHOTOS: RAY LOCKER

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Details about Tadashi Ideishi's family in camp from the Heart Mountain archives

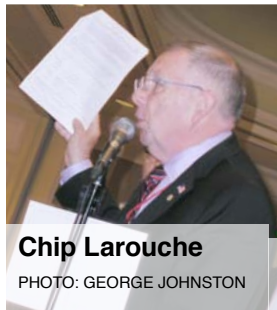
**Chip Larouche**

PHOTO: GEORGE JOHNSTON

**Nancy Takayama (left) and Sharon Uyeda prepare voting cards.**

PHOTO: GARY OKAMOTO

**Norman Mineta speaks in opposition of R-3.**

PHOTO: TOSHIKI MASAKI

**Mas Hashimoto speaks against R-3.**

PHOTO: TOSHIKI MASAKI

**Haruka Roudebush speaks on behalf of R-3.**

PHOTO: GEORGE JOHNSTON

**An emotional Kare Korematsu speaks in favor of R-3.**

PHOTO: TOSHIKI MASAKI

**JACL Board Members Marissa Kitazawa and Jeffrey Moy with Executive Director David Inoue**

PHOTO: ALLISON HARAMOTO

By P.C. Staff

R-3 passes.”

With those words, spoken by JACL Resolutions Committee Chair Joy Goto on Aug. 3 during the 2019 JACL National Convention in Salt Lake City, an amended version of Resolution 3 became reality.

With the “in favor of” votes overwhelming the “against” votes, it was an emotional ending to a JACL National Council meeting that began on Aug. 1 with the completion of voting on constitutional bylaw changes, paused on Aug. 2, and then carried over to and completed on Aug. 3 with voting on three resolutions.

With only two hours from 8-10 a.m. allotted to the unfinished business from Aug. 1, debate on R-3 was extended numerous times into the lunchtime hour and even included a failed proposal that needed to be voted upon to postpone a decision on R-3 until next year’s JACL National Convention. The final vote on the resolution arrived about 12:17 p.m. MDT.

Among the three resolutions, however, R-3 was different because its purpose was to have JACL officially apologize for its stance toward an aggrieved subset — residents of the Tule Lake WRA Center — of a larger aggrieved group, namely ethnic Japanese whose rights were disregarded by the federal government

during WWII.

With JACL marking the 90th year since its foundation in 1929, the passage of R-3 was an olive branch and birthday present of sorts to Japanese Americans whose families were incarcerated at the Tule Lake WRA Center, which was among the 10 “internment” camps operated by the federal government during WWII for American citizens of Japanese ancestry and legal resident aliens from Japan who were barred from becoming naturalized U.S. citizens.

To Japanese Americans and the authorities that operated the camps, Tule Lake, however, was popularly known as the camp where the “troublemakers” were sent.

According to the Japanese Americans who were incarcerated there, having been sent to Tule Lake during WWII was a scarlet letter of shame and stigma that unfairly marked them and their descendants.

To WWII-era Japanese Americans striving to be seen as “good Japanese” by the U.S. government, Tule Lake residents who answered “no-no” to a pair of questions on a poorly worded loyalty questionnaire or dissented against having their right violated were indeed troublemakers.

The result was a conflict that festered within the greater Japanese American community for decades to come, even after the success of the redress movement.

Since the convention’s start on July 31, proponents and opponents of R-3 met nightly to discuss ways to bring about an amicable end, however the vote might go. And before the start of business on Aug. 3, special time was set aside for a panel discussion to give National Council members more background context on R-3.

The panel was moderated by Paul Uye-

hara and featured activist/filmmaker Satsuki Ina, who also has a private psychotherapy practice specializing in community trauma, and Floyd Shimomura, an attorney and past JACL National President from 1982-84.

Ina, who was born in Tule Lake, recounted how the Loyalty Questionnaire brought about intense fear and confusion, ultimately pitting people in anger toward their government and eventually each other.

“People didn’t know why this questionnaire was being posed to them. They didn’t know what its purpose was because the government was not being forthright in what it was trying to do,” Ina said. “There was fear that this was a government strategy to get rid of anyone who opposed them. . . . It was a way to manipulate the prison population, a way for the government to reach its intended goals. The truth is, before the war, during the war and after the war, we never had a crisis of loyalty. What we had was a crisis of faith in our own country.”

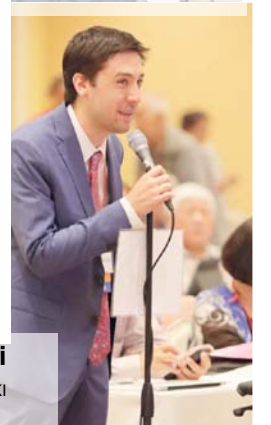
Shimomura elaborated on the uncertainty that resulted from the questionnaire’s poorly worded structure, elaborating on its initial purpose to screen people for military service, even though that also included women and children from the age of 17.

“The primary problem was that the consequence of your answer was not clear. Why was the government asking this question? . . . So, here you have a questionnaire that had the full range of maybe it will help you get out of camp, put you into prison or put you in the military, and you’re doing it in a very coercive environment, and people were already distrustful. This was a horrible, horrible thing to make people answer yes or no to,” he said.

When the people who answered “no no” arrived at Tule Lake, they were mixed with a population that was already previously there,

Eric Langowski

PHOTO: TOSHIKI MASAKI



known as the Old Tuleans, who didn’t want to be moved.

“Living conditions had degraded to a point where there was growing dissent and conflict. There were extremists on both sides of the camp,” said Ina. “It was the perfect pitch to get people to move their anger against the government away from that and toward each other. It was the perfect way for the government to control people who were oppressed.”

Regarding JACL’s role during that time, Shimomura spoke about JACL’s mission to support the war effort and be good, loyal American citizens.

“I think the loyalty side of the JACL campaign in a practical sense was successful and actually helped us in the redress campaign,” Shimomura said. “. . . I think the JACL needs to consider its own involvement in supporting this program during its loyalty campaign during WWII, which had positive effects, but this was something that was not intended but something that happened as a direct result of it.”

Decades later, intense feelings arose for and against R-3 during the National Council confab.

Some of those against R-3 said passage would compel them to quit JACL and warned that veterans groups would withdraw support for the organization.

Watsonville-Santa Cruz’s Marcia Hashimoto recounted how JACL leaders were beaten up by protestors and resisters, with others even labeled “dogs” for being pro-American.

“This issue of a resolution of apology is complicated because of the effects of war on each of the incarcerated. The Watsonville-Santa Cruz chapter urges delegates to vote no on this resolution,” Hashimoto said. “If this resolution

**Historic National Council voting on R-3**

PHOTO: ROB BUSCHER

is in the spirit of reconciliation and unity, it needs to be more balanced to recognize the hardships of our veterans, all incarcerated and our JACL leaders.”

But those speaking in favor of R-3 outnumbered those against.

“We need to know that the JACL today will stand with us,” said Mike Ishii. “. . . Our entire community is submerged in intergenerational trauma imposed by an outside entity, and 76 years since the camps, we are still in distress. We have all made mistakes. . . . It is OK to say that. . . . The real enemy was never a Japanese American but racism. . . . We must begin treating one another differently.”

Echoed Stanley Shikuma: “Those who answered ‘yes yes’ or ‘no no’ or anything in between still suffer from the consequences from that questionnaire. It has created a split in our community that has carried on through generations. I can see that even Yonsei and Gosei are feeling that, and we need to do something to stop that bleeding. This resolution, however imperfect it may be, is a step in the right direction, and I think it’s time we took that first step.”

After hours of conversation, the final, overwhelming vote was in favor of the resolution, which may have marked a generational changing of the guard for JACL’s now-diminished national membership.

Said Ina at the conclusion of the panel discussion: “My hope is that when our community can unify and move forward, there will be a powerful healing, a healing that will give us a united voice that will unite us today. I hope this can happen before all of us who were in camp are gone. I see the possibility that this can be a historic moment for all of us to really heal from the injustice of being incarcerated.”

JACL also released a statement that expressed the need for the organization to continue its work toward further reconciliation between JACL and those incarcerated at Tule Lake, as well as the need for improved education on the Tule Lake experience.

“It is imperative that we bring our community together in order to build power to face the civil rights challenges of today,” JACL National President Jeffrey Moy said. “The diverse experiences of Japanese Americans should be celebrated as a strength, not as something

divisive. JACL has long embraced the incredible legacy of our Japanese American veterans and their valor in fighting for a country that did not fully see them as American. The passage of this resolution signals our intention to be more inclusive of all of our community, particularly those who resisted the incarceration.”

In other business, the National Council also voted to approve the following:

- R-1: A resolution calling on Midwestern colleges to address exclusionary practices toward Japanese Americans.
- R-2: A resolution regarding Midwest district staffing.
- CBL-2: An amendment to the JACL bylaws relating to the supervision of the editor/general manager of the *Pacific Citizen* by the Executive Director.

During the National Board session on July 31, a proposed recommendation was made by the Education Committee’s Greg Marutani to reprint 2,000 copies of the Power of Words handbook and consider reprinting 500 addi-

tional copies of a condensed version of the Curriculum Guide, which would be amended to add additional content related to the outcome of R-3.

