



PACIFIC CITIZEN

CELEBRATING 90 YEARS

PHOTOS: GEORGE JOHNSTON

» **PAGE 6**

PSW HONORS

The JACL district celebrates
service and courage at its
annual afternoon fete.

» **PAGE 4**

JACL Efforts Lead
to Name Change of
Controversial Show.

» **PAGE 5**

USJC Session
Spotlights Asian
American Experiences
in Entertainment



2019
PSW JACL

DISTRICT
AWARDS LUNCHEON

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



By David Inoue,
JACL Executive Director

In the past few weeks, the one word, actually an abbreviation, that holds immense power over so many Japanese Americans reared its ugly head in at least two high-profile situations.

Whether heard as a child or an adult, the “J” word often elicits a sharp emotional reaction. I recall the first time I remember hearing the word as a child of around 6 years old, spoken by older kids on the street in suburban Chicago. And, of course, it was often heard in tandem with the “C” word,

THE POWER OF A WORD

which ironically, for my mixed background, was appropriately inappropriate for me as well.

First, at the end of October, a play opened in Berkeley titled “The J** Box.” The producer, writer and lone actor in the play is David Hirata, himself a Japanese American whose family was incarcerated at Tule Lake.

News of the play’s title spread like wildfire through the Internet, prompting me to reach out to Mr. Hirata. Within a few days, we spoke on the phone for nearly an hour. I was not the first, nor the last person, who had reached out. I shared my own personal experience with the word, and what I had heard from others. Already, at that point, he was considering a name change.

At this point, JACL’s Berkeley chapter had also met and discussed the play at its board meeting earlier in the week. Tiffany Ikeda, chapter

co-president, planned to attend the Friday performance with Nancy Ukai and Karen Kiyo Lowhurst.

The three of them met with Mr. Hirata for an hour following the performance, again expressing the deeply felt personal perspectives on the title. The chapter followed up with a powerful letter to Hirata and the theater.

At that point though, the decision had been made, and the new name of the play would be “A Box Without a Bottom: *Soko-nashi Bako*.” In reality, it was not a name change, but rather the truthful name for the magic prop, before it had been appropriated by white magicians and given its racist name.

This new name is a celebration of the rightful origins of the magic trick that is central to the performance and Mr. Hirata’s story as a magician. The name change was followed with a heartfelt and

sincere apology for the use of the offensive racist slur in the original name of the play. If only all apologies could be as truthful and sincere as Mr. Hirata’s.

Even as this situation was concluding, I received a call from someone else in Washington, D.C., notifying me of a local construction company named J** Builders. I looked into the company’s website and sent a message to the generic email on the site.

Within two days, I heard back from the owner — again, with a truly sincere apology and assurance that they were looking into remedies for the name. The company had been named for the owner’s initials. An immigrant, he was not familiar with the racist legacy of the word in this country. It will take some time to make changes, but the owner promised changes would be made.

» See WORD on page 12



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The **Pacific Citizen** newspaper (ISSN: 0030-8579) is published semi-monthly (except once in December and January) by the Japanese American Citizens League, *Pacific Citizen*, 123 Ellison S. Onizuka St., Suite 313 Los Angeles, CA 90012 Periodical postage paid at L.A., CA **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to National JACL, 1765 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94115

JACL President: Jeffrey Moy
Executive Director: David Inoue

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Periodicals paid at Los Angeles, Calif. and mailing office.

**2019
SPRING
CAMPAIGN**

Pacific Citizen Newspaper
123 Ellison S. Onizuka St. #313
Los Angeles, CA 90012
(213) 620-1767
www.PacificCitizen.Org



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A MOTHER'S TAKE

YOUR VISIBILITY AND VOICE MATTERS

By Marsha Aizumi

I am reminded of the importance of having our Asian faces, names and thoughts out in the world because of two events I recently participated in. In October, Aiden and I attended the PFLAG National Conference, where we led a workshop called “Collaborations With Local and National Partners.” Aiden and I shared how we leveraged our time and resources by partnering with other LGBTQ+ and social justice organizations. JACL was one of our examples!

As we set up our session, a Japanese mother and her son walked in. The typical participants in this workshop were leaders of PFLAG chapters, so I was pleased that Asian leaders wanted to learn about this subject.

I also considered that they came to the wrong workshop because we had a few people stand up and say, “Oops,” because they were in the wrong room after they saw our workshop name displayed on the PowerPoint screen. But this

mother and son sat down and settled in, so I knew they were there to stay.

Following the workshop, I made a point to connect with them. I found out that they specifically came to our session, not because of the subject, but because they saw our names and faces in the program booklet.

The son was transgender like Aiden, and the mother I could feel just wanted to find another mother who looked like her. The beautiful part of this encounter was learning that they had already mentally marked their calendar to attend “Okaeri 2020: A Nikkei LGBTQ Gathering,” since this was an example of work Aiden and I are doing. They would be coming to Los Angeles all the way from New Orleans, La. Visibility matters.

Also at the conference, I discovered visibility is not always enough. A chapter from Vancouver, Canada, informed me that they have a 30 percent population of Asian families in their city. However, they lack resources and support in native Asian languages for these families because their chapter members are mainly Caucasian.

It took another individual who came to the workshop that Aiden and I led the day

PHOTO: COURTESY OF STACEY SHIGAYA



Four mothers who love their children. Pictured (from left) are Sung Tse, Stacey Shigaya, Marsha Aizumi and Stacia Kato.

before, who then tracked us down and then connected us with this Vancouver leader. Now, a Chinese-speaking PFLAG mom from Southern California is going to help Vancouver with support and resources. Sometimes, we need others to help us be more visible and connect us to others.

One week later, I was participating in a program that I helped organize called “Walking in Love.” It was a daylong symposium centered around finding ways to be more welcoming and inclusive of LGBTQ+ individuals and

Marsha Aizumi is pictured with her new friends from PFLAG Burbank: Juan (left) and Eric (right), who connected her with Colin from PFLAG Vancouver, Canada.

their families in the Christian churches.

We had a number of denominations present . . . Methodist, Universalist Unitarians, United Church of Christ, Latter Day Saints and even Catholic and Jewish individuals attended. As we were doing outreach for the program, the faith leader from the LDS church felt it might be best to have other denominations speak in his place, since he was not able to enroll very many LDS members to attend. But a number of us felt that Emerson Fersch’s story about his work would be inspirational, regardless of who was there.

» See VOICE on page 12



By Judd Matsunaga, Esq.

LEGAL-EASE: AN ATTORNEY’S PERSPECTIVE

DON’T BE A VICTIM OF ELDER FINANCIAL ABUSE

In 2017, financial institutions filed 63,500 suspicious activity reports tied to the exploitation of older adults, quadruple the amount reported four years earlier, according to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), for a total of \$1.7 billion in attempted thefts and losses. (Source: *Bloomberg.com*, “Trusted Professionals Target the Assets of America’s Elderly,” Oct. 21, 2019.)

That estimate, however, is a tiny fraction of the real total. The vast majority of such attempts to separate the elderly from their money, both legal and illegal, go unreported. The reports “may account for less than 2 percent” of actual incidents, the CFPB says. Estimates of total losses ranged as high as \$36.5 billion, according to one financial services firm.

“One in 5 older Americans is a victim of financial exploitation,” said Jilene Gunther, who heads the BankSafe initiative at AARP’s Public Policy Institute, costing U.S. financial institutions \$1 billion in deposits annually. Increasingly, it’s the professionals – the financial advisers, insurers and lawyers that the elderly trust – who are the wolves in sheep’s clothing.

At the Iowa attorney general’s consumer protection division, complaints about professionals manipulating elderly clients pour in “nonstop,” said Chantelle Smith, an assistant

attorney general in Des Moines. They involve “any type of business you can imagine.” Smith pursued financial advisers, securities brokers and insurance agents for exploiting older people about two decades ago.

Financial predators aren’t being prosecuted “in any significant number, relative to how many cases there are,” she explained. And with lawsuits, “most of them don’t go to court.” Meanwhile, perpetrators seek out and spend time with older people who are isolated and lonely.

They know many of their targets won’t report what’s happening fearing embarrassment or of having their children take control of their finances.

“They target, they stalk,” Smith said. “I tell all the older people I talk to: ‘You have a bull’s-eye on your back.’”

Smith said the only way to stem the rising tide of elder financial exploitation is to get family members, friends and community volunteers more involved in their lives.

Shawna Reeves, director of elder abuse prevention at the Institute on Aging in San Francisco, says few understand that such activity can involve professional firms and companies, including banks, financial advisers, insurers and law firms.

“This is big business, perpetrated by actors people think are legitimate,” Reeves said.

According to social workers, prosecutors and other officials across the country, common stratagems involve attempts to sell the elderly

ill-advised annuities and reverse mortgages, as well as solar panel installations and access to veterans’ benefits.

Elderly people who fall victim to financial wrongdoing are more likely to die prematurely, research shows. Losing one’s life savings, worrying about maintaining control over assets that remain or simply being embarrassed at having been taken advantage of all play a part, Smith said.

“Where do you go after you’ve been exploited by a professional you thought you could trust, and you are now at perhaps your most vulnerable state? Another ‘trusted’ professional?” Smith asked. “They die. It kills them.”

The California Department of Justice puts out a consumer pamphlet entitled, “Financial Exploitation, Elder/Dependent Adult Abuse.” The pamphlet lists examples of Elder Financial Abuse:

- Cashing checks without authorization/permission
- Forging an elder’s signature
- Misusing or stealing an elder’s money or possessions
- Coercing or deceiving an elder into signing documents such as a contract or will
- Improper use of conservatorship, guardianship or power-of-attorney

The pamphlet lists the following instructions – How to Protect Yourself From Financial Elder Abuse:

- Don’t sign blank checks allowing another

person to fill in the amount.

