



# PACIFIC CITIZEN

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## JAKE SHIMABUKURO

**The professional ukulele  
player debuts his first  
documentary.**

PHOTO: SENCAME



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# SPRING CAMPAIGN

## Show your generosity and support the *P.C.* Spring Campaign

By Gil Asakawa

Every year, the news about the news media gets worse — newspapers are cutting back or even shutting down because the economic landscape for media has changed so drastically, and technology is forcing a fast evolution of much news media from print newspapers to digital versions on the web and on mobile devices such as smartphones and tablets.

The *Pacific Citizen* faces many of the same challenges as your local daily or weekly newspaper: Advertising continues to be difficult to sign, even though the economy has finally started to look up. And though the *P.C.* has been understaffed and worked under shrinking national budgets from JACL for years, it's *really* understaffed ever since the Executive Editor and Assistant Editor both left (for different reasons) last summer.

The newspaper you're currently reading is produced by Interim Executive Editor Allison Haramoto and Reporter Nalea Ko, with freelance help from Designer Marie Samonte. And it's a miracle that it's even available — a true credit to the paper's tiny staff, which currently includes only two other employees, Business Manager Susan Yokoyama and Circulation Manager Eva Lau-Ting. I mention these people because they really do accomplish an awful lot in every issue, even though the staff has shrunk since the days when I served as Editorial Board Chair. And the *P.C.*'s staff is a fraction of the size that once put out the paper a couple of decades ago.

Yet, the *P.C.* gets published twice a month, and as a JACL member (or *P.C.* subscriber), you can read it and keep up with news about our organization as well as pan-Asian news that affects all Asian Americans.

The *P.C.* Spring Campaign was started not so long ago as a way to offset the already-shrinking national JACL budget, so the *P.C.* wouldn't run out of funds halfway into the year. Funds raised through your generosity allowed the staff to acquire new equipment and more efficiently publish the print edition. The Spring Campaign has also funded the establishment of the *P.C.*'s website, which sadly has gone largely unattended since the previous editors left. The Spring Campaign even underwrote Ko's salary, a position that national JACL used to pay . . . back in the day.

The *P.C.* Spring Campaign turns to you — the reader and JACL member — each year because it needs your extra support to do a great job and keep you informed. It's your lifeline to the JACL organization and the Asian American community.

This year's *P.C.* Spring Campaign is even more critical than ever because the paper is preparing to go "digital first" like all other newspapers across the globe. It won't be right away, but it's inevitable. And as part of that evolution, the *P.C.* will need to eventually hire online staff to handle many of the duties that the previous editors used to shoulder.

It takes investment to improve a newspaper, especially when the staff is already pared down to its absolute essential level. And if the parent organization cannot offer the full amount of investment that's needed to maintain and improve the *P.C.*, it needs your help.

If the *Pacific Citizen* is important to you, please be even more generous than you have been in the past. The *P.C.* staff and Editorial Board — and JACL as a whole — appreciate it dearly. Really.

**Gil Asakawa is a past chair and current member of the *P.C.* Editorial Board.**

## Letter to the Editor . . .

As a past *P.C.* board chair and national treasurer, I think most older JACLers would like to receive the *P.C.* paper. Also for many JACLers, the *P.C.* is the only connection they have to know what's going on in the J.A. community across the country. I think the *P.C.*, beginning with the Holiday Issue, has greatly improved, and I commend the editor and staff for doing a great job. JACL must continue to fund the *P.C.* to keep the people informed. It looks like we have some very capable (officers and staff) people running the organization. The *P.C.* staff has always done a good job, even with a limited budget.

Henry S. Sakai  
Portland, Ore.

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## A MOTHER'S TAKE

# A Vision for LGBT Families of Seattle

By Marsha Aizumi

**O**n March 7, 2013, a meeting took place in Seattle that brought together individuals and organizations that support Asian Pacific Islander and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender families who struggle to face the shame, guilt and fear when their child “comes out.”

We wanted to provide LGBT individuals with support through the coming out process. As the mother of a child who first came out as lesbian and then five years later announced that he was transgender, I know the pain, the sadness and the fear that coming out brings into the hearts of families. These families love their children and want them to have a future full of possibilities and not a future filled with discrimination. I also know the importance of having a place to receive support and resources when you feel so isolated and afraid. And so I applaud Seattle for taking on this challenge and wanting to make a difference in the lives of LGBT/API individuals and their families.

In 2012, I was able to work with a group of individuals in Southern California to start an API PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) in the San Gabriel Valley. Supported by longtime LGBT pioneers — Harold and Ellen Kameya and Andre Ting —

we began to dream about a safe space for API families to share their hopes and fears. This month, the San Gabriel API PFLAG chapter will celebrate its one-year anniversary. But it is not just the accomplishment of reaching our one-year milestone that we celebrate, it is also the sense of community that has been created.

Seeing a mother cry because in her fear she also now realizes she is no longer alone, or seeing a young, worried gay man who says that he is going to come out to his parents and fears their rejection. Then he comes back the following month and shares that his family has accepted him and said, “We already knew you were gay, and we have never stopped loving you.”

Also at the end of 2012, a Korean mother courageously (and with the support of PFLAG) decided to open up an API PFLAG group in New York City. New York now has a place every other month where API families can get support or give support to LGBT individuals who are struggling with sexual orientation or gender identity. It is also a place where LGBT individuals can bring their parents, who face a similar process of coming out. Parents also need support and resources.

>> See LGBT FAMILIES on page 16



## VERY TRULY YOURS

# New Pope, Argentina and a Nisei Angle

By Harry Honda

**W**ith the election of Pope Francis last month, and Argentina in the news worldwide, there is a Nisei angle, perhaps long forgotten.

In short, Argentina, Brazil and Chile did not send their Japanese to the United States to be exchanged for American prisoners of war during World War II, like Peru and other Latin American countries.

To dispel the thought that American priests in Japan after Pearl Harbor were prisoners of war, the Hague Convention of 1899 defines POWs as fighting men who lay down their arms and by the Geneva Convention of 1929 to be decently treated. Japan was different and made no attempts to treat their POWs humanely during WWII.

Approximately 1,800 Peruvian Japanese, believed to be dangerous, were interned at American expense in the United States. According to a *Rafu Shimpō* story published on Dec. 19, 1989, “at least 2,000 were deported to the U.S. from their homes in Latin America.” They sought eligibility for redress as their 80,000 counterparts had won by the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. Incidentally, the national JACL convention, which will be held in Washington, D.C., in July, will commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Civil Liberties Act.

As the war in Europe intensified, the 1938 Pan American Conference in Lima stressed hemispheric unity in the face of totalitarian aggression. The collapse of France in 1940 mobilized U.S. military and naval attention about the Pacific front. This atmosphere is detailed in C. Harvey Gardiner’s “Pawns in a Triangle of Hate: The Peruvian Japanese and the United States,” published by the University of Washington Press in 1981.

At a pan-American meeting of foreign ministers in Rio de Janeiro in January 1942, better known as the “Rio Conference,” the U.S.’s objective was to obtain a joint pledge from all Latin American states that did not declare war on the Axis powers (Germany, Italy, Japan) and would, at least, sever relations. The conference also established an Inter-American Defense Board to monitor pro-Axis activities and begin investigations that led to the internment of Latin American Japanese aliens and a few Nisei.

The U.S. ambassador to Peru had hoped Peru would deport 300 undesirable Japanese in several weeks from a blacklist of “nationals aimed at economic strangulation through government-sponsored boycott.”

Gardiner immediately points out the list had limited clout in Peru. Japanese businesses were mostly small and insignificant; of the few imports, none of their financing came from the U.S. Furthermore, the Dec. 9 listing encouraged Peruvian authorities “to adopt more cavalier attitudes in dealing those individuals.”

A seven-member (Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, U.S., Uruguay and Venezuela) emergency advisory committee “for political defense” was established in Montevideo in April 1942 that acted within the Western Hemisphere to comprise the blacklist for internment of dangerous pro-Axis nationals to safeguard hemispheric security. Some republics were unable to detain such aliens, Gardiner adds.

The 39 holding camps around Lima and Callao were called “hacienda.” Local Chinese were expected to aid Peruvian officials in the roundup, but a lack of contact between Chinese and Japanese in the rural and urban areas outside of Peru minimized their effort. State Department expert on Japan, John K. Emmerson, later recalled of his seven years in Peru, “We learned nothing reliable or convincing about subversion.”

There were 10 different ships filled with Latin American undesirables. Two ships for diplomatic personnel and Japanese in Costa Rica, Panama and the Canal Zone, departing ports on the Pacific side to be interned in Texas, Louisiana or Oklahoma. Repatriation to Japan through Spanish effort only occurred after the war. The MS Gripsholm, from Rio de Janeiro on the Atlantic side, carried Japanese diplomats and their families to Japan.

When President Franklin D. Roosevelt vaguely promised to intern Japanese in Peru at America’s expense, the untested Cuban internment scheme arose and “the likelihood of extending the plan to Peru momentarily increased.” But Peru didn’t have a comparable island with a sizable alien Japanese population.

*Harry K. Honda is the Pacific Citizen editor emeritus.*

# Jake Shimabukuro Strums His 'LIFE ON FOUR STRINGS'



Jake Shimabukuro (pictured left) performs for elementary school children in San Francisco.

