



# PACIFIC CITIZEN



► **PAGE 7**

## KEIRO ESCROW CLOSES

**Pacifica Companies acquires the facilities as the Ad Hoc Committee continues to fight its sale.**

PHOTO: P.C. STAFF

Keiro's Boyle Heights location (pictured) is one of the four Keiro facilities that will now be managed by Aspen Skilled Healthcare and Northstar Senior Living.

► **PAGE 5**

**JALD names its 2016 delegates.**

► **PAGE 6**

**National Board meets to discuss JACL's financial future.**



# LETTER TO THE EDITOR



Dear Editor,

In the Jan. 22-Feb 4, 2016, edition of the *Pacific Citizen*, the *P.C.* published a rebuttal written by Screescanda to my review of the DVD “Right of Passage,” published in the Nov. 13-Dec. 10, 2015, edition.

In his rebuttal, Screescanda fails to address my main point as to why President Reagan changed his mind to sign the redress legislation rather than to veto it. President Reagan explains his support of the legislation in his signing statement. He credits his support as a tribute to the heroic combat record of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. His statement is clear. There is no mystery.

Screescanda mentions that President Reagan watched the movie “Bad Day at Black Rock” on Feb. 9, 1988, just days before Grant Ujifusa and Gov. Tom Kean were informed that President Reagan would sign the redress legislation if it were passed by Congress.

Watching the movie, in fact, reinforces my point that there is no mystery. The movie has strong parallels to the Sgt. Kaz Masuda story in which then-Capt. Reagan helped to award the Masuda family the medal that was opposed by the anti-Japanese leaders of Fountain Valley, Calif. It was his reconnection to the Masuda story that revived the deeply patriotic emotion that moved President Reagan to change his opposition to the redress legislation — he was righting a wrong in honor of the 442nd vets as he stated in his signing statement.

In the movie, John Macreedy (played by Spencer Tracy) is a World War II veteran, who has a paralyzed arm and who travels to an isolated southwestern desert train stop after World War II to find the father of Joe Komoko, who was a 442nd RCT soldier, killed in action in Italy saving Macreedy’s life. Macreedy wants to present Komoko’s father with the military medal that the Army awarded to Komoko for saving Macreedy’s life.

The movie is about Macreedy solving a hate crime in which the father was killed by a wealthy rancher shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor because of anti-Japanese hatred and because the father had become an economic competitor. The movie is not about the internment or the injustices associated with Executive Order 9066. It is about honoring a 442nd soldier killed in action.

Screescanda also acknowledges that everything that was in my review was known to the DVD editors. Based on Screescanda’s admission, it would appear that the editors selectively included the facts that would buttress their claim that what changed President Reagan’s mind is a mystery and omitted the key facts that clearly showed the president’s intent.

“Right of Passage” is a flawed attempt to rewrite our history by failing to give the appropriate credit to the combat record of the World War II Nisei soldiers for motivating President Reagan to change his opposition to the redress legislation.

Similarly, Screescanda states that Mike Masaoka denied the allegation of “branding and stamping.” Knowing about the denial, Screescanda must have read Masaoka’s denial. Yet, neither his rebuttal nor the DVD included or analyzed Masaoka’s explanation as to who made the proposal. This is another clumsy attempt to rewrite our history by advancing a biased view of the JACL leader.

Sincerely,  
  
Gerald Yamada

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## PACIFIC CITIZEN

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# REIMAGINE EVERYTHING

## ABOUT AARP FOUNDATION TAX-AIDE

Since 1968, the volunteer-based program has helped nearly 50 million low- to moderate-income taxpayers.

*By Ron Mori*

It's tax season again, that dreaded time of year when many of us stress out over the complexity of the paperwork and procrastinate from dealing with any of it as late as possible until the filing deadline. Some of us suffer alone amidst piles of receipts and forms; others visit accountants, but either way, we feel paranoid that we're not handling our taxes correctly.

It doesn't always have to be so painful.

Did you know that AARP Foundation offers free tax preparation help to anyone, especially those who are 50 and older? I certainly didn't, until I started learning more about AARP Foundation's Tax-Aide program. Since 1968, this volunteer-based program has helped nearly 50 million low- to moderate-income taxpayers.

It turns out that for years, my mom has been getting her taxes done by a Tax-Aide volunteer. I had no idea, until my mother asked me to go with her five years ago. In her case, she had made an appointment by phone, and the volunteer was a retired accountant that had worked with her for several years at a local Tax-Aide site in Glenview, Ill.

I was so impressed that she had all of her paperwork together, and the filing process was so easy. My mother is

savvy in so many ways, but she's not at all comfortable with a personal computer to obtain information or schedule any appointments. So, I asked her how she knew what to bring.

Her response was simple, old school, and just so casual: "I just call and schedule an appointment and bring my documentation," was her reply. I'm thinking, wow, this makes total sense, and there was a time before personal computers when communication was more personal. We called to schedule appointments — what a concept!

When AARP Foundation Tax-Aide was started way back in 1968, just four volunteers at one site prepared 100 tax returns. These days, more than 2.6 million taxpayers are helped at 5,000 sites across the country, by more than 35,000 volunteers!

It's important to note that Tax-Aide volunteers are IRS-certified and have to pass an extensive test and attend ongoing tax-related education. Many of the volunteers that I've met have 15-plus years as a volunteer preparing taxes. Big kudos to the thousands of Tax-Aide volunteers across this country that provide this valuable free service. AARP Foundation Tax-Aide has more than 5,000 locations in neighborhood

libraries, malls, banks, community centers and senior centers. There's no fee and no sales pitch for other services, and AARP membership is not required.

AARP Foundation's Tax-Aide program is also available in languages other than English, and it's always looking for bilingual volunteers who can work with Asian clients in, say, Cantonese or Mandarin. If you are interested in volunteering in English or any language, or know anyone who might be qualified, get in touch!

To find an AARP Foundation Tax-Aide site in your community during tax season, call the toll-free number at 888-AARP-NOW (888-227-7669) or visit [AARP.org/findtaxhelp](http://AARP.org/findtaxhelp) to find a location and checklist of items to bring when you visit an AARP Foundation Tax-Aide site. If you are interested in being a Tax-Aide volunteer, click to this page: [aarp.org/money/taxes/info-2006/volunteer\\_aarp\\_tax\\_aide.html](http://aarp.org/money/taxes/info-2006/volunteer_aarp_tax_aide.html).

Remember, there's no need to stress out anymore!

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



# A YONSEI TRANSPLANTED

## LOVE YOURSELF (BUT NOT TOO MUCH)

*By Matthew Ormseth*

As I sit and write this column, frantic lovers rush by with flowers in hand, scrambling in front of one another on the sidewalk, leapfrogging the slow-footed on the escalators and staircases of the Underground, hurtling up, down and across every conceivable thoroughfare of London so as not to disappoint that special someone on the loveliest day of the year. You see, this was written on Valentine's Day, and love was most definitely in the air.

But the kind of love I want to talk about today isn't a romantic kind of love — or at least it shouldn't be. The kind of love that interests me most is the love we reserve for ourselves. Some call it self-love; others, the more socially repulsive title of narcissism. Whatever you choose to call it, the love we feel toward and about ourselves is an undeniable part of who we are.

Practicing what is vaguely coined as "self-love" is generally considered to be the "good" way to love oneself, as opposed to its less admirable counterpart — narcissism. But what does "self-love" really mean? The term has gained popularity in recent years to counter self-hating disorders like anorexia and bulimia. Rather than hating oneself for the aspects of our bodies arbitrarily determined to be flawed by convention or norm, we should love ourselves, and celebrate how flawless we are because flaws, unlike us, do not truly and independently exist.

Narcissism, on the other hand, is the adoration, bordering on and occasionally passing into obsession, that we feel for ourselves. Narcissism is patently ugly; nobody will ever admit to being a narcissist, even though

most of us are. It's easy though, in the 21st century, to fall for narcissism's charms.

Our world runs on an unhealthy amount of self-adoration and self-contemplation; why else would people buy shoes, clothes and cars they don't need, make ungodly amounts of money they will never spend and associate themselves via marriage with attractive people if they did not love themselves more than anything or anyone else? The materialism of today's world encourages a level of self-obsession so toxic and so blinding that everything we acquire — clothing, vehicles, houses, spouses — are mere accessories to our most precious possession — ourselves.

While blatant, unabashed narcissism — the strain of self-love exhibited by media darlings like Donald Trump and Kanye West who have been quoted, respectively, with saying, "Part of the beauty of me is that I'm very rich," and, "My greatest pain in life is that I will never be able to see myself perform live" — is certainly much different, and, most would argue, much worse than the aforementioned practicing of "self-love" that places an intrinsic value on every human being and body, regardless of your position on the fat-skinny or shy-sociable spectrum, the two are not so different as you might think.

