



# PACIFIC CITIZEN

May 16-June 5, 2014

THE NATIONAL  
NEWSPAPER OF  
THE JACL



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## PURSUING 'MILLIONS'

**Director Andrew C harnesses  
the power of the Internet to stream  
his new Web series.**

PHOTO: COURTESY OF ANDREW C

# THE OKURA FOUNDATION HONORS ITS FOUNDERS' LEGACY

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Pat and Lily Okura Mental Health Leadership Foundation celebrated its 35th Anniversary and honored the Okura's legacy May 13 at the Cosmos Club in the nation's capital.

Attendees included former U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta, JACL National Director Priscilla Ouchida and Okura family members Karen Ishizuka and Glen Komatsu.

Stories shared by Okura Foundation board members Bertram Brown and Philip Hallen, along with Mineta, detailed their experiences with the Okura's long career and ongoing contributions to the mental health community.



Okura Foundation board members (from left) Ford Kuramoto, Philip Hallen, Karen Ishizuka, Bertram Brown and Glen Komatsu; Ishizuka and Komatsu are the niece and nephew, respectively, of the late Pat Okura.

Recipients of Okura Foundation grants include Los Angeles-based Kizuna, which was represented by Craig Ishii.

Under the 1988 Civil Liberties Act, which granted reparations to Japanese Americans who were interned during WWII, the Okura's used their reparations to establish their foundation and provide leadership development for promising young professionals.

Pat Okura was one of the leading Asian American figures in the health field and a civil rights leader who served as JACL National President in 1962. ■

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

In John Tateishi's recent column "The No-No Boys" (April 4-17, 2014), he expresses puzzlement over why the NCWNP civil rights committee has raised the issue of the Nikkei who were defined as disloyal for their dissent during WWII. Tateishi says, "I'm curious to know what the recent historical research is because, frankly, I'm not exactly sure what this new enterprise hopes to reveal that isn't already known about the infamous Questions 27 and 28 and their impact on the lives of Japanese Americans."

To answer his query, he might take a look at Roger Daniels' newest book "The Japanese American Cases: The Rule of Law in Time of War" (2014). Daniels is the pre-eminent scholar of the Japanese American experience, and his work provides the foundation of Japanese American historical research. Daniels also served as a consultant to the Presidential Commission on the Wartime Relocation of Civilians throughout its existence.

In "The Japanese American Cases," Daniels provides an eloquent response to Tateishi's question.

"The burden of Tule Lake still lies heavily on the only people who continue to care deeply

about it, many members of the mainland Japanese American community. For many of the majority of Japanese American families whose incarceration experience and traditions were associated with one of the other main WRA camps, Tuleans were those who had soiled their collective reputation. For the minority who had actually been at Tule Lake, it was a shame, even for those who met the capricious standards of wartime loyalty. Such former Tuleans often did not volunteer the name of their camp and sometimes even concealed it from postwar children or those too young to remember where they had been. Tuleans in general and renunciants in particular are the only groups of wartime Nisei who have never been celebrated, never been forgiven."

Although John Tateishi believes that no one in the community "buys that old nonsense that the No-No Boys were disloyal," he might learn more if he sought out those "No-Nos" and renunciants whose choices were never validated, in fact were denounced by the organization.

One only needs to look at the JACL's 1946 National Board meeting minutes to understand why Tule Lake's "No-Nos" and renunciants might feel the sting of condemnation by this organization of self-proclaimed "loyal"

Americans. This is the position the JACL National Board took on the issue of Tule Lake's dissidents:

"It was argued that since these Tulelake 'troublemakers' would always be in the forefront of anti-American and anti-JACL movements, steps ought to be taken to curb them now. It was also stated that they would serve as a reminder that there were some Japanese who wavered [sic] in their loyalty to the United States and would always be a source of irritation to local Japanese communities. To avoid such difficulties, it was recommended that JACL go on record favoring their deportation immediately. Others recommended that released Tuleans be required to carry on their persons at all times special identification.

"One fear expressed was that within a few years when public good will is the lot of all Japanese, these Tuleans would reap the benefits of this public attitude and that there would be no distinctions made between those who stood for principle and those who wavered."

Given the passage of 70 years, isn't it about time for the oldest and largest Nikkei civil rights organization to seek "an honest reckoning" on this issue?

Sincerely,  
Barbara Takei

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## NIKKEI VOICE

# GODZILLA, THE WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS JAPANESE AMERICAN

By Gil Asakawa

Although Hollywood has been making monster movies since the original 1933 film “King Kong,” the monster with the most staying power and screen incarnations didn’t come out of California, but from Tokyo.

Godzilla is back with another cinematic reboot produced by Hollywood featuring the usual array of megaspecial effects, including a digitized monster instead of a man in a monster suit.

Whether costumed or computer-generated, Godzilla is the most famous Japanese American in the world. He’s starred in 28 movies, stomping his way through cities on both sides of the Pacific.

Godzilla, or the Japanese pronunciation “Gojira” (a combination of the words for *gorilla*, “gorira,” and *whale*, “kujira”) made its first Japanese appearance in 1954, but the film was edited and scenes were inserted starring Raymond Burr as an American journalist for its 1956 release in the U.S. as “Godzilla, King of the Monsters!”

I always thought this was to make the movie more palatable to American audiences, but now I realize there was a more political reason for the reworking of the first film.



In the decades since then, Godzilla/Gojira has battled a bevy of baddies equally monstrous, such as Mothra, Gaigan, Hedora, Mechagojira and, yes, even King Kong. There was a millennium edition Godzilla in 2000 that destroyed Nemuro, my mom’s hometown. And in 2004, Toho Co. allegedly put the monster to rest for good in “Godzilla Final Wars.” But Godzilla is good business, apparently.

All of the movies in the franchise were produced by the

Japanese studio Toho Co., except for Sony’s 1998 Hollywood take, the first time the monster was created digitally instead of the traditional Japanese approach of a guy wearing a rubber lizard suit. Toho co-produced that one, and the studio also profits from the new Warner Bros.-produced movie that premiered stateside May 16.

I have the 1956 version with Burr, and I like it because it’s more of a serious movie than the campy approach most of the movies have taken over the years. It’s an unabashed statement, created early in the post-war Atomic Age, that reflects Japan’s terror at the U.S. and other countries’ testing of atomic bombs in the Pacific. The original film’s clear message is that if you mess with Mother Nature, Mother Nature will mess with you right back.

That original 1956 version of “Godzilla, King of the Monsters!” has been rereleased in the U.S. in a two-DVD set that includes the original, longer Japanese version, which is more upfront about its anti-nuclear message. The *New York Times* wrote about the 2006 DVD release:

>> See GODZILLA on page 12



## FOR THE RECORD

# THE BOMB

By John Tateishi

I remember one day in camp, something terrible had happened. There was a buzz going on all over, and wherever you went around the camp, you would see the adults in small groups murmuring, whispering as if some great secret had been found out.

Some were crying. They all tried to hide their fear.

I don’t remember much else about that day other than those whispered conversations. Any semblance of normalcy was gone, the laughter was gone, and we kids knew some terrible event had taken place somewhere distant. It wasn’t until a while later that I learned about Hiroshima and Nagasaki, but I couldn’t comprehend the magnitude of it all. To me, a bomb was a bomb, just like the ones we used to see in war movies.