## THE NEW DOCUMENTARY ABOUT THE UKULELE PRO WILL HAVE ITS LOS ANGELES SCREENING ON MAY 4.

By Nalea J. Ko  
Reporter

**A**fter nearly three years of following ukulele virtuoso Jake Shimabukuro for a documentary, director Tadashi Nakamura couldn't get the strumming sounds of the four-string instrument out of his head.

The 33-year-old filmmaker spent nearly every day for about a year holed up in his room, editing the new documentary "Life on Four Strings," which chronicles Shimabukuro's professional ukulele career and personal life.

"I would edit until 2 o'clock in the morning and then fall asleep, but then I would dream that I was editing," Nakamura said with a laugh. "So when I woke up, I didn't feel refreshed. I felt like I was working for another seven hours."

His editing dreams didn't stop until Nakamura completed the film, but that's understandable, considering the pressure he's under. This is his first full-length documentary and first commissioned film.

After devoting most of his free time to the documentary, Nakamura is eager to show his work to his friends, family and the Japanese American community. He'll get a chance to do so when "Life on Four Strings" has its Los Angeles, Calif., premiere at the Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival on May 4. And if his friends miss that showing, they can catch the film again on PBS on May 10.

"I kind of locked myself in my room for a couple of years and didn't interact with people, so through this screening, I'm able to share with them what I was working on this whole time," Nakamura laughed. "I wasn't ignoring them or just being a bum on the couch."

Before directing this documentary, Nakamura's previous short films, 2004's "Yellow Brotherhood," 2008's "Pilgrimage" and 2009's "A Song for Ourselves," garnered

more than 20 awards. "Pilgrimage," about Japanese Americans in 1969 who journeyed to Manzanar, was selected for the 2008 Sundance Film Festival; Nakamura also was named among CNN's "Young People Who Rock" as the youngest moviemaker at the festival.

The idea to create a documentary about Shimabukuro, however, came from the mind of producer Donald Young, who enlisted Nakamura for the director position.

"For years, I had known about Jake and his YouTube popularity, but I was surprised that nobody had told a deeper story about him and his talent," said Young, who also is director of programs at the Center for Asian American



Ukulele virtuoso Jake Shimabukuro (left) and Tadashi Nakamura (right) became friends during production of "Life on Four Strings."

Media, or CAAM. "From his splash on YouTube to how that clip gave him many exciting opportunities, we wanted to tell an exciting and emotional story about a truly unique Asian American musician."

It was a 2006 YouTube video of Shimabukuro playing George Harrison's "While My Guitar Gently Weeps" in New York's Central Park that catapulted the ukulele player to the ranks of Internet sensation. Before then, Shimabukuro made a name for himself in the late-'90s in Hawaii as one-third of the group "Pure Heart." Shimabukuro's skillful manipulation

of the ukulele, which he has practiced since the age of 4, helped him to launch a solo career. He now tours the world, showing off his speedy ukulele finger work.

"Life on Four Strings" follows Shimabukuro as he tours Hawaii, New York, Los Angeles and Japan. It was all done on a modest budget of about \$400,000, said Nakamura.

The crew filmed Shimabukuro performing in Japan before and after the March 2011 earthquake and subsequent tsunami that devastated the northern area of the country. For Shimabukuro's team, seeing the devastation only months after the quake was even more personal. His longtime manager, Kasuza Flanagan, is from Sendai, a city about 80 miles from the earthquake's epicenter.

"It's much too difficult to put into words," said Shimabukuro about visiting Japan post-tsunami. "It's a combination of feeling every emotion you've ever known and absolutely nothing at the same time. I couldn't speak. I didn't say a single word for the first three or four hours of our visit."

Aside from featuring Shimabukuro's professional career onstage, "Life on Four Strings" jumps to the musician's personal life, touching on everything from his parents' divorce when he was a 13-year-old in Hawaii to his 2011 marriage to Kelly Yamasato, who gave birth to the couple's first child, a son named Chase, the following year.

Now that the documentary is finished, Shimabukuro says he doesn't miss being followed by cameras, though he does miss "hanging with the crew."

"I was very nervous at first, but being a part of the film turned out to be a wonderful experience for both my family and myself," Shimabukuro said via email from Australia, where he's currently on tour. "It took a long time to get used to having cameras around me all the time — well, I don't think I ever got used to it. But I did start to feel more comfortable after a few months of shooting."

Now that the film is complete, Nakamura says he no longer dreams of editing "Life on Four Strings" footage. But now he has a newfound stressor.

"Now I have anxiety about the screening," Nakamura said. "I had a dream where no one showed up. I had a dream where everyone showed up and the projector didn't work."

*For more information about the Jake Shimabukuro documentary, visit [www.lifeonfourstrings.com](http://www.lifeonfourstrings.com).*

# 'Comfort Women' Exhibit Will Return to Japan



Dae-im Park never forgot about her home country of Korea. She wanted to be buried in Korea, but died just before turning 101 years old in China.

By Nalea J. Ko  
Reporter

A photography exhibit on Korean "comfort women" will return to Asia after causing protests in Japan last year.

Last year, South Korean photographer Ahn Sehong's black-and-white photo exhibit "Korean Comfort Women Living in China" caused an uproar and was nearly canceled by Nikon galleries in Tokyo and Osaka.

"The preparation was going on without any problem for

four months. But all of sudden, I noticed that the exhibition was canceled one month before, and they did not tell me the reason," said Ahn, 42, through a translator. "I was confused and felt anger."

Fear of the controversial subject matter reportedly influenced Nikon galleries to cancel the exhibit. Ahn said he received threatening letters and phone calls from "Japanese extremists." After he took legal action, the exhibit went on.

Now, a year after the controversy, Ahn will return to Japan in June with his photography exhibit that features nine "comfort women" who were left in China after World War

II. The exhibit has been on display since March 19 at the Korea Press Center gallery in Palisades Park, N.J., where there is a large population of Korean Americans. The exhibit will close April 18.

Ahn says he first met the women in 1996 in South Korea and has photographed them ever since. Then, in 2001, he learned of the "comfort women" living in China who could not return to their homeland. Only three of the women, he says, are still living. The "comfort women" were abducted by the Japanese Army during the war and forced into sexual slavery. But some Japanese believe the women were paid prostitutes.

"We want to tell Americans the real truth, and America is the country of justice," Mac J. Han, of Media Joha, told The Record newspaper. Media Joha organized the Palisades Park exhibit.

A plaque paying tribute to these women was erected in Palisades Park in 2010. Another memorial recognizing the women was installed this year in front of the Hackensack Bergen County courthouse in New Jersey.

"When I visited them, they were willing to talk about their past and present just because I am Korean and I speak Korean language. They wanted me to let the people know their painful stories," Ahn said. "So, I am letting the people know through my photographs."

After traveling to Nagoya, Japan, in June, the exhibit will head to Beijing and Daejeon, Korea, in August.

Ahn says he hopes those who see the exhibit will always remember the painful history of the Korean "comfort women."

"I am trying to let the people know about the victims' pain that they have kept in the innermost depths of their hearts for 70 years by my photographs," Ahn said. "Once I faced them, I could not ignore their pain. So, I have visited them and kept working on their photographs for 18 years."

For more information on the exhibit, visit [www.ahnsehong.com](http://www.ahnsehong.com).

## Manzanar High School Reunion Kicks Off in August



By P.C. Staff

The Manzanar Reunion Committee has finalized plans for this year's reunion, which will take place in Las Vegas, Nev., at the Fremont Hotel and Casino from Aug. 5-7.

Former Manzanar High School students and their families are invited to attend. This year's program will feature a presentation to honor Archie and Take Miyatake. Toyo Miyatake, Archie's father, was an Issei photographer who captured images of life at Manzanar.

Other highlights of this year's reunion include the presentation of the Manzanar Progressive Report by Alisa Lynch, the Manzanar National Historic Site's chief of interpretation.

The Manzanar Committee is an all-volunteer organization that was founded in 1970 with co-chairs Sue Kunitomi Embrey and former California Assemblyman Warren Furutani.

Committee members aim to educate and raise awareness about civil rights violations like the unjust incarceration of people of Japanese descent during World War II.

For reservations, contact Grace Oda Anderson at (818) 889-4291 or email [grace.oda.anderson@gmail.com](mailto:grace.oda.anderson@gmail.com).

For more information, contact Cherry Uyeda at (818) 981-2629, Sus Ioki at (310) 202-9195 or Grace Deguchi at (310) 968-1666.

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PHOTO: LAURA CLISE

# JACL's Priscilla Ouchida Speaks at Rally

JACL National Director Priscilla Ouchida spoke at a marriage equality rally on March 26 in Washington, D.C., at the U.S. Supreme Court Plaza.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — As the U.S. Supreme Court began listening to oral arguments regarding the constitutionality of same-sex marriage on March 26 in the nation's capital, a rally in support of marriage equality was held at the U.S. Supreme Court Plaza.

Among the 5,000 gathered in solidarity were members of the JACL, including National Director Priscilla Ouchida, along with the National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance, the Asian American Justice Center and OCA National.

The Supreme Court is considering two

cases that are about whether gay and lesbian Americans should have the right to legally marry. Arguments in *Hollingsworth v. Perry*, the challenge to California's Proposition 8, the ban on same-sex marriage, took place on March 26, while the Court heard arguments in *United States v. Windsor*, the challenge to the Defense of Marriage Act that denies same-sex couples access to federal programs and benefits that opposite-sex couples receive, on March 27. The JACL has signed on to amicus briefs for both cases.

