



# PACIFIC CITIZEN

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## VIEWPOINT



## Reflections From Manzanar

By Lisa Doi

The exhibit at the Manzanar National Historic Site Interpretive Center opens by saying, “Every person whose life was affected by Manzanar has their own story, in their own words,” and it asks its audience, “What does Manzanar mean to

history? What does Manzanar mean to me?”

I do not really have answers. I do not think I ever will. But for now, I do have some thoughts.

One of the problems with history is that nothing really happens in a discreet, chronological progression the way I learned in school. Events happen in the context of those before them and have effects long after the specific incident is over. The internment did not begin with the bombing of Pearl Harbor. It happened because there was an entrenched system of discrimination and oppression that was built against Asians and Asian Americans living on the West Coast. The internment did not end in 1944 when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled on the (Mitsuye) Endo case or with the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.

Really, it is *not* over.

It is not over because the internment changed my grandparents' lives forever. Undoubtedly, it made them reconsider themselves, reconstruct their identities and rebuild their lives. This history constructed my mother. This history constructed me. This history is the reason why 10 college students flew halfway across the country and walked through a barren desert to try and make meaning of what was left behind.

What was left behind in this expansive valley that confined so many souls? Nothing really. Stones that marked where doorways once stood; concrete slabs that served as foundations; spigots that pumped water

into this city of 11,000; a white obelisk to mourn the lost.

But what if more was left behind? What if, in addition to the physical bits of memory, something greater lurked in that desert? What if I found at Manzanar a renewed commitment to preserve the values, tenants and beliefs of my country — things that were so terribly lost during the internment?

Also in the Manzanar Interpretive Center is this quote by Charles Evans Hughes, chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court from 1930-41: “You may think the Constitution is your security — it is nothing but a piece of paper . . . it is nothing at all, unless you have sound and uncorrupted public opinion.”

You need people, lots of them, who are willing to stand up for the Constitution. But that is a difficult thing because in my world, the Constitution is a living document that needs questioning and refreshing. What I like most about the Constitution is that it calls to “form a more perfect union.” It is one of the few things I believe completely. In spite of setbacks, establishing justice, promoting the general welfare and ensuring the blessings of liberty — we, America, will achieve more.

That is a powerful idea.

But one of the other things I believe completely is that what happened to my family during World War II could happen again, today.

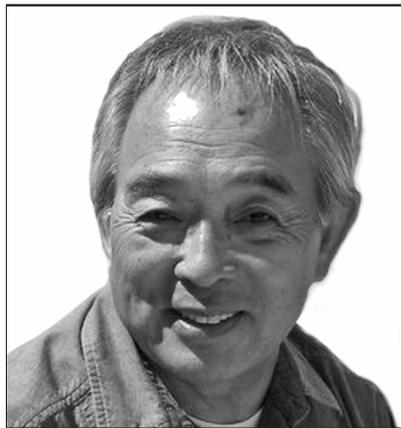
This is a country that has been, but is increasingly becoming, divided. More us vs. them. Whether it's the left vs. the right, the 99% vs. the 1%, America vs. Russia or Mexico or China — too much is built from fear.

That is a powerful idea, too.

But that is not the way to build a strong nation; that is not the way to see yourself in others; that is not what develops empathy or understanding. It's not the way to move forward.

>> See MANZANAR on page 5

## FOR THE RECORD



## Saying What Matters

By John Tateishi

Being a San Francisco Giants fan, I loved the entire postseason this year: the way in which the Giants beat the odds when they were down two games against the Cincinnati Reds (sorry Cincy chapter!) in a best-of-five series; and again,

the way they came back from three games down against an awesome St. Louis Cardinals team (sorry St. Louis chapter!) to win a decisive seven-game series to get into the World Series.

The rest, as they say, is history, and sorry Detroit chapter!

I loved every moment of the postseason, but I can't really say what my favorite series moment was as I could in the 2010 season when the Giants won the World Series against the Texas Rangers.

This year, I have a number of “best moments” in my memory: timely hits, a signature home run, great defensive plays and solid pitching by two storybook veterans — one a former franchise player who didn't even make the postseason roster in 2010 but who went up against arguably the best pitcher in baseball and emerged victorious; the other a journeyman pitcher who was originally drafted by the Giants but was traded and shuffled off to play in the minors, Venezuela and Japan for a dozen years before making his way back to the team in 2011 to become one of the best pitchers in professional baseball this year.