But soon enough, we all came to understand what Hiroshima and Nagasaki were all about and what had happened there. My family’s ties go back to Shimane and Yamaguchi kens, and we lost no relatives in the two cities that had been obliterated. But after the war, periodically we sent what we called care packages to Japan to relatives I never met and to people whose names didn’t sound even vaguely familiar. That’s what you did if you were Japanese American; you cared for the people who, not long before, were our nation’s enemy, the people who looked like you and with whom you were inextricably tied through race if not experience.

In many ways, I felt in those years like we never

escaped the shadow of that mushroom cloud. After being free of the tyranny of our imprisonment, we learned as kids in school to fear the Russians and the Bomb, as it was called (they have the Bomb, too, we were told). In those days, it was the atom bomb; the word *nuclear* was not yet part of our everyday lexicon of fear.

For a few years after the war, we would hear our parents now and then mention Hiroshima and how terrible it was for the kind of devastation it had wrecked on Japan’s spirit and soul. That was our connection, its unimaginable power and destructive force and the obliteration of two entire cities and the vaporization of the Japanese in those cities: That was our relationship with what occurred at the end of the war.

I think for us Japanese American kids, the idea of the atomic bomb had a kind of significance our white schoolmates couldn’t possibly have understood. I don’t know that even we fully understood or appreciated its significance for our families or our community. In some perverted way, what the bomb represented for me was a sense of guilt for being like the people it killed, looking like the enemy when my teachers and white schoolmates had no such resemblance to the unknown enemy. I suppose that was one of the cruelties of being too young to understand the guilt others placed on me. People who looked like them dropped the bomb on people who looked like me, and for that I somehow felt guilty. Go figure.

It’s not like I thought about these things all the time or even much at all. But the atomic bomb came to have a presence in our lives as the Cold War with Russia grew after WWII, creating a sense of paranoia in this country. As kids, we were taught bomb drills — teachers would suddenly shout in class, “Drop!” and we would dive under our little desks into a fetal position, with our hands covering the back of our necks, eyes closed tight . . . as if that would help us survive the sudden flash of blinding light and intense heat as a nuclear bomb dropped close enough to vaporize us and send our little souls into obliteration.

It was like a game for us, kind of like Musical Chairs. Soon, it became a competition between my friends and me to see who could react the quickest. So all through the day, we sat there anticipating when the teacher would say the magic word, completely distracted from the lessons being taught. It was more important to learn to read the signs, to figure out, for example, that it was usually when the teacher had her back to the class. That was the tell, the give-away, especially if she was writing something on the blackboard. Some of us would be half way out of our seats, ready to dive, more attentive to every twitch of muscle on our teacher’s body than to what she was saying or trying to teach us. And, of course, you’d feel

>> See BOMB on page 12

# JACL Announces National Board Nominees

JACL is set to elect its next slate of national leaders.

The National Nominating Committee, in accordance to the JACL Bylaws (Article VIII, Section 1b), has reviewed and approved the candidate applications for the following people for national office.

The offices for National Vice President for General Operations and National Vice President for Public Affairs did not receive any applications.

Although the regular filing period has passed, candidates can still run for office in accordance to the JACL bylaws (Article VIII, Section 1c), where a member in good standing may run for any national office as a late filer.

To have one's application considered and processed, all late filers must submit a completed application form with the signatures of the majority of chapter presidents or chapter delegates from his/her district council to the Nominations Committee on Wednesday, July 9, at 1 p.m.

The term of office will be for the 2014-16 biennium.

The JACL National Council will elect its officers at the July 9-12 JACL National Convention in San Jose, Calif.

Following are candidate statements from this year's nominees.



**National President**  
*David Lin*

I currently hold the position of vice president, public affairs and advocacy, at IW Group. My primary responsibility is to provide consultative advice to clients on developing and implementing winning strategies to advance clients' business goals.

I received a master's degree in computer science, a M.B.A. and a B.A. degree in mathematics, all from Rutgers University. I am also a graduate of the Program for Management Development Executive Education from Harvard Business School.

My motivation to run for re-election of National President is exactly the same as why

I volunteered to serve as the VP of Membership in February 2010: to support JACL so it can be a stronger, more vibrant and influential Asian American organization for all of us and for all Americans.

JACL is a nationally recognized civil rights organization, and I want to continue the reputation and position of JACL to an even higher level by continuing to focus on the following key areas:

1. Financial Stability
2. Membership
3. Civil Rights Advocacy
4. Culture & Heritage Preservation

Of these four areas, I think the most difficult issue that JACL must continue to address is the financial challenges we face. The fact is that our members are aging, and the membership dues as the largest revenue source will continue to decline. In response, we need to keep diversifying our revenue sources by focusing on getting foundation grants and corporate sponsorships.

Additionally, we need to continue to place an intense focus on our membership, so we can minimize the decline of this revenue stream. Our priority will continue to be retaining current members and recruiting new ones with relevant and impactful programs.



**National VP for Planning and Development**  
*Chip Larouche*

I am Chip Larouche, and I respectfully request that you consider me for election for National Vice President for Planning and Development, a position I currently hold since being appointed to fill a vacancy in 2012. I have a Bachelor of Science in industrial engineering from Northeastern University in Boston and a Master of Science degree in logistics management from Florida Institute of Technology. For the last 15 years, I have served as the chief technology officer for the City of Lake Oswego in Oregon and was the Governor of the Pacific Northwest District

for three years prior to filling the vacancy for VP of Planning and Development. I currently serve as its Treasurer.

I think the most challenging task ahead for JACL is learning to remain relevant and nimble with its work in civil rights advocacy as the organization gets smaller with the passing of many in the Nisei generation. I think my skill with organizational effectiveness and knowledge of governance will be helpful to JACL as it tackles this chapter of its historical significance. This will mean changing our structure so that we can meet today's challenges in a more efficient way and improving our communication tools to be more effective. I look forward to the challenge.



**Secretary/Treasurer**  
*Matthew Farrells*

Thank you for the honor of serving as National Secretary/Treasurer during the 2012-14 biennium. It has truly been a great pleasure to fulfill this role and lead JACL toward continued financial stability. I owe the

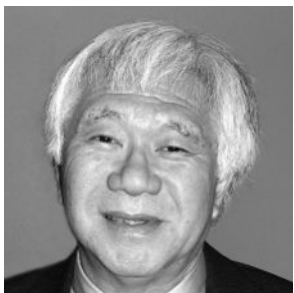
success of this term to my fellow colleagues on the JACL National Board, the dedicated and hardworking staff and to the membership, who have given me their trust to serve in this important role.

When I ran for office during the period leading up to the 2012 National Convention, I was committed to four vital initiatives:

1. Stringent financial oversight through thorough financial analysis
2. Financial transparency and accountability through effective financial reporting
3. Ensuring the JACL remains relevant within our changing environment
4. Streamlining the biennial budget process

Today, I am still firmly committed to these ideals, and I am happy to say we've made tremendous progress toward each of these principles over the past two years. However, as with other ideals we live by, I believe they can never be fully attained but whose purpose is to cause continual improvement by always striving for better. So, as I am preparing to serve as your National Secretary/Treasurer for another term, I look forward to continually focusing on and improving our financial stability, reporting and relevancy as an organization.

In closing, I believe my experience serving as National Secretary/Treasurer, working in project management and my business education will greatly aid me in contributing toward the success of the organization during the 2014-16 biennium. In addition, serving consecutive terms is beneficial for continuity's sake, specifically continuing the initiatives that were pursued during the 2012-14 biennium.