In his membership report, VP Haruka Roudesh continued his push to increase JACL membership to 10,000, stating that as of July, there are currently 8,559 in the organization.

And in VP Secretary/Treasurer James Kiri-hara’s report, as of Dec. 31, 2018, JACL’s total assets are \$11,755,000 (unaudited), down from \$12,806,000 from the previous year, mainly due to a reduction in investment valuations.

Regarding the fiscal year 2019 outlook, key focus areas include improving JACL’s financial impact from the National Convention, improving *P.C.* revenue results, upgrading technology systems and equipment, reassessing leasing arrangements and improving the financial reporting structure to improve transparency across the board. ■



National Council chapter delegates

PHOTO: SUSAN YOKOYAMA



MDC delegates

PHOTO: TOSHIKI MASAKI

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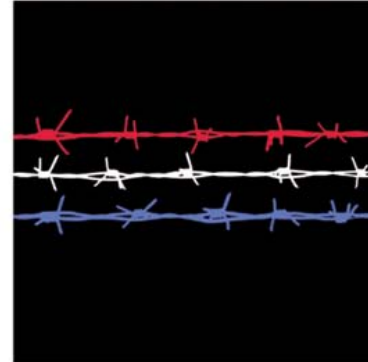
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AMACHE, GILA RIVER, JEROME, MINIDOKA, ROHWEE

As a token of our gratitude, the first 100 members to upgrade will receive the gift of this 20” x 20” barbed wire icon art lithographic poster print, signed by artist Bob Matsumoto. Upgraded members are also invited to attend the VIP Reception for the Sayonara Banquet at the JACL National Convention.

Ready to upgrade your JACL membership? Call us at (415) 921-5225 or upgrade online at: www.jacl.org/member/

WELCOME RECEPTION

To kick off convention, a Welcome Reception was held inside the Little America Hotel, where Convention Co-Chair Floyd Mori introduced Utah JACL chapter presidents, state and local dignitaries including Utah Attorney General Sean Reyes, Salt Lake County Mayor Jenny Wilson and Sen. Jani Iwamoto, as well as recognized JACL honorees Wat Misaka and Arlene Inouye, convention sponsors and JACL's National Board and staff, led by President Jeffrey Moy and Executive Director David Inoue, respectively. As Inoue said, "Convention is all about coming together to set the priorities for this organization. It all comes down to the concept of a moral compass. What is right and what we do as an organization to make this world a better place."

JACL National President Jeff Moy gives a welcome speech.

PHOTO: GEORGE JOHNSTON

Janet Komoto

PHOTO: GEORGE JOHNSTON

Richard Mano and Raymond Uno in the Jan-Ken-Pon finals.

PHOTO: ALLISON HARAMOTO

Utah State Atty Gen Sean Reyes

PHOTO: ALLISON HARAMOTO

Salt Lake County Mayor Jenny Wilson

PHOTO: ALLISON HARAMOTO

Dignitaries included (from left) Sen. Luz Escamilla, Sen. Derek Kitchen, Sen. Jani Iwamoto and Amy Fowler of the Salt Lake City Council.

PHOTO: GEORGE JOHNSTON

Floyd Mori welcomed JACLers.

PHOTO: ALLISON HARAMOTO

Taiko was performed by members of the Ogden Buddhist Temple.

PHOTO: GEORGE JOHNSTON

JACL Executive Director David Inoue

PHOTO: GJ

Mike Honda

PHOTO: GEORGE JOHNSTON

Sarah Baker and Brandon Mita play Jan-Ken-Pon during an icebreaker activity.

PHOTO: ALLISON HARAMOTO



Bob Komoto and Janet Komoto

PHOTO: GARY OKAMOTO



Haruka Roudebush (left) and Ron Mori

PHOTO: GARY OKAMOTO



JACLers ready for the Sayonara Banquet

PHOTO: GARY OKAMOTO



Gavin Tachibana and Thu Quach

PHOTO: GEORGE JOHNSTON



Sam Mihara (left) and Prentiss Uchida

PHOTO: GEORGE JOHNSTON



(From left) Joy Goto, Arlene Inouye and Paul Uyehara

PHOTO: GEORGE JOHNSTON



Matthew Farrells and Mariko Fujimoto

PHOTO: GARY OKAMOTO



State Farm's David Chikahisa and Junya Inoue of the Denver office of the Japan Consul

PHOTO: GEORGE JOHNSTON

VIP RECEPTION

Before beginning the festivities of the Sayonara Banquet to close this year's convention, a VIP Reception was held to thank and honor this year's award honorees — Ralph Carr awardee Sen. Mazie Hirono and President's awardees Wat Misaka and Arlene Inouye — as well as acknowledge this year's convention sponsors. It was also an excellent opportunity to meet with old friends, make new ones and celebrate the 90-year history of JACL and this year's theme: "Advocacy. Inclusion. Action." A job well-done.



(From left) Marcia Hashimoto, Victor Kimura, David Inoue and Mas Hashimoto

PHOTO: GARY OKAMOTO



(From left) Anne and Larry Oda with Judge Raymond Uno

PHOTO: GEORGE JOHNSTON



Rob Buscher and Sarah Baker

PHOTO: GEORGE JOHNSTON



The Inouye family (from left): Nicole Inouye, Amelia Kawaguchi and Ken Inouye

PHOTO: GEORGE JOHNSTON



Mieko Kuramoto with her parents, Christine and Ron Kuramoto

PHOTO: GEORGE JOHNSTON



Elaine Kaneshiro (left) and Marsha Aizumi

PHOTO: ALLISON HARAMOTO



Floyd Mori and Satsuki Ina

PHOTO: GARY OKAMOTO



(From left) Ethan Hirabayashi, Alex Hirai and Trey Imamura

PHOTO: ALLISON HARAMOTO



Karen Kido (left) and Jeanette Misaka welcome attendees.

PHOTO: ALLISON HARAMOTO



Sheldon Arakaki takes in the Utah photo exhibit.

PHOTO: ALLISON HARAMOTO



Kai Uno and Lily Anne Tamai

PHOTO: GEORGE JOHNSTON



JACL memorabilia, among them, the California DOR Proclamation

PHOTO: GARY OKAMOTO

CANDID PHOTOS

This year's convention celebrated 90 years of JACL — nine decades of advocacy and civil rights work on behalf of all U.S. citizens. Conventiongoers were treated to the very best Utah had to offer during their five-day stay in the “Beehive State,” and the hospitality and convention schedule did not disappoint. From taking in a jam-packed slate of plenaries and workshops to film screenings, delicious dining options and excursions outside of the Little America Hotel to see the world-famous Tabernacle Choir, the Salt Lake Temple of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Open-Mic Night at the Salt Lake Buddhist Temple and the Topaz Museum Tour and Site visit, there was plenty to see and experience in Utah. Thank you to the Convention Committee and Utah JACL chapters for making this anniversary convention one JACLers will never forget.



Don Kajioka (left) and Toshi Abe

PHOTO: ALLISON HARAMOTO



Kent Kawai (left) and Kai Uno

PHOTO: ALLISON HARAMOTO



Janice Okamoto and Gary Okamoto

PHOTO: GEORGE JOHNSTON



Salt Lake Nihonmachi Exhibit Photos

PHOTO: SUSAN YOKOYAMA



Detroit's Mika Kennedy (left) and Celeste Geodert

PHOTO: TOSHIKI MASAKI



Ronald Wakabayashi reads the latest P.C.

PHOTO: GEORGE JOHNSTON



Jefferson Itami with a historic P.C. issue. Itami was in the audience when President Reagan signed HR 442.

PHOTO: ALLISON HARAMOTO



Minidoka's Mia Russell and Rob Buscher

PHOTO: ROB BUSCHER



NY/SC members

PHOTO: JOSEPH GU



Wat Misaka and Matthew Weisbly

PHOTO: MATTHEW WEISBLY

Nelson Akagi

PHOTO: MATTHEW WEISBLY

PHOTOS: GEORGE JOHNSTON

PLENARY REVEALS MANEUVERS THAT HELPED REDRESS SUCCEED

JACL vets swap behind-the-scenes stories at 2019 JACL National Convention.

By P.C. Staff

Ever wonder why Japanese Americans who received monetary compensation for having had their constitutional rights abrogated during World War II received \$20,000 instead of the initially proposed \$25,000?

And how was Sen. S. I. Hayakawa (R-Calif.), who in his keynote speech at the 1978 JACL National Convention's Sayonara Banquet expressed his "total opposition" to redress (*Pacific Citizen*, Aug. 11, 1978), persuaded only a few years later to join Sens. Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii) and Spark Matsunaga (D-Hawaii) in backing a bill to form the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians?

Or, did you know that the decision to create the CWRIC, which resulted in emotionally wrenching public testimony from former incarcerated and a report that concluded that what happened to ethnic Japanese in America was because of race prejudice, war hysteria and a failure of political leadership, was not initially embraced by many in the JACL or, for that matter, by the majority of Japanese Americans?

And that four years to the day before redress became a reality on Aug. 10, 1988, there was a meeting in the Reagan White House among JACL leaders that had to be kept secret for decades?

With the success of the Japanese American redress campaign now more than three decades in the past, those "hows," "whys" and "didja knows" were discussed at the plenary titled "Early Redress Years: 1977-1984," which took place at the 2019 National JACL Convention, held at the Little America Hotel in Salt Lake City.

