



# PACIFIC CITIZEN



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## ‘BRONZEVILLE, LITTLE TOKYO’

History is revisited  
to tell the little-known  
story of when Little  
Tokyo once became  
Bronzeville.

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Hundreds gather to  
honor those incarcerated  
in Portland during WWII.

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The Topaz Museum is set  
to officially open in July.



# REIMAGINE EVERYTHING

## THE DELICATE ART OF BRAGGING TO BETTER YOUR JOB

By Ron Mori and Kara Baskin for AARP

*Our office is going through a major makeover, and in several months, the new open concept design will be my reality. Part of my new work life is flexible telecommuting options, as we have fewer offices and an open floor concept with huddle rooms. It's also almost six months into 2017, so we all know that the midyear performance conversations need to take place. If you're like me, the last thing you want to do is pound your chest and tell your manager how good you've been. But, as a hard-working Sansei, it's part of my DNA to let my work results speak for me. That's not the best strategy, so I asked my colleague to expand and put into writing tips that we should consider.*

— Ron Mori

When you work at home, you can't just pop into your boss' office with good news. A casual lunch meeting — with a few strategically placed nudges — won't happen organically. No, when you work remotely, you might end up singing your praises to your coffeemaker or your cat.

I've telecommuted for nearly a decade, interviewing top career experts. Each year, I've grown my business (knock on wood). Part of this involves the delicate art of being visible, of bragging without seeming to. You want to tout your accomplishments to further your career — and you deserve it, like any other worker! — without seeming smarmy. I get it, and I counsel people about this diplomatic dance all the time. Here's how to stay top of mind with your boss when you work at home.

Keep a written log of one triumph each day. You can weave it into future conversations with your boss.

**1. Daily:** Jot down something you did that

was awesome. It can be small. Maybe you nailed an email response to a snarly colleague, or maybe you sealed a huge deal. Doesn't matter. Keep a written (or texted, or whatever works for you) log of one triumph each day. Review it at week's end. You can weave it into future conversations with your boss, use it when you're writing a self-evaluation for your performance review or just use it for a boost when you're feeling down.

**2. Twice a week:** Share news about your career on social media. Social media's very nature is self-serving, so leverage this. Maybe you're working with a dynamic new client who has a fantastic message to share. Maybe your company just signed a big deal that made the news. Done well, social media mixes thought leadership with quiet self-promotion. Maximize it. You needn't crow about your latest raise or new tax bracket (actually, please don't), but you can spread newsworthy items to enhance your image in a diplomatic, useful way.

**3. Weekly:** Schedule recurring check-ins. If your boss or client doesn't suggest it, you should initiate. This is a helpful organizational tool, but it's also a built-in opportunity to discuss goals that you've accomplished in a natural, recurring setting.

**4. Biweekly:** Share your knowledge with your supervisor. See an article, Tweet or juicy tidbit that your boss might care about? Share it! You'll look like a team player, and you'll also show your boss that you're on top of current trends. Should you bombard him or her with "helpful" news every day? Of course not. Make a point to do this every couple of weeks, and fold in a tie-in to your company's work in the note. This says: I get it. We're on the same page — but I'm also independent enough to work hard without checking in.



**5. Monthly:** Meet with people in your industry to swap news, gossip and, yes, brag a little. It helps to let colleagues know what you're up to. Networking sustains your industry profile and can help you land new leads down the road. Whether it's a regular coffee date with a mentor or a formal networking dinner with an industry group, show your face and share your experiences. You never know when it will pay off.

**6. Yearly:** Get brutally honest about your finances and happiness. Not in a rote, going-through-the-motions annual review way, but in a soul-searching way. Are you getting paid enough? Do you feel recognized for your efforts in whatever way matters to you — whether it's money, title or fulfillment? Has the past year been meaningful and nourishing? Think about it. Then, refer back to that log you've kept of your accomplishments. Thus buoyed, set a meeting with your boss to reflect and, yes, maybe brag. It's time.

*This guest column was written by Kara Baskin for Ron Mori, co-president of the Washington, D.C., JACL chapter and manager of community, states and national affairs — multicultural leadership for AARP.*

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## NIKKEI VOICE

# WHY DO PEOPLE STILL HOLD HATEFUL FEELINGS FOR JAPAN FROM WWII?

By Gil Asakawa

I wasn't surprised that anti-Japanese sentiments were expressed when Takuma Sato, a Japanese driver, won the Indianapolis 500 race — he is the first driver from Japan to take the flag. But I was shocked, and disappointed, that the hateful sentiment was blurred by a journalist in Denver, where I live, and that it was someone I had once worked with.

Terry Frei, a veteran sports writer for the *Denver Post* whose main beat was the Colorado Avalanche hockey team, tweeted shortly after Sato's historic victory, "Nothing specifically personal, but I am very uncomfortable with a Japanese driver winning the Indianapolis 500 during Memorial Day weekend."

The comment sparked a social media furor, and within 24 hours, on Memorial Day, the *Denver Post* announced that Frei no longer worked for the newspaper.

I didn't know Frei well, but I worked with him when I managed the *DenverPost.com* website. I was bewildered that he would post such a blunt, ethnically charged statement.

He deleted the tweet, but not before a lot of people copied it and spread it across the Internet. I saw it when a friend forwarded me a link. I criticized Frei for posting it with a quick post of my own, on Facebook:

"I worked at the Denver Post, I'm embarrassed to say. I wonder what my former colleague, Terry Frei, thought about my running the website that featured his sports coverage? Was he 'very uncomfortable' with me having power over his content? What's his logic for this now-deleted tweet? What does he feel about Italians, or French drivers, or Latino or African-Americans behind the wheel? If his objection is because it's Memorial Day weekend, would he feel the same about a German (or Italian) driver winning the race? And does he have ANY IDEA about the 100th Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team, which fought — and died — during WWII and remains to this day the



**George Hisayuki Asakawa fought in the Korean War for the U.S. Army.**

most highly decorated unit in the history of the United States military????? What was he thinking?"

Within a few hours, Frei's blunder had made national and then international news. By the morning of Memorial Day, the *Denver Post* must have felt it had no choice. For the record, I think the *Post* should have punished him but kept him on staff and then assigned him to cover the annual commemoration of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, then spend a week filing a story a day getting to know the people and culture of Japan.

I found out about Frei's fate after the annual Japanese American Community Memorial Day Service at the Nisei War Memorial at Denver's Fairmount Cemetery. I was

PHOTOS: GIL ASAKAWA



interviewed by a local TV reporter for my reaction, and the report focused on my father, whose name is etched on the Nisei War Memorial, on the back where all Colorado JAs who served in the U.S. military, no matter the war, are listed after they pass away. My dad fought during the Korean War, but he never held on to any animosity toward Koreans, and

he certainly never passed on any negative attitudes about Koreans to me.

After he deleted his tweet, Frei posted a terse message: "I apologize," which was followed by a link to an excerpt of a book he had written about a college football team from the early 1940s, on which his father played. His father went on to fly missions in the Pacific against Japan, and his father's best friend was killed during the Battle of Okinawa. In a subsequent explanation, Frei said his research for that book had made him emotionally connected to Americans who fought against Japan. He had also gone to Fort Logan, Denver's military cemetery, to pay respects to his father after he posted his tweet.

As it happens, I was at Fort Logan, too, with my mother and my wife, the day before to pay respects to my dad at his final resting place. It's a pilgrimage we make every Memorial Day weekend with my mom.

I don't think Frei is racist. But I do think his tweet came from someplace deep down in his soul, and that it was an honest statement in that moment. Although it's 72 years since World War II ended and Japan and the U.S. are now very close allies, the thought of a Japanese man in the spotlight on Memorial Day weekend bugged him.

>> See FEELINGS on page 9



## A YONSEI TRANSPLANTED

# FONDESS, IN SHORT, FOR EVERYTHING

By Matthew Ormseth

It was graduation weekend and campus was swarming with misty-eyed alums, and in their eyes and even those of the newly minted graduates I could see nostalgia stealing over their memories, tinged the years spent in Ithaca with fondness and regret and bathing it all in that dusty, gentle light that forgives wrinkles and blemishes and grave missteps.

Universities know how to rev the nostalgia generator; it is, after all, the locomotive behind multimillion-dollar donations, the key to new libraries and computing labs and administrative halls.

Nostalgia requires no break in period; it sets in the moment you are told you've lost something you will never get back. Before we had even graduated, my classmates and I were besieged with entreaties for donations — "\$17 from the Class of '17!" — and already my classmates, misty-eyed, were reaching for debit cards and checkbooks.

It was then that I realized that memory is less a record than a devious and continuously revised palimpsest; then

I realized we do not remember all, just the very good and sometimes the very bad, but never the long stretches of boredom, the flyover country of memory peopled only by frustration, dreariness and the occasional, forgettable victory.