**National VP for One Thousand Club, Membership and Services**  
*Toshi Abe*

My name is Toshi Abe, and I present myself to you as a candidate for the office of National Vice President of the Thousand Club, Membership and Services. As many of you know, I have held this title since July 2013. In that time, I have heard from many of you about your concerns and have reached out to you for your suggestions about how to make JACL more relevant to our members. If elected, I hope to vigorously carry out JACL's Program for Action to ensure that our organization remains strong into the future.

I first joined JACL in the 1990s when I became a member of the Philadelphia Chapter. Within a few years, I became a board member and worked alongside individuals such as Grayce and Hiroshi Uyehara, Herb and Miiko Horikawa, Teresa Maebori, William Marutani and Ed Nakawatase. I have also served as their Chapter President, Vice Governor and from 2009-13 as Governor of the Eastern District Council.

As your current VP of Membership, I have learned much about the challenges of this national position and truly appreciate the hard work and effort it takes to run the membership department. I especially appreciate the skill and talent of our membership coordinator, Annie Noguchi (who has recently left JACL to further her career), and her assistant, Tomiko Ismail.

Our organization has been coping with declining membership these past few years, and one of our current projects is to see if our dues structure is too high for some of our members who are on fixed incomes or others who have been negatively affected by the current economy. Our hope is to find a solution that is sustainable and results in increased numbers of memberships. If elected, I pledge to do my best to carry out the mission of this great organization.



**National Youth/Student Council Chairperson**  
*Nicole Gaddie*

My name is Nicole Horiuchi Gaddie, and my aim is to increase the relevancy of the JACL to youth while giving them the tools necessary to advocate within their communities.

I'm originally from Salt Lake City, Utah, and I moved to Seattle to attend school at Seattle University. During my time in Seattle, a socialist city councilmember was elected, gay marriage was legalized and we are now in a battle to increase minimum wage. More important, youth have been at the forefront of all these social movements.

I have served on the National Youth Council as an At-Large Representative and later the Pacific Northwest Youth Representative and am excited to continue working with such passionate and motivated individuals.

As the NY/SC Chairperson, I plan to continue our youth summits held at various districts throughout the year. We will build coalitions by partnering with college clubs and community organizations.

Finally, I plan to increase transparency between the executive board and youth so we can stand in solidarity and create change.



**National Youth/Student Council Representative**  
*Michelle A. Yamashiro*

After working with the National Youth/Student Council as the PSW Youth Representative, I am excited to announce my candidacy for the National Youth Representative position. I have worked with different community service and

culture preservation clubs, and I hope to bring innovative ideas to help improve the youth recruitment and retention within the JACL.

As a current master's graduate in education, I have done an extensive amount of research on our education system. It is imperative that youth and students of all ages and backgrounds learn about the social injustices within U.S. history and learn to grow an appreciation for community service and advocacy.

I would like to create more programs for students of all backgrounds to learn about the past injustices done to marginalized groups in the United States. In addition, I would like to increase awareness of the JACL and build bridges with different communities. By working with the JACL as the National Youth Representative, I hope to grow and build stronger relationships with various educational organizations and sponsors to ensure that the vision and mission of the JACL is upheld. ■

# Monterey Hosts Japanese American Heritage Days Event



Larry Oda (right) takes part in the procession on Alvarado Mall during Monterey's Japanese American Heritage Days event.

PHOTOS: NORMAN ABE

By Wendy Brickman  
Contributor

Thousands of attendees gathered at Monterey's Old Fisherman's Wharf to celebrate Japanese culture in the community's first-ever Japanese American Heritage Days event, which was held on May 3 and 4.

Co-sponsored by Monterey's Old Fisherman's Wharf Assn. and the JACL of the Monterey Peninsula, the weekend's festivities included taiko drum performances, interactive and educational presentations by local historians and authors, cooking demonstrations, Japanese Ikebana and bonsai exhibits, live musical performances, gyotaku (Japanese stencil fish painting) and a traditional Japanese tea ceremony. In addition, whale watching and sport fishing trips were also taken by visitors.

Kicking off the festivities was the ceremonial Kagami Wari (opening of the sake cask), which was provided by Ozeki Sake from Hollister, Calif. On hand to welcome attendees were Mary Alice Cerrito Fettis, president of Monterey's Old Fisherman's Wharf Assn.; Jeff Uchida, president of JACL-Monterey; Monterey Mayor Chuck della Sala; Japan Consul General Masato Watanabe; former Monterey Mayor Dan Albert; local historian Tim Thomas; and an official delegation from Tateyama, Japan.

The Tateyama delegation was on hand to formally present a beautifully hand-crafted and -painted traditional-style Japanese Maiwai jacket. Saturday's festivities also included a colorful procession featuring dignitaries, lion dancers and musicians that began at the Wharf and continued through downtown Monterey to the JACL Hall in Monterey, where a special reception was held.

"We are so pleased to present this outstanding event with the Japanese American Citizens League to our community and all of the visitors to Monterey," said Fettis. "We very much look forward to working with them again next year!"

Added former JACL National President Larry Oda, "This was a wonderful event to celebrate and share the rich cultural heritage of the Japanese on the Monterey Peninsula and to remember the important contribution and leadership of the early Japanese immigrants to the development of the fishery in the region."

Prior to World War II, the Japanese had a dominating presence on Fisherman's Wharf, as a majority of the businesses were owned or operated by Japanese. At the beginning of WWII, 120,000 people of Japanese heritage who lived on the Pacific coast of the United States were forcibly removed from their homes and livelihoods and incarcerated in internment camps and

The delegation from Tateyama, Japan, was on hand to formally present this traditional Japanese Maiwai jacket.



Former Monterey Mayor Dan Albert (left) and Consul General Masato Watanabe prepare to break open the ceremonial sake cask.

federal detention facilities for the duration of the war, thus ending the Japanese presence on the wharf. The U.S. government authorized the internment by issuing Executive Order 9066 on Feb. 19, 1942, shortly after Imperial Japan's attack at Pearl Harbor.

After the war, many Japanese Americans returned to the Monterey Peninsula, encouraged by a welcome-back petition signed by approximately 1,000 local notables, including John Steinbeck and Edward "Doc" Ricketts. These petitions were recently discovered amongst documents housed in the JACL Heritage Museum by Thomas, a local archivist and historian. Faced by the disappearance of the sardines (they run in cycles every 60 years approximately), the returning Japanese Americans ventured into other fisheries, pursued entry-level jobs such as gardening, restarted or opened retail businesses, gained employment with municipal agencies and established a presence in the medical professions.

The Japanese American Citizens League of the Monterey Peninsula was established in 1932 to provide leadership in the community. This organization grew out of a community group that helped the Issei (first-generation) community with the English language and provided immigration, tax and contract information. Today, the JACL building in Monterey is used as an Asian Cultural Center.

For more information, go to [www.montereywharf.com](http://www.montereywharf.com).

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# PURSUING ‘MILLIONS’

Director Andrew C decides to harness the power of the Internet to finance and stream his Web series about a group of twentysomethings trying to find their place in the world.

By *Connie K. Ho*  
Contributor

**A**ndrew Chung is someone who wears many hats. Known as “Andrew C” in the film world, he writes, edits, produces and directs — all skills seen in his directorial debut “Millions,” an award-winning Web series that was recently released online.

Chung’s foray into film began when he studied screenwriting at the Vancouver Film School in Vancouver, Canada. In film school, he was inspired to write the script for “Millions,” and he decided to develop it on his own as a Web series. The story has elements of friendship and tragedy and centers on a group of young adults in their 20s who make a pact in high school to become millionaires by the time they turn 30. Along the way, they encounter drugs, love, sex and greed.