The session featured Ronald Ikejiri, Frank Sato, Floyd Shimomura, John Tateishi and Ron Wakabayashi, all of whom were associated with JACL as leaders, participants and witnesses during a critical "seven-year period" in the 20-yearlong journey of redress from idea to reality. (Carole Hayashino, who was scheduled to be on the panel, had to bow out due to a family emergency.)

Toward its end, the session also featured additional perspectives from former congress-

John Tateishi was chair of the JACL's National Committee for Redress in 1978.



'Keep in mind, there was no model we could work with because it was the only time in the history of the country that any group had attempted to seek redress from the United States Congress.'

— John Tateishi

man and cabinet member Norman Mineta, whose name came up again and again in the panelists' recollections.

Shimomura, who served as the panel's moderator and former JACL national president from 1982-84, told the audience that the panel would focus on three topics: 1) the resolution that the JACL National Council approved in Salt Lake City at the 1978 JACL National Convention to pursue redress legislation; 2) how the CWRIC came into being; and 3) the "significant role that Frank Sato played in helping to lay the foundations" for the passage of the redress bill in August 1988 by President Ronald Reagan.

In his opening remarks, Shimomura noted that while the JACL played an important role in the eventual passage of redress legislation, the campaign was "much bigger than just JACL," referring to other organizations such as Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress (NCRR), National Council for Japanese American Redress (NCJAR) and the *coram nobis* team.



Panel participants were key JACL leaders and witnesses to the redress journey.



Ron Wakabayashi was the JACL National Director for 10 years.

Moderator Floyd Shimomura served as JACL National President from 1982-84.



"They were all working on redress, but everybody's focus had been a little different," Shimomura said.

Shimomura also noted how it was fitting that the plenary was taking place in Salt Lake City — at the same hotel, no less — since the JACL National Convention of 1978 was " . . . probably one of the most-historic conventions" because the JACL's National Council approved the resolution to pursue redress legislation.

Shimomura also noted that panelist and former JACL National President Sato (1984-86), whose role in the run-up to redress would be discussed later in the session, had been born in 1929, meaning he was the same age as JACL itself.

The discussion began with Tateishi, who was appointed as the chair of the JACL's National Committee for Redress in 1978 and later served as JACL's national director, national redress director and principal redress lobbyist until 1986.

Tateishi referenced the 1978 JACL National Convention's election of Clifford Uyeda, who ran as the "redress candidate" after serving for

a year and a half as the chair of the National Redress Committee following the death of Edison Uno, who is regarded as one of the "founding fathers" of the campaign for redress.

Tateishi said that what pushed Uyeda over the top in voting was " . . . a resolution that was introduced here at the convention. It was a resolution that defined what we would do as a policy of redress, and it said \$25,000 per person affected by the government's orders during WWII."

Also included was a call for a trust fund, but left out were specifics on how any of this might happen. Also not included: a call for an apology, even though the Civil Liberties Act actual redress legislation of 1988 did include one.

"We decided not to include an apology because the feeling was that if we put that out there in front of politicians, that's what they would choose, and they would ignore the money," Tateishi said.

Tateishi, noting that there were many young people in the audience, later gave some context to the attitudes toward redress at the time, especially by the Nisei.

"When we started the redress campaign, there was a lot of dissension," he said, recalling that at the 1978 convention during the debate, there was "so much anger at us for doing this, for pushing it."

Still, the JACL was more unified than the greater Japanese American community.

"There were pockets or groups of people who supported it, certainly the younger, post-WWII Sanseis were pushing it. But in general, the Nisei did not want this to happen," Tateishi said.

They didn't want to talk about the camps, which was exactly what would happen after the legislation to create the CWRIC was enacted by President Jimmy Carter in the summer of 1980 led to hearings in several U.S. cities where Nisei and Issei publicly — and cathartically — exposed their long-buried traumas, many for the first time.

The eventual decision to form a commission was one that came about after a meeting in early



The Redress Plenary featured (from left) Ron Wakabayashi, Ronald Ikejiri, John Tateishi, Frank Sato and moderator Floyd Shimomura.



The plenary participants with the Hon. Sec. Norman Mineta (center)

» See PLENARY on page 13

SAYONARA BANQUET HONORS STALWART JACLER GREG MARUTANI WITH RUBY PIN

PHOTOS: GEORGE JOHNSTON

President's Awards are also given to Wat Misaka, Arlene Inouye; Carr Award to Sen. Mazie Hirono

By P.C. Staff

In recognition of many years of activity in, service to and leadership within the JACL that benefited the greater Japanese American and Asian American communities, JACL President Jeffrey Moy presented the Ruby Pin — the organization's highest service award — to the San Francisco JACL Chapter's Greg Marutani on Aug. 3 at the Little America Hotel in Salt Lake City.

Also honored at the Sayonara Banquet of the 2019 JACL National Convention were Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii), who received in absentia the Ralph Carr Award, as well as basketball pioneer Wat Misaka and educator and labor activist Arlene Inouye, both of whom received the JACL's President's Award.

In his prepresentation remarks, Moy recalled attending his first JACL National Board meeting and wondering just who was the guy delivering the lunches.

"Over the many years since, [Greg's] been a constant presence at every board meeting in San Francisco, always willing to help, however he can," Moy said. "As VP of Public Affairs, my role before this one, I got to know him a lot better, and I got to fully understand how passionate he is about education."

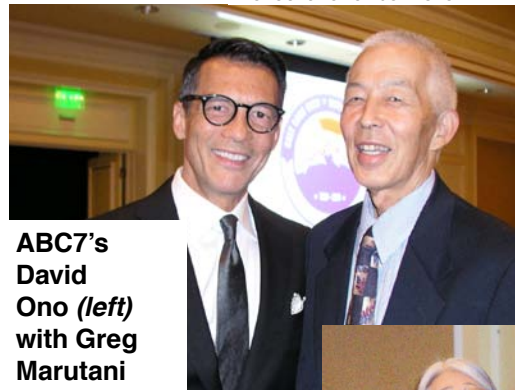
After receiving his award, Marutani said his appreciation for receiving the award was not so much for his time but for "... the work of the people who served on the Education Committee over the years."

"As I told many people, I was the one person on that committee that was not in the education field. But I learned about primary sources, photos, double-checking your work — it made a difference," Marutani said. "I was the one that spent a lot of time reading up on things, providing the materials for the experts on my committee to work over and prepare the revisions to the Education Committee guide."

"I worked hard to try and make sure that things such as the 'Power of Words' handbook met the criteria for the group that pushed for the resolution some years ago and the need now, with the passage of Resolution 3, the recognition of the Tule Lake Resisters, I look forward to revising and updating the curriculum guide to deal with the term 'no-no' and recognize the significance it has to them as a derogatory term," Marutani acknowledged.

Marutani closed his remarks by noting that the one project he is still trying to get off the ground is to develop a curriculum guide and learning activities to "focus on the story of redress" so students would learn not only about instances where their government erred, such as what happened to Japanese Americans, but also learn that "redress worked because the Constitution provided for people with a grievance to seek redress" — and he promised to continue to help provide lunch at National Board meetings.

The banquet, held in Ballrooms A, B and C, was co-emceed by actress Tamlyn Tomita



ABC's David Ono (left) with Greg Marutani

(ABC's "The Good Doctor") and news anchor David Ono of KABC-TV in Los Angeles.

In his opening remarks, Ono referenced the then-breaking news of the mass killing in El Paso, Texas, saying, "... we need to get back to that country that is about the land of the free, where we're open to people from other countries coming here and being American simply by accepting what an American is."

Tomita then introduced Virgil Johnson, a former tribal chairman of the Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Nation, former tribal chair of the Eight Tribes in Utah and member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, who performed a smudging ceremony.

As noted, the JACL honored Hawaii's Sen. Hirono with its Ralph Carr Award, which "epitomizes courageous action in the protection of civil rights," named for the Colorado governor



Sean Miura and Tamlyn Tomita



Honoree Sen. Mazie Hirono videotaped her acceptance speech.



Denver's Japan Consul General Midori Takeuchi

who, during WWII, welcomed voluntary Japanese American evacuees from the West Coast at

great cost to his political career.

In his introduction to her prerecorded video message that was played for the audience, Moy said Hirono "has been a champion not only for Japanese Americans, but for education, health care, immigration and women's rights."

In her remarks, Hirono acknowledged the JACL for its decades of advocacy undertaken on behalf of people who have faced discrimination, and she also thanked the organization for singling her out, even though "there are so many of us fighting this administration's horrible policies."

» See SAYONARA on page 16

Fight Over Art Sale Forged the Japanese American Confinement Sites Consortium

A plenary panel discusses the formation of the JACS Consortium in 2018, its united platform and where it goes from here to preserve the JA legacy.

By Ray Locker

The Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation's legal action to stop the sale of artwork created inside the World War II Japanese American concentration camps led to the creation of a consortium aimed at supporting the efforts to restore all of the wartime confinement sites, former Cabinet Sec. Norman Mineta said.