And among those images, there's the Mexican American guy — a diminutive, sometimes goofy-looking character in the dugout with a pitch-black beard and a slider that everyone knows is coming but no one can hit.

I'm talking about Sergio Romo, a San Francisco fan favorite who became the Giants' closer this year and gets a standing ovation whenever he walks onto the field to finish off a game.

But one of my favorite moments of the season didn't happen on the field but down San Francisco's Market Street in the World Series Parade three days after the Giants won the Fall Classic.

You could hear the crowd cheering him on as he approached. Yells of “Romo” were deafening.

And there was Romo, sitting on the back of a convertible, wearing a black T-shirt with the following words printed in bold, white letters: **“I JUST LOOK ILLEGAL.”**

It was perfect. Romo, with a mischievous grin on his face as he pointed to the words on his T-shirt, making sure everyone saw it. Romo, this Mexican kid from just north of the border, making a social statement in a great moment of celebration and turning that moment into something meaningful for him — he earned an even louder cheer from the crowd for what he was saying by his defiance.

No, Romo wasn't going to be like all the other players who wore their gray 2012 World Series Champion T-shirts and sweatshirts and their gray 2012 World Series caps.

Black cap turned backward, black T-shirt: **I JUST LOOK ILLEGAL.**

It was perfect in so many ways. It said it all, this Mexican guy whom Giants fans love and admire and who looks like every other Latino walking the streets of America. In Los Angeles or New York City, people wouldn't know Romo from any other Latino.

In Phoenix, Romo would be vulnerable because he does look like any other Latino.

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## HOW TO REACH US

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The **Pacific Citizen** newspaper (ISSN: 0030-8579) is published semi-monthly (except once in December and January) by the Japanese American Citizens League, *Pacific Citizen*.

250 E. 1st Street, Suite 301, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Periodical postage paid at L.A., CA

**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to National JACL, 1765 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94115

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**Nat'l Director Emeritus:** Floyd Mori

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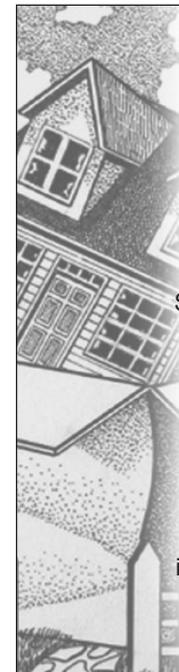
Periodicals paid at Los Angeles, Calif. and mailing office.

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# National JACL Kicks Off 2013 Scholarship Program

The JACL announces its National Scholarship and Awards Program for the 2013 academic year. The JACL annually offers approximately 30 college scholarships for students who are incoming college freshmen, undergraduates and graduates, as well as those specializing in law or the creative/performing arts. There also is a scholarship for those in need of financial aid in this time of rising tuition costs.

A scholarship program brochure and applications for 2013 can be found on the JACL website ([www.jacl.org](http://www.jacl.org)) under the "Youth" heading on the menu bar. The National JACL Scholarship Program requires that all applicants be a student or individual member of the JACL. JACL membership under a parent will not fulfill this requirement.

Freshman applications must be submitted directly by the applicant to his/her local chapter by March 1. For those students who require an address for their chapter, contact the JACL Membership Department ([mbr@jacl.org](mailto:mbr@jacl.org)) or call (415) 921-5225.

JACL chapters then have one month to screen the freshman applications and forward them to the National JACL Freshman Scholarship Committee, c/o Salt Lake City JACL, P.O. Box 584, Salt Lake City, UT 84110. There is no limit to the number of applications a chapter may forward for consideration. Freshman applications must be postmarked by April 1 to be considered.

Applications for other scholarship categories (undergraduate, graduate, law, creative/performing arts and student aid) must be sent directly by the applicant to the National JACL Scholarship Committee, c/o Washington, D.C., JACL, 5406 Uppingham St., Chevy Chase, MD 20815. Applications must be postmarked by April 1 to be considered.

