



# PACIFIC CITIZEN

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## RECOGNITION FOREVER

A commemorative plaque honors  
JAs detained at the Los Angeles  
County Fairgrounds during WWII.

Representing the senior attendees at the Pomona Assembly Center plaque dedication were (seated) Tosh Asano, 93, and Helen Munekiyo, 96, and (back row, from left) Yosh Kuromiya, 93, and Ted Hashimoto, 95.

PHOTO: PATTI HIRAHARA

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Manzanar holds its 71st reunion in  
Las Vegas.

» **PAGE 8**

Saburo and Ann Sasaki are honored  
by the National Park Service.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

*Dear Editor,*

We were appalled and angered to read in the July 29 issue of the *Pacific Citizen* two Letters to the Editor protesting the awarding of the Vision Award by the National Youth/Student Council to Black Lives Matter Los Angeles and branding Black Lives Matter as promoting violence against police across America. There was an array of frightening, unjust and untrue sentiments that were expressed in those letters that needed to be responded to. As dedicated and proud members of JACL, the oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization in the United States, we are writing this letter to speak out against this divisive and racist rhetoric by members of JACL against our black brothers and sisters, and frankly, the white supremacy and entrenched racism in them.

There is a huge misunderstanding of the goals sought out by BLM leaders. Phrases like “cop haters” and “criminals” are not accurate descriptions of either BLM activists or the many African-Americans who are now dead after interactions with police. Black Lives Matter is not an anti-police organization. It does not promote violence against the police. It is an anti-police brutality organization. The movement has made it very clear in its actions, website, protests and rallies that they are calling for an end to the injustices perpetrated by law enforcement on communities of color.

In many of these cases, black men enter interactions with police for nonserious/nonthreatening reasons and end up arrested, severely injured and, in too many cases, dead. Although it may be illegal, changing lanes without a turn signal does not carry the death penalty, although it was enough to kill Sandra Bland in Texas. Selling loose cigarettes should not have killed Eric Garner in New York. Slashing tires should not have killed Laquan McDonald in Chicago. And carrying a plastic gun most certainly should not have killed 12-year-old Tamir Rice in Cleveland. Claiming that these men, women and children could have avoided their deaths by obeying the law suggests that justice was appropriately served in each of these situations.

Somehow, the statements “Blue Lives Matter” or “All Lives Matter” have grown as opposition chants to those working to uplift the African-American community. Blue Lives Matter is a sentiment supported by our media, lawmakers, justice systems and pension plans in a way that makes it an obvious statement.

In contrast, Black Lives Matter is a mantra that we, as thoughtful and caring community members, and JACL as an organization, must repeat because of the consistent lack of repercussions for police officers who have overstepped their role as keepers of the peace and sworn upholders of the Constitution and instead perpetuate a state of fear and violence within the black community. The shooters in both Baton Rouge and Dallas were killed and later found to have no connections to Black Lives Matter. In fact, 71 percent of the police who have been shot and killed so far in 2016 have been shot by white men. To attribute the actions of single gunmen who have no affiliations with Black Lives Matter is dangerous, incorrect and completely undermines any progress we have made thus far to end violence against the black community in this country. Black Lives Matter is something that still needs to be enacted to make All Lives Matter a true statement.

Although JACL was formed in 1929 to address discrimination against our own community of Japanese Americans, the current mission of JACL is to safeguard the civil and human rights of Asian and Pacific Islander Americans and all communities who are affected by injustice and bigotry. It has expanded its scope to fighting for the civil rights of Asian American and other minority communities. It was one of the first organizations in 2001 to protest the surveillance of Muslims after 9/11 and has continuously fought for LGBTQ rights. Have we somehow forgotten that during World War II, Japanese Americans saw themselves the target of horrific racial profiling, very similar to the racial profiling black men are facing today, which resulted in the unconstitutional incarceration of 120,000 Japanese Americans?

&gt;&gt; See LETTER 1 on page 12

*Dear Editor,*

I felt compelled to write in response to the two letters in the July 29-Aug 11 edition of the *Pacific Citizen* that were angry about the National Youth/Student Council awarding their Vision Award to the Los Angeles chapter of Black Lives Matter.

I, for one, was very proud of the youth not only for having a passion for the civil rights of other communities besides our own, but also the willingness to take a stand. The only way that our organization can remain relevant is to actually speak out decisively against the actions of those individuals who do not respect the civil rights of every person.

&gt;&gt; See LETTER 2 on page 12

*Dear Editor,*

During the WWII incarceration, seven Issei and Nisei men who were held behind barbed wire without charges or trial were shot to death by Army sentries. In each homicide case, the military police were acquitted or the cases not brought to trial.

One can imagine that the camp inmates at Topaz, Manzanar, Tule Lake, Lordsburg and Fort Sill must have felt powerless in the face of these violent tragedies in which inquests were not performed, open trials not held and shooters acquitted and allowed to go free.

To the imprisoned people, it must have felt like their lives had little value in the eyes of the U.S. justice system. They must have wanted to say to the military and civilian authorities who took them from their homes and confined them, “Our lives matter, too” — or, perhaps, in today’s parlance: “Yellow Lives Matter.”

Such a view doesn’t mean that “all lives” don’t matter. It doesn’t mean that police or sentry lives don’t matter. It asserts that society is not upholding equal justice for all its citizens.

I support the National Youth/Student Council’s decision to award the Los Angeles chapter of Black Lives Matter and thank them for joining in solidarity with BLM, one of the urgent and necessary civil rights movements of our time.

*Sincerely,**Nancy Ukai,  
Berkeley JACL*

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The P.C.’s mission is to “educate on the past Japanese American experience and preserve, promote and help the current and future AAPI communities.”

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## NIKKEI VOICE

# THE MILE HIGH CHAPTER OF JACL ALMOST DISBANDED, BUT VOTED TO STAY THE COURSE

By Gil Asakawa

I mentioned in my previous column that I attended the July JACL National Convention with low expectations but left feeling hopeful about JACL. My feelings for the organization had become so low, in fact, that earlier this year, I opted not to renew my membership. I quit JACL.

I renewed my membership after all when I was asked to participate on the plenary session about the *Pacific Citizen*, and then asked by Mile High to represent the chapter in the National Council sessions. Ironically, the only vote I wasn't able to participate in was the one about the *P.C.* because of an administrative mix-up, and because someone checked to see if I was a properly registered replacement for Mile High's original delegates. I was, but not at first. I wasn't allowed to cast my vote, but the *P.C.* resolution passed anyway.

On Aug. 21, the Mile High chapter held a four-hourlong general membership meeting. Twenty-two people attended, including a non-JACL member who gave some input, and

Derek Okubo, executive director of the City of Denver's Agency for Human Rights and Community Partnerships. Derek served as facilitator, keeping the meeting on track and moving along.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss and vote to choose one of three options for the future of the chapter: continue as a JACL chapter as we have for decades; leave JACL but continue the chapter under a new name and different sponsorship (or no sponsorship) so we can continue our cultural and advocacy work as a group; or disband the chapter altogether and allow all of us to either quit JACL or stay as at-large members without a chapter.

The meeting was long and the discussion substantial. Both newly elected National Board President Gary Mayeda and Intermountain District Council Governor Janet Komoto called in and gave their perspectives on why we should remain part of JACL.

This plan to quit JACL has been bubbling for at least two years. Under JACL's previous national leadership, our chapter board had begun to feel marginalized. We were

shocked when JACL announced unilateral support for the Trans-Pacific Partnership and coming out against Net Neutrality, without polling chapters or members.

JACL releases many such statements, but they're usually about obvious civil rights issues in the news — the shooting of a black teenager, attacks against Muslims. Although plenty of people point out that issues like Net Neutrality and TPP are very much civil rights issues because they can ultimately impact people, and people of color especially, negatively, these seemed statements seemed focused on political issues and left room for critics to wonder if they reflected potential JACL sponsors more than its members.

Part of the problem is that National JACL leadership seemed to have grown less and less transparent and more and more like a centralized group of power-wielders who made decisions for the rest of us and let the decisions trickle down. It didn't feel like a trickle-up membership organization anymore.

>> See MILE HIGH on page 12



## A MOTHER'S TAKE

# THE POWER OF ONE VOICE

By Marsha Aizumi

(The following commentary was intended originally to be published in the July 29-Aug. 11 edition of the *Pacific Citizen*.)

Earlier this month, I traveled to Seattle to speak at the National Queer API Family Acceptance Workshop. To be honest, I used to think traveling was so glamorous and exciting. After many years of getting on a plane, experiencing jet lag and lugging my suitcase all over the country, I no longer see the glamour or the excitement of it. But there is always one moment on every trip where I come back knowing I have witnessed the power of our voices.