>> See RALLY on page 16

# Consider Placing an Ad in the JACL 2013 Convention Booklet

By Floyd Mori  
JACL 2013 Convention Chair

As previously announced, the JACL will be holding its now-annual convention in 2013 in Washington, D.C., from Wednesday, July 24-Friday, July 26, at the Renaissance Hotel.

The convention committee is hard at work to make this event a memorable occasion. In celebration and commemoration of the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 (The Redress Bill) 25 years ago, the theme for the 2013 convention is "Justice for All."

The theme was suggested by Kristine Minami, formerly the Washington, D.C., representative for the JACL who is now a government lawyer in D.C., as well as a member of the convention committee.

The convention will be a good opportunity to learn about this important part of JACL history when the Redress Bill became law and the effort that was required to bring it to fruition.

All JACL members and friends are encouraged to attend this convention. Conventions are not only for delegates but also are a good place for members of the organization to catch up with old friends and to make new friends who have similar ideals and goals.

National JACL Pacific Northwest Regional Director Karen Yoshitomi is the staff person over conventions. She has been especially anxious to make it possible for all members and friends of the JACL to attend the convention.

The convention booklet will have ad space available for purchase. Chapters, districts and individual members and friends of the JACL are encouraged to place ads in the booklet. This is a good way to give greetings to friends and show your support of the JACL.

Jason Hata, JACL Mineta Fellow in the Washington, D.C., office, is in charge of gathering ads for the convention booklet. To place an ad, visit the JACL website at [www.jacl.org](http://www.jacl.org) and click on the convention materials for all pertinent information.

Thanks for your support of the National JACL 2013 Convention. We hope you can make it to Washington, D.C., in July. ■

## REGISTRATION

A separate form must be completed for each individual registration.

Convention Package includes:

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There is no charge for Workshops. See details on Convention website.

For questions, contact: [2013registration@jacl.org](mailto:2013registration@jacl.org), 202-223-1240

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# Philly Eatery Leaves Founder's Nickname Behind



By Melissa Dribben  
Philadelphia Inquirer

**PHILADELPHIA (AP)** — As the hydraulic lift rose one story to eye level with the Chink's Steaks sign, a few yards away Robert Quinn stood on the curb, venting loudly to his girlfriend.

"I mean, he's ignoring the 10,000 signatures on the petition to keep the name? Now, he's giving in to political correctness!"

Quinn, a 59-year-old truck driver from the Wissinoming neighborhood, represented the overwhelming sentiment among residents who showed up Monday (April 1) morning to witness Chink's rechristening as Joe's Steaks & Soda Shop — a small but symbolic blip in the city's history.

From its dawn in 1949, when the first sliced onions were slapped onto the grill, the cheesesteak shop on Torresdale Avenue had been known as Chink's.

No offense intended. The owner, Samuel "Chink" Sherman, had almond-shaped eyes. He had been going by the nickname since grade school.

Back then, ethnic slurs slipped off the tongue as smoothly as melted American cheese. Those who were insulted rarely complained, except to fellow members of their own tribe.

Today, the city is more diverse and sophisticated, and the language of bigotry is no longer acceptable.

At least not publicly.

At least among most Philadelphians.

In Wissinoming, however, once almost exclusively a white working-class enclave, the passing of Chink's has stirred deep resentment. Defending the rightness of the name and the right to maintain it, residents mourned times when, they said, everyone had thicker skin and people were not forced to walk on verbal eggshells.

"I just think it's ridiculous," said Eleanor McGonigal as she sat on a step, watching the sign come down. "C'mon," said McGonigal, a 60-year-old warehouse worker who has lived in the neighborhood all her life. "Cracker Barrel hasn't had to change their name. I mean, that could be made into a racist thing."

Rumors had circulated that the shop's owner was new and wanted a fresh start. But Joe Groh, the 50-year-old owner and now namesake of Joe's Steaks & Soda Shop, started working at Chink's when he was 16, coming in after school to slice meat for Sherman. Groh and his wife, Denise, grew up a few blocks from the shop and lived with their children in the three-bedroom apartment above it for years.

In 1999, he bought the shop from Sherman's widow, along with the neon sign visible at night from four blocks away. In 2003, when that sign fell apart, he replaced it with an exact replica, minus the neon.

"I'm glad it's in one piece," he said, watching the workers gingerly slide the \$1,500 relic onto the truck bed. I'm not throwing it out. And I'm not selling it. I'm keeping it in storage."

The first hint that he might have to rename the business came in 2003, Groh said, when an Asian American student

*'I'm a little sad, but I'm ready to put my legacy on (Joe's Steaks & Soda Shop).'  
— Owner Joe Groh*

called to complain that the name was a disgrace.

"She had never been here. She wasn't a customer," said Groh. "I told her, 'No. It's my business.'"

When he tried to expand into South Philadelphia in 2008, he encountered greater cultural sensitivity and changed that restaurant's name. But people were unforgiving, and after six months he shut it down.

In the Northeast, many loyal customers said they understood the objections to the name, but believed it deserved a grandfathered pass.

Others, like William Ulrich, said the passing of Chink's symbolizes the neighborhood's decline.

"This place has a tan," said Ulrich, a 51-year-old postal worker, who wore a wireless phone device in his ear and shorts that revealed a large cross "in the colors of the American flag" tattooed on his calf.

Over the last 15 years, he said, crime has soared, and he blamed African American and Hispanics who have moved in, especially those in government-subsidized housing.

"If you say anything, you're a racist, when you're just a realist," he said. "You're supposed to be politically correct? Try walking down Torresdale Avenue after 8 p.m. without getting robbed."

It would be wrong, though, to assume that the only opponents of the name change are white.

"The man it was named for passed away," said Terrell Jenkins, who is black. "Out of respect for him, I don't think they should have changed it."

Jenkins, 44, blind from a bad drug reaction, is living on disability since his recent release from state prison after serving 15 years. If the shop had been named with a slur against blacks, "that would be offensive," he said. "But Chink was a nickname. It could have been a term of endearment."

For Groh, the decision was practical. He is looking to the future, he said. His son has joined the business and if they ever want to try again to branch out — and they likely will — they needed a new name.

"It's a good and dramatic change," said State Rep. Mark Cohen (D-Phila.), who came to show his support. "I understand people who want the past to govern the present, but there comes a point when you have to be responsive to changes that exist in the city."

The newly dubbed Joe's Steaks is one of several eponymous businesses near the intersection of Torresdale and Benner Street — Rodriguez Grocery, Jack's Pub, Crazy Joe's Mini Mart.

At the cash register behind bulletproof glass at Crazy Joe's, an Iranian immigrant said he was glad Chink's was renamed, but would not comment further or identify himself. Farther down the street, a manicurist at a Vietnamese nail salon said she knew nothing about the controversy.

Much of the city did, though. The news broke in time for Good Friday, normally one of the slowest days of the year. By noon, there was a line out the door. Groh sold a record 600 sandwiches, along with 25 dozen T-shirts with the "Chink's" logo.

"I've got 50 more orders on our website, too. I'll keep selling them for a while," he said.

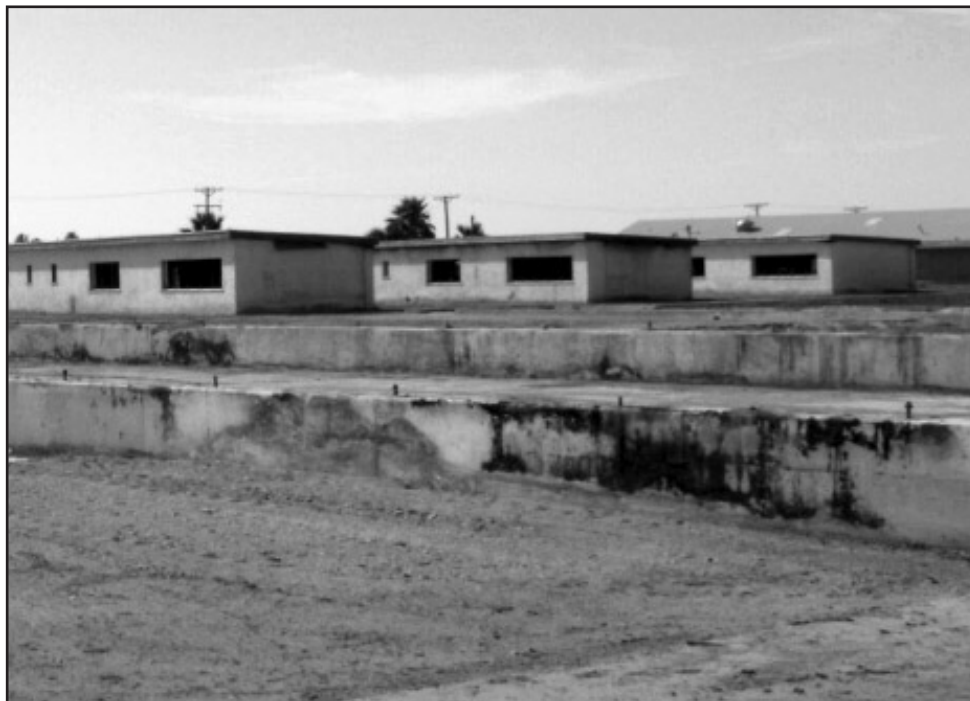
For the rechristening, he, his wife and their staff wore black T-shirts bearing the new logo — a retro 1950s design.