Both place a premium on internal choices and value judgments, and encourage the dismissal of external opinions. For the narcissist, it's because no one else can comprehend my brilliance; for the practitioner of self-love, it's because no one else can understand, much less categorize, who I am more capably than I can myself.

Indeed, I would argue that much of the rhetoric behind self-love ("Don't let others label you," "Only *you* can decide what is best for *you*") is narcissism by another name.

That rhetoric would all be well and good if we were capable of being impartial, cool-headed appraisers of our own character, but we're not.

We forgive ourselves easily. We slather on the praise and skimp on the criticism. Sometimes we require an external opinion — a friend, a family member, an employer or coworker, anyone — to tell us what we cannot bear to tell ourselves. These interjections, so long as they're not out of spite, are healthy. We are simply not equipped to be our own judges.

There's something called *amour de soi*, proposed by 18th-century French philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau, that can help us differentiate between healthy and unhealthy self-love. *Amour de soi* is a French term for "love of oneself," and I think the crucial bit of the phrase is the choice of preposition — not "for," but "of."

We tend to think of love as something we direct at someone else, something we give to our crush or partner like we would a bouquet. We feel love *for* or *toward* someone, but love *of* someone is, in my opinion, something different.

You might argue that this is just a rhetorical gimmick, that swapping one little preposition for another doesn't really change anything, but I believe that in this context, in the context of self-love, love *for* oneself and love *of* oneself are different things entirely.

**>> See LOVE on page 12**



# PAST NATIONAL JACL PRESIDENT DONATES ITEMS TO SMITHSONIAN



Past JACL National President Floyd Shimomura with the Smithsonian's Noriko Sanefuji

Past National JACL President Floyd Shimomura donated historical documents and other personal items to the Smithsonian National Museum in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 28. On hand to accept the donation was the Smithsonian's Noriko Sanefuji.

Among the donated items were framed Redress bills that were introduced into Congress in 1982-84 signed by Senators Daniel Inouye and Spark Matsunaga and Congressmen Norman Mineta and Robert T. Matsui.

Documents and other items from the Redress Campaign, which refers to the efforts made to obtain restitution of civil rights, an

apology and/or monetary compensation from the U.S. government during the decades following the mass removal and confinement of Japanese Americans during World War II, will be preserved for future scholars.

In February 2017, JACL will be co-sponsoring an exhibit at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History commemorating the 75th anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066, which resulted in the incarceration of more than 110,000 Japanese and Japanese Americans during WWII.

— JACL National Staff

## JACL WELCOMES MOFA INTERN EMI NISHIMURA



JACL Intern Emi Nishimura

Emi Nishimura recently began a six-week internship in the JACL Washington, D.C., office.

Selected by Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the internship program, Nishimura will be working with JACL through mid-March.

Nishimura, who is from Toyama Prefecture on the island of Honshu, is a sophomore

student at Sophia University in Japan, where she is pursuing a degree in international relations with a minor in regional studies.

She is interested in U.S.-Japan relationships and tries to take part in it through her university life. Nishimura is also involved in the Japan-American Zadankai and believes that broad people-to-people exchange can make the world better.

This internship program was created by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan as a result of the U.S.-Japan Joint Statement (2014), in which President Barack Obama and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced the creation of a new bilateral exchange program that will enable Japanese youth to enhance their English language abilities and develop professional skills through internship opportunities.

Prior to the JACL internship program, Nishimura was engaged in the Tomodachi and Kakehashi Project with the U.S.-Japan Council as a Tomodachi Inouye Scholar. ■

## APAs in the News/News Bytes

### 'Allegiance' Ends Its Broadway Run



**NEW YORK** — Nearly four years after its world premiere at San Diego's Old Globe Theatre, the musical "Allegiance," starring George Takei and Lea Salonga, wrapped up its Broadway run on Feb. 14.

The musical, which depicts the trials and tribulations of one Japanese American family's time in a U.S. internment camp during World War II, was inspired by Takei's own family experiences.

The production officially opened Nov. 8 under the direction of Stafford Arima and music and lyrics by Jay Kuo. At the time of its closing, "Allegiance" played 37 previews and had 113 regular performances at the Longacre Theatre.

Although it closed at a loss to its investors, a national tour and international productions are in the works.

### Tony-Nominated Actor Ken Watanabe Battling Stomach Cancer



**NEW YORK** — A publicist for Ken Watanabe, 56, said on Feb. 9 that the Tony- and Oscar-nominated actor has been forced to delay his return to Broadway's "The King and I" while he battles early-stage stomach cancer.

Watanabe, who made his U.S. stage debut in the Rodgers and Hammerstein musical opposite Kelli O'Hara last year, is currently recuperating at a hospital in Japan after undergoing endoscopic surgery. He was scheduled to return to Broadway March 1; his return is now set for March 17.

The actor earned a Best Leading Actor in a Musical Tony nomination for his "King and I" role and is best known in the States for his Oscar-nominated role in 2003's "The Last Samurai" and recent appearances in 2014's "Godzilla" and 2015's "The Sea of Trees."

### Prized Matsusaka Beef Debuts in the United States

**ORLANDO, FL.** — Highly prized Matsusaka Beef made its U.S. debut in Orlando, Fla., at an event on Feb. 9 hosted by its producers and the prefectural government in a bid to build sales networks by utilizing the Trans-Pacific Partnership accord.

Known for its uniquely soft texture and flavor, Matsusaka Beef is from Japan's Mie Prefecture and had not previously been sold in the U.S. because of strict shipment regulations. Japanese *wagyu* (Japanese cattle) is extremely popular with chefs because of its high fat-to-meat ratio. Within Japan, Matsusaka Beef is generally considered one of the three top brands of beef, along with Kobe beef and Omi beef.

Nearly 265 pounds of the prized beef was shipped from Japan to the event, which was held at a hotel in the Walt Disney World Resort. Matsusaka cattle takes nearly twice as much time to raise compared to U.S. cattle.

### Hideo Nomo Hired by the San Diego Padres to Expand Presence in Asia



**SAN DIEGO** — Former MLB pitcher Hideo Nomo, 47, has been hired by the San Diego Padres to serve as an adviser to baseball operations in order to help expand the club's presence in the Pacific Rim.

He will assist the organization's efforts in Asia and be involved in player development and other aspects of baseball operations.

In an official statement, Nomo said, "I am very happy to join the San Diego Padres and return to Major League Baseball. My hope is that my advice will be handed down to the young players of Padres. It is also an opportunity for me to learn, and I hope to help bring a World Championship to the Padres."

Nomo, the first Japanese player to play in the MLB, signed with the Dodgers in 1995 and went on to a 123-109 career with a 4.24 ERA in 12 seasons with the Dodgers, Mets, Brewers, Tigers, Red Sox, Rays and Royals. He also threw two no-hitters during his career.

### JANM Announces Its 2016 Gala Dinner Honorees

**LOS ANGELES** — The Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles announced Ken Burns, Karen L. Ishizuka and Robert A. Nakamura will be honored at its 2016 annual Gala Dinner, Silent Auction and After Party on March 19 at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel and Suites.

The evening's theme is "Moving Images" and will recognize the power that film and video have to capture memories and influence people and culture. The evening will also focus on JANM's significant collection of moving images.

Burns, who will receive the inaugural JANM Founder's Award, is an award-winning documentarian and filmmaker. Ishizuka and Nakamura will receive the inaugural JANM Legacy Award. Together, they founded JANM's Frank H. Watase Media Arts Center. ■



# JAPANESE AMERICAN LEADERS SELECTED TO 2016 JALD PROGRAM

The 10-member delegation, hailing from across the United States, will travel to Japan in March.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF U.S.-JAPAN COUNCIL



The 2016 JALD Delegates are (back row, from left) Mark Yokoyama, Bruce Harrell, Eric Hiraga, Bruce E. Hollywood and (front row, from left) Darren T. Nakata, Monte Del Mar (Noda) Mesa, Kiyo Matsumoto, Tasha A. Yorozu, Eric Nakajima and Stan Masamitsu. They are pictured with U.S.-Japan Council President Irene Hirano Inouye (front center).

Ten distinguished leaders have been selected to participate in the 2016 Japanese American Leadership Delegation program, which provides the “opportunity for a select group of Japanese American leaders from across the United States to travel to Japan to engage with Japanese leaders in the business, government, academic, nonprofit and cultural sectors.”

The group, which met in Los Angeles for an orientation on Jan. 29 and 30, will travel to Japan to visit Tokyo and Kobe from March 5-12.

