



# PACIFIC CITIZEN



## *History Rescued:* **A HEART MOUNTAIN BARRACK WILL BE RETURNED HOME**

**Page 6**

HMWF Executive Director Brian Liesinger photographs features of the barrack in Shell in April in preparation for its return to the Heart Mountain World War II Japanese American Confinement Site.

PHOTO BY STAN HONDA

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to Preserve WWII  
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# OKURA FOUNDATION AND UCLA CELEBRATE NEW COLLECTION

By P.C. Staff

The Asian American Studies Center and Library Special Collections at the University of California, Los Angeles, held an inaugural reception on June 9 for the Patrick and Lily Okura Collection, which celebrates the Okura's pioneering work related to Asian Pacific American, minority and community mental health issues as well as their lifetime dedication to social justice.

The reception, held in the university's Charles E. Young Research Library Presentation Room, was attended by the Okura family along with colleagues of Pat Okura and former foundation fellows. Attendees viewed pieces of the collection and were given a digital tour on how to navigate the collection online.

"A scholar once said that archives represent a community of memory, and this notion of a community of memory has really held true for me as a historian," said AASC Director David Yoo. "I'm proud that UCLA can be a place for researchers can come to learn about mental health."

Notable speakers included UCLA Okura

Mental Health Leadership Foundation President and Board of Director Ford Kuramoto, Chairman Bertram S. Brown, Okura family members Glen Komatsu and Karen Ishizuka, UCLA Deputy University Librarian and Interim Director of Library Special Collections Susan E. Parker, AASC Librarian and Archivist Marjorie Lee and AASC IT Specialist and Project Coordinator Tam Nguyen.

"When you spend time in an archive, you get to actually know the people and the lives that are represented inside" said Yoo. "It's a link to the present and to the future where the Okura's lives intersect with many topics and communities."

The collection is available to view online. Its registry is arranged into numerous categories covering the Okura's professional career, minority and community mental health advocacy, civic engagement, the JACL, World War II evacuation, incarceration, resettlement and redress.

Pat and Lily Okura dedicated their lives to mental health research and social justice, especially for AAPI communities. Pat Okura (1911-2005) attended UCLA and earned his bachelor's degree in psychology; he later became the first Asian American to graduate with a master's degree in psychology. His wife,



PHOTO: PACIFIC CITIZEN STAFF

Present at the reception were (from left) Albert Okura, George Iseri, Karen Ishizuka, Shiz (Mae) Komatsu, Ets (Frances) Okura, Eric Komatsu, Cindy Sangalang, Joyce Komatsu, Emi Komatsu and Glen Komatsu.

Lily (1919-2005), was the first woman elected to JACL's National Board and was best known for her activism and leadership.

"It is great to see these archives come to life and be made available," said Komatsu. "I think this is about the people and scholars that come after us that will use this archive to focus on the community and the good work."

Visit the archive at [www.aasc.ucla.edu/okura/](http://www.aasc.ucla.edu/okura/) to download the full registry.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I and some acquaintances are troubled by the naïve, one-sided views that have recently appeared in the Nikkei press. For example, in a recent issue of the *North American Post* that is published in Seattle, a professor from the University of Washington (my alma mater) is reported to have stated that "comfort women deniers can deny evidence of slavery because they refuse to accept testimony." Say what? Since when is testimony by someone who testifies with hand out, palm turned upward, proof of anything?

It is a fact that hundreds of thousands of Korean men served in the Imperial Army

during WWII. Included among them was Chung Hee Park, a graduate of the Imperial Military Academy who was a young lieutenant at the end of WWII. In May 1961, Maj. Gen. Park of the ROK Army led the coup that overthrew the corrupt ROK government and established a military dictatorship that quickly transformed the ROK from one of the most-impovertised countries in the world into the economic and technological power that it is today.

Did men of this caliber, who had access to weapons, stand meekly aside while Japanese men kidnapped and raped teenage Korean girls? Absolutely not. Trust me, Korean men are not a bunch of wimps. They are as tough

as they come.

Prostitution was legal and openly practiced in both Japan and Korea until long after the end of WWII. Some of the girls may have been misled into believing that they would be performing less unsavory tasks such as seamstresses but kidnapped at the point of bayonets? No way. The leadership of the Imperial Army may have been brutal but utterly stupid they were not. It would have been far more cost effective to simply charge higher fees than kidnap and ship (under guard) Korean girls across the far reaches of the Pacific. After all, nobody has ever suggested that the Imperial Army was the only army in history to have provided their troops with free sexual services.

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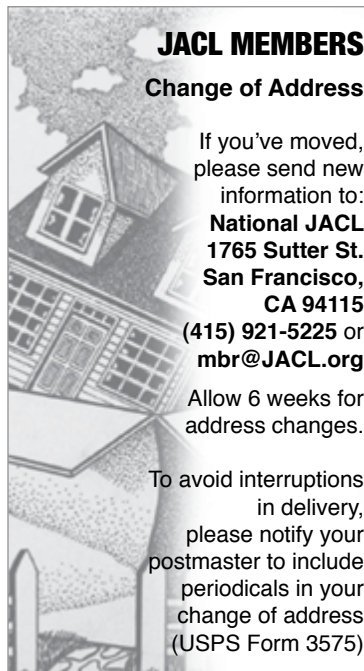
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**STAFF**  
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Allison Haramoto

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# A MOTHER'S TAKE



## CELEBRATING WITH PRIDE

By Marsha Aizumi

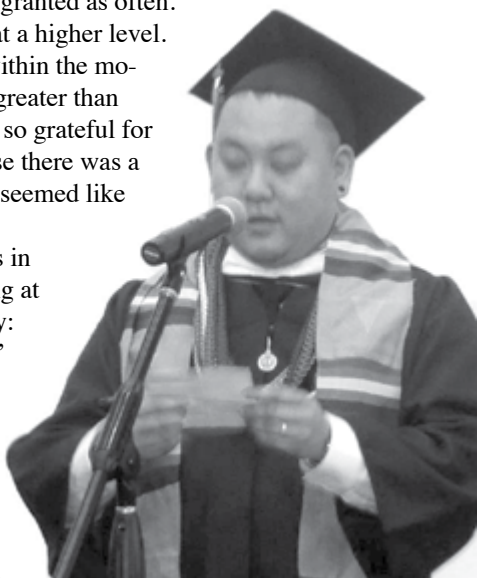
The month of June is known for graduations, weddings and now for our family, it is LGBTQ Pride month. This year, I have had the opportunity to celebrate all three. Beginning in May, I attended four University of La Verne graduation celebrations for Aiden: One for LGBTQ individuals and their allies and another for Asian American graduates. I also attended Aiden's baccalaureate, where he read the Litany of Affirmation, which began with, "We are the many songs of this Universe . . . And so we have a great responsibility to remember who we are." The litany ended with, "We are makers of peace." I cried when I heard my son read those words because through all his challenges and pain, I know all he wants to do with the rest of his life is to be his true self and bring greater peace and love into this world.

The final graduation celebration was, of course, the commencement exercise, where our family cheered and I cried once again when I saw my son proudly accept his diploma after nine long years of holding on to this dream of finishing college. Before our journey to stand by our transgender son, I think I would have felt guilty that it took my son so long to finish school. I would have never focused on the resiliency and determination my son brought forth to walk across the stage to get his bachelor's degree. I would not have looked for all the beautiful moments that we have been able to share as we have spoken around the country to so many LGBTQ individuals, their families and straight allies. I would have missed so much of those amazing moments, if that were the case. Yes, Aiden took nine years to finish college, but through those years, he has developed the strength, confidence and gratitude that he never had. Less important was the time it took, more important were all the qualities of character my son found through his struggles to believe in himself.

I think the most amazing part of our journey is that we experience moments at a higher level. When Aiden got married in 2013, I wanted to celebrate every minute of the day because there was a time that I thought he would never find love. My appreciation was deep, intense and ever present. And when Aiden finished his bachelor's degree, I wanted to celebrate every graduation moment because he didn't walk at his high school graduation and wasn't sure he would even go to college.

The beauty of having challenges in my life is that I don't take things for granted as often. I appreciate the moments at a higher level. I try to live fully present within the moment, and the joy I feel is greater than I could ever imagine. I am so grateful for these points in time because there was a time when these moments seemed like they were not possible.

This past weekend, I was in Seattle with Aiden speaking at the Seattle JACL's "Family: An API LGBT Gathering." Since it was the month of Pride celebration, Seattle JACL chose to hold this one-day event to bring greater awareness, resources and create a place of community where individuals and families could share their stories. People were so grateful for the safe space. We in the LGBTQ community do not take safe spaces for granted.