For more information on the National JACL Scholarship Program, contact Patty Wada, regional director, at [jacl-ncwnpro@msn.com](mailto:jacl-ncwnpro@msn.com) or Jason Chang, National JACL vp for planning & development,

## Congress Welcomes Newly Elected AAPIs



Newly elected AAPI members to serve in the 113th U.S. Congress include (from left) Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii), Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), Tulsi Gabbard (D-Hawaii), Grace Meng (D-NY) and Mark Takano (D-CA).

By P.C. Staff

Five new AAPIs were elected to serve in the 113th U.S. Congress on Nov. 6; at press time, one race remained too close to call. The results from this election mark the largest group of AAPI members in any single congressional session.

Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii) becomes the first Asian American woman to serve in the U.S. Senate. Other congressional winners include Representative-elect Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), Representative-elect Tulsi Gabbard (D-Hawaii), Representative-elect Grace Meng (D-NY) and Representative-elect Mark Takano (D-CA).

"The election of 2012 is historical in the sense of the number of AAPI candidates and the impact of AAPI voters in swing states," said Floyd Mori, incoming interim president and CEO of the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies. "APAICS welcomes this overwhelming participation and welcomes the new AAPI members of Congress. This election broadens the pipeline for future participation by new candidates for all elected offices."

Hirono becomes the first Asian American woman to serve in the U.S. Senate. Duckworth and Meng will be the first Asian Americans to represent their states of Illinois and New York, respectively; Duckworth also is the first Asian American woman combat (wounded) veteran to serve in the House. Gabbard is the first Hindu ever to be elected into the House. And Takano becomes the first openly gay Asian American to serve in Congress.

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Apr. 09 ~ Apr. 21	Beautiful South Korea
Apr. 19 ~ Apr. 28	Holland & Luxembourg & Belgium
May 12 ~ May 22	Along the Japan Sea Coast: "Sado Island to Fukuoka"
May 17 ~ May 28	Northern Spain
May 18 ~ Jun. 02	Ireland & Scotland
Mar. or Apr. or May	Summer Las Vegas: Show: TBA
Jun. 21 ~ Jun. 29	Cape Cod & The Islands: "Nantucket, Martha's Vineyard, Newport"
Jul. 03 ~ Jul. 12	Japan By Train: Hiroshima, Kurashiki, Okayama, Kyoto, Tokyo
Sep. 09 ~ Sep. 20	Tohoku & Hokkaido: "Simplistic & Natural Beauty"
Sep. 20 ~ Oct. 02	England & Wales & Scotland
Oct. 04 ~ Oct. 08	Albuquerque Balloon Fiesta
Oct. 09 ~ Oct. 18	Treasures of Tuscany & Provence: "France & Italy, Plus Monaco"
Oct. 19 ~ Oct. 31	Chilean Fjords & Patagonia & Easter Island
Oct. 21 ~ Oct. 30	Autumn Japan: "Hiroshima, Kyoto, Kanazawa, Takayama, Tokyo"
Nov. 06 ~ Nov. 22	Kii Peninsula & Shikoku & Okinawa: "Koyasan, Kii Katsuura"
Nov. or Dec.	Winter Las Vegas: Show: TBA

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# GO ON FUNNY LADY SUZY NAKAMURA TALKS COMEDY THERAPY

Japanese American actress Suzy Nakamura says she grew up with the *Pacific Citizen* always being around in her Chicago home.

By Nalea J. Ko  
Reporter

Chicago native Suzy Nakamura first tested out her comedy material in the classroom and at the dinner table to get her older brother in trouble.

With ambitions to be a theater actress, Nakamura auditioned and earned a spot touring with the improv sketch-comedy troupe the Second City, which boasts famous alumni such as John Belushi, Stephen Colbert and Bill Murray.

From there, Nakamura headed to Hollywood where she appeared on such TV shows as TNT's "The Closer" and HBO's "Curb Your Enthusiasm."

Now living in Los Angeles, Nakamura plays Yolanda, who is described as a tightly wound sycophant, on the NBC TV show "Go On." The show follows a motley ensemble of characters, lead by Matthew Perry, who all find themselves in a grief-counseling group.

The *Pacific Citizen* caught up with Nakamura on her day off from work to talk about her new gig.



Suzy Nakamura (center) stars as Yolanda on NBC's hit comedy "Go On."

**Was the role of Yolanda originally written for an Asian American?**

**Suzy Nakamura:** No. Most of the roles I go out for aren't specifically written for Asian Americans. My agent and my manager have been really good for the past 15 years of just ignoring physical descriptions [laughs].

**You seem to have fun with Yolanda's character. Do you like playing flawed characters?**

**Nakamura:** I do. I think most character actors [enjoy] playing flawed characters because it's interesting.

**In real life, are you quirky like Yolanda?**

**Nakamura:** Oh, my God! No one can be objective about themselves. Actors generally are pretty nuts [laughs], which is the reason they're doing it in the first place.

**I know your family lived in Chicago. Were they interned during World War II?**

**Nakamura:** My dad was interned in Northern California with his family. He had four brothers and sisters. My mother was interned in Idaho with her family. She had five brothers and sisters. And my grandfather on my mother's side was actually interned in New Mexico, I think.

**Did they tell you stories about their experience?**

**Nakamura:** Yeah, it was part of their childhood. So, a normal conversation would be my mom talking to her sisters saying, 'Oh, yeah, I remember that from camp,' or 'Do you know this person? We met them in camp.' It was almost like referring to a school they went to or a city they lived in.

**The characters on 'Go On' make light of their problems. Did your family cope with tragedy in the same way? Or are you the only funny one?**

**Nakamura:** I think both my parents were very, very funny. My mother had a very dry, sharp sense of humor. And my dad had a very jokey, cunning kind of humor.

**So, your family didn't hide their problems.**

**Nakamura:** [My parents] were both very open. So, when we did talk about something — like if our cat died or if they were trying to relate something to us as children — they were very honest about it. I think that forms comedy: truth.

**Comedy therapy is better than ending up in a grief-counseling group like Yolanda.**

**Nakamura:** Yeah. And both my parents passed away like

17 or 18 years ago. My mother died of cancer, and my dad had a heart attack. They died within a year of each other.

**Did you cope with that through comedy?**

**Nakamura:** I did, actually. I'm also from the Midwest, and I consider myself to possess a Midwestern work ethic. I wanted to work right after they died.

I would do shows with Second City, and I remember my mother's memorial was on a Tuesday, and I went back onstage doing shows on Wednesday night.

**I'm looking at your IMDB bio and you consistently work. You never take a break.**

**Nakamura:** I like to work. It's hard as an actor because the jobs are few and far between. So, if I'm not shooting something, I like to do something onstage. There's a theater in Hollywood called Fake Gallery where I do shows. It keeps me happy.

**You're also working on a couple of films, right?**

**Nakamura:** I just finished 'Afternoon Delight,' which is an independent from Jill Soloway; that was really fun.

**Matthew Perry is the star of 'Go On.' But every actor is bringing something to the table.**

**Nakamura:** I'm glad that's coming across. Ensemble is thrown around [laughs] in television. But I think it really means that everyone is working together to make the other person look good.

**So, you're all not fighting for the spotlight?**

**Nakamura:** To see Matthew Perry really try and make someone else's joke better is just heartwarming [laughs].

**Do you get recognized on the streets now?**

**Nakamura:** I went to a restaurant fairly recently and this was when all the 'Go On' billboards were all over the city. I was actually in the restaurant and the waitress looked at me and she goes, 'Heyyyyy! You go to Food Lab, don't you?' I said, 'Yeah, I do.' She goes, 'I waited on you.' She recognized me from another restaurant [laughs].

**It wasn't the massive 'Go On' billboards outside? Well, at least you can walk around the city undisturbed.**

**Nakamura:** Right [laughs].

NBC's "Go On" airs Tuesday nights at 8 p.m. Central time and 9 p.m. Eastern and Pacific times.

# LOS ANGELES CITY HOLDS CHERRY BLOSSOM TREE DEDICATION



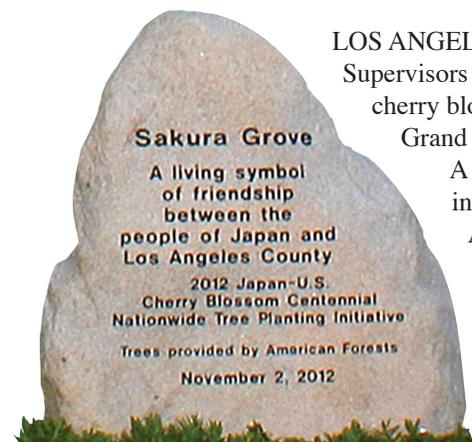
PHOTO: NALEA J. KO

Japan Consul General Jun Niimi was on hand at the Cherry Blossom Centennial.



PHOTO: NALEA J. KO

A plaque, dedicated to the U.S.-Japan friendship, was installed in Grand Park.



LOS ANGELES — The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and Japanese officials marked the gift of 24 cherry blossom trees in a ceremony that filled the city's Grand Park with attendees.

A dedication ceremony was held on Nov. 2 in Sakura Grove near the Garden of Historic American flags, where a plaque was installed to commemorate the friendship between Japan and Los Angeles County.

“Grand Park is ‘the park for everyone,’ an oasis of green space in the heart of L.A.’s civic center,” said L.A. County Supervisor Gloria Molina in a press release. “So when American Forests and the

Japanese Consulate of Los Angeles approached Los Angeles County with the gift of two dozen cherry trees, we knew this symbol of goodwill and friendship between Japan and the U.S. would fit in perfectly at Grand Park.”

The cherry blossom trees were dedicated by American Forests to recognize the centennial anniversary of the 3,020 original trees planted in Washington, D.C., which were gifted from Japan to the U.S.

Grand Park, which cost \$54 million, opened this summer.

Also on hand for the ceremony was Japan Consul General Jun Niimi, Grand Park Director Lucas Rivera, Japanese game show host Rome Kanda and the R&B gospel Tokyo band Heavense.

The ceremony was followed by a performance by Heavense at the Grand Park Performance Lawn.

For more information about Grand Park, visit <http://grandpark.lacounty.gov>.

## MANZANAR >> continued from page 2



PHOTO: ALISA LYNCH

Lisa Doi (pictured at center in striped dress) and participants in the Kansha Project, a Chicago JAACL program that aims to connect youth to the continuing legacy of the Japanese American community's incarceration during World War II, culminated their studies with a visit to Manzanar National Historic Site in June.

The last thought I took away from Manzanar was a note written in the guestbook. It said, “Hermanos y hermanas de otras razas, de otro color, pero con el mismo corazon.” It means, “Brothers and sisters of different races, of different colors, but with the same heart.”

What was lost during WWII was the ability to see Japanese Americans as people, as living beings worthy of the rights endowed to them. Constitutional rights get violated, civil rights get violated, human rights get violated when people become statistics. Numbers have no faces, they have no heartbeats, they have no humanity. Somehow those other people, those backward people on the other side of the world or on the other side of the city, deserve it. Because they are not like me.

What would our country be like if, instead, I saw myself in you. If I looked in your eyes and saw your heart. And, most fundamentally, if I saw my future as staked to your future. This is the powerful idea that must win. This is how America will move forward. This is how we will create a more perfect union where such terrible injustices will not be allowed to continue.

NOTE: Lisa Doi is a senior at the University of Pennsylvania. She visited Manzanar in June as part of the Kansha Project, a Chicago JAACL program designed to connect college students to their personal identity and their historical legacy. For more information on the Kansha Project, contact Christine Munteanu at [jacl.fellow@gmail.com](mailto:jacl.fellow@gmail.com).

A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS\*

## CALENDAR

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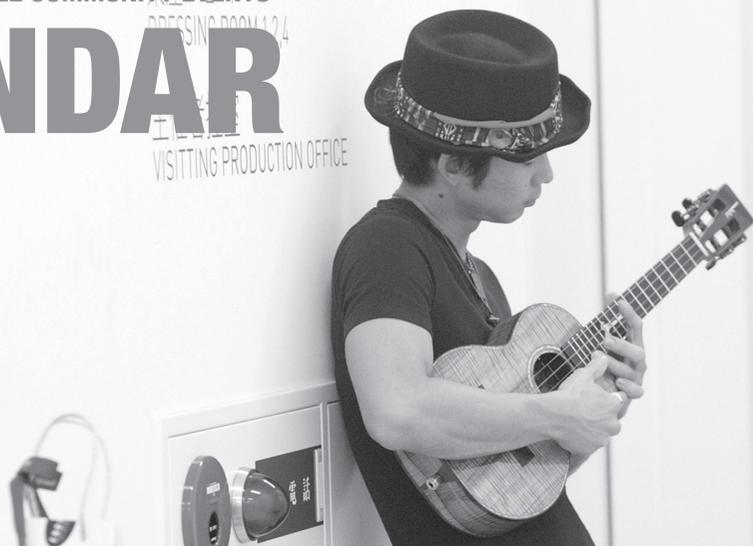


PHOTO: SENCAME

**An Evening With Jake Shimabukuro**  
**NEW YORK, NY**  
 Nov. 30, 8 p.m.  
**New York University's Skirball Center**  
**60 Washington Square South**  
 Join ukulele player Jake Shimabukuro for an evening of music. Tickets are free for NYU students, but must be reserved with a \$10 deposit.  
**Info: Email [apa.institute@nyu.edu](mailto:apa.institute@nyu.edu) or call 212/998-4941**

**Info: Call 213/628-2725 or email [jkikuchi@jacc.org](mailto:jkikuchi@jacc.org)**

**The Grateful Crane Ensemble Holiday Musical**  
**PACOIMA, CA**  
 Dec. 15, 2 p.m.

**San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center**  
**12953 Branford St.**

**Cost: \$25/General admission; \$15/Children 12 and under; Free/children 5 and under**

The Grateful Crane Ensemble, a nonprofit theater group, presents "I Saw Baachan Kissing Santa Claus." Santa, Baachan and the Grateful Crane Ensemble will be on hand to sing holiday songs and spread Christmas cheer.

**Info: Call 818/899-7916**

## &gt;&gt;NCWNP

**JCCCNC's Saturday Night Sushi Demo**  
**SAN FRANCISCO, CA**  
 Nov. 17, 5-7 p.m.  
**Japanese Cultural & Community Center of Northern California**  
**1840 Sutter St.**  
**Cost: \$45/Members; \$70/Nonmembers**

JCCCNC invites the public to its Saturday Night Sushi, a workshop teaching students how to master the art of sushi making. Chef Alan Hirahara, a graduate of the California Culinary Academy, will lead the workshop.

**Info: Call 415/567-5505, visit [www.jcccnc.org](http://www.jcccnc.org) or email [programsevents@jcccnc.org](mailto:programsevents@jcccnc.org)**

**JACL San Francisco Chapter's Spaghetti Crab Feed**  
**SAN FRANCISCO, CA**  
 Dec. 1, 5-7:30 p.m.  
**Christ United Presbyterian Church**  
**1700 Sutter St.**

**Cost: \$30/Early bird; \$40/At the door; \$15/Children**

The San Francisco JACL chapter is holding its Spaghetti Crab Feed, with proceeds benefiting the Korematsu Institute.

**Info: For tickets, email [sfjaci@yahoo.com](mailto:sfjaci@yahoo.com)**

**Jan Ken Po Cultural Assn.'s Japanese Film Forum**  
**SACRAMENTO, CA**  
 Dec. 8, 2-4 p.m.

**Asian Community Center**  
**7275 Park City Drive**

**Cost: \$5/General admission**

Rev. Bob Oshita of Sacramento Buddhist Church will discuss Japanese and American rituals related to death by using clips from the 2008 film "Departures." Jan Ken Po Cultural Assn. sponsors the event.

**Info: Call 916/427-2841 or [jkpca21@yahoo.com](mailto:jkpca21@yahoo.com)**

## &gt;&gt;PSW

**JACCC's Ohana: Celebrating Community Benefit Concert**  
**LOS ANGELES, CA**  
 Nov. 24, 5:30 p.m.

**Japanese American Cultural & Community Center**  
**Aratani Japan America Theatre**  
**244 S. San Pedro St.**

**Cost: \$50/General admission; \$100/VIP**

The Japanese American Cultural and Community Center presents a benefit concert called "Ohana: Celebrating Community," featuring Daniel Ho & Friends, Keali'i Ceballos & Halau, Nobuko Miyamoto, On Ensemble, COLD TOFU Improv and others.