Mineta spoke on a panel about the Japanese American Confinement Sites Consortium on



On hand to participate in the JACSC panel discussion were (from left) Larry Oda, Mia Russell, Shirley Ann Higuchi, Norman Mineta and Moderator David Inoue. PHOTO: JULIE ABO

Aug. 2 at the JACL National Convention in Salt Lake City. He said the move, led by HMWF Board Chair Shirley Ann Higuchi in 2015, stopped the proposed sale in its tracks and encouraged Japanese American groups to get together to push for their common interests.

The action spurred by Higuchi and the Heart Mountain board also involved the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo and a coalition of activists led by Nancy Ukai of 50 Objects. After they stopped

the auction, Mineta said, the groups decided to come together to boost the efforts of all confinement sites.

Mineta's remarks came during the first of three panels or meetings about the JACSC during the JACL convention. They involved Brian Liesinger, the former Heart Mountain executive director who is now the JACSC coordinator; former JACL president Floyd Mori; Mia Russell, the executive director of Friends of Minidoka; Larry Oda, the chairman of the National Japanese American Memorial

Foundation; and Kathy Masaoka, a longtime activist affiliated with the Manzanar Committee.

JACS a Plan to Improve Sites

JACSC is aimed at using money provided by the federal Japanese American Confinement Sites program, which is administered by the National Park Service and Interior Department. It was created from a 2006 law that Mori and others helped push through Congress.

Mori said he was helped by his alliances with Republican members of Congress, though he was a Democrat. Rep. Bill Thomas, the Republican chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee in 2006, was a friend of Mori's from their service in the California Assembly in the 1970s, and Thomas shepherded the bill through Congress.

It turned out, Mori said, that Thomas had known Japanese Americans in his hometown of Bakersfield, Calif., who had been incarcerated during World War II. "Tough as nails Bill Thomas," Mori said, getting tearful every time the subject came up.

The initial authorization for JACS was \$38 million, of which about \$2.9 million was granted in 2018. But last year and this year, the Trump administration proposed eliminating the program's budget, only to have bipartisan majorities in Congress restore the funding.

» See CONSORTIUM on page 16

CARRYING ON AND MOVING FORWARD

The JACL National Convention's Legacy Luncheon awards eight chapter projects with 2019 grants and a fireside chat talks about how people today can still make a difference.

PHOTOS: ALLISON HARAMOTO

By P.C. Staff

Using our voices to relay stories of strength, hope and solidarity was the primary message conveyed to attendees of this year's Legacy Luncheon during the 2019 JACL National Convention on Aug. 2 at the Little America Hotel in Salt Lake City.

This year's event, emceed by Sarah Baker, president of Seattle JACL and National JACL vp of public affairs, and Kurt Ikeda, chair of the JACL Young Professionals Caucus and education manager of the Oregon Nikkei Endowment, recognized the 2019 Legacy Fund grant recipients, as well as featured a fireside chat with Hon. Sec. Norman Mineta and psychotherapist/co-organizer of Tsuru for Solidarity's Satsuki Ina and moderated by BuzzFeed's Sean Miura.

JACL recognized eight chapters for 2019 Legacy Fund grant awards. Legacy Fund Grant Program Co-Chairs Roberta Barton and Toshi Abe introduced the winners and detailed their respective projects.

Barton went on to show appreciation for the internees who contributed their redress monies to establish the JACL Legacy Fund endowment and grants program in 1990.

"Today's grant recipients carry forward the legacy of these original visionaries," she said.

Following are this year's grant awardees:

- Deborah Ikeda accepted the award on behalf of the CCDC project "Japanese American Film and Cultural Series," which aims to bring the community together to engage in dialogue about the Japanese American incarceration experience.
- Cathy Yasuda accepted the award on behalf of the Snake River JACL and IDC's project "Structural Racism in Oregon: Gallery Exhibit," which is a follow up to 2018's exhibit at the Four Rivers Cultural Center.
- Mari Yamagiwa accepted the award for the Chicago JACL's project "Never Again Is Now: A Program Series for Social Justice," in which the chapter's new youth board, Next Generation Nikkei, plans to show the negative effects of mass incarceration.
- Sarah Baker accepted the award for Seattle JACL's "Mixed Race Gathering (working title)," an event the chapter plans to hold to talk about and raise awareness on the issues faced by multiracial children.
- Karen Ishizuka accepted the award for the Venice-Los Angeles chapter for its "Legacy" project, which features a documentary that tells the unknown story of how filmmaker Robert Nakamura created a traveling photographic sculpture for the national JACL campaign to repeal Title II of the Internal Security Act of 1950.
- Amy Watanabe accepted the award for the Venice-Los Angeles chapter's "Camp Musubi Goes to Manzanar," and in Spring 2020, Camp Musubi will take youth to the Manzanar Pilgrimage on an extended day trip.



The Fireside Chat included (from left) Norman Mineta, Satsuki Ina and Sean Miura

• Chip Larouche accepted for the Alaska chapter's "Collecting Alaska Histories of the WWII Japanese Internment — Phase 1," which memorializes the history of all ethnic Japanese and Japanese Americans living in Alaska who were incarcerated during WWII at Fort Richardson.

• Rob Buscher accepted for the Philadelphia chapter's "American Peril — Imagining the Foreign Threat (Portrait Series)," which will feature a new gallery of photographs showing the human impact of racial propaganda.

Appreciation was also given to Legacy Fund committee members Sheldon Arakaki (PNW), James Craig (NCWNP), Janet Komoto (IDC), Carol Kawamoto (PSW), Mika Kennedy (MDC), Jeannette Ishii (CCDC), Teresa Maebori (EDC) and Aiko Dzikowski (NY/SC).

Comcast's Johnnie Giles then introduced the luncheon's fireside chat participants, who began their conversation following a video presentation featured on Democracy Now! that showed Japanese Americans, among them Ina, protesting the unjust incarceration of immigrants at Fort Sill near Lawton, Okla.

Ina, who was born in the Tule Lake Segregation Center and is now a private-practice psychotherapist specializing in collective trauma, detailed Tsuru for Solidarity's participation along with Buddhist priests at Fort Sill on July 20.

"Four days after this large protest of 500, it was announced that Fort Sill would not be housing the 1,400 children that was anticipated," Ina declared proudly.

Miura then spoke about the importance of telling our stories and asked Mineta to talk about what drove his decision to enter politics.

"When I became a member of the (San Jose) City Council, I said that I was going to speak on behalf of those who had no voice or who were underrepresented. . . . The whole idea was to represent people who clearly had no representation before . . . because we clearly had no representation in 1942," Mineta recalled.

Mineta eventually went on to become the first Japanese American mayor of a major U.S. city, then was elected

SLC » continued from page 2

It was nice to see the youth taking a prominent role in the convention under the leadership of Kota Mizutani and Mieko Kuramoto. Some of the younger generation involved included Seiji Hayashi, Brian Heleker, Ethan Hirabayashi, Michelle Huey, Kurt Ikeda, Jason Kunisaki, Eric Langowski, Devon Matsumoto, Quinn Susuki, Eric Tokita and Watanabe.

Past National Presidents of the JACL who were in attendance were Ken Inouye, David Kawamoto, Mori, Larry Oda, Sato, Floyd Shimomura and Judge Raymond Uno.

In addition to the past national presidents and their spouses, it was good to see some of the stalwarts who have been supporting JACL conventions for years, including some current and former members of the National Board of the JACL: Toshi Abe, Michelle Amano, Sheldon Arakaki, Jim and Thaya Craig, Jim Duff, Larry Grant, Mas and Marcia Hashimoto, Marion Hori, Paul and Lou Igasaki, Judge Dale and Debbie Ikeda, Nicole Inouye, Jeff and Linda Itami, Miyako Kadogawa, Don Kajioka, Stanley Kanzaki, Mark and Lisa Kobayashi, Tom Kometani, Chip and Setsy Larouche, Greg Marutani

(who very deservedly received the Ruby pin), Ted and Yeiko Nagata, Terry and Leah Nagata, Travis Nishi, Tom Nishikawa, Walt Sato, Marielle Tsukamoto, Kai Uno, Paul Ueyehara, Valerie Yasukochi, Sadie Yoshimura (who provided the gifts for the Opening Reception) and many others.

Mary Kawakami, a 106-year-old member of the Mount Olympus Chapter, was recognized. We miss Shea Aoki, who had attended every JACL convention ever held until she could no longer attend in her 90s. Shea is now 104 and still lives in Seattle.

Notably missing was Richard Amano, a longtime supporter of the JACL who was "always" at the conventions with his daughter, Michelle, and his mother-in-law, Etsu Mineta Masaoka, until her passing. Our sympathies to Michelle for the loss of her father in January 2019. Our condolences to the families of other JACLers who have passed on since the convention in Philadelphia one year ago.