Aiden Aizumi read the Litany of Affirmation at his baccalaureate ceremony from the University of La Verne.

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# THE NY/SC



## WHY HR 40 MATTERS TO JAPANESE AMERICANS

By Ryan Kenji Kuramitsu

There is a saying in Japanese culture, 'kodomo no tame ni,' which means, 'for the sake of the children.' And for us running this [Japanese American redress] campaign, that had much to do with it. It's the legacy we're handing down to them and to the nation to say that, 'You can make this mistake, but you also have to correct it — and by correcting it, hopefully not repeat it again.'"

— Former JACL Executive Director and National Redress Director John Tateishi

The conversation around redress for slavery received renewed cultural attention with the release of *The Atlantic's* June 2014 article "The Case for Reparations." The article, which took journalist Ta-Nehisi Coates over two years to write, explores the brief history of economic and fiscal predation of African-Americans at the hands of the government beyond the institution of chattel slavery, including civil rights era terrorism, redlining and modern loan discrimination. The article also briefly mentions HR 40, the Commission to Study Reparations Proposals for African-Americans Act — a piece of legislation originally proposed in 1989 by veteran Congressman John Conyers (D-Mich.) and steadily ignored for the past 25 years.

Conyers' bill, proposed just one year after Japanese Americans won formal apology for their internment, was modeled in part after successful Japanese American redress legislation including HR 442. If passed, it would ask the United States government to set up a federal commission that would accomplish four main things: 1) Acknowledge the fundamental brutality and inhumanity of slavery 2) Establish a commission to study slavery and its subsequent racial and economic discrimination against former slaves 3) Study the impact of those forces on today's living

African-Americans and 4) Make recommendations to Congress on appropriate remedies to redress the harm inflicted on living African-Americans.

In past years, Japanese Americans have drawn clear and profound parallels between our wartime incarceration and a number of modern social issues. Indeed, the JACL is proud to be an organization of "firsts," known for our willingness to speak out when our values demanded it — even in apathetic or hostile social environments. In 1994, we were the first non-LGBTQ civil rights organization to come out for marriage equality, conscious of the staunch support gay folks like Barney Frank lent our redress campaign. Shortly after the events of 9/11, our organization decried the profiling and internment of Muslim and Arab Americans, drawing direct connections to the discrimination experienced by our community after the bombing of Pearl Harbor.

While there are visible differences between African-American and Japanese American calls for reparations, our communities' shared struggles for dignity and justice have long-intertwined roots. It was the energy and gains of the civil rights movement that inspired Nikkei redress activists and former incarcerated to speak up at the Commission on War-time Relocation and Internment of Civilians' public hearings — an event that began to heal the deep, psychic scarring many in our community didn't know we still had. These hearings forever changed the tenor of the Japanese American redress conversation and were instrumental in bringing about our reparations.

Although important, Japanese American redress is far from the only example of how wide-scale formal apology and restitution might be implemented.

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## JACL WELCOMES OCA SUMMER INTERN GRACE KIM



WASHINGTON, D.C. — The JACL Washington, D.C., office recently welcomed Grace Kim, a participant in the OCA Summer Internship program, who will be working with JACL through mid-August.

Kim, a senior at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, is currently pursuing a B.A. in political science with a minor in Chinese. A second-generation Korean American, Kim aspires to pursue a career that relates to her passion for social justice and political awareness. Kim hopes that her internship with JACL will allow her to acquire the professional work skills and experience she needs to help address issues facing Asian

American and Pacific Islanders today.

— JACL National Staff

## Judge Holly Fujie Gives Keynote Address at Paralegal Day Mixer

The Los Angeles Paralegal Assn. hosted a Paralegal Day Mixer on June 4 at the DoubleTree by Hilton in Downtown Los Angeles to celebrate Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti's recognition and commendation of paralegals for their service.

The event's keynote address was given by L.A. Superior Court Judge Holly Fujie. She is the former

president of the State Bar of California and advises the White House on federal judicial nominations. She is currently sitting in a family law assignment of Department 87 of the Stanley Mosk Courthouse in Downtown Los Angeles.

"It was an honor to have Judge Holly Fujie as our keynote speaker," said LAPA President Bobby T. Rimas. "She gave a very



Judge Holly Fujie and LAPA President Bobby T. Rimas at the Paralegal Day Mixer

impressive explanation as to how paralegals have become a necessary part of the legal profession." ■

## NPS Announces \$2.8 Million in Grants to Preserve and Interpret WWII JA Confinement Sites

WASHINGTON, D.C. — National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis announced June 16 that 20 grants totaling more than \$2.8 million will be given to help preserve and interpret the World War II confinement sites of Japanese Americans.

"As stewards of our nation's history, the National Park Service recognizes the importance of preserving these confinement sites," Jarvis said. "They are poignant reminders — today and for future generations — that we must be always vigilant in upholding civil liberties for all. These grants help us share valuable lessons on the fragility of our constitutional rights and ensure the experiences of those who were incarcerated are not forgotten."

The grants will be used for projects that include a traveling exhibition to tell the lesser-known story of the former Tuna Canyon Detention Station in California; the immediate stabilization of a root cellar that incarcerated used to store fruit and vegetables that they raised at Heart Mountain, Wyo.; and the creation of an online archive that will include more than 1,300 digitally scanned documents and photographs related to the former Rohwer incarceration site in Arkansas.

The grant amounts range from \$16,000 awarded to the Friends of the Texas Historical Commission to research and document a 70-year-old mural that was painted by an internee at the Seagoville Intern-

ment Camp (INS Detention Station) in Dallas County, Texas, to \$400,000 for New York's public media station WNET to create "Prisoner in My Homeland," a series of free online educational video games to engage middle school-age students with the history of Japanese American incarceration during WWII.

The Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program, now in its seventh year, will support projects in eight states and the District of Columbia.

The grants announced June 16 total \$2,845,000 and bring the program's total awards to more than \$18 million since Congress established the grant program in 2006. A total of \$38 million in grant funds was authorized for the life of the program.

Grants from the JACSGP can go to the 10 War Relocation Authority centers established in 1942 or to more than 40 other confinement sites. The goal of the program is to teach present and future generations about the injustice of the WWII confinement history and inspire a commitment to equal justice under the law. Successful proposals are chosen through a competitive process that requires applicants to match the grant award with \$1 in nonfederal funds or "in-kind" contributions for every \$2 they receive in federal money.

For additional details about these projects, visit <http://www.nps.gov/JACS/>.

### NPS GRANT RECIPIENTS

#### ASIAN CINEVISION, New York, N.Y.

"The Orange Story: A Cinematic Digital History Project"  
Multiple Sites, including Merced Assembly Center, Merced County, Calif.; Granada Relocation Center (Amache), Prowers County, Colo. **\$159,548**

#### CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, DOMINGUEZ HILLS, Carson, Calif.

"California State University Japanese American Digitization Project"  
Multiple Sites **\$321,554**

#### DENSHO, Seattle, Wash.

"Making Connections With the Japanese American Incarceration"  
Multiple Sites **\$131,574**

#### FRIENDS OF THE TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION, Austin, Texas

"Seagoville Internment Camp: Detainee Mural and 'Japanese Colony' Study"  
Seagoville Internment Camp (INS Detention Station), Dallas County, Texas **\$16,000**

#### FRIENDS OF WAIPAHU CULTURAL GARDEN PARK (AKA HAWAII'S PLANTATION VILLAGE), Waipahu, Hawaii

"Phase Two, Administration Building Construction Documents, Student Participation and Exhibit"  
Honouliuli Internment Site, Honolulu, County, Hawaii **\$112,000**

#### HEART MOUNTAIN, WYOMING FOUNDATION, Powell, Wyo.

"Heart Mountain Root Cellar, Phase II: Emergency Stabilization"  
Heart Mountain Relocation Center, Park County, Wyo. **\$90,500**

#### HEART MOUNTAIN, WYOMING FOUNDATION, Powell, Wyo.

"Japanese American Confinement Sites Consortium"  
Multiple Sites **\$28,639**

#### HEYDAY, Berkeley, Calif.

"Journeys From Manzanar," a Published Book Project  
Manzanar Relocation Center, Inyo County, Calif. **\$100,000**

#### JAPANESE CULTURAL CENTER OF HAWAII, Honolulu, Hawaii

"Hawaii Japanese American Internment: Short Documentaries on the Hawaii Confinement Sites in the Counties of Kauai, Oahu, Hawaii and Maui"  
17 internment sites on the islands of Hawaii, Kauai, Oahu, Maui, Molokai and Lanai **\$215,502**

#### JAPANESE CULTURAL CENTER OF HAWAII, Honolulu, Hawaii

"The Power of Place: The Archaeology of Hawaii's Internment Sites"  
Honouliuli Internment Camp, Honolulu County; Haiku Camp, Maui County; Kalaheo Stockade, Kauai County; and other internment sites in Hawaii **\$38,600**

>> See NPS on page 8

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# SEWARD PARK TORII PROJECT FIGHTS FOR MAJOR FUNDING

Volunteer fundraising efforts are being raised to erect a torii gate in the Seattle park.