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# In Memoriam

**Fukushima, Hisashi, 88**, Santa Monica, CA; Nov. 2; he is survived by his wife, Misako Fukushima; daughter, Karen Fukushima; son, Glenn (Laura) Fukushima of MA; sisters-in-law, Mabel Fukushima and Sakaye Nakatsuru; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; 2 gc.

**Haratani, Ikuye, 87**, Anaheim,



CA; Nov. 3; a Lake Elsinore, CA-born Nisei; she is survived by her loving son, Kirk H. (Jennifer) Haratani; many nephews and nieces and countless friends; sisters, Sachiye Ota and Toshiye (Satoru) Tokubo; 2 gc.

**Hashimoto, Frances Kazuko, 69**, Pasadena, CA; Nov. 4; a Poston, Arizona-born Nisei; she is survived by her husband, Joel Friedman; sons, Bryan Koji and Ryan Koroku Hashimoto-Friedman; sister, June Sachiko (John) Osugi; and nieces and nephews.

**Hayashi, Henry Muneo, 96**, Pasadena, CA; Oct. 25; a Los Angeles-born WWII 100th Battalion

veteran; he is survived by his wife, Elsie Eruko Hayashi; daughters, Sharon (Tak) Shimazaki and Gayle (Ron) Tanaka; son, Bob (Yoshiko) Hayashi; many nieces, nephews and other relatives; 9 gc; 17 ggc.

**Hirano, Sumio, 81**, Harbor City, CA; Oct. 30; he is survived by his children, Jody (Kent) Komae, Mark (Lynn) Hirano, Julie (Darin) Lam, Jill (Dai Sup) Han; siblings, Yosh (Yoshi) Hirano, Jimmy (Diane) Hara; brother-in-law, David Fujikawa; sisters-in-law, Judy Shima and Alice Sato; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; 12 gc; 1 ggc.

**Ige, Helen Umeko, 81**, Temple



City, CA; Oct. 26; she was predeceased by her parents, Sadakazu and Matsue Ohishi, and her brothers Edward and Ken; wife of Tsutomu; mother of Natalie (Ray) Muldaur; sister of Dr. Tan Ohishi; sister-in-law of Ken (Shirley); aunt of Linda (Peter) Lee, Emi (Jean) Chogyoji, Cathy (Norman) Murphy, Pauline (Gary) Konisberg, Carole (Bill) Peterson, Dennis,

David (Marcque), Michael, Ken (Lola) Ohishi Jr., Ronald (Guille) Konya; and many grand-nieces and nephews.

**Ishii, Mark Yoshio, 49**, Torrance,



CA; Nov. 4; he grew up in Cerritos, attended UCLA and spent his professional career as a systems engineer; he is survived by his wife, Sharon; son, Jonathan; daughter, Kristen; sister, Nancy; sister-in-law, Susan; and many other relatives.

**Koyama, Toshio "Toshi," 91**, Fountain Valley, CA; Oct. 27; he is survived by his beloved son, Toshikazu (Ritsuko); brothers, Harry, Noboru, Howard and Mineo; and survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives here and in Japan; 2 gc.

**Nimi, Jane, 92**, Los Angeles, CA; Oct. 26; she is survived by her children, Reiko (Mark) Sunday and Jo Ann Yoko Chavez; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; siblings, Earl (Emi), Matsuo and Tom Fukumoto, Masae Matsuno and Haruye Fukano; 2 gc.

TRIBUTE

## Misako Ishii Shigekawa, 103

Jan. 2, 1909-Oct. 31, 2012



Misako Shigekawa was born in Los Angeles on Jan. 2, 1909, was the oldest of six children whose parents were Nui and Rinsaburo Ishii. Her parents came to the U.S. from Japan in 1899. She graduated from Citrus High School and the University of Southern California's School of Pharmacy in 1930.