Thanks to all who attended the 2019 JACL National Convention. Hope to see you at the 2020 JACL National Convention in Las Vegas! ■

AMERICAN HOLIDAY TRAVEL 2019 TOUR SCHEDULE

Western Mediterranean Holiday Cruise (Carol Hida) Aug 18-31
Rome, Gibraltar, Malaga, Barcelona, Provence, Monte Carlo, Monaco, Florence/Pisa. Holland America Line
Yellowstone & Mt. Rushmore Holiday Tour (Elaine Ishida) Waitlist . . . Sep 22-29
Jackson Hole, Yellowstone National Park, Sheridan, Mt. Rushmore.
Japan Autumn Countryside Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida) Oct 17-28
Tokyo, Sado Island, Kanazawa, Shirakawago, Amanohashidate, Tottori, Matsue, Tamatsukuri Onsen, Kobe.
Kenya Wildlife Safari Holiday Tour (Carol Hida) Waitlist Oct 9-21
Nairobi, Amboseli-Nakuru Lake-Masai Mara National Parks, Mt. Kenya Safari Club, Sweetwaters Tented Camp, Jane Goodall Chimpanzee Sanctuary.
Kyushu-Shikoku Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida) Waitlist Nov 10-22
Fukuoka, Nagasaki, Ibusuki, Kagoshima, Miyazaki, Beppu, Matsuyama, Kochi, Takamatsu, Shodo Island, Tokushima.

2020 TOUR SCHEDULE PREVIEW
HOKKAIDO SNOW FESTIVAL HOLIDAY TOUR (Ernest Hida) Feb 2-12
Abashiri, Sounkyo, Sapporo, Otaru, Lake Toya, Tokyo. Hyobaku Ice Festival, Asahikawa Snow Festival, Sapporo Snow Festival, Hyoto Winter Festival.
HAWAII 3-ISLAND HOLIDAY TOUR (Carol Hida) Mar 3-11
Honolulu, Big Island Hawaii, Maui.
JAPAN SPRING COUNTRYSIDE HOLIDAY TOUR (Ernest Hida) Apr 2-14
Tokyo, Shimoda, Lake Kawaguchi, Takayama, Kyoto. Geisha Show in Kyoto.
NEW ORLEANS GETAWAY TOUR (Elaine Ishida) Apr 15-19
Walking tour of the French Quarter, City tour, Louisiana swamp cruise, enjoy Jazz club, beignets at Café Du Monde, New Orleans Cooking School.
TULIP FESTIVAL & GREAT LAKES ADVENTURE TOUR (Carol Hida) . . . May 7-15
Chicago, Grand Rapids, Holland Tulip Festival, Mackinac Island, Green Bay, Milwaukee.
GRANDPARENTS-GRANDCHILDREN JAPAN TOUR (Ernest Hida) . . Jun 21-Jul 1
Tokyo, Hakone/Atami, Hiroshima, Kyoto.
CANADIAN ROCKIES-GLACIER NATIONAL PARK TOUR (Carol Hida) . Jul 28-Aug 3
Calgary, Glacier National Park, Kootenay National Park, Lake Louise, Columbia Icefields Parkway, Moraine Lake, Banff.
KENYA WILDLIFE SAFARI HOLIDAY TOUR (Carol Hida) Sep
CLASSICAL JAPAN HOLIDAY TOUR (Ernest Hida) Oct 7-19
Tokyo, Lake Kawaguchi, Nagoya, Gifu-Cormorant fishing, Hiroshima, Kyoto.
PAINTED CANYONS OF THE WEST TOUR (Elaine Ishida) Oct 4-12
Denver, Grand Junction, Bryce-Zion Canyon National Park, Springdale-Utah, Arches-Canyonland-Capitol Reef-Grand Staircase National Parks, Las Vegas
OKINAWA HOLIDAY TOUR (Ernest Hida) Nov 11-20
Naha, Onnason, Islands of Ishigaki, Iriomote and Taketomo.

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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PLENARY » continued from page 10

1979 between the JACL's National Redress Committee and members of Congress that Tateishi dubbed "the Big Four": Sens. Inouye and Matsunaga, and Reps. Norman Mineta and Robert Matsui, both Democrats from California, all Japanese Americans.

While the National Redress Committee knew "that Norm Mineta was 100 percent behind this," Tateishi said, what was unknown was where Inouye and Matsunaga stood on the issue. (During the session, it was noted that Matsui, who had just been elected to Congress in 1978, was still a newcomer to national politics.)

Tateishi related how they went into the meeting with the Big Four with a couple of different concepts. One was the "bootstrap plan," an idea from the Seattle coalition, which was a check-off on the IRS 1040 form. The other idea was for legislation that asked for a direct-compensation bill.

"We would go to the hill and fight an honest fight, and if we died with it, we died — but at least it would be an honest fight," he said.

It was here where the politically savvy Inouye weighed in, with Tateishi quoting him as saying, "What you're trying to do is succeed."

The implication: Neither of these plans would work. It was a dose of political reality for the JACL representatives.

"If we didn't end up with monetary compensation in the pockets of everyone, that was failure," Tateishi said. "So, we adjusted the definition [of success] as we moved the campaign."

□□□

Out of that meeting came the suggestion by Inouye to "seek the formation of a federal commission whose job it would be to investigate the circumstances that led to the internment," Tateishi recalled.

Any conclusions and recommendations — be it for monetary compensation and, if so, the amount of any compensation, an apology or whatever — would be left up to the commission.

For the JACL reps, Tateishi said it was a course that "none of us wanted." Ikejiri, who served from 1978-84 as JACL's Washington Representative and was a former member of the Gardena City Council, said for many, a commission was "where you sent a good idea to die."

Later, when the commission was formed, the reaction was less than favorable.

"Everyone in the community was kind of upset with this whole concept of a commission because anyone who was interned during WWII knows it was wrong, that it was constitutionally incorrect to have it happen," Ikejiri said.

The wisdom of a commission to investigate the circumstances that led to mass violations of constitutional rights via mass evacuations and incarcerations was something that Shimomura clarified.

"Our constituents in JACL, they knew all about the internment, so why do you have to waste time figuring out if it was wrong or not?" he asked.

But that was not the case for people outside California.

"The problem wasn't that a lot of people were against it (redress)," Shimomura said. "They didn't even know what happened. I think the biggest problem was just getting the public educated on the issue."

For the National Redress Committee, a big problem was what they wanted to do was unprecedented.

"Keep in mind, there was no model we could work with because it was the only time in the history of the country that any group had attempted to seek redress from the United States Congress. Everybody said it was doomed to failure," Tateishi said.

□□□

To create the commission, both the Senate and the House would need to pass their own bills, after which a version that was acceptable to both bodies would need to be sent to President Carter.

Ikejiri remembered the following exchange from the meeting with the Big Four.

"Inouye said, 'Spark and I can get this past the Senate.' And he looks at Norm. 'What do you think, Norm?'"

"John and I talked about it at lunch today. I don't think Norm said anything," Ikejiri recalled, eliciting laughs from the audience.

As it would happen, on the Senate side, S.1647 passed unanimously (*Pacific Citizen*, May 30, 1980) — and thanks to Mineta's efforts, the House version of the bill to form a commission passed overwhelmingly, 279-109.

According to Ikejiri, Inouye sent a congratulatory note to Mineta that contained one word: "Formidable."

□□□

Getting to that unanimous vote on the Senate side, however, meant precluding any possibility that California's Sen. Hayakawa, who had already stated his opposition to redress, would derail the bill to form a commission.

According to Ikejiri, Matsunaga said that the Big Four should go to Hayakawa's office because it was vital for the bill's passage that there be no dissension among the three Nikkei senators.

It was a necessary break-in protocol that dictated that such a meeting to ask Hayakawa to support the commission bill take place in his office. Typically, such a meeting should take place in the office of the most senior member of Congress, meaning Inouye.

More important, however, was preventing "three Japanese Americans on the floor of the Senate arguing this matter," Ikejiri said. If that happened, the bill would go nowhere.

"A date was set, and we were going to go to Sen. Hayakawa's office. And for some reason, I knew Congressman Mineta, Congressman Matsui were going to be busy that day," Ikejiri said, again eliciting laughs from the audience. "And so, the meeting was starting at 1 o'clock in Sen. Hayakawa's office. Sparky shows up, his staff shows up. Inouye and his staff show up. I show up, and then we're waiting for Bob and Norm to come. I knew they weren't going to come."

"Sen. Inouye's staff person, on cue, left the room," Ikejiri continued. "This is before they had cellphones. She came back about five minutes later and says, 'I'm sorry, there's a vote on the House floor and Congressmen Mineta and Matsui have to vote and won't make this meeting."

"As soon as Sen. Inouye started speaking, Sen. Hayakawa's staff person, who happened to be from the Hoover Institute at Stanford, butted in and cut off Sen. Inouye, which was

a mistake.

"I don't know if you've ever seen Sen. Inouye get mad. He doesn't get angry. He just looks at you. And he looked at this staff person, and he knew he had to keep quiet."

"Despite the uproar by his own staff, Sen. Hayakawa agreed to go on. . . . I always thought that was a very interesting meeting," he concluded.

□□□

From Shimomura's perspective, after the commission bill passed, he began to notice a change in the Japanese American community's attitude toward a commission.

"Even those that were skeptical, I think they started to feel like, 'Maybe this wasn't our first choice, but now it's going to go into existence, so we're going to do everything we can to make the commission successful, to make the best case for redress. At that point, I started to see the community start to pull together," he said.

With the commission a reality and hearings in several cities imminent, the challenge was going to be to get Nisei — a verbally reticent part of the already verbally reticent "Greatest Generation" — to talk.