By Tiffany Ujue,  
Assistant Editor

Friends of Seward Park and community members are looking to install a 26-foot-tall Japanese torii, a traditional gate commonly found in front of shrines, in Seattle's Seward Park. A meeting held at the Bertha Landis Room in Seattle's City Hall on June 11 looked to evaluate the project. Government representatives from the Neighborhood District Councils and City-Wide Review Teams evaluated the projects presented by the Torii Project.

Tia Higano, Joe Manson, Joan Seko, John Thorpe, Kenji Ushimaru and Ted Weinberg all spoke about the project in hopes of winning the Large Project Fund from the Seattle Department of Neighborhoods' Large Project Fund. The Seward Torii is one of five projects in competition for the Large Project Fund.

The Seward Park Torii organizers will hear from the Department of Neighborhoods in August if they will be recipients of the fund. If the project meets its funding requirements, Seward Park should see the torii completed by spring 2016.

Table display for the project at the meeting included architectural plans for the new torii, designed by Murase Associates. Columns for the torii will be made from rough-hewn granite with cedar beams across it. For the surrounding area, the torii will provide a new venue for a theater, allowing space for community events such as concerts, weddings, yoga demonstrations and other wellness activities.

Thus far, the project has received two Small & Simple grants from the Neighborhood Matching Fund. Plans to apply for King County's 4 Culture program are also in the works later this summer. The estate of Mimi Kraus also donated \$25,000, and Nintendo gave \$5,000, in addition to other individual donations.

Cost for the project is an estimated \$270,000-\$360,000, depending on design specifications. The current minimum needed is \$200,000.

"We hope that the Department of Neighborhoods' Large Project Fund will be a major contributor," community volunteer Higano said about the Seward Torii Project. "The projects presented this evening were all for worthy causes, so if for some reason the Torii Project is not funded, our volunteer committee is committed to continue fundraising," she said.

Higano learned about the Seward Torii Project back in 2013 after reading an article published in the *Seattle Times*. Although Higano grew up in Massachusetts, she feels culturally passionate about her father's family, who once lived on Seattle's Beacon Hill.

"In the process of working on this project, I have had the opportunity to connect with so many members of the community who are working toward a common goal," said Higano. "It has been great to meet new friends and learn more about the city where my father grew up. This is the first opportunity I have had to be involved in a project with the direct links to my own heritage and family."

Higano, like many others working on the project, continues to raise awareness regarding the importance of making such connections with one's Japanese ancestry.

In 1934, the original torii was on display at Seattle University. A gift sponsored by the Seattle Japanese Chamber of Commerce, the torii was viewed as a way to involve the Japanese community by promoting Seattle as the "Gateway to the Orient," according to the Seward Park Torii website.

Despite the traditional torii's religious association, the Seward Torii is secular, celebrating the park's natural beauty and a symbol of intercultural friendship.

After the celebration, the torii was disassembled and donated to the city, where it was placed in Seward Park's north side. The famous floating torii offshore from Itsukushima Shrine in Miyajima, Japan, inspired the Seward Park design, which was sketched by



PHOTO: COURTESY SEATTLE MUNICIPAL ARCHIVES

Kichio Allen Arai.

Over the years, the iconic torii became a community gathering place for events like the annual Rainier District Pow-Wow until the attack on Pearl Harbor in 1941.

Anti-Japanese sentiment spread across the nation, but the torii remained untouched. In 1948, Park Maintenance Superintendent Roland Koepf recommended to have the torii rebuilt after noting its "advanced stage of decay," according to the Seward Torii Project. No park reports or evidence in the *Seattle Tribune* provide insight if the restorations efforts were ever made or executed.

By 1984, the torii was dismantled because it was deemed a hazard due to decay. Some of the lumber pieces were rescued by a parks employee, who kept it in his backyard until the Friends of Seward Park asked for it to be donated to the Wing Luke Museum in 2012.

A renewed interest to erect the park icon is gaining momentum. The Friends of Seward Park are beginning community fundraising efforts like sharing a video describing the torii's history and cultural significance. Groups will be also representing the project on Bicycle Sundays in Seward Park and Aki Matsuri Japanese Festival.

*For information on public meetings, please contact the project at [sewardparkfriends@gmail.com](mailto:sewardparkfriends@gmail.com) or to learn more about the torii's history, visit [www.sewardparktorii.org](http://www.sewardparktorii.org) for more details.*

## LETTER >> continued from page 2

I am a veteran of the Korean War and served in the Far East in 1952/53. In 1960, I returned to Korea as a civilian employee of the Department of Defense. During a three-year civilian tour, I lived in BOQs and dined in mess halls with U.S. Army officers as well as a few ROK Army officers who were serving as liaisons between units of the two armies.

While in Korea, I studied the language at an army language center and had a very cordial relationship with some of the Korean officers. Naturally, among a group of young men who were living as bachelors, we sometimes joked about the prostitutes who were clustered around gates of the camps. Never during the time that I was in Korea did anyone ever mention to me that Korean girls had been kidnapped and forced to serve as comfort women during WWII. An older brother who spent most of 1946 in Korea as an MIS agent tells me that he never heard of such a thing until fairly recently.

What is the JACL's position on this subject? I ask because while testifying in favor of erecting memorials to Korean comfort women in Glendale and Buena Park recently, members of our San Fernando chapter gave the impression that they

were representing JACL. It would have been far more appropriate for them to be proposing that the memorials honor those Nikkei who were actually living in those two towns when they were rounded up and imprisoned in early 1942.

At a time when both Japan and the ROK are involved in disputes with a very aggressive communist China over ownership of disputed islands in the Pacific and the Yellow Sea, we don't need people stirring the pot of conflict between two of our most important allies.

For anyone who might want to explore this subject further, I urge you to download from Wikipedia, "Treaty on Basic Relations Between Japan and the Republic of Korea," which was signed on June 22, 1965. This document reveals that the Japanese government originally proposed that it directly compensate Korean individuals for damages incurred as a result of the Japanese occupation of Korea (1910-45) but that the ROK Government insisted that it would handle such claims and then settle with aggrieved individuals. This is the reason why Japan now insists that this matter has already been resolved on a government-to-government basis.

Sincerely,

George Nakagawa  
Gardena, Calif.



## KOKUSAI-PACIFICA 2015 TOURS

### FALL COLORS IN JAPAN

**Oct 18 Fall Japan Classic "Fall Foliage" - 10 Days - \$4395** - Our Classic tour the with places everyone should see: **Tokyo - Hiroshima - Kyoto**; Imperial Palace Plaza - Nara Deer Park - Hiroshima Peace Park. Plus, things you may have seen in pictures: the "floating" Torii gate on the **Isle of Miyajima** - the rock garden at Raikyuji Temple in **Takahashi** - the Golden Pavilion in **Kyoto**. Also, things to discover: disappearing Angel Road hot springs bath on **Shodo Island**; in **Okayama** - Korakuen, one of 3 most beautiful gardens in Japan; and secrets of Nijo Castle - residence of one of the most powerful shoguns, in **Kyoto**!

*Call now! Early Bird Deadline - June 18, 2015*

**Oct 26 Uranihon "Otherside of Japan" - 10 Days - \$4395** - For the more traditional side of Japan: visit **Sado Island** in the Japan Sea - where Emperor Juntoku, Buddhist monk Nichiren, and others were exiled. In **Kanazawa**, see one of 3 most beautiful parks in Japan - Kenrokuen, and the Folkcraft Village - with Kutani pottery, lacquerware and more. Heading west, we come to **Amanohashidate** "Bridge of Heaven" - 1 of 3 most scenic sights in Japan, and spend the night in **Miyazu Hot Springs**. Continue on we reach Tottori Sand Dunes, desert on the sea, and then to **Matsue** Castle and Museum of Lafcadio Hearn - famous author of *Kwaidan*, a collection of Japanese ghost stories.

*Call now! Early Bird Deadline - June 26, 2015*

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# History Rescued: Returning an Original Heart Mountain Barrack

The barrack, which has been a part of Iowa State University since the late-1940s, will be permanently moved to the Heart Mountain National Historic Landmark site this summer.

By Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation

A barrack originally built at the Heart Mountain Relocation Center during World War II will be coming home to its National Historic Landmark site between Cody and Powell, Wyo., this summer. The Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation is rescuing it from demolition with the help of a community-wide effort.

The barrack is located in Shell, Wyo., and has been offered by Iowa State University, which has been using it for housing at its geology field studies station just outside of Shell. It has remained in service there for 50 years but has finally outlived its natural life.

Iowa State, which originally had three barracks, was aiming to demolish the building to make way for new housing. The HMWF discovered its plans and has negotiated a rescue of the building. Iowa State has agreed to donate the barrack at no charge if the HMWF can move it.

"This is an opportunity for the greater Heart Mountain community to be a part of a truly historic event," said HMWF Executive Director Brian Liesinger. "This barrack-saving is like a barn-raising in a sense. We need local and national support to save this. Whether it is through in-kind contributions or donations of any amount, we can preserve



An interior shot of the barrack reveals the basic skeleton of the building constructed for the Heart Mountain Relocation Center in 1942.

it together."

The HMWF found out about the barrack last summer, and upon review, found it to be in solid shape, with a few modifications. It is also complete, measuring 20 feet wide by 120 feet in length, which is rare, as many barracks were dismantled, split in half or generally modified to create houses or farm outbuildings.

More than 450 barracks were originally constructed on this site. After the camp closed in 1945 and the Japanese American incarcerated were freed, the government sold many of the barracks to homesteaders for \$1 each, provided they could remove them from the site. As a result, many of the camp structures dot the surrounding landscape and continue to see use as houses, shops, sheds and outbuildings.

To maintain the historic integrity of the Heart Mountain World War II Japanese American Confinement Site, the barrack will be placed on the original spot where there once sat a barrack to house Military Police, adjacent to where the Heart Mountain Interpretive Center currently sits.

The goal is to have it in place by early August.

An archeological survey, led by Greg Smith, an anthropology professor at Northwest College in Powell, was conducted on May 2. The point of the survey was twofold: to sweep the ground on which the barrack will return for significant artifacts and identify indications of a barrack foundation to confirm an exact location.

Northwest College students, area volunteers and HMWF staff spent the day picking up broken glass, pipe fragments, square nails and other remnants that confirmed the existence of the former barracks. Smith has also agreed to assist with construction monitoring as the ground is prepared for the arrival of the barrack.

The barrack will travel approximately 81 miles for its return to Heart Mountain. After being removed from Heart Mountain, it was used by the city of Greybull, Wyo. It endured another move to its current placement at the Iowa State geology field station in the late 1940s. Because it has been cut into three sections during these two previous moves, the building will be moved back to Heart Mountain in three pieces to ensure its structural integrity.

It is estimated that the HMWF will need to raise \$140,000 for the move, construction work and ongoing preservation of the structure for public view. The HMWF has already obtained a generous \$10,000 grant from the Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund to help with the cost. It is currently seeking individual donations, local sponsorships and other grants to cover the remaining cost.

This will not be the first Heart Mountain barrack moved for preservation purposes, though it will be the first complete one moved to a National Historic site.

A Heart Mountain barrack is prominently featured in Los Angeles at the Japanese American National Museum and represents a centerpiece of the museum's permanent collection. Many of the incarcerated confined at Heart Mountain were from the Los Angeles area. Others came from the San Jose and the greater Bay Area. A smaller group also came from Washington State.

The JANM barrack move was a decade-long effort completed in 1994 by 32 volunteers coming from Denver, Los Angeles, San Jose and Seattle. Early JANM leadership, including Nancy Araki, had envisioned the importance of a barrack to help tell the story of the Japanese American incarceration during World War II.

When "Mr. Heart Mountain" Bacon Sakatani found out about this vision, he claimed he knew where JANM could find a barrack, and he delivered on his promise. Sakatani had been incarcerated with his family at Heart Mountain and had celebrated his 13th birthday on the four-day train ride from California to the Heart Mountain Relocation Center. He made regular visits back to Wyoming throughout the 1980s and through his connections there, the crew identified two barrack segments located very close to the original Heart Mountain site. One was a 20-foot-by-40-foot section from the farm of Tak Ogawa and the other a 20-foot-by-60-foot section from the farm of Rod Morrison.

The volunteers who arrived in September 1994 were tasked with dismantling the barrack segments and loading them on flat-bed trailers for transport back to Los Angeles. It was laborious work for the group, but by October, the fragments had been put back together in a parking lot in Los Angeles's Little Tokyo for exhibition. The segments were connected and a newly constructed extension was built onto it to extend it to the full size of a barrack: 20 feet wide by 120 feet long.

Now, one of these tattered segments stands in the middle of JANM and serves as both a gripping and haunting piece of incarceration history.

>> See BARRACK on page 9



This Heart Mountain barrack is currently located outside of Shell, Wyo., on an Iowa State University geology field studies camp. The historic structure will be moved to the Heart Mountain World War II Japanese Confinement Site between Cody and Powell, Wyo., this summer.



# BRIDGES TO THE PAST: Military Intelligence Service in Minnesota

A personal reflection of how history is 'not only a body of knowledge, but the process of discovering and identifying with that knowledge.'

By Matthew Walters

My experiences with Fort Snelling in Minnesota were limited to a handful of elementary school field trips. To say I had even the slightest interest in histories of armed conflict as a child, let alone a 200-year-old military outpost, would be an exaggeration.

This disinterest was, perhaps like the indifference many students feel toward history textbooks, due to a feeling of disconnection with those pasts. No one in my family had ever fought in a war. None of my friends joined the service when I graduated from high school. Feelings of disconnection change however when personal relationships are established, and I experienced a newfound interest in Fort Snelling when I learned that my Nisei grandfather was in the Military Intelligence Service during World War II.

This personal connection was further strengthened on May 17, 2015, when I attended the opening ceremony of a photo exhibit organized by the Twin Cities JACL Education Committee. The exhibit, "Japanese Americans in the Military Intelligence Service During WWII," is on loan from the National Japanese American Historical Society and contains original photographs from the Military Intelligence Service (MIS) language school at Camp Savage and Fort Snelling.

At this school, over 6,000 Nisei were trained for deployment as Japanese translators and interpreters to the Pacific Theater in World War II. As you can imagine, they became much more than that.

The school grew substantially from an initial class of 60 students studying atop orange crates at an abandoned hangar at the Presidio in San Francisco. Yet, those few students in the early years, once deployed to the Pacific, proved their aptitude and value so decidedly that the school was at once inundated with demands from the military for more graduates. Seeking additional space and less racial tension, the school's founder, Col. Kai Rasmussen, found a new home when Minnesota Gov. Harold Stassen welcomed the MIS language school to Camp Savage and later Fort Snelling.

As I helped families, veterans and other visitors sign in for the opening, I found myself imagining what my grandfather may have been thinking in those days. Finding himself at Topaz after his college education was cut short at Berkeley, why did he choose to leave for St. Paul that September of 1943? Why did he choose to enlist in the MIS?

A variety of possibilities exist. Perhaps Grandpa enlisted to get a head start rebuilding his career after his education was cut short. Perhaps he enlisted to relieve what



(From left) Historian Eric Saul, Twin Cities JACL Education Committee Chair Sally Sudo and keynote speaker and Maj. Gen. Paul Nakasone

must have been suffocating pressures of patriotic rhetoric working to confine an already confined population. Perhaps he simply wanted to leave the camps. Perhaps he did it out of loyalty to his country. Regarding this last hypothesis however, I began to feel during the ceremony that a conversation confined to issues of loyalty might never fully capture the MIS story.

Naturally, I was not the only one in attendance with a personal connection. The ceremony not only documented the history of the language school, but also allowed the audience to identify with its students through the close relationships so many in the Twin Cities have with the school and its students. Carolyn Nayematsu, Sally Sudo, Karen Tanaka Lucas, Joyce Yoshimura-Rank, Gail Wong and keynote speaker Maj. Gen. Paul M. Nakasone all shared stories about parents and spouses who trained at the language schools and served in the Pacific Theater during the war and occupation.

Even 6-year old Kasumi Lucas, Gosei and great-granddaughter of MIS veteran Walter Tanaka, was present to deliver the Pledge of Allegiance, which she did with astonishing articulation and clarity. Sheena Janson of Rick Shiomi's Mu Performing Arts followed with a jaw-dropping rendition of the "Star Spangled Banner." As I watched these displays of loyalty, executed with flawless precision, I could not help but feel I was witnessing a complicated scene that had played out countless times in the history of Asian America.