While living on Terminal Island before World War II, she owned a drug store and served as the local pharmacist. In the 1930s, she served as the president of the Terminal Island chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League. She married Kiyoshi Shigekawa in June 1941 before they were relocated to the Poston Internment Camp in Arizona. While in camp, she gave birth to her children, Gerald Shigekawa and Marlene Shigekawa. After the war, she returned to Anaheim where she worked as a pharmacist for several years before retiring from Santa Ana Community Hospital in the mid-1960s.

She is survived by her brother, William Ishii; three children, Gerald, Marlene and Linda; her grandchild, Quincy Godin; and many nieces and nephews.

Memorial donations may be sent to the Poston Community Alliance, 956 Hawthorne Dr., Lafayette, CA 94549, or the Susan G. Komen Foundation.

TRIBUTE

## John Jiro Saito

July 4, 1928-Oct. 16, 2012



Born and raised in Los Angeles, John Saito was interned at the Poston Relocation Center in Arizona during World War II and later served in the U.S. Army. After graduating from Loyola University in 1955, he spent 25 years with the Los Angeles County and led many causes in the Japanese and Asian American communities. In 1979, he began a second career with the JACL, becoming the Pacific Southwest

District's regional director as the redress campaign was gaining traction. When efforts led to the establishment of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, John was among a select group at the White House to witness the signing of legislation by President Jimmy Carter.

After retiring as a staff member in 1990, John continued his work with JACL as a volunteer, serving on the PSWDC board for nearly 20 years and as president of the East Los Angeles chapter for many terms. He ran for national president in 1992.

John is survived by his wife, Carol Ann; children, John, Mark and Jennifer (Brian); grandchildren, Hayley Ann and Joey Fukai; brother, Shinobu "Doc" (Yoko) Saito; sister-in-law, Winifred (Arthur) Uyesato; and nephews, Michael, Gerald, Ronald, Phillip and Robert Uyesato. Funeral services were held on Oct. 22.

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## MATTERS >> continued from page 2



PHOTO: RANDY CHIU

Sergio Romo made a statement with his "I Just Look Illegal" T-shirt at the San Francisco Giants World Series Parade.

But that's also true in such other states as Alabama, Nebraska and South Carolina, all of whom model their anti-immigration policy on Arizona's infamous S1070.

It's amazing that in the 21st century, in this country where we pride ourselves on being a democracy and cherish our freedom and our rights, we have the kind of mentality that allows for laws that can actually get a person arrested because of what he or she looks like. Guilty by the way you look.

I have a good friend, Susan Schweik, a brilliant professor at the University of California, Berkeley, who published a book on ugly laws. Yes, ugly laws, which existed in numerous municipalities in the U.S. against people who were ugly and, according to some perverted standard, offensive to look at.

Can you imagine that: laws that could get you arrested if someone was offended by the way you look!

How absolutely ridiculous. How absurd and bigoted.

### ***I JUST LOOK ILLEGAL.***

It was a powerful and stunning statement by Romo to wear that T-shirt on this, the most celebratory of moments for San Francisco fans who were at the parade to share in a joyous moment. It was a statement for all Latinos, including those born in this country, whose presence in America offends narrow-minded zealots who find fault with their being here. It's a statement to those who create endless arguments, too often fallacious, that target and blame Latinos for problems of our own making.

You don't have to think back too far to remember when being Japanese earned you a free ride to a desolate prison in the interior of America for no other reason than the way you looked.

### ***I JUST LOOK ILLEGAL.***

Sergio Romo truly understands those simple but profound words. ■

# Judge Holly Fujie to Speak at JACL Event

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Holly Fujie will be the keynote speaker at the West Los Angeles JACL chapter holiday dinner on Monday, Dec. 3.

Former JACL national executive director John Tateishi will also be in attendance as an honored guest.

Fujie is an attorney and former president of the State Bar of California who was appointed to the Los Angeles County Superior Court by Gov. Jerry Brown last year. Tateishi is an author and educator whose efforts as the JACL national redress director helped lead a successful campaign seeking reparations for Japanese Americans interned during World War II.

The event will be held from 6:30 p.m. at the Napa Valley Grille, 1100 Glendon Ave., Los Angeles, 90024. Tickets are \$45 per person. For information, contact Sandy at (310) 399-4526 or sanfran508@gmail.com. ■

## Life at 50 and still more milestones to go



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- Pertinent information concerning healthcare policy and Social Security.
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