The program, which is sponsored by the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs (represented in the U.S. by the Embassy of Japan in Washington, D.C., and 16 consulate general offices) and administered by the U.S.-Japan Council, began in 2000. To date, 176 delegates have participated in the program. Upon their return, delegates work with their local consulates, community and fellow JALD alumni to strengthen U.S.-Japan relations.

## Following are the 2016 delegates:

- **Bruce Harrell (Seattle, WA)**  
*City Council President, City of Seattle*  
A native of Seattle, Harrell has spent more than 25 years as an attorney and community volunteer. In 2014, he was re-elected to the City Council in Seattle and in 2015 was unanimously elected as council president.
- **Eric Shintaro Hiraga (Denver, CO)**  
*Executive VP, Chief of Staff, Denver International Airport*  
In January 2012, Hiraga was appointed to serve as chief of staff at Denver International Airport, where he supports the CEO for oversight of DEN's

divisions. In addition, he serves as president of the Japan America Society of Colorado.

- **Bruce E. Hollywood (Washington, D.C.)**  
*Fellow, White House Leadership Development Program*  
Hollywood is a fellow in the White House Leadership Development Program, which is sponsored by the Executive Office of the President and is designed to build enterprise leaders to work on the federal government's highest priority and impact challenges. He also serves as executive director of the Japanese American Veterans Assn. and is on the board of the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation.
- **Stan Masamitsu (Honolulu, HI)**  
*President, Tony Group*  
Masamitsu has been president of Tony Group since 1996, where he is responsible for creating Hawaii's first and only auto mall, Tony Group Autoplex. He also serves on the boards of several organizations, including the Hawaii Automobile Dealers Assn., Leeward YMCA and Better Business Bureau Hawaii.
- **Kiyo Matsumoto (Brooklyn, NY)**  
*U.S. District Judge, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York*  
Matsumoto is a federal district judge of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York, having joined the court in 2008 after being nominated by President George W. Bush and confirmed by the Senate on a majority vote. Her community involvement includes serving on the board or being a

member of organizations such as the Asian American Bar Assn. of New York, the National Asian Pacific American Bar Assn. and the JACL.

- **Monte Del Mar (Noda) Mesa (Tamuning, Guam)**  
*General Manager, Guam Premier Outlets*  
Del Mar (Noda) Mesa has served as general manager of the Guam Premier Outlets and Tumon Sands Plaza since 2001 and has worked with members of the Japan Association of Travel Agents for more than 10 years. In addition, he is currently board director for the Guam Economic Development Authority.
- **Eric Nakajima (Amherst, MA)**  
*Director, Massachusetts Broadband Institute*  
Nakajima is director of the MBI at the Massachusetts Technology Collaborative. MBI's mission is to partner with the public and private sectors to extend the availability and utilization of broadband infrastructure throughout Massachusetts.
- **Darren T. Nakata (Portland, OR)**  
*Attorney-at-Law, Perkins Cole LLP*  
Nakata, a Portland native, is a lawyer at Perkins Cole, the largest Pacific Northwest-based firm with 1,000 attorneys in 19 offices worldwide. He also serves as secretary of the executive committee of Japan-America Society of Oregon's board of directors and is on the board of directors of the Oregon Nikkei Endowment and the Oregon Korea Foundation.
- **Mark Yokoyama (Alhambra, CA)**  
*Chief of Police, Alhambra Police Department*  
Yokoyama has served as chief of police for eight years in a law-enforcement career that spans 28 years, where he oversees the activities of the department's 150 employees. In addition, he is a police academy instructor and adjunct faculty member at several Southern California community colleges.
- **Tasha A. Yorozu (San Francisco, CA)**  
*Managing Attorney, Yorozu Law Group*  
Yorozu is an attorney specializing in cross-border transactions, M&A, technology licensing and employment law. She also serves on the board of directors for the Japanese Chamber of Commerce of Northern California and the San Francisco-Osaka Sister City Assn.

A reception, sponsored by the Japan Business Association of Southern California, was held for the new delegates at the Miyako Hotel in Little Tokyo on Jan. 30.

## NOTORIOUS TULE LAKE SEGREGATION CENTER, OKADA'S 'NO NO BOY' FOCUS OF PUBLIC PROGRAM IN SEATTLE

During wartime, how does a person prove their loyalty to their country? Is it restricted to military service? Or are there other forms of loyalty?

These and other questions of loyalty and patriotism will be discussed at a March 12 panel discussion on the World War II Tule Lake Segregation Center and the novel “No No Boy” by John Okada.

Panelists will include Roger Daniels, University of Cincinnati professor of history emeritus and pioneer scholar in Japanese American history; Barbara Takei, an independent writer/researcher and board member of the Tule Lake Committee; and award-winning filmmaker and journalist Frank Abe.

Daniels and Takei are working on a history of America's worst concentration camp and will share some of their research findings.

Abe, who is compiling new research for a book on John Okada, will share his insights into how Okada took the story of the draft resisters and set it against the places where he grew up in postwar Seattle.

The program will take place from 2-4 p.m. at the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Washington in Seattle.

A portion of the program will also be devoted to sharing information about the UCLA Asian American Studies Center's Eji Suyama Endowment, which strives to preserve the history of Japanese American dissent during World War II.

On hand from UCLA will be Professor David K. Yoo, director of the Center, and Professor Lane Hirabayashi, the George and Sakaye Aratani Endowed Chair in Japanese American Incarceration, Redress and Community.

The program is co-sponsored by the UCLA Asian American Studies Center's Suyama Endowment and the George and Sakaye Aratani Endowed Chair in Japanese American Incarceration, Redress and Community; Densho: the Japanese American Legacy Project; American Ethnic Studies Department, University of Washington; and the Japanese American Citizens League — Seattle Chapter and Puyallup Valley Chapter.

For more information, please contact the UCLA Asian American Studies Center at (310) 825-2974 or visit the website at [www.suyamaproject.org](http://www.suyamaproject.org).



# JACL BOARD DIPS INTO FINANCIAL WORRY

PHOTO: P.C. STAFF

The organization meets to shore up financial plans to eliminate its current deficit and plan a healthier outlook for the next biennium.

By P.C. Staff

**J**ACL National Board Members and staff along with local chapter leaders met Feb. 6 at the Hilton Los Angeles Airport Hotel to discuss the organization's current financial situation and budgetary plans for the next biennium. Talks focused on how best to recover before the annual convention in July, when a new National Board will be elected to serve for a two-year term.

National President David Lin, who is nearing the end of his second term in office, told those in attendance that "our financial situation has changed not in a positive way, if I can say that. We have a lot more work to do than what we thought six months ago, and it's really across the board." Lin went on to explain that the organization's lack of return on investments is due to the market's financial volatility and its downward trend in recent months.

"We need to figure out what needs to be done sooner rather than later," he said. "We have to turn this ship around real quick. We have to set the right tone and motto for the next National Board. That is our responsibility, and that is our obligation. We have a lot of work to do."

Budget reductions were made across many programs. Motions were approved cutting



**JACL National Board members convened over the budget deficit, looking to make cuts and resolve financial difficulties before the National Convention and upcoming election nears in July.**

Project Community from the Education Budget by \$3,000, \$3,500 away from the D.C. Leadership Conference, and eliminating \$9,000 from Bridging Communities and cutting the NYSC Budget for 2016 by \$10,000.

These reductions come after reduced travel costs, closing the JACL Seattle office, eliminating the October National Board meeting and keeping the fund development position vacant.

Much of the debate also focused on staff parking at JACL's San Francisco headquarters. A motion was made to eliminate the \$12,000 annual cost to keep the staff parking spaces; it was not approved by a vote of 7-6.

"The San Francisco office is our asset in perpetuity. We're not at liberty to sell it," said NCWNP Governor David Unruhe. "Having a building in San Francisco without parking to me does not make any sense."

Safety has been an issue in San Francisco's Japantown, where JACL headquarters is located. A homeless man assaulted a tenant right outside the building and later a staff member's car was broken into. Additionally, a new gate was installed recently at the JACL building's front entrance after squatters were occupying the doorway.

No law states that parking must be provided for employees.

Discussion regarding the organization's financial outlook remained in jeopardy as National Secretary/Treasurer Matthew Farrells summarized JACL's current state.

"Reserves have been greatly depleted in 2015," he said. "We cannot have another year like this."

With only \$275,000 left in the reserve fund, the JACL's "position is severe," Farrells said. "It's alarming."

More than \$500,000 was withdrawn to cover the deficit in 2015. Expenses performed better than revenue relative to the budget, as expenses were only over 10 percent, with revenue being under 17 percent.

*Pacific Citizen* was down \$78,000. A reported \$25,000 shortfall from the Masaoka

vacancy was also taken into account. Public support fell due to a lack of unsolicited donations. Fees and registrations were also down as the National Convention brought in \$38,000 last year relative to the \$56,000 budgeted. It was noted that convention is part of public support.