I have seen the courage that love can produce or how an open heart can magically result in more compassion and connection. In Seattle, I had two such moments. And as I prepare to travel to Louisiana, I feel a renewed commitment to do this work because of these two families.

The first moment came after a panel of parents had shared their stories at this workshop. We always follow up our storytelling with a Q & A (Question and Answer) period. At the end of the 15-minute Q & A, one man raised his hand to speak. He shared how his wife made him attend this event. We all laughed because we understand that feeling of having to go to something we may not be so thrilled to attend.

Then he went on to thank the panel for their openness in sharing their stories, so he better understands what families go through if they have a LGBTQ child. From now on, he announced he will no longer be silent on the subject, but he will share what he has learned.

What I noticed the most as he expressed his feelings was his wife sitting next to him with tears rolling down her face. She had asked her husband to come to this event, and in spite of his reluctance, she had persisted. In that moment, she was experiencing the result of her courage. I was moved to tears as he spoke and as she cried. One voice can make a difference . . .

Two weeks later, I received an email from a young gay man who had been struggling with his parents and came to the Seattle presentation. He said that he was "able to twist my parents' arms" into attending the workshop. Here is an excerpt from his email, which he has given me permission to share:

*"I was really nervous going into the workshop because I wasn't sure how my parents would respond, but they seemed to have approached it with an open mind and the group's kindness won them over. I cannot thank you enough, Marsha and Manjula, for sharing your stories with the group that gathered in Seattle two weeks ago. I think it really affected my parents — and was the first time they were in a room with real, live API parents of LGBTQ children. The openness, warmth and love with which you spoke about your children and the frankness with which you related your own journeys has without doubt helped my parents find strength in their own journeys."*

*"After the event, I had dinner with my family for the first time in several weeks. (I had largely been avoiding them because being with them always seemed to bring into sharp, painful focus the internal conflict I felt between my Chinese identity and my gay one.) My mother walked me to my car after dinner, and — for the first time — we had a real conversation about my personal life. She told me how she worried about me being lonely, how she disapproved of my most recent boyfriend — not because he was a man, but because her maternal instincts had cried out to her that he would ultimately hurt me. Funny how good that motherly disapproval that others complain about can feel after years of silence . . ."*

*"When we said goodbye, she leaned in for a hug — it was the first time we have hugged in my adult memory. We've seen each other a few times since then in the last two weeks, and have now made a habit of hugging each other goodbye. I am too scared to celebrate quite yet, but I am so happy*

*and excited about the direction that our lives are moving — and, for the first time in a long time, hopeful that I will be able to have the relationship with my mother that I've always wanted."*

Again, I saw the power of one voice. Here was a son who continued to love his parents and wanted to bring them along on this journey with him. Can you imagine how much courage it took for him to invite them to this event and then sit through the presentation wondering how they were receiving the information? Can you imagine how much hope he now has that his family can have the relationship he was afraid he lost, but never gave up believing he could have?

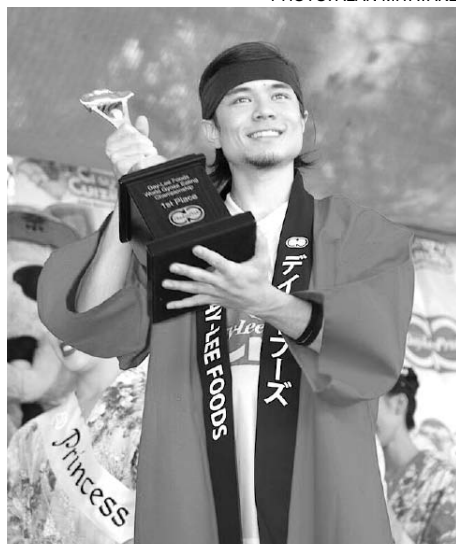
I share these two stories with you because I didn't believe one voice could make a difference before, and now I see over and over again that we as individuals do have power to create change. In November, we will have a chance to make our voices heard by voting for our next president of the United States. I hope you will use your voice to vote for the person who you believe will build connections between us all and not divide us through fear and hate. I hope you will use your voice to make sure family members register to vote and then actually go out and cast their ballot.

I am sure you know who I will vote for. It is not the one who thinks it was OK for my parents to have been put in internment camps or for that to happen to any other groups. It is not the one who would make the world more dangerous for my son and many of the children of my family and friends. It is the one who will continue to bring hope to me, as a mother of a transgender son, a mother of two Nikkei sons and a mother who wants to see a future where the world is filled with more love.

*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."*

# MATT 'MEGATOAD' STONIE WINS GYOZA-EATING CHAMPIONSHIP

PHOTO: ALAN MIYATAKE



**Matt Stonie ate 323 gyoza in 10 minutes to win the 2016 World Gyoza Eating Championship in Little Tokyo on Aug. 20.**

**M**att Stonie consumed 323 gyoza in 10 minutes to win the 2016 World Gyoza Eating Championship and the \$5,000 grand prize at Little Tokyo's Japanese American Cultural and Community Center Plaza on Aug. 20.

Presented by Day-Lee Foods and co-sponsored by Kikkoman, the event attracted world-class competitive eaters, among them the favorite Stonie, who captured his first Major League Eating title since May. He is currently the No. 2-ranked competitive eater in the world.

Geoffrey Esper finished in second place with 243 gyoza, followed by Miki Sudo with 229, Gideon Oji with 183 and Juan Rodriguez with 181. All proceeds from the event benefitted the Nisei Week Foundation.

Showing his trademark speed and strength, the San Francisco-born, 5-foot-8-inch, 130-pound Stonie, who is half-Japanese and half-Eastern European, ate his way to victory and emerged atop the podium in just 10 minutes.

Among his career highlights, Stonie defeated eight-time defending Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Contest champion Joey Chestnut in 2015 by eating 62 hot dogs to Chestnut's 60; Stonie lost his crown this year to No. 1-ranked Chestnut at the July 4 contest,

eating 53 hot dogs to Chestnut's 70.

Stonie currently holds several food world records, among them: 182 slices of bacon in five minutes, 241 Hooters Chicken Wings in 10 minutes and 25 McDonald's Big Macs in 22 minutes.

The Gyoza Championship marked its 10th year in Little Tokyo, and to date, more than 17,000 gyoza have been consumed during the annual contest. ■

## APPLY NOW FOR THE DECEMBER 2016 AND MARCH 2017 JACL KAKEHASHI TRIPS

PHOTO: LISA VANORDEN



**March 2016 JACL Kakehashi participants**

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — JACL is now accepting applications for the Dec. 12-20, 2016, and March 13-21, 2017, Kakehashi trips to Japan.

Selected students will attend a nine-day trip to Japan where they will visit cultural and historic sites, participate in lectures and workshops and experience a number of traditional and cultural activities.

Applicants must be (1) a student in good

standing currently enrolled in an accredited college or university OR a young professional who has completed a minimum of a bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university; (2) between the ages of 18-25 years old; (3) Japanese American or Asian American heritage.

Applications must be submitted by Oct. 1.

**For more information and to apply, visit <https://kakehashi.jacl.org>.**

## APAs in the News/NewsBytes

### Colleen Hanabusa and Tulsi Gabbard Win Hawaii's Democratic Primaries



HANABUSA



GABBARD

**HONOLULU** — Colleen Hanabusa won the Democratic primary in the 1st Congressional District, earning 74,013 votes (80.37 percent) and Tulsi Gabbard emerged victorious in the 2nd Congressional District with 80,020 votes (84.53 percent) in the Aug. 13 election.

Hanabusa was among several candidates vying to succeed Rep. Mark Takai, who passed away in July from pancreatic cancer. The 1st district covers the southeastern parts of the City and the County of Honolulu. Hanabusa also announced that she will run in a special election to serve the last two months of Takai's term.

Gabbard, the first Samoan American congressman and the first Hindu member of Congress, made headlines recently when she broke away from the Democratic Party establishment and openly supported Bernie Sanders' bid for president. Her district covers rural Oahu and all of the other islands.

### Federal Regulators Propose to Ban Swimming With Dolphins in Hawaii

**HONOLULU** — Federal regulators are proposing to ban swimming with dolphins in Hawaii, a move that could imperil one of the Aloha State's most popular tourist delights and the industry that has sprung up around it.

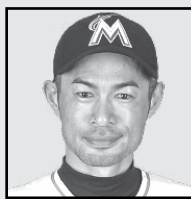
The National Marine Fisheries Service says Hawaii's spinner dolphins — the nocturnal species that humans usually frolic with — are being deprived of rest during the day and becoming stressed out.

Swimming with dolphins is popular with visitors and some locals, with dozens of companies on Kauai, Oahu, Maui and the Big Island operating dolphin tours daily.

The proposed rule could shut down or greatly disrupt the industry as it now operates, as the ban would cover waters out to 2 nautical miles, which is where 98 percent of Hawaii's spinner dolphins rest after they've spent the night feeding.