Indeed, themes of sacrifice, loyalty, duty, honor and patriotism were the most clearly

discernible in the ceremony, perhaps a necessity given American society's endless preoccupation with these concepts. Yet, I felt a different theme emerge as I listened to the speeches and later read the printed stories dispersed throughout the exhibit itself. Three stories in particular stand out in my mind today.

The first was an anecdote historian Eric Saul shared about Gen. Douglas MacArthur's personal interpreter, Nisei MIS linguist Kan Tagami. During the occupation, as a long meeting between Emperor Hirohito and Gen. MacArthur concluded, Emperor Hirohito turned to Tagami and thanked him for his work bridging the gap between the U.S. and Japan. "You must have suffered much because of the war between our countries," said Hirohito to a surprised Tagami.

The second was on a storyboard placed among the photos in the exhibit. The brief text explained how MIS officers undertook large-scale projects to convince Japanese units to surrender peacefully. These projects included the production of brochures informing Japanese soldiers and civilians of the humane treatment they would experience if they surrendered. Some Nisei MIS linguists even visited doomed Japanese units alone or in small groups to sit down and talk about surrender. A common strategy the linguists employed was to reason truthfully with the frightened soldiers that not only would they be treated humanely once captured, but also that their skills and lives would be invaluable to their families and communities after the war.

The third anecdote was a newspaper edi-

torial written by George Grim. It was published in the local Twin Cities newspaper in 1945 and also reprinted in the ceremony program. In the editorial, George recounted his experience working with MIS instructor Tommy Ichimura while stationed together at Camp Robinson in Arkansas years prior. On one particular day, Tommy showed George a Mother's Day card he had prepared. After admiring the card, George turned it over to find that it was addressed to a stall at the Santa Anita Racetrack Assembly Center in California. "Tommy could teach us more than Japanese," wrote Grim later in 1945, "I hope he — and his mother — will forgive the rest of us."

These stories, but a tiny sampling of the breadth of the Nisei MIS experience, drew for me a picture more rich, complex and colorful than any visible through the black-and-white lenses of loyalty, patriotism or sacrifice. To remember the Nisei MIS veterans only for their numerical accomplishments, while nevertheless substantial, is to forget about the cumulative impact of the personal impressions these Nisei left on fellow servicemen, Japanese soldiers and some of the highest-ranking leaders in the world. To remember them only for their patriotism is to forget about their loyalty to mutual understanding between the United States and Japan. To remember them only as linguists is to forget about their unique qualifications as cross-cultural mediators and communicators. To remember them only as valiant warriors against the enemy is to forget their ability and willingness to understand and humanize people on both sides of the violence.

In fact, to remember the Nisei veterans only for their loyalty is to hide the privilege of those whose loyalty has, due to their particular race, never been questioned. It is to continue performing the "Star Spangled Banner" with immaculate precision without asking why such precision is not expected of all others. So often, we readily cram the complexities of the Japanese American experience into the story-worthy, yet incomplete, frameworks of loyalty and sacrifice. We regale the public with tales of patriotism, obedience, honor and bravery. Yet, I find these themes haunt me as I struggle to identify with my ancestors. While we celebrate their legacy and accomplishments, we must never forget to ask why Japanese Americans ever had to prove their loyalty to this democratic nation in the first place.

It is often said that the mission of the JACL is to educate the larger society about unique and important experiences of Japanese Americans in the United States. However, as a delegate to the 2013 JACL National Convention, I argued during the National Council session that the educational mission of the JACL should focus not only on the larger society, but also on our own community. Given the personal connection that must exist for so many to take a genuine interest in history, we alone carry the eternal burden, responsibility and privilege of fueling the collective memory of the Japanese American experience. If we ourselves do not strive to remember and identify with Japanese American history through our personal relationships, who will?

>> See BRIDGES on page 9



# PATRONS DENIED ACCESS TO BISHOP BOWLING ALLEY

The Florin Manzanar Pilgrimage Committee, which consists of the Florin JACL and Council on American Islamic Relations — Sacramento Valley, is embroiled in a dispute with the Back Alley Bowling, Bar and Grill in Bishop, Calif., over mistreatment and denied access stemming from an April 25 visit to the establishment.

As part of the annual Manzanar Pilgrimage, a group of 15 Asian American and Muslim American young adults, in addition to older members and senior citizens, were denied service at Back Alley Bowl on three occasions on April 25.

Bowling alley employees told the group the establishment had a down computer system, though it remained fully open for business.

"The Florin JACL would like an apology from Back Alley Bowling for denying us service, a public commitment by the bowling alley to anti-discrimination policies and a public welcome of diverse people," said

Brandon Miyasaki, a youth leader of the Florin JACL who also helped coordinate the Florin Manzanar Pilgrimage bowling event. "We patiently waited for Back Alley Bowling to acknowledge these requests only to have them claim it was all a 'misunderstanding' and 'they sincerely regret any misperceptions.' After our investigation of first-hand accounts and a trail of negative reviews claiming discrimination, I think it's fair to say that the Florin JACL alongside our supporters now have an even clearer understanding about how Back Alley Bowling operates, and that is the reason we still seek justice."

Back Alley representatives failed to show at an agreed upon meeting on June 9 with committee members and instead issued a response from their lawyer.

The Florin Manzanar Pilgrimage Committee is currently examining all options in order to ensure justice is served.

*Visit the P.C. website for the latest developments on this story.*

## 2015 JACL NATIONAL CONVENTION

# SPECIFIC EXHIBIT OBJECTS IDENTIFIED FOR JACL/ SMITHSONIAN MUSEUM COLLABORATION



WASHINGTON, D.C. — To

commemorate the 75th anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066, the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History will feature a special exhibition of Japanese American incarceration artifacts in an effort to tell the story of the Japanese American experience during World War II.

A Smithsonian representative will be attending the 2015 JACL National Convention on July 14-15 in search of incarceration images and objects to be featured in a JACL-sponsored exhibit that will open on the Day of Remembrance, Feb. 19, 2017, and remain accessible until November. It is projected to reach more than 3 million visitors in the museum and millions more online.

JACL National Convention attendees with object(s) that might be considered for the exhibit are encouraged to bring a photograph of the item so that it can be examined by the Smithsonian representative.

Specific exhibit objects include:

- 100th Infantry Battalion full uniform
- Photos from Japanese American World War II veterans (100th, 442nd RCT/MIS)
- Handmade toys and children's items from camp
- Cards and games used in camp for leisure (kids and adults)
- Textbooks, report cards, projects and artwork from camp schools and adult education classes
- Birth and death certificates from camp
- Camp worker's documentation and records, such as salary logs, etc. (for both Japanese Americans and non-Japanese)
- Sports-related artifacts, photos and documents from camp
- Camp newsletters and newspapers
- Personal Letters (e.g., Nisei soldiers writing to parents in camp, etc.)
- Resettlement documents

*For more information, please contact [americanhistoryapacollections@si.edu](mailto:americanhistoryapacollections@si.edu).*

## NPS >> continued from page 4

### NATIONAL JAPANESE AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY, San Francisco, Calif.

"Camp Digital Archives"  
Multiple Sites **\$83,875**

### NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION, District of Columbia

"Left Behind: Documenting the Japanese American Collections at Seattle's Panama Hotel"  
Minidoka Relocation Center,  
Jerome County, Idaho **\$137,178**

### THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, C/O UC BERKELEY SPONSORED PROJECTS OFFICE, Berkeley Calif.

"Japanese American Internment Sites: A Digital Archive"  
Multiple Sites, including Colorado River Relocation Center (Poston), La Paz County, Ariz.; Tule Lake Segregation Center, Modoc County, Calif.; Gila River Relocation Center, Pinal County, Ariz.; Manzanar Relocation Center, Inyo County, Calif. **\$296,347**

### SAN FERNANDO VALLEY JAPANESE AMERICAN COMMUNITY CENTER, Pacoima, Calif.

"Only the Oaks Remain: The Tuna Canyon Detention Station Traveling Exhibit"  
Tuna Canyon Detention Station,  
Los Angeles County, Calif. **\$102,190**

### SPECIAL SERVICE FOR GROUPS, Los Angeles, Calif.

"A Flicker in Eternity Interactive Curriculum:"

*Teaching Stories of Confinement"*  
Heart Mountain Relocation Center, Park County, Wyo.; Manzanar Relocation Center, Inyo County, Calif. **\$20,000**

### UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS, Fayetteville, Ark.

"Rohwer Reconstructed II: Making Connections Through Time and Space"  
Jerome Relocation Center, Chicot and Drew Counties, Ark.; Rohwer Relocation Center, Desha County, Ark. **\$254,606**

### UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL ARKANSAS, Conway, Ark.

"A Season of Remembrance: Rohwer and Jerome at 70"  
Jerome Relocation Center, Chicot and Drew Counties, Ark.; Rohwer Relocation Center, Desha County, Ark. **\$75,908**

### UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO, DENVER, Denver, Colo.

"Amache 3D Digital Documentation"  
Granada Relocation Center (Amache), Prowers County, Colo. **\$24,202**

### WNET, New York, N.Y.

"Mission US: 'Prisoner in My Homeland'"  
Bainbridge Island, Kitsap County, Wash.; Manzanar Relocation Center, Inyo County, Calif.; Minidoka Relocation Center, Jerome County, Idaho **\$400,000**

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<input type="checkbox"/> Full Convention	(\$225)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Sayonara Banquet A la carte (Members)	(\$150)		
<input type="checkbox"/> Sayonara Banquet A la carte (Non-members)	(\$175)		

The early bird registration cut-off date for convention is Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup> @ 5:00 p.m. PDT.  
There is no early bird price when purchasing the Sayonara Banquet A la carte.