Despite not having a lot of experience in production, Andrew C jumped straight into making this project, working with his sister, Melanie Chung, who co-directs and executive produces the series. The 32-year-old writer/director/creator took some time recently to chat with the *Pacific Citizen* about his creative journey.

## The Pacific Citizen: What inspired the story of “Millions”?

**Andrew C:** When I wrote it, I was first starting film school, and I didn’t know what I wanted to do with my life. I knew I loved film, but before that, I had studied business — I have a business degree, and I studied in university before I jumped into film. When I went into film school, I knew I wanted to pursue film, but I didn’t know whether it would actually turn into something. I was going through a period in my life that was like a midlife crisis, and I was trying to figure things out. I was seeing my peers figuring out their careers, kind of doing well, starting to settle down. And then you see a lot of images in media where you see young people getting rich very quickly, the advent of reality television and young kids, like the Mark Zuckerbergs, becoming so rich at a young age. I wanted to explore that [and see] what that does to our generation.

## Is that how the concept of “Millions” came about?

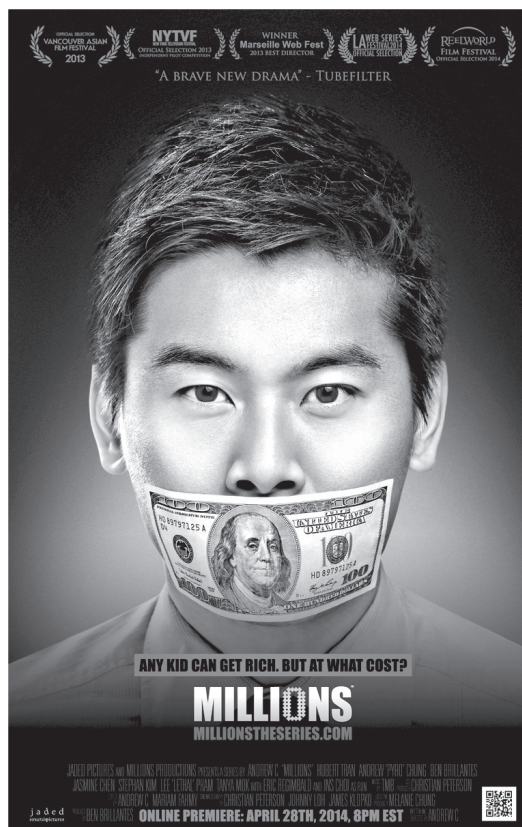
**Andrew C:** “Millions” was the result of me trying to explore characters — not outright showing these societal conditions but showing the result of how kids grow up these days and what drives them to pursue something like money when passion is what makes you happy.

## The Web series got its start on Kickstarter four years ago. What was the experience like?

**Andrew C:** We used it back in 2010, and I wouldn’t call it an infancy, but it was the beginning — it wasn’t as popular a thing as it is today. When we were telling people about the project, it was kind of a new experience for everybody. It was a great experience. I think back then it might have been easier to get pledges because there wasn’t an oversaturation of projects coming out looking for crowdfunding. Back then, we were kind of like one of the firsts, especially in Canada. When we did go out for pledges, it was great — we managed to raise our funding goal of \$8,000.



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF ANDREW C



Andrew C’s directorial debut “Millions” centers on a group of young adults in their 20s who make a pact to pursue success and fortune — at all costs.

**Why did you decide to go with Kickstarter in 2010 as opposed to traditional ways of funding the Web series?**

**Andrew C:** In Canada, there's a lot of funding options. There's a lot of grants and funding agencies that finance these kind of things, but not so much for Web series. That and, on top of the fact when you apply for funding in Canada, it's a pretty long process even if you do get accepted, so at the time, I wanted to just make it. I started seeing these Kickstarter projects come, and I saw how quickly they were raising funding. I also thought it was a great option because you're kind of in control of how much work you put into that campaign. I just feel like, in terms of a personal project, I would have more control as opposed to applying for funding, which we did try. But we were pretty unsuccessful, so we knew that this would be the next big option to try. We tried it out, and it worked.



**The cast is diverse in terms of skills and experiences. What was it like working with the different actors?**

**Andrew C:** It was a traditional casting process in terms of we just went out and had an open casting call, but we had nontraditional casting in that we were reaching out to communities outside of the acting world. We reached out to dance organizations, schools, and we just postered the city. I knew that I wanted an Asian cast, so I knew that in order to find the talent, I really needed to scour the whole city. It is true to some extent that there aren't a lot of Asians who go into acting, but I knew that in order to find this raw talent, I would have to be really proactive about it and open people's eyes to it and get people interested.



"Millions" received funding through Kickstarter back in 2010; going this route allowed Andrew C to have more control over his project as opposed to applying for funding.

**Can you elaborate more on the casting process?**

**Andrew C:** Part of the whole casting process to me was also to inspire people to go into the field because I feel that a lot of Asians don't go into entertainment. I wanted to inspire them and give them a platform and say, "Hey, there's this series with Asian leads, and it might be something that you might be interested in." We had a massive audition process and a ton of submissions after doing an open call. We were extremely happy with the cast we ended up with because we felt that they were supertalented. I wanted to prove that there were talented Asian actors out there, and I feel that we did accomplish that. We had Asians of all ethnicities come out, and the cast came from all different backgrounds, but it was kind of my intention and my hope that that would happen. We were just really lucky.

**The Marseille Web Festival is one of the largest and premier Web festivals in the world. What was it like to win an award there?**

**Andrew C:** We went to France, we went to New York, we went to L.A. as well. We won an award in France for best direction and, finally after all our festival runs, we had a screening in Toronto and then put it online.

**Tell us more about that whole experience.**

**Andrew C:** It was an amazing experience. The festival itself is great and, of course, being in France, Marseille was a beautiful city. Just being around my

peers and other people who had started their own Web series — they all had similar experiences. They just wanted to do something on their own without being shackled by the barriers of trying to get financing. So, a lot of the creators of Web series at this festival did it on their own. It was great seeing that there were other people just like you who wanted to do something and just did it. It was a pretty inspiring experience.

**Now that the first few episodes of the Web series have been released, how does it feel to have your project out there online?**

**Andrew C:** I feel it's very satisfying to finally see it out there. Over a four-year period, you're living with this project for so long — I've seen it a million times having edited it myself, so now that it's out there, I'm just happy that people can finally take a look at it for themselves. I'm excited to hear what people think of it and how the audience reacts to it.

**The show premiered on April 28. What has been the response from viewers?**

**Andrew C:** So far, the response has been positive. It's still pretty early, but so far, the reception has been pretty positive; I've been happy to hear that. One of my favorite scenes is in the first episode. It's in a bookstore between the characters Brandon and Jay. Jay and Brandon have a conversation, and Jay gives his philosophy about relationships — he kind of plays the field too much even though he already has a girlfriend. I really like that scene because it's the most complete scene in my mind in terms of writing and acting and often the way that it looks. There are a lot of scenes that I like that haven't

Following an open casting call and nontraditional casting efforts such as contacting dance organizations and schools, the cast of "Millions" features Asians of all ethnicities.

come out as well, so I hope people stay tuned.

**What do you hope people take from these episodes?**

**Andrew C:** I hope people can relate to it. I hope people can relate to the experiences that the characters in their 20s are feeling. I hope that it kind of makes them look at how they see their dreams and their passions, and I hope it will inspire them to actually take control of their own lives to some extent — although the characters in the Web series sort of go in the wrong direction, it's kind of a morality talent in that respect. I hope it inspires other Asian kids to go into entertainment. That's why I put Asian faces onscreen — I'm hoping it inspires people to see themselves onscreen when they see the series and hopefully inspire other filmmakers.