I was reminded of a quote from John Steinbeck, who wrote in "East of Eden": "It is the dull eventless times that have no duration whatever. A time splashed with interest, wounded with tragedy, crevassed with joy — that's the time that seems long in the memory. And this is right when you think about it. Eventlessness has no posts to drape duration on. From nothing to nothing is no time at all."

And even as I write this, I know that those times — the eventless times, the empty stretches that lie between memories — will gradually be expunged from the record, and that I'll look back on my four years here with fondness — fondness for the wonder I felt as a freshman, wide-eyed in front of Cornell's great halls and booming waterfalls; fondness for those last, dwindling days when we were aware we were about to lose something all those alums and desiccated trustees wanted so badly to get back; fondness for nights spent in libraries; fondness for walks to and from class; fondness, in short, for everything.

Memory is not the court scribe in the corner, recording

in great detail every small word and happening. Memory is a revisionist, an amnesiac novelist, and it is my suspicion that memory serves only as a counterpart to the present, a reminder that things were not always this way. Memory is also the sensual promise that things can one day return to the way they were.

As children, we're told to live in the present. It's an impossible request because who we are is who we were. On what else can you form an identity, apart from the things you've done and the places you've lived and the people you've known and loved? Who we are is also who we want to be — our dreams and hopes are as much of who we are as anything we hold in the present.

And so time pulls us simultaneously forward and back; we oscillate between remembrance and dream; and it is difficult not to resent the present when the past seems so comforting and the future so alluring.

And where I stand now, on the cusp of adulthood's jobs and obligations and mortgages but irretrievably beyond the wonder and hope of childhood, is treacherous ground. The past beckons, but I cannot step back.

*Matthew Ormseth is a graduate of Cornell University. He is a Yonsei, a hapa, a Millennial and a journalist.*

# 'RETURN & REMEMBRANCE': IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF E.O. 9066

Hundreds gather at the Portland Expo Center to honor the Japanese men, women and children interned at the Portland Assembly Center during World War II.

By Heidi Kimiko Tolentino, Contributor

**R**eturn & Remembrance," a pilgrimage to the Portland Assembly Center commemorating the 75th anniversary of Executive Order 9066, was held at the Portland Expo Center on May 6. Sponsored by the Oregon Nikkei Endowment and the Portland JACL, the event welcomed more than 700 people who all returned to honor the Japanese men, women and children interned there 75 years ago. Portland was declared the first city on the West Coast to be free of all people of Japanese ancestry during World War II.

Guests that entered the center had the opportunity to experience the "Architecture of Internment" exhibit by Anne Galisky and Graham Street Productions. The exhibit examines Oregon's role in the decision to intern Japanese and Japanese Americans during the war. It was a powerful way for guests to gain a greater understanding of the impact of E.O. 9066 as they walked into the very space that was once used to incarcerate Portland's Japanese community.

The program began with upbeat songs played by the Minidoka Swing Band, as well as a reading by award-winning poet Lawson Inada, who presented a piece entitled "Nihonmachi." As actors in period outfits wandered the stage, Inada reminded the audience of thriving Japanese businesses in Old Japantown, and actors greeted one another as they went about their day.

Then suddenly, the music stopped. Inada's

tone changed. "Hold it, hold it! What is this? Executive Order 9066? We have to leave everything behind? We can only take what we can carry?" Slowly, the actors, now solemn, picked up their suitcases, held the hands of their loved ones and quietly walked down the center aisle, away from Nihonmachi. As they walked, Todd Yuzuriha of the Minidoka Swing Band played a haunting rendition of "Taps." In the audience, eyes filled with tears as survivors remembered their own walks from Nihonmachi, and others imagined their parents, grandparents and great-grandparents making that painful walk away from their homes, into the unknown.

Lynn Fuchigami, executive director of the Oregon Nikkei Endowment, and Marleen Wallingford, president of Portland JACL, then welcomed the audience to "Return & Remembrance." They both reminded attendees that the day was in honor of all of the people affected by E.O. 9066, especially those that had to report to the Portland Assembly Center on May 6, 1942.

Master of ceremonies David Ono, an anchor for ABC7 Eyewitness News in Los Angeles, opened with a historical background. Ono pointed out that Portland was the first city to have all of its Japanese population report to an assembly center. To commemorate that life-altering event, he asked all of the internees present to stand so that they could be honored, and in that moment, the true impact of E.O. 9066 was apparent to all.

The first Internee to speak was George



(From left) Event speakers Dale Minami, Peggy Nagae and Weston Koyama



Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR) greets Lynn Fuchigami (center) and Marleen Wallingford.

Master of Ceremonies David Ono looks on at artist Chisao Hata's nametag rope.



Lawson Inada (far right) is pictured with a cast of local actors featured in his piece "Nihonmachi."

Nakata. Nakata grew up in Portland's Nihonmachi and came to the Portland Assembly Center as a young boy. "Three thousand, six hundred, seventy-six — we came. Young and old, Issei, Nisei, Sansei," he recalled. "We came with only what we could carry, and that wasn't much. We came with a tag. We committed no crime. We had no due process. We lost our homes, our friends and our pets. We came."

Nakata took the audience back to December 1941 and recounted stories of Issei men who were incarcerated. He spoke of Gen. John L. DeWitt, who supported the internment and said many times, "A Jap is a Jap. Doesn't matter if he's a citizen or not." DeWitt called Portland the first "Jap free city on the West Coast."

Nakata also described the living conditions of the Portland Assembly Center when they arrived. He recalled that it was a home of horse stalls and chicken coops and fly paper hung everywhere. They lived in 14x14 "rooms" with plywood walls. They slept on cots with canvas bags filled with hay for a mattress. When friends "visited," they had to talk through barbed wire.

Nakata remembered lining up for everything; there were lines for eating, showering, using the bathroom. The center had a newspaper, the *Evacuzette*, and that was where everyone got the facts. According to Nakata, there were rumors flying around about what would happen next. Minoru Yasui wrote for the *Evacuzette*; Nakata remembered Yasui as "our voice" both during internment and as he

continued the fight after camp.

Nakata was

followed by Jim Tsugawa, who was also interned at the Portland Assembly Center as a boy. Tsugawa remembered following the older kids around camp and becoming their "mascot" as they used sports as an outlet for life behind the barbed-wire enclosure.

Oral history interviews by the Densho Project and the Oregon Nikkei Endowment collection were shown to give the audience a broader view of life at the center. Jean Matsumoto, Mabel Shojii Boggs, Alice E. Sumida, George Katagiri, Shizuko "Suzie" Sakai, Henry "Shig" Sakamoto and Tsuguo "Ike" Ikeda were each featured. They spoke of the food, the recreation, the sickness that so many faced, the constant presence of armed guards and the difficult realization that being interned was wrong.

Ono reminded the audience of the ways that internees survived such harsh conditions. Two such distractions were music and dancing. Ono explained that the center held dances, where young people would gather to try and gain some sense of normalcy while incarcerated. The Minidoka Swing Band then performed two songs, "Sentimental Journey" and "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy," in memory of the music played at the center.

>> See REMEMBRANCE on page 12

## MNHS Recruiting Youth Conservation Corps Members

**M**anzanar National Historic Site will sponsor a six-weeklong Youth Conservation Corps program this summer. Youths 15-18 are encouraged to apply, provided they do not reach their 19th birthday before Aug. 4.

YCC team members will work June 26-Aug. 4, earning the Federal minimum wage of \$10 per hour. The YCC team will work at MNHS under the supervision of National Park Service staff Monday-Friday from

8:15 a.m.-4:45 p.m. Those selected will need to provide their own transportation to work and will be required to have their own checking or savings account for payroll direct deposit before they begin.

"We have had YCC crews since 2002 and have given local youth an opportunity to learn about American history and to participate in preserving resources associated with this part of the Owens Valley," said Superintendent Bernadette Johnson. "Last

summer, the crew included members from Bishop, Independence and Lone Pine, so we look forward to seeing this year's applications."

The YCC team will focus on the preservation of resources associated with the confinement of Japanese Americans during World War II, the Manzanar orchard community and the local Paiute.

The crew will also have opportunities to visit other historically significant areas in

the valley in order to gain a more complete understanding of Owens Valley history and the issues facing the protection of these resources in the future.

Applications may be obtained from the MNHS Visitor Center. The completed application must be received at Manzanar no later than June 7. Participants will be notified by June 16.

For more information, contact Facility Manager Jim Baker at (760) 878-2194, ext. 3337.

# JOIN WITH OTHER JACLERS TO CONTINUE TO PROMOTE CIVIL RIGHTS AT JULY'S NATIONAL CONVENTION



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF SAMANTHA MORI

Samantha Mori (*bottom, center*) is pictured with fellow Kakehashi Project participants during their trip to Japan in 2016. Also pictured (*center, middle*) is Michelle Amano, JACL vp for general operations.