"I'm a little sad, but I'm ready to put my legacy on it," he said, putting his arm around his wife.

She was at peace with the change and even saw a bright side, she said. "Now, I can be called 'Mrs. Joe' instead of 'Mrs. Chink.'"

# Japanese American Leadership Delegation Visits Fukushima

THE 10-MEMBER GROUP BUILDS PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE RELATIONSHIPS WITH ITS FIRST-EVER TRIP TO FUKUSHIMA.



While visiting Fukushima, JALD participants were instantly struck by the similarities of the Odagaisama Evacuation Center (*right*) and the image of Poston internment camp barracks (*left*). The common ground the participants felt with the people of Fukushima helped build friendship bonds at multiple levels.



By *Connie K. Ho, contributor*

While charcoal can keep people warm during the winter months, these weren't any ordinary pieces of charred wood. In his hand, David Yamahata held the remains of cherry blossom trees from the 2011 earthquake- and tsunami-affected region of Fukushima, Japan — they had been sheathed in a delicate pouch made of Japanese fabric. With their pink blossoms, cherry trees have long been celebrated in Japan. For some, they are symbols of rebirths and renewals. This was particularly evident for Yamahata, a member of the 2013 cohort of the Japanese American Leadership Delegation. Last month, the JALD visited Fukushima prefecture for the first time in the history of the program, receiving mementos like the small pouch along with other impactful memories.

In the past 12 years, the JALD program has helped Japanese Americans engage with Japanese leaders in the academic, business, cultural, government and nonprofit sectors. Through their interactions, Japanese leaders are able to better understand the multicultural landscape of America. In the 2013 program, the participants hailed from cities in the West and East coasts and were from varying professional backgrounds.

Many participated in the trip for both professional and personal reasons. Yamahata, chief deputy of the Los Angeles Fire Department, supervises fire and emergency medical service resources for the City of Los Angeles and was interested in learning about the recovery efforts following the 2011 earthquake and tsunami. As a third-generation Japanese American, he was also curious in learning more about the Japanese culture and seeing first-hand some of the things that were taught to him as a child growing up in the United States.

"The dedication, the hard work — these were things that were pounded into my head as a young child growing up in America," said Yamahata, who visited Japan for the first time through the JALD. "It gave me more of a revitalization into the Japanese culture."

Prior to visiting Japan, the group was given an orientation in January in Los Angeles that gave them additional knowledge on Japanese American history and the Japanese American community to prepare them for their trip. Along with visits to the Japanese American National Museum and the Japanese American Cultural & Community Center, they were briefed on current issues regarding U.S.-Japan relations by individuals such as Misako Ito of the Japan Foundation; Dr. Michael Thies of the Department of Political Science at the University of California, Los Angeles; and Jun Niimi of the Consul General of Japan. U.S.-Japan Council President Irene Hirano Inouye led the orientation.

Japanese American Leadership Delegation 2013 participants at their orientation meeting in January at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles. Pictured (*clockwise from bottom, front left*) are Julie Azuma, Amy Yamashiro, Kenzo Kawanabe, Kelly Ogilvie, Verne Naito, Marion Friebus-Flaman, David Yamahata, Eric Takahata, Martin Iguchi and Emily Murase.





During their trip to Fukushima, the JALD visited many areas hard-hit by the 2011 natural disaster. Above, the group is pictured outside of Iidate Temporary Elementary School, which is now the consolidated home to three schools.

The trip began on March 8 and ended on March 16, with stops in Fukushima and Tokyo. During their visit to Fukushima, the participants took a moment of silence to recognize the two-year anniversary of the disaster and also had the opportunity to visit Fukushima Prefectural Medical University to gain an inside look at the postdisaster efforts. JALD participant Kelly Ogilvie, founder, chairman, president and COO of digital money platform Quemulus Inc., saw the program as a chance to participate in cultural exchange.

“It’s one thing to learn about Fukushima and to see the disaster and learn about the economic toll, as well as hear about people who lost lives — it’s something totally different to go talk to people and have them talk to you about losing their family members or their homes,” said Ogilvie, who is based in Seattle.

Apart from seeing Fukushima Prefectural University, the group also went to Iidate Village Temporary Elementary School, which consolidated Kusano, Itoi and Usuishi Elementary Schools. In the visit, they met with three principals who had hired storytellers to capture folktales from the villages and provide the students with some of the festivals. The principals also mentioned their desire to help students continue to experience the traditions, stories and customs of their villages.

“All of that really resonated as Japanese Americans, where people were trying to keep alive a lot of the traditions and stories by passing it down to the children,” said JALD’s Amy Yamashiro, an educator representing Arlington Public Schools in Virginia.

Furthermore, the participants learned about food-monitoring inspection at the Agricultural Cooperative Center, as well as issues related to evacuation centers, temporary and government-provided housing and community revitalization efforts at the Mutual Support “Odagaisama” Evacuation Center. With many survivors losing parents, children and friends, suicide has been a major concern.

“Volunteers offered to give some of the evacuees footbaths, and when volunteers would come to give hand massages, that offered another opportunity for people to talk about their experiences, and (they) could feel connected,” said Yamashiro, who had previously lived and taught in Japan as an expat. “Moods were able to change, and they started to feel a little happy and were able to laugh and talk to other people.”

Despite the hardships, a few of the participants noted the hopefulness of community members in Fukushima. Ogilvie had the opportunity to speak on a panel about his experience as a Japanese American, and he touched on common ground that could be found among Japanese Americans and the people of Fukushima. He also highlighted the importance of social entrepreneurship and the emergence of Generation Y, people born between the 1980s-early 2000. The message of hope was not only for business people but also for young people — all could be empowered to create social good.

“It’s almost like you go there and you have this feeling that this place has been through a traumatic experience . . . but there’s also this exciting feeling of hopefulness, and it was the most touching thing,” said Ogilvie.

Following the trip, many of the participants are inspired to tell their story and experience on JALD to other Japanese Americans. They also hope to continue working on maintaining relationships between the U.S. and Japan, either through other programs that further cross cultural collaboration or activities that involve their own friends and family.

“I want to take my kids to Japan or allow them the opportunity to have that experience so that, when they come back, it’ll be another generation for me that I hope will continue to maintain a lot of the traditions that Japanese culture offers that they can carry on as young adults and future parents,” said Yamahata. ■



JALD participant Amy Yamashiro (*left*) with three Iidate Temporary Elementary School principals



The JALD, led by U.S.-Japan Council President Irene Hirano Inouye (*seated, left*) met with Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (*seated, center*) on March 15 to discuss pertinent issues regarding the U.S.’s relationship with Japan.

# Join the JACL Millennium Club for **2013**

By Annie Noguchi, JACL Membership Coordinator

The Millennium Club was created in 2004 by a small group of dedicated JACL members who recognized the need and had the financial capacity to provide JACL with additional unrestricted funds to carry out its mission. The Millennium Club, with an annual membership cost of \$1000, is currently JACL's highest membership category. We're so thankful for our current and past Millennium Club members! They have all contributed greatly to the achievement and development of JACL and our mission.

For more information about joining the Millennium Club, please contact JACL's Membership Department at (415) 921-5225 or email [mbr@jacl.org](mailto:mbr@jacl.org).

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## 'Vision, Values, Voices' Theme for the Japanese American National Museum's Annual Gala

LOS ANGELES — The Japanese American National Museum will present its 2013 Gala Dinner, Silent Auction and After Party on Saturday, April 13, at the Hyatt Regency Century Plaza Hotel in Century City. This year's theme, "Vision, Values, Voices," will highlight how JANM's work has successfully shared the first-person voices and evolving perspectives from the Japanese American experience.

As the museum's single annual fundraiser, the dinner will illustrate the far-reaching impact of the museum's on-site traveling exhibitions, programs, conferences, collections and online resources. Additionally, the program will acknowledge the museum's early supporters — George Aratani, Jim Hirabayashi, Manabi Hirasaki and Sen. Daniel K. Inouye — all of whom were pivotal in the creation of the mission and vision of the museum. In addition, a special tribute will be paid to the late Sen. Inouye.

The gala dinner includes a silent auction and seafood buffet reception, hosted by American Fish & Seafood Co., which begins at 5 p.m. The dinner program begins at 7 p.m. and includes the Lexus Opportunity Drawing for a 2013 Lexus 460 F Sport, donated by Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., and the live Bid for Education.

For more information on the 2013 Gala Dinner, including sponsorships, individual tickets, Lexus Opportunity Drawing tickets, Silent Auction Donations and special hotel and airfare rates, visit [janm.org/dinner2013](http://janm.org/dinner2013), email [galadinner@janm.org](mailto:galadinner@janm.org) or call (213) 830-5669.

## Bonnie M. Youn Receives Champion of Change Award

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Bonnie M. Youn, a member of the National Pacific American Bar Assn., was among 10 honorees recognized at the White House on March 26 with a Cesar Chavez Champions of Change Award.

The Cesar Chavez Champions of Change Award honors citizens who demonstrate a commitment to improving their communities, the country or the lives of their fellow citizens. Youn was honored for her dedication to the Asian Pacific American and immigrant communities of Georgia.