### 2. REGISTRANT INFORMATION

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<https://www.jacl.org/events/convention/>



HR 40 >> continued from page 3

We know that Germany paid over 3 billion marks to Israel in the dozen or so years after the Holocaust, donating millions to the World Jewish Congress on behalf of those who were murdered under Nazi rule. Similarly, Native American groups have to some extent received apology and partial payments for lands forcibly taken by the United States government, and numerous European countries and cities have formally apologized and repented for their role in perpetuating the Transatlantic slave trade.

Just this spring, the mayor of my own city of Chicago voiced support for a reparations proposal that would set aside over \$5 million to offer college education, psychological and substance abuse counseling and up to \$100,000 to survivors of police torture and their families. The legislation would also provide a formal apology to victims, create a permanent memorial and introduce curriculum into Chicago Public Schools on the torture cases’ lasting blemish on city history.

In all of these cases, reparations weren’t won because our governments suddenly discovered their consciences independent of external pressure. Tortured Chicagoans and

Holocaust survivors achieved redress because they gave human voice to their grievances and insisted on their moral right to recompense. Likewise, Nikkei received redress because we demanded it, built broad intercommunity support and chartered a congressional study that forced our government to finally recognize our incarceration as a “grave injustice.”

The United States has formed hundreds of such federal commissions over the years, tasked with goals as varied as researching space programs, protecting our national forests, maintaining landmarks, studying environmental sustainability and investigating wartime internment. Surely the historic wounds that the institution of chattel slavery and its racial afterbirth have left us with deserves, at the very least, apology and intentional study. Gathering facts in this way should be far from controversial — as Congressman Conyers has made clear, “This is not a bill on how we deal with reparations. This is a bill that calls for a commission that sets up a study for reparations.”

Our country is emerging from a year of moral movement marches and community protests in response to the increased documentation of the physical and economic predation of black Americans at the hands of their government. Now more than ever do we need to engage

with the United States’ most haunting racial histories, and yet we do not seem to be at a point where we can speak intelligently about what a practical, ethical and nonblame-based reparations schema might look like. This is exactly why we need the commission’s research, findings that would allow all U.S. Americans to set about the business of healing our shared racial trauma with care and humility — and with facts, statistics and official research in hand.

The National Youth/Student Council is sponsoring a motion at this July’s National Convention asking the JACL to express full support for HR 40. If this bill is ever to become a reality, it will take widespread intercommunity support, from people of all ethnic groups. For Japanese Americans in particular, we believe the way forward should be clear. In deciding whether to remain silent or speak out in asking our country to begin to grapple with the horrors of slavery and segregation, we must look toward future generations: *kodomo no tame ni*, “for the sake of the children.” Yet, our answer also surely lies in the past, among the hurdles we have already surmounted, in imagining what our peoples might achieve together, with one another’s help.

**Ryan Kenji Kuramitsu is the JACL MDC Youth Representative.**

BARRACK >> continued from page 6

To rally support, the HMWF has created opportunities for donors to claim a role in the project. Through a fundraising website ([barrack.shopheartmountain.org](http://barrack.shopheartmountain.org)), donors can choose their level of participation and track the project’s progress. In exchange for participating, donors receive a number of awards, ranging from historic square nails used to build the Heart Mountain camp to invitations to a donor recognition event to permanent name recognition at the

barrack site once it is returned.

In addition, businesses are being encouraged to “Sponsor a Mile” of the project through direct or in-kind contributions. For business interested in sponsoring a mile and the benefits that come along with it, they can email the HMWF ([info@heartmountain.org](mailto:info@heartmountain.org)).

With its return, the barrack brings important historical significance as a powerful artifact of camp life and beyond.

It will remain a fixture of the landscape that can speak not only to the Japanese American confinement during World War II but the extended homesteading and farming history in the Big Horn Basin.

“This structure represents many things: injustice and pain, but also perseverance and resourcefulness,” said Liesinger. “And being back on this historic site will allow us to extend not only our preservation mission but our educational goals as well. Not to mention the gravity it will lend when reminding people of a mistake we must not repeat.” ■

BRIDGES >> continued from page 7



As I struggled to imagine what life was like for my grandfather, I came to feel that history is not only a body of knowledge, but the process of discovering and identifying with that knowledge. History may not only be about knowing what happened, but engaging in the ongoing struggle of contemplating those pasts and how they bind us to the present. Perhaps it is not only archival work, but the painstaking processes of historical identification that JACL must foster in order to truly accomplish its unique mission.

The multifaceted educational goal of teaching society about Japanese American history while struggling to identify with our past through personal connections was exemplified by the ceremony at the venerable Fort Snelling on May 17,

2015. It was at this fort, so etched into the historical consciousness of Minnesotans, that an auditorium of veterans, Japanese Americans and other visitors learned about the accomplishments of the Nisei MIS linguists so close to them generationally and geographically. It was there that an exhibit was commemorated to share with not only visitors to the center but also the descendents of those veterans present.

I am deeply indebted to both National JACL and the Twin Cities Chapter for making this experience possible for me. *The photo exhibit, sponsored by the Minnesota Historical Society and the Twin Cities Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League, is on display at Historic Fort Snelling in St. Paul, Minn., through July 5, and again from Aug. 25-Oct. 31.*

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A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

# CALENDAR

## National

**2015 National Convention**  
**Las Vegas, NV**  
**July 13-15**  
**Monte Carlo Resort and Casino**  
**3770 Vegas Blvd. South**  
**Price: Varies**

Join JACL for the 2015 National Convention in Las Vegas and receive a special discount on tickets to the Blue Man Group. For each person registered, \$25 will go toward funding the National Student Youth Council.  
**Info: Visit [www.jacl.org/2015convention/](http://www.jacl.org/2015convention/).**

## NCWNP

**Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL Annual Community Picnic**  
**Santa Cruz, CA**  
**June 27; 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m.**  
**Aptos Village Park**  
**100 Aptos Creek Road**  
**Price: Adults \$8, Seniors 70+ and Children under 5, \$5**  
 Featured entertainment this year will be Watsonville Taiko. Parking is limited, so carpooling is encouraged. Don't miss the scholarship presentations at 12:45 p.m. and an ice cream social at 3 p.m.  
**Info: Visit [www.watsonville.santacruzjacl.org](http://www.watsonville.santacruzjacl.org) or email [wsc.jacl@gmail.com](mailto:wsc.jacl@gmail.com).**

**Buddhist Church of Lodi Obon Bazaar**  
**Lodi, CA**  
**June 27; Noon-7 p.m.**  
**Buddhist Church of Lodi**  
**23 N. Stockton St.**  
**Price: Free**  
 Bon Odori will be from 7-9 p.m. There will be Japanese food, bingo, a raffle and cultural demonstrations. Don't miss the Church Tour at 12:30 p.m. and watch the taiko performance at 6 p.m. before the Bon Odori dance.  
**Info: Visit [www.lodibuddhist.org](http://www.lodibuddhist.org) or call (209) 368-5589.**

**San Mateo Buddhist Temple Annual Bazaar**  
**San Mateo, CA**  
**June 27-28**  
**San Mateo Buddhist Temple**  
**2 S. Claremont St.**  
**Price: Free**  
 San Mateo Taiko will be performing on both days. AACP Bookstore will also

make an appearance.  
**Info: Call (650) 342-2541.**

**2015 Nikkoland Festival**  
**Oakland, CA**  
**July 20-21**  
**Buddhist Church of Oakland**  
**825 Jackson St.**  
**Price: Free**  
 The Buddhist Church of Oakland invites all to its annual bazaar and festival, which will feature fun games, bingo, a silent auction and a raffle. Resident minister Rev. Harry Gyoko Bridge will lead tours of the historic Oakland landmark on both days.  
**Info: Contact Jon Takaguchi at [officebco@gmail.com](mailto:officebco@gmail.com) or call (510) 832-5988.**