The agency plans to hold public meetings on the proposal next month and expects to make a final decision on the regulations next year.

### Ichiro Suzuki Donates 3,000-Hit Souvenirs to Baseball Hall of Fame



**MIAMI** — The president of the Baseball Hall of Fame was the grateful recipient Aug. 8 as Ichiro Suzuki, 42, handed over his gear — a jersey, a pair of cleats, his arm guard and batting gloves, all items he wore while becoming the 30th player in Major League Baseball to reach 3,000 hits.

When the exchange concluded, the two men bowed to each other, a fitting gesture to celebrate the bridge from Japan to Cooperstown.

The Suzuki collection at the Hall of Fame numbered more than two-dozen items even before his triple Aug. 7 at Colorado, which made him the first Japanese player to reach 3,000 hits. When he and his teammates returned to Marlins Park to begin a home stand, HOF President Jeff Idelson was there to collect additional Suzuki souvenirs.

Following his historic accomplishment, Suzuki was named National League Player of the Week. It was the fifth time overall for Suzuki and his first since September 2012.

### Tokyo Olympics 2020: A 'Safe Pair of Hands' Even as Costs Spiral



**TOKYO** — Tokyo was clearly the most reassuring choice when it was selected over Istanbul and Madrid in 2013 for the 2020 Summer Games. Japan's capital city even billed itself as a "safe pair of hands" at a time of global unrest and economic turmoil.

Now that the Rio Games are over, Japan is focusing more than ever on preparing Tokyo for the 2020 Games.

Japan hopes the Olympics will boost tourism and the economy, as well as show off the country's technology, from driverless cars to supersharp 8K televisions.

But ballooning costs remain an issue. Newly elected Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike has pledged to rein in costs, recently stating that her team must become world-class cost accountants so that the Olympics don't hobble future generations with debt.

Some events have already been moved to existing facilities in the suburbs to avoid the cost of building new ones; competition sites are spread around Tokyo and the surrounding area rather than being in Olympic parks.

And then there's the heat. Tokyo in August is famously hot and humid, and organizers are busy devising ways to keep athletes and fans cool. The 1964 Tokyo Games were held in October.

— P.C. Staff and Associated Press

PHOTOS: PATTI HIRAHARA

# POMONA ASSEMBLY CENTER HOLDS DEDICATION CEREMONY

A commemorative plaque honors Japanese Americans detained at the Los Angeles County Fairgrounds during WWII.

By Patti Hirahara,  
Contributor

In commemoration of the closing of the Pomona Assembly Center on Aug. 24, 1942, the Fairplex, the actual center site, unveiled the Pomona Assembly Center plaque honoring Japanese Americans detained at the Los Angeles County Fairgrounds during World War II on Aug. 24, the 74th anniversary of the center's closing.

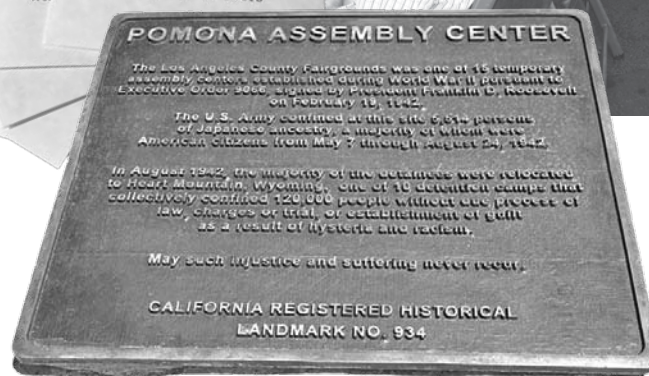
With more than 100 guests in attendance, speakers at the dedication included Consul General of Japan Akira Chiba; Tina Loza, director of the Los Angeles County Fair Assn.; William Fujioka, member of the Los Angeles County Fair Assn. whose family was held at Pomona; Dwight Richards, Fairplex vp of operations; Bacon Sakatani, chair of the Pomona Assembly Center Committee who was sent to Pomona with his family and returned there after the war; and U.S. Army Capt. Joseph Davis, commander of the San Gabriel Valley Recruiting Co.

Consul General Chiba expressed his sentiments during the ceremony: "Nothing can reverse the suffering that Japanese Americans experienced during WWII under internment, but as with the granting of redress and reparations from the U.S. government under the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, I hope that today's dedication will offer some measure of peace and healing through acknowledgement of the pain that so many experienced. One of the greatest developments after WWII has been the evolution of the U.S.-Japan relationship, which has led to the two countries working 'hand in hand' to advance and defend democratic values. Two once bitter enemies now form one of the strongest alliances maintaining peace in the world. For this, Japan owes a debt of gratitude to Japanese Americans, who have always been and continue to be crucial bridge builders in the bilateral relationship. This would not have been possible without the tremendous sacrifices and resilience of Japanese Americans in the midst of great hardship. I extend my deepest gratitude."

The Los Angeles County Fairgrounds was one of 15



More than 100 people attended the plaque dedication at the Fairplex, which commemorated the 74th anniversary of the closing of the Pomona Assembly Center.



temporary assembly centers established during World War II pursuant to Executive Order 9066, signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on February 19, 1942.

"This is part of our history at Fairplex," according to Richards. We felt that the installation of the plaque would provide a place for the families and all involved to find peace, closure and a place to reflect. The Los Angeles County Fair Assn. feels that this recognition is long overdue."

The Pomona Assembly Center held people from California's Los Angeles, San Francisco and Santa Clara Counties.

"The plaque will let people know of how 5,514 of us were unfairly treated by the hysteria and discrimination of that time," said Sakatani, who represented the people who were held at the center. "The Pomona Assembly Center is probably one of the least-known places, and now we have a plaque that will let the people know what happened here."

Sakatani also has worked to preserve ties to Heart Mountain as well as anything related to its history.

With the assistance of the Pomona Assembly Center Committee, the Historical Society of Pomona Valley, the Fairplex and others, this plaque dedication has become a reality.

Mickey Gallivan, president of the Historical Society of Pomona Valley, offered his sentiments during the dedication ceremony.

"My feelings were very complicated," he said. "I felt sad, guilty, embarrassed for my country that we did such acts, acts that were against every principle, every creed we believe in and profess to follow. I felt humbled and so much admiration for the internees who handled it with such bravery, strength and dignity. I do not know how they had the strength to survive the camp and rebuild their lives from nothing. As president along with VP Deborah Clifford and our members, we felt honored to have had a small part in creating the plaque, and we hope it will help to ensure that our nation never makes this mistake again. We felt so proud to be associated with the Japanese American community at the event."

In August 1942, the majority of the Pomona Assembly Center detainees were relocated to Heart Mountain, Wyo., one of 10 relocation camps that collectively confined 120,000 people without due process of law, charges or trial or establishment of guilt as a result of hysteria and racism.

Said retired newsman Joe Blackstock: "When I started researching the Pomona Assembly Center at the Fairplex about 14 years ago, I was struck by the almost total absence of information or history about the place. Something that so changed the lives of so many people was mostly forgotten. Creating a permanent recognition that the camp existed, that a group of people were locked up more due to terror than good judgment — this is important."

As California Registered Historical Landmark #934, it is hoped, with this dedication, that such injustice and suffering never recur again.



Members of the Historical Society of Pomona who worked to make the plaque a reality include (from left) John Clifford, member of the board of directors; Deborah Clifford, vp; Bruce Guter, friend of the society; Mickey Gallivan, president; Jim Gallivan, board member and commissioner of the Pomona Historical Preservation; and Joe Blackstock, retired *Daily Bulletin* reporter who wrote many articles supporting the center's recognition.



Program speakers included (from left) Consul General Akira Chiba, Fairplex VP of Operations Dwight Richards and Bacon Sakatani, chair of the Pomona Assembly Center Committee.

# A STRONG BOND CONTINUES

PHOTOS: CHARLES JAMES

Decades following World War II, 200 guests attend the 71st Manzanar Reunion in Las Vegas.

By Charles James,  
Contributor

It is almost hard to imagine the strong bond held by the more than 100 incarcerated from the Manzanar War Relocation Camp and other relocation camps during World War II that brings them together some 71 years later. They smile. They laugh. And they share fond memories of their youth in the camps. Many have remained close friends, often even neighbors, through all the intervening years since the camps' closings.

Two hundred guests, 25 more than last year, attended the 71st Manzanar Reunion, held at the California Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas from Aug. 8-10. Manzanar had 78 former internees attend the reunion with an additional 22 guests joining them from other relocation camps such as Gila and Poston internment camps in Arizona, Amache Internment Camp in Colorado, Heart Mountain Internment Camp in Wyoming, Jerome and Rohwer camps in Arkansas, Tule Lake Internment Camp in California, Minidoka Internment Camp in Idaho and Topaz Internment Camp in Utah. The other 100 guests were family members, friends and National Park Service staff from the Manzanar National Historic Site, who many view as friends and "family."