Additionally, investments missed the budget due to "the volatile market in 2015," Farrells reported. "That's really been a headwind for us from a revenue perspective."

Concerns were raised over High Mark Capital Management Inc.'s underperformance with the organization's investments.

Some questioned if High Mark Capital Management, a subsidiary of Union Bank, had a plan to make gains in the coming year and whether it was asking JACL to wait until the market rebounds.

"They have investment professionals," assured Farrells, "to help determine whether they want to be overweight or underweight. There's a lot that goes into helping to increase revenue and total return. Our endowment does have market risk. We are at the mercy of the market a lot of the time, but based on our investment policy, we have a relatively more conservative stance. They understand our organization . . . and they are trying to position us accordingly."

Added Lin: "No matter what work the investment manager is doing, we are going to see volatility. We have a long investing horizon. We're looking to keep this organization an ongoing concern for the next 100 or 200 years. We cannot be discouraged."

Discussion over the finances continued into the *Pacific Citizen* report, focusing on the future outlook of the paper as well as reflecting on 2015's performance.

The 2015 Holiday Issue, despite a production delay brought on by the print/digital issue, reported an estimated \$62,000 gross, an increase of nearly \$5,000 over 2014.

The *P.C.* is also ramping up its 2016 Spring Campaign; this year, the paper is hoping to raise \$75,000, all of which is used to sustain *P.C.*'s daily operations.

Business Manager Susan Yokoyama raised several concerns regarding the 2016-17 budgeted numbers for the paper. *P.C.* entered 2016 with a \$78,000 budget shortfall. In 2015, revenue expectations were at an all-time high of \$300,000; the amount budgeted

for 2016 is \$313,000, with expected membership dues allocated to the *P.C.* by National amounting to an estimated \$82,250.

"We have cut our expenses across the board," Yokoyama explained. "From 2010 to 2015, expenses went down by 52%." In 2010, expenses were at an all-time high of \$517,000; as of September 2015, expenses were \$250,000.

Some have argued that the cuts made were expected since the *P.C.* had more income in 2010. However, the 52 percent drop from moving offices, eliminating leases, cutting page numbers per issue and dropping a reporter over the years were large portions of the *P.C.*'s operations.

Yokoyama also presented the responses given to the *P.C.* from JACL members regarding the move to an all-digital *P.C.* following the October 2015 Digital Plan voted on by the National Board.

Many shared that they had been longtime JACL members, active during the redress movement or were incarcerated during World War II, and were saddened to hear that the printed edition would end. Many indicated that they would not renew their JACL membership should the paper cease to print hard copies.

"These are our readers and JACL members — they are the market," Yokoyama clarified. "The *P.C.* lives within an interesting market where the printed paper is a product for the JACL membership market."

JACL members and *P.C.* nonmember subscribers will soon receive a postcard asking them to indicate their preferred method of receiving the *P.C.*, either via mailed hard copy or PDF digital format. Savings to print and mailing costs are expected to help reduce the increasing deficit.

The *P.C.* is making efforts to increase advertising revenue and gain new advertising partnerships, raise continued support for its Spring Campaign, work with JACL membership to increase numbers and generate year-round business with JACL chapters to place ads that will guarantee commissions.

"We're doing everything we can to create a path for revenue," said Yokoyama. "The *P.C.* wants to be a player in driving membership numbers up. As a program of JACL, it's in our best interest to be there for the members as they have always been here for us."

PHOTO: GARY MAYEDA



**JACL Executive Director Priscilla Ouchida receives a check for \$10,000 from the Seattle Chapter presented by Pacific Northwest Governor Sheldon Arakaki. The check is intended to fund the 2017 Smithsonian exhibit that is dedicated to Japanese American history in the U.S. and reflects on E.O. 9066.**



## JACL &gt;&gt; continued

Newly appointed Youth Chair Kenji Kuramitsu rose concerns over the reduced funds to the NYSC program as it “would make a big impact and would severely inhibit activities.”

Many board members present were introduced to JACL through the youth program as PSW Governor Michelle Yamashiro noted.

“Understanding all the cuts that need to be made is necessary, of course,” Yamashiro noted. Now in her first quarter as governor, the past Youth Chair urged the board “to focus on creating revenue. The NYSC is working and doing good work, generating leaders.”

This comes as JACL struggles to increase membership as the numbers continue to dip lower.

VP of Membership Toshi Abe reported 8,318 memberships, a 5 percent drop over the year.

“Although, it’s disappointing to see our number dropping each year,” wrote Abe in the report, “we hope to be able to halt our sliding numbers in 2016. I call on our governors to work with their chapters this coming month to encourage their chapter membership chairs to try to make a personal contact with their lapsed member.”

Abe also made a suggestion to have a workshop at the upcoming National Convention that would be dedicated to recruiting membership. Past conventions have hosted workshops on how to best recruit and retain memberships.

Over the past several months JACL has made strides in efforts overseas, receiving a commendation award from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan by Ambassador Kenichiro Sasae.

The Kakehashi Project also sent more than 200 youths to Japan this year — three groups in December and two groups in January. Program objectives aim to understand international U.S.-Japan relations, facilitating cross-cultural dialogues.

Said Kakehashi Project Co-Chair Larry Oda in a statement, “The foreign ministry, by allowing us to sponsor this program, has really given the JACL an opportunity to have a program that college students from all over the country can benefit from.”

Looking ahead to 2016, Ouchida confirmed several corporate donations, including funds from AARP, the Coulter Foundation, AT&T and Comcast. Historically, CBS, Ford, Japanese American Health, ABC, Southwest, Verizon and UPS have also pledged support to the organization.

VP of Operations Miko Sawamura announced that the 2017 Convention dates in Washington, D.C., would be July 5-8 and would be held at the Omni Shoreham Hotel.

Sawamura went on to share that this year’s registration fees will be \$250, up \$100 from the previous amount of \$150 in 2015. The change comes after members shared that more food was desired at last year’s convention. Adding \$100 to the registration fees will now include a dinner and two meals, bringing back the Youth Luncheon and a banquet similar to the 2014 San Jose Convention programming.

In regards to youth, board members discussed if \$25 would be given to the National Youth Student Council from each registration fee. However, there is discussion if perhaps a discounted student registration fee will be available. Options over how pricing levels and registration fee allocations will work this year are still underway.

Governors and chapter presidents are encouraged to receive feedback from the membership over registration fee prices.

In closing, Lin was hopeful. “I think we accomplished something, but we still have a lot more work to do,” he said. “Let’s keep working at it, and I think we made a good start. It takes time, energy and creative thinking. We will get there.”

*The JACL National Board is set to meet again April 2 at its San Francisco Headquarters. It will be the final board meeting before the National Convention in Las Vegas, set for July 10-14.*

# PACIFICA COMPANIES ACQUIRES KEIRO AS ESCROW CLOSES

By P.C. Staff

**K**eiro announced that its escrow closed on Feb. 5 with the sale of its facilities to Pacifica Companies LLC. After months of protest and debate, Pacifica has also leased the management and operation of the four Keiro facilities to Aspen Skilled Healthcare Inc. and Northstar Senior Living Inc.

In a press release from Keiro Chairman of the Board Gary Kawaguchi, he shared that while the decision was difficult to make, the transition would ensure the best quality of care and services are available to the community.

“Continuity of care for our residents is our highest priority during this transition,” Kawaguchi said.

Changes are already underway with a new name, “Kei Ai,” combining “kei,” meaning respect in Japanese, with “ai,” meaning love. Meanwhile, Keiro’s Community Advisory Board is charged with overseeing the five-year period. Ten individuals were chosen for the board, all of whom will work to support the facilities’ new operators and provide feedback and advice over the quality of care for residents.

Concurrently, Keiro’s Board of Directors is working on long-term planning for Keiro’s future direction and how to best support the community. Keiro’s mission will also remain the same. Intact, the mission is to enhance the quality of senior life in the community, providing resources and culturally sensitive support to residents, families and the community.

“I hope that members of the community stay actively involved in the discussion about how we care for older adults,” said Kawaguchi in Keiro’s announcement. “I am glad that our community has become so engaged in what Keiro means. We anticipate these discussions will result in plans and actions that positively impact how we support the needs of our community’s older adults.”

However, many are disappointed and angered by the escrow announcement.

“The community mourns over the death of Keiro facilities, which took 55 years to develop with the help of countless number of volunteers, families and donors from both the U.S. and Japan,” wrote the Ad Hoc Committee in a letter to California Attorney General Kamala Harris.