*Watch "Millions" on [MillionsTheSeries.com](http://MillionsTheSeries.com) and [youtube.com/millionstheseries](http://youtube.com/millionstheseries).*

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# JAVA's Wade Ishimoto Inducted as Distinguished Member of the Special Forces Regiment

**FORT BRAGG, N.C.** — In a packed auditorium at the U.S. Army John F. Kennedy Special Warfare Center and School at Fort Bragg, Japanese American Veterans Assn. VP Wade Ishimoto, retired Army captain, was inducted as a Distinguished Member of the Special Forces Regiment.

Accompanied by his wife, Bobbi, Ishimoto is the sole living inductee to the Special Forces Regiment, also known as the Special Forces Regimental Hall of Fame.

On hand to witness the historic moment were several family members and close friends, including Command Sgt. Maj. Ernie K. Tabata, the first Japanese American Distinguished Member of the Special Forces Regiment; 2nd Lt. Yohei Sakamoto and his wife, Jacklynn; and Karen Conlin, civilian aide to the secretary of the Army in Virginia, accompanied by her husband, Sean, and their son, Maclain, who is Ishimoto's godson.

Also in attendance were Lt. Col. Jason Kuroiwa, U.S. Army; Lt. Col. Mark Nakagawa, U.S. Army (retired); and Lt. Col. Kay Wakatake, U.S. Army.

Ishimoto's dedication to military service has made him a legend in the Special Operations community. He began his affiliation with the Special Forces Regiment in 1968, conducting classified human intelligence cross-border operations in Vietnam. He continued service with the 1st Special Forces Group (Airborne) while leading a civic action and humanitarian relief mission to the Miyako Islands, Okinawa.

He was also the intelligence officer and road block security team leader on the ill-fated 1980 mission to rescue 53 American hostages in Tehran, Iran. Even in retirement,



(From left) Lt. Col. Kay Wakatake, Command Sgt. Maj. Ernest Tabata, Lt. Col. Jason Kuroiwa, Wade Ishimoto, Lt. Col. (retired) Mark Nakagawa, 2nd Lt. Yohei Sakamoto and Jacklynn Sakamoto at the Fort Bragg ceremony.

Capt. Ishimoto continued to contribute to the Special Forces community, including planning and directing national interagency exercises against terrorism, developing the Nuclear Emergency Support Team Key Leader training program and improving recapture/recovery operations of nuclear weapons.

Said Ishimoto of receiving this recognition: "The term 'Quiet Professionals' is often used to describe those in Special Forces, and it describes a person who serves with honor and humility that never seeks self-recognition but who seeks to help others. Those traits were taught to me by many in the military and especially in Special Forces. I just wish that I could have honored them at the ceremony because my induction is because of who they were and what they taught me. The true honor of the induction belongs to them, as I am simply the embodiment of each and every one of them. I salute them for making me what I am today and for the induction." ■

## The 11th Minidoka Pilgrimage Set for June

The Minidoka Pilgrimage Committee welcomes former incarcerates, their families and friends from across the nation to the 11th Minidoka Pilgrimage from June 19-22 near Twin Falls, Idaho.

Unlike previous years, the committee will conduct its own education programming, as well as hold a Civil Liberties Symposium at the College of Southern Idaho on June 20.

In addition, participants in this year's pilgrimage will have the opportunity to access an original barrack building and mess hall, including a tour of the Minidoka National Historic Site by the National Park Service Staff. A reconstruction of the guard tower and fence is also complete.

Senior scholarships for this year's program will once again be offered to those 80 years of age or older who were imprisoned in any of the American concentration camps during World War II. The scholarship covers the registration fee, hotel and transportation from Bellevue College to Minidoka.

For further details and information, please contact the Minidoka Pilgrimage Committee at [minidokapilgrimage@gmail.com](mailto:minidokapilgrimage@gmail.com) or call (206) 681-0800.

## APAs in the News



### Jenny R. Yang Appointed Vice Chair of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — The EEOC announced on April 28 that President Barack Obama has appointed Commissioner Jenny R. Yang as vice chair of the EEOC. Yang, whose term expires on July 2, 2017, was unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate on April 25, 2013.

As a member of the EEOC, Yang is leading a comprehensive review of the agency's systemic program, which addresses issues of alleged discrimination that have a broad impact on an industry, profession, company or geographic area.

Prior to joining the EEOC, Yang was a partner of Cohen Milstein Sellers & Toll, where she represented employees across the country in numerous civil rights and employment actions.

Yang received her B.A. from Cornell University and her J.D. from New York University School of Law.



### Indira Talwani Confirmed to the U.S. District Court for Massachusetts

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — Indira Talwani was confirmed to the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts on May 8. Talwani will be the first person of Asian descent to serve as a federal judge in the commonwealth of Massachusetts, the first person of Asian descent to serve as an Article III judge in the

courts covered by the First Circuit and only the second female Article III judge of South Asian descent nationwide.

Prior to her confirmation, Talwani was a partner at the Massachusetts law firm of Segal Roitman and the San Francisco law firm of Altshuler Berzon LLP. She received her J.D. from the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law and a B.A. from Harvard/Radcliffe College.



### Mary Yu Becomes First Asian Pacific American on Washington State Supreme Court

**OLYMPIA, WASH.** — King County Superior Court Judge Mary Yu has been appointed to the Washington state Supreme Court, becoming the first gay justice and the first Asian Pacific American/Latina to serve on the state's high court. Gov. Jay Inslee made the announcement May 1.

Yu was appointed to the King County Superior Court by former Gov. Gary Locke. She has served 14 years on the King County Superior Court; she fills the seat of Justice Jim Johnson, who retired from the court due to health issues.

Yu earned her B.A. in religious studies from Rosary College (Dominican University), a master's in theology from Mundelein College of Loyola University and her law degree from the University of Notre Dame Law School.

She will be officially sworn in later this month; she will run for election this fall for the two years remaining on Johnson's six-year term



### Theodore Chuang Confirmed to U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — The U.S. Senate on May 1 voted 53-42 to confirm Theodore Chuang to the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland. Chuang becomes the first person of Asian descent to serve as an Article III judge in the state of Maryland.

Chuang's historic confirmation triples the number, from eight to 24, of Asian American and Pacific Islander judges on the federal bench since President Barack Obama began his presidency.

He previously served as deputy general counsel of the U.S. Homeland Security Department. Prior to that, Chuang also served as an assistant U.S. attorney in the District of Massachusetts.

### Claire Kohatsu Honored by Nevada Society of Professional Engineers

**LAS VEGAS, N.V.** — Claire Kohatsu received the Nevada Society of Professional Engineers' 2014 "Engineer of the Year" award recently at the Engineers Week Finale banquet held at the Gold Coast Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas.

Kohatsu, an engineer at Aztech Inspections & Testing, was recognized for her contributions to the NSPE and for her 15 years of leadership and volunteerism for the Nevada and Southern Nevada MATHCOUNTS organization, which is a nonprofit national math competition for middle school students. ■



# The Way to San Jose Is Through the 'Valley of the Heart'

By JACL National Convention Committee

Known as "The Valley of Heart's Delight," San Jose, Calif.'s, highly fertile soil and climate is naturally suitable for agriculture. Today, little remains of this past.