By Samantha Mori

As a fourth-generation Japanese American and second-generation Taiwanese American, I've always been

interested in Japan, but it often seemed like a faraway land that was more dream than reality. As a homegrown American raised in the Midwest, my public life encompassed

what many would see as typical American cultural norms; however, at home, I was accustomed to culturally Japanese mannerisms but still felt as if Japan was out of reach.

In 2013, all that changed. I got the amazing opportunity to study abroad for the whole summer in Okinawa. I connected with my cultural heritage, and this sparked a renewed interest in all things Japan. But my connection to Japan is only a part of my heritage.

Another part is my family's history in the United States. To learn more about that part, I was fortunate to have the opportunity to intern in 2014 at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History, where I worked closely with artifacts concerning the Japanese American story.

I was able to literally put my

hands on "history" and work on what eventually became the Smithsonian exhibit "Righting a Wrong," which is now on display. In fact, some of my family's artifacts and photos are featured in this exhibit.

So, it is only natural that I became a JACL member, where I am able to embrace both sides of my identity. What better way to combine the two than to be a participant in the JACL's Kakehashi Project, which I was able to do in January 2016.

The Kakehashi Project completely exceeded my expectations as my understanding of Japan and my own identity found new depths I could not even fathom prior to the trip. Making wonderful friends from both America and Japan, experiencing a homestay in the countryside and immersing myself in Japanese culture was a life-

changing experience. In addition to continuing to learn and grow within JACL's supportive environment, I also wanted to join with other JACLers on a mission we can all agree on — to continue to promote and protect civil rights.

One way to show your support for JACL is to attend the 2017 JACL National Convention in Washington, D.C., this July 6-9. There will be an exclusive showing of the Smithsonian's "Righting a Wrong" exhibit, a private reception at the Japanese Ambassador's residence and booster activities, including a special docent-led tour of the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism. There will also be events specifically for youth and young professionals.

In addition to meeting other youth from around the country, there are a couple of other great reasons to hurry up and register for the convention.

>> See CONVENTION on page 12



REGISTER TO ATTEND TODAY!



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WASHINGTON DC 2017

IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT'S SIGNING OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 9066

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The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) is the oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization in the United States. The JACL is a national organization whose mission is to secure and maintain the civil rights of Japanese Americans and all others who are victimized by injustice and bigotry. The JACL also works to promote cultural, educational, and social values and preserve the heritage and legacy of the Japanese American community.

For additional convention information connect with us on:



PHOTO: COURTESY OF VISUAL COMMUNICATIONS

# 'BRONZEVILLE, LITTLE TOKYO'

PHOTO: JULIET WONG



Little Tokyo became home to the multimedia installation "Bronzeville, Little Tokyo" in April to remember the moment in history when the space became home to the African-American enclave known as "Bronzeville."

## Community Intersections are revisited at the 33rd Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival.

By Rob Buscher, Contributor

Ever wonder what became of the homes and businesses that Japanese Americans left behind during the incarceration of World War II?

The downtown Los Angeles neighborhood of Little Tokyo became home on April 29-30 to a site-specific multimedia installation titled "Bronzeville, Little Tokyo" – a project remembering the brief moment in history from 1942-45 when this decidedly Japanese American space became an African-American enclave known as "Bronzeville."

A joint project between documentary film studio FORM follows FUNCTION and AAPI media advocacy organization Visual Communications, this installation was one of the highlights at VC's 33rd edition of the Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival.

VC's office is located at Union Center for the Arts on Aiso Street, and its proximity to

Little Tokyo made the project more personal to its staff. Abraham Ferrer, VC staff member and exhibitions director of LAAPFF, reflected on its long connection to the neighborhood.

"Among VCers of a certain age, we are acutely aware of this neighborhood's identity as Bronzeville," he said. "We produced a historical picture book, 'Little Tokyo: One Hundred Years in Pictures,' for the Little Tokyo Centennial Committee in 1984 that talks about Bronzeville in some detail, so approaching the Bronzeville story outside of a staid documentary film format and to go with a sensory, interactive and immersive experience exemplifies the outside-the-box creative strategies that VC has championed and practiced for its nearly five-decade history."

Special events highlighting aspects of the shared spatial history took place at sites familiar to longtime Little Tokyo residents such as the historic Nishi Building and Union Center. The Nishi Building

hosted a mixed-media performance piece called "Memory Bank," which incorporated audio reactive technology to project digital images as spoken word artists and other individuals shared memories and reflections of Bronzeville in an open-mic environment.

Another aspect of the project was the debut of a three-minute virtual reality animation titled "Bronzeville, Brass, Jazz," a 1940s dreamscape meant to evoke the spirit of late-night jam sessions and fabled stories about jazz great Charlie Parker during his memorable stay at the Civic Hotel and brief residency at the Finale Club.

The weekend program culminated in a live jazz performance at the steps of the Old Union Church by the Bronzeville Union, a group specially formed for the occasion.

Project Adviser Kathie Foley-Meyer wrote of the neighborhood's significance, "Bronzeville remains relevant as a strand in the complicated tangle of history in L.A. — a history that is often glossed over or rendered incomplete with the messier details left out."

This certainly rings true in the case of Bronzeville, as few people even within Little Tokyo are aware of its existence.

The Bronzeville story began with the Emergency Shipbuilding Program, an initiative commenced by the U.S. government in January 1941 — almost a full year before entering WWII. This program aimed to produce enough ships to keep America's overseas territorial possessions safe amidst the growing conflict of WWII, while also assisting the United Kingdom in noncombat roles through its merchant navy. In May 1941,

Terminal Island in South Los Angeles became home to the California Shipbuilding Corp., also known as CalShip.

After the attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941, the U.S. shipbuilding industry was at an all-time high as defense contractors worked in a mad rush to replace the damaged ships of the United States' Pacific Fleet.

With a majority of the service-aged men in L.A. choosing to join the military after Pearl Harbor, the resulting labor shortage opened up a slew of new opportunities for African-Americans looking to migrate West, away from the historically slave-owning Southern states. By 1944, more than 7,000 African-Americans were employed by CalShip alone.

During the 1940s, L.A. real estate was governed by strict housing covenants that prohibited the incoming African-Americans from moving into white neighborhoods. Thus, the recently vacated Little Tokyo was identified by city planners as a settlement site for this community. Soon after relocating, the new residents renamed their neighborhood as "Bronzeville," after the celebrated African-American business district in South Chicago.

For the next four years, Bronzeville would become a vibrant working-class neighborhood home to overcrowded workers' quarters, jazz clubs and a number of African-American-owned businesses. The nightlife was particularly notable for its many "breakfast clubs," consequently named because they stayed open until the next morning.

As WWII came to an end, labor needs shifted to other industries, and many African-Americans moved out of the neighborhood. Once JA families began returning from camp, many of the white property owners either canceled or refused to renew the leases held with their African-American tenants. Although Japanese and African-Americans cohabitated this space for several years through the end of the decade, Bronzeville and its African-American residents soon became a footnote in the history of this space.

