The chapter celebrates JACL’s 90th and its own 87th year as its members push forward stronger than ever.
Dear Editor,

To Jeffrey Moy, National President of the JACL
RE: National JACL Resolution of Apology to Tule Lake Resisters

On Aug. 3, 2019, the National Council of the Japanese American Citizens League adopted a resolution of apology “to those imprisoned in the Tule Lake Segregation Center for nonviolent acts of resistance and dissent, who suffered shame and stigma during and after the war due to the JACL’s attitudes and treatment toward individuals unfairly labeled ‘disloyal.’”

On behalf of the executive council of the Japanese American Veterans Association (JAVA), I am submitting this executive summary, with enclosure, to the National JACL registering JAVA’s objections to the National JACL resolution of apology.

At its Sept. 14 meeting, JAVA’s executive council approved the following objections to the National JACL’s resolution of apology to the Tule Lake resisters:

National JACL Resolution of Apology Is Vague and Overly Broad

Based on the Report of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians (AKA “Redress Commission Report”), the Tule Lake Segregation Center was dominated by a “strongly militant pro-Japan faction” composed of:

- Japanese aliens who refused to agree not to engage in any actions that would interfere with the United States’ war effort by answering “No” or refusing to answer Question 28 of the loyalty questionnaire;
- Japanese aliens who asked to be repatriated to Japan;
- Japanese Americans who renounced their U.S. citizenship and asked to be repatriated to Japan;
- Japanese Americans who refused to swear allegiance to the United States and forswear allegiance to the Emperor of Japan by answering “No” or refusing to answer Question 28;
- Japanese Americans who refused to serve in the United States military after receiving draft notices making this the second National JACL resolution of apology, first in 2000 and again in 2019, to this group;
- Those who had been denied leave clearance because of adverse evidence in their records; and
- Japanese aliens who the Department of Justice recommended for detention at the Tule Lake Segregation Center.

The National JACL resolution of apology is given to the above Tule Lake resisters who engaged in nonviolent acts of resistance and dissent. By excluding only those who engaged in violent acts of resistance and dissent, National JACL demonstrates a shallow commitment to civil rights by including within its resolution Tule Lake resisters who engaged in nonviolent acts of resistance and dissent such as coercive harassment, intimidation and threats of bodily harm against Japanese Americans who volunteered for U.S. military service and other internees who did not share the Tule Lake Resisters’ pro-Japan views.

The National JACL resolution of apology also fails to distinguish between the Tule Lake resisters who wanted Japan to win the war and those who believed in peaceful disobedience but did not hold pro-Japan views. The Redress Commission Report states that 31 percent of the Tule Lake Segregation Center population were of Japanese origin by answering “No” or refusing to answer Question 28.

For these reasons, the executive council of the Japanese American Veterans Association finds that the National JACL resolution of apology unfairly treats all the Tule Lake resisters as “disloyal.”

Sincerely,

Gerald Yamada
President, Japanese American Veterans Assn.
Enclosure
cc: David Inouye, JACL Executive Director

See ENCLOSURE on page 8
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he sponsored ad that popped up on my Facebook feed proclaimed, “China Threat Briefing” to promote the U.S. Chamber of Commerce’s (USCC) eighth annual Cybersecurity Summit.

Infiltration of the advertisement, the USCC session emphasized that those engaged in espionage are a small minority of Chinese researchers, and that it is not only China, but also Iran, Russia and North Korea that pose a threat. And yet, that advertisement is problematic.

Currently in Ohio, there is an ad campaign against a referendum campaign that makes specific claims that those who sign the petition will be giving their personal information to the Chinese government and that “China is quietly invading our energy grid and coming for our Ohio jobs.” The commentaries on the USCC and Ohio incite both leverage the fear of China in their messaging. Japanese Americans are no strangers to this type of messaging. The 1980s were ripe with talk of the threat of Japanese companies taking over. The American auto industry was threatened, and Japanese companies were buying up American properties at what they saw as bargains compared to land prices in Japan.

The result of the fear of Japanese economic dominance was the brutal killing of Vincent Chin, a Chinese American, mistaken for Japanese by unemployed auto workers. And, of course, the prewar caricatures of the Japanese led to the mass incarceration of West Coast Japanese and Japanese Americans.

As early as 1999, Taiwanese American scientist Wen Ho Lee was accused of leaking scientific information to China, only to have the government drop the charges in all but one charge of mishandling information.

In 2014, Sherry Chen was arrested on suspicion of spying, only to have the charges dropped half a year later. She has been fighting ever since to regain her job with the National Weather Service.

In the past year, there has been a surge in accusations of espionage by Chinese researchers in the U.S. In many cases, universities are taking action without any clear threat established by law enforcement because of scientists’ relations with China.

Ironically, the result of these Salem Witch trial pursuits of Chinese suspects is actually resulting in many of these researchers returning to China and most certainly performing research on behalf of the Chinese government, universities or businesses.

The result is a self-fulfilling prophecy that they are loyal to China, but only because we doubted their loyalty here. Again, this is a story Japanese Americans can relate to from our history.

We must push back when we see blatant racist appeals to fear that have no grounding in fact like the Ohio ads. These are the obvious places to push back. We also have to recognize the more subtle ways our perceptions are being shaped, such as the advertising for the USCC promotion of its event.

On its face, it was accurate, but it left out a lot of the rest of the story. We need balance. We can recognize the threats that the Chinese government poses without resorting to loyalty tests for Chinese and Chinese Americans who simply maintain ties to their home country.

David Inoue is executive director of the JACL. He is based in the organization’s Washington, D.C., office.

YOUTH PERSPECTIVE

JACL CONTINUES TO CHANGE OUR COUNTRY FOR THE BETTER

By Andrew Gruhn, JACL Greater Los Angeles Delegate

This year’s JACL National Convention in Salt Lake City was a wonderful way for me to learn more about processes associated with the maintenance of a national organization. While there, I was able to obtain a deeper understanding of the issues that the JACL currently faces and had many opportunities to meet many veteran members from all over the United States.