One would expect the number of survivors of the camps to be rapidly dwindling — and there is some truth to that — as many, even those born in the camps, are now over 70 years old. Many of those in attendance at the Manzanar Reunion are well into their 80s and 90s. There were even two guests that were 100 and 102! But despite their advancing age, there was an energetic mingling of former internees going from table to table to visit and share their common memories, as well as catch up on what has happened in the past year.

When the attack on the Pearl Harbor naval base in Hawaii took place on Dec. 7, 1941, by the Imperial Japanese Navy, there was fear, shock, anger and hysteria in the United States.

The Japanese American War Relocation Centers were quickly established, and it did not matter whether you were an American citizen or not. All that mattered was that you "looked like the enemy." You were "different," and you were of "Japanese descent."

World War II — as wars often do — brought out both the best and the worst in people: a common cause and sacrifice to fight against a common enemy in the defense of freedom and a democratic way of life, but also it brought out fear, unfounded bigotry and an unprecedented usurpation of human and civil rights against loyal Japanese American citizens who should have been afforded the benefit of any doubt as were many Italian and German American citizens who were not placed in concentration camps despite their ancestry.

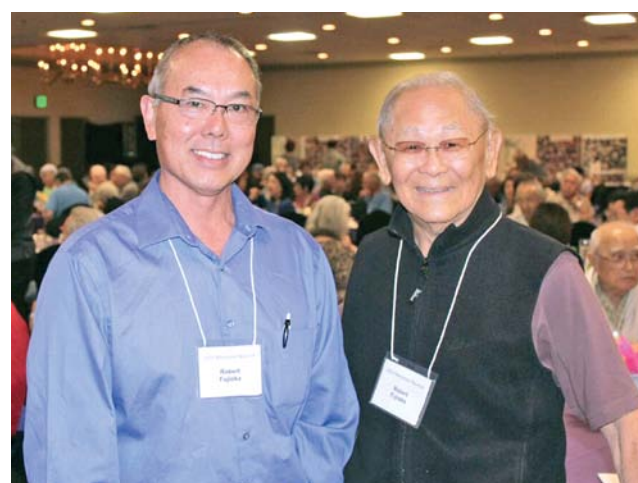
The Manzanar War Relocation Center was the largest and best-known of the 10 concentration camps, with 10,000 incarcerated kept behind barbed-wire fences. The camps were established throughout the country to house those accused of nothing more than having Japanese ancestry and by extension, falsely accused of having a loyalty to Japan that none of them felt. To be an "American" — being "a good, loyal citizen" — and to be living in America was a source of great pride despite the ill-treatment by their government and fellow citizens.



More than 200 guests attended the 71st annual Manzanar Reunion at the California Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas.



Joe Ozaki was sent to Manzanar at the age of 15 (1942-45) from Boyle Heights, Calif. His wife, Mary, was sent to Poston, Ariz. They've been married for 64 years and have four children.



There were two Robert Fujiokas at the reunion. Although not related, both men have personal connections to Manzanar.



The Fujioka Clan includes (front row, from left) Shizuko Fujioka, Robert Fujioka, Margaret Fujioka, Auntie Fumiko "Fudge" Fujioka, Dave Fujioka, Mary Ellen Wong and (back row, from left) Sei Miyano, Ed Cababa, Grace Kunitomi, Dale Kunitomi, Colleen Miyano and Kerry Cababa.



Attendees of the 71st Manzanar Reunion



**Ted Yamane (Manzanar) and his wife, Midori (Heart Mountain), met at a bowling alley after the war and have been married 61 years. Joe Ozaki and Ted Yamane were neighbors sharing the same barrack block at Manzanar and have remained friends (and neighbors) today.**



**Arnold Maeda (left) was sent to Manzanar at the age of 15 (April 1942-Sept 1945). He is pictured with his younger brother, filmmaker Brian Maeda.**

Many of those attending the reunion were children in the camp, and while many older internees have conflicting emotions, the younger ones often have fond memories of their time there.

Shizuko Fujioka (née Sakihara), a graduate of the Manzanar High School class of 1945, returned to the annual reunion accompanied by her son, Robert Fujioka, and her daughter, Margaret Fujioka, who was elected to the Alameda County Superior Court in June and will take office as a new Superior Court Judge in January 2017.

There were two Robert Fujiokas at the reunion, both with a connection to Manzanar. A younger Robert Fujioka was the son of Shizuko Fujioka (née Sakihara) and Yoshiro "Babe" Fujioka. Babe Fujioka was incarcerated at Heart Mountain Relocation Center and was the son of Shiro Fujioka, a former newspaper editor of the Japanese-language newspa-

per the *Rafu Shimpō* in Los Angeles, which has served the Japanese American community of Southern California for more than 113 years.

The older Robert Fujioka at the reunion was only 16 years old when he was sent to Manzanar in 1942 with his family. He would only stay in the camp for a year before leaving for Chicago to attend high school, traveling with a group of 10 or 15 other older internees who were going there to attend college or look for work. Robert was the youngest of the group and the only one going to high school in Chicago because he did not like the high school in the camp. He said, "I was literally on my own from the time I left Manzanar as my family was being still kept at Manzanar."

He started high school in Chicago, working after hours to support himself. When the group's sponsor, Mr. Temple, died of a heart attack after their arrival in Chicago, Robert said, "I was told that I had to leave the city because I had no sponsor." He moved to Minneapolis to finish high school, graduating in 1943 while working at night at a foundry shoveling charcoal and later at a granary to support himself. After high school, he started college after being told the Navy and Air Force would not let him enlist. A quarter and a half into college, with the war still going on in Europe, he was drafted into the Army, serving two years in the infantry and avoided being deployed to Europe because the war ended.

Fujioka returned to West Los Angeles, where he lived in a boarding house and attended the University of Southern California on the G.I. Bill, majoring in industrial design.

While living in West Los Angeles, Robert Fujioka said he knew of the Yoshiro "Babe" and Shizuko Fujioka family (the "other" Robert Fujioka at the reunion) because they lived across the street from the boarding house where he stayed. He met with the "other Fujioka family" while at the reunion.

Robert's wife, Mary (née Honda), was sent to Manzanar at the beginning of the war when she was 11-1/2 years old, but unlike his brief stay there, she was in the camp from 1942 until August of 1945. They met when her family moved to West Los Angeles when Manzanar closed, and according to Robert, she walked by his boarding house one day, and he called out to her, "What's your name?" and that, as he said with a grin, "was the beginning of a beautiful relationship that has lasted through 60 years of marriage." They have one son whose name is Mark.

One-hundred-year-old, former Manzanar internee Sechico Hiroyama traveled from Oregon to attend the reunion once again this year. She was sent to the Manzanar War Relocation Center near Lone Pine, Calif., from Terminal Island when she was 27 years old. She has a lively and sparkling personality. Many of the reunion guests enjoyed just sitting down with her to talk about her life.

There were plenty of opportunities to

socialize during the Manzanar Mixer held on Monday night and then again at the banquet held on Tuesday night. The ranger staff at the Manzanar Historic Site, this year led by Alisa (Lynch) Broch, chief of interpretation, gave an update on improvements and future plans for the national park site and had the guests laughing at historical photographs that featured some of old sports team photos from the camp.

A tribute to Sam Ono, a member of the Manzanar Reunion Committee since 1996, was given by Rosie (Maruki) Kakuuchi in honor of his artwork and his work on exhibits at the Manzanar Historic Site. The scale model of Manzanar, which is one of the most popular exhibits, was done under his leadership. In 2007, he produced and narrated a DVD called "Small Town USA" about life in Manzanar. Ono is a quiet, unpretentious man, with a great sense of humor, and he is well-loved and appreciated by the Manzanar Reunion Committee.

Reunions such as the 71st Manzanar gathering are increasingly important as time, age and failing health are greatly reducing the number of survivors from the relocation camps. It's hoped that, while many of that generation have passed on, those remaining will see their memories of their time in camps continue to be kept alive by family and friends. Helping them are the historians and rangers of the Manzanar Historic Site who are determined that the story of Manzanar and its internees be kept alive for future generations of American citizens so that no one is ever again forced to live behind the barbed wire of concentration camps and be deprived of their constitutional rights.

## AMERICAN HOLIDAY TRAVEL 2016 TOUR SCHEDULE

- China Silk Road Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida) . . . . . Sep 12-23  
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- British Landscapes Holiday Tour (Elaine Ishida) . . . . . Sep 12-21  
England, Scotland, Wales.
- Korea Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida) . . . . . Oct 4-17  
Seoul, Nami Island, Sokcho, Daegu, Gyeongju, Busan, Cheju Island, Gwangju, Daejeon, Suwon, KBS Dharma Center, DMZ Tour.
- New England Autumn Holiday Tour (Elaine Ishida) . . . . Oct 11-18  
Boston, Woodstock, Stowe-Vermont, North Conway-New Hampshire, Boothbay Harbor, Kennebunkport-Maine.
- Kyushu-Shikoku Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida) . . . . . Oct 27-Nov 9  
Fukuoka, Nagasaki, Kumamoto, Ibusuki, Kagoshima, Miyazaki, Beppu, Matsuyama, Kochi, Takamatsu, Shodo Island, Tokushima, Osaka.
- New Orleans Get-Away Tour (Carol Hida) . . . . . Dec 12-16  
One hotel, City Tour, New Orleans Cooking School-Dinner, Cajun Swamp Tour.

For more information and reservations, please contact:

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# REIMAGINE EVERYTHING

## FALLS ARE THE LEADING CAUSE OF FATAL INJURIES FOR OLDER PEOPLE

By Ron Mori

I'll never forget the early morning call from my 85-year-old aunt. She had tripped over a bathroom rug in the middle of the night and couldn't get up. She waited until morning to call and tell us she needed help because she didn't want to wake us up and was afraid if she called 911, the Chicago Fire Department would come and break down her front door. It was a wake-up call in so many ways.

Falls can cause serious injury and death at any age, but they are a particularly serious hazard for older people. In fact, falls are, by far, the leading cause of both fatal and nonfatal injuries among older people. And, when I say "falls," I don't mean falling from the top of a building or a cliff. All it takes is a slip on a "throw" rug, a stumble on the stairs or a brief loss of balance on a sidewalk to inflict serious pain and months of physical therapy.

Consider these stats: *One of every three* Americans 65 and older falls, one every 11 seconds. About one out of every three of those who fall — some 2.8 million — require medical treatment. And, worse, over 27,000 older persons die from falls each year, one every 20 minutes. That's more

than the number of deaths that would occur each year if, once every week, a full 747 airliner were to crash, killing all aboard.

An accidental fall can happen to anyone. Current presidential candidate Hillary Clinton when she was Secretary of State, the late former First Lady Nancy Reagan, the late former UCLA basketball coach John Wooden, Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts and Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor are all among those who were hospitalized after serious falls.

Beyond the tragic personal toll, the total costs related to falls are truly staggering. The Centers for Disease Control tells us that in 2013, the total cost of fall injuries was \$34 billion. That exceeds the annual budgets of both the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Justice. As our population ages, the total annual cost may reach as high as \$67 billion by 2020.

Preventing falls is a practical goal. But we believe it's also a moral imperative for a society committed to empowering its people and safeguarding their freedom. At its core, preventing falls is about preserving for older people those values that have always been central to our way of life —

independence, self-determination, dignity and choice.

We *can* stem the tide. Most falls are preventable. It is vital that we all learn all we can about things we must do in our homes and in our communities to make our loved ones safe and keep them safe. In fact, more than half of all falls occur right in our own homes.

The top four things we can do to reduce the risk of falls are: 1) *Exercise* — for strength, flexibility and balance; 2) *Make our surroundings safe* — with home modifications like shower grab bars and by eliminating hazards like "throw" rugs and exposed wires; 3) *Effectively manage our medications* — to prevent us from becoming dizzy or disoriented; and 4) *Have our vision checked*.

The AARP web site — [www.aarp.org](http://www.aarp.org) — has as wealth of information on these and other ways we can prevent falls, including our HomeFit Guide, a guide to making our homes comfortable, safe and a great fit — [www.aarp.org/homefit](http://www.aarp.org/homefit). Please have a look.

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

## MANZANAR VOLUNTEERS RECOGNIZED WITH NATIONAL AWARD

The National Park Service honors Saburo and Ann Sasaki with the prestigious Hartzog Enduring Service Award

PHOTO: NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



Volunteers Ann and Saburo Sasaki with National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis on Aug. 9 in Washington, D.C.

Each year, more than 440,000 people volunteer for the National Park Service. This year, from among them, the NPS recognized Manzanar Volunteers Saburo and Ann Sasaki with the Hartzog Enduring Service Award on Aug. 9 in Washington, D.C.

The Sasakis were presented their award by NPS Director Jon Jarvis. Also on hand at the ceremony were Manzanar Superintendent Bernadette Johnson and Volunteer Coordinator Carrie Andresen.

Since 2005, Saburo and Ann Sasaki have volunteered at Manzanar between mid-April and mid-June. Saburo spends most of his time talking with visitors, answering questions and presenting interpretive and educational programs for up to 1,500 people each year. Ann staffs the visitor center, assists with Manzanar History Association operations and has completed dozens of major projects for Manzanar's library, museum, archives, oral history and photo collections. Together, they have volunteered more than 3,000 hours. The couple also presents programs around the country.

"Saburo and Ann's volunteer efforts are remarkable, and I hope they inspire others," said Johnson. "Each spring, Sab is requested by many teachers to share his personal stories of life in Manzanar with their students."

In April 1942, Saburo was a 7-year-old farm boy in San Fernando, Calif., when the U.S. Army uprooted his family. For three years and seven months, the Sasakis — Family #3831 — were among more than 11,000 Japanese Americans exiled to Manzanar. Saburo attended second, third and fourth grades in the camp. The Sasakis left Manzanar in October 1945 for Cleveland, Ohio.

Saburo later met Ann in Cleveland. They both went on to become engineers for General Motors. Today, they travel 2,250 miles each way to Manzanar from their home in Rochester Hills, Mich.

While the distance is impressive, what is most exceptional is Saburo's seven-decade journey from a childhood in Manzanar to serving as a NPS volunteer. As a Chinese American woman, Ann has the unique burden of interpreting history she is presumed to have endured in Manzanar.

As Ann says, "The story is not just worth telling, it must be told." Both Saburo and Ann make history come alive for every visitor they encounter.

This year bridges the celebratory 100th anniversary of the National Park Service and the eve of the somber 75th anniversary in 2017 of Japanese Americans being removed from their homes and communities and placed in War Relocation Authority camps.

The Manzanar staff nominated Saburo and Ann for the Enduring Service Award because there is no more fitting time to recognize two exceptional volunteers whose lives bridge these two contrasting milestones in U.S. history.

Saburo and Ann hope that one day their children and grandchildren will carry on their volunteer service at Manzanar.

The Manzanar National Historic Site, which was established by Congress in 1992, welcomes annually more than 90,000 visitors. The site welcomes visitors to explore and learn about the experiences of individuals, families and communities incarcerated at Manzanar during World War II. ■

## ANNUAL JOINT MEMORIAL SERVICE TO HONOR JA SOLDIERS OF WWII SET FOR SEPTEMBER

The 11th annual Joint Memorial Service honoring Japanese American soldiers who served during World War II as members of the 100th Infantry Battalion, Military Intelligence Service, 442nd Regimental Combat Team and 1399th Engineer Construction Battalion is set for Sept. 25 at 10 a.m. at the National Memorial

Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl in Oahu. The service is open to the public.

Matt Matsunaga, son of the late Sen. Sparky Matsunaga, a 100th Infantry Battalion veteran, will serve as the event's keynote speaker, and the chair of this year's service is Lynn Heirakuji, whose father, Walter, served in the 442nd RCT and is a member of the K Company Chapter of that veterans club.

The AJA (Americans of Japanese

Ancestry) veterans' Joint Memorial Service is held on the last Sunday of each September in memory of the first AJA killed in action in World War II, Shigeo "Joe" Takata of the 100th Infantry Battalion.

This year's service is sponsored by the Nisei Veterans Legacy and coincides with the 75th anniversary commemoration of the bombing of Pearl Harbor. The service adopts the same theme: "Honoring the Past, Inspiring the Future." ■

PHOTO: WES DEGUCHI, 442ND SONS & DAUGHTERS



Veterans gathered and were honored during 2015's Joint Memorial Service in Hawaii.



# LEGAL-EASE: AN ATTORNEY'S PERSPECTIVE

## WHEN YOUR POWER OF ATTORNEY IS POWERLESS

By Staci Yamashita-Iida, Esq.

College basketball coach Abe Lemons once said, "The trouble with retirement is that you never get a day off." For those of you who are experiencing your golden years, you may recognize the truth in this statement.

Before you're able to spend your days on the golf course, you (being a responsible adult) want to make sure your affairs are in order. This includes creating a financial Power of Attorney ("POA"), a legal document that authorizes a person of your choosing — a spouse, child, family member, friend, etc. — to act on your behalf on financial matters.

Once the POA is signed and notarized, you breathe a sigh of relief thinking everything will be taken care of even if the worst occurs. A few years later, it does; you're rendered immobile from a car accident. Sadly, the fact that you're lying in a hospital bed doesn't prevent MasterCard and your mortgage company from sending their monthly statements. Not wanting the home to get foreclosed on, your daughter walks into the local bank and presents the teller with your POA.

"Sorry," the teller says. "We can't honor this Power of Attorney."

Unfortunately, this dilemma occurs all too often. Banks, credit unions and brokerage firms refuse to accept legally valid Powers of Attorney, instead insisting that the account

*'The trouble with retirement is that you never get a day off.'*

— Coach Abe Lemons

holder fill out the financial institution's own POA form. This creates a frustrating Catch-22: POAs are created to prepare for incapacity, and when it comes, the bank expects the individual to sign another document . . . while incapacitated.

So, what can you do? While you're healthy and in full control of your faculties, you should take your POA to the bank so that your family members are added to the account as Power of Attorney "agents." Agents are under a fiduciary duty to act in your best interest and maintain accurate records. So, even though your agents have access to your accounts, they cannot use the funds for their own personal gain. This is typically the most pain-free avenue. Banks are more willing to accept outside POAs when the account holder is present.

In the event that you become physically or mentally incapacitated before you get the chance to take your POA to the bank, there are still options available. First, your family can ask to speak to the bank manager. When someone other than the account holder brings in a POA, bank employees

are cautioned to beware of elder abuse and fraud. Without the account holder present, it's difficult to confirm that he or she knew what was being signed, or even that the POA was signed willingly. The banks are concerned with their own liability, which explains their hypervigilance. Speaking to a bank manager and explaining the situation often yields successful results.

If this doesn't work, there are other strategies to use. Sometimes a note from a physician describing the account holder's condition (e.g., in a hospital or nursing home) is enough. Other times written consent from the account holder suffices. Solutions are often tailor-made to the situation at hand.

Dealing with financial institutions can be infuriating. If you have a financial Power of Attorney or have been designated as an agent and would like to eliminate the risks of running into the problems mentioned above, contact your local Estate Planning attorney to explore your options.

*Staci Yamashita-Iida, Esq. is an Estate Planning attorney at Elder Law Services of California. She can be contacted at (310) 348-2995. The opinions expressed in this article are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect the view of the Pacific Citizen or JACL. The information presented does not constitute legal advice and should not be treated as such.*

PACIFIC CITIZEN

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A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

# CALENDAR

## NCWNP

**'Creativity Unconfined: Life in a World War II Japanese American Internment Camp'**  
Rohnert Park, CA  
Sept. 13; 4-6 p.m.  
Sonoma State University  
1801 E. Cotati Ave.

Price: \$5 parking permit required

A special reception sponsored by the SSU Library, the Sonoma County Matsuri, the Anthropological Studies Center, the Center for Community Engagement, the SSU Department of Social Sciences and the SU Anthropology Club is being held for "Creativity Unconfined," which documents internees' lives during the war as well as items made by internees at Amache. Wine and light refreshments will be served.  
**Info: To RSVP, email [events@sonoma.edu](mailto:events@sonoma.edu) or call (707) 664-2712.**

**JCCCNC Tabemasho 2016: Bunka Matsuri**  
San Francisco, CA  
Sept. 17  
1840 Sutter St.

Price: Free

The JCCCNC's annual fundraising event will celebrate the center's 30th anniversary, the 110th anniversary of San Francisco's Japantown and the fifth anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami. Former JCCCNC presidents Nobusuke Fukuda and Edith Tanaka will also be honored. The event will also present a silent and live auction.  
**Info: Call (415) 567-5505 or visit [www.jcccnc.org](http://www.jcccnc.org).**

**'Boy Meets World War II: An American Story of Growing Up Japanese' Event Signing**  
Corte Madera, CA  
Sept. 17; 4 p.m.  
The Book Passage  
51 Tamal Vista Blvd.

The Book Passage is hosting a signing event for author George Omi and his new book "Boy Meets World War II." Omi, who has won numerous awards as an author, takes readers to his life prewar and post-World War II and his journey to

rebuild the livelihood that was taken from his family.

**'Talk Story and Treasures: Nikkei Artifacts Tell Tales We Must Not Forget'**  
Berkeley, CA  
Oct. 8; Noon-1 p.m. and 2-4 p.m. (open viewings),  
Program 1-2 p.m.  
Berkeley Methodist Church  
1710 Carleton St.

Price: Free

JACL Berkeley and NSU present "Talk Story and Treasures," sponsored by Berkeley JACL and JC Berkeley Nikkei Student Union with support from Friends of Topaz, J-Sei and Berkeley Methodist United. Community members are invited to spend an afternoon viewing historical artifacts, crafts, documents, photographs and family treasures lent by community members for the afternoon. The program will also feature speakers who will share their stories associated with the artifacts.  
RSVP by Sept. 20, as attendance is expected to reach capacity.  
**Info: Email [berkeleyjacl@gmail.com](mailto:berkeleyjacl@gmail.com).**

## PSW

**17th Annual Asian Small Business Expo**  
Alhambra, CA  
Sept. 10; 9 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Almanson Court Conference Center  
700 S. Almanson St.

Price: Free

This year's expo will allow attendees to network with hundreds of business owners, entrepreneurs and start-up companies, in addition to establishing new contacts. Free business workshops will also be offered, with special guests including Jerome Horton, chairman of the California Board of Equalization.  
**Info: Visit [www.apisbp.org](http://www.apisbp.org).**

**Memories of Five Nisei**  
Los Angeles, CA  
Sept. 24; 2 p.m.  
Japanese American National Museum  
100 N. Central Ave.

Price: Free

As part of the Tateuchi Public

Program Series comes this event that will feature five second-generation Japanese Americans (Takashi Hoshizaki, Toshi Ito, Willie Ito, Sam Mihara and Shig Yabu) who will share significant memories of their lives, with a focus on the World War II camp experience. Reservations are recommended.  
**Info: Visit [www.janm.org](http://www.janm.org).**

**Asian American Journalism Association of San Diego Fundraiser**  
San Diego, CA  
Sept. 25; 3:30 p.m.  
NBC7 Studios 9680

Granite Ridge Road Network and learn about storytelling from top Asian American on-air talent. Catch a tour of NBC7's new station in Kearny Mesa. The anniversary fundraiser will grant scholarships to Asian American journalists. Program speakers include ABC7 Los Angeles' David Ono and NBC News correspondent Jinah Kim.  
**Info: Visit [www.aaja.org](http://www.aaja.org).**

## MDC

**The Louisville Dragon Boat Festival**  
Louisville, KY  
Sept. 10  
Louisville Waterfront Park  
231 Witherspoon St.

Get ready for a beautiful and athletic display of dragon boat racing at this year's festival featuring local teams competing to raise money for various local charities and nonprofit organizations. Attendees can also enjoy a variety of cultural activities and great food.

**Info: Visit [www.louisvilledragonboat.com](http://www.louisvilledragonboat.com)**

**Aki Matsuri**  
Albuquerque, NM  
Sept. 18

**National Hispanic Cultural Center**  
1701 Fourth St. S.W.

The annual Albuquerque-based Japanese Fall festival (Aki Matsuri) welcomes the new season with the New Mexico Japanese American Citizens League in part supported by the New Mexico

Arts Department of Cultural Affairs and the National Endowment of the Arts. Festivity activities include food and games for all ages.  
**Info: Visit [www.nmjacl.org](http://www.nmjacl.org).**

## PNW

**Asian Food Market Tour**  
Portland, OR

Sept. 10; 11 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Join Indonesia-born chef Surja Tjahaja for a tour of markets specializing in fresh, inexpensive vegetables, seafood and other Asian food. The tour includes a Korean barbecue tabletop lunch. Please register by Sept. 1.  
**Info: For information, meeting location or register, contact (503) 656-8910 or visit [www.chef2go.biz](http://www.chef2go.biz).**

**Nichiren Buddhist Temple 2016 Fall Take-Out Bazaar**  
Portland, OR  
Sept. 18; 11:30-a.m.-2 p.m.  
2025 S.E. Yamhill

Come support the Nichiren Buddhist Temple's Take-Out Bazaar, with all proceeds benefiting the temple. Available to order are chow mein, sushi and a combination bento. Sept. 11 is the preorder deadline, so make sure and place your order today!  
**Info: To place an order, call (503) 235-8292.**

**Densho 20th Anniversary Gala**  
Seattle, WA  
Sept. 24; 5-8:30 p.m.  
Sheraton Seattle Downtown  
1400 Sixth Ave.

Densho celebrates 20 years of collecting and preserving the living memory of World War II Japanese American incarceration. All are invited to celebrate the past two decades and support Densho as it works to build a more just future. Keynote speakers include Dale Minami.  
**Info: Visit [www.densho.org](http://www.densho.org).**

## EDC

**Ramen Contest and Japanese Fall Festival**  
New York, NY  
Oct. 15-16  
Astor Center  
399 Lafayette St.

Price: Free

An indoor eating ramen contest will serve up some of New York's most popular Japanese ramen shop

dishes. The weekend event will also host a Japanese fall festival along Broadway Street between 92 and 94 Streets as well. Come and enjoy Japanese heritage and culture at the fair with about 60 vendors and stores.

**Info: Visit [www.japanblockfair.com](http://www.japanblockfair.com) or email [todo@japanblockfair.com](mailto:todo@japanblockfair.com).**

**Plate by Plate 2016**  
New York, NY  
Oct. 21; 7-10 p.m.  
Metropolitan Pavilion  
(The Level)

123 W. 18th St., 5th Floor  
Price: \$200; black-tie  
Plate by Plate is the premier annual tasting benefit organized by Project by Project, showcasing cuisine offered by New York City's top restaurants. As featured previously on Bravo's "Top Chef," attendees will have the opportunity to taste an array of offerings in addition to mingling with the city's best chefs. A silent auction will also be held. The event partner this year is the National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance and ticket proceeds will benefit the partner organization.  
**Info: Visit [www.platebyplate.org](http://www.platebyplate.org).**

**Philadelphia Asian American Film Festival**  
Philadelphia, PA  
Nov. 10-20

**Various locations in Philadelphia**

The Philadelphia Asian American Film Festival is back this year paying tribute to rising stars in Asian American filmmaking. This celebration is the only one of its kind in the Philadelphia area and is now the largest AAPI film festival on the East Coast. It attracts actors, filmmakers and audiences from the area and all around the world. Come support the films in this year's lineup.  
**Info: Visit [www.phillyasianfilmfest.org](http://www.phillyasianfilmfest.org).**

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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:**  
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# IN MEMORIAM

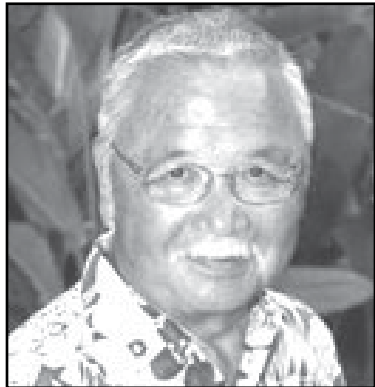


**Abe, Hideo, 99**, Santa Clara, CA; Aug. 1; he was an WWII veteran who served with the MIS; he was predeceased by his wife, Lola; he is survived by his son, Roger; daughter, Elaine (Stan) Strocher; sister, Mikiko Eto; and many nieces and nephews; gc: 1.

**Amano, Shellie Akiko, 43**, Kealahou, HI; July 27; she was a U.S. Army veteran; she is survived by her son, Kawika; mother, Glenna Bell; stepfather, Charlie Bell; grandmother, Chiyono Kobayashi; and many aunts, uncles and cousins.

**Amino, Yosh, 88**, Evanston, IL; July 27; predeceased by his wife, Pat Aiko; he is survived by his sister, Yoshimi Ikeda; children, Kimberly (Eric), Mitch (Dawna) and Jill (Mark); and many other relatives; gc: 9.

**Hamakawa, Masaru 'Mamo,' 83**, Hilo, HI; Aug. 6; a retired U.S. Air Force Veteran; he is survived by his son, Glen (Irene) Hamakawa; daughter, Lisa (Howard) Shaw; brothers, Fumio (Emiko) Hamakawa and Kiyoshi (Mikako) Hamakawa; sister, Tsuyuko Blackwood; sisters-in-law, Betty Hamakawa, Patricia (Tokiaki) Toyama, Victoria (Clyde) Abe and Lillian Oak; gc: 5.



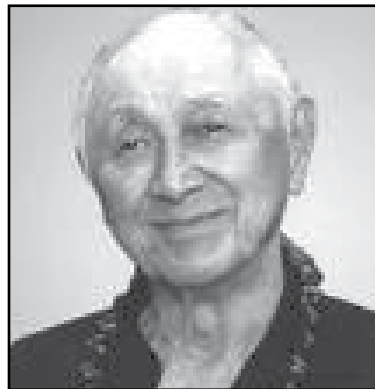
**Kobayashi, Roy Torao, 78**, Mountain View, CA; he is survived by his wife, Elizabeth; stepdaughters, Mary Beth Rogers Houseworth, Gale Schmidt, Nancy Rogers and Karen Beck; sister, Dorothy Ishimatsu; brother, Robert Kobayashi; gc: 3.

**Kusano, Kevin Tadao, 63**; Waimea, HI; July 30; he owned Leilani Bakery of Hawaii; he is survived by his wife, Irene "Leilani"; daughter, Robyn (Mark) Berry; stepchildren, Shirlene (Curt) Fukumori, Dalen (Antonia) Sato and Candice (Matt) Myer; mother, Kay Kikuno; brothers, Kerry Kusano and Cyrus Kusano; gc: 4.



**Inouye, Masaru Vincent, 95**, Los Angeles, CA; Aug. 10; he was predeceased by his wife, Tsutaye Mary; he is

survived by his children, Joan, Lawrence (Miyuki) and David (Katherine); gc: 4; ggc: 1.



**Ishibashi, Masahiro 'Mako,' 93**, Monterey Park, CA; Aug. 1; a WWII Poston Arizona Camp 1 Block 30 internee; he was predeceased by his wife, Haruko; he is survived by his daughter, Colleen (Ken) Hayashi; sons, Gerald (Lisa), Grant (Colleen) and Craig Ishibashi; brothers-in-law, Hide and Thomas Ishimine; sisters-in-law, Ruth (Jim) Ishii, Mary Oda, Lillie (Joe) Amamoto, Grace (Bob) Morinishi and Donna Sill; gc: 11; gcc: 11; ggcc: 1.



**Nakasaki, Shizuko, 86**, Montebello, CA; Aug. 7; she is survived by her children, Linda (Norman) Kiyomura and Eddie Nakasaki; sister-in-law, Kisaye Sato; also

survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives here and in Japan; gc: 2.

**Oshita, Helen Teiko, 78**, San Jose, CA; Aug. 2; she was interned at Topaz; she is survived by her husband, Howard; daughters, Julie (Ken) Arimura and Lisa (Long "Lawrence") Han; gc: 2.



**Tatsumi, Lorie Kiyoko, 60**, Avocado Heights, CA; Aug. 1; she is survived by her husband, Byron Tatsumi; daughter, Lauren Tatsumi; sister, Leslie Ito; and nieces, nephews and many other relatives.

**Tawa, Masatsugu, 96**, Gardena, CA; Aug. 7; he is survived by his wife, Kiyoko; sons, Ron (Suzi), Gary (Valerie) and Brian Tawa; gc: 6; gcc: 2.

**Tsuchiya, Patricia 'Pat' Haruko, 88**, San Jose, CA; May 24; she was predeceased by her husband, Tomoyuki; she is survived by her

children, Glenn Tsuchiya, Nancy (Jerry) Price, Irene (Gary) Barone; sister, Marie (John) Niwa; gc: 4; gcc: 3.

**Umeda, Ben, 92**, Watsonville, CA; Aug. 12; he is survived by his wife, Yoko; children, Kai (Diane), Yuko (David Thielk), Shin (Sue) and Ren (Suzanne) Umeda; sister, Lily Toyoko Omokawa; gc: 7.

**Yamashiro, Fred Minoru, 85**, Granada Hills, CA; Aug. 7; he is survived by his wife, Alice; sons, Ron (Cricket) and Kyle (Jeanne); daughters, Susan (Dave), Jill and Lee (Wayne); daughter-in-law, Julie; sisters, Pat and Kiko.



**Wada, Takashi, 97**, Torrance, CA; July 15; he served in the 442nd RCT, L Company; he is survived by his wife, Dorothy; sons, Craig (Roxanne) and Brian Wada; daughters, Mona (Tom) Kawasawa and Lisa Wada; sisters, Rose Wakida and Faye Harada; also survived by many other relatives; gc: 6.

## TRIBUTE

### MISAO SHIOTSUKA



Misao Yamano Shiotsuka passed away on June 17, 2016, at the age of 96. Misao was born on July 14, 1919, in San Jose, CA. She was the eldest of four children of Shige and Teiichi Yamano. Misao attended schools in Gilroy, CA, graduating high school in 1937. She continued school in Japan for two years to study sewing, music and traditional Japanese cultural arts.

In 1943, Misao married Ekiji Sam Shiotsuka, a soldier in the 442nd Regimental Combat team, in the Poston, AZ, internment camp.

After the war, Misao and Sam settled in Hollister, CA. Sam was a farmer, and Misao was a seamstress and homemaker, raising three children.