The letter included the names of committee members as well as high-profile supporters such as Congresswomen Maxine Waters and Judy Chu, Assemblyman David Hadley and former Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta.

A day before escrow closed, the Ad Hoc Committee brought two cases to the Los Angeles Superior Court. One requested a temporary restraining order to postpone the sale, while the other asked a state agency to investigate civil rights complaints. A judge denied both.

Despite the two rejected cases, the Ad Hoc Committee has filed another petition. Bet Tzedek and Gibson and Dunn & Crutcher, representatives for the Ad Hoc Committee, filed a Writ of Mandate. The court order would require the attorney general to reverse her approval.

It remains uncertain whether the mandate will go through, however the chances appear slim as Keiro moves forward in developing community programs and outreach efforts for aging Japanese Americans.

## TIME LINE

**March 23, 2010** — Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act is signed into law.

**Dec. 7, 2013** — President and CEO of Keiro Shawn Miyake begins discussion about Keiro facilities being acquired by a larger healthcare organization.

**July 17, 2014** — Ensign Group enters into an agreement to purchase Keiro.

**Sept. 26, 2014** — The Office of the Attorney General denies the waiver request to approve the sale of Keiro’s facilities, declaring that the sale is not in the public interest.

**June 2, 2015** — Keiro and Pacifica Companies enter into an agreement to purchase all four Keiro facilities.

**Sept. 2, 2015** — The Office at the Attorney General approves the sale.

**Sept. 9, 2015** — The Ad Hoc Committee, a group dedicated to reversing the sale, issues a response to Keiro and Pacifica’s agreement.

**Sept. 29, 2015** — *Rafu Shimpo* hosts an Open Forum to discuss the sale.

**Oct. 2, 2015** — Keiro sends a press release to discuss the sale.

**Oct. 15, 2015** — Keiro holds a public forum to address concerns over the sale. Pacifica representatives participate in the forum.

**Oct. 19, 2015** — The Ad Hoc Committee turns in a petition to Attorney General Kamala Harris, asking her to consider postponing the sale and hold a public meeting.

**Nov. 5, 2015** — Sixteen members of Congress ask the attorney general to postpone the sale of Keiro.

**Nov. 24, 2015** — The Ad Hoc Committee meets with California State Attorney General Kamala Harris’ staff at the Los Angeles branch of the Attorney General’s Office.

**Jan. 14, 2016** — Congresswomen Maxine Waters and Judy Chu hold a press conference in support of the Ad Hoc Committee.

**Jan. 22, 2016** — Keiro employees are given notice that their employment with Keiro would terminate Jan. 30. The new operators, Aspen Skilled Healthcare and Northstar Senior Living, will then offer employment opportunities.

**Feb. 4, 2016** — Two cases are brought to the Los Angeles Superior Court. One is petitioned by the Ad Hoc committee for a temporary restraining order to postpone the sale. The second is made by the Department of Fair Employment and Housing to investigate civil rights complaints. A judge denies both.

**Feb. 5, 2016** — Escrow closes, and Keiro Senior Healthcare changes ownership to Pacifica Companies.

**Feb. 8, 2016** — Pacifica Companies renames Keiro to Kei-Ai Healthcare Center as a limited liability corporation.

**February 2016** — The Ad Hoc Committee, represented by Bet Tzedek and Gibson and Dunn & Crutcher, files another petition against the attorney general for a Writ of Mandate (a court order requiring the government agency to correct its prior actions). The writ would call for the attorney general to reverse her approval of the sale.

PHOTO: KEIRO



Keiro’s founders in 1961 envisioned the center’s mission: “to enhance the quality of senior life in our community.”



# MANZANAR RECEIVES NPS GRANT FOR BLOCK 14 LATRINE BUILDING

PHOTO: COURTESY OF TOYO MIYATAKE STUDIOS



A historic photograph of toilets in one of the latrines at the Manzanar concentration camp during World War II

The National Park Service recently announced receipt of \$15 million in grant funding to support 69 projects in 63 parks, including \$74,547 to Manzanar National Historic Site to build a historically accurate latrine.

The nonworking latrine and its exhibits will complement the other buildings in Block 14, known as “demonstration block” because it gives visitors a sense of the living conditions endured by more than 110,000 Japanese Americans in Manzanar during World War II.

*‘We are pleased to receive this Centennial Challenge funding and appreciate the generosity of donors.’*

— **Bernadette Johnson,**  
**Manzanar Superintendent**

The funding will be matched by more than \$150,000 in donations from Friends of Manzanar and private donors.

The NPS’ Centennial Challenge program leverages partnerships to improve visitor services, support outreach to new audiences and reinvigorate national parks while forging connections with communities. Congress provided \$15 million for the Centennial Challenge projects, which will be matched by nearly \$33 million from more than 90 park partners. The 69 projects total almost \$48 million.

“As the National Park Service enters its centennial year in 2016, Congress and generous partners across the country are making exceptional investments to improve park facilities, enhance their accessibility and help more visitors — especially young people — discover our nation’s inspiring places and

stories,” said NPS Director Jonathan B. Jarvis.

Said Manzanar Superintendent Bernadette Johnson: “We are pleased to receive this Centennial Challenge funding and appreciate the generosity of donors. As I have talked with former incarcerated, they recall being forced to use communal latrines as one of the most degrading experiences in Manzanar. The desire to see a latrine building reconstructed with exhibits is a frequent comment from former incarcerated as well as site visitors.”

The reconstructed latrine, with 10 toilets a sink and shower room, will illustrate deeply personal experiences, such as those recalled by Mary Tsukamoto decades later: “I guess the Army latrine is the same everywhere. For us women and children this was something which we just couldn’t . . . it was just a shock. I remember we got sick . . . we couldn’t go . . . we didn’t want to go. It was smelly, and it was dirty. In the shower, water was poured over you, and there were no partitions, and it was so cramped that we almost touched each other. It was very humiliating.”

The Manzanar National Historic Site, located six miles south of Independence, Calif., was established by Congress in 1992. More than 90,000 visitors travel to experience the site annually. The restored camp auditorium serves as a visitor center and houses extensive exhibits. Nearby, a World War II-era mess hall and two reconstructed barracks highlight the challenges of daily life. An auto tour road circles the site, highlighting Japanese gardens, historic orchards and the cemetery.

The 47th annual Manzanar Pilgrimage is set for April 30. Each year, more than 1,000 people attend the pilgrimage, including students, teachers, community members, clergy and former incarcerated. Planning is under way for the afternoon event as well as for the Manzanar at Dusk program, scheduled for that same evening.

**For more information, call (760) 878-2194, ext. 3310, or visit [www.nps.gov/manz](http://www.nps.gov/manz).**

# JAPANESE AMERICAN VETERANS COMMUNITY COMPILING MIS INDIVIDUAL AWARDS LIST

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The real time intelligence the Nisei produced in the Military Intelligence Service in the Asia Pacific war zone during World War II saved thousands of American lives.

Commanders had the highest praise for Nisei bravery, patriotism and intelligence acquisition skills under combat. While the Nisei heroism went largely unrecognized due to the classified nature of their existence at the time, a good number of them were recognized by individual military awards presented by the Army, Marine and allied units to which they were attached.

Unlike the 100th Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team fighting in Europe, which maintained detailed records of medals that were awarded to soldiers, there was no central accountability made of awards to MIS soldiers because of the sensitive nature of their deployments and their dispersion to other combat units.

**The Japanese American Veterans community is now attempting to collect the number of awards presented to MIS veterans for each of the following awards:**

- Distinguished Service Cross
- Distinguished Service Medal
- Presidential Unit Citation (presented by unit to a MIS veteran during WWII)
- Combat Infantryman’s Badge
- Silver Star
- Bronze Star
- Purple Heart Medal
- Legion of Merit
- Soldier’s Medal
- Air Medal
- Foreign government’s medal (such as the British Empire Medal)
- Letter of Commendation

The information requested includes the veteran’s full name, military service number (optional) and the specific award(s). The Japanese American Veterans Assn. plans to tally its report by March 31.

During WWII, more than 4,000 Nisei volunteered to be specially trained by the Army to read and speak Japanese and then serve in the Asia Pacific theater. They interrogated Japanese Prisoners of War, translated captured enemy documents and intercepted enemy communications. Many entered caves to persuade Japanese soldiers to surrender. They served in special forces to work behind enemy lines to disrupt their operations, such as with Merrill’s Marauders in Burma.

The Nisei were included in the first,



**The average number of individual awards per Nisei soldier who served in the 442nd RCT, the 100th Infantry Battalion and the Military Intelligence Service is three awards for heroism. Pictured here are the Bronze Star Medal (left) and the Purple Heart Medal.**

second or third wave of nearly every Army infantry and Marine invasion force, providing to their commanders timely intelligence gained at critical moments.

Nisei served with distinction in every Army, Marine, Navy and Army Air Corps unit that needed linguists. Twenty-eight Nisei died in the line of duty.

The Nisei serving in the Pacific faced double jeopardy of their lives. While in uniform, they were targeted by the Japanese as Americans. In addition, their physical resemblance to the enemy made them vulnerable to being shot by American troops; their commanders assigned two Caucasian soldiers as bodyguards to one Nisei linguist on the front line.

Not until the passage of the Freedom of Information Act in the 1970s did the Department of Defense openly acknowledge the existence and role of the Nisei MIS veterans. Until that time, MIS veterans largely maintained their silence since the War Department did not want the Japanese to know of their secret weapon.

Even today, many MIS veterans still do not openly discuss their wartime roles because they believe their work was classified and should remain so.

**If you are an MIS veteran who has received any of the above awards or a member of an MIS veteran’s family who has knowledge of this award, please email Terry Shima at [tshima@comcast.net](mailto:tshima@comcast.net), call (301) 987-6746 or write to 415 Russell Ave., #1005, Gaithersburg, MD 20877.**



# NISEI SOLDIERS STAMP EFFORT KICKS INTO HIGH GEAR

By Wayne Osako,  
Contributor



PHOTO: LYNN FRANKLIN

The National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism in Washington, D.C.

## Stamp Our Story.



The letter will be addressed to Postmaster General Brennan and will request a meeting to discuss the stamp's proposal and urge her approval.

This letter is currently being championed by Rep. Mark Takai of Hawaii's 1st District. Hawaii is home to the first Nisei soldiers to enlist in the U.S. Army during the war. Rep. Judy Chu of California's 32nd District, who also is the current chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, has joined Takai as well.

Supporters of this cause are encouraged

to contact their local congress members to sign on to the letter this month. If the letter is successful, Takai and Chu will then meet with the Postmaster General Brennan in the spring to urge her to issue the stamp soon.

The campaign hopes that pressure on both the president and the postmaster general will lead to a stamp next year to coincide with the 75th commemoration of Executive Order 9066 and the beginning of the internment during WWII.

The USPS only accepts stamp subject proposals, not stamp designs or artwork. If successful, the campaign will likely either see a stamp that directly depicts Nisei WWII soldiers or a stamp that features the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism During World War II.

The memorial is located in Washington, D.C., and represents the story of the Japanese American men and women who served in the U.S. military during WWII. It also includes the story of the internment, listing the names of the 10 main camps and the number incarcerated at each camp. A prominent sculpture depicting two cranes escaping from barbed wire is the memorial's centerpiece. Nearby, there is the inscription of 800 names of soldiers who were killed in action.

*For more information on the stamp campaign, visit [www.stampourstory.org](http://www.stampourstory.org) and [www.theydeserveastamp.org](http://www.theydeserveastamp.org).*

February marks 74 years since the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. The nationwide grassroots campaign to honor Nisei WWII veterans with a U.S. stamp is kicking into high gear. Supporters want to gain the attention of the two people who have the authority to green light the stamp: President Barack Obama and U.S. Postmaster General Megan J. Brennan.

The campaign launched an online White House petition on Feb. 19 to coincide with the Day of Remembrance. This petition is part of President Obama's "We the People" initiative that began in September 2011 to open up the ability of people to petition the government directly. Past prominent White House petitions include the issues of gun control, legalizing gay marriage and the right to unlock one's own cell phone.

The goal is to garner the attention of the president, who wields authority over the U.S. Postal Service, which is under the Executive Branch of government. There is a precedent of presidents green lighting past stamps, including President Ronald Reagan pushing through the "Hispanic Americans:

A Proud Heritage" stamp in 1984, which honored Hispanic American servicemen and servicewomen.

The Nisei Soldiers Stamp campaign will need to get 100,000 signers within 30 days of its inception. If the effort is successful, the White House is expected to respond within 60 days. The response has historically been issued by a White House official, but it also can be directly from the president himself. More than 200 petitions on the "We the People" website have received White House responses since the site was first created.

The petition only requires that the signer be 13 years or older and have a valid email address that can be verified during the signing process. In addition, signers can be from overseas and non-U.S. citizens.

To sign the petition, visit the campaign's social media and main website ([www.stampourstory.org](http://www.stampourstory.org)) or its sister site ([www.theydeserveastamp.org](http://www.theydeserveastamp.org)).

In addition to the White House petition, campaigners are working with lawmakers on Capitol Hill to circulate a "Dear Colleague" letter of support for the stamp.



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A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

# CALENDAR

## NCWNP

**California Legacy Voice Network: JAMsj Workshops**  
**San Jose, CA**  
**March 12; 9 a.m.**  
**Japanese American Museum of San Jose**  
**535 N. Fifth St.**  
 The California Legacy Voice Network has scheduled professional workshops for teachers and administrators. A special session will be held with guest speaker Karen Korematsu. Preregistration is due March 4.  
**Info: Call Shirley Ota or Judy Tokubo at (408) 294-3138 or email [info@jamsj.org](mailto:info@jamsj.org).**

**‘Being Mortal’ Film and End-of-Life Panel Discussion With Dr. Patrick Arbore**  
**San Jose, CA**  
**March 12; 2 p.m.**  
**Mexican Heritage Plaza Theater**  
**1700 Alum Rock Ave.**  
**Price: Free**  
 The Institute on Aging, Santa Clara Department of Aging and Adult Services and the City of San Jose will present a free screening of the PBS Frontline film on terminal illness and final choices, based on the best-selling book by Dr. Atul Gawande.  
**Info: Email Caitlin Morgan at [cmorgan@ioaging.org](mailto:cmorgan@ioaging.org) or call (415) 750-4114.**

**JBBP Matsuri 2016**  
**San Francisco, CA**  
**March 19; 5-10 p.m.**  
**Pomeroy Recreation and Rehabilitation Center**  
**207 Skyline Blvd.**  
**Price: Advanced general admission price \$35**  
 The Japanese Bilingual Bicultural Program JBBP of Rosa Parks Elementary will celebrate 43 years of unique cultural programming and daily language curriculum, touching the lives of over 240 students per year.  
**Info: Email [info@jbbpsf.org](mailto:info@jbbpsf.org).**

**Tadaima: A Japanese American Gathering of LGBTQQ and Allies**  
**San Jose, CA**  
**April 2; 8:30 a.m.**  
**San Jose State University Student Wellness Center**  
**1 Washington Square**  
 “Tadaima” is part of a collection of events hosted across the Northern California Bay area for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning individuals, families and allies. The program looks to explore the intersections of the Japanese American LGBTQQ

experience.  
**Info: Visit [www.tadaimabayarea.org](http://www.tadaimabayarea.org).**

## PSW

**Mari Shimizu: Ball-Jointed Dolls Exhibition**  
**Los Angeles, CA**  
**March 5**  
**The Hive Gallery and Studios**  
**729 S. Spring St.**  
 Mari Shimizu’s “Aesthetics of Fall” reflects Japanese aesthetics of melancholy through historical figures as ball-jointed dolls. Shimizu works and uses traditional Japanese material, crafting surreal dolls. She has created dolls for TV shows like “The Brothers Karamazov.” This is her first solo show in Los Angeles.  
**Info: Visit [www.hivegallery.com](http://www.hivegallery.com) or call (213) 955-9051.**

**Asians on Film Festival**  
**Los Angeles, CA**  
**March 10-13; 1:30-7 p.m.**  
**Japanese American National Museum**  
**100 N. Central Ave.**  
 In partnership with Asians on Film, the Japanese American National Museum hosts this festival to promote underrecognized Asians and Asian Americans working in the film industry. The event will showcase nearly 100 of the best short films submitted, involving Asian and Asian Americans in many different roles.  
**Info: Email [info@asiansonfilm.com](mailto:info@asiansonfilm.com).**

**Cherry Blossom Festival**  
**West Covina, CA**  
**March 19; Noon-6 p.m.**  
**South Hills Plaza**  
**1420 S. Azusa Ave.**  
**Price: Free**  
 The East San Gabriel Valley Japanese Community Center, South Hills Plaza and the City of West Covina will celebrate the 2016 West Covina Cherry Blossom Festival. Watch traditional dance and martial arts performances, taiko drumming, delicious food, vendors and more.  
**Info: Visit [www.esgvjcc.org](http://www.esgvjcc.org) or call (626) 960-2566.**

**2016 Advancing Justice Conference: Empowering Asian American and Pacific Islander Communities 2016 and Beyond**  
**Los Angeles, CA**  
**March 30-31; 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m.**  
**The Westin Bonaventure Hotel & Suites**  
**404 S. Figueroa St.**  
 The Asian American Advancing

Justice Conference will address issues facing the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities. Members will learn from community experts and leaders as well as discuss common issues and opportunities.  
**Info: Email [conference@advancingjustice.org](mailto:conference@advancingjustice.org).**

## MDC

**Girl’s Day Crafts and Hinamatsuri**  
**Urbana, IL**  
**March 6; 1-3 p.m.**  
**Japan House**  
**2000 S. Lincoln Ave.**  
**Price: \$5**  
 Celebrate “Hinamatsuri” or Girl’s Day, a traditional Japanese holiday, with the Japan House, a teaching facility within the College of Fine and Applied Arts at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign. Participants will get to dress in a yukata, create cherry blossom crafts and learn ikebana, origami and more. Please purchase tickets in advance.  
**Info: Visit [www.japanhouse.art.illinois.edu](http://www.japanhouse.art.illinois.edu) or call (217) 244-9934.**

**Nashville Cherry Blossom Festival**  
**Nashville, TN**  
**April 9; 9 a.m.-5 p.m.**  
**Public Square Park**  
**1 Public Square**  
**Price: Free**  
 The Japan-America Society presents the Nashville Cherry Blossom Festival for a day of family-friendly celebration on the front lawn of the Metro Courthouse at Nashville Public Square. Enjoy Japanese music, dance, arts, performance demonstrations, anime merchandise and children’s activities. Food trucks will also be open.  
**Info: Visit [www.nashvillecherryblossomfestival.org](http://www.nashvillecherryblossomfestival.org).**

## PNW

**The Suyama Project: No-Nos and Tule Lake Discussion With Project Archives and Presentation**  
**Seattle, WA**  
**March 12; 2-4 p.m.**  
**Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Washington**  
**1414 S. Weller St.**  
 This special event will discuss the No-Nos and the Tule Lake Camp, discussing the government’s depiction of

historical events and the disobedience stigma that haunts the Japanese American community today.  
**Info: Visit [www.susumaproject.org](http://www.susumaproject.org) or call (310) 825-2974.**

**Heritage Talk**  
**Salem, OR**  
**April 26; 3-5 p.m.**  
**Deepwood**  
**1116 Mission St. S.E.**  
**Price: General admission \$6**  
 Join the Oregon Nikkei Endowment for its fourth Heritage Talks Series presented by Russell Yamada.  
**Info: Visit [www.oregonnikkei.org](http://www.oregonnikkei.org).**

## EDC

**Listening to Stone: The Art and Life of Isamu Noguchi Lecture**  
**Washington, D.C.**  
**March 24; 7-8:30 p.m.**  
**Montpellier Room**  
**101 Independence Ave, S.E., 6th Floor of the James Madison Bldg.**  
**Price: Free**  
 Isamu Noguchi biographer and author of “Listening to Stone: The Art and Life of Isamu Noguchi” Hayden Herrera will speak about her book. Noguchi was an acclaimed Japanese American artist and designer.  
**Info: Visit [www.loc.gov](http://www.loc.gov) or call (202) 707-5502.**

**Theatre Nohgaku at Boston University**  
**Boston, MA**

**March 26; 2 p.m.**  
**College of Fine Arts, Boston University**  
**855 Commonwealth Ave.**  
**Price: Free**  
 The Boston University and Greater Boston communities invite all to the Theatre Nohgaku, an international performance group dedicated to sharing the beauty and power of noh, a classical Japanese drama performance.  
**Info: Visit [www.bu.edu/arts/theatre-nohgaku](http://www.bu.edu/arts/theatre-nohgaku).**

**Tamagawa Taiko and Dance**  
**Wellesley, MA**  
**April 9; 6 p.m.**  
**Wellesley College Alumnae Hall**  
**106 Central St.**  
 Experience an exciting evening of Taiko Drumming and Japanese folk dancing with the Tamagawa Taiko and Dance Group. The group has toured the world since 1961 and performs annually at the Philadelphia Cherry Blossom Festival.  
**Info: Visit [www.wellesley.edu](http://www.wellesley.edu) or call (781) 283-1000.** ■

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**(213) 620-1767**

## OBITUARY TRIBUTE

### ALYSE SHIZUE NISHIYAMA AZUMA

1915-2015; Alyse was a centenarian who was predeceased by her husband, Fred Azuma. She was the beloved mother of Julie Azuma and grandmother to Sophie and Miranda Spiegel.

Alyse was the sister to predeceased brothers (Ray, Ken and Tomi Nishiyama) and sisters (Haruko Tamura, Jane Uchiyama, Dorothy Tanioka). Her life is remembered by surviving sisters: Amy Iko, Noreen Enkoji and Betty Takasumi.

Alyse and her family were interned at Tule Lake Internment Camp during World War II. After that imposed confinement, she and her husband relocated early in 1943 to the South Side of Chicago, where she worked at General Mailing and later as a bookkeeper for more than three decades. Before and after retirement, Alyse attended Christ Congregational Church. She donated her time and efforts to church and community activities including, but not limited to, her church, the Japanese American Service Committee, Bethany Retirement Community and other Japanese American organizations.

Alyse Azuma will be remembered for her strength, energy, love and support of family and many friends.

A memorial celebrating Alyse’s life and spirit was held in Chicago on Feb. 20, 2016.

To add her memory to your life, donations can be made to those charities and organizations that Alyse considered important. They include the agency that supports individuals diagnosed with autism, including her granddaughter, Eden II and Genesis Foundation, 15 Beach St., Staten Island, NY 10304, Japanese American Service Committee, 4427 N. Clark St., Chicago, IL 60640.



# IN MEMORIAM

To place a Tribute, please email [tiffany@pacificcitizen.org](mailto:tiffany@pacificcitizen.org) for rates and pricing or call (213) 620-1767. Please include a photo to honor your loved one and a short biography.

## TRIBUTES

### SADAO 'SUD' ITAMURA



Sadao "Sud" Itamura, known to thousands of students as "Mr. I," passed away peacefully at his home in Yuba City, Calif., on Jan. 26, 2016, at the age of 84. The eldest of two children, Sadao was born in Sacramento in 1931 to his Japanese American parents, Teiso and Mine Itamura. The son of migrant farm laborers, Sadao worked long hours before and after school to help support his family.

During WWII, at age 11, the family was ordered to the Tule Lake Relocation Center. Sadao developed a love for baseball and a passion for history and geology during his internment at Tule Lake, searching for arrowheads and exploring. After four years, the family left Tule Lake in 1946 and moved to Nyssa, Ore. Sadao attended high school, played football, baseball and helped the family by working in the fields harvesting potatoes and sugar beets.

Soon after high school, Sadao enlisted in the United States Marine Corps and is a veteran of the Korean War. Sadao, proud to serve, loved the Corps and what it stood for: honor, courage, commitment, discipline, teamwork and brotherhood. After his service in the Corps, Sadao moved to Yuba City and worked with his parents on the family peach orchard. To make ends meet, he also worked a number of jobs to help support his parents — including work as a truck driver and grocery clerk. After a short time working as a postal carrier, he made a decision that would lead him to his true passion.

Over 20 years after graduating from high school, he attended Chico State, graduated and went on to earn master's degrees in both geography and geology. After graduating, he began his career as an educator. He quickly discovered a love for coaching and spent over 30 years teaching and coaching generations of students at Tierra Buena School. Through basketball, athletics and education, Sadao taught his students what it meant to be a good human. For years, Mr. I spent nearly every lunch hour, break and hours after school with his students. He emphasized good ethics, equality, hard work, determination, focus and perseverance. Throughout the years, students have kept in touch with Mr. I — expressing appreciation and gratitude.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Irene; son Matt (Monica) and grandchildren, Ann Marie, Claire and Nikko; son, Ted; son, Scott; brother, Minoru; and many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

He is preceded in death by his father, Teiso and mother, Mine.

The family wishes to thank caregivers Becky, Veronica and Anna for their compassionate and loving care.

The family remembered Sadao at a memorial service held on Saturday, Feb. 13, at 1 p.m. at the Marysville Buddhist Church located at 125 "B" St. in Marysville, CA.

### SUZUE 'SUSIE' OTSUKA HOGAN KINOSHITA



Suzue "Susie" Otsuka Hogan Kinoshita  
Aug. 5, 1923-Dec. 2, 2015

Suzue was born in Los Angeles, Calif., the third child of Shikazo and Kinue (née Mori) Otsuka. In her last year of high school at El Monte High, World War II broke out. They were first sent to live in horse stalls at the Santa Anita horse racing facility and then incarcerated at Tule Lake, Calif., and Heart Mountain, Wyo. Although she had no formal training in medical practices, her work assignment was to assist with nursing tasks in the internment camp.