- Don’t give strangers access to your bank accounts.
- Check your financial statements frequently and carefully for unauthorized withdrawals.
- Don’t be pressured by family members, friends, caregivers or anyone to do anything you don’t want to do.
- Don’t leave money or valuables in plain view.
- Be aware of scams (either by phone, email or regular mail). If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

Finally, the pamphlet says to NEVER give out your personal information to anyone on a telephone or email pitch, hang up the phone and call a family member/friend to help determine the validity of the calls.

If you suspect a person who is elderly is being financially exploited, call the Bureau of Medi-Cal Fraud and Elder Abuse at (800) 722-0442.

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

PHOTOS: FACEBOOK

HIRATA CHANGES NAME OF ONE-MAN SHOW

Now called 'A Box Without a Bottom,' the magician offers an apology for the show's original, racially insensitive name.

By P.C. Staff

Following intense opposition from the Japanese American community, including JACL, regarding the racially insensitive name of his original one-man show, magician David Hirata has made an official change to its title and issued a formal apology.

In a statement released on Nov. 12, Hirata wrote in-depth about his show "The J*p Box" and its new name, "A Box Without a Bottom: *Soko-nashi Bako*," saying that he had "simply underestimated the raw pain of the 'J' word. The title itself provides insufficient context to justify its use."

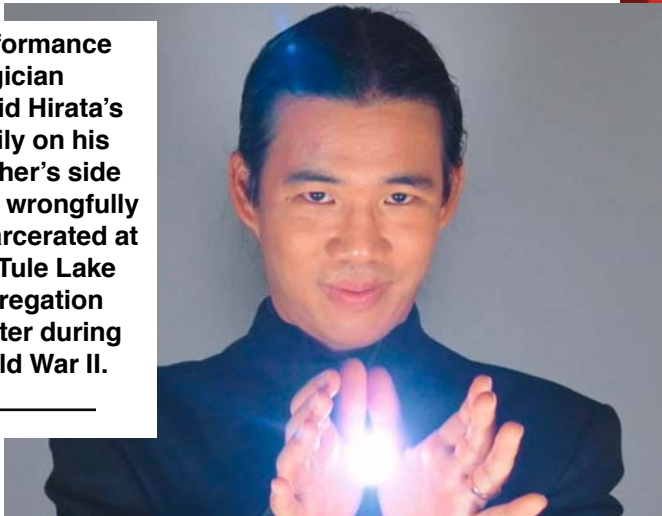
The show, which opened Oct. 26 and runs until Dec. 1 in the Bay Area at the Marsh Berkeley, was written by Hirata, who wanted to highlight the story of Japanese magician Namigoro Sumidagawa, who "dazzled audiences across Victorian America with his exotic stage magic" and his celebrated trick, *Soko-nashi Bako*, according to the play's official description.

Hirata said he conferred with family members about the original title, and they agreed that the name was "provocative, but that the use of the 'J' word in reference to a specific object gave it context. As they had been members of Nisei and Sansei communities during World War II (Mom's family was incarcerated at the Tule Lake Segregation Center), I valued their input."

After an initial run in San Diego in 2018, where his show received a positive reception, it has received a much higher-profile run in the Bay Area.

JACL Berkeley chapter board members Karen Kiyo Lowhurst, Tiffany Ikeda and Nancy Ukai immediately sprang into action and attended the show, where they subsequently met with Hirata. The board also wrote a letter to him and Marsh Executive Director Stephanie Wiseman, saying that the show's name "revives a hateful racist slur that causes deep pain for us and recalls a tragic period within the living memory of our community, when 120,000 Japanese Americans were torn from their homes during WWII because of racial hatred, war hysteria and greed. . . . By marketing this performance, printing programs, selling tickets online and posting a sandwich board sign in front of the Marsh theater with this slur, you normalize it. . . . The

Performance magician David Hirata's family on his mother's side was wrongfully incarcerated at the Tule Lake Segregation Center during World War II.



normalization of this vicious term signals a disturbing lack of regard for our history and our community."

JACL Executive Director David Inoue also spoke at-length with Hirata, who deeply regretted the pain that his name choice has caused within the Japanese American community.

"While I do believe in the power of confronting ugly history and language through art, the story told by the show is a kind of personal meditation on cultural identity. And, though I have a real connection with the account of the *Soko-nashi Bako*, the raw pain of the 'J' word' is not my story to tell," Hirata wrote. "The pain caused in the Japanese American community by the title was real and something I regret. I felt that making a title change with my apologies was the appropriate action."

Following a conversation with Inoue on Nov. 13, Hirata confirmed that the theater is reprinting the programs and taking down physical posters, as well as revamping its website to reflect the new name. He also is reconsidering how the word will be used in the show itself, either saying something at the beginning of the performance or putting something in the program.

"This incidence has shown that JACL's mission of education continues to be important so people understand the legacy of racism against the Japanese American community,"



David Hirata has been performing magic throughout the Bay Area for more than 30 years. His show follows the story of magician Namigoro Sumidagawa, who dazzled audiences across Victorian America with his on-stage magic in the late 1800s.



David Hirata's one-man show will conclude its run at the Marsh Berkeley theater on Dec. 1.

Inoue told the *Pacific Citizen*. "This one word represents so much of the pain that has been felt by Japanese Americans

and Asian Americans throughout history. We can't allow words like this to regain power through usage in everyday language through normalization."

Said Berkeley JACL Co-President Elizabeth Uno to the *Pacific Citizen*, "I am very proud of the quick actions of some of our Berkeley JACL board members, who coordinated their efforts to attend the play and meet with Hirata, write an insightful, thoughtful letter to Hirata and with the leadership of JACL Executive

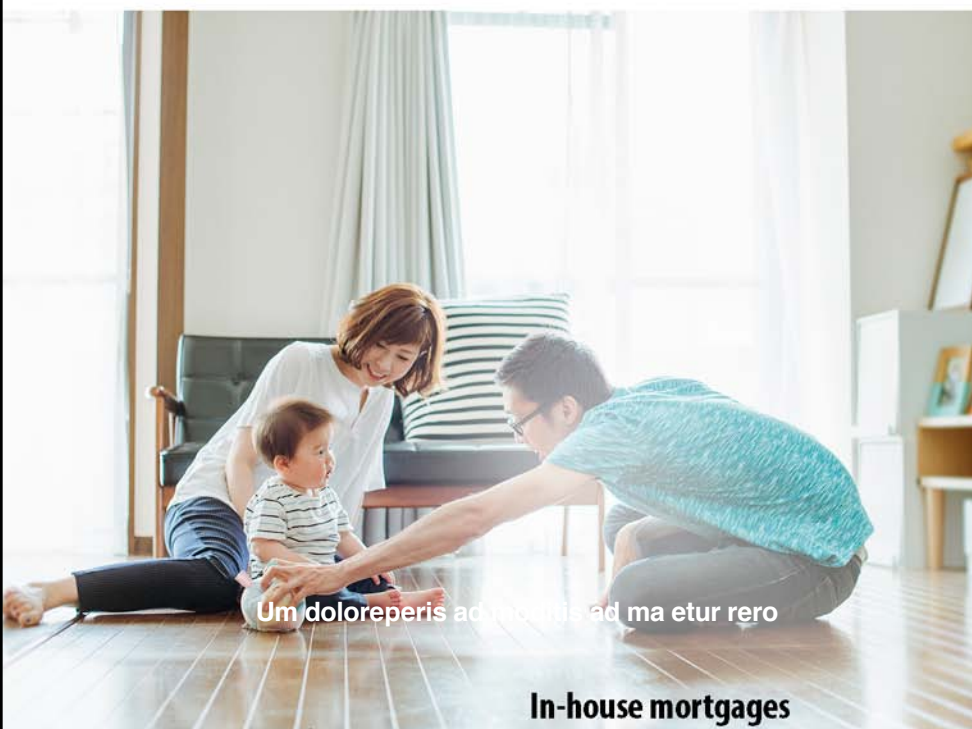
Director David Inoue, were able to successfully get the name of the play changed."

The name change was immediately met with positive reactions.

"Berkeley JACL chapter done good," wrote Southern California resident Mitchell Matsu-mura on Facebook. "They saw a wrong and moved quickly to change it. David Hirata's magic show has been changed from 'The J*p Box' to 'A Box Without a Bottom.' This sends a message to all Japanese Americans that the JACL is viable and can work for us in the 21st century."

To read JACL Berkeley chapter's full-length letter, visit <https://berkeleyjACL.org/2019/11/12/letter-from-the-berkeley-japanese-american-citizens-league-the-jap-box-at-the-marsh/>.

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JAPANESE AMERICAN SHOWBIZ EXECS

TALK STORIES

The USJC session spotlights the post-‘Crazy Rich Asians’ status quo.

By P.C. Staff

They also discussed what the future might hold at a breakout session titled “Japanese & Asian Americans in Entertainment: Bold Actions Lead to Changes in Front of the Camera & Behind,” which was held at the Loews Hollywood Hotel in Los Angeles during the U.S.-Japan Council’s 10th annual conference on Nov. 4-5, three Japanese Americans who work in “showbiz” discussed their journeys and experiences in “La La Land.”

They also discussed what the future might hold in a landscape that on the surface appears to have finally changed for the better regarding how Asian American and Asian stories are told by a Hollywood that has had a “come to Buddha moment” in the wake of the critical and commercial success of Asian American-themed movies such as 2018’s “Crazy Rich Asians” from Warner Bros. Pictures and 2019’s “Always Be My Maybe” from Netflix.