Wakabayashi, who has been the western regional director for the Community Relations Service of the Department of Justice for the last 20 years and before that the JACL national director for 10 years, despite being a self-described "outlier" in the organization's

structure who said he was only one of two JACLers to resign twice (and get rehired), credited the absent Hayashino for a scheme that ultimately proved effective — but showed how difficult it would be to get people to talk about their experiences.

The idea was to hold mock hearings in Northern California to prepare the Nisei to talk about what happened to them. They convened a group of JACL chapter presidents to give five minutes of testimony.

"We got Quentin Kopp, kind of a curmudgeonly member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, and a couple of judges to play commissioners, just to kind of do a walkthrough because there was not enough experience with commissions.

"So, we go and do this and the first chapter president goes up, and then he can't continue. He breaks down. Second guy. He breaks down. Third guy breaks down. Fourth guy. We didn't get one completed that day," Wakabayashi said. "No one finished."

Relating the conversation he had with his wife, who was a psychiatric social worker, about what he witnessed that day, Wakabayashi expressed his worry.

"Jean, I've not seen Niseis cry, I don't see them break down. It's not like they were sobbing, but no one could finish," Wakabayashi recalled. "And that scares me."

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Part II of this story will appear in the next issue of the *Pacific Citizen*.)

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A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

CALENDAR

NCWNP

'Hold These Truths' Performances
Sacramento, CA

Sept. 7; 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

California Museum Auditorium
1020 O St.

Price: Matinee free to the public (Q & A and Community Tabling to follow); Evening \$25 (Panel Discussion along with Ryun Yu)

The ABAS Law Foundation proudly presents Jeanne Sakata's "Hold These Truths," concert readings of a solo play inspired by the life of Gordon Hirabayashi, who fought the U.S. government's orders to forcibly remove and mass incarcerate all people of Japanese ancestry on the West Coast during the onset of World War II.

Info: For free tickets and paid tickets, visit <https://www.abaslawfoundation.org/speaker-series-truths-2/>. You must RSVP in advance to ensure adequate seating.

Midori Kai Arts & Crafts Boutique
Mountain View, CA

Sept. 14; 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Mountain View Buddhist Temple
Gym

575 N. Shoreline Blvd.

Price: Free

It's never too early to get a jump-start on holiday shopping! This event will feature many talented and creative artisans, including handcrafted jewelry, clothing, pottery, Asian foods, live entertainment and much more. All proceeds benefit nonprofit organizations, including the Asian Pacific Islander Leadership Institute, Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach, Japanese American Museum-San Jose and Yu Ai Kai-Keiro Kai Program.

Info: Visit www.midorikai.com or email Phyllis Osaki at posaki@gsmanagement.com or Marsha Baird at marshabaird@me.com.

Tule Lake, America's Worst
Concentration Camp

Sacramento, CA

Sept. 14; 1-3:30 p.m.

Buddhist Church of Sacramento
2401 Riverside Blvd.

Price: Free

This talk features historian Roger Daniels and Barbara Takei along with Suyama Project Coordinators Karen Umemoto, Martha Nakagawa and Tom Nguyen. Takei and Daniels will talk about the book they are writing about Tule Lake, and the event will share the importance of the UCLA Asian American Studies Center's Suyama Project, which aims to preserve the history of Japanese American resistance during WWII.

Info: For additional information, contact Barbara Takei at btakei@pobox.com or call (916) 427-1733.

COPANI XX 2019

San Francisco, CA

Sept. 20-22

West Bay Conference Center

1290 Fillmore St.

Buddhist Church of San Francisco
1881 Pine St.

Price: Registration prices vary; visit the website for more information.

Every two years, COPANI brings together international Nikkeis to celebrate Japanese heritage, obtain knowledge about the Japanese American experience outside the U.S., practice foreign languages, make new friends and exchange ideas and interact with peers in engaging workshops. This year's keynote speaker is Hon. Sec. Norman Mineta.

Info: Visit www.copani.org.

Chiura Obata: An American Modern
Sacramento, CA

Thru Sept. 25

Crocker Art Museum

216 O St.

Price: Free for members; Adults \$12; Seniors/Students/Military \$8; Youth: \$6

Born in Japan, Chiura Obata emigrated to the U.S. in 1903 and began a seven-decade career that saw him emerging as a leading figure in the Northern California art scene and as an influential educator. This exhibition offers more than 100 paintings, drawings, prints and personal items from the artist, many of which have never been on public display. They range from the artist's early formal studies as a student in Japan to the California landscapes for which he is most recognized.

Info: Visit www.crockerart.org.

'Alternative Facts: The Lies of
Executive Order 9066' Screening

Sacramento, CA

Sept. 29; 2 p.m.

California Secretary of State
Auditorium
1020 O St.

Don't miss this opportunity to see the Sacramento premiere of Jon Osaki's award-winning documentary film about the false information and political influences that led to the WWII incarceration of Japanese Americans. The screening will be followed by a panel discussion led by Osaki.

Info: Visit <https://www.alternativefacts9066.com/about> or contact JJML Productions at jjmlproductionsllc@gmail.com.

PSW

Second Annual Keiro No Hi Festival
Los Angeles, CA

Sept. 14; 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

JACCC Plaza

244 S. San Pedro St.

Price: Free, but prior RSVP is required to receive free bento lunch, birthday gift or transportation.

This year's festival celebrates the community's older adults, complete with musical performances, a series of health and aging-related workshops and resources to assist in the aging process. Complimentary transportation from numerous locations will be provided, as well as a bento lunch for attendees over age 60 and those

seniors celebrating birthdays in 2019 will also receive a special gift with prior registration.

Info: To register, visit www.keiro.org/knh or visit www.jaccc.org/keiro-no-hi-festival.

Aki Matsuri 2019 Japanese Fall Festival 'Longevity: The Way of the Turtle'

Albuquerque, NM

Sept. 22; 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

New Mexico Veterans Memorial

1100 Louisiana Blvd. S.E.

Price: Admission, \$5; Children

12 and under are free

This annual family oriented event, hosted by the New Mexico JACL chapter, will take attendees on a journey through the arts, music and crafts of the Japanese culture, complete with vendors, performers and interactive activities for all ages. Back by popular demand is a ramen-eating contest under the leadership of the youth group from the UNM Japanese Language Club. Tickets for admission can be purchased online at www.nmjacl.org.

Info: Visit <http://nmjacl.org> for more information and a program lineup.

Keiro Symposium: Aging Into Tomorrow

Long Beach, CA

Oct. 5; 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

The Westin Long Beach

333 E. Ocean Blvd.

Price: \$50 Registration

Join Keiro for a day of innovative, thought-provoking sessions and panels that explore what aging into tomorrow can mean for our community. Keynote speakers include Dr. Candice Hall of Next Advanced Medicine and Tracey Doi, CFO for Toyota Motor North America. Registration is required.

Info: Visit https://www.keiro.org/what-we-do/events/keiro-symposium?utm_source=eblast&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=19jul18-reg.

'At First Light: The Dawning of Asian Pacific America'

Los Angeles, CA

Thru Oct. 20

JANM

100 N. Central Ave.

This multimedia exhibition explores and celebrates the emergence of a politically defined Asian Pacific American consciousness and identity. A co-production between Visual Communications and JANM, this exhibition serves as a reminder — as well as a call to action — of what can be accomplished when people unite as a community with commitment.

Info: Visit www.janm.org.

PNW

Live Aloha Hawaiian Cultural Festival

Seattle, WA

Sept. 8; 11 a.m.-7 p.m.

Seattle Center

305 Harrison St.

Price: Visit website for information as it becomes available.

This family oriented event serves to promote, perpetuate and share the Hawaiian culture in the Pacific North-

west through music, food, arts and more. This year's event will feature a performance by singer Amy Hanaiali'i. There will also be a musubi-eating contest.

Info: Visit seattlelivealohafestival.com.

CCDC

Water Lantern Festival
Fresno, CA

Sept. 21; 4:30-8:30 p.m.

Woodward Park

7775 N. Friant Road

Price: \$30 until Aug. 30; \$35 until Sept. 20; \$40 on Sept. 21.

The Water Lantern Festival is an incredible experience where family, friends and strangers celebrate life together. With your event ticket, you'll be able to make your own unique water lantern, which will be launched during the evening event. It's a moment to mark peace, love, friendship and thankfulness to the community, the environment, to the world.

Info: Visit waterlanternfestival.com.

IDC

A Taste of Colorado
Denver, CO

Aug. 31-Sept. 1, 11 a.m.-10 p.m.;

Sept. 2, 11 a.m.-8 p.m.

Civic Center Park

E. Broadway Avenue and Colfax

Avenue

Price: Free

Produced by the Downtown Denver Partnership, this three-day event features worldly cuisine, music stages and shopping, as well as local artisans featured in the Arts & Crafts Marketplace and interactive activities and games for kids. This is the ultimate end-of-summer activity for the whole family to experience Colorado's diverse cultural traditions.

Info: Visit www.atasteofcolorado.com.

MDC

Minnesota's Secret Language
School Photo Display

St. Paul, MN

Thru Sept. 2

Historic Fort Snelling Visitor Center
200 Tower Ave.

Price: Free (admission fee is required to visit historic site, which includes a "mock up" Military Intelligence Service Language School classroom). Exhibit hours are Tues.-Fri. (10 a.m.-4 p.m.)/Sat./Sun. (10 a.m.-5 p.m.); closed on Mondays except Labor Day (10 a.m.-5 p.m.)