PHOTO: JULIET WONG

PHOTO: FLORANTE IBANEZ

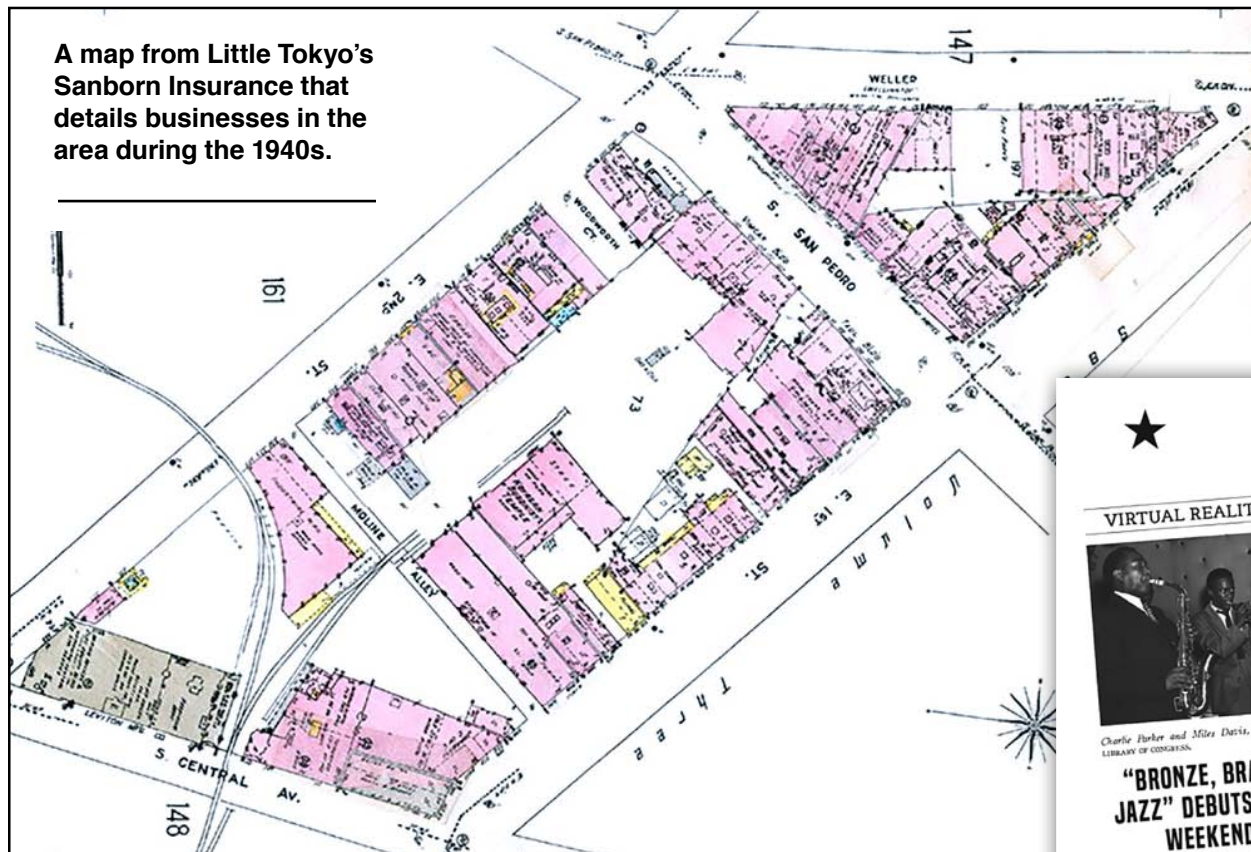


A live jazz performance was featured on the steps of the Old Union Church.



Participants outside Nishi Building use VR headsets to learn about Bronzeville.

A map from Little Tokyo's Sanborn Insurance that details businesses in the area during the 1940s.



(Top) A family living in Bronzeville, circa 1940s



(Left) An excerpt from the Bronzeville-Little Tokyo newspaper for the LAAPFF

Interestingly, Little Tokyo was not the only case in which African-Americans began inhabiting Japantowns during WWII. The California State Division of Immigration and Housing states in its 1943-44 Biennial Report, "Negroes are moving into the deserted Japtown districts of our metropolitan centers in vast numbers, and conditions of sanitation are generally poor, and overcrowding is a major difficulty. . . . We have succeeded in cleaning out several of the smaller abandoned Japtown districts throughout California, and through abatement and misdemeanor prosecutions, we have had a large number of old dilapidated frame shacks razed to make way for new buildings."

Sadly, this combination of institutional racism in government policy and gross neglect by a majority of white Japantown property owners led to a culling of California's many Japantowns from a prewar number of nearly four dozen to just three: Los Angeles, San Francisco and San Jose.

In subsequent decades, JAs have undertaken tremendous efforts to preserve and maintain the legacy of these last surviving Japantowns, persevering against identity erasure and gentrification in all three cities. Somehow, the intersectional histories of JAs and African-Americans seems to have been lost, which is why "Bronzeville, Little Tokyo," is so important.

Said Ferrer, "This intersection of Japanese American and African-American communities would play itself out for decades after WWII, when these communities established homes in the nearby Seinan District (what we know as Crenshaw, at the foot of Baldwin Hills). During the 1940s, [Bronzeville] would become known as a second hub of African-American culture and society, rivaled only by Central Avenue in South Central L.A."

As today's social justice campaigns seek to build solidarity amongst communities of color, a renewed interest in the intersectionality of these communities has emerged.

Maya Santos is a community organizer, neighborhood advocate and filmmaker who co-founded FORM follows FUNCTION. The consortium of artists responsible for this project relied heavily on Santos' vision as creative director, as well as a nuanced understanding of the neighborhood.

About her relationship to Little Tokyo, Santos wrote, "Having screened my first short film at Union Center and years later making a short doc about how the church became an arts space, I learned a lot about Little Tokyo through this one place. I have always been drawn to the history and intersectionality of people of color in Little Tokyo. The resilience of community and layers of history is fascinating and inspiring, and I think learning about Little Tokyo as a place tells us a

lot about what L.A. was, what it still is and can be. I'm inspired by the intergenerational and multiethnic community here and learned a lot about how generations work together, inclusive of a 130-plus-year history yet open to something new. Though it's not easy to propose things people have sometimes never heard of, I'm in awe at [the neighborhood's] openness that has allowed us to experiment in the ways we have."

Much of Santos' work over the past several years has been connected with Little Tokyo. Bronzeville was the original inspiration for her 2016 project "Interactive Little Tokyo," which was featured at the 32nd edition of LAAPFF, but she decided to separate the story into smaller strands given its scope and limited resources. The 2016 portion consisted of a VR piece called "Walking With Grace" and video map installation "312 Azusa Street," both of which highlighted overlooked Japanese American histories and local perspectives within the neighborhood.

The success of "Interactive Little Tokyo" helped pave the way for her most recent project. Santos wrote, "[We] learned from the 2016 project that there was a unique intergenerational interest in VR and historic site-specific installations that could be expanded upon. Our partnership with VC was awesome, and the festival is a great platform, yet there was room for more collaboration and partnership through which other organizations could benefit from being part of this creative endeavor telling more of Little Tokyo's story."

Given the significance of jazz during the Bronzeville years, finding the right partners for the closing musical performance was paramount to its success. That is why Santos entrusted this role to talented multi-instrumentalist composer and bandleader Dexter Story. Story was a clear choice, having spent much of the last 15 years at the epicenter of L.A.'s popular music culture as a touring jazz musician and former marketing director at Def Jam Records.

Asked about his involvement in the project, Story wrote, "When Maya Santos invited me to put together the music for 'Bronzeville, Little Tokyo,' I started reading articles and listening to music from the period. I hadn't heard of Bronzeville, but I knew about WWII internment. I allowed the many facets of that Japanese/African-American experience inform my composing and out came 'The Bronzeville Little Tokyo Suite.' The members of Bronzeville Union were handpicked for their professionalism and heavy involvement with the Los Angeles live music scene. Coincidentally, pianist Mark de Clive-Lowe is half-Japanese, so his involvement provided a special element."

Since there are few individuals remaining who can give a firsthand account of Bronzeville's history, an impressive amount of research went into the conceptualization of this project. Santos wrote, "Because there are so few quality archives of Bronzeville, we knew we needed to create art out of fragments of history. [Eddy Vajarakitpongse of yaknowlike studios] came up with the audio reactive projection technology and mapped it out in the space, and I came up with the open mic and coined the ['Memory Bank'] name. Together, it was a success in creatively recontextualizing Bronzeville history with the soul that people brought through their memories."

While "Bronzeville, Little Tokyo" existed for only a brief period of time, it seems fitting given the fleeting nature of this neighborhood's identity as Bronzeville. Perhaps with additional interest and funding, this project can eventually live in a more permanent location. In the meantime, video segments recorded during the "Memory Bank" installation will soon be available online, and the VR piece "Bronzeville, Brass, Jazz" is accessible via YouTube.

Visit [www.fffmedia.com/bronzeville](http://www.fffmedia.com/bronzeville) for more information on the project and [www.vconline.org/latest-news/releasing-bronzeville-jazz-into-the-world](http://www.vconline.org/latest-news/releasing-bronzeville-jazz-into-the-world) for instructions to watch the VR piece.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF VISUAL COMMUNICATIONS



Maya Santos



Musician Dexter Story

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF APAICS

# APAICS HOLDS 23RD ANNUAL GALA



Several members of Congress attended the gala, including (from left) Sen. Tammy Duckworth, Congressman Mark Takano, Congressman Al Green, Congresswoman Grace Meng, Congresswoman Judy Chu, Congresswoman Stephanie Murphy and Congressman Bobby Scott.

In Recognition of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, the organization honors those who 'continue to politically empower the AAPI community.'

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — The Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies held its 23rd annual Gala Awards Dinner on May 16 during Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. The event, which was attended by more than 800 guests, was held at the Washington Hilton Hotel in the nation's capital.

The annual event honors Asian American and Pacific Islander leaders, both current and pioneers, as well as "recognizes outstanding individuals and organizations that continue to politically empower the AAPI community."

Elaine Quijano, an anchor for CBSN and correspondent for CBS News in New York City, served as the gala's mistress of ceremonies. Greetings and remarks were also extended by Floyd Mori, president and CEO of APAICS; Susan Jin Davis, APAICS board chair; and Tariq Khan, APAICS Gala Committee chair.

In addition, Congresswoman Judy Chu, chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, spoke during the ceremony, and the Hon. Norman Mineta, one of the founders of APAICS and CAPAC, was in attendance and participated in the program as well.

The keynote speaker was Sen.

Cory Booker (D-NJ). Several other members of Congress were also in attendance, including Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) and Representatives Al Green (TX), Grace Meng (NY), Stephanie Murphy (FL), Bobby Scott (VA) and Mark Takano (CA).

Tribute was paid to two CAPAC members who passed away since the last gala, the Hon. Eni Faleomavaega and the Hon. Mark Takei.

The evening also honored former APAICS Congressional fellows Nisha Ramachandran and Jason Tengco. This year's APAICS Congressional Fellows are Adi Sathi, Anna Byon, Howard Ou, Saif Inam and Tejeswara Reddy.

Awards and recognition were also given to Verizon, recipient of the Corporate Achievement Award. The Community Leader Award was given to Chanchanit Martorell, executive director of the Thai Community Development Center, a nonprofit organization based in Los Angeles. Martorell was recognized for her advocacy work in human rights causes. And Randall Park, a popular actor born and raised in Los Angeles, was presented with the Vision Award. Park currently stars in the ABC comedy "Fresh Off the Boat."



APAICS Board Chair Susan Jin Davis (left) and APAICS President and CEO Floyd Mori (second from right) are pictured with gala honorees Randall Park (Vision Award) and Chanchanit Martorell (Community Leader Award).

## GO FOR BROKE NEC AWARDED CIVIL LIBERTIES GRANT

The Go For Broke National Education Center announced May 19 that it has received a \$50,000 grant from the California State Library's California Civil Liberties Public Education Program, which works to remind Californians of the civil liberties violations suffered by Japanese Americans during World War II.

The grant will enable GFBNEC to transcribe a series of audiovisual oral histories from its Hanashi Oral History Collection for integration into lesson plans and a public program that will be offered free to public schools.

The Hanashi (Japanese for "talk" or "story") Oral History Collection captures the first-hand accounts of Japanese American veterans of WWII who served in segregated military units throughout Europe and the Pacific.

It represents the nation's largest audiovisual collection of Nisei veterans' life histories, with more than 1,200 interviews of veterans from the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team, Military Intelligence Service and related units.

The unique oral histories recall Nisei soldiers' lives before the war; the military and combat experience; the incarceration of Japanese Americans living on the West Coast; and the rebuilding of communities and neighborhoods following military service and



incarceration.

"These intensely personal oral histories reflect on the hysteria, bigotry and flawed public policy that forever changed the lives of Japanese Americans during World War II," said Mitchell T. Maki, GFBNEC's president and CEO. "We continue to debate many of these important issues today — national security versus individual freedoms, the civil liberties of American citizens and the need to protect the rights of individuals from all religious and cultural backgrounds. We're grateful for this opportunity, made possible by the California State Library, that will help us educate students about the Nisei soldiers' experiences and their lasting contributions to our democracy."

The California Civil Liberties Public Education Program, created in 1998, provides support for projects and activities to ensure that the events surrounding the exclusion, forced removal and incarceration of people of Japanese ancestry during WWII will be remembered and understood. ■

## Honoring Our Heroes in Little Tokyo



Veterans from World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam War and other conflicts gathered for a group photo following the Memorial Day ceremony at the Japanese American National War Memorial Court in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo on May 27. The event's keynote speaker was Akira Chiba, consul general of Japan in Los Angeles. Master of ceremonies was Col. Russell Nakaishi, and guest speaker was David Miyoshi. Helen Ota performed the national anthem as well as "God Bless America." (Photo: Bacon Sakatani)

## Polaris Tours 2017 Schedule

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Jul. 10 ~ Jul. 21	Newfoundland & Labrador: "Corner Brook, Rocky Harbour, St. John's"
Sep. 03 ~ Sep. 14	Let's Go Hokkaido: "Sapporo, Sounkyo, Shiretoko, Tomamu, Toyako"
Sep. 17 ~ Sep. 24	Iceland Adventure: "Reykjavik, Borgarnes, Hofn, Lake Jokulsarlon, Vik,"
Sep. 25 ~ Oct. 09	Western Explorer: "Scottsdale, Grand Canyon, Las Vegas, Yosemite"
Oct. 03 ~ Oct. 16	Eastern US & Canada Discovery: "Boston, Quebec City, Toronto, NYC"
Oct. 15 ~ Oct. 24	Autumn Japan: "Tokyo, Takayama, Kanazawa, Kyoto, Hiroshima"
Oct. 29 ~ Nov. 08	Islands of Okinawa & Shikoku: "Naha, Takamatsu, Matsuyama, Kochi"

 Polaris Tours

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www.tourpolaris.com info@tourpolaris.com



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF THE TOPAZ MUSEUM

# TOPAZ MUSEUM TO OFFICIALLY OPEN IN JULY

More than 20 years in the making, the Topaz Museum is set to open officially on July 7-8, with a grand opening celebration that is expected to draw hundreds to the community of Delta, Utah.

The museum tells the story of the 11,000 people of Japanese descent who were sent to the Topaz internment camp near Delta during World War II, unjustly accused of threatening the nation's security.

Grand opening events begin July 7, featuring an evening reception, dinner and program at the Sheraton Hotel in Salt Lake City. Reservations are required by June 26 for the events in Salt Lake City and Delta.

The featured speaker for the July 8 program will be Don Tamaki, an attorney who was on the appeal team for Fred Korematsu, whose case went to the U.S. Supreme Court during the war. Franklin Odo, former director of the Asian Pacific American Program at the Smithsonian Institution and visiting professor at Amherst College, is also scheduled to speak.

The grand opening registration will begin at 9:30 a.m. on July 8 at Delta High School, with the program beginning at 10:30 a.m. Charter buses from Salt Lake City will carry those who order tickets to the Topaz museum.



**Setsuko Ogami (second from right) toured the Topaz Museum's recently completed permanent exhibits with her daughter, Nancy Ogami, in mid-May. Setsuko Ogami, who lives in San Mateo, Calif., was an internee at the Topaz internment camp near Delta, Utah, as a teenager.**

Visitors to Delta will also be able to watch the play "E.O. 9066" by the San Francisco troupe Lunatique Fantastique, as well as tour the museum. Bus tours of the square-mile site of the camp, owned by the museum, will be available. No buildings remain on the site.

The museum is now open to visitors and is operating on summer hours, which are 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Saturday. The museum's 4,000-square-foot gallery chronicles the immigration of Japanese people into the U.S. and their settlement in Utah.

The new museum building was completed in 2014, and it hosted an inaugural

art exhibit in 2015. The permanent exhibits were completed earlier this year.

The daily life of internees is shown in re-created barracks inside the gallery, and one-half of a recreational hall from Topaz is also on display. In addition, the museum has 120 pieces of art, most of it created in Topaz, in its collection, and 25 of them — oils, charcoals, watercolors and block prints — are on display at present.



**Harold Sano of Richmond, Calif., gestures to show where he lived, as a child, in the barracks of Block 35 of the Topaz internment camp near Delta. Sano toured the museum in mid-May.**

More than 110,000 Japanese people living along the West Coast were forced to move to inland camps after President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066 on Feb. 19, 1942.

Topaz, located 16 miles northwest of Delta, was one of 10 such camps. It opened on Sept. 11, 1942, and by the time it closed on Oct. 31, 1945, more than 11,000 people had lived in its tarpaper barracks.

*The Topaz museum is located at 55 W. Main St. in Delta, Utah. For more information about the grand opening, visit <http://www.topazmuseum.org>. To buy tickets, visit Eventbrite or call Austin Ashcraft at (801) 842-9691.*

## FEELINGS >> continued from page 3



**The Japanese American Community Memorial Day Service at the Nisei War Memorial at Denver's Fairmount Cemetery**

What's sad is the raw, naked nationalism reflected in his tweet isn't unique to Terri Frei. It festers with more people than I care to think about. I know that because I wrote about the wave of anti-Japanese social media attacks in the days following the March 11, 2011, earthquake and tsunami that devastated a large swathe of northeast Japan.

The most common comment was that the disaster was God's revenge for Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor at the start of WWII, as if the U.S. bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki didn't count as retribution enough.

Terri Frei made a huge mistake as a public figure who should have given a little thought before he pressed the "Tweet" button. But he's not the only one out there who thinks the same way.

That's the challenge. The problem is much bigger than Terri Frei.

*Gil Asakawa is the Editorial Board Chair for the Pacific Citizen and writes a blog at [www.nikkeiview.com](http://www.nikkeiview.com). He is also the author of "Being Japanese American" (Stone Bridge Press, 2015).*

## BRUYÈRES - THE NISEI'S FIELD OF HONOR



In 1947, the grateful but still ravaged City of Bruyères France built near Hill 555 a simple stone monument in honor of the Americans of Japanese descent who in October 1944 liberated their city from the German invaders. This historically important monument is now showing the effects of its age, exposure to the weather and occasional vandalism. Friends and family of the 100th/442nd RCT seek to renew the monument and add a new memorial element in memory of all those who fought and sacrificed in this heroic effort -- the 100th/442nd RCT, the 522 FAB and the 232 ENG.

The new element is based on the shoulder patch of the 100/442nd RCT. Please see the "Torch" element depicted in the background. With the final design and placement approved by the Mayor and City Council, work will be completed for the rededication ceremony on October 15, 2017. You are invited to attend.

Every penny collected will be used to reimburse the City of Bruyères on a progress basis. None of the contributions will be used for any personal purpose. We are a third of the way to our goal of \$35,000.

Please go to [hill555.org](http://hill555.org) and help push us over the finish line.

Thank you.

This advertisement paid for by donors to the Hill 555 Project.

A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

# CALENDAR

## National

**2017 JACL National Convention**  
Washington, D.C.

**July 6-9**  
**Omni Shoreham Hotel**  
2500 Calvert St. N.W.  
Come join JACL as it hosts its 48th annual National Convention, "Our Story: Resilience, Remembrance, Resolve." The convention's opening reception will feature an exclusive viewing of the Smithsonian's "Righting a Wrong" exhibit, commemorating the 75th anniversary of Executive Order 9066.  
**Info: Visit <https://jacl.org/2017convention/>.**

## NCWNP

**Eden Bazaar 2017**  
**San Lorenzo, CA**  
**June 10 and 11; 3-8 p.m. Sat. and 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Sun.**  
**Eden Japanese Community Center**  
710 Elgin St.

Come and support this year's Eden Bazaar, as the weekend will be filled with delicious food such as chicken and rib dinners, udon, sushi, curry, shave ice, corn, chicken salad and spam musubi, as well as raffle drawings, Bingo and games. It promises to be a weekend of fun for the whole family.  
**Info: Contact Pam Honda at (510) 676-3820 or Ed Oda at (510) 538-6380.**

**AARP Senior Driving Refresher Course**  
**San Francisco, CA**  
**June 15; 1-5 p.m.**  
**JCCNC**

1840 Sutter St.  
**Price: \$15 JCCNC/AARP Members; \$20 general public; limited to 16 students**  
This seminar, presented by JCCNC and AARP, is AARP's Smart Driver Course for drivers age 50+. This four-hour class is for those who have already taken the eight-hour class and are in need of updating their certificate (every three years). Graduates may be able to qualify for a discount on auto insurance.  
**Info: Contact Matt Okada, director of programs, at (415) 567-5505.**

**Seventh Annual Northern California Soy and Tofu Festival**  
**San Francisco, CA**  
**June 17; 11 a.m.-5 p.m.**  
**The Event Center at St. Mary's Cathedral**  
1111 Gough St. (at Geary Boulevard)  
**Price: \$10 advance purchase/\$15 at the door (Buy three, get one free)**  
This exciting culinary and cultural event showcases soy and tofu vendors, free samples, cooking demonstrations, live music, cultural entertainment, interactive games, tofu-eating contests and the Soy and Tofu Dessert Competition. This year's lineup

also includes appearances and performances by G Yamazawa, Trace Repeat, San Jose Taiko and much more.  
**Info: Visit [www.soyandtofu.org](http://www.soyandtofu.org).**

## PSW

**'Growing Up Sansei'**  
**Oxnard, CA**  
**June 17; 1:30-4:30 p.m.**  
**Oxnard Buddhist Temple**  
250 S. H St.  
**Price: Donation \$15**

"Growing Up Sansei" is a community event and dialogue about Japanese American upbringing. The event is presented by the Ventura County JACL in partnership with the Grateful Crane Ensemble. "GUS" combines a live play reading and a community dialogue/Q & A session facilitated by Satsuki Ina, a Northern California-based psychotherapist who specializes in cross-cultural counseling and trauma.  
**Info: Email [venturacountyjacl@hotmail.com](mailto:venturacountyjacl@hotmail.com) or call (805) 469-5487.**

**'Hold These Truths' by Jeanne Sakata**  
**Pasadena, CA**  
**Thru June 25**  
**Pasadena Playhouse**  
39 S. El Molino Ave.

Produced in association with East West Players, this play, directed by Jessica Kubzansky and written by Jeanne Sakata, follows the true story of civil rights hero Gordan Hirabayashi.  
**Info: Visit [pasadenaplayhouse.org](http://pasadenaplayhouse.org) or call (626) 356-7529.**

**Miso Made Easy**  
**Los Angeles, CA**  
**June 25; 10 a.m.-3 p.m.**  
**Japanese American Cultural & Community Center**  
Garden Room  
244 S. San Pedro St.  
**Price: Demonstration \$20 (10-11 a.m.); Hands-On Class \$95 (1-3 p.m.)**

In this class, a collaboration between the JACCC and the Institute of Domestic Technology, participants will learn how to make miso, as well as a simple dashi stock from scratch. Join Instructor Yoko Lamn, a County of Los Angeles Certified Master Food Preserver and instructor at the Institute of Domestic Technology.  
**Info: Tickets are available at [www.jaccc.org](http://www.jaccc.org).**

**The Stonebridge Rhythm and Blues Fest**  
**Redondo Beach, CA**  
**July 23**  
**Redondo Beach Performing Arts Center**  
1935 Manhattan Beach Blvd.  
**Tickets: From \$35**

This concert proudly supports the Medal of Honor Memorial, which will be placed at Abraham Lincoln High School to honor Sadao Munemori, a U.S. Army soldier and posthumous recipient of the

Medal of Honor, who was killed in service during World War II. Munemori is an Abraham Lincoln HS alumnus who graduated in 1940. Help support this effort by purchasing tickets to this concert, which is being presented by Ishibashi Entertainment Group.  
**Info: To purchase tickets, visit [www.purplepass.com/ishibashi](http://www.purplepass.com/ishibashi) or call (800) 316-8559. Please use code LHS.**

## MDC

**Twin Cities JACL Afternoon at '365 Days/365 Plays'**  
**June 11; 2-4 p.m. (Show runs from May 26-June 11)**  
**St. Paul, MN**  
**Penumbra Theater**  
270 N. Kent St.

**Price: \$10 each (regular price \$25; seniors/students \$10)**  
Full Circle Theater artistic co-directors and JACL members Rick Shiomi and Martha B. Johnson invite JACL members to enjoy a matinee performance of "365 Days/365 Plays," which intertwines 46 short plays selected from Suzan-Lori Parks' original play as viewed through a 2017 lens. The play addresses past and current issues using a racially mixed cast playing multiple roles. Postplay discussions follow every performance.  
**Info: Visit [www.fullcircletheatermn.org](http://www.fullcircletheatermn.org) or call (800) 838-3006. To reserve tickets, use "JACL" code for online reservations at [www.365days365plays.bpt.me](http://www.365days365plays.bpt.me) or contact Cheryl Hirata-Dulas at (952) 925-2429 or [dulas001@msn.com](mailto:dulas001@msn.com) by June 6. JACL discount applies to all shows.**

## PNW

**'New Years All Year Round'**  
**Seattle, WA**  
**Thru June 18**  
**Wing Luke Museum**  
719 S. King St.

Asian Pacific Islander Americans come from many communities, each with its own New Year's celebration. Come see featured celebrations from the Chinese, Laotian and Polynesian American communities, along with the Indian American Festival of Lights.  
**Info: Visit [www.wingluke.org](http://www.wingluke.org).**

## IDC

**Architecture of Japanese Internment: Oregon Exhibit**  
**Ontario, OR**  
**Thru July 27**  
**Harano Gallery**  
Four Rivers Cultural Center  
676 S.W. Fifth Ave.  
**Price: Free**

This traveling exhibit explores how Oregonians participated in the decision to incarcerate Japanese Americans and Japanese immigrants during World War II. This inaugural exhibit shows the opinions leading up to the incarceration, 1941-42, with letters, resolutions, blueprints, photos and archival documents from across Oregon. Malheur County was the site

of the first Japanese American farm labor camp. A number of documents from Ontario can also be seen in the exhibit.  
**Info: Call (541) 889-8191.**

## CCDC

**Lantern Making Workshop**  
**Fresno, CA**  
**June 23 and 24; 1:30-4 p.m. Fri. and 9:30 a.m.-Noon Sat.**  
**California State University, Fresno**  
**Henry Madden Library**  
5200 Barton Ave.

**Price: \$28; registration limited to 12 each class, sign up by June 16**  
Shining a light on remembrance, join artist Judy Shintani as she guides participants in this lantern workshop focused around celebration and the remembrance of loved ones. It is open to adults and children (10+ with parental supervision), and no prior art experience is necessary. Participants can also bring photos (not larger than 3.5x3") to place on the lanterns.  
**Info: Visit [www.judyshintani.com](http://www.judyshintani.com) or email [judyshintani@yahoo.com](mailto:judyshintani@yahoo.com).**

## EDC

**Mikio Yoshimura: 'Japan and the Red Sox, a View From Inside'**  
**Boston, MA**  
**June 13; Noon-1 p.m.**  
**Japan Society of Boston**  
Meridian Room  
50 Milk St., 5th Floor

Japan Society of Boston presents a Brown Bag Luncheon featuring Mikio Yoshimura, Asian business development specialist for the Boston Red Sox, who will share stories about how the Red Sox and Fenway have worked with Japan over the years. Mikio has been with the baseball organization since 2007. Bring your lunch and join in on the conversation.  
**Info: To register, visit <http://www.japansocietyboston.org/event-2550095>.**

**Seabrook JACL 70th Anniversary Banquet**  
**Vineland, N.J.**  
**July 16; 12:30 p.m.**

**Ramada Inn**  
**2216 W. Landis Ave.**  
**Price: Early bird registration \$50 until June 28**

Join the Seabrook JACL chapter at its annual awards banquet, where the chapter will commemorate its 70th anniversary and celebrate city's rich history, where more than 2,500 Japanese Americans relocated to start new lives following the end of World War II. The Hon. Norman Mineta will receive the inaugural John Fuyume Citizenship Award and John Seabrook, author and writer for New Yorker magazine, will also be a featured guest speaker.  
**Info: To register and support this event, visit <http://www.seabrookeducation.org/>.**

**FDR Library's Images of Internment Exhibition**  
**Hyde Park, NY**  
**Thru Dec. 31**  
**FDR Presidential Library & Museum**  
4079 Albany Post Road  
**Price: Regular hours and admission apply.**

This exhibit provides a visual record of the forced removal of Japanese Americans during WWII and displays more than 200 photographs by WRA photographers Dorothea Lange, Clem Albers, Francis Stewart and Hikaru Iwasaki from the National Archives. The exhibition also features photographs taken by Ansel Adams at Manzanar and a selection of photos from the WSU George and Frank C. Hirahara photo collection of Heart Mountain.  
**Info: Visit <https://fdrlibrary.org/exhibitions> or call (800) FDR-VISIT.**

## ADVERTISE HERE

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

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

Please come to the reading and discussion of **Garage Door Opener:** Soji Kashiwagi's play about a dysfunctional JA family Sansei baby boomers dread going through deceased parents' garage!



**Saturday, June 17, 2017**  
**1:30pm - 4:30pm**

**Oxnard Buddhist Temple Social Hall**  
250 South H Street, Oxnard

**After the reading, Dr. Satsuki Ina will facilitate dialogue about the play.**

**Donation: \$15 (reading and discussion)**  
**Reserve seat now: [venturacountyjacl@hotmail.com](mailto:venturacountyjacl@hotmail.com)**  
**805-469-5487**

# IN MEMORIAM

**Aizawa, Amey, 94**, San Francisco, CA; April 23; she is survived by her siblings, Lily Kuwamoto, Elaine Higashi and Katsumi (Bonnie) Yamane; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

**Azuma, George, 88**, Los Angeles, CA; May 5; he is survived by his children, Cynthia (Lee) Knight, Fredrick Azuma, Julia Azuma and Carole (Natsuchika) Aboshi; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 5.

**Chow, Jeffrey W., 85**, Hacienda Heights, CA; May 18; he is survived by his wife, Sarah; children, Gary (Margo) Shon, Alvin (Linda) Shon and Joanne (Glenn) Itagaki; gc: 6; ggc: 2.

**Furuta, Carl Kenichi, 83**, Manhattan Beach, CA; April 26; he is survived by his wife, Sally; son, Ken; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

**Hirose, Hatsumi, 73**, Grapevine, TX; May 13; she is survived by her daughter, Tina (Michael) Brown; Mas Fujinami, Paul Fujinami, Don Fujinami and Fujiko Fujinami; she is also survived by several nieces, a nephew and other relatives; gc: 2.

**Ito, Philip Noel, 71**, Pasadena, CA; May 17; he is survived by his wife, Barbara; daughters, Leslie (Steven Wong) and Noelle (Cliff Okada) Ito; sister, Patty Ito Nagano; he is also survived by several nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 3.

**Ishimitsu, Yoshiko (Yo), 85**, Seattle, WA; May 17; she was predeceased by her husband, Kiyoo; she is survived by her children, Steve (Diane), Gayle (Ricky) Taira, Roger (Laynette) and Carol (Fred) Demise; gc: 7.

**Kanai, Noritoshi, 94**, Los Angeles, CA; April 22; he is survived by his wife, Fusako; children, Scott Hiroto (Taeko) Kanai and Atsuko Kanai; gc: 3.

**Kamida, Robert Eiichi 'Bob,' 96**, Portland, OR; May 24; he is survived by his wife, Setsuko; daughter, Kathy Fuerstenau; gc: 2.

**Kashiwabara, Jean Kazue, 74**, San Gabriel, CA; May 8; she is survived by her husband, Shuji Kashiwabara; daughters, Cindy and Jessica Kashiwabara; she is also survived by nieces, a nephew and other relatives.

**Kuwada, June Itsuko, 96**, Granada Hills, CA; April 26; she is survived by her son, Kevin (Mary)

Kuwada; sisters, Helen (Steve) Sako and Esther Sakata; she is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 1.

**Kobata, Haruko, 101**, Tustin, CA; May 16; she is survived by her children, Roger (Grace) Kobata, Sharon (Charles) Wakamoto and Linda (Gary) Yamauchi; siblings, Aiko Wada and Sumifusa (Kiyoo Anne) Fujimoto; she is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 7; ggc: 16.

**Matsumiya, Tomiye, 92**, Culver City, CA; May 17; she is survived by her children, Don (Yayoi) Matsumiya, Terry Matsumiya, Suzanne (James Allen) Matsumiya; sister, Sumie Dohara; she is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2.

**Matsuoka, Paul, 82**, Culver City, CA; May 13; he is survived by his wife, Jane; children, Myles Riki (Akemi) Matsuoka and Donna Matsuoka; sister, Mae Fukunaga; he is also survived by nieces, nephews and cousins; gc: 2.

**Matsutani, Hatsuko 'Hatsie,' 92**, Walnut Creek, CA; May 9; she was predeceased by her husband, George.

**Martinez, Louise Hanako, 70**, Sacramento, CA; April 15; she was predeceased by her husband, Felix, and step-son, Albert; she is survived by her mother, Yoshiko Marion; siblings,

Robert, Susan (Danny) and Frances (Yoshito); uncle, Masato; aunts, Chiyome, Georgia and Nancy; several cousins.

**Mayeno, James 'Jim' Minoru, 91**, April 30; during WWII, he was incarcerated at the Minidoka WRA Center in Idaho and later served in the MIS during the occupation of Japan; he is survived by his wife, Mary; children, John (Shari), Susan Kaeka (Alika) and Glen (Sarah Davis); siblings, Art, Dorothy and Nancy; gc: 4.

**McLaughlin, Toshiko 'Lola,' 83**, Lodi, CA; May 23; she was predeceased by her husband, Richard; children, Linda Wolfe and James (Marlene); gc: 3.

**Mulholland, Machiko, 78**, Saratoga, CA; May 23; she is survived by her husband, Fred.

**Naganuma, George, 87**, San Francisco, CA; May 21; during WWII, he was incarcerated at the Gila River WRA Center in Ariz.; he is survived by his wife, Mary; children, Gary (Debbie), Richard (Maureen) and Kenneth (Suzanne), Kathleen and Claudine (Joel); stepchildren, Glenn (Karen), Judith and Ruth (Ken); sister, Jean Shigematsu; gc: 6; step-gc: 4.

**Nishimoto, Yoshio, 84**, Los Angeles, CA; May 1; he is survived by his wife, Yoshiko; sons, Rei and Dan; daughter-in-law, Barbara

Palley; gc: 1.

**Paul, Tomiko Sato, 98**, Morgan Hill, CA; May 3; she is survived by her daughter, Kathi; son-in-law, Don; sister, Hisako Ohno; a nephew; gc: 3.

**Shimazu, Bertha Yoneko, 89**, Torrance, CA; May 24; she is survived by her children, Robert (Esther) Shimazu and Carol Shimazu; she is also survived by several nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2; ggc: 2.

**Tamaki, Mary Akiko, 91**, Vale, OR; May 16; she was predeceased by her husband, "Sonny" Yoshio Takami and son, Wayne; she is survived by her daughters, Janet (Steve) Koda, Janis (James) Couey and Carol (Roger) Tolman; siblings, Robert Ouchida and Rosie Kuroye; she is also survived by many nephews and nieces; gc: 6; ggc: 4.

**Tsujimoto, Ernest Kiyoshi, 82**, Torrance, CA; May 10; he is survived by his wife, Jeanne Michiko Tsujimoto; children, Craig Tsujimoto and Kim Kiyoko (Kevin Hamer) Tsujimoto; gc: 2.

**Yamamoto, James Isamu**, Sacramento, CA; May 4; he is survived by his wife, Suzie; daughter, Sasha Yamamoto; siblings, Ann Goto, Fusako Nakano and Katsumi Yamamoto; he is also survived by several nephews and nieces. ■

TRIBUTE

**GEORGE TORU HIGASHI**



George Toru Higashi, 91, of Salinas passed away on May 17, 2017. He was born on June 17, 1925, in Inglewood, Calif., to Iso and Gozaemon Higashi.