The discussion was moderated by IW Group Inc. Chairman Bill Imada and featured Rina Brannen, who recently became the vp of development at Universal Content Prods. following a stint as head of development at actor-producer Daniel Dae Kim’s 3AD Media (ABC’s “The Good Doctor”); Michelle K. Sugihara, an entertainment attorney, movie producer and executive director of Coalition of Asian Pacifics in Entertainment (CAPE); and Adele Yoshioka, executive vp of international distribution at Millennium Media and founding member of CAPE. A fourth scheduled panelist, Kevin Iwashina, the former CEO of Preferred Content recently hired as an agent at Endeavor Content focused on nonfiction content, dropped out.

“I’m very excited about introducing you to some very famous Nikkei-jin — Japanese Americans — that are in the entertainment industry,” Imada said. “For many, many years, a lot of people thought that the entertainment industry would be very difficult to connect with. But it is one of the most important industries here in Southern California and around the world, so we’re very excited to be able to host these very remarkable women today.

“They’re not only shaping content, they’re also helping to advance not only Japanese Americans but also other Asian Americans — and Asian American women in the entertainment industry, not just in front of the camera but also behind the camera,” Imada said.

After discerning that none of the panelists had a complete background on their respective roots in Japan, Imada was able to learn more about their families’ American histories, with San Diegan Yoshioka relating that her parents had been incarcerated at Arizona’s Poston WRA Center.

Brannen was born in Los Angeles with parents who met at East West Players (her actress mother’s older brother was the late



Pictured (from left) are Irene Hirano, president of the U.S.-Japan Council; Adele Yoshioka, executive vp of international distribution for Millennium Media and founding member of Coalition of Asian Pacifics in Entertainment; Michelle K. Sugihara, executive director of CAPE; Rina Brannen, vp of development for Universal Content Prods.; and Bill Imada, chairman of IW Group Inc.

actor Mako). “I grew up pretty much in a sleeping bag tucked away in a dressing room at East West,” Brannen said.

Sugihara, who was born and raised in Honolulu, related how when she was 6 years of age, her father “decreed that I was going to be a lawyer, so that’s what I did.”

By comparison, Yoshioka was more on the rebellious side.

“I always had to find a way to get around what my parents wanted me to do and what I wanted to do,” she said, stating that even though she earned an academic scholarship to a university, her parents did not want her to go to a school outside of San Diego.

For Brannen, she said her rebellion was “actually to not pursue a career in entertainment.” But, when Los Angeles is your home, she said, “I think we’re all drawn to the entertainment business for various reasons and for me in particular, it’s all about storytelling and taking ownership of our stories.”

While Sugihara described her younger self as “the good Asian girl who did what my parents wanted,” after law school, she found that she “was really interested in entertainment.”

For a while, Sugihara practiced real estate law, business litigation and entertainment law.

“That’s when I started really trying to break out and do film producing because that was a way to be creative,” she said. “People say, ‘Wow, you’re a film producer and a lawyer. That’s so different!’ But I’m like, ‘Not really because lawyers, especially litigators, are storytellers. It’s just that we’re telling nonfiction stories.’”

Yoshioka’s entrée into show business began after she graduated from high school and was attending college in Point Loma, not far from home in San Diego.

“I wanted to get away from my family to find out who I was,” she said. Without telling her parents, Yoshioka went north to pursue her passion in dance, auditioned at four different locations and got into all four. She ended up signing a yearlong contract at the Sahara Tahoe.

When her father learned Yoshioka had not only gone to L.A. but also signed a dance contract, she described it as “World War III.” But to his credit, Yoshioka said that since that

was what she wanted to do and because she had signed a contract, she had to do it.

“I never looked back, and you know what, I had so much fun,” she said.

Sugihara said her early life experiences in Hawaii were beneficial, but there were also many differences once she came to the mainland.

“For me, growing up in Hawaii, where we were the majority, I always say I came very late to the diversity party. I didn’t even know, until I came to California for college, that it was an issue. I was still saying ‘Oriental’ because that’s not derogatory in Hawaii. My friends in freshman year pulled me aside and had an intervention. ‘You cannot use that word anymore! You have to say ‘Asian,’” she said. She also recalled watching a lot of TV growing up but not questioning the lack of diversity onscreen until much later.

Imada, noting that the three speakers were all women, wondered what, if any, obstacles they faced as females pursuing entertainment careers. For Brannen, whose first experiences were as an agent, she had to learn the hard way that the behaviors that were valued in agency culture were “completely opposite to what we’re taught culturally as Japanese people.”

“Being quiet and thoughtful and wanting to understand the lay of the land before I started to assert myself was allowing for people to make assumptions and put me into a stereotypical box, which, if you get to know me, that’s not what my personality is, but I was playing right into that stereotype,” Brannen said. When she had that “light bulb moment,” she said she had to figure out how to break out of that box.

Sugihara said that while she herself hadn’t encountered obstacles for being a woman in the entertainment industry, she said she did see it “all the time,” which for her was why it is important to have organizations like CAPE to help push the envelope for everybody. She concurred with Brannen that Asian Americans can have cultural traits that could “hold us back.”

Referring to perceptions, Sugihara said, “Asian Americans are good workers, we put our heads down and work hard, but then we’re not seen so much as leadership material. How do we break that stereotype?”

For her part, Yoshioka related a story about

one job experience where she finally had to put her foot down about the unequal treatment she received versus that of her male colleagues, where they would fly business class to film festivals and get their own hotel rooms, while she had to fly economy and share a room with a female co-worker, even though Yoshioka herself was a vice president.

The company’s owner, concerned by a memo she had circulated, called a staff meeting to discuss whether the women were treated unequally, something he denied. At the meeting, none of the women spoke up, even though Yoshioka had asked them to be prepared to speak.

The only person who spoke up in her defense was a male colleague — the head of sales — who said the owner did treat women differently. Only then did things change for the better.

“If you have a legitimate beef, voice it. Put it in writing,” Yoshioka said. “It will work.”

Now, with the aforementioned financial success of “Crazy Rich Asians,” one thing that Sugihara said could maintain that progress is to support similar projects going forward.

“That’s really what Hollywood cares about,” she said. “Lately, CAPE has joined forces with another nonprofit called Gold House. You may have heard about #GoldOpenMovement. We focus on the opening weekend of Asian American films because that’s the gold standard for Hollywood. They want to see how much money they make on opening weekend.”

Imada switched gears to get the panelists to weigh in on the #MeToo and #TimesUp movements and whether it affected them personally and if it has made any improvement in Hollywood, especially for Asian Americans.

Yoshioka mentioned that she had just completed a sexual harassment seminar at her workplace and found that there are now so many rules.

“The one that I don’t like: Now, you can’t even make a joke,” she said. “The good part is now men are aware, and they can’t do what they used to do. . . . Is it working? I think more for the fear of a lawsuit, probably.”

Sugihara was more guarded in her assessment of whether a real shift has taken place.

“I think it’s started. At least it’s elevating the conversation, which is important because sunlight is the best disinfectant. Once we have things out in the open and people can really start to analyze things,” she said, “I think that will help with the progress.”

“I think it’s going to take time for there to be real change,” said Brannen. “It’s like turning a cruise ship. It has to turn incrementally, you can’t just make a hard right. Like Michelle said, we’re now having conversations that we weren’t having before.”

As for what the future may hold for Japanese Americans and Asian Americans in Hollywood, Sugihara referred to AMC’s “The Terror,” featuring George Takei, and noted that there are several projects were in the works, including a soon-to-be announced big project from Netflix and a remake of the 1980s miniseries “Shogun.”

One question from a documentary filmmaker in the audience was whether Japanese American stories were out of vogue now, compared with Korean- or Chinese-related stories. To that, Imada said, “If we tell the story better, then you’re going to get people to be excited about the story. . . . We should always talk about the internment experience, yes, but is there a different way to tell that story? Is there a different narrative to bring to the table?” ■

PHOTOS: GEORGE JOHNSTON

PSW AWARDS EVENT PUTS FOCUS ON SERVICE, COURAGE

Longtime *Rafu Shimpo* photographer Mario Reyes and several JACLers are among the JACL district's honorees.

By P.C. Staff

From a pair of steadfast JACLers to a veteran photographer of the Japanese American community to a newly installed leader of a community organization — and more — the 2019 Pacific Southwest District JACL awards luncheon spotlighted several worthy honorees on Oct. 26 at the Torrance Marriott Redondo Beach hotel in Torrance, Calif.

Although later bedeviled by several technical/computer problems, the program began with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, led by past JACL National President Ken Inouye, with assistance from his grandchildren, Amelia, Grace and David.

Following was a crowd-pleasing hula performance by three boys from Halau Hula Keali'i O Nalani, after which PSW Gov. Carol Kawamoto welcomed the audience, thanked Union Bank for its continued sponsorship and then broke format to make a surprise presentation of JACL Sapphire Pins — an honor just below the JACL Ruby Pin — to Linda Hara and Doug Urata for their many years of dedicated service to the JACL. Urata served as the event's host, along with actor and documentary filmmaker Lane Nishikawa.

Later in the program, Nishikawa, prior to showing clips from his upcoming documentary about the history of the Japanese American Citizens League, titled "League of Dreams," announced that the National JACL had just agreed to partner with him on the production of the feature-length documentary to mark the civil rights organization's 90th anniversary.

Nishikawa also mentioned that his most-recent documentary, "Our Lost Years," is available to all JACL chapters nationwide as a fundraiser.

"We want you to use it for your chapter to have an event, an educational event, a networking event or a fundraiser, please contact us if you're interested and I'll help you set it up," he said.

Prior to that announcement, Nishikawa introduced Torrance Mayor Patrick J. Furey. The mayor noted that while Los Angeles County is home to the majority of Japan-based companies in Southern California, Torrance is home to "the most Japanese companies in the county of Los Angeles."

"Between our business partners and residents, we have a vast population of civic-minded Japanese Americans in our community," Furey said.

Before the break for lunch, Urata introduced the program's first awardee: Marissa Kitazawa, senior creative producer at Dailey & Associates, who was presented the JACL Service Award.

Urata introduced Kitazawa as, among other things, a "multidisciplinary storyteller" and documentary filmmaker who, in addition to her current duties as vp for general operations for JACL National, also has served as a PSW JACL staff member and PSW district governor.

"I owe so much to the JACL community. It was provided me a network of fierce advocates, activists, progressive educators and young leaders — and a lot of lifelong friends," Kitazawa said.

Kitazawa then related an unpleasant personal recollection from high school that served to steer her trajectory toward involvement in Japanese American and Asian American community activism.

She recalled how excited she was when the topic of the Japanese American experience during World War II was to be examined.

"In my AP U.S. History class, I remember reading one paragraph in the history books. The next day, our teacher was going to tell us more about it," Kitazawa said, recalling how she knew a little bit from her grandparents but not much more.

"I remember the teacher telling us that Japanese Americans were rounded up and put in concentration camps, and I also remember him saying that no person of Japanese ancestry in the United States was ever convicted of any serious espionage or sabotage during the war. And then he said, 'But that doesn't mean it wasn't true.'

"And then he said, 'In my opinion, it probably was good that Japanese Americans went to the camps because it was safer for everyone,'" she recalled.

Kitazawa related how she was dumbfounded by this statement from an authority figure and how she was too young to argue against what was said.

"I sat there in silence and didn't say anything. I remember feeling really crushed, and I remember feeling really alone in that particular moment because I didn't know what to do," she said. "I replay that moment a lot in my mind, and it has really impacted how I approach activism and advocacy and understanding how important education is."

Introduced next was Traci Ishigo, who reported the latest from the Bridging Communities program's Solidarity Arts Fellowship, which was funded by a National Parks Service grant and involved the JACL PSW, NCR and Council on American Islamic Relations.

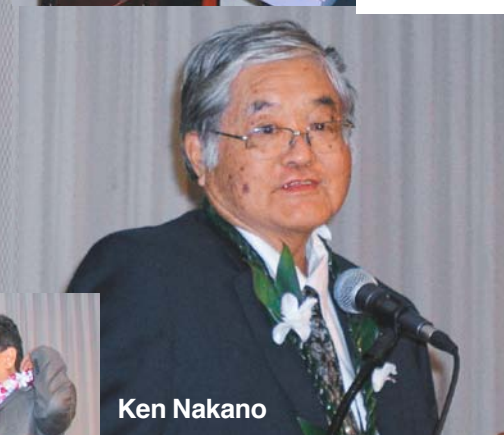
"Within the last couple of years, since Bridging Communities, since my time here at JACL, we've seen such an increase of institutionalized Islamophobia, xenophobia, everything that is happening at the border, with the Muslim ban," Ishigo said. "In the work that we're doing with VigilantLOVE, which is



Ken Inouye offers opening remarks.



PSW's Carol Kawamoto (left) and Patti Hirahara



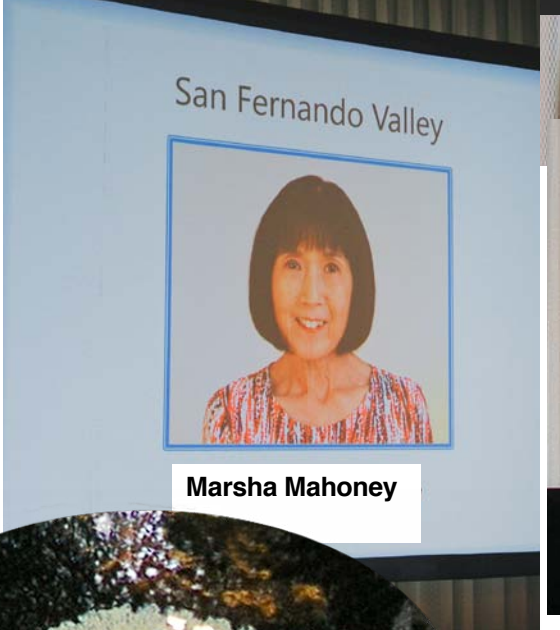
Ken Nakano



(From left) Linda Hara, Ken Inouye and Doug Urata



Marissa Kitazawa



Marsha Mahoney



Linda Hara and Doug Urata



Decorative Japanese ceramic bowls were given to individual awardees from four JACL chapters.



Carol Kawamoto (left) and Nancy Takayama

where I'm at now, we've been really trying to build grassroots movement and a lot of spaces for connection across our communities, from Japanese Americans, Muslim Americans and a lot of other allies to challenge Islamophobic programs, including a surveillance program called Countering Violent Extremism."

Ishigo added, "Given our history . . . of knowing what it was to be surveilled," the challenge is how to engage Japanese Americans in challenging "a lot of the racism we're seeing in our country."

During the proceedings, former JACL National President David Kawamoto acknowledged corporate, chapter and individual donors and supporters.

The next honoree to be recognized for the Community Service Award was longtime *Rafu Shimpō* newspaper photographer Mario Reyes, who was introduced to the audience by Nancy Takayama via a prerecorded video produced by Steve Nagano.

"A picture is worth a thousand words," said Takayama. "With his photographs, he's documented our history, and just one picture tells it all."

In the video, Reyes, ruminating on his career covering Los Angeles' Japanese American community, said, "I know more about your history than I do about my own."

In remarks made after receiving his award, Reyes said he had two fears: flying and public speaking, which was why he kept his remarks short. He did, however, tell the *Pacific Citizen*, "I think it's a great honor to be recognized by JACL."

Next to be honored was Little Tokyo's Japanese American Cultural & Community Center, which was founded in 1980. It received the

Community Partnership Award. Accepting the honor was Patricia Wyatt, the recently hired executive director of the JACCC.

Alluding to Reyes' remarks, Wyatt said, "I actually don't have a fear of public speaking, but I do have a concern about standing to accept an award for which I've really done no work. I've only been at JACCC for about three weeks, but it's been such an honor, and I'm delighted to be here meeting all of you today as a representative of this wonderful group of people that come together to create a community center that shares and celebrates everything that's wonderful about Japanese and Japanese American culture."

Wyatt then called up Alan Nishio a member of JACCC's board of directors, to say "a couple of words," to which he quipped, "All of those who know me would say 'Alan Nishio' and 'a couple of words' don't go together."

Nishio continued, "On behalf of the board of the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center, we're so happy to have Pat as part of our team. I think she brings a new vision and direction for the JACCC."

Wyatt then called up VP of Programs Alison De La Cruz to the podium, where she thanked the JACL and said, "We do a lot because there's a lot to be done."

Next up was JACCC Board Chair Craig Tomiyoshi, who credited and thanked the JACL PSW for its support when the JACCC brought the stage play "Allegiance" to the center's Aratani Theater.

"We were looking for community partners, we were looking for people to kind of raise their hand to be part of a group buy in Orange County, and it was JACL who raised their hand first," Tomiyoshi said.

Next to be feted were PSW chapter honorees, each of whom received a Japanese ceramic platter. The first of the four honorees was SELANOCO JACL's Patti Hirahara, who was acknowledged for her work with the City of Ana-

heim and its exhibition titled, "I AM AN AMERICAN: Japanese Incarceration in a Time of Fear."

Also honored was San Fernando Valley JACL's Marcia Mahoney, a 35-year veteran of Universal Studios who was recruited to the chapter to become a board member after her retirement.

Introduced by Nishikawa, Mahoney was cited for her activities that include *Suzume no Gakko* (a summer cultural program for children), chairing the doughball booth during obon and serving as the *Pacific Citizen* Holiday Issue fundraising chair. Accepting the award on her behalf was Takayama, who told the gathering that Mahoney was absent because of wildfire activity near her home.

Sydney Shiroma of the San Diego JACL was the next honoree, and he was recognized for, among other things, his involvement with the chapter's scholarship selection committee and serving as the chapter treasurer.

Last among the four honorees was Ventura JACL's Ken Nakano, active since the mid-1980s, who was acknowledged for his service for many years as the chapter's treasurer and his involvement with Oxnard's historic Japanese cemetery, including its restoration after being vandalized in 2017.

"This is a total surprise," Nakano said, admitting that he wasn't originally planning to attend. "My wife said, 'You have to' and I said, 'Why?' Eventually, they told me, 'The chapter is honoring you!' I thank the chapter for even recognizing me."

The afternoon's final honor went to Orange County Board of Supervisors Chair Lisa Bartlett, who was introduced by Inouye.

"I am so pleased as punch to be able to present the first-ever Courage Award in the 90-year history of the Japanese American Citizens League Pacific Southwest District," he said.

Inouye then asked the audience whether

they would have had the courage to do what Bartlett had done, alluding to news from June in which Bartlett accused a fellow Republican and state assembly member of sexual harassment. According to news reports, at least three other women have also accused him of the same behavior.

"This woman put it all on the line," Inouye said, noting that "... the gentleman who was running for re-election to the California Assembly asked the Orange County Republican Party to endorse his candidacy."

It was at that moment Bartlett said, "No," and revealed that when the two served on the Dana Point City Council at the same time in 2011, "he harassed me."

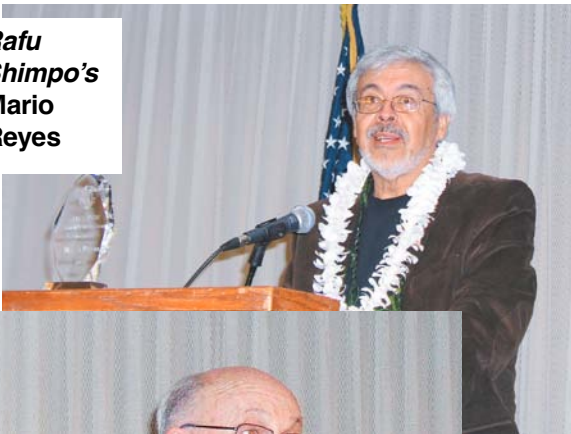
Once onstage to receive her award, Bartlett said, "It's an honor and a privilege to be here today to receive this award for courage. It's not easy, as a high-profile elected official, when you have a bad experience, to really want to talk about it. But I felt it was really important, and we're still trying get this assembly member out of office because there are a number of other women who have come forward."

Bartlett alluded to the difficulty of discussing such a traumatic experience, saying, "I still have relatives, many of whom were in the internment camps, and they still to this day can't talk about their experience because it's still so real to them, that painful. They lost their houses, their farms and their pets. . . . They're doing fine today, but those experiences are still very real to them, and they still hold a lot of pain."

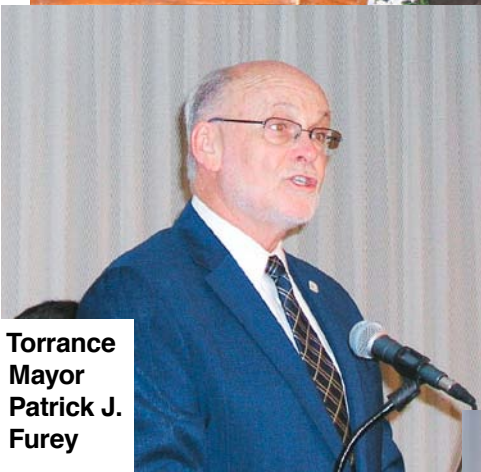
"So for me," Bartlett continued, "going through that painful experience of getting sexually harassed and having to talk about it, you relive everything all over again. But it was the right thing to do because this person did not get the endorsement of our party."

Bartlett is the first Japanese American to be voted on to the Orange County Board of Supervisors in its 130-year history. ■

Rafu Shimpō's Mario Reyes



Torrance Mayor Patrick J. Furey



Lisa Bartlett



Traci Ishigo



Carol Kawamoto and Sidney Shiroma

AMERICAN HOLIDAY TRAVEL

2020 TOUR SCHEDULE

- HOKKAIDO SNOW FESTIVAL HOLIDAY TOUR (Ernest Hida) **Wait List** . . . 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) **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) . . . 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)

TSURU FOR SOLIDARITY'S 'NATIONAL PILGRIMAGE TO CLOSE THE CAMPS' SET FOR JUNE 2020

The social justice advocacy group plans to bring 125,000 paper cranes to Washington, D.C., as expressions of solidarity with immigrant and refugee communities.

Tsuru for Solidarity and Japanese Americans from across the country will gather in Washington, D.C., from June 5-7 for a "National Pilgrimage to Close the Camps" in support of immigrant and refugee communities that are under attack today.

The social advocacy group plans to also bring 125,000 paper origami cranes, or *tsuru*, as expressions of solidarity. The 125,000 cranes represent the members in the Japanese American and Japanese Latin American community who were rounded up and wrongfully incarcerated in U.S. concentration camps during World War II.

Standing on the moral authority of the group's own unjust incarceration, the protest will demand that no matter where someone came from or how they arrived to the U.S., they must be treated with dignity and respect.

Members of Tsuru for Solidarity plan to stand with immigrant communities to condemn the policies that dehumanize them, including ICE detention; jailing and separation of parents, families and children; and the Muslim ban.

"We expect this to be the largest gathering of Nikkei since WWII, when we were forcibly removed from our homes and incarcerated in U.S. concentration camps," said Mike Ishii, one of the lead organizers.

Leading up to the June 2020 pilgrimage, Tsuru for Solidarity is currently concentrating on the following:

Fold-Ins

The group invites supporters to organize

local "Tsuru Fold-Ins" to bring *tsuru* to Washington, D.C., or mail them to the group by May 1. Details, including where to send *tsuru*, are available on the group's website (www.tsuruforsolidarity.org).

Fundraising

Tsuru for Solidarity is actively raising funds to help cover the substantial costs of the caravan, protest and healing circles. Its goal is to raise \$125,000 in individual contributions: \$1 for each member of the community who was rounded up and incarcerated during WWII. To reach this goal, it is asking that 1,000 people step forward to contribute at least \$125.

Additionally, thanks in part to the generosity of Gerry and Gail Nanbu, all donations made until Dec. 1 will be matched, up to \$25,000.

"This match challenge is made in remembrance of our families, whose courage and resilience in the face of adversity has taught us to stand up for justice," the Nanbu's wrote in a statement.

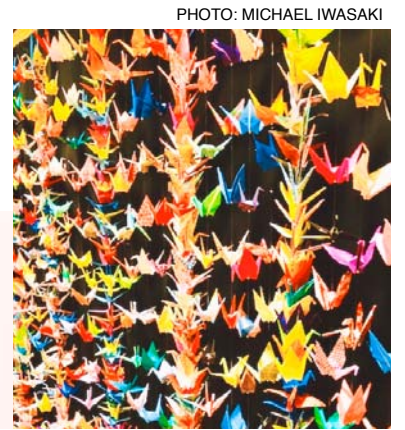
Tsuru for Solidarity's fiscal sponsor, Densho, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. All donations are tax-deductible. For more information or to contribute, visit <https://tsuruforsolidarity.org/give/>.

The three-day program in Washington, D.C., will include:

- June 5: A Japanese American community gathering and preparation for the following day's march and rally.
- June 6: A mass public solidarity march and rally, led by WWII camp survivors and des-



Tsuru for Solidarity joined JACLers at the 2019 National Convention in Salt Lake City.



Tsuru for Solidarity plans to bring 125,000 origami cranes, or *tsuru*, to Washington, D.C., as a sign of unity and support for immigrant and refugee communities. Pictured are *tsuru* cranes that were on display at the 2019 JACL National Convention in Salt Lake City.

cendants, complete with paper cranes and taiko drumming. This event will be open to the public.

- June 7: Cross-community, intergenerational "Healing Circles for Change" sessions that will be aimed toward building solidarity across communities and promote healing through sharing personal stories of incarceration and detention. Leading this discussion will be Dr. Satsuki Ina, Tsuru for Solidarity co-chair and an expert on intergenerational trauma. Participation will be limited to those who register in advance.

Additionally, in the days preceding the D.C. program, a caravan of buses will leave from Los Angeles and other locations. These buses will carry a smaller group of activists to WWII concentration camp sites and present-day immigrant detention sites, where they will join in solidarity with local activists who are leading efforts to shut down these sites.

The caravan will then join the larger group

in Washington, D.C. Work is currently being conducted to schedule meetings with Congress while the caravan is en route.

Current endorsers and partners include Densho, JACL National, JACL Chicago, Portland JACL, Japanese Community Youth Council, Japanese Americans for Justice, Japanese American Service Committee (Chicago), Karen Korematsu and the Fred T. Korematsu Institute, Manzanar Committee, Minami Tamaki LLP, Minoru Yasui Legacy Project, National Japanese American Historical Society, New York Day of Remembrance Committee, Nikkei Progressives, Oregon Nikkei Endowment, Peggy Saika and the Tule Lake Committee.

For updates and pilgrimage registration information, please visit www.tsuruforsolidarity.org. Information about lodging and other costs will be provided when registration opens in early 2020.

FLOYD MORI HONORED AT OCA UTAH AWARDS EVENT

Floyd Mori, a past national president and former national executive director of the JACL, was honored at OCA Asian Pacific Islander American Advocates Utah's 21st annual Utah Asian Pacific Islander Community Awards Night in West Valley City, Utah, on Nov. 9.

Mori, who also served as president/CEO of the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies in Washington, D.C., was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award following an introduction by Verona Mauga, a past president of OCA Utah.

A longtime advocate for Asian American and Pacific Islander organizations and issues, Mori also served as mayor of the City of Pleasanton, Calif., and a member of the California State Assembly for six years.

In addition, receiving the Pillar of the Community Award was Jacob Fitisemanu Jr., council member for West Valley City. Fitisemanu, who was born in New Zealand but raised in Honolulu and Taylorsville, Utah, has lived in West Valley City for 12 years.



Floyd Mori (left) and Jake Fitisemanu Jr. Both men were honored at OCA Asian Pacific Islander American Advocates Utah's 21st annual Utah Asian Pacific Islander Community Awards Night in West Valley City, Utah.

He was appointed to the U.S. Census National Advisory Council in 2014 and serves on the board of directors for the National Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum. He oversees the Utah Department of Health Clinics of Utah program.

Other awardees for 2019 were the

Ohana Association of Weber State University (Youth Moving Mountains Award), Ratsamy Bing Vilaiphannh (Spirit of the Community Award), Feagaiga O Ali'i (Living Treasures Award) and Nepalese Association of Utah (Organization of the Year Award).

Members of the Japanese American community who have been honored in the past by OCA Utah are Wat Misaka, Edith Mitko, Irene Maya Ota and Judge Raymond Uno, who was in attendance at the event. Also present were Utah State Sen. Jani Iwamoto and Dr. Karen Kwan, Utah State Representative who is a founder of the OCA Utah Chapter and is an adviser to the board.

Under the direction of OCA Utah President Emilio Manuel Camu, director of the Pilipino American Association of Utah, guests enjoyed a Filipino buffet catered by BFF Turon. Elections were also held to select the 2020 board for OCA Utah.

Supporting the event were Salt Lake City JACL and Mount Olympus JACL.

NCWNP District Council Installs New Board

The JACL NCWNP District Council recently held its quarterly meeting on Nov. 3, hosted by the Lodi JACL. Eighteen chapters were represented. The district council elected members to its executive board that afternoon. Pictured below (from left) are NCWNP Youth Rep Marco

Torrez, P.C. Rep Nancy Ukai, Secretary Janie Luszcak, Governor Carol Kawase, Board Member Yoko Olsgaard, Vice Governor Howard Shimada and Treasurer Alan Teruya. Administering the oath of office is Alan Nishi, past governor. (Not pictured is Board Member Sharon Uyeda.)



SEN. KENNEDY'S ATTEMPT TO DRAW PARALLELS TO JAPANESE AMERICAN INCARCERATION IS OUTLANDISH

By JACL National

The following statement was released by JACL National on Nov. 19 in response to comments made by Republican Louisiana State Sen. John Kennedy.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Sen. Kennedy of Louisiana was quoted as comparing current House impeachment proceedings to the lack of due process leading up to the mass incarceration of nearly 120,000 people of Japanese heritage during World War II.

This comparison is incredibly inappropriate and offensive. President Trump has an opportunity, with a possible Senate trial, to plead his case and seek exoneration; something that was not offered to our community.

During World War II, those of Japanese descent were uprooted from their homes, stripped of their possessions except for what could be packed in a single suitcase and forcibly moved to remote concentration camps. This was all done solely because of their race and with no proof or evidence of military necessity.

The president's actions are being scrutinized under proceedings that follow due process of the law. Until he is similarly removed from his home and imprisoned in a concentration camp with no evidence of commission of a crime, it is outlandish to draw parallels to the Japanese American experience. ■

Tsuru for Solidarity Condemns Sen. John Kennedy's (R-La) Comparison of Ongoing Impeachment Hearings to the WWII Internment of Japanese Families

The following statement was released by Tsuru for Solidarity on Nov. 18.

As Japanese American survivors of the World War II incarceration and their descendants, we condemn Sen. John Kennedy's (R-La) offensive and inaccurate comparison of the ongoing impeachment hearings to what the government did to our families in WWII.

Sen. John Kennedy (R-La), in speaking to reporters, said, "It looks to me like, so far, [House Intelligence Committee Chair Adam Schiff] and the speaker are going to give about as much due process [to the president] as the federal government gave our Japanese American friends during World War II," according to *Huff Post* politics reporter Igor Bobic, who tweeted about the

exchange" (<https://twitter.com/igorbobic/status/119513136970713948160>; <https://apple.news/Ao8YJRjnRgOvrdpyommcag>).

Even if President Donald Trump is removed from office through this process — in which he is being represented by attorneys of his choice and has an opportunity to defend himself — President Trump and his family are not going to be rounded up en masse, forced to sell their property and held indefinitely in concentration camps as we were during WWII.

Sen. Kennedy's spurious comparison is especially offensive given his support for the Trump administration's family separation policies and indefinite detention of



Sen. John Kennedy

migrant families.

In a 2018 interview, Sen. Kennedy acknowledged that such indefinite detention could be unlawful, but stated, "Let the kids stay in the detention center (with their parents) until somebody challenged it" (https://www.theadvocate.com/baton.rouge/news/politics/article_acd9917c-7345-11e8-aab7-f30a5861756.html).

We stand in solidarity with the immigrant communities being targeted today and the families and children whom Sen. Kennedy wants to keep locked in cages. And we condemn Sen. Kennedy's cynical, hypocritical appropriation of our history! ■



Approval is now before the San Francisco Board of Supervisors to permanently rename Gilbert Street "Jeff Adachi Way" after the late-S.F. Public Defender.

PROPOSAL TO RENAME S.F. STREET TO 'JEFF ADACHI WAY' IS APPROVED BY LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

SAN FRANCISCO — The Land Use and Transportation Committee unanimously approved a resolution to change a section of Gilbert Street to "Jeff Adachi Way" on Nov. 4, paving the way for full board approval.

The street, which runs parallel to Sixth and Seventh streets between Bryant and Brannan, was chosen because it is the street that the late public defender used to walk between his office and the courthouse, located at 850 Bryant St.

Adachi, 59, who passed away suddenly on Feb. 22, was "the most highly visible Japanese

American elected official in San Francisco and the only elected public defender in the state of California," according to a statement by the JACL. Adachi was re-elected four times.

The proposal was first introduced in March and is co-sponsored by President Norman Yee and 10 other supervisors; it also gained widespread JACL support, both nationally and from local JACL chapters, including San Francisco JACL, led by President John Hayashi.

However, the approval process has not been

an easy one, as it has taken months for the city to collect and evaluate public feedback from the street's residents and businesses, who have opposed the resolution, arguing that the name change would be costly and time-consuming.

According to an email submitted to the board's Land Use and Transportation Committee from County Surveyor Bruce Storrs, "Out of the 28 fronting properties, 23 responded to the Public Works letters. All of the responses opposed the renaming of Gilbert Street."

Instead, several residents asked the Department of Public Works to consider renaming the Public Defender's Office Building after Adachi instead of Gilbert Street.

Supervisor Matt Haney has proposed to keep the Gilbert Street name posted beneath the new Jeff Adachi Way for five years, after which it would permanently be known as Jeff Adachi Way.

The resolution now awaits a vote before the full Board of Supervisors. ■

IDC Elects New Officers for 2020-21

The Intermountain District Council of the JACL elected its new officers to serve for 2020-21 on Nov. 2 in Pocatello, Idaho. Pictured (from left) are Janet Komoto, outgoing governor from Snake River chapter; Sandra Grant, Wasatch Front North



president; Karl Endo, Pocatello-Blackfoot president and 2nd vice governor; Lisa Shio-saki Olsen, Idaho Falls president, incoming governor and outgoing secretary; Jeff Itami, incoming secretary; Linda Itami, Salt Lake member; Marion Hori, treasurer; Geoff Russell, 1st vice governor from WFN chapter; and Jeanette Misaka, ex-officio governor from Salt Lake City chapter. (Not pictured are Dick Mano, president of Mt. Olympus chapter; Dylan Mori of Mile High, district YPC rep; and Brian Heleker and Quinn Susuki, district youth reps from Snake River chapter. ■

A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

CALENDAR

NCWNP

S.F. JACL 2019 Spaghetti Crab Feed
San Francisco, CA

Dec. 7; 5-8 p.m.

Christ United Presbyterian Church
1700 Sutter St.

Price: \$40 Adults; \$50 at the Door; \$15 Children 12 and Under

Join the SF chapter at its annual Spaghetti Crab Feed, with proceeds being donated to the Japanese American National Library. Come on out and support a great cause and eat delicious food at the same time!
Info: Email sfjacl@yahoo.com.

Florin JACL-Sacramento Valley 84th Anniversary Luncheon 'Strength Through Unity'
Elk Grove, CA

Dec. 7; 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

Valley Hi Country Club
9595 Franklin Blvd.

Price: \$45

This year's anniversary luncheon will celebrate the chapter's 84 years of social justice advocacy and community service. Award recipients include Jewish Voice for Peace (Community Leadership Award), Kiyo Sato (Carol Hisatomi Women's Leadership Award) and Madison Tamichi, Jenna Yonenaga and Melanie Shojinaga (Next Generation Leadership Award). A special raffle will also be held.

Info: Order tickets by Dec. 1, with check made out to "Florin JACL," Florin JACL-SV c/o Fumie Shimada, 333 Bello Rio Way, Sacramento, CA 95831.

Kimochi Silver Bells
San Francisco, CA

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

The Event Center at St. Mary's Cathedral

1111 Gough St.

Price: Free; Complimentary shuttle service available to/from Japantown (Peace Plaza on the corner of Post & Sutter Streets)

Don't miss this opportunity to get your Christmas shopping done at this event that will showcase Asian and Pacific Islander-themed handmade crafts, unique art and much more from over 90 vendors! A portion of the proceeds will benefit Kimochi.

Info: Visit www.kimochi-inc.org or call (415) 931-2294.

12th Annual Mochi Madness Pounding Workshop, Tasting and Potluck
Florin, CA

Dec. 14; 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Florin Buddhist Church
7235 Pritchard Road

Price: Free for JACL members and ages 5 and under; Nonmembers \$5
Sponsored by the Buddhist Church of Florin, Buddhist Women's Assn.

and Florin JACL-Sacramento Valley, this family-friendly event will feature plenty of mochi tasting, mochi for sale and a delicious year-end potluck.

Info: RSVP by Dec. 11 by email to judyfukuman@comcast.net or call (916) 421-5253. For mochi presale order form, visit www.florinbuddhist.org or call (916) 383-1831. General information, visit www.florinjacl.com.

The Life and Career of Kaneji Domoto Exhibition
Berkeley, CA

Thru Dec. 16

University of California, Berkeley Environmental Design Library, Wurster Hall
Room 210

Renowned Nisei landscape architect Kaneji Domoto's life and work is the focus of this retrospective exhibit that pulls from original correspondence, photographs and drawings from the Domoto Collection. The exhibit will also survey Domoto's life, including his apprenticeship and architectural work at Frank Lloyd Wright's Taliesin studio in Wisconsin, prewar, and his architectural achievements at Wright's Usioan Community in New York, postwar.