View photographs and narratives telling the remarkable story of the Japanese American men and women who trained as linguists at the MISLS at Camp Savage and Fort Snelling during World War II.

Info: Visit mnhs.org/event/7226.

Kizuki Chicago Japanese
Matsuri 2019

Chicago, IL

Sept. 21-22; 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

NEWCITY Plaza

1457 N. Halsted St.

Price: Free

This is the largest Asian/Japanese

festival in Chicago. The two-day event will feature a schedule packed with Japanese art, martial arts performances, fashion, vendors, kids activities, music and, of course, food! There will also be a Cosplay Contest as well. All of the festival foods will be prepared by chef Kevin Yu and his team from Kizuki Ramen & Izakaya and will feature takoyaki, chicken kaarage, potato croquette, okonomiyaki and many other classic festival foods. This is an event for the entire family to enjoy.

Info: Visit <https://www.chicagoasian-network.com/events/kizuki-chicago-japanese-matsuri-2019>.

EDC

RI Chinese Dragon Boat Races & Taiwan Day Festival

Pawtucket, RI

Sept. 7; 8 a.m.-4 p.m.

Festival Pier

Parking and Shuttle at 175 Main St.

This year's event will feature six new dragon boats, a gift from the Republic of China to Rhode Island. The Taiwan Day festival will include entertainment, cultural performances, arts and crafts tables and the popular dumpling eating contest.

Info: Visit <https://www.dragonboatri.com/site/>.

Royal Celebrations: Japanese
Prints and Postcards

Boston, MA

Thru Sept. 15

Museum of Fine Arts

465 Huntington Ave.

As Japan welcomes a new emperor, the MFA offers an exhibit of prints, postcards and illustrated books from its collections that depict important events in the Japanese imperial family from 1868-present.

Info: Visit <https://www.mfa.org/exhibitions/royal-celebrations>.

Yayoi Kusama: Love Is Calling
Boston, MA

Sept. 24-Feb. 7, 2021

Institute for Contemporary Art

25 Harbor Shore Dr.

An icon of contemporary art, Yayoi Kusama has interwoven ideas of pop art, minimalism and psychedelia throughout her work in paintings, performances, room-size presentations, outdoor sculptural installations, literary works and more during her influential career. This exhibit is the most immersive and kaleidoscopic of the artist's Infinity Mirror Rooms. For the 90-year-old artist, this exhibit represents the culmination of her artistic achievements.

Info: Visit <https://www.icaboston.org/exhibition/yayoi-kusama-love-calling>.

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FOR MORE INFO:
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MEMORIAM

Arita, Shizue, 90, Whittier, CA, April 29; she is survived by her son, Gary (Rosary) Arita; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 5.

Awaya, Yoshiye, 91, Los Angeles, CA, April 19; she is survived by her sons, Henry and Edward (Theresa Techy) Awaya; sisters, Helen Yamamura and Kazuko (Hiromi) Ueda; gc: 4.

Furumoto, Chiyoko Judy, 96, Yorba Linda, CA, April 21; she was predeceased by her husband, Takao Furumoto, and son Russell; she is survived by her son, Michael (Tina); she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2; ggc: 2.

Futami, Akimasa Terry, 85, Torrance, CA, March 18; he is survived by his wife, Reiko Futami; children, Carol Fujii and Norman (Jean) Futami; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 4.

Goto, Yoshio, 87, Los Angeles, CA, June 1; he was predeceased by his wife, Mina Goto; he is survived by his son, Robert Yoshio (Susan) Goto; siblings, Sumile Conrado and Renji Goto; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2.

Hamanaka, Hisao, 87, Los Angeles, CA, April 25; he was predeceased by his siblings, Richard, Ellen, Masao, Matsui and Tomeo Hamanaka; he is survived by his wife, Akiko; daughter, Arlene (Bradlee) Chang; sister, Yukie (Albert) Yamamoto; gc: 3.



Hayashida, Edythe, 96, Seattle, WA, June 11; during WWII, she was incarcerated at the Tule Lake WRA Center in CA; she was pre-

deceased by her husband, Calvin "Cal" Hayashida; siblings, Tsuyoshi (Misao) Korekiyo, Misao (George) Sumida and Yuki (George) Kido; she is survived by her children, Greg Hayashida, Debbie (Jim) Hettinga, Karen (Rich) Shimizu and Viki (Tom) Nakawatase; gc: 7; ggc: 5.

Hirose, Fumiko, 87, Monterey Park, CA, June 5; she is survived by her children, Glen (Crystal) Hirose, Nancy (Daryl) Shinyama and Tad (Pauline) Hirose; brothers-in-law, Mutsuo and Mutsumi Hirose; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 9.



Ishizaki, Norman, 79, Los Angeles, CA, May 18; during WWII, his family and he were incarcerated at the Tule Lake WRA Center in CA; he is survived by his wife, Velda; children, Lisa Wehrly and Craig Ishizaki; siblings, Nancy Kawata and David Ishizaki; gc: 3.

Ito, June, aka 'Kangiku Sanjo,' 79, Los Angeles, CA, April 28; during WWII, her family and she were incarcerated at the Manzanar WRA Center in CA; she is survived by her sister, Sally Mori (Tom); a niece and a nephew; 2 grandnieces and a grandnephew; she is also survived by many cousins.

Kinoshita, Joe Joeu, 57, San Juan Capistrano, CA, April 25; he is survived by his sisters, Sayoko (Tetsusen) Watari and Yukiko (Mikihiro) Ono; he is also survived by nephews and other relatives.

Koga, Peter Y., 71, Huntington Beach, CA, April 25; he is survived by his wife, Peggy Tomoko; son, David Takashi Koga; brothers, Dennis Koga, Gary Koga and Alan Koga; he is also survived by 2 nieces and other relatives.

Matsumura, Hirofumi, 87, Hacienda Heights, CA, June 1; he is survived by his wife, Yoshie; daughters, Megumi Matsumura and Karen Matsumura-Lem; siblings, Wakatsu Matsumura, Mieko Kosai and Yasuko Tabe; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.



Murata, Grace, 101, Ontario, OR, June 6; during WWII, she was incarcerated at the Poston WRA Center in AZ; she was predeceased by her husband, Tom; she is survived by her children, Edith (Mike) Fehling, Warren (Shirley) Murata and Russell (Mary Ann) Murata; gc: 5 ggc: 5.

Nakaoka, Tom, 93, Los Angeles, CA, April 21; he is survived by his wife, Mary Nakaoka.

Nakata, Norman Shigeo, 59, Moreno, CA, April 13; he is survived by his mother, Irene Nakata; sisters, Pamela (Dennis) Kikuchi and Lorraine Perluss; he is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Okazaki, Mitsuko Mitzi, 96, La Palma, CA, May 27; she is survived by her sons, Ken and Norman Okazaki; daughters-in-law, Gail and Suzy Okazaki; sister, Fusako Morita; gc: 4.

Omoto, Takeshi Arthur, 86, Los Angeles, CA, April 29; he is survived by his siblings, Sam Kuniso (Akiko) Omoto, Makoto (Ikuko) Omoto, Katsuko Kitadani and Toyoko (Fred) Murakami; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Sasada, Thelma, 95, Los Angeles, CA, May 29; she was predeceased by her husband, Jimmy; she is sur-

vived by her children, JoAnn Sasada, Lorraine (Gary) Wakayama, Sharon (Dennis) Araki and Brian (Dianne) Sasada; sister-in-law, Sue Hiraoka; gc: 7; ggc: 5.

Sasaki, Aurelia Apolonio, 55, Los Angeles, CA, April 22; she is survived by her husband, Carl; son, Russell Sasaki; 9 siblings; she is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Takahashi, Shizue, 88, Gardena, CA, April 29; she was predeceased by her husband, Donald; she is survived by her children, Gayle (Doyle) Saito and Neil Takahashi; gc: 1.

Takemoto, Yoshiko, 103, North Hills, CA, May 10; she was predeceased by her husband, Sadaichi; son, Richard Hideo Inouye; she is survived by her daughter, Susan (William) Davidson; brothers, Jack Yasuo and Robert Toshio Kubota; gc: 1; ggc: 1.

Takeshita, Lydia Miyako, 92, La Crescenta, CA, April 23; she was predeceased by her brother, Carl (Tayeko) Takeshita; she is survived by her brothers, Byron (Aileen) Takeshita and Roy (Arlene) Takeshita; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Tamayose, George, 102, El Monte, CA, May 22; he is survived by his daughters, Claire Hansen and Leslie (Martin) Ogino; gc: 4; ggc: 3.



Tanaka, Amy, 84, Torrance, CA, May 31; she was predeceased by her husband, Don; she is survived by her children, Glenn (Vanessa) and Bryan (Wendy); gc: 4.

Tanaka, Takiyo, 95, Kealakekua, HI, May 7.

Tanakatsubo, Stewart, 63, Lake Zurich, IL, May 29.



-Terao, Satoshi, 96, Spokane, WA, May 4; he was predeceased by his

siblings, Teruko, Toshie, Takako and Misao; daughter, Joanne Heyamoto; he is survived by his wife, Mary; daughter Emi; gc: 4; ggc: 3.