"We are proud that the White House recognized Bonnie Youn for her efforts on behalf of the growing immigrant and APA populations in Georgia," said NAPABA President Wendy C. Shiba. "Bonnie is an energetic and accomplished advocate and NAPABA member, and we congratulate her on being named a Champion of Change."

Youn was inspired by her own immigrant experiences to dedicate herself to the APA and immigrant communities of the Southeast. She began practicing law as an immigration attorney in 1997 and is now principal of her own law firm, the Youn Law Group. Recently, she led teams that organized the 2013 Georgia APA Legislative Day, gathering the largest number of APAs in history at the Georgia State Capitol to meet and lobby elected officials. ■

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| 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:<br>"Nantucket, Martha's Vineyard, Newport" |
| Jul. 03 ~ Jul. 12   | Japan By Train:<br>Hiroshima, Kurashiki, Okayama, Kyoto, Tokyo     |
| Sep. 09 ~ Sep. 20   | Tohoku & Hokkaido:<br>"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:<br>"France & Italy, Plus Monaco"  |
| Oct. 19 ~ Oct. 31   | Chilean Fjords & Patagonia & Easter Island                         |
| Oct. 21 ~ Oct. 30   | Autumn Japan:<br>"Hiroshima, Kyoto, Kanazawa, Takayama, Tokyo"     |
| Nov. 06 ~ Nov. 22   | Kii Peninsula & Shikoku & Okinawa:<br>"Koyasan, Kii Katsura"       |
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# EDUCATION MATTERS

## Twin Cities JACL Members Invited to Speak



TC JACL member and guest speaker Sally Sudo addresses AP U.S. history students at Lakeville North High School in Minneapolis on March 21.

For the past two years, Twin Cities JACL members Saki Tsuchiya and Sally Sudo have been invited to book clubs in Bloomington, Champlain, Burnsville and Edina, Minn., to tell their personal stories of growing up in the Nihonmachi area of Seattle.

The recent popularity of the New York Times best-seller "Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet" by Jamie Ford is bringing awareness to a new generation about the history of Japanese Americans living on the West Coast during World War II. Published in 2009, the story revolves around adolescents Henry Lee, a Chinese American, and Keiko Okabe, a Japanese American, and the friendship that develops between them just before the onset of World War II.

Similar to the book's protagonist, sisters Saki and Sally (nee Ohno) were uprooted at ages 9 and 6, respectively, from Seattle to Camp Harmony in Puyallup, Wash., and Minidoka in Hunt, Idaho, during WWII. Their family moved to Minneapolis with the help of their older brothers, Fred and Joe, who enlisted in the Military Intelligence Service and found a house large enough there for their 10 family members.

When Ford's book was announced as the book selection this year for "One Book, One Lakeville," a citywide program to promote literacy, understanding and community discussion and interaction, Sudo was invited to share her experiences at the Lakeville Heritage Library last month. More than 100 attendees came to hear Sudo's personal experiences.

"There is so much fascinating information [in the book]," commented one attendee, "and [Sudo's] personal story made it so engaging."

Following on the success of the library event, Sudo was invited to speak to 150 advanced placement U.S. history students at Lakeville North High School later in the month. One of the teachers there disclosed that she has



Twin Cities JACL members Sally Sudo (holding book) and Saki Tsuchiya (seated, middle) at a book club gathering in Burnsville, Minn. The two sisters have been sharing their personal experiences of growing up in the Nihonmachi area of Seattle.

>> See TWIN CITIES on page 16

### AMERICAN HOLIDAY TRAVEL

#### 2013 TOUR SCHEDULE

- JAPAN SPRING HOLIDAY TOUR . . . . . APR 10-20  
Tokyo, Sado Island, Nagano, Toyama, Kanazawa, Amanohashidate, Tottori, Matsue, Hiroshima.
- NEW YORK CITY GETAWAY TOUR . . . . . APR 11-16  
"Big Apple" (5 night stay), 9-11 Ground Zero Memorial, Greenwich, Wall Street District, Little Italy, Metropolitan Museum of Art, a Broadway Show, Ellis Island-Statue of Liberty.
- MICHIGAN SPRING HOLIDAY TOUR . . . . . MAY 3-11  
Detroit, Mackinac Island, Tulip Festival, Chicago, Green Bay-Wisconsin.
- ENGLAND-IRELAND-SCOTLAND HOLIDAY TOUR . . . . . MAY 17-31  
London, Stonehenge, Bath, Cardiff, York, Stratford-Upon-Avon, Dublin, Waterford, Blarney, Killarney, Caernarfon, Grasmere, Edinburgh.
- GRANDPARENTS-GRANDCHILDREN JAPAN TOUR . . . . . JUN 24-JUL 3  
Tokyo, Hakone, Atami, Hiroshima, Kyoto, Traditional Craft Hands-on Experience.
- PANA CONVENTION. . . . . SEPT  
Buenos Aires-Argentina.
- EAST COAST ISLANDS GETAWAY TOUR . . . . . SEP 29-OCT 4  
Mohegan Sun Resort & Casino (5 night stay), Day visits to New York City, Hamptons, Rhode Island.
- KOREA HOLIDAY TOUR . . . . . SEP 30-OCT 13  
Seoul, Jeju Island, Busan, Oedo Island, Tongyeong, Gwangju, Daejeon, Namiseom Island, Chuncheon, KBS Drama Center, DMZ (Japanese-American Korean War Memorial).
- NEW ENGLAND FALL FOLIAGE TOUR . . . . . OCT 12-18  
Boston, Stowe, Vermont, Green Mountains, Woodstock, Ogunquit Booth Bay Harbor, Maine.
- DISCOVER CUBA HOLIDAY TOUR (limited space). . . . . NOV 1-8  
Havana, Hemingway's Farm, Pinar Del Rio, Guanabacoa, Museum of Revolution, Tobacco Farm, Cigar & Rum Factory, Craft Market & Art Center, Tropicana Cabaret Show.
- OKINAWA HOLIDAY TOUR . . . . . NOV 3-12  
Ishigaki Island, Yufu Island, Buffalo Cart Ride, Taketomi Island, Onna Son, Ryukyu Mura, Churairumi Aquarium Expo Park, Manzamo, Himeyuri Monument, Peace Memorial, Gyokusendo at Okinawa World Park, Okinawa Cultural Show, Orion Beer Brewery, Shuri Castle, Traditional Hands-on Experience, Naha.
- TROPICAL COSTA RICA HOLIDAY TOUR . . . . . NOV 16-24  
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# Calling All Brides: Kelly Nishimoto

## to the Rescue

The creator of the popular Cute Booty clothing line is now helping soon-to-be brides find their perfect wedding dress on TLC's 'Something Borrowed, Something New.'

By Leiloni De Gruy  
Contributing Writer

**F**ashion designer Kelly Nishimoto has been using unconventional materials to craft clothing since she was a kid. At 13 years old, Nishimoto created a wedding dress using garbage bags and a glue gun. Six years later, she crafted her first clothing collection — including corsets, double-breasted jackets, handbags and ball gowns — from colored Reynolds Wrap. It seems only fitting that the 35-year-old designer would co-host TLC's new show "Something Borrowed, Something New," where her resourcefulness would be put to the ultimate test.

Born in a small town in Georgia to a Scottish-Irish father who was a craftsman and a Japanese American jewelry designer mother, Nishimoto had ample influences. After being praised by the Miami Herald for her fresh take on fashion — and subsequently moving to the City of Angels — the budding designer spent years on the fashion circuit wowing colleagues and celebrities by sending forward-thinking garments down the runway. But with a bubbly personality, Nishimoto was destined to step from behind the fabric and onto the TV scene.

That chance came in 2006 when she hosted Style Network's "My Celebrity Home." Still, she was eager to incorporate more of her fashion background. Nishimoto finally got an opportunity to do so when she was asked to co-host "Something Borrowed, Something New" with stylist Sam Saboura. On the show, Nishimoto takes used dresses given by loved ones and reworks them into modern designs. The soon-to-be bride can then choose from Nishimoto's creation or a store-bought gown.

In a recent interview with Leiloni De Gruy for the *Pacific Citizen*, Nishimoto discussed her childhood, her inspiration and her new TLC gig.

**How has your life been shaped by your father's profession and your mother's background?**

**Kelly Nishimoto:** We were always making things around the house, so it was in our blood to be creative. Music was also in our blood. They both played the guitar and wrote songs.

Since my mother was a jewelry designer, we'd go to her store. It was a bead bar, and ladies could come in to make their own necklaces and bracelets.

Then, I got my first sewing machine at 11, and I went to town.

**Without that creative environment, do you feel you would be who you are today?**

**Nishimoto:** No, I can't imagine that I would, but it wasn't all fun and games. My parents divorced when I was 8. I kind of got a taste of growing up a little too soon.



Sam Saboura and Kelly Nishimoto co-host TLC's "Something Borrowed, Something New"

**What was life like growing up in Georgia?**

**Nishimoto:** It was funny. My mother is only half-Japanese. She was born and partially raised in Japan, so [she] wasn't Americanized. She's not considered first generation. No one really noticed because she was lighter with freckles and had greenish-brown eyes and long, curly hair. But, they knew when I got to school and opened my lunch box because she usually packed me something weird like a ham sandwich and miso soup or a rice bowl.

She was a very creative and artistic woman, and so was my dad. I grew up in an extremely creative and liberal household. The small town that I grew up in was Roberta, Ga. There were about 800 people. They kind of had a hard time sometimes with me thinking too much outside the box. I was definitely ridiculed for that, but now they embrace it.

**How did weddings become your passion?**

**Nishimoto:** I started off in runway by sewing gowns and dresses. People would always say, "Can you make that in white or cream for my wedding, or can you make dresses for my bridesmaids?"

I never thought about getting into it, although I did make wedding gowns out of trash bags when I was a kid. It was never a passion of mine, but designing and making beautiful dresses was. So, I guess it was only natural that I ended up in that area.

**At 19, you made a clothing collection out of Reynolds Wrap. What made you choose these unconventional items over fabric?**

**Nishimoto:** I wanted to be extra creative. Plus, when I was young, I didn't realize you could go to a fabric store and buy fabric. I just thought you had to use what was around your house.

I would get my hands on anything I could mold or shape into a garment — be it leftover pillowcases or sheets or old T-shirts and plastic wrap. By the time I made the collection out of Reynolds Wrap, I just thought it was cool at that point.

**You would do well on "Project Runway."**

**Nishimoto:** *(Laughs)* I don't think my emotions can take it.

**How did you become a self-taught designer?**

**Nishimoto:** That was another naïve thing. I didn't realize I could go to school and learn it; it wasn't even in my thought process. I wanted to go to art school, but I didn't realize that at art school you could learn pattern making and garment construction. Besides, it was too expensive for my dad. He was a single father, so I figured I had to learn it on my own.

**How did you land the gig on TLC's "Something Borrowed, Something New"?**

**Nishimoto:** There is a gentleman over at TLC who I just love to death, and I think he feels the same way.

I have always been on his radar for anything clothing-related, but all of the projects I was called in for never came to fruition.

Finally, this one came through the pipeline, and they called me in for



San Jose, Calif., bride Jenny brought her mother's Taiwanese vintage gown to the TLC show for her garden wedding.

a meeting. There, I met the creators and the production company. It just fit.

**The chemistry between you and Sam Saboura appears to be genuine on the show.**

**Nishimoto:** It was so natural. From the very first day I was like, "This is my roll dog."

**Tell us about the concept of the show.**

**Nishimoto:** The brides come to us and they have a family member who wants them to wear their wedding dress.

The cool thing is that I get to deconstruct all of these old dresses and make the judgment call on how far we take the dress. When I get my hand on older dresses, you can tell a sharp difference. People really took pride in making garments back in the day. It wasn't until the '70s or '80s that things began to become mass-produced and lost what was special about them. So, when the old dresses come my way, I really enjoy the process of making the dress better without ruining it.

**Have you come across any dresses that were absolutely hideous?**

**Nishimoto:** Oh, definitely. There was one dress in particular that was hideous. I guess it had been altered as a Halloween costume.

It also had the giant puffy sleeves. All of the bead and appliques were glued on. As magical as we appear, you can't get glue out of satin. It's just not going to happen.

Needless to say, when I come across a dress like that, it immediately turns into lining for me. I just always pray that there is some lace that is good enough to put on the outside of the dress.

There was another dress that was a knit crochet, basic tank dress with a cardigan. That was one dress that I couldn't figure out what to do with it. The girl who was the bride — she wanted this gorgeous, glamorous dress that would be fit for a Catholic wedding.

How do you make something grand out of a knitted

tank top? It even had metallic threading. It was just weird. In the end, I cut the whole dress up into beautiful flowers.

Bride Jenny (right), when asked to choose between a vintage reworked gown and a new one, picked the "borrowed" dress.

**There was a bride with a very strict Muslim mother. The mother wanted her daughter fully covered, but the bride desired to show some skin. How do you work with those contrasting opinions?**

**Nishimoto:** Ultimately, it's tough because it's all psychology at that point. However, at the end of the day, you have to make the bride happy.

But in that particular situation you described, I didn't cover her up. I made the dress modern enough without freaking her mother out, and it still had the feel that the bride wanted. It's about finding a balance and making the bride happy.

**Have there been any unusual requests?**

**Nishimoto:** The red wedding dress has been the most unusual request. It was a little odd to me, but it was great because I think outside the box, too.

**What inspires your designs on the show?**

**Nishimoto:** It's the realistic expectation of what can be done with the dress. You can only work so many miracles with what you're given. Also, you have to consider how the bride envisions her dress looking on that day. Usually, the ideas come to me while daydreaming, sleeping or while on the treadmill.

**Where do you see yourself in the next few years?**

**Nishimoto:** All I know is that I want to continue to be creative.

I can't imagine myself ever doing anything else. This is it for me. It's in my blood. It's in my soul.

*"Something Borrowed, Something New" airs Friday nights at 10/9c on TLC.*



Kelly Nishimoto works with bride Jenny's mother to redesign a family heirloom gown.

## A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

PHOTO: CHRIS BUTCHER



# CALENDAR

## Ukulele Workshop and Performance with Musician Brittni Paiva COVINA, CA

April 13, 8 p.m.

April 14, 1-2:15 p.m.

The Fret House

309 N. Citrus

Cost: \$15/April 13; \$20/April 14

Hawaii's ukulele wizard Brittni Paiva is set to perform at the Fret House on April 13 and host a music workshop on April 14.

Info: Call (800) BET-FRET or visit [www.thefrethouse.com](http://www.thefrethouse.com).

### >>EDC

#### The 2013 JACL National Convention WASHINGTON, D.C.

July 24-26

Renaissance Hotel  
999 Ninth St., NW

To commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Civil Liberties Act, the National JACL Convention's 2013 theme is "Justice for All." For registration and cost information, visit the JACL's website.

Info: Visit [www.jacl.org/2013](http://www.jacl.org/2013) or call (202) 223-1240.

#### Brazilian Jazz Performance by Emy Tseng MCLEAN, VA

June 29, 5-7 p.m.

Civic Place Green at the Palladium

1450 Emerson Ave.

Washington, D.C.-based singer Emy Tseng will present a collection of Brazilian songs spanning four decades, as well as an eclectic arrangement of standards.

Info: Call (703) 288-9505 or visit [www.emytseng.com](http://www.emytseng.com).

#### The Japan Society of Boston's Annual Dinner BOSTON, MA

June 6

InterContinental Boston  
510 Atlantic Ave.

The Japan Society of Boston is gearing up for its annual dinner. Online registration and invitations for the event will be available on the website soon.

Info: Visit [www.japan-societyboston.org](http://www.japan-societyboston.org) or call (617) 522-0740.

### >>NCWNP

#### The 28th Annual Shinzen Run and Walk FRESNO, CA

April 27, 5:30 a.m.

Woodward Park

The race is open to runners and walkers of all levels and ages. Races include a kids' race, a two-mile run/walk, a five-mile run and 10-mile run/walk. Participants are eligible to win cash prizes. Proceeds benefit the Fresno JACL scholarship fund, Central California Nikkei Foundation and Shinzen Japanese Garden.

Registration begins at 5:30 a.m. at the Shinzen Garden parking lot and the first race starts at 6 a.m.

Info: Visit [www.fresnojacl.org](http://www.fresnojacl.org).

#### AAWAA's Exhibit 'Undercurrents and the Quest for Space' SAN FRANCISCO, CA

May 2-25

SOMArts Cultural Center  
934 Brannan St.

The Asian American Women Artists Assn. and Asian Pacific Islander Cultural Center are teaming up to present the exhibit "Undercurrents and the Quest for Space." The opening reception will be held May 2 from 5-8 p.m. Admission to the exhibit is free.

Info: Call (415) 863-1414 or visit [www.somarts.org](http://www.somarts.org).

#### NJAHS 'The Presidio Project' Art Exhibit SAN FRANCISCO, CA

Open now-fall 2013

National Japanese American Historical Society  
1684 Post St.

The "Secrets Revealed: The Presidio Project" exhibit tells the untold stories of Nisei internees, including those in the military. Their stories are brought to life through an interactive kiosk.

Info: Visit [www.njahs.org](http://www.njahs.org) or call (415) 921-5007.

#### JAMSJ Children's Day Festival SAN JOSE, CA

April 28, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Japanese American Museum of San Jose

535 N. Fifth St., Second Floor

Cost: \$5/General admission; \$3/Seniors and Students

This children's day festival will feature special craft activities for kids, as well as a special appearance by Hello Kitty at the museum and its festival booth. There will also be a chance to win a gift basket.

Info: Call (408) 294-3138 or email [publicprograms@jamsj.org](mailto:publicprograms@jamsj.org).

### >>PSW

#### Manzanar School Reunion LAS VEGAS, NV

Aug. 5-7

California Hotel and Casino  
12 E. Ogden Ave.

Plans for the 2013 Manzanar School Reunion are underway. Everyone who attended schools in Manzanar, as well as those interested in Manzanar, are encouraged to attend this year's reunion.

Info: Call Cherry Uyeda at (818) 981-2629 or Ray Kawahara at (714) 521-4036.

#### Author Book Talk at the Pacific Asia Museum PASADENA, CA

April 21, 2 p.m.

#### Pacific Asia Museum 46 N. Los Robles Ave.

Nancy Pine will discuss and sign "Educating Young Giants: What Kids Learn (And Don't Learn) in China and America," a book that looks at teaching methods and the demands of modern technology and the global economy. There will be light refreshments.

Info: Visit [www.pacificasia-museum.org](http://www.pacificasia-museum.org) or call (626) 449-2742, ext. 20.

#### Fuji Music Japan Musical Workshops OXNARD, CA

April 5-6, 19-20 &

26-27

Oxnard Buddhist Temple  
250 S. H St.

Cost: \$20/Per person

Fuji Music Japan will be hosting music workshops where participants can learn odori dance, shamisen or shime taiko and kotsuzumi. Info: Call Kimisen Katada at (805) 620-7287 or email [fujijapanesemusic@gmail.com](mailto:fujijapanesemusic@gmail.com).

#### Little Tokyo Walking Tour LOS ANGELES, CA

April 27, 10:15 a.m.-

12:15 p.m.

Japanese American National Museum

100 N. Central Ave.

Cost: \$9/Members;

\$14/Nonmembers

This tour is led by museum docents who will teach attendees about the history of Little Tokyo. Comfortable walking shoes are recommended.

Info: Call (213) 625-0414 or visit [www.janm.org](http://www.janm.org).

#### JACCC Ikenobo Exhibit LOS ANGELES, CA

June 1-2

Japanese American Cultural & Community Center

George J. Doizaki Gallery  
244 S. San Pedro St.

This exhibit celebrates Shunho Shimbashi's 50th anniversary as the lead instructor of the Los Angeles chapter of the Ikenobo School of flower arrangement by displaying her flower arrangements.

Info: Call (213) 628-2725 or visit [www.jaccc.org](http://www.jaccc.org).

### >>MDC

#### The 2013 Chicago JACL Scholarship Luncheon SKOKIE, IL

May 5, Noon

Maggaiano's Little Italy Restaurant

4999 Old Orchard Center,  
Suite A28

Cost \$45/General Admission

This event celebrates Chicago JACL chapter scholarship winners. RSVP by April 23. Send checks payable to Chicago JACL at 5414 N. Clark St., Chicago, IL 60640. Info: Call (773) 728-7171 or visit [www.jaclchicago.org](http://www.jaclchicago.org). ■

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## FOR MORE INFO:

[nalea@pacificcitizen.org](mailto:nalea@pacificcitizen.org)  
(800) 966-6157

TRIBUTES



**Kazuo "Kaz" Ikeda, 94**

Passed peacefully, Feb. 11, in Arroyo Grande, Ca. He was born in King City, Ca. the oldest son of Juzo and Sei.

Kaz graduated from Arroyo Grande HS and went on to Cal Poly where he played baseball for two years before returning to the family farm.

During World War II, Kaz and his family were interned at Gila Relocation Center and because of the generosity of the Loomis Family, the Ikedas were able to return to farming on the Central Coast after the War.

Farming was more than just a job to Kaz - it was a family tradition passed down from his father to his sons and to grandsons continuing on with great-grandsons. He was one of the founding members of the Pismo Oceano Vegetable Exchange (POVE).

Kaz valued family more than anything. His definition of family didn't stop with the Ikedas - it included his extended farming and community families. Kaz was a proud, honorable man who treated everyone around him with care and respect. While his work revolved around the farm, his other passion was baseball. He played baseball in his youth, coached for many years and enjoyed watching games any chance he got.

Kaz played Nisei Baseball and was honored as a Nisei Baseball Pioneer in the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown and at Japan's Baseball Hall of Fame. He was one of the founders of the Arroyo Grande Babe Ruth Baseball League and has several fields in the area named in his honor.

Kaz was a Rotarian for over 60 years and a Thousand Club member of JACL. He received many honors, in and around his community and was honored in 2011 as a Nisei Week Pioneer.

Kaz was happily married for 62 years and is survived by his wife, Mitzi; four children Julie Nishioka (Forrest), Stan Ikeda (Terri Ann), Patricia Kawaguchi (Patrick) and Vard Ikeda (Terri Lea); 10 grandchildren Caroline, Traci, Brycen (Marian), Shelby, Misha, Grant, Garrett, Carly, Robyn and Kent. He is also survived by his sister in-law, Marion Ikeda; and many cousins, nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents Juzo and Sei Ikeda; brothers Seirin and Saburo (Shizuwa); sister, Emiko; and granddaughter, Lindsey.



**Roy Nakata**

Roy Nakata passed away on March 13, 2013, at Paoli Memorial Hospital. He died quietly and comfortably from pulmonary complications following a surgical procedure. His immediate family was near him at the time of his death.

Roy was born in Alameda, California, on April 16, 1924. He was the second of four children. After living through the Depression, his family was interned by the U.S. government during World War II. During the summer of 1942, the government forced his family to live in a horse stable at Santa Anita racetrack and then for the remainder of the war at the Heart Mountain relocation center in Wyoming. While he was at Santa Anita, family friends and the American Friends Service Committee helped Roy apply for Oberlin College. While at Oberlin, he was drafted into the U.S. Army. After being honorably discharged, Roy went on to earn a Bachelors of Science degree in chemical engineering from San Jose State University and a Bachelors of Science and Masters of Science degree in electrical engineering from Stanford University. Part of Roy's remarkable journey is chronicled in the first chapter of the book, *Storied Lives: Japanese-American Students and World War II* by Gary Okihiro.

Ironically, adversity during World War II also led Roy to meet Hiroko Sakamoto, a young architecture student at Ohio State and whose family was interned at a relocation camp in Poston, Arizona. They would later marry and have two sons. Hiroko was a pillar of strength and support to him, particularly in his later years.

Throughout his life, Roy had an amazing combination of intellect and creativity. He was happiest with a felt-tip pen in hand sketching out clever solutions to vexing problem. The holder of 20 patents, Roy helped design many of the major power systems that power our modern age, including work with the Bonneville Power Administration and Consolidated Edison. Roy spent most of his career as an electrical engineer for General Electric, where he ultimately managed the renowned high-voltage laboratory in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. He always enjoyed rolling up his sleeves, donning a hard hat, and conducting deafening experiments with millions of volts. Roy shared his zeal for life and thirst for knowledge with everyone around him—particularly his two sons, Phillip and Ken. As simply put by one of Ken's close friends, "Roy made lightning."

Roy is survived by his wife Hiroko; his two sons, Phillip Nakata and Ken Nakata and his wife Laura Ruby; and sisters, Mary Tomita and her husband Kenji Tomita, and Grace Uriu and husband Dale Uriu; and grandchildren Aimee Nakata and Aaron Nakata. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be sent to the American Friends Services Committee at [www.afsc.org](http://www.afsc.org) (888-588-2372) or the American Asthma Foundation Research Program at 415-404-3420. Roy will be laid to rest at Washington Crossing Veterans Cemetery with honors.

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**Contact:**  
[nalea@pacificcitizen.org](mailto:nalea@pacificcitizen.org) or (213) 620-1767

*In Memoriam*

**Fukano, Haruye Holly, 84**, Tracy, CA; Feb. 22; Holly was interned at Rohwer; predeceased by husband Fred; siblings Sumiye Fukumoto, Sadoko Fukumoto, Kazushi Fukumoto, Mel Fukumoto, Sakae Fukumoto, John Fukumoto, Mollie Nishikawa and Jane Nimi; and by Holly and Fred's loyal dog, Cleo; survived by her children, Anne, Robert (Janice), John (Jennifer) and Mary Orr (Mark); siblings Masae Matsuno, Earl Fukumoto, Mutsuo Fukumoto and Tom Fukumoto; 5 gc.

**Hatakeyama, Kimio, 92**, West Covina, CA; Feb. 27; survived by his wife, Mary; children, Kris (Akemi), Nancy (Raymond) Maekawa, and Joy (Calvert) Kitaura; 8 gc; 3 ggc.

**Kido Nakashima, Miki Miwako, 83**, Nampa, ID; Feb. 20; predeceased by her brothers Wataru, Raito and Mitsuo Nakashima; sisters Midori Kato and Junko Yamashita; survived by her husband Hiro; children Sharlene (Doug) DesRochers,

Scott (Lori Lovelace) and Clark; 7 gc.

**Kobayashi Cooke, Yayoi, 90**, Delaplane, VA; March 7; predeceased by siblings Toru, Tokiwa and Satoshi; survived by husband, Gordon Cooke, daughters Alana (Lester) Potter and Maurya; 15 gc, 3 ggc

**Maeda, Wayne H., 65**, Sacramento, CA; Feb. 27; Wayne was one of the founding members of the Cal State Sacramento ethnic studies program; predeceased by parents Masao and Ayako; survived by his wife, Lorrie Toohey Maeda; daughters Yumi (Carly Tan) and Sachi; and ex-wife Elaine (Matsumoto); siblings Hatsuye Catherine and Setsuo Ralph.

**Nagasugi, Fumiko, 89**, Seal Beach, CA; Feb. 17; survived by her children, Clinton (Jill) and Craig; sisters, Betty Nakawatase, Kazue Matsui and May Nishimoto; in-laws, Toshie Murakami, Mary (Fred) Kasai and Takashi, John (Lily), Kiyoshi (Donna) and Eiji

(Barbara) Nakamura; 4 gc.

**Nakama, Julie Ann Naomi, 47**, L.A., CA; March 2; predeceased by her father, Sam Masaru Koyama; wife of Steve Kenji; mother of Katelyn Sadako, Matthew Misao and Nicole Kiyomi; daughter of Tazuka Koyama; sister of John Hideki (Joycelyn Eng) Koyama and Lily Midori ( Dan Kazunori ) Taguchi.