This year's convention host chapter, San Jose JACL, is proud to feature this history and the important role that Japanese Americans played in shaping and contributing to the Valley's agricultural growth through a theatrical reading of "Valley of the Heart."

This special reading will be held on July 9 at Le Petit Trianon Theatre in downtown San Jose. Built in 1923, the Le Petit Trianon building is a replica of the Petit Trianon in Versailles, France, and is home to many of San Jose's arts groups.

Sponsoring the reading are CATS (Contemporary Asian Theater Scene), Joyce Iwasaki and Judy Niizawa.

"Valley of the Heart" is a love story rooted in true historical events. Set in the Santa Clara Valley, it begins in the days leading up to Pearl Harbor and features the dramatic interaction between two families, the Yamaguchi family and the Montano family, and their respective fates during World War II.

Ichiro Yamaguchi, an Issei first-generation Japanese American, is a strawberry farmer working the land with his fam-



ily. Cayetano Montano, a first-generation Chicano immigrant from Mexico, lives on the Yamaguchi ranch with his family as neighbors and sharecroppers. Emerging from the Great Depression, both immigrant families struggle to provide for the future of their American-born children.

"Valley of the Heart" is the latest offering by playwright/director Luis Valdez. In all his works, which also include feature films "Zoot Suit" (1981) and "La Bamba" (1987), as well as the George Peabody Award-winning TV movie "Corridos: Tales of Passion & Revolution" (1987), Valdez

remains true to his original vision of addressing the Chicano experience in the U.S. in a context meaningful to all Americans.

Prior to the reading of "Valley of the Heart," the JACL National Convention will host a Welcome Reception at the San Jose City Hall Rotunda. Designed by renowned architect Richard Meier, the rotunda is a glass-encased gallery stretching more than 100 feet high and is the show-piece of the environmentally friendly City Hall complex.

The reception will offer a celebration of food and company to officially open the JACL National Convention, which runs from July 9-12 at the Doubletree Hotel.

The events on Day 1 of the 2014 JACL National Convention are included with a full Convention Package registration. Additional tickets for these events are available.

The early bird registration deadline ends on June 15.

Don't miss out on these Day 1 events. Sign up early to guarantee your admission. Additional à la carte tickets for workshops, tours and other events, as well as general information about the National Convention, may be found on the Convention website at <http://www.2014.jacl.org>.



## JULY 9-12, 2014 • SAN JOSE, CA • REGISTRATION FORM

A separate form must be completed for **each individual/youth package registration**. To register online or obtain additional mail-in forms, please visit [www.jacl.org/2014](http://www.jacl.org/2014). **Convention Package includes:** Welcome Mixer (reception/buffet and 'Valley of the Heart' reading), Awards Luncheon, Youth Luncheon, Sayonara Banquet, Hiroshima Concert, workshops, and breakfasts. Youth/Students are individuals age 25 or younger or full-time students. À la carte events may be purchased at multiple quantities for family and friends.

Mail payment & form to:  
**2014 JACL Nat'l Convention**  
**Attn: Registration**  
 c/o San Jose JACL, 565 N. Fifth Street, San Jose, CA 95112  
 Questions? (408) 295-1250 or [2014registration@jacl.org](mailto:2014registration@jacl.org)

**CANCELLATION POLICY**  
 Return 100% by June 1, 2014 • Return 50% by July 1, 2014  
 No return after July 1, 2014

### 1. EVENTS

REGISTRATION	BY 6/15	AFTER 6/15		
<input type="checkbox"/> Convention Package	\$250	\$300	\$ _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Youth/Student Package	\$200	\$250	\$ _____	
<b>À LA CARTE EVENTS</b>				
<input type="checkbox"/> Welcome Mixer	\$60	\$75	# OF TIX \$ _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> (Youth/Student)	\$50	\$65	# OF TIX \$ _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Awards Luncheon	\$70	\$85	# OF TIX \$ _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> (Youth/Student)	\$60	\$75	# OF TIX \$ _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Youth Luncheon	\$70	\$85	# OF TIX \$ _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> (Youth/Student)	\$60	\$75	# OF TIX \$ _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sayonara Banquet	\$130	\$150	# OF TIX \$ _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> (Youth/Student)	\$100	\$125	# OF TIX \$ _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Hiroshima Concert	\$50	\$65	# OF TIX \$ _____	
<input type="checkbox"/> Workshops	\$25	\$40	# OF TIX \$ _____	
			<b>TOTAL \$ _____</b>	

### 2. REGISTRANT

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Last Name, First Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Address

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 City

\_\_\_\_\_  
 State

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Cell Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Email address

\_\_\_\_\_  
 JACL Chapter

### 3. PAYMENT METHOD

Enclosed is a check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Payable to JACL 2014 Convention

**OR** Please bill \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to my credit card:  
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 Cardholder Signature

## A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

PHOTO: ASIAN ART MUSEUM



## CALENDAR

**Takashi Murakami's 'Jellyfish Eyes'****Film Screening****SAN FRANCISCO, CA****June 5, 6:30-9 p.m.****Asian Art Museum****200 Larkin St.****Free with museum admission (\$8-\$12) or \$5 after 5 p.m.**

Watch Takeshi Murakami's first feature film, "Jellyfish Eyes" (Mememe no kurage) at the Asian Art Museum. The film combines Murakami's trademark animé-inspired graphics with live-action cinematography to capture a post-Fukushima world. The film draws from 1950s Japanese monster films in a coming-of-age story of Masahi, a young boy in the wake of a natural disaster. Don't miss this visual pop culture film.

**Info: Visit [www.asianart.org](http://www.asianart.org) or call (415) 581-3500.**

**>>NATIONAL****The 45th Annual National JACL Convention****SAN JOSE, CA****July 9-12****Double Tree by Hilton****2050 Gateway Place**

The 2014 JACL National Convention's theme is "We Are America." Early bird registration deadline ends June 15. The convention will also offer à la carte events including a Hiroshima concert and a reading of "Valley of the Heart."

**Info: Visit <http://www.2014.jacl.org>.**

**>>EDC****Koinobori Craft Day****BOSTON, MA****May 27, 3-4:30 p.m.****Fields Corner Branch of the Boston Public Library****1520 Dorchester Ave.**

Join the Boston Public Library as they host a free arts and crafts event in celebration of Children's Day. This Out-of-School Time program is sponsored by the Boston Public Library Foundation and hopes to help children ages 4-10 create their own Koinobori, or a fish-shaped wind sock.

**Info: Visit [www.bpl.org](http://www.bpl.org) or call (617) 536-5400.**

**Spreading Japanese Fast Fashion to the World: UNIQLO's International Growth Strategy**  
**New York, NY**

**June 17, Noon-2 p.m.****Japan Society****333 E. 47th St.**

**Cost: General Admission, \$65 with lunch and lecture; lecture only, \$15**

UNIQLO's CEO Larry Meyer discusses how he aims to combine Japanese and American retail culture to accomplish the brand's expansion. With 853 stores and 446 abroad as of August 2013, UNIQLO's ambition is to become the largest fast fashion retailer in the world by 2020. Meyer addresses the differences in both cultures in his lecture but also highlight its business strengths.

**Info: Visit [www.japansociety.org](http://www.japansociety.org) or call (212) 715-1208.**

**>>MDC****Japan America Society of Chicago's 21st Annual Sake Tasting****Chicago, IL****June 10, 6:30-9 p.m.****Roka Akor Restaurant****456 N. Clark St.**

**Cost: \$60 for JASC Members; \$70 for Nonmembers; \$14 Valet**

Experience an evening of premium sake from seven Japanese breweries along with Chef Ce Bian's contemporary appetizers at Chicago's Michelin Guide-recommended restaurant Roka Akor. Guests will have a chance to win a \$300 Japan Airline gift certificate along with other prizes in the evening's raffle event. Space is

limited, and attendees must be over 21.