While at Heart Mountain, she made the best of the circumstances by carving wooden bird broaches out of locally scavenged wood. After her release from the concentration camp, she studied at the Kansas City Art Institute, where she pursued an interest in fashion design. She then moved to Oakland, Calif., where her sister and brother-in-law, Yoshie and Yoshio Yamato, had settled. When she got a job at the Oakland Naval Supply Center and decided she should learn to drive, her coworker, Marie, introduced Susie to her brother, Thomas Edward "Ed" Hogan, for driving lessons, with instructions for him to be a gentleman to this very nice young lady. Susie and Ed married within the following year, and in the fullness of time, Janice Elaine was born. Ed passed away in 1975.

At her 50th high school reunion, Susie became reacquainted with George Kinoshita. They married and resided in Miramonte of the Ojai Valley.

Although Susie's Japanese family was influenced by Buddhist and Shinto traditions, she appreciated the values of many cultures. She was a member of the Methodist Church and eventually found a spiritual home with the Ojai Wesleyan Church.

Having directly experienced the benefits of the Quakers' community service, Susie became a life-long volunteer. She used the Laubach method for teaching adult learners to read and participated in the Ombudsman program in San Leandro, Calif. After moving to Ojai, she focused on helping the homeless. Susie was recognized as Volunteer of the Year by the Ojai Valley Family Shelter in 2004. She distributed food at the Community Assistance Program, gleaned fruits and vegetables for Food Share and weeded the Ojai Community Garden. Susie enjoyed contributing to the Ojai Music Festival and served tea at the Ojai Tennis Tournament.

The mission and goals of these organizations were important to Susie: HELP of Ojai, the Oak View Women's Club, the Japanese American National Museum and the Japanese American Citizen's League. Her last volunteer effort was on Thanksgiving Day 2015 at the Oxnard Salvation Army.

Susie is survived by her daughter; son-in-law, Thomas Bernard; grandchildren, Kelly Midori, Thomas Edward, Meredith Ainsley; sister, Yoshie Yamato; nephew, Warren Yamato (wife Jane); Warren and Jane's daughters, Jennifer and Kimberly; nephew, Alex Yamato (wife Qingyun Wu); Alex's daughter, Mari; niece, Charlene Yamato; nephews, Mark Otsuka, Arthur Otsuka, Matthew Otsuka, Michael Otsuka; and Michael's children, Olivia and Adam.

### MASAMI IWASA



Masami Iwasa was born on Jan. 3, 1922, in Sacramento, Calif., as the third of six children to Hisata and Kinue Iwasa and passed away at his home for the past 86 years on Jan. 23, 2016, from lung cancer. Masami, who attended Edward Kelly School and Kit Carson, was a 1941 graduate of Sacramento High School. In 1942, he and his family were relocated to the Poston internment camp. Understanding the historical impact of that time, he later donated a variety of items from that era to Sac State and other memorial collections.

Masami, who was also known affectionately as "Jichan" by his grandchildren and their friends, was a tireless farmer and industry worker employed by Signal Depot, Aerojet and Keyes Fibre; he later became a self-made businessman. Kiefer Storage and Warehouse, which opened in 1986, was his pride and joy, and he ran the business daily until the end. Masami was a loving and supportive husband who tended to the medical needs of his wife, Hisako, for the past 14 years. He was also a generous and fun-loving father who, despite a heavy work schedule, attended virtually every event involving his three children. His greatest joy was eating meals surrounded by his friends and family, which he did regularly.

Masami was an life-long bowler in the Nisei League, most of which was with the Yorozu bowling team, where he enjoyed many years of late-night fun with his friends. In his later years, he sponsored and bowled on the Kiefer Storage team, including this season. He adored his three grandsons and made every effort to see all of their sporting events, which often included traveling up and down the state.

Masami is survived by his wife of 55 years, Hisako; and their three children, Linda, Mark (Kathleen) and Dean (Lily); his three grandsons, Matthew, Cameron and Nicklaus; his sisters, Bernice Ouye (Minoru d: 2005) and Miyo Kobata (Ted); his brother, Yoshio Iwasa (Ritsuko); and his sister-in-law, Judy Iwasa. He was predeceased by his sister, Kioka Kawamura, in 2010 (Masao d: 1976); and his brother, Takao Iwasa, in 2005 (Judy). He also leaves behind numerous loving nieces, nephews and their families.

A memorial service was held at the Sacramento Buddhist Church on Feb. 21 at 2 p.m.

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## LOVE >> continued from page 3

Think about the way we use the preposition “for” — it suggests the exporting of something, the transfer of something of ours to someone or something else. “I bought this tie *for* you.” Or, “I’m so excited *for* the weekend.” We give the tie to someone else; we “give” our excitement to the upcoming weekend.

Similarly, when you or I harbor a love for ourselves, we transfer that love to something separate, something distinct, from ourselves.

Narcissus, the hunter who feels in love with his reflection in a forest pool, was not in love with himself, but with the *image* of himself.

I would argue that love for oneself is, in fact, love for the reproductions of who we are that we keep in our heads, glimpse in the mirror and filter on Facebook with a ferocity rivaling the steeliest keepers of the Iron Curtain.

Love for oneself is love for our one’s reflection — the physical reflection itself, and one’s reflection in the awed, admiring and envious eyes of others. It’s why narcissists feel so empty and, at the heart of things, unloved. All that love they’ve seemingly showered

on themselves? It all went to their reflection. All to the image of themselves in their mind’s eye.

Love of oneself has no recipient. If love *for* oneself is directed at one’s reflection, love of oneself is directionless. I know this all sounds very vague and abstract, but I’ll try and offer a concrete example of *amour de soi* that reveals the difference between love of and love for oneself.

An example of *amour de soi* would be the smile that creeps unbidden to your lips when you’re doing something that makes you happy — something that would make you happy in a vacuum, that would make you happy even if no one else knew you were doing it.

Think of all the things we do simply because they lend us an air of glamour or hipness or danger, all the things we enjoy self-consciously, in the most fundamental form of the word, because we know they increase our standing in the eyes of others, and throw them out.

If you practice *amour de soi*, this happiness — just another word, in my opinion, for a momentary love of the world and all it contains — would be enough. If you have a love *for* yourself, however,

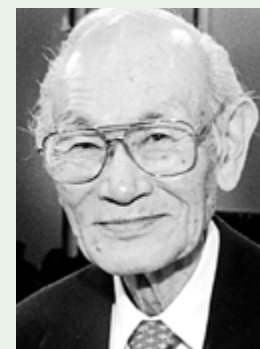
you would take a picture of yourself doing whatever it was that made you happy; you’d write up a long and (in your mind) heart-warming account of how happy you were at that moment in time, post it on every social media platform at your disposal and spend the next few hours counting the likes religiously.

*Amour de soi* is the love that emanates from the self; narcissism is the love we give to the self. *Amour de soi* is impossible to fabricate and difficult to cultivate. Perhaps this is why it is so rare, and narcissism so widespread. Celebrating the shape of your body is no more an example of *amour de soi* than worshipping its reflection in the mirror or a forest pool.

*Amour de soi* is the happiness that comes to us when we do what we love, a true, organic happiness untainted by self-conscious gratification or self-contemplation or self-anything — not the vanity that masquerades as happiness when we learn to admire our own reflection.

*Matthew Ormseth is currently a student at Cornell University majoring in English. He seeks to give an honest portrayal of life as both a university student and member of the Millennial generation.*

## CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR DECLARES FRED KOREMATSU DAY



**SACRAMENTO, CALIF.** — Gov. Jerry Brown issued a proclamation on Jan. 29 declaring Jan. 30, 2016, as Fred Korematsu Day in the State of California. The official text of his proclamation follows:

### PROCLAMATION

When Fred T. Korematsu received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1998, President Clinton said that “in the long history of our country’s constant search for justice, some names of ordinary citizens stand for millions of souls — Plessy, Brown, Parks. To that distinguished list today we add the name of Fred Korematsu.”

Fred Korematsu was, in the best sense of both words, an ordinary hero. A native Californian, born and raised in Oakland and a welder by trade, he simply refused to accept his government’s order to relocate under the brutal and misguided policy of Japanese American internment during World War II.

Korematsu’s staunch determination to be treated like the loyal American citizen he was came to define his life story, in both his decades-long legal battle against internment and his later recognition as a leader in the cause of civil rights.

On this 97th anniversary of his birth, we remember him as one who resisted injustice during a dark chapter in our nation’s history, and later worked tirelessly to prevent its repetition.

Now therefore I, Edmund G. Brown Jr., governor of the State of California, do hereby proclaim January 30th, 2016, as “Fred Korematsu Day.”

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 29th day of January 2016.






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