**Nakata, Minoru, 96**, La Palma, CA; Feb. 22; he is survived by children, Gladys (Raymond) Toguchi, Paul, Edwin (Renee) and Wilfred (Joanne); sister, Alice Toguchi, June Muranaka; half brother, Fumio (Toyoko) Nakada; 6 gc; 3 ggc.

**Okada, Masako, 79**, L.A., CA; March 6; mother of Yuki; sister of Yetsuko Kiyomi, Teruko Helen Fujii, and Hiroshi Sakai.

**Oyama, Henry, 86**, Tucson, AZ; March 19; the civil-rights pioneer and longtime educator fought a state law in the 1950s that prohibited interracial marriage;

his family was interned at Poston during WWII; he was drafted into the Army in 1945; survived by his wife, Laura Ann; daughter Mary Catherine Tate; sons David, Patrick and Steven; stepchildren Susanna Minegishi, Chris Toledo, Elizabeth Toledo, Pablo Toledo and Andrea Leyva; 14 gc; 6 ggc.

**Prentice, Janet Shigeko, 90**, Irvine, CA; March 1; survived by her beloved siblings, Tetsuo Ted (Haruye) Sakamoto, Yuriko Seko and Nancy Sachiko Nakamura.

**Tani, Nobuhiro, 86**, Long Beach, CA; March 11; he is survived by his sister, Keiko (Glenn) Akutagawa; nephew, Douglas Akutagawa; nieces, Berklee Akutagawa, Janet Haraguchi, and Joni (Raymond) Haraguchi-Viayra; grandniece, Veronica Viayra

**Uyesugi, Hiroko, 85**, Beverly Hills, CA; Feb. 20; survived by children, George (Yuko) and Kenji (Midori); sister, Michiko Nakata; 4 gc.

**Wada, Cary Yasuke, 79**, Sun

Valley, CA; Feb. 18; survived by children Lisa (Chris) Wada Mann, Lori (Bryan) Wada Abe, Joanna Yasuko and Joey Yasusuke Barker and Christina Ann Wada; sisters, Stella Shiori Katsuki, Barbara Teruko Hayashi, Fumi Sato and June Junko Wada; brothers, Sam Haruo, Masaru (Pauline) and Sax Sakaye (Kimi); 3 gc; 3 ggc.

**Yamada, Kiminobu, 85, L.A., CA**; Feb. 20; predeceased by his wife, Yoshiko; survived by his daughters, Sharon (Keisuke Ikuma) and Noreen (Stewart) Irving; son, Dean; sister, Toshiko (James) Takemura; 4 gc.

**Yamada, Toshiko, 92, L.A., CA**; Feb. 23; survived by children, Gary (Joyce) and Stan, and Susan (Brian) Quon; sister, Lillian Neeno; 5 gc; 3 ggc.

**Yamashiro, Aiko, 80**, La Mirada, CA; March 10; survived by husband Takeshi brothers, Hisashi (Sueko) Nakatsuka and Mitsugi (Violet) Nakatsuka; sister, Betty Kondo.

## LGBT FAMILIES >> continued from page 3

And so, when I reached out to JACL National Director Priscilla Ouchida to see if the organization might have an interest in supporting this kind of work, in collaboration with

PFLAG, Priscilla was definitely interested. She put me in contact with Bill Tashima, former Seattle JACL president. In my first telephone conversation with Bill, his warm and thoughtful mannerisms put me at ease. As we talked, I could tell that supporting LGBT families in Seattle touched his heart. And then he said something unexpected to me. He said, "I wish I had something like this when I was growing up . . . a place to get support." I then understood. Bill is a gay man.

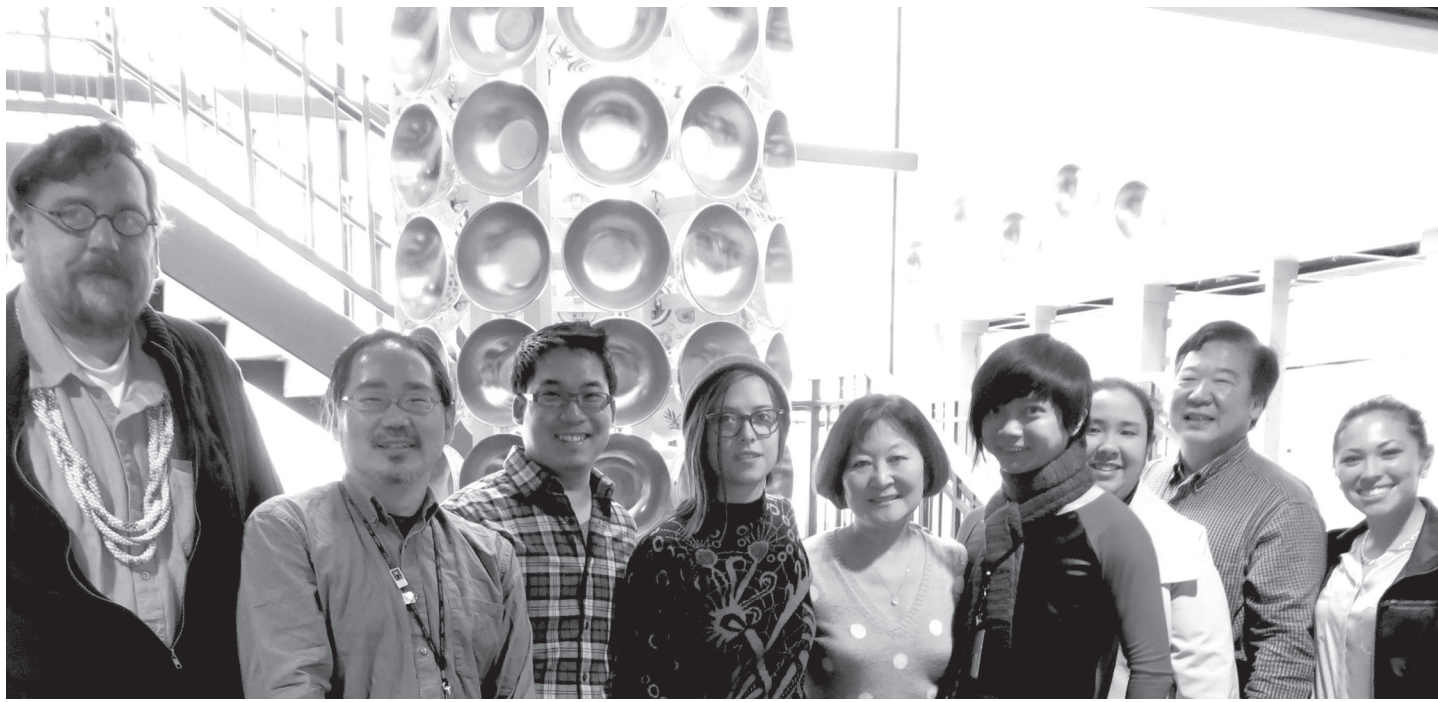
At our first meeting, Seattle JACL had five representatives from their board: Bill Tashima, Toshiko Hasegawa, Umeko Motoyoshi, Paul Tashima and Cara Peterson. Also present were Bif Brigman, the interim executive director of the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Washington and Dale H. Watanabe, an international student adviser at Seattle University. Rounding out the group was Victor Loo of the Asian Counseling and Referral Services, who graciously hosted the meeting at the ACRS building. Each individual

brought a passion to support API LGBT families with an openness and willingness to share their thoughts, their skills and their time on already full plates of responsibility. Since our

initial meeting, PFLAG Bellevue has agreed to help spearhead this project. Now seems like the right time, with the right people, to get this idea off the ground.

I am not sure where this journey will lead this group and how soon we will be able to bring support to the Seattle area, but what I do know is there is a group of committed individuals who believe that this is a worthy goal.

I walked away from this meeting so inspired by both their eagerness to travel down this unknown road and their compassion to help these families. Seattle, you are very lucky to



Marsha Aizumi (center), the mother of transgender son Aiden, traveled to Seattle on March 7 for an LGBT support group.

have API and LGBT leaders who care so deeply and are dedicated to creating a better world for all.

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

## RALLY >> continued from page 6



JACL joined the AAJC, NQAPIA and OCA National at the marriage equality rally.

Said Ouchida: "The 10,000-plus members of the Japanese American Citizens League are proud to be here to celebrate the right to love. Japanese Americans felt the sting of what it means to be treated differently — 120,000 men, women and children were imprisoned during World War II. That was wrong. There was a time when this nation outlawed the right of a Japanese immigrant to marry an American. That law was wrong.

Today, many states prohibit same-sex couples from marrying. That law is wrong, too."

Ouchida called for a Greater America, "a country where every person has the same rights — no matter your skin color, no matter your gender, no matter sexual orientation."

The Court is expected to make a decision on both cases in June. ■

## TWIN CITIES >> continued from page 11

topic until this year. Following the hourlong presentation, one student stated, "You are 'living history,' and your first-hand account made what we read in the book come to life."

Minnesota played a unique role when the U.S. Army relocated the MIS Language School, first to Camp Savage and later to Fort Snelling.

Observed Sudo, "Although those living on the West Coast may be familiar with the experiences of the Japanese Americans in WWII, it is gratifying to know that many in the Midwest are learning for the first time about this chapter in history through a popular book."

*For more information about the TC JACL, contact Sally Sudo, education chair, at [twincitiesjacl@gmail.com](mailto:twincitiesjacl@gmail.com).*



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