**Info: Visit [www.jaschicago.org](http://www.jaschicago.org) or call (312) 263-3049.**

**>>PNW****Portland Taiko Summer Classes and 101 Workshops****PORTLAND, OR****June 2-Aug 15****Locations Vary**

**Cost: Classes vary from \$40-\$120 and are open to ages 9+.**

Seasoned performers and novice enthusiasts are welcomed to participate in the Portland Taiko Summer Program. Join them for their upcoming Taiko 101 Workshop with no experience necessary. The program is offering one-day taiko youth campus in August as well as intermediate and advanced workshops.

**Info: Visit [www.portlandtaiko.org](http://www.portlandtaiko.org) or call (503) 288-2456.**

**>>NCWNP****The Manzanar Reunion****LAS VEGAS, NV****July 21-23****California Hotel and Casino****12 E. Ogden Ave.**

The Manzanar Committee invites all to attend this year's reunion in Las Vegas, honoring those in all camps as well as the park rangers of the Manzanar Historic Site. Registration opens June 15 and forms for previous attendees have already been

sent. The reunion will feature Mixer Night, "Manzanar" Bingo, a reunion banquet and a slot tournament.

**Info: Call Grace Anderson at (818) 889-4417.**

**'Growing a Community'****Screenings and Discussions****SAN LORENZO and OAKLAND, CA****July 13, 1 p.m.; July 19, 2 p.m.**

**Eden Japanese Community Center and the Buddhist Church of Oakland**

**710 Elgin St. and 825 Jackson St.**

Discover and discuss the oral histories of Japanese American flower growers with California Flower Executive VP and General Manager Bob Otsuka along with other current Japanese American flower growers. The Anthropological Studies Center of Sonoma State University will present the screening and discussion.

**Info: Email Dana Ogo Shew at [shew@sonoma.edu](mailto:shew@sonoma.edu).**

**'Journeys' Culminating****Performance****OAKLAND, CA****June 1, 2-4 p.m.****Oakland Asian Cultural Center****388 9th St., Suite 290**

Come celebrate the different stories told by our elders through movement, dance and visual art. The performances will touch on Asian Americans and Asian Pacific Island Americans' experience in the United States, unraveling their struggles through immigration. The program hopes to build

and connect vibrant communities through Asian and Pacific Islander American arts and culture programs like "Journeys."

**Info: Visit [www.oacc.cc](http://www.oacc.cc) or call (510) 637-0455.**

**>>PSW****Memorial Day Service****LOS ANGELES, CA****May 26, 10:30 a.m.-Noon****Los Angeles National Cemetary****950 S. Sepulveda Blvd.**

Special guest Lt. Yoshito Fujimoto (U.S. Army, retired) will attend as well as Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti with keynote speaker Capt. Tripp Hardy (U.S. Navy) on Memorial Day. Fujimoto translated the World War II Surrender Document on behalf of the Japanese Imperial General Headquarters and will be honored at the service thanks to members of the L.A. National Cemetery Foundation.

**Info: Call Tamiko Hirano at (213) 247-8865.**

**ADVERTISE HERE**

Events in the calendar section are listed based on space availability. Place a 'Spotlight' ad with photos of your event for maximum exposure.

**FOR MORE INFO:**  
[tiffany@pacificcitizen.org](mailto:tiffany@pacificcitizen.org)  
(213) 620-1767

# In Memoriam

**Doi, Toshiye Takai, 93,**



San Jose, CA; April 27; former internee at Gila, AZ.; she is predeceased by her husband, Rikio Doi; daughter, Judi Sumiko (John), Betty Michiko (Jack) and Katherine Sachiko; gc: 3, ggc: 9, gggc: 2.

**Fukumoto, Masako, 87,**



Spokane, WA; April 29; Wash.-born Nisei; she is survived by her son, Arthur M. (Kathy) Fukumoto; daughters, Akemi L. (Hideki) Ueda and Shiri E. Fukumoto; sister, Yoshiko Hirano of Japan; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 4; ggc: 2.

**Hayashida, Toshiko**

**Nakagawa, 92,** April 26; she is survived by her beloved son, David Kei Hayashida; also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives.

**Iwasa, Ralph Kyoji, 73,**



Contra Costa, CA; April 1; former internee at Manzanar; he is predeceased by his wife, Diane Wada Iwasa; survived by his second wife, Betsy Sefine;

survived by his daughters, Karen and Joy.

**Matsunaka, Takeshi 'Blackie,' 94,** Papaikou, HI; April 23; survived by son, Wayne Wagatsuma; brother, Yoshimi (Grace) Matsunaka; sisters, Haruko Mayashi, Yoshiko Elsie Otani, Misao Janice (Hisashi) Okamoto, Kazue Koyama; sisters-in-laws, Shirley Matsunaka and Sadako Nakatani; brother-in-law, Clifford "Gabby" (Sayo) Nakatani, also survived by nieces and nephews; gc: 2

**Mayeda, Ray Kunitaru, 91,**



Torrance, CA; May 1; he is survived by his wife, Theresa Imiko Mayeda; children, Grace Ann (Paul) Mayeda-Cecil, Daniel Mark (Susan Rosales) Mayeda and Dean Richard (Janet) Mayeda; sister, Yoko (Ryo) Hasima; brother, Frank (Kyoko) Mayeda; gc: 3.

**Nagano, Mary Michiko, 89,** Los Angeles, CA; May 5; she is survived by her husband of 69 years, George Nagano; sons, Lance (Julia) Nagano and Mark (Laurie) Nagano; daughters, Lynn (Chester) Choi and Dawn Nagano; also survived by many nieces and nephews; gc: 4, ggc: 2.

**Nakasone, Alice Sachiko, 81,**



Huntington Beach, CA; May 5; she is survived by her husband, Masanori Nakasone; also survived by her children, Randy (Jane) Nakasone and Lorene (Bill)

Ernst; siblings, Teruo Oshiro and Asayo Nakasone; gc: 2.

**Namiye, Aiso, 92,** Long Beach,



CA; April 29; she is predeceased by her husband, Mitsugi Aiso; survived by her sister, Kiyomi Nakano; also survived by her nieces and nephews.

**Ogata, Elaine, 83,** Hilo, HI; April 28; she is predeceased by her husband, Roy Ogata; also predeceased by her daughter, Janis; survived by her daughter, Sharian S. Davis; son-in-law, William G. Davis; sisters, Geraldine Yung and Maile Ann McKeague; brother, Claude Kim Seu.

**Oki, Funi, 90,** San Jose, CA;



April 20; she is predeceased by her beloved husband, Sadao Oki, survived by her son, Naoki (Gladys) Sano; brother, Toru Sano; sisters, Yaeko Matsuda and Yoshie Sano; also survived by other family members gc: 6, ggc: 12.

**Sadanaga, Shizuno, 95,** Papaikou, HI; April 23, survived by son, Garret Sadanaga; daughters, Eileen Hirata and Marlene (Scott) Oda; brother, Mitsuo Nakayama; sister-in-laws, Chieko Nakayama, Asako Sadanaga, Akiyo Kitagawa, Priscilla Sadanaga and Lourdes Sadanaga; gc: 1.