Info: Call (510) 642-5124 or email designarchives@berkeley.edu.

PSW

Osechi Made Easy
Los Angeles, CA

Dec. 7; 10 a.m.-Noon and 2-4 p.m.

Japanese American Cultural and Community Center
244 S. San Pedro St.

Price: \$90 JACCC Members; \$100 Nonmembers

Yoko Maeda Lamn returns to join JACCC's culinary team to create several traditional styles of soups and vegetable-based dishes, complete with historical explanations of this traditional New Year's Day cuisine. In this workshop, participants will learn how to make dashi, ozoni (Japanese New year soup) in two ways (Kyoto-style miso broth and clear broth), dashi-maki tamago (sweet egg dish) and nimonono (simmered dish using dashi).

Info: Visit www.jaccc.org.

A Little Tokyo Christmas
Los Angeles, CA

Dec. 21; 3-5 p.m.

Japanese American Cultural and Community Center
Aratani Theatre
244 S. San Pedro St.

Price: Tickets available for purchase.
Come and enjoy music, laughter and dancing in this one-of-a-kind holiday show featuring such talent as Cesar Cipriano, Alison De La

Cruz, Geoff Dwyer, Jason Fong, Ai Goeku Cheung, Mike Hagiwara, Amy Hill, Yumi Iwama, Ukuleles for Little Tokyo, Greg Watanabe and Marlene Yamane Chau. Unique crafts and gifts will also be featured in a special Holiday Gift Boutique.
Info: Visit www.jaccc.org.

Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple Mochitsuki

Los Angeles, CA

Dec. 27; 9 a.m.

505 E. Third St.

Mochitsuki is a traditional event of making mochi, Japanese rice cakes. Please join the temple in a community event to make mochi and socialize with old and new friends.

Info: Visit <http://hhbt-la.org/?p=216>.

'Fighting for Democracy: Who Is the 'We' in 'We the People'?

Los Angeles, CA

Thru Jan. 5

JANM

100 N. Central Ave.

This experimental exhibition features seven real people and traces their stories throughout the prewar, World War II and postwar periods as examples of the millions of Americans whose lives were affected by the war and how each sought equal rights for their families and communities.

Info: Visit www.janm.org.

Manzanar Gallery Exhibit by Artist Topah Spoonhunter

Independence, CA

Thru Jan. 31

Manzanar National Historic Site

5001 Hwy 395

The Manzanar National Historic Site is hosting a new exhibit on the visitor center's gallery wall by artist Topah Spoonhunter. His pieces reflect his, and broadly other Indigenous peoples', connection to the Owens Valley. Spoonhunter is an enrolled member of the Northern Arapaho Tribe and grew up on the Big Pine Paiute Reservation in Big Pine, Calif. He believes that tribal cultures across North and South America not only offer valid ways of viewing the world, but also have developed effective methods of addressing the human condition. His art is a reflection of this belief.
Info: Visit <https://www.nps.gov/manz>.

'Under a Mushroom Cloud: Hiroshima, Nagasaki and the Atomic Bomb'

Los Angeles, CA

Thru June 7, 2020

Japanese American National Museum
100 N. Central Ave.

To commemorate the upcoming 75th anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on Aug. 6 and Aug. 9, 1945, this special exhibition will present photographs, explanatory texts, artifacts and contemporary art that will shed light on this painful history as well as provide a safe space for discussion with the hope that such events never happen again.

Info: Visit www.janm.org.

PNW

Puyallup Valley JACL Annual Mochitsuki

Tacoma, WA

Dec. 7; 9 a.m.

Tacoma Buddhist Temple

1717 Fawcett Ave.

Price: Free

Join the Puyallup Valley JACL at its annual Mochitsuki event which begins at 9 a.m. All in the community are invited to attend this traditional Japanese activity that will conclude with a potluck luncheon.

Info: RSVP to elamphere@live.com.

Asian American Santa & Gift Craft Fair

Seattle, WA

Dec. 7; Noon-3 p.m.

Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience

719 S. King St.

Price: Museum general admission \$17

This special holiday event will feature a photo opportunity with Santa, as well as the museum's first-ever local artist craft fair featuring unique gifts from vendors such as Aki Sogabe, Kimono Revivify, 2 Squirrels and a Nut, On Point Pins and Kela Designs. RSVP recommended for a photo time slot.

Info: Visit https://www.wingluke.org/single-exhibit/?mep_event=3436.

Screening of 'Minidoka: An American Concentration Camp'

Portland, OR

Dec. 8; 5:30 p.m.

Hollywood Theatre

4122 N.E. Sandy Blvd.

Price: Tickets Available for Purchase

This 45-minute film, produced by North Shore Prods., depicts the compelling voices of survivors of the camp, exploring the unconstitutional suspension of civil rights of those who were forcibly incarcerated during World War II and the long-lasting impact of the experience on their community. A Q & A with camp survivors and the filmmakers will follow the screening.
Info: Visit https://hollywoodtheatre.org/events/minidoka-an-american-concentration-camp/?fbclid=IwAR2mIYmNWbLEDyVbiRggldk5ZfBn1x7zd47cf_PcRZxPxETCoJwJdOjIMQ.

CCDC

Meet Santa at the Kearney Mansion Museum
Fresno, CA

Dec. 7; 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Price: \$6 Adults; \$5 Seniors; \$4 Children (3-12); Free for Historical Society members

Create a unique family memory in a gorgeous setting during this opportunity to take a photo with Santa as well as enjoy a self-guided tour of this historic home that is decorated with 10 themed Christmas

trees and antique toys.

Info: Visit <https://www.valleyhistory.org/index.php?id=16>.

IDC

Denver Winter Brew Fest

Denver, CO

Jan. 25

Mile High Station

2027 W. Colfax Ave.

Price: Tickets \$30-\$50

Taste from a selection of 100-plus beers, ciders and more from 40 different breweries at the annual Winter Brew Festival in Denver. In addition, the event, which will be held indoors and outdoors under a heated tent, will also feature live music and food trucks.

Visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/denver-winter-brew-fest-january-25-2020-tickets-75179589175?aff=ebdsbdestsearch>.

MDC

Hoosier JACL Annual Holiday Luncheon
Indianapolis, IN

Dec. 8; 1-4 p.m.

Ocean World Restaurant

1206 W. 86th St.

Price: Bento Lunch Prices Vary for Members/Nonmembers: Adults \$21-\$27

The Hoosier chapter is celebrating its holiday luncheon with delicious bento box fare featuring a choice of salmon shioyaki, salmon teriyaki, beef or chicken teriyaki at varying prices. The luncheon will also feature door prizes, games, installation and caroling. Reservations deadline is Nov. 25.

Info: Payment and reservation must be received by Nov. 25, payable to Hoosier JACL. For information, call (317) 257-1516.

EDC

Conservation in Action: Japanese Buddhist Sculpture in a New Light

Boston, MA

Thru June 30

Museum of Fine Arts

465 Huntington Ave.

A rare, behind-the-scenes look at the conservation of seven Buddhist sculptures.

Info: Visit <https://www.mfa.org/exhibitions/conservation-in-action-japanese-buddhist-sculpture-in-a-new-light>.

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FOR MORE INFO:
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MEMORIAM

Aiboshi, Toshiko Sakamoto, 91, Culver City, CA, Oct. 17; she is survived by her children, Linda (Robert)

Popovich, Nancy (Paul) Sanders, Carol (Santos) Echevestre and Scott (Iris) Aiboshi; gc: 6; ggc: 2.

TRIBUTE

DON NAGAO SAKAI



Don Nagao Sakai, 95, died peacefully at home in Kapolei, Hawaii, on Oct. 20, 2019, surrounded by family; born in Los Angeles, interned in Rohwer, Ark. during WWII, resident of Hawaii since retiring in 1985, he is predeceased by his parents, Fukumatsu and Kano; brothers Yoshitaro and Fumioh; and son Darren; survived by his wife, Fumii, children Barbara (Chris) Miloe, Beverly Sakai-Giddens and Donald; nieces Diane and Gail; nephew Steven; seven grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.



Arakaki, James, 90, Montebello, CA, Oct. 7; he is survived by his sons, Dean (Lisa) Arakaki and Brian (Susan) Arakaki; sister, Aki (Tom) Maeda; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 3.



Bannai, Paul Takeo, 99, Gardena, CA, Sept. 14; during WWII, he was incarcerated at the Manzanar WRA Center in CA and later served in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the MIS; he also served as a California assembly member and as the first director of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians; he was predeceased by his wife, Hideko, and son-in-law, Robert M. Miura; he is survived by his children, Don, Lorraine and Kathryn; siblings, Rose and Ted; gc: 5.



Endow, Kenneth, 51, San Gabriel, CA, Oct. 5; he is survived by his wife, Sharice; children, Kathryn Endow, Tiffany Sui and Christopher

Endow; parents, Jack and Joyce; uncle, Thomas (Carolyn) Golobif; he is also survived by many relatives.



Hiji, Hisao Bob, 98, Camarillo, CA, Oct. 12; he was predeceased by his daughter, Lynn; he is survived by his wife, Hisako; daughter, Linda; siblings, Lily (Frank) Sawai, Mae (Shogo) Kanamori, Frank (Betty) Hiji and Robert (Harriet) Hiji; he is also survived by many nieces and nephews.



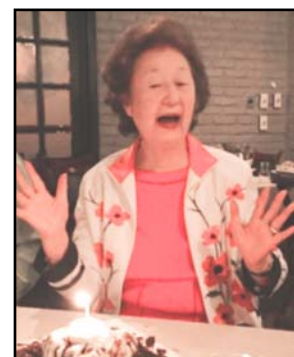
Imoto, Chiz A., 95, San Diego, CA, Oct. 16; she was predeceased by her husband, Tad; she is survived by her children, Michael (Debbie) Imoto and Marti (Gregg); gc: 4.