## PSW

**San Fernando Valley Obon Festival**  
**Pacoima, CA**  
**June 27-28; 4-9 p.m.**  
**San Fernando Valley Hongwanji Buddhist Temple**  
**12953 Branford St.**  
 The annual San Fernando Valley Obon Festival is back with delicious foods and exciting performances. Don't miss the chance to welcome the summer season with the community. Come enjoy cultural activities and make lasting memories.  
**Info: Call (818) 899-4030.**

**Senshinji Bon Odori**  
**Los Angeles, CA**  
**June 27; 5:30-10:30 p.m.**  
**Senshin Buddhist Temple**  
**1311 W. 37th St.**  
 Highlights for this year's Bon Odori will include a Hatsubon Service, raffle drawing, omoairi in hondo, sento shogun (oil lamps), otoki and a taiko performance.  
**Info: Call (323) 731-4617.**

## EDC

**66th Annual Obon Dance Festival**  
**New York, NY**  
**July 5; 12:45 p.m.-5 p.m.**  
**Bryant Park**  
**42nd Street and 6th Avenue**  
**Price: Free**  
 Schedule programing is tentative, but activities will include Hoh Daiko, obon dancing and an origami

workshop. Annual obon service will be held on July 26 at 11 a.m.  
**Info: Visit [www.newyork.buddhistchurch.org](http://www.newyork.buddhistchurch.org) or call (212) 678-0305.**

**Japanese American Veterans Assn. Quarterly Luncheon**  
**Falls Church, VA**  
**July 11; 11:30 a.m.**  
**Harvest Moon Restaurant**  
**7260 Arlington Blvd.**  
**Price: \$18**  
 Reservations are recommended beforehand. JAVA is a fraternal, patriotic, educational and historical organization with the purposes of preserving and strengthening comradeship among its members.  
**Info: Visit [www.javadc.org](http://www.javadc.org).**

**Ekoji Buddhist Temple Obon Festival**  
**Fairfax Station, VA**  
**July 11; 5:30-9:30 p.m.**  
**Ekoji Buddhist Temple**  
**6500 Lake Haven Lane**  
**Price: Free**  
 Join Ekoji this year at its cultural and food bazaar. Try a variety of cuisine such as chicken teriyaki bento boxes, spam or veggie musubi and others. Bon Odori will be at 7 p.m.  
**Info: Visit [www.ekoji.org](http://www.ekoji.org) or call (703) 239-0500.**

**AARW Summer Grill-Off BBQ**  
**Watertown, MA**  
**July 18; 3-6 p.m.**  
**Arsenal Park**  
**485 Arsenal St.**  
**Price: Free**  
 Join members of the Asian American Resource Workshop community in celebrating summer with its annual grill-off. Community groups will be competing with their grilling skills.  
**Info: Email Carolyn at [carolyn@aarw.org](mailto:carolyn@aarw.org) or visit [www.aarw.org](http://www.aarw.org).**

**Lowell Folk Festival**  
**Lowell, MA**  
**July 24-26**  
**Downtown Lowell**  
**Gorham Street**  
 The Lowell Folk Festival is the oldest folk festival in the country. Enjoy a weekend of music, art, food and fun. Performances will include Ann Yao Trio, a Chinese string ensemble.

**Info: Email Carolyn at [carolyn@aarw.org](mailto:carolyn@aarw.org) or visit [www.aarw.org](http://www.aarw.org).**

## MDC

**Salt Lake City Obon Festival of Joy**  
**Salt Lake City, UT**  
**July 11; 1-8 p.m.**  
**Salt Lake City Buddhist Temple**  
**211 W. 100 South**  
**Price: Free**  
 The annual obon festival is back this year at the Salt Lake City Buddhist Temple. Bon Odori will be from 8-10 p.m.  
**Info: Call (801) 363-4742.**

**Cherry Blossom Denver Festival**  
**Denver, CO**  
**June 27-28; 11 a.m.-6 p.m.**  
**Sakura Square**  
**19th and 20th Streets**  
**Price: Free**  
 New this year is a locally brewed Sakura Matsuri craft beer that will be offered to festivalgoers. Fans of taiko drumming, teriyaki chicken and vintage Japanese textiles won't want to miss this year's festival.  
**Info: Visit [www.cherryblossomdenver.org](http://www.cherryblossomdenver.org) or call (303) 295-1844.**

**JACL Project: Community! Day Camp**  
**Chicago, IL**  
**July 20-22, 27-29; 10 a.m.-Noon**  
**JACL Chicago Office**  
**5415 N. Clark St.**  
**Price: Free**  
 JACL's free summer camp program for children ages 7-9 is back! More than six half-day sessions over two weeks will give campers an opportunity to learn about Japanese American culture and history.  
**Info: Visit [www.jaclchicago.org](http://www.jaclchicago.org) or email Christine Munteanu at [cmunteanu@jacl.org](mailto:cmunteanu@jacl.org) or call (773) 728-7171.**

**Chicago JACL Golf Tournament**  
**Glencoe, IL**  
**July 23; 9:30 a.m.**  
**Glencoe Golf Club**  
**621 Westley Road**  
**Price: \$85 per golfer**  
 Join the Chicago chapter of the JACL at its annual golf tournament. Costs include a round of golf with a cart and meal following the tournament. Please RSVP by

July 15.  
**Info: Visit [www.jaclchicago.org](http://www.jaclchicago.org) or call (773) 728-7171.**

**Nikkei Community Picnic**  
**Chicago, IL**  
**August 1; Noon**  
**Bunker Hill Forest Preserve, Grove 3**  
**W. Harts Road**  
**Price: Free**  
 Come share a day of games, food, sports and sunshine with the Chicago chapter of the JACL. The picnic is potluck style, and dishes brought should be enough for your family.  
**Info: Visit [www.jaclchicago.org](http://www.jaclchicago.org) or email Bob Takagi at [rantalltree@gmail.com](mailto:rantalltree@gmail.com).**

## PNW

**Idaho-Oregon 69th Annual Japan Nite Obon Festival**  
**Ontario, OR**  
**June 27; 4-9 p.m.**  
**Idaho-Oregon Buddhist Temple**  
**286 S.E. 4th St.**  
**Price: Free**  
 Don't miss Bon Odori at 7:30 p.m., and food services start at 4 p.m. All are welcomed to tour the sanctuary open house, wedding kimono display and martial arts and taiko demonstrations.  
**Info: Call (541) 889-8562.**

**Japan-American Society 55th Annual Golf Tournament**  
**Mukilteo, WA**  
**July 17; 11 a.m.**  
**Harbour Point Golf Course**  
**11817 Harbour Pointe Blvd.**  
**Price: Registration fees may vary.**  
 Activities will include a raffle, with proceeds from the tournament supporting the Japan in Schools (JIS) and JAASW business and cultural education programs.  
**Info: Visit [www.jaasw.org](http://www.jaasw.org) or call (206) 374-0180.**

## 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

**Adachi, Ralph Akira, 89,**



Orange, CA; May 25; he is survived by his wife, Fumi Adachi; son, Steven Hiroshi (Janice) Adachi; daughter, Kathleen Satsuki Kawashima; sister, Janet Shorter; he is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 3.

**Arakaki, Kiyoko K., 97,**

Kauai, HI; June 1; she is survived by her son, Dennis; daughters, Susan Arakaki and Leona Urata; brother, Yonetoshi Kamida; sister, Edythe Yoshimura; gc: 4; ggc: 2.

**Ashimoto, Hisako, 95,**



Torrance, CA; May 10; she was incarcerated at Poston; she was predeceased by her husband, Masao; daughter, Joanne Matsubayashi; son-in-law, Ron Sato; she is survived by her son, Thomas (Janice) Ashimoto; daughters, Alice Sato, Betty (Scott) Moore and Judy (Ed) Nagatoshi; son-in-law, Bob Matsubayashi; she is also survived by many nieces,

nephews and other relatives; gc: 12; ggc: 7.

**Fujioka, Ronald Wayne, 65,** San Dimas, CA; May 25; he is survived by his wife, Kumiko; children, Brandon and Midori Fujioka.