Hearing everyone’s perspectives during the National Council meetings was quite informative and gave me a glimpse of the discourse required to ensure that the JACL takes the right course of action when addressing the many issues that it faces.

Additionally, there were many interesting presentations and seminars that covered a wide variety of interesting topics such as tracing one’s own heritage and educational methods for teaching youth about the internment of Japanese Americans.

As a delegate for the Greater Los Angeles Chapter along with Kanji Sahara and Miyako Kadogawa, I was able to vote and speak on resolutions and amendments to the JACL’s Constitution. Having the opportunity to voice my opinions in front of the National Council inspired me to become more active within the JACL. It also made me realize the importance of youth involvement within this organization.

One thing that really stood out to me was the division that still exists between the JACL and those individuals who were unjustly incarcerated in Tule Lake. Resolution 3, which intended to apologize to the Tule Lake incarcerees on behalf of the JACL for discrimination based on a differing perspective on whether an individual decided to cooperate with or “resist” against the government based on the infamous questions 27 and 28 of the loyalty questionnaire. Even 76 years later, people on both sides are still passionate about this subject, and because of this, a schism still remains within the Japanese American community.

After lengthy debate, the National Council voted in favor of the apology. Even though we achieved a small victory, we cannot say that this issue is resolved. In order for us to put this issue to rest forever, we must continue to reconcile with those who may still harbor resentment toward our organization.

Only through resolving this issue can the JACL be strengthened as a civil rights organization by representing the united voice of all Japanese Americans and Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

Overview, the convention was a wonderful, educational and exciting experience. It highlighted all of the important work that the JACL does to change our country for the better. I am so grateful that I was able to attend the National Convention, and I thank the Greater Los Angeles Chapter for giving me this opportunity.

Andrew Gruhn was GLA JACL’s 2015 scholarship recipient. He graduated this past summer with a degree from the University of California, Riverside’s College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences. Gruhn is a GLA board member and was sponsored by GLA to the National Convention.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2019’S VERSION OF THE LOYALTY QUESTION

By David Inoue, JACL Executive Director

The P.C.’s Special 90th Anniversary Holiday Issue in December will celebrate YOU — JACL chapters and all of your accomplishments through the years.

We’d like to feature your chapter stories, history and members in this commemorative issue! Please contact Allison Haramoto at pc@pacificcitizen.org if you’d like to submit an article and pay tribute to JACL’s “Lasting Legacy.”
JACCC APPOINTS PATRICIA M. WYATT AS NEW PRESIDENT AND CEO

Following an extensive national search, the management and development executive assumed her position on Sept. 23.

LOS ANGELES — The board of directors of the Japanese American Cultural & Community Center announced on Sept. 23 that Patricia M. Wyatt has been named as the center’s new president and CEO, following an extensive national search. Wyatt assumed her new role on Sept. 23.

Wyatt brings more than 30 years of executive management and strategic development in both the nonprofit and for-profit sectors across a multitude of industries. Most recently, Wyatt was the founder and CEO of MayaCo & Associates, a brand and media consultancy focused on social impact.

“Pat’s personal connection to and interest in the mission of JACCC, along with her strong record of accomplishments as an experienced leader in the nonprofit, entertainment and creative spaces makes her the right person to continue the incredible momentum of the organization and drive JACCC into the future,” said Craig Tomiyoshi, chair of the board of directors. “We’re excited to have her onboard and look forward to introducing her to our members and supporters.”

In her role at JACCC, Wyatt will oversee the institution’s wide-ranging artistic, culinary and education programs, as well as manage a staff of 21 full-time employees, 12 part-time artists, contract/seasonal staff and 200 volunteers.

“The JACCC is poised to expand its cultural footprint and pride of place in the Japanese American community, and I’m ready to put all of my skills and experience in the corporate and nonprofit sectors to work on behalf of this world-class organization,” said Wyatt. “Joining the JACCC team is exciting for me as a professional, but it is also profoundly personal. As a bicultural child growing up in Kentucky, I had few opportunities to explore my Japanese heritage, yet as an adult, it has become my passion pursuing, making me a fully vested evangelist for JACCC and its many activities, experiences and services.”

Wyatt’s work for nonprofit organizations includes the Institute for the Future, Palo Alto, and the Koret Israel Economic Development Fund, Tel Aviv. She also has served as president of WorkingNation, a start-up, nonprofit media organization designed to galvanize Americans in finding a solution to the looming employability gap.

Prior to WorkingNation, Wyatt was president of Innovation: Africa, a global nonprofit that provides clean energy solutions to rural African communities. In addition, she held the position of chief development officer at ALSAC/St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, where she led a team of 550 individuals who together raised a record-setting $1 billion in one year.

Wyatt’s past corporate leadership experience includes president of the licensing and home entertainment companies at Twentieth Century Fox and executive vp of brand marketing at Mattel.

In addition, Wyatt has served on numerous boards, including Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals, where she was chair of the board of governors for two of the eight years of her tenure, as well as Machine Project, California/International Arts Foundation, Professional Advisory Panel of the School of Integrated Media at CalArts, Technical Advisory group at Pearson Education and Causemo, a mobile donation app and information technology systems service.

Founded in 1971, JACCC is one of the largest ethnic arts and cultural centers of its kind in the U.S. Serving as the hub for Japanese and Japanese American arts and culture, as well as a community gathering place for the diverse voices it inspires, JACCC connects community participants and creative professionals in Southern California and beyond.

CENSUS BUREAU URGES ASIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITIES TO SHAPE THEIR FUTURE

A new campaign is launched to ensure that Asian Americans respond and are counted in 2020.

SOUTH PASADENA, CALIF. — In preparation for the 2020 Census, the U.S. Census Bureau met with Asian American media outlets recently to emphasize the need for all Asian Americans to be accurately counted.

“The Census Bureau is focusing on outreach and communications to all communities, said Kim. “For the first time, more than 40 part-time and full-time staff will be on the road to answer questions and lend assistance to households from the 14 languages we support.”

“The 2020 Census is on track, and we are confident that operations and outreach efforts will reach all communities, including Asian Americans,” said Jennifer Kim, assistant division chief for content, translation, Puerto Rico and Island Areas Operations from the Census Bureau. “The Census Bureau is committed to Asian American communities.”

According to the 2020 Census Barriers, Attitudes and Motivations Survey, Asian Americans are the racial group with the least familiarity with the census and lowest intention to complete the form.

“The Census Bureau is focusing on outreach and communications to all communities,” said Kim. “For the first time, more than 40 part-time and full-time staff will be on the road to answer questions and lend assistance to households from the 14 languages we support.”

The “Shape Your Future. START HERE” platform arose from research conducted from different multicultural communities to help the Census Bureau reach limited-English-speaking households and teach them about the importance of the census.

“We believe that through the 2020 Census, Asian American communities have an opportunity to play an active role in shaping the future by being counted, and this platform will remind them of that opportunity,” said Wang.

KEY CENSUS FACTS

- Responding to the 2020 Census is a chance to shape your future.
- The 2020 Census will inform how billions of dollars of funding are allocated annually for critical public services.
- Census data gives local leaders vital information to make decisions about building community centers, opening businesses and planning for the future.
- The data is used to redraw district boundaries.
- The census is mandated in the U.S. Constitution, and your participation is a way for you to fulfill a civic duty. Completing the census is required by law.
- The U.S. Census Bureau will send every household instructions on how to fill out the 2020 Census.
- The Census Bureau will never ask for Social Security numbers, bank or credit card numbers, money or donations or anything related to political parties. The 2020 Census will not ask for your citizenship status.
- The census counts every resident of the U.S., including all children in a household, temporary residents and undocumented residents.
- The law requires the Census Bureau to keep your information confidential and use your response only to produce statistics. It cannot release any identifiable information about individuals, households or businesses, even to law enforcement agencies. All employees take a lifelong oath of confidentiality.
Reflections
Resilience, Remembrance, Resolve, Resistance … and Even Reconciliation?

By Laurie Shigekuni

My family has deep roots with the JACL. In fact, my great-grand uncle, Torn Okawara, was one of the founding members back in 1929. I had the privilege of attending my first JACL National Convention a couple of years ago when it was held in Washington, D.C. I accompanied my parents, Phil and Marion Shigekuni. My dad was then serving as JACL San Fernando Valley chapter president. The theme was “Resilience, Remembrance, Resolve.” In 2017, President Trump had recently been elected, and conference participants were voicing discontent about the anti-Muslim ban and other anti-immigrant policies. I was thinking during the conference that “Resilience” should have been one of the theme words.

Two years later, we are past the initial shock of the 2016 election. We have had time to analyze the new challenges our country faces. And some of us have begun to share our own families’ wartime traumas in the context of current injustices.

Starting when I was quite young, I used to wonder how it could be possible to violate the rights of N Nikkei on the West Coast, when two-thirds of us were U.S. citizens. I wondered what steps were taken at the time to try to prevent this tragedy from occurring. If I reflected about the U.S. government’s treatment of my kinpeople when I was reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, tears would come to my eyes. I would wonder, “How could this happen to U.S. citizens?” “How could this huge group of people just get on trains and leave?” “Who was there to protest?”

These days, I move in mostly non-Japanese American circles. I am heartened by the fact that my non-JA friends are seeing the ways our community is standing up for the newcomers facing dire circumstances as they try to seek refuge in our country.

In 2016, I gained a deeper awareness of the divide in our community at the Tule Lake Pilgrimage, which I attended with my parents; my neighbor, Amy Kiyota Jong (the niece of the late Dr. Minoru Kiyota); and Amy’s children, Steven and Kenneth Jong. My law practice associate, Martha Bridegam, who has a longstanding research interest in Tule Lake, was also with us. We met up with friends from the San Fernando Valley JACL — Nancy Oda, Norma Jean Yamashita and Wendy Hirota.

At the pilgrimage, I learned that four-fifths of the people in Tule Lake were Buddhist. Since the Justice Department rounded up the Buddhist people in Tule Lake — they were moved by Hiroshi’s testimony at the end of the play about his lack of Japanese American friends when he attended UCLA. Elsewhere, Kashiwagi has written that he did not seek out Japanese American friends when he attended UCLA because he felt alienated from the community. He wore a “pork-pie” hat that he had received as a gift from his father in order to look odd on purpose. He did not want to be approached by other Niseis and have to answer the inevitable question of, “Which camp did you go to?”

The pain of isolation and ostracism stings. I have enjoyed being a part of the JA community in many different ways. I have enjoyed becoming friends with my parents’ friends through the JACL and have enjoyed the tight-knit camaraderie forged from common experiences of suffering. I think it is incredibly sad that Hiroshi and other “No-No Boys” couldn’t fully be a part of this.

There were many reasons for “No-No” decisions, including Isseis’ fear of becoming stateless, U.S. born children’s fear of separation from noncitizen parents, lack of information about what the loyalty questions were meant to ask and refusal of military service that were founded on constitutional principle or plain indignation rather than any “disloyalty” to the United States.

We can all remember what it’s like to be young, grappling with our identity. Of course, people with a greater affinity for Japan, like the Isseis and Kibei, were angered because of the way they were treated and the way all things Japanese were being brushed. We really can’t blame the ones who got so fed up that they decided to go to Japan or renounce their U.S. citizenship.

The fact is, we were all victims. The government promulgated a “military necessity” argument for removing us from the West Coast even though there was not a single act of espionage. For reasons that had more to do with California agribusiness than real security, I think, the Japanese on the West Coast were treated as scapegoats, and we suffered a multitude of hardships.

Our incarceration left a pallor on the soul of our community. Dr. Satsuki Ina has helped us to identify that we as a group have been defined by silence.

Hiroshi Kashiwagi Jr. has said that he always had a reluctance to raise his hand in class. I’ve felt the same way. For anybody who has been with groups of Japanese Americans, I’m sure you’ve observed a reticence to offer an opinion. Pastor Saburo Masada explained to me when we were at the Tule Lake Pilgrimage together that Japanese Americans tend to be conflict-averse.

The other way we have suffered is that love of Japanese identity was not strongly encouraged. Since people were ashamed to be Japanese and, like my Dad, wanted to distance themselves from “the enemy,” many people in our community did not retain the Japanese language nor Japanese culture.

Japanese culture is closely tied with Buddhist and Shinto traditions, and for families (like mine) who followed a Christian pathway, our connection to Japanese culture was diminished. I think this is a shame — it means that we have missed out on a lot of cultural richness and awareness of where we come from.

I had the chance to live in Japan for a few months after I graduated from college, and it was a life-changing experience for me. I wanted to learn to speak with my Baachan (who came from Hiroshima when she was 18 years old), and I was able to learn enough to speak with her. The Japanese part of me was awakened, and I have never been the same.

At times when I have felt fed up with a stale situation or a deadlock, new activities have helped to jolt me out of a bad spot. My law office associates and I are preparing to found a new nonprofit in part because we want to offer fresh energy to civil rights education work. We would like to call it Kita Kapwa. Kito means “kite” in Japanese and symbolizes our hope for the future. Kapwa is short for the Tagalog word Pakikipagkapwa, which means “We are all in this together.”

One of our projects is to recycle a “sound booth” — a small portable room — that Hiroshi Kashiwagi used as his writing studio for many years. We would like to use QR codes and art to make it a traveling exhibit about courage and resistance in the face of injustice. We also plan on using Japanese fabric to decorate the booth.

If you have some fabric you would like to have incorporated into a quilt border, please let me know. There will be other ways you can help. Our website should be operational soon — www.kitakapwa.org.

So, can we take a deep breath? Can we start the next 90 years of JACL history with fresh thinking and new energy to engage in the civil rights battles at hand?

I believe wounds will heal, and we will keep finding new ways to tell our stories and be able to be an encouragement to our fractured nation. Editorial assistance from Martha Bridegam is gratefully acknowledged.

Laurie Shigekuni and Martha Bridegam are attorneys at Laurie Shigekuni & Associates, a firm that practices estate planning, trust administration, probate and Medi-Cal long-term care planning. Their contact information is www.calestateplanning.com, contact@calestateplanning.com, (415) 584-4550, (800) 417-5250. The views expressed in the preceding commentary are not those of the Pacific Citizen.
The San Diego JACL chapter was awarded an official proclamation by San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer.

Commemorative medallions were presented to past presidents of the San Diego JACL.

JACL LAUDS TAKEI — AND VICE VERSA — AT SAN DIEGO BANQUET

The chapter also celebrates JACL’s 90th anniversary.

By P.C. Staff

On the evening that the San Diego chapter of the JACL celebrated both its 87th year and the 90th anniversary of the national organization of which it is a part, it was fitting that 10-year-old Maiya Ito led the 220 guests in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and 99-year-old 442nd Regimental Combat Team veteran Mas Tsuida lent his presence at the proceedings.

Adding a dash of Hollywood glamour left a serious undertone was showbiz icon and Lifetime JACL Member George Takei, who was on hand to give the keynote speech at the Sept. 14 event at the Town & Country San Diego Convention Center, sign copies of his new graphic memoir, “They Called Us Enemy,” and celebrate the 11th anniversary that very night of his marriage to his husband, Brad Takei.

Adding to the night’s allure were mistress of ceremonies Tamlyn Tomita and producer, Lane Nishikawa, who shared with the audience a short video about the San Diego Chapter and later in the program, clips from his upcoming documentary about the JACL titled “League of Dreams.”

In a nod to the past, the event recognized belatedly with us so much responsibility,” he said. “We remember that almost no one stood up for us during the war. Not the ADL, the ACLU, the NAACP. What we learned from that failure of others to stand up for us was that we need to stand up for others.”

In a nod to the future, meantime, the following youthful scholarship recipients were recognized: Emily Otsuka (freshman scholarship awardee, National JACL Freshman Scholarship awardee), Brad Yasukochi (freshman scholarship awardee, National JACL Freshman Scholarship awardee) and Breven Honda (continuing education scholarship awardee) and Aileen Yagi and James Ozaki, who each were awarded freshman scholarships.

There was also a “make good” moment for San Diego JACL chapter member Denis Otsuji, president of the San Diego Japanese Friendship Society of San Diego. Born at Colorado’s Camp Amache (Granada War Relocation Authority Center), Otsuji was recognized for sale in the lobby — from ITVS or the Independent Television Service, which funds documentaries that appear on PBS.

During Nishikawa’s conversation with the ITVS rep who broke the bad news to him,

Nishikawa said it hit him later that with the 90th anniversary of the JACL coming up, a documentary on the JACL would make for great subject matter, and he started recording interviews for this new documentary two years ago at the National JACL. He alluded to the clip of “League of Dreams” that he showed at last year’s San Diego JACL gala to the clip of “League of Dreams” that he showed at last year’s San Diego JACL gala.

“I was a member of the Wilshire Chapter in Los Angeles. I also served as a president there,” he said, noting that the chapter disbanded after there was a meeting where only five members showed up. “So, it’s wonderful to see this vibrant, alive, thriving JACL chapter getting enormous support from all of you.”

One of George Takei’s current projects is the graphic memoir “They Called Us Enemy,” which reached No. 2 on the New York Times best-seller list after being published in July. “I told the same story in 1994 as part of my autobiography,” George Takei told the audience, referring to “To The Stars: The Autobiography of George Takei, ‘Star Trek’s’ Mr. Sulu.” “But this one I tell the whole story as a comic strip because as a teenager, I was a voracious comic strip reader…” This book is targeting the young readers, the preteens, the young adults because they’re going to be the voters of tomorrow.

“I want the future of America to know this chapter of American history, this Japanese American chapter of American history, so that the kind of outrage that is happening now on the southern border, a new grotesque low, will hopefully never again happen in America, not with the future in the hands of those who know the full American story,” he concluded.

After the dinner ceremonies ended, George Takei signed copies of the book, with proceeds of the sales going to the San Diego JACL. Before that, however, during the course of the evening, Guillermo Castillo, an intern serving the mayor’s office, presented proclamations to both JACL and George Takei from San Diego Mayor Kevin Faulconer. In his presentation to Inoue, he said, “I would like to take the time to recognize the National Japanese American Citizens League for its tremendous dedication.”

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PAST PRESIDENTS OF THE SAN DIEGO JACL

- Hanako Moriyama (Provisional)
- George Obayashi (1933)
- Frank Otsuka (1934 & 1942)
- George Ohashi (1935-37 & 1939)
- Isamu Fujita (1938 & 1940)
- Fred Katsumata (1941)
- Dr. George Harra (1946-47, 1949-50)
- Minoru Nakamoto (1948)
- Masami Honda (1951)
- Moto Asakawa (1952 & 1958)
- Paul Hoshi (1953)
- Hiomi Nakamura (1954)
- George Kodama (1955)
- Dr. Tad Imoto (1956)
- Bert Tanaka (1957)
- George Muto (1959)
- Hedi Takeshita (1960)
- Jack Matsueda (1961)
- Harry Kawamoto (1962)
- Masato Asakawa (1963)
- Joe Miyoshi (1964)
- Tom Yanagihara (1965)
- Abe Mukai (1966)
- Masaaki Hironaka (1967, 1976-85)
- Isao Horiye (1968)
- Tom Uda (1969)
- Don Estes (1970 & 1972)
- Vernon Yoshioka (1973-75, 1986-87)
- Carol Kawamoto (1988-90, 2000-02)
- Joseph Horiye (1997-99)
- Miyo Ellen Reff (2000-02)
- Michael Kurima (2014-Present)
ENCLOSEMENT » continued from page 2

National JACL Resolution of Apology Is a Betrayal of American Values

The Japanese American men and women who served in the U.S. military during World War II suffered in equal measure with the Japanese Americans who served during WWII. They died fighting for America’s freedoms. They died with honor.

As a national veterans service organization and as the largest Japanese American veterans organization, the Japanese American Veterans Assn. condemns the National JACL resolution of apology that authorized the $50 million grant program to fund the preservation of confinement sites, as well as the Japanese Veterans National Monument in Washington, D.C., as then-California Attorney General Earl Warren, was the result of “prejudice, war hysteria and the lack of political leadership”; the Japanese Americans who served in the U.S. military during WWII, served their country and its ideals and demonstrate loyalty as their way to fight prejudice at home. The executive council of the Japanese American Veterans Assn. condemns the National JACL resolution of apology to the Tule Lake resisters as a betrayal of the American values embraced by the Japanese Americans who served in the Japanese American combat unit. The idea of a segregated combat unit was originally rejected by the military leadership during the occupation and restoration of Japan after the war ended. The 100th Infantry Battalion/442nd RCT was created, Masaoka was the first to volunteer. Because of his role in getting the 442nd RCT authorized, he was assigned to the public relations staff of the 442nd RCT. Masaoka is credited with creating the high praise that the 442nd received in the American press during WWII.

The opportunity for the Japanese Americans who served in the U.S. military during WWII to forge a legacy of valor and honor was created by JACL. During WWII, the JACL actively promoted serving in the U.S. military as a way to show loyalty, so there is a direct link between the WWII JACL and the legacy created by the Japanese Americans who served.

The National JACL resolution of apology disavows that link. The JACL resolution of apology reverses the position of the WWII JACL in that it is now supporting the Tule Lake resisters’ acts of resistance and dissent as the way the community should have shown their loyalty rather than serving in the U.S. military. Of course, the National JACL resolution of apology ignores the fact that the acts of resistance and dissent were in support of the resisters’ pro-Japan views. As a national veterans service organization dedicated to preserving the legacy of the Japanese Americans who served in the U.S. military during WWII, JAPA must raise its voice on behalf of those Japanese American soldiers by defending their choice as to how they showed their loyalty.

The valor and loyalty shown by the Japanese Americans who served in the U.S. military during WWII has greatly benefited the Japanese American community in the following ways:

• Cited by President Ronald Reagan for his decision not to veto, but to sign, HR 442 resulting in the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 (aka “Redress Legislation”) authorizing the payment of the Tule Lake resisters, the right to become naturalized U.S. citizens; the pivotal factor that convinced Congress to end its long-held opposition toward Hawaii’s statehood petition resulting in Hawaii becoming the 50th State; the Japanese Americans who served in the U.S. military during WWII.

• The 100th Infantry Battalion/442nd RCT and the 442nd RCT were awarded seven Presidential Unit Citations, 21 Medals of Honor, 29 Distinguished Service Crosses and countless other medals including over 4,000 Purple Hearts.

• The 100th Infantry Battalion/442nd RCT in 2012 were made chevaliers of the French Légion d’Honneur for their actions contributing to the liberation of France and their heroic rescue of the “Lost Battalion” during WWII.

• Approximately 3,000 Japanese American veterans who served in the U.S. military during WWII are alive today as a direct result of their actions, beliefs and decisions, which were antithetical to the actions, beliefs and decisions made by the 95 percent of Japanese American adults who answered “Yes” to Question 28 and by the Japanese Americans who served in the U.S. military during WWII.

• Mike Masaoka was JACL Secretary during WWII and as then-California Attorney General Earl Warren was the result of “prejudice, war hysteria and the lack of political leadership”.

• The Japanese Americans who served in the U.S. military during WWII has greatly benefited all those in the Japanese American community including the Tule Lake resisters.

• The Japanese Americans who served in the MIS as Japanese linguists in the Pacific war theater are credited with shortening the war with Japan by two years, serving as interpreters during war crimes trials to ensure fair hearings, and making significant contributions to transitioning Japan to a democratic government during the occupation and restoration of Japan after the war ended.

• The 1399th Engineering Construction Battalion, composed of all Japanese Americans, served in Hawaii during WWII to rebuild Pearl Harbor and completed 54 construction projects that were critical to the defense of the Islands.

• Over 300 Japanese American women served in the U.S. military during WWII.

• The Japanese Americans who served in the U.S. military during WWII followed advice given to them by their fathers: “Do not dishonor your country, community or the family and, if you are to die, die with honor.” Almost 800 Japanese Americans who served in the U.S. military were killed in action during World War II. They died with honor.

• On July 15, 1946, President Harry Truman reviewed the returning 442nd RCT at the White House Eclipse and praised their battlefield accomplishments by saying, “You fought the enemy abroad, and you fought prejudice at home, and you won. Keep up that fight, and we will continue to win,” thereby affirming the decision made by the Japanese American soldiers to serve their country and its ideals and demonstrate loyalty as their way to fight prejudice at home.

• The Japanese Americans who served in the U.S. military during WWII to forge a legacy of valor and honor was created by JACL. During WWII, the JACL actively promoted serving in the U.S. military as a way to show loyalty, so there is a direct link between the WWII JACL and the legacy created by the Japanese Americans who served.

• The National JACL resolution of apology disavows that link. The JACL resolution of apology reverses the position of the WWII JACL in that it is now supporting the Tule Lake resisters’ acts of resistance and dissent as the way the community should have shown their loyalty rather than serving in the U.S. military. Of course, the National JACL resolution of apology ignores the fact that the acts of resistance and dissent were in support of the resisters’ pro-Japan views. As a national veterans service organization dedicated to preserving the legacy of the Japanese Americans who served in the U.S. military during WWII, JAPA must raise its voice on behalf of those Japanese American soldiers by defending their choice as to how they showed their loyalty.

The valor and loyalty shown by the Japanese Americans who served in the U.S. military during WWII has greatly benefited the Japanese American community in the following ways:

National JACL Resolution of Apology Demeans the Legacy of the Japanese Americans Who Served During WWII

During WWII, most Americans considered all persons of Japanese ancestry to be “disloyal” based solely on ethnicity. The WWII JACL leaders worked to find ways to prove that Japanese Americans were “loyal” and could be trusted. The JACL advocated to have the U.S. Army create a segregated all-Japanese American combat unit. The idea of a segregated combat unit was originally rejected by Gen. Eisenhower. But JACL persisted. By having a segregated combat unit, JACL’s hope was that its military successes would convince the American public that Japanese Americans were loyal.

By having a segregated combat unit, JACL’s hope was that its military successes would convince the American public that Japanese Americans were loyal.

• Cited by the sponsors of legislation that passed the Walter-McCarran Immigration and Naturalization Act, giving the first generation of persons of Japanese ancestry, including the Tule Lake resisters, the right to become naturalized U.S. citizens;

• Cited by the sponsors of legislation that authorized the building of the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism in World War II, sited within view of the Capitol, Washington, D.C.;

• Cited by the sponsors of legislation that authorized the $50 million grant program to fund the preservation of confinement sites, as well as the Japanese Veterans National Monument in Washington, D.C., as then-California Attorney General Earl Warren, was the result of “prejudice, war hysteria and the lack of political leadership”;

• Cited by the sponsors of legislation that awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in November 2011 to the soldiers who served in the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd RCT and Military Intelligence Service during WWII.

The executive council of the Japanese American Veterans Assn. denounces the National JACL resolution of apology to the Tule Lake resisters as a shameful and unwarranted demeaning of the legacy forged by the valor and loyalty of the Japanese Americans who served in the U.S. military during WWII, while at the same time, National JACL, its chapters and members, and the Japanese American community at large, including the Tule Lake resisters, have benefited and will continue to benefit from that legacy.
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS CAN HELP GROW THE JACL MEMBERSHIP

By S. Floyd Mori, Mount Olympus JACL Chapter Membership Chair

Congratulations to the outstanding students who were recently announced as being awarded scholarships from the National JACL. You are to be commended for your past achievements and your efforts to further your education. We hope you will become some of the future leaders of the JACL.

The scholarship applicants were required to write an essay on the following topic provided by the JACL National Youth/Student Council: “The JACL strives to stand in solidarity with other entities and individuals advocating for marginalized communities. Pick an organization that JACL could partner with and detail, in whatever framework you see fit, what that collaboration might look like. What might be the benefits and challenges of this collaboration?”

Some of the organizations the students recommended that the JACL partner with are the Boy Scouts of America, Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity or ImmHumanIntegrity, F-SEI, Muslim Community and American Muslim Organizations such as CAIR, Refugee Woman’s Alliance, Days for Girls International, INCIGHT, Colorado Asian/Pacific Islander Leadership Conference, NAACP, Pennies for the Planet, Special Olympics, EastWest Players, Japantown Communities and Japanese American Museums, organizations that provide community services for recently arrived immigrants, Intergenerational collaboration, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), Japanese American small business owners, LatinX communities, Hawaiian Legal Corporation, American Film Institute, Center for Asian American Media (CAAM), youth organizations, and tribal communities.

Cameron Sueoka mentioned the Leadership Conference for Civil and Human Rights (LCCR) and the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA), as well as the need to continue with the coalitions working on civil rights for all. The National JACL was one of the founding organizations for LCCR and is active in NCAPA along with working with other groups on common goals.

All of the organizations and groups recommended by the students are worthy of collaboration with the JACL. While the National JACL and local chapters of the JACL currently work with some of these organizations, it would be possible for chapters to work with groups in their own communities to provide service or fellowship with others with similar interests. The students who recommended the various groups could take a leadership role in making collaborations happen.

The Issei generation, the first generation of immigrants to the United States from Japan, placed a high value on education. The Isseis’ were not from the upper class in Japan, but those who came first to the United States were generally laborers trying to improve their lives by coming to the “Land of Opportunity,” where they could earn money and get to a better situation in their lives. Although most of them were not well educated themselves, they encouraged their children and grandchildren to pursue higher education and college degrees. These were likely the great-grandparents of our scholarship recipients. They would be proud of all our JACL students and youth.

Involvement with other groups can help our membership numbers as the JACL needs to work on increasing membership in order to continue as a viable civil rights organization. Decades ago, Mike Masaoka, an early leader in the JACL, envisioned the JACL membership growing to more than 50,000.

We have a long way to go. The potential is there if we work hard on membership by finding people who are interested in the goals of the JACL. Everyone has friends and family who could benefit by joining the JACL. Students and all members of the JACL can help to build up membership. Scholarship recipients are a good group to begin to work more diligently in helping the JACL to increase membership. Chapters are asked to seek out former JACL scholarship recipients and invite them to renew their memberships if they are not currently members. These outstanding young people are the future of the JACL.

George and Sakaye Aratani 2019-20 CARE Award Applications Now Open

The University of California, Los Angeles’ Asian American Studies Center is pleased to announce that the 2019-20 Aratani CARE Award applications will be accepted until Dec. 3 at 5 p.m. Awards will be announced in January 2020.

The George and Sakaye Aratani “Community Advancement Research Endowment,” or Aratani CARE Awards, are given to projects that will benefit and advance the Japanese American community. Projects that strengthen ties between the Japanese American community and UCLA students, staff and faculty will receive particular consideration. Award recipients must list and acknowledge UCLA’s Asian American Studies Center and the Aratani CARE Award as co-sponsors on all PR and programs.

Nonprofit organizations and qualified individuals are invited to apply for awards that generally range from, but are not limited to, $1,000-$5,000. Recent past awardees include UCLA’s Nikkei Student Union; Asian Americans Advancing Justice; Gardena Pioneer Project; Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute; Grateful Crane Ensemble; Little Tokyo Historical Society; Little Tokyo Service Center; Kizuna; Japanese Community Youth Council; Media Bridges; Washizu Films; the Nichi Bei Foundation; and Vigilant Love.

Information about funding and how to apply is available at the Aratani CARE website (http://www.arataniicare.org/).

Specific questions about the Aratani CARE Award that are not covered on the website may be sent to the Aratani CARE Team’s e-mail address at aratanicare@aasc.ucla.edu.

‘HOLD THESE TRUTHS’ TO MAKE ITS INTERNATIONAL DEBUT

The acclaimed play is making its debut in Vancouver, B.C.

Compelling, powerful and undeniably moving, Jeannie Sakata’s “Hold These Truths” is a story that stands the test of time. This critically acclaimed play stars Joel de la Fuente (Amazon’s “The Man in the High Castle”) as Gordon Hirabayashi, a U.S. Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient who fought against the forcible removal and mass incarceration of people of Japanese ancestry in America during World War II.

Hirabayashi’s journey, from his time as a young man fighting injustice in America to his final days as an educator and activist in Canada, demonstrates his passion and hunger for freedom, civil and human rights. It is an inspiring quest of what one can do to fight inequality, a tenacious reminder of history and a reflection of how we, too, can change the future if we hold on to these truths.

“Hold These Truths” is making its international debut at the Cultch Historic Theatre in Vancouver, B.C., Canada, under the direction of Lisa Rothe after a celebrated U.S. tour, the latest leg having just concluded in late September at the Barrington Stage Company in Pittsfield, Mass., in a back-by-demand run. De la Fuente, in addition to his role in “The Man in the High Castle,” has performed in theaters all over the world as both an avid classical theater actor and developer of new work. He is an alumnus of Brown University and the Graduate Acting Program at New York University.

All boxoffice proceeds from the Vancouver performance will be donated to the Nikkei National Museum and Cultural Centre, the University of British Columbia’s Asian Canadian and Asian Migration Studies program and the Kokoro Dance Theatre Society.

For ticket information, please visit https://tickets.thecultch.com/Online/default.aspx?doWork=Wscotent::loadArticle=Load&Dparam::WScontent::loadArticle::article_id=7529175E-099D-4906-8F4C-0E251ECA3992.
Akiyama, Takehiro, 77, Monterey Park, CA, July 24; he is survived by his wife, Noriko; sons, Glen and Kevin Akiyama; brother, Shohei (Katsuko) Akiyama; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Doi, Sumiko, 83, Los Angeles, CA, Sept. 18; she is survived by her children, Kevin (Dorene) and Karen Cuadra; siblings, Shizuko Nakasone, Atsuko Craig and Hideo Hirata; gc: 5.

Hamada, Chiyeko, 95, Monterey Park, CA, Aug. 31; she was predeceased by her husband, George Akira; she is survived by her children, James (Lynnette), Reiko (Vance) Ik-kanda and Diane Wright; she is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 5; ggc: 1.

Hamashita, Arlene, 89, Los Angeles, CA, June 27; she is survived by her sons, Glenn, Randy (Pam) and Gerry Hamashita; siblings, Evelyn Yamamoto; gc: 5; ggc: 4.

Ichikawa, Sandra, 75, Montebello, CA, July 19.

Kashino-Takasaki, Louise, 93, Seattle, WA, Aug. 20; she was predeceased by her first husband, Shiro Kashino; his second husband, Jiro Takasaki and ggc: 3.

Kumagi, Sumie, 97, Torrance, CA, June 29; she was predeceased by her family and she were initially incarcerated at the Puyallup Fairgrounds before being transferred to the Minidoka WRA Center ID; she was predeceased by her husband; George Tadashi Kumagai; his mother; siblings, Judy, Jayne (Dean), Ronald (Sharon), Janine (Keith) and Jill; gc: 2.

Lock, Yet, 83, Los Angeles, CA, Sept. 7.

Mashita, Stanley Masami, 85, Huntington Beach, CA, Sept. 20; he is survived by his wife, MaryLou; sons, Daryl (Karen) and Chad; sister, Gladys; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 5.

Matsuhiro, Richard, 63, Stockton, CA, Sept. 18; he was predeceased by his father, sister, Joyce, and brother, Robert; he is survived by his wife, Prescilla (Pedrogosa) Matsuhiro; children, Kevin, Noriko and Tomiko; his mother; siblings, Judy, Jayne (Dean), Ronald (Sharon), Janine (Keith) and Jill; gc: 2.

Murata, Sachi, 92, Fruitland, ID, Sept. 7; she is survived by her husband, Tom; children, Apryl Davenport (Jim), Debra Ujiiye (Dennis), Kathi Murata, Shelley Howarth and Thomas Murata (Jennie); sister, Sada Honda; sister-in-law, Andie Murata; gc: 4; ggc: 3.

Nakamura, Yoshiko, 99, Los Angeles, CA, Aug. 27; she was predeceased by her husband; Yoshio; she is survived by her daughters, Reiko Ogawa, Kyoko (Gene) Chikami and Emiko Takeda; gc: 5; ggc: 4.

Oshiro, Frederic Gene, 75, Honolulu, HI, Oct. 4.

Pugh, Yuriro, 90, West Haven, UT, Sept. 23; she was predeceased by her husband, Willard; she is survived by her daughters, Grace, Janet and Audrey; gc: 2; ggc: 1.

Supsic, Takeko, 86, Bonita, CA, Sept. 22; she was predeceased by her husband, Francis, and one of her children; she is survived by her children, Kay McAteer and Tomy Supsic.

Takaki, Rose, 91, Waikiki, HI, Sept. 5.

Yamamoto, Okuni Helen, 101, Torrance, CA, Aug. 25; she was predeceased by her husband, George “Jalage” Shigeo Yamamoto; she is survived by her children, Patricia (Fred) Nakata, JeAnne (Robert) Martin, Dr. Mark (Leta) Yamamoto, Beatrice (John) McGallion and Geoffrey (Denise) Yamamoto; sisters, Shikako Sobage and Yemi Kamiya; sister-in-law, Catherine Uyeda; gc: 16; ggc: 20; gggc: 1.

AMERICAN HOLIDAY TRAVEL
2019 TOUR SCHEDULE

Japan Autumn Countryside Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida) . . . . . . . Oct 17-28
Tokyo, Sado Island, Kanazawa, Shirakawago, Amanohashidate, Tottori, Matsue, Tsumatsukuro Onsen, Kobe.

Korea Wildlife Safari Holiday Tour (Carol Hida) Wait List . . Oct 9-21
Nagoya, Nagashima, Lake Masai, Lake Shinji, USA, Mount Fuji, Kamakura, Hakone, Nikko.

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 band, beignets at Cafe 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) Wait List . . . Jun 21-July 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) . . . . . . . . . . . . . Nov 9-19
Kenya Wildlife Safari Holiday Tour (Carol Hida) . . . . . . . . . . . . . Nov 9-19
Tokyo, Lake Kawaguchi, Nagoya, Gifu-Cormorant fishing, Hiroshima, Kyoto.

PAINTED CANYONS OF THE WEST TOUR (Elaine Ishida) . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . . Oct 4-12

OKINAWA HOLIDAY TOUR (Ernest Hida) . . . . . . . . . . . . Nov 11-20
Naha, Okinawa, Islands of Ishigaki, Iriomote and Taketomi.

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
A recently released AARP Public Policy Institute report shows that retail prices for a combined set of 754 widely used brand-name, generic and specialty prescription drugs increased by an average of 4.2 percent in 2017, well above the general inflation rate of 2.1 percent for the same period. This marked the 12th year in a row of often-substantial drug price increases.

Notably, the average annual cost for a drug used on a chronic basis would have been more than $12,500 lower in 2017 ($7,263 vs. $19,816) if prescription drug prices had been limited to the rate of general inflation from 2006-17. Prescription drug price increases affect consumers, employers, private insurers and taxpayers who fund programs such as Medicare and Medicaid. Spending increases driven by high and growing drug prices will eventually affect all Americans in some way.

“Prescription drug prices are out of control. Our report tracked price growth in prescription drugs for 12 years, and every single year, those price increases have been higher than the rate of inflation,” said Debra Whitman, executive vp and chief public policy officer at AARP. “It’s shocking to see how much lower drug prices would be today if price increases did not exceed the rate of general inflation. Instead, older Americans are struggling to afford the medications they need to stay healthy.”

The report analyzed three types of widely used prescription drugs and found that price growth for brand-name and specialty drugs more than offset price decreases for generic drugs. In 2017:

- Retail prices for widely used generic drug products decreased by an average of 9.3 percent (average annual cost: $365).
- Retail prices for widely used brand-name drug products increased by an average of 8.4 percent (average annual cost: $6,798).
- Retail prices for widely used specialty drug products increased by an average of 7 percent (average annual cost: $78,871).

“Young annual cost for a prescription drug is simply too high — at nearly $20,000, it’s rapidly approaching the median annual income for Medicare beneficiaries,” said Leigh Purvis, director of health services research at AARP Public Policy Institute. “Patients often end up paying for high drug prices more than once: through their out-of-pocket expenses and, later, with higher health-care premiums and cost sharing. Our report demonstrates, yet again, why we need Congress to pass long-term, meaningful reforms that will help rein in the outrageous prices of prescription drugs.”

If these trends continue, older Americans will be unable to afford the prescription drugs that they absolutely need, leading to poorer health outcomes and eventually higher health-care costs down the road.

To view “Trends in Retail Prices of Prescription Drugs Widely Used by Older Americans: 2017 Year-End Update,” visit www.aarp.org/rxpricewatch.

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