Misao lost her husband in 2000. She is survived by her daughters, Barbara Sakakihara (Phil), Wanda Shiotsuka (Bob Center) and son, Edwin Shiotsuka (Arlene). Misao was the proud grandmother of two grandsons, Ryan and Joel, and four great-grandchildren.

## 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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Gerald Fukui  
President

## MILE HIGH >> continued from page 3

I'm sure the leadership would deny that's what happened, but to those of us in the chapter trenches, that's what it seemed like. Our chapter sent several letters objecting to national decisions and asking for more involvement, but they were ignored. Some other chapters and districts (including Pacific Southwest District, where Gary Mayeda himself drafted the letter of protest that was sent to National JACL) voiced dissatisfaction with how JACL was being run. Before the National Convention, the former executive director, Priscilla Ouchida, was gone. But she wasn't really the cause of the deeper problems, which were institutional.

Now, much of the National Board has been replaced, and the former executive director role is being managed in the interim by a longtime JACler, Bill Yoshino, who in the past was the district rep based in Chicago who wrote the cogent, thoughtful civil rights-focused statements that JACL used to send out when bad stuff happened in the world. I don't think he wrote the



PHOTO: GIL ASAKAWA

**Mile High JACL voted to remain a chapter of the organization during its Aug. 21 general membership meeting.**

announcements pushing for the TPP and against Net Neutrality. I hope not, anyway.

I'm hopeful for JACL, as I said in my last column because the National Youth/Student Council shows passion and leadership skills to help lead the organization into a new era if they step up to the proverbial plate. And, I'm hopeful because I've known Gary Mayeda for a long time, and I know he has both the institutional memory and understanding of JACL's past and present, along

with a level-headed, not just numbers-oriented, vision for JACL's future.

After Gary and Janet spoke with us on the phone, we broke for lunch and then discussed the three choices for the chapter. In the end, there were more votes to keep the chapter in place, but act as independently as possible, and follow our hearts even if that meant going against the National JACL grain.

We ultimately accepted that JACL provides benefits that are worth being able to share with our members, like the Kakehashi exchange program for youth to visit Japan (an interesting wrinkle in our longtime mission of civil rights for *Japanese Americans* but one I applaud because I think all JAs should visit Japan), the youth

scholarships, the leadership program and the Legacy Fund Grants (which the Mile High chapter received to help finance important local programs).

Like me, a majority of the members in attendance opted to put their hope in Gary Mayeda's presidency to see if the culture of National JACL can become more open and transparent and inclusive of the wants and needs of members even out here in the boonies of Colorado.

After all, we can always have this discussion again in a year or two if we feel we need it.

*Gil Asakawa is a former P.C. Editorial Board Member and Board Chair. He writes a blog at <http://nikkeiview.com>.*

## LETTER 2 >> continued from page 2

I specifically used the word INDIVIDUALS because I believe there is a huge misconception that the Black Lives Matter movement is anti-police or that the individuals who attacked police are working on behalf of Black Lives Matter. This is a fallacy used to try to discredit the movement. What the Black Lives Matter protesters are against is a system where individual "bad apple" police officers are not held accountable for their actions, especially when it comes to aggression with the African-American community. Supporting our police and supporting Black Lives Matter are not mutually exclusive.

What we as Japanese Americans need to realize is that though we are a minority community, we have absolutely no idea what it is like to be black in America. I have never been followed around in a store by a security guard. No one has ever told me I shouldn't wear a hoodie or walk on the street at night. I don't worry that if I get pulled over for a traffic violation that something violent might happen. These are thoughts that many African-Americans have on a daily basis.

As an organization that is supposed to support the civil rights of all, why is it wrong to recognize another organization that is actively working to try to make our society a little bit better? Norm Mineta, in his speech at the Sayonara Dinner, praised our youth for including Black Lives Matter at their banquet, and so do I.

Kudos to the NY/SC!

*Sincerely,*

*Kimiko Marr,  
Board Member,*

*Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL*

*Marcia Hashimoto, W-SC JACL Board Member*

*Mas Hashimoto, W-SC JACL Board Member*

*Gini Matute-Biachi, Ph.D., W-SC JACL Board Member*

*Carol Kaneko, W-SC JACL Board Member*

*Paul Kaneko, W-SC JACL Member*

*Victor Kimura, W-SC JACL Board Member*

*Laurel Mayeda, W-SC JACL Board Member*

*Aimee Mizuno, W-SC JACL Board Member*

*Jeanette Otsuji Hager, W-SC JACL Board Member*

*Philip Shima, W-SC JACL Board Member*

*Andy Noguchi, Florin JACL Co-President*

*Michelle Yamashiro, PSW District Governor*

*Ron Osajima, SELANOCO JACL Member*

*Connie La, SELANOCO JACL Board Member*

*Carolyn Adams, Berkeley JACL Board Member*

*James Duff, Berkeley JACL Board Member*

*Kaitlin Tomomi Hara, Berkeley JACL Board Member*

*Amelia Huster, Berkeley JACL Board Member*

*Vance Oishi, Berkeley JACL Board Member*

*John Okahata, Berkeley JACL Member*

*Neal Ouye, Berkeley JACL Member*

*Nancy Ukai, Berkeley JACL Board Member*

*Tara Umamoto, Berkeley JACL Member*

*Beth Uno, Berkeley JACL Board Member*

*Ranko Yamada, Berkeley JACL Member*

*Valerie Yasukochi, Berkeley JACL Member*

*Allen Zhou, Berkeley JACL Board Member*

*Jeff Yoshioka, Silicon Valley JACL Member*

*Bill Tashima, Seattle JACL Board Member*

*Jacce M., Honolulu JACL President*

*on behalf of the Honolulu Chapter*

## LETTER 1 >> continued from page 2

While JACL is tasked with commemorating Japanese American history and culture, in particular the legacy of the Japanese American incarceration experience, it is dishonest to pretend as though we were the loudest or only voices condemning incarceration. We must gratefully recognize the support that our people received during this time.

The black community, in fact, was one of the few groups to openly condemn Japanese American incarceration and express support for Japanese Americans. Hugh MacBeth, a black lawyer based in Los Angeles, openly defended Japanese Americans during the war by arguing that "race-based confinement constituted unconstitutional racial discrimination." He signed the JACL brief in the historic case *Korematsu v. United States* and successfully defended Fred and Kajiro Oyama, who challenged California's Alien Land Act, which prevented many immigrants from owning land. Many black newspapers sympathized with Japanese Americans and wrote of the shared struggles of discrimination between blacks and Japanese Americans. The *California Eagle* in 1943 called for the discontinued use of the slur "Jap," even though many mainstream newspapers would continue using it for years. Even during the resettlement period after World War II during which Japanese Americans faced housing and employment discrimination, the African-American community continued to show support for Japanese Americans, such as by protesting the removal of Japanese Americans from their positions in factories across the Midwest and West Coast. In June 1963, Martin Luther King Jr. invited the JACL to join the march on Washington that August. After much deliberation at its National Convention that summer, the progressive JACL leadership accepted and joined the black activists on the mall.

And now, 50 years later, unarmed black men are five times more likely than unarmed white men to be shot and killed by police. With this

frightening statistic in mind, we need to stand with BLM organizers and fight for the right of our African-American fellow citizens to walk the streets without fear of police brutality. Of course, we cannot forget Japanese American history and must continue to preserve it, but we must be cognizant of the fact that we are incredibly privileged to see it as history.

Japanese Americans will never again be put into incarceration camps, and it is safe to say that many of us will never face police brutality. As a privileged minority group that can view the police as our protectors rather than threats to our lives, it is our duty to support blacks and minorities in their fight against injustice and bigotry, as they have done for us.

We support and applaud the awarding of the NY/SC Vision Award to Black Lives Matter, and we look forward to being a part of JACL's concerted efforts to fight against police brutality in minority communities.

*Sincerely,*

*Miki Takeshita,*

*JACL Chicago and New York*

*Joseph Wat, JACL Honolulu*

*Jennifer Brown, JACL Chicago*

*Amy Chow, JACL Chicago*

*Mary Coomes, JACL Chicago*

*Lisa Doi, JACL Chicago*

*Takumi Harada, JACL New York*

*Amara Hoshijo, JACL New York*

*Gregory Kimura, JACL Chicago*

*Lane Mita, JACL Chicago*

*Christine Munteanu, JACL Chicago*

*Kenji Negi, JACL Chicago*

*A. Hirotoshi Nishikawa, JACL Philadelphia*

*Christine Nitahara, JACL Chicago*

*Eric Langowski, JACL Hoosier*

*Kristin Osakada, JACL Chicago*

*Anna Takada, JACL Chicago*

*Jordan Yamagiwa, JACL Chicago*

*Mari Yamagiwa, JACL Chicago*

*Kristen Yang, JACL Chicago*

*Grace Yoshida, JACL Chicago*