**Fukunaga-Steele, Charlene Shieko, 69,** Honolulu, HI; May 26; she is survived by her sons, Scott (Michelle) Steele and Joel "JJ" (Clarissa) Steele; daughter, Tara (Bruce) Hegg; brother, Glen Fukunaga; sister, Judith (Lloyd) Akamine; gc: 3.

**Fumiko, Matsumoto, 86,** Torrance, CA; May 31; she is survived by her sons, Eddie and Danny (Becky) Matsumoto; brother-in-law, Yoshi Matsumoto; sisters-in-law, Yoko and Eiko Miya and Hideko Iwamaye; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 4.

**Harada, Takeshi, 86,** Waipahu, HI; May 13; he is survived by his son, Bradley; daughter, Donna Nakamura; brothers, Kikuo, Takayuki and Glenn; sisters, Fumiko Hashimoto and Carolyn Nakamura; gc: 1.

**Hayashi, Masumi, 106,** Ontario, OR; June 2; she is predeceased by her husband, Kazuo; son, Hiroshi; daughters, Shigeko and Linda Gilder; she is survived by her children, Kazue Ichikawa, Akiko Aono, Martha (Jim) Mizuta, Dorothy (George) Iida, Janice Gordon, Midori (Dick) Houston, Emi Koe and Bob Gilder; she also has many other relatives, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great grandchildren.

**Hayashi, Tom, 76,** Los Angeles, CA; May 24; he is survived by his wife, Nancy Hayashi; children, Brian (Elizabeth) and David Hayashi; he is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 1.

**Hirata, Yoshie, 85,** Los Angeles, CA; May 18; she is survived by her niece, Nahomi

Ishimoto; and brother-in-law, Yoshiaki Hirata.

**Hisamoto, Joanne Kazue, 60,**



Los Angeles, CA; May 4; she was predeceased by her parents, Opie Mitsuo and Jeanne Tsuneko Hashimoto; she is survived by her sisters, Dee Ann Misa (Kevin) Clossman; nephew, Adam; niece, Sharann Mari Hisamoto.

**Iino, May, 74,** Los Angeles, CA; May 19; she is survived by her husband, Ron Iino; daughter, Tiffany; son, David (Jennifer) Iino; mother, Tsuruko Ishihara; sisters, Sachi Koyama and Katherine (Michael) Mooko; she is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2.

**Ikene, Jane Sachiko, 77,** Honolulu, HI; May 16; she is survived by her sons, Glen A. and Steven Y. Maekawa; sister, Judy T. Chang; gc: 2; ggc: 2.

**Matsumoto, Fumiko, 86,**



Torrance, CA; May 31; she is survived by her sons, Eddie and Danny (Becky) Matsumoto; brother-in-law, Yoshi Matsumoto;

sisters-in-law, Yoko and Eiko Miya and Hideko Iwamaye; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 4.

**Nakanishi, Kanichi Thomas, 93,** Gardena, CA; May 23; he was incarcerated at Gila River and he was a M.I.S. Korean War veteran; he was predeceased by his wife, Marion; he is survived by his son, Craig Nakanishi; he is also survived by many nephews, nieces and other relatives.

**Nakashima, Scott, 61,** Whittier, CA; May 10; he is survived by his father, Jimmie Nakashima; sister, Kristine Nakashima; aunt, Yuri Tsuchiyama; he is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives.

**Nakayama, Mae Yooko, 82,** Hilo, HI; May 30; she is survived by her sisters, Aileen Sylvia, Sandra Shinozawa and Elsie Ushiroda.

**Nishimura, John K., 71,**



Banning, CA; June 4; he was predeceased by his sisters, Flora Saisho and Kathy Shigemoto; he is survived by his wife, Tomiko Nishimura; children, Denise M. (Geoff) Lovejoy, Kevin M. (Sheri) Nishimura and Timothy C. Nishimura; brothers, Richard (Felisa), George (Miki), Bryce and Donald (Chieko); sister, Laura Takabi; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 4.

**Ogawa, Chiyoko Mae, 101,** Los Angeles, CA; May 26; she is survived by her children, Kazuo (Carol), David (Sally), Glen (Alice) Ogawa and Ann (Myron) Gee; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 8; ggc: 8.

**Oshita, Tadashi, 68,** Downey, CA; May 26; he is survived by his children, Shaun Kiyoshi and Kiyohiro Kasey Oshita; parents, Sho and Seuno Oshita; siblings, Amy (Ron) and Carey (Brad)

Oshita; he is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives.

**Sasaki, Tsugiko, 97,** Pearl City, HI; May 15; she is survived by her son, Jed.

**Tamura, Naoki, 65,**



Yorba Linda, CA; May 31; he is survived by his wife, Mieko; son, Hayato; daughter, Aya (Peter) Flores; gc: 2.

**Tokishi, Blossom Midori, 82,** Gardena, CA; May 26; she is survived by her children, Deron Ikuo Tokishi and Sheri Lyn Aiko (Jeff) Tong; gc: 1.

**Tomita, Frank, 96,**



Brooklyn, NY; May 28; he was a WWII veteran; he is survived by his wife, Helen; daughters, Sandra; son-in-law, Larry; sister-in-law, Amy; he is survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 1.

**Wada, Yuri, 92,** Monterey Park, CA; May 18; she is survived by her sons, Sam (Carla) and Ron (Joan) Wada; sister-in-law, Grace Taiji; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 3; ggc: 6.

**Yoshimoto, Yukimi, 94,** Hilo, HI; May 11; she is survived by her sons, Warren, Roy and Stanley; daughter, Irene Ishiyama; sister, Kikuyo Nakano; gc: 6; ggc: 4.

## PLACE A TRIBUTE

'In Memoriam' is a free listing that appears on a limited, space-available basis. Tributes honor your loved ones with text and photos and appear in a timely manner at the rate of \$20/column inch.

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## API HERITAGE MONTH PRESENTATION MADE TO THE 56TH MULTI-FUNCTIONAL MEDICAL BATTALION

Don Maekawa from the Seattle Nisei Veterans Committee and Bob Nakamura from the Olympia Chapter of the JACL and member of the NVC in Seattle and commander of the Lacey-Tumwater VFW Post 11402 in Lacey, Wash., presented a discussion on the impact that Asian/Pacific Islander soldiers and citizens have had on the United States to the 56th Multi-Functional Medical Battalion in Fort Lewis, Wash., on May 19 as part of Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

The presentation, which took place at the French Theater on Fort Lewis, the oldest theater on post dating back to the early 1930s, consisted of the history of the Japanese and Japanese Americans from the late 1890s to the 1940s, leading up to the internment camps and the formation of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team/100th Infantry and the Military Intelligence Service.

Maekawa recalled his personal memories of going through basic training at North Fort Lewis in 1956. He also gave a presentation on the "Stories of the 442nd RCT." His recollection made a lasting impact on the soldiers of the 56th MMB.

"It is hard enough leaving your family in a stable location, but to leave your family for

war while they lived in those locations — it's hard to imagine," said SPC Villanueva, S-3 office (Operations) of the 56th MMB.

The presentation also served as an excellent opportunity for the 56th MMB to honor and remember the sacrifices these men and women made for this nation. Attendees commented that Maekawa and Nakamura articulated greatly the impact and importance of Asian Pacific Islander Soldiers during World War II and beyond.



Bob Nakamura (second from left) and Don Maekawa (second from right) are pictured with members of the 56th Multi-Functional Medical Battalion during their presentation at the French Theater on Fort Lewis.

## PRIDE >> continued from page 3

It is a luxury that we are not always able to live in, and so this weekend, many of us who attended appreciated having a place where we could speak from our hearts and feel accepted unconditionally. I want to thank Sarah Baker for being a leader of this event. She is a Seattle college student who has the heart and spirit of a thousand. She showed me the kind of leaders that are emerging from this generation of young people. Sarah, you give me hope for the world that Aiden will live in.

One day, I dream that I will be able to see those changes in a world that will accept my son not as a second-class citizen but the wonderful man, husband, son, brother and eventually the father that he so wants to be. Later this week, I am off to Denver to speak to the Mile High JACL. The JACL has been one of our family's greatest supporters in recent years, along with PFLAG, a national organization that supports parents, families and friends of LGBTQ individuals, and NQAPIA, an API LGBTQ national organization. Our family is stronger because organizations like these exist and are working tirelessly and fearlessly to bring equality and understanding to all.



Marsha Aizuma (right) with (from left) Gabrielle Gainor and Sarah Baker at the Seattle JACL's "Family: An API LGBT Gathering"

So as I reflect on this month, my niece's wedding, my son's graduation and the various Pride events happening around the country, a warmth fills my heart for our family, our son and our LGBTQ communities' future. And that makes this mother smile.

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

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