Jones, Sarah Sueko (Higa), 93, Pearl City, HI, Sept. 12; she was predeceased by her husband, James; she is survived by her children, Patricia, James R. (May) Dino and David; brother, David Iwao Higa; siblings, Thomas, Paul, Robert, Carl, Helen Tamashiro, Grace Teruya, Gertrude Onaka and Molly Unruh; she is also survived by numerous gc, ggc, nieces and nephews.



Kashiwagi, Hiroshi, 96, Berkeley, CA, Oct. 29; during WWII, his family and he were incarcerated at the Tule Lake WRA Center in CA; a noted playwright and author, he is survived by his wife, Sadako; sons, Toshihiro, Soji (Keiko) and Hiroshi; he is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

Kuroda, Goro John, 93, Orange, CA, Sept. 3; he is survived by his wife, Noriko; children, Jon, Lee, Emi (David) Negron and Erika McKee; gc: 3; ggc: 1.



Lyon, Yoko D., 93, San Diego, CA, Oct. 21.



Misaka, Wataru 'Wat.', 95, Salt Lake City, UT, Nov. 19; an Army veteran, he gained fame as a collegiate basketball player and was the first nonwhite professional basketball player; he was predeceased by his wife, Katie; he is survived by a daughter and a son.

Nakamoto, Martha, 99, Tigard, OR, Oct. 12; during WWII, her family and she were incarcerated at the Pine-dale Assembly Center in CA, the Tule Lake WRA Center in CA and the Heart Mountain WRA Center in WY; she was predeceased by her husband, Kay; son, Dennis; and an infant son; she is survived by her children, Cheryl (Mike), Steven (Kay) and Alan; daughter-in-law, Sonia; sister, Mary; gc: 8; ggc: 11.



Okumura, Tomoko Kamikawa, 72, Los Angeles, CA, Oct. 9; she is survived by her children, Eric Kamikawa and June Mitchell.



Sawada, Teruho, 83, Cleveland, OH, Oct. 8; he is survived by his children, Miho (Gene) Zinni, Chiho (Rebecca) Sawada and Trishia Beaty; gc: 4.

TRIBUTE

PATRICIA KIKUNO NAMBA, NÉE HASHIMOTO



Patricia peacefully passed away at home on Sept. 2. She was preceded in death by her loving husband, Minoru Namba, and her devoted brothers Masateru, Yasuo, Katsumi, and Jitsuo. On Oct. 20, 1920, Patricia was born to issei parents, Torazuchi (immigrated to U.S.A. 1907) and Shige Hashimoto who settled in Taishoku (Florin) and farmed 60 acres in Mayhew Brighton Judicial Township in Sacramento County. She graduated from Edward Kelly Elementary School, Sacramento High School and the Haz-More fashion and design school in San Francisco.

In 1942, Patricia then 22 years old, along with 120,000 innocent Japanese Americans, were tragically and unconstitutionally removed from their homes and incarcerated. Patricia's destination, Poston Camp II, Ariz., organized to build a productive community on desolate, barren land on an Indian Reservation along the Colorado River. Patricia contributed by using her skills to teach in the camp sewing school. In 1944, because military orders prohibited a return to the West Coast, she relocated to Milwaukee, Wis., to live with a German-American family. In 1945, she married U.S. Army, Military Intelligence Service, Pacific Theatre soldier, Sgt Minoru Namba, who was on emergency leave to reclaim his family's farm prior to their release from Poston.

After resettlement in Sacramento, Minoru and Patricia bought a stately home at 718 P St., now the site of a State of California building. Patricia started her home dressmaking business and went to work outside the home. After many years, she retired from the UCDMC Emergency Room.

Patricia is survived by her children Dr. Eileen Namba Otsuji (Ron), Richard Namba (Dr. Susan), Dr. Mike Namba; grandchildren Patrick Otsuji (Monica Torres), Reid Otsuji (Mimi), Dr. Jennifer Namba (Ken Liem); great-grandchildren Alisabeth, Kian, Esabel and Remy Otsuji, Connor and Cameron Liem; and many Hashimoto and Namba family relatives.

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By Kelly Takasu,
Contributor

REIMAGINE EVERYTHING

IT'S TIME TO SPEAK UP: WHY WE CAN'T LET ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE BE THE SILENT KILLER IN OUR COMMUNITY . . .

I remember the hushed whispers when my great-aunt was diagnosed with Alzheimer's. She had left something on the stove, and the kitchen caught fire. My parents explained to me that auntie was going to need more care and would be moving into a memory care facility. I didn't realize then what a significant impact this disease was going to have on my family. Next came my grandmother. I watched as the disease slowly stripped her of memory, the ability to communicate and her personality. My grandfather's role quickly changed from husband to caregiver.

My grandfather and the staff at their assisted living facility worked hard to keep them together for as long as possible. But the disease won — forcing my grandmother to move to a memory care facility across the street. My grandfather would take a shuttle every day to visit my grandmother — even though she did not always recognize him.

Then Alzheimer's hit again — another great-aunt and a great-uncle. And then my remaining grandmother developed vascular dementia. A total of five members of my family have been stolen by Alzheimer's or another form of dementia — impacting not just that person, but also our entire family.

I share my family's story because we cannot let Alzheimer's remain in the shadows. In our community, Alzheimer's is stigmatized. When we overcome the shame associated with Alzheimer's and other dementias, we can support those in our community who are living with the disease.

I am lucky to be able to turn my family's tragedy into something positive. I work at Alzheimer's Los Angeles, a local nonprofit that serves people and their families impacted by Alzheimer's and other dementias by providing free care counseling, caregiver education and support.

Recently we released a series of educational videos to help raise awareness by showcasing the personal stories of five Japanese and Japanese American caregivers (<https://www.alzheimersla.org/the-faces-of-caregiving/>).

The video series features different generations caring for loved ones — mothers, wives, grandmothers. Through their stories, we learn about the struggles that caregivers face — problems getting an accurate diagnosis, financial burdens of health-care costs and finding care that is culturally appropriate for Japanese Americans.

The videos also showcase the power of family and how caregiving is more than just a responsibility, it is an expression of love.

These videos are available to watch online,

and we hosted several watch parties throughout the Los Angeles area featuring a panel of the highlighted caregivers. Our event in Gardena, Calif., included opening remarks from Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi — who spoke about the importance of Alzheimer's awareness in the Japanese American community.

In addition to these online videos, Alzheimer's Los Angeles has caregiver tip sheets that provide easy-to-read information, addressing common concerns and challenges. From bathing and toileting to sundowning and driving, the tip sheets provide simple and easy-to-understand tips for caregivers and are available in a variety of languages, including Japanese and Spanish.

We host several support groups in conjunction with Little Tokyo Service Center. Classes developed especially for caregivers of someone living with dementia are also available. Learn more at AlzheimersLA.org.

November is National Alzheimer's Awareness month, so I encourage my fellow JACLers to do two things to raise awareness this month:

1. Watch and share the Faces of Caregiving videos. Use these videos to start a conver-



sation about maintaining your brain health. **2. Become a Dementia Friend.** Visit dementiafriendsusa.org and watch a few short videos to learn more about dementia, recognize the signs and simple actions you can take to help those in our community with the disease. ■

Kelly Takasu is the public policy manager at Alzheimer's Los Angeles. She is the former JACL Mike M. Masaoka Congressional fellow and is a member of the JACL Clovis chapter.

WORD » continued from page 2

In both of these cases, there was no ill intent, but the similarity was the ignorance to the past and present power of a racist slur. In both cases, with appropriate education and outreach, the result was a swift apology and promises to make things right. It underscores the importance of ongoing education. It is not just the legacy of this one word, but

the way it has been used to dehumanize and diminish.

Today, we see a trend to normalize some of these words that have been used to oppress. The "N" word is used in some cases by African-Americans to claim control of the word and mute its power.

We must all be clear that this narrow usage

of the word does not give license to anyone to use the word, though some have tried.

The NFL continues to allow the football team in our nation's capital to use a slur for Native Americans as its name, despite the objections of many Native American and allied groups, including JACL.

We must be steadfast in our opposition to the use of slurs. What is most important to JACL as a civil rights group is our strong reliance on our history to speak out on problems today.

These are not isolated incidents, as we have seen with the incident at our own convention in 2018 and the Kansas license plate. It is only when people forget that we begin to once again repeat the wrongs of the past. This is one wrong we cannot allow to be repeated.

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



Marsha and Aiden Aizumi with LDS leader Emerson Fersch

VOICE » continued from page 3

We could not have anticipated the reaction we received from Emerson's story. I heard positive comments of surprise that someone from the Mormon community was doing this work. In the audience, two gay men stood up and shared that they attended a Mormon church in the past but moved away from the LDS faith and were now attending other churches. You could tell it was healing for them to hear the work of this LDS leader. Our voices and stories matter, even if the communities we are representing are not present.

And so, these experiences continue to drive home the message that speaking out and being visible is important. Are you folding cranes for the Tsuru for Solidarity project? Are you bringing in speakers to educate your organizations or faith institutions on issues regarding LGBTQ, immigration, census or registering

to vote? And are you educating yourself on some of the issues that touch your heart, so you can be a better advocate?

Whatever you are doing, I thank you for your visibility, your voice, your time and your presence. You truly matter to me and so many others. . . .

"The planet does not need more successful people. The planet desperately needs more peacemakers, healers, restorers, storytellers and lovers of all kinds."

— Dalai Lama

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."