Toma, Keiko, 87, La Palma, CA, June 7; she is survived by her daughter, Emmy (Dennis) Nozawa; sisters, Chizuko Suehiro, Makiko (Peter) Ota and Sumi (Takashi) Horii; sisters-in-law, Meriko Toma and Mieko Toma; she is survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 1.

Utsumi, Donald Noboru, 89, San Leandro, CA, March 26; he is survived by his wife, Kathleen Mariko Honda Utsumi; children, Beverly (Stanley) Sugimoto, Lori (Warren) Louie and Donna (Glenn) Gebhardt; brother, Edward Utsumi; sister-in-law, Yasuko Utsumi; gc: 6; ggc: 1.

Uyeda, Robert, 78, Los Angeles, CA, May 13; during WWII, his family and he were incarcerated at the Poston WRA Center; he was predeceased by his father, Vincent Uyeda; sister, Tayeko Patterson; he is survived by his wife, Blossom; children, Andrea and Jarret Uyeda; mother, Catherine Uyeda; siblings, Yoshiko, Yutaka Uyeda and Alice (Stan) Doi; gc: 2.

Uyemura, Setsuka, 88, Gardena, CA, April 29; he is survived by his wife, Setsuko; sons, Kenneth (Diane), Walter and Glenn (Jacklyn) Uyemura; brother, Shigeka (Chiwako) Uyemura; gc: 1.

Watanabe, Mickie, 89, Anaheim, CA, June 3; she was predeceased by her husband, Takeshi; she is survived by her children, Susan (Steve) Vandewater, Herb (Alyce) Watanabe and Mike (Holly) Watanabe; sisters, Maye Chikasawa and Faye (Robert) Toma; gc: 3.

Watanabe, Shigeo, 90, Torrance, CA, April 26; he is survived by his wife, Grace; daughter, Amy Watanabe; sister-in-law, Terumi Watanabe; he is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives.



Watanabe, Sachiko Tashiro, 94, Bellevue, WA, June 10; she was predeceased by her husband, Taul; she is survived by her children, Brett, Guy, Laani and Leslie; sister, Arbutus "Cookie" Tashiro Atsumi; gc: 5.

Yanaga, Shizuko, 96, Long Beach, CA, May 9; she is survived by many nieces and nephews. ■

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PHOTOS: GARY OKAMOTO
AND GEORGE JOHNSTON**SAYONARA » continued from page 11**

The next two honorees were Misaka and Inouye, who each received President's Awards. Utah-born favorite son Misaka regained prominence following the eruption of Lin-sanity a few years ago when Jeremy Lin became a fleeting superstar on the NBA's New York Knicks.

Basketball historians noted that the first Asian American (and first non-white) professional baller was Misaka, who was drafted by the Knicks in 1947.

In his remarks, the 95-year-old, who was also known as a skilled bowler and golfer, also showed he might have yet another career as a comedian.

"They asked me if I wanted to say anything. I said 'No,'" said Misaka, which garnered laughs and applause.

The other President's Award recipient was native Los Angeleno Inouye, who over the years has been a community organizer, human rights activist and a leader for progressive educational reform, as well as been employed as a Spanish bilingual speech and language specialist.

Inouye gained national prominence, however, during the January 2019 teachers' strike as lead

negotiator in contract talks between United Teacher Los Angeles and the Los Angeles Unified School District. In a victory for teachers, the result was smaller class sizes, more nurses, counselors, librarians, mental health professionals and a pay increase.

In a stirring acceptance speech that showed her potential as a motivational speaker should her career in academia peter out, Inouye managed to combine the story of how the UTLA was able to claim victory — "We had 50, 60, 70, 80,000 people on the streets!" — with her family's and her own personal life stories and struggles.

JACL Executive Director David Inoue also recognized local committee co-chairs Lynne Aoyama, Sandra Grant, Sherrie Hayashi and Floyd Mori for their efforts in producing the Salt Lake City JACL Convention, which was followed by the sweepstakes drawing of 26 gift baskets, facilitated by National Youth



Honoree Wat Misaka was drafted by the Knicks in 1947.



Jeffrey Moy with honoree Arlene Inouye



Youth Chair Kota Mizutani



JACL National President Jeffrey Moy



David Inoue (at podium) acknowledged this year's convention committee.

Chair Kota Mizutani.

In one of a pair of announcements made during the evening's proceedings, it was teased by Ono that his co-emcee, Tomita, may appear in Season 3 of the YouTube streaming series "Cobra Kai," along with Yuji Okumoto, both of whom appeared in 1986's "The Karate Kid

Part 2."

The other announcement was the location of next year's JACL Convention, which is set for Las Vegas, Nev.

The evening's other speakers included LDS Elder Gary E. Stevenson, Denver-based Japan Consul-General Midori Takeuchi, David Chikahisa of Platinum Sponsor State Farm and Stephanie Sueoka of Tsuru for Solidarity. ■

CONSORTIUM » continued from page 11

That is why, Mori and Higuchi emphasized in their panel, that it is important to have allies on both sides of Congress and in government agencies. Minidoka's Russell recommended staying in contact with Interior and Park Service officials as budget decisions are being made.

During the consortium's February meeting in Washington, D.C., JACSC members met with dozens of members of Congress, including House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who urged them to not only seek funding from the current program but also push for its permanent reauthorization.

An NPS official at the JACL convention said the decisions about 2020 grants were due in the next week or so.

The Failed Auction

Allen Hendershot Eaton had gathered art from the various camps during the war and published a book publicizing it. After his death,

the art passed to his daughter, and after her death to a neighbor and then to his son, who tried to sell it via the Rago Auction House of New Jersey.

Heart Mountain officials offered \$50,000 for all of the artwork before it was set to go to auction, though the estimated value of all the pieces was only \$26,000. The high offer was made to test the good faith of the owner in a legal effort to exhaust all of the possible remedies, which made it ripe for legal action.

Liesinger, then the Heart Mountain executive director, and Doug Nelson, the board's vice chair, worked closely with Higuchi to raise the money for the art and legal action.

Once the higher offer was rejected, the Heart Mountain board believed the owner had not shown good faith. They hired a New Jersey law firm to file an injunction against the Rago

Auction House. That legal action led to the cancellation of the auction and the purchase of the artwork by the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles.

Ukai created a Facebook group that put pressure on the sellers, and actor George Takei participated in the protests.

The failed sale, as well as some hard feelings stirred by the wrangling over the art, led Heart Mountain officials to join with JANM President and CEO Ann Burroughs and the JACL to push for the creation of the JACSC consortium.

Stan Shikuma of the Seattle JACL chapter said earlier this year that the consortium's work was the closest collaboration between Japanese American groups since the push for redress for the World War II incarceration in the 1970s and '80s.

Kathy Masaoka of the Manzanar Committee echoed that comment during one of the JACSC panels at the JACL convention, saying it's essential that the groups maintain their current

unity to tell the story about the incarceration and to prevent it from happening again.

To sum up the panel, moderator and JACL Executive Director David Inoue said, "I hope you have all seen why JACL has taken such a role in this consortium. . . . It's important to remember where we came from but also where we go from here. What difference can we make in this country? What is our moral compass? What are we going to do to make this country better and make this organization better in our effort?"

Through the efforts of the JACS Consortium, solid progress has been made as a unifying body committed to working together.

"Advocating is very important. . . . We must be protective of other communities and use the experience of the Japanese Americans as a lesson in terms of what to do in the future. So, it's really an issue of maintaining our relevancy, but we are too small of a community to do it in silos, we have to do it together as a team," said Higuchi. ■

LEGACY » continued from page 12

to Congress and went on to serve as Cabinet Secretary of Commerce and Transportation to two sitting U.S. presidents; he also played a key role in the fight for redress.

"I've always felt that people had to be able

to tell your story so that people can relate to it," Mineta continued. "That's why what everyone's doing, telling their own stories, is really important because people can relate to that. Our storytelling is to try and prevent

something bad from happening to other people."

Ina, who has also produced two documentary films about the long-term impact of the Japanese American incarceration, spoke about her efforts to speak up on behalf of those who have no voices.

"When you are doing something for the common good, you are inspired to help and protect others," she said. "Our goal is to not just be our little group (Tsuru for Solidarity) showing up at these individual actions but to have a voice to call on all Japanese Americans across the country to join us in protest. . . . It's the perfect time."

Miura then went on to talk about finding that common ground today and the important role people everywhere

can play to make a statement and take action.

"We have to get people at the table where those decisions are being made to make sure it's not going the wrong way," said Mineta. ". . . I want all of you to pursue your career goals, but say, Mr. Mayor, Mr. Governor, Madame President, please appoint me."

In May 2020, Tsuru for Solidarity is taking 100,000 folded origami cranes to Washington, D.C., and taking meetings with legislators.

"Those people (Congress) work there for us. And the way we have our voice is to show up and do all levels of the work that we are talking about. Those people work for us," said Ina.

A solid sign JACL is making a difference today?

When Mineta asked the luncheon audience who has met their member in Congress to raise their hands, more than 50 percent firmly raised their hands up high for all to see. ■



PHOTOS: GEORGE JOHNSTON

Johnnie Giles of Comcast

2019 Legacy Grant recipients with co-chair Toshi Abe (right)