Son of Japanese immigrants, George began a long career in the agricultural business in Inglewood, Calif. Under Executive Order 9066, the family moved to Brighton, Colo., where they continued farming during World War II. In 1949, the family set roots in the Salinas Valley, where they began farming 38 acres on Carr Lake, George's final residence. George spent over 70 years in the agricultural business, farming in Inglewood, Calif., Brighton, Colo., the San Joaquin Valley and throughout the Salinas Valley. In 2001, he was recognized by the United States Department of Agriculture for his contributions to American Agriculture.

George enjoyed traveling all over the world — often visiting places more than once, growing his own summer garden and spending time with his grandchildren. George was a board member of the Salinas Valley Japanese American Citizens League and Yamato Cemetery. He was also a supporter of many organizations, including the Japanese American National Museum, National Japanese American Memorial Foundation, Lincoln Avenue Presbyterian Church, Chartwell School and the Salinas Buddhist Temple. He was a founding member of the UC Davis Chancellor's Club.

George was preceded in death by his daughter, Carolyn Higashi; parents, Iso and Gozaemon Higashi; his sister, Kazuko Fushimi; and his brothers, Noburo Higashi and Shiro Higashi.

He leaves behind his wife of 63 years, Janice Higashi; sons, Gary Higashi and Kenneth Higashi (Lyn); daughter, Shari Higashi; and grandchildren, Megan Higashi, Gregory Higashi and Douglas Higashi, as well as numerous family members.

Memorials may be made to Salinas Valley Japanese American Citizens League and/or Yamato Cemetery.

A memorial service will be held at 1 p.m. on June 24 at the Buddhist Temple of Salinas, 14 California St., Salinas, CA 93901.

TRIBUTE

**RALPH SUGIMOTO, JR.**



Ralph Sugimoto, Jr., 75, was born on Nov. 12, 1941, in Sacramento, Calif. He was the son of Ralph Takao Sr. and Elizabeth Yoshiko Sugimoto. After battling with pancreatic cancer for nearly two years, Ralph passed away peacefully on May 25. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Pearl; daughter, Stefanie Abdelnour; and her three children, Kyle, Kevin and Kyra; and son, Douglas, and daughter-in-law, Isabelle, and their three

children, Madeline, Mason and Marie.

Shortly after birth, Ralph was relocated along with his family to the Amache internment camp in southeastern Colorado. After the war, his family returned to Walnut Grove, Calif., where Ralph attended Courtland High School and was an active member of the Walnut Grove Buddhist Church. He graduated from California State University, Sacramento, in 1963 with a degree in accounting, then began working for the Office of the Auditor General. From 1964-66, he served with the U.S. Army, attaining the rank of Sergeant (E-5). He joined the accounting firm of Pfanner & Tate in 1974 and became a partner shortly thereafter; in 1989, he joined the original partners of Pfanner & Tate as a founding member of the accounting firm of Tate, Propp, Beggs & Sugimoto (tpbs, LLP). Ralph served tirelessly as an officer and director of many civic and charitable organizations serving the Asian American community, including the Japanese American Citizens League, the Asian Community Center, the Sacramento Aichi Kenjin Kai and the Matsuyama-Sacramento Sister City Corp. He served as president, treasurer and auditor of the Sacramento Betsuin Church and president and treasurer of the Buddhist Churches of America. Ralph loved to golf, dine out, watch sports, travel, meet people and take his wife, Pearl, to Tahoe, Reno and Las Vegas. He was a lifelong fan of the San Francisco Giants, San Francisco 49ers and the Sacramento Kings.

Ralph was preceded in death by his father, Ralph Sr.; mother, Elizabeth; and sister, Jane. He also leaves behind his step-mother, Hiroko Sugimoto; sisters, Judy (William) Young and Ruby Sugimoto; and step-brother, Dennis Matsuno. Loving Uncle to Will (Mary) Young, Kim (Fabrice) Bellini, Beth Young, Tim (Linda) Young and Kenji Matsuno.

**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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**REMEMBRANCE >> continued from page 4**

The event's keynote speaker, Dale Minami, was introduced by Peggy Nagae. Nagae worked alongside Minami during the long fight to overturn the cases of Fred Korematsu, Gordon Hirabayashi and Yasui that upheld E.O. 9066.

For Minami, his work was not just about winning in court, but also about educating the public. During the original cases of Korematsu, Hirabayashi and Yasui, government lawyers lied to the Supreme Court. People like Gen. DeWitt falsified information to make it seem as though people of Japanese descent living in America perpetrated acts of sabotage and espionage against the U.S., when in fact, no such acts ever occurred. The overturning of the original decisions in these cases brought light to what truly transpired.

Minami recounted the preparation it took to retry these three cases, how he convinced Yasui that the decision could be overturned and his realization about how courageous these three individuals were to stand up to and speak out against E.O. 9066. He then reminded the audience that descent does not make one nonpatriotic.

"We have a moral obligation to speak out for the rights of all people," Minami said.

Weston Koyama, the first Minoru Yasui Fellow, followed Minami's keynote speech. Koyama spoke of the struggles

many Japanese Americans faced to find their place in a society that often asks them, "Where are you from?"

To find his own place, Koyama worked with the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center to look into his family history. He found 100 letters that were written by his grandfather and grandmother while in camp; these letters gave him insight into their experiences during a tumultuous time.

Through his research, Koyama discovered that out of tragedy, great things can happen. After camp, people like Yasui continued to fight injustice and became inspirational for young law students like Koyama. In fact, Koyama's research into his past brought him to the realization that Nikkei people do not need to be defined by oppression, but rather by pride in the resiliency and hope they carry for their future.

Other prominent guests at the event included Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR), who reminded the audience that he is fighting alongside the Japanese American community to make sure that atrocities like the internment never happen again. A representative from Sen. Jeff Merkley's (D-OR) office read a letter from the senator in honor of the day. And Tom Hughes, president of Metro, read the formal apology to the Internees written by Gov. Kate Brown. The proclamation stated that what happened to the Japanese

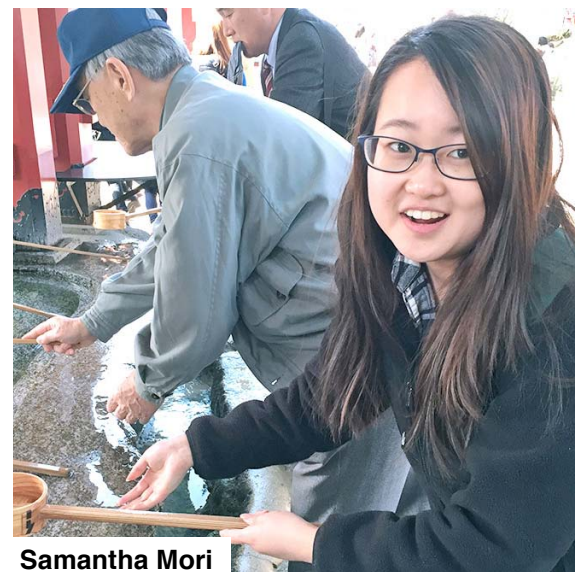
community will never happen again to anyone.

The program came to a close with the "Remember Us" processional. Chisao Hata, a Portland artist, art teacher and performer, created a tag project in memory of all the internees at the Portland Assembly Center. Hata was inspired by the African saying that as long as someone's name is mentioned, they will always be here.

To remember the name of each internee, Hata spent hundreds of hours on the project and held events throughout the city where community members wrote the names and family numbers of each internee on a tag, similar to those given to internees when they arrived at the center. Each tag was tied to a rope and displayed as an art piece.

The entire rope was carried down the aisle, accompanied by Unit Souzou, one of Portland's premier taiko companies. The rope spanned the entire length of the stage as a reminder of the 3,676 people who were forcibly removed from their homes and interned in the very place where the audience was gathered.

As actor Heath Hyun Houghton read the final words that Yasui wrote in the *Evacuzette*, "Faith in Conviction," the rope stayed onstage as a reminder of each internee. And with the resonance of the taiko drums, the presence of those 3,676 men, women and children whose lives were forever altered on May 6, 1942, filled the space. ■

**CONVENTION >> continued from page 5**

**Samantha Mori**

First, the discounted early bird registration deadline is June 4. Second, room rates at the Omni Shoreham Hotel have been cut to an incredibly low rate of \$110/night. This is an exceptionally low price, especially for a four-star hotel that has been ranked by U.S. News as one of the best hotels in Washington, D.C.

I look forward to welcoming and seeing you all in Washington, D.C.! To register, visit <https://jacl.org/2017convention/>.

*Samantha Mori is a third-year student at the University of Virginia, member of the JACL D.C. Chapter, a January 2016 Kakehashi Participant and current staff member of the 2017 JACL Convention Committee*

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