**Soda, George K., 87,**



San Jose, CA; May 1, survived by his wife, Grace; daughters, Lori (Phil) and Sharon; siblings, Akira, Aimee (Satoru), Isamu (Chiyeko), Yaeko, Yuriko (Michael); he is predeceased by his daughter, Glorio; also predeceased by his siblings, Geich (Lorraine), Kiyoshi (Peggy); Natsuko (Robert) and Masu; also survived by many nieces and nephews; gc: 1.

**Terada, Chizuko, 95,** Santa Maria, CA; May 8; she is survived by her children, Dennis, Craig (Georgia) Terada, Dawn Tomita and Margaret McMurry; brother, Tak (Hide) Minato and Mike (Frances) Minato; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

**Uchimo, Frances Fumiko, 72,** Captain Cook, HI; May 3; she is survived by her husband, Frederick Uchima; son, Barry (Lorna) Uchima; daughters, Renee (Michael) Nakamoto and Shelley (Claude) Mandaguit; brother, Gary (Irene) Higashi; sister, Gloria (Lance) Okamura; also survived by many nieces, nephews and cousins; gc: 5.

**Watanabe, Frank H., 74,**



San Jose, CA; April 18; he is survived by his wife, Judie; son, Tim (Michelle) Watanabe; daughter, Karen (Michael) Gonzales; siblings, Florence Yokomizo, Merry Aragaki, Henry (Frances) Watanabe and Lillian (Michael) McRay; he is predeceased by his parents, George and Chizuko; also predeceased by his sister, Ruth Katsuyoshi; gc: 4.

**Yonemori, Roy Ryochi, 75,** Hilo, HI; May 7; he is survived by his beloved wife, Kay Yonemori; daughters, Carrie Yonemori and Joni (Cary) Ebesugawa; son, Gregg (Michele) Yonemori; also survived by aunts, nephews, nieces and cousins; gc: 4.

**Yoshida, Toshiko, 79,** Los Angeles, CA; May 1; she is survived by her children, Perry Yoshida and Yumi (Eric) Saiki; brother, Koichi (Michiko) Maruyama; sister, Kazuko (Nagatoshi) Shimazaki; brother-in-law, Mas Yoshida; sisters-in-laws, Toshiko Loaiza, Fujino (Toshikazu) Miyata and Suzume Yoshida; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 3.

**Yoshiyama, Kevin Kazuo, 29,** Hilo, HI; April 22; he is survived by his parents, Patrick and Lois Yoshiyama; sisters, Karla Yamanoha and Marcia (Brent) Yoshiyama; also survived by many uncles, aunts, nephews, nieces and cousins.

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Gerald Fukui  
 President

## GODZILLA >> continued from page 3

“Generations of critics who have congratulated themselves on decoding the pacifist, antinuclear message of ‘King of Monsters’ will be startled by the explicitness of the Japanese version, in which Gojira (as the Japanese transliterate his name) is repeatedly identified as a result of testing in the Pacific and the embodiment of the nation’s nuclear trauma.

“Images of a devastated miniature Tokyo (quite effective in black and white) have clearly been modeled on the newsreels of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and the film concludes with the kindly scientist solemnly declaring, ‘If we keep on conducting nuclear tests, it’s possible that another Godzilla might appear, somewhere in the world, again.’”

This was one of the lines cut from the movie for American audiences, which was being primed in the mid-1950s by the U.S. government to accept nuclear power as the future and a necessity in the growing paranoid fight against the Russkies and their atomic arsenal. Maybe the movie was recut and Burr’s parts were inserted for mere entertainment reasons to appeal to an American audience.

But maybe it was done to keep Americans complacent and in the dark. In a way, that makes Godzilla even scarier, doesn’t it? In post-Fukushima, Japan, where people are once again jittery about the dangers of nuclear energy, the message at the core of Godzilla resonates

with fresh urgency.

The new film, which opened May 16 in America, won’t open in Japan until July. But the early reaction across the Pacific seems to be mockery and ridicule, that this Japanese export has now become too Americanized. Forget the radiation fears . . . the trailers released in advance of the opening reveals flashes of a chunky monster, which has Japanese fans mocking him on social media as a fat, supersized bloat of the original.

One of the stars of the new movie responded in an article about the criticism by saying, “You know what? Give him a chance. It’s been 60 years. He’s allowed to pack on some pounds.”

Tell that to the healthy elderly who live in Japan, the country with the longest lifespan in the world.

*Gil Asakawa is a member of the Pacific Citizen Editorial Board and the author of “Being Japanese American.” He blogs about Japanese and Asian American issues on his blog at [www.nikkeiview.com](http://www.nikkeiview.com), and he’s on Facebook, Twitter and lots of other social media. He was recently named the 2014 AAJA-AARP Social Media Fellow.*



## Embattled VA Secretary Eric Shinseki Refusing to Resign

By Associated Press

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Veterans Affairs Secretary Eric Shinseki brushed aside calls for his resignation on May 8 and got an unexpected political lifeline that day from House Speaker John Boehner in the wake of reports that 40 patients died because of delayed treatment at an agency hospital.

“I’m not ready to join the chorus of people calling on him to step down,” Boehner (R-Ohio) said at a news conference, adding that there is a “systemic management issue throughout the VA that needs to be addressed.”

He said the House is working on legislation that would give the head of the agency “more flexibility to fire people.”

The Department of Veterans Affairs has long had a seemingly endless backlog and exceedingly long delays for treatment.

For his part, Shinseki emphasized his own determination to remain in the Cabinet in an interview on CBS.

“I take every one of these incidents and allegations seriously, and we’re going to go and investigate,” he said.

Shinseki, a retired Army general, said in the interview that he sent inspectors to Phoenix immediately when he learned of reports about the deaths.

The White House has voiced support amid the calls for Shinseki’s ouster from the American Legion as well as from Republican Sens. Richard Burr of North Carolina, John Cornyn of Texas and Jerry Moran of Kansas.

Legion National Commander Daniel Dellinger accused Shinseki, Under Secretary of Health Robert Petzel and Under Secretary of Benefits Allison Hickey of poor oversight and leadership failures.

“The existing leadership has exhibited a pattern of bureaucratic incompetence and failed leadership that has been amplified in recent weeks,” Dellinger said during a news conference at the organization’s Indianapolis headquarters.

The Department of Veterans Affairs issued a statement rejecting the call for the resignations.

The Phoenix hospital has been under fire over allegations that up to 40 patients may have died because of delays in care and that the hospital kept a secret list of patients waiting for appointments to hide the treatment delays. Shinseki announced May 1 that three officials there have been placed on leave.

VA spokesman Drew Brookie issued a statement praising Shinseki’s record leading the agency.

“Secretary Shinseki has dedicated his life to his fellow veterans, and nobody is more committed to completing the work that lies ahead,” the statement said.

Separately, the White House issued a statement saying President Barack Obama “remains confident in Secretary Shinseki’s ability to lead the department.” ■

## BOMB >> continued from page 3

pretty stupid if you dove under your desk anticipating the command when the teacher said nothing. That would always get you an amused look from the teacher and the ribbing from your classmates for the rest of the day.

In looking back on the years of the Cold War, I realize it was a kind of cultural lesson we learned, a culture of fear and paranoia and distrust. One thing I was

glad of was that the Russians were now the bad guys instead of us. Boy, was that a relief! “Those dirty Japs” was replaced with “those dirty commies,” and you can bet your bootie that I joined in on that chorus. And why not? Being the bad guy was tough on a kid.

*John Tateishi is a former JACL National Director.*

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