



# PACIFIC CITIZEN



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# VERY TRULY YOURS

## Demolition vs. JACL Convention Site

By Harry Honda

**DRIVING BY DEMOLISHED** old Statler-Hilton Hotel at Figueroa and 7th Street in downtown Los Angeles was where the 1954 national JACL convention took place. The “biggest” convention in JACL history. Over 1,200 attended.

Nisei of the Biennium Sgt. Hershey Miyamura and his wife, Terry, from Gallup, N.M., and a great number of newly naturalized Issei Americans and 1000 Club “charter” members. The first 1,000 members who donated \$25 each year above chapter dues (not \$1,000) were so recognized, and Shig Wakamatsu (Chicago) was added to the national board that year, recognizing an important facet in JACL funding.

Official and booster delegates plus friends are “bread and butter” basics of all conventions. Many probably came to see the “insides” of a hotel that just opened a half-year earlier. Our 1954 convention met from Aug. 31, ending on Labor Day. On the agenda was a day of “no business” at Royal Palms in San Pedro by the ocean, but not a beach or rocky White’s Point, once farmed by Issei for abalone.

Tribute was paid to special Americans who befriended us and spoke of Nisei loyalty during the difficult World War II years: Esther Bartlett, International Institute; Pasadena Methodist Rev. Raymond Booth; William Kent, Hollywood American Legion; Maryknoll Father Hugh Lavery; retired Episcopalian Bishop C. S.

Reifsnider; attorneys A. L. Wirin and Homer Crotty; Rev. Aaron Heist, ACLU in Huntington Beach and George Thomas, L.A. Conference of Community Relations.

I remember Edison Uno (East Los Angeles), asking the *P.C.* Editorial Board to include a Japanese section when “feasible” and Sim Togasaki (San Francisco) hailing the council’s decision in 1952 to relocate the *P.C.* to Little Tokyo for business reasons rather than back to San Francisco for sake of tradition. Some delegates felt the \$3 subscription fee be compulsory, which didn’t happen till 1960. Also, for first time, a supplemental budget for *P.C.* expenses was not submitted.

This was my first JACL convention as *P.C.* editor, succeeding Larry Tajiri, who resigned after the 1952 convention in San Francisco, which had relocated the *P.C.* from Salt Lake City to Los Angeles without an editor, but the file cabinets, typewriters and thousands of Addressograph mailing plates and its equipment came with Mas Horiuchi (Salt Lake City), then headquarters’ office manager driving them down in his truck.

When headquarters returned to San Francisco in 1953, Mas Satow’s new office secretary was Daisy Uyeda (now Mrs. Yone Satoda) (1953-65).

Masters at the council sessions were George Inagaki (Venice-Culver), national president;

National Secretary Mas Satow; Washington “Rep” Mike Masaoka; and Dr. Roy Nishikawa (Southwest Los Angeles), national treasurer.

Among chapter presidents as official delegates in 1954 who later were national president were Kumeo Yoshinari (Chicago) and Jerry Enomoto (San Francisco). Bill Marutani (Philadelphia chapter president in 1955) was national legal counsel (1962-70).

Besides the biennial reports from the Masters were chairmen of standing committees, briefly noted below.

1. Arlington National Cemetery, Ira Shimasaki (WDC). 20 Nisei are interred there. The year 1954 was the 10th anniversary re Rescue of the Lost Battalion.
2. Recognition, Randy Sakada (Chicago). Thirteen names submitted for two Nisei of Biennium by categories: Distinguished Achievements and Distinguished Community Leadership. Convention queen Janet Fukuda of Santa Ana was cited.
3. Constitution, David Yokozeki (DTLA). Major amendments involved obligations for chapters.
4. Membership, George Yasukochi (Berkeley). Four-part form drafted for national.
5. Program & Activities, Tad Masaoka (WDC). Aging and Issei memberships prioritized.

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## JACL Receives \$100,000 Gift

**SAN FRANCISCO** — The Japanese American Citizens League, the oldest and largest Asian American civil and human rights organization in the country, has received a generous \$100,000 donation from Bill Sasaki.

While there were no restrictions placed on the use of the funds, the gift, in part, will be used to support JACL’s education programs, which include the development and distribution of supplemental curriculum about Japanese American history for teachers. In addition, the fund will support JACL’s cultural and historical preservation initiatives, including those focused on former WWII confinement sites.

“I’d like to remind Japanese Americans to be proud of their Japanese heritage,” said Sasaki. “Even though I was born in California, I hadn’t really thought that this was important, but after living in both Japan and the U.S. and experiencing both cultures, I’m convinced that we owe it to the Issei that came before us to promote and appreciate our Japanese heritage. I think it’s important for the Sansei and Yonsei to support the work and efforts of organizations like JACL.”

Priscilla Ouchida, national director of JACL, said that using the funds to support JACL’s education and preservation efforts will be a good fit to honor the intent of Sasaki’s gift.

“Now, more than ever, it’s important

for people to learn about and understand the Japanese American experience to ensure that what happened to the community during WWII never happens again,” said Ouchida. “For Japanese Americans, it’s especially important to know our history to be able to fully appreciate the hard work and sacrifices of the generations that came before us. Mr. Sasaki’s generous gift will infuse our programs with much-needed resources to help strengthen our efforts in these areas.”

Steve Okamoto, chair of the National JACL Planned Giving Program, stated that donations like those from Sasaki are critical for JACL’s work, both on the issues facing the community today and those in the future.

“Generosity from individuals like Mr. Sasaki is critical to ensure that JACL can continue its efforts to promote cultural values and preserve the heritage and legacy of the Japanese American community for future generations,” said Okamoto. “We are extremely grateful to Mr. Sasaki and commend him for his wish to honor the generations that came before us by investing in our future.”

**For more information about the JACL and its programs, please visit [jacl.org](http://jacl.org). For information about how to make a donation or a planned gift, contact Steve Okamoto at (650) 468-8184 or email [steveokamoto1@gmail.com](mailto:steveokamoto1@gmail.com).**

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# NIKKEI VOICE

## How Language Evolves — Sometimes Too Fast for Us to Keep Up!

By Gil Asakawa

I was amused to see a recent news story about a 71-year-old Japanese man, Hoji Takahashi, who has sued Japan’s public television broadcaster, NHK. His reason for filing suit? He’s suffering “mental distress” because of what he considers NHK’s excessive use of foreign words.

He’s no elderly gadfly with a silly gripe. He’s a member of an organization that is dedicated to preserving the Japanese language, so this is an organized effort to try and stop the influx of foreign words. What foreign words, you ask? Here are a few cited by news reports, including those from the BBC:

If you tune into NHK’s news or entertainment shows, you can easily make out words such as *toraburu* for “trouble,” *risuku* for “risk” and *shisutemu* for “system.” I’ve been at my mom’s house when she has NHK satellite programming on, and I’ve heard *toppu fohty* for “Top 40” in a story about pop music, and many other words that I can make out as English, albeit somewhat mangled in pronunciation.

My mom isn’t a member of any group fighting this trend, but she’s griped to me plenty. For those of you who don’t read Japanese, there are three scripts you need to know to

read and write: The complex Chinese *kanji* characters that most people will recognize even if they don’t understand them (there are more than 4,000) and two simplified sets of characters called *hiragana* and *katakana*. They both represent the same set of sounds, starting with “ah,” “ee,”

*‘I’m no linguist, but I suspect the Japanese language evolves faster than many.’*

“oo,” “eh,” “oh,” “ka,” “kee,” “koo,” “keh,” “koh,” “sah,” “see” . . . well, you get the idea.

The reason there are two versions— *hiragana* (which is rounded) and *katakana* (which has similar shapes but more angular) — is that *katakana* is used for foreign words. Words like *Gil* would be written out phonetically in *katakana* as “Gi-Roo.” *Asakawa* could be written out in *kanji* for

“shallow river.”

OK, end of language lesson.

The point is, my mom has been despairing for years now that the Japanese magazines she reads are increasingly filled with “*katakana* words” — that is, foreign words written out phonetically in Japanese, and, like Mr. Takahashi in Japan, my mom often has no idea what the heck they mean. They’re rampant not only in Japanese newspapers and magazines — you can tell just by scanning a page and seeing how many words are written out in angular *katakana* script.

There’s logic to the evolution of language embracing foreign words if some new technology or concept comes along that didn’t previously exist in one’s language. But Japan has been absorbing foreign stuff for 150 years and has come up with its own words for things such as car or railroad train. But it does seem like in the past several decades, the Japanese have stopped making up new Japanese words and simply adopted foreign words more and more.

Sometimes, the Japanese will add their own twist. There are lots of combinations of words to create new ones in

>> See LANGUAGE on page 12

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# Tuna Canyon Oak Grove Declared a Historic Site

An approximately one-acre oak grove on the location of the former Tuna Canyon Detention Station was declared a historical-cultural monument on June 25, when the Los Angeles City Council unanimously supported an amending motion introduced by Councilmember Richard Alarcon and seconded by Councilmember Mitchell Englander.

The Tuna Canyon Detention Station in Southern California's Verdugo Mountains was used as a Department of Justice internment camp for Japanese, German and Italian Americans during World War II. The site was later razed to construct the Verdugo Hills Golf Course, and portions of the property are now marked for housing development.

The city's Cultural Heritage Commission recommended against monument status in April because of the lack of any remaining historical structures on the site. Said Alarcon, who originally nominated the site for historical-cultural landmark status: "I do believe we have reached a point where we can agree to designate this site as a historical-cultural landmark designation."

Alarcon argued that the city has designated many monuments at sites where the original buildings no longer stand and added that the trees — many of which have been around pre-WWII — have also been designated as historic.

Councilmember and chair of the Planning and Land Use Management Committee Ed Reyes recommended that talks be held between the Council District 7 office, the property owner (Snowball West Investments) and preservation advocates before the council took action. In a compromise, the councilmembers agreed to only designate the oak grove as a moment, with its exact size of the named area to be determined.

Said Alarcon in a statement on June 25: "The Tuna Canyon

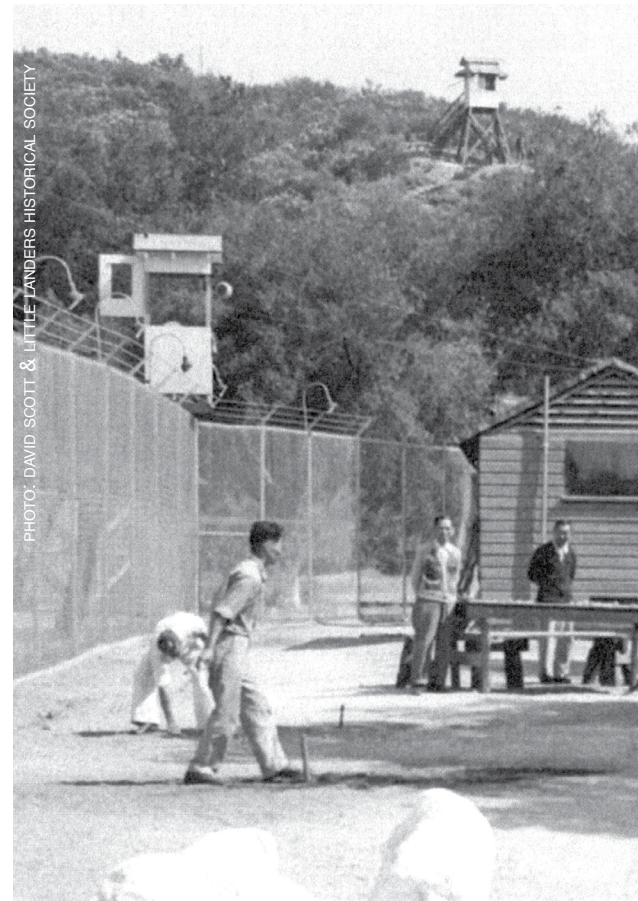
Detention Station is an important piece of our history in the northeast San Fernando Valley and a reminder of some of our darkest times as a community, nation and world. Declaring the Tuna Canyon Detention Station as a historic-cultural monument allows us to protect this important piece of our history and give us the opportunity to continue to learn from our past mistakes and preserve this lesson for generations to come. I thank the City Council for their support of my motion and the community for their strong activism to support this designation."

In addition, the council also instructed the Department of Planning to convene the Historic Tuna Canyon Detention Station Working Group, which will be headed by Alarcon's successor, Felipe Fuentes. It will consist of Snowball West Investments and representatives/historians from the Japanese American community, as well as community stakeholders.

The group will be in charge of exploring ways to adequately commemorate the site and secure the necessary resources for display/signage. They are to report their findings and recommendations to the council within 60 days.

Said Lloyd Hitt, past president of the Little Landers Historical Society of the findings, "I absolutely support Councilmember Alarcon's effort to protect the site of the Tuna Canyon Detention Station as a historic monument. The historic significance of this site cannot be overstated and preserving the area would be a positive statement that reflects both our community and the families of those whose fathers passed through the Tuna Canyon Detention Station."

In all, nearly 1,490 Issei men passed through the Tuna Canyon Detention Station and were then transferred to other camps from its opening in December 1941 to May 1942. It processed more than 2,500 individuals overall. ■



Detainees at Tuna Canyon Detention Station reportedly arrived on Dec. 16, 1941. Nearly 1,490 Issei men were processed through the station and transferred to other camps as of May 25, 1942.

## Vice Adm. Harry B. Harris Jr. to Head Up Pacific Fleet



WASHINGTON, D.C. — President Barack Obama has nominated Navy Vice Adm. Harry B. Harris Jr. for the rank of admiral and commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor in Oahu, Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel announced June 24.

Harris would succeed Adm. Cecil Haney, who has been appointed to lead the U.S. Strategic Command in Nebraska. Harris is currently serving as assistant to the

chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon.

Both appointments await Senate confirmation.

Harris, who was born in Japan and raised in Tennessee and Florida, graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1978 and began his career as a Navy flight officer at VP-44. He then went on to serve as a tactical action officer aboard the USS Saratoga (CV 60); operations officer in VP-4; three tours with Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing 1 at Kamiseya, Japan; director of operations for the U.S. 5th fleet at Manama, Bahrain; and director of operations for the U.S. Southern Command.

In addition, Harris commanded VP-46, Patrol and Reconnaissance Wing 1; Joint Task Force-Guantanamo; the U.S. 6th Fleet; and Striking and Support Forces NATO.

He has served in every geographic combatant command region, as well as participated in numerous operations, including Desert Shield/Desert Storm, Enduring Freedom, Iraqi Freedom and Odyssey Dawn/Unified Protector (Libya 2011).

The Pacific Fleet includes nearly 200 surface ships and submarines and nearly 1,100 aircraft from the U.S. West Coast to the Indian Ocean. In total, it employs more than 140,000 sailors and civilians. ■

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# Supreme Court Delivers DOMA Decision

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Defense of Marriage Act, the law that prohibits the federal government from acknowledging same-sex marriages legalized by the states, is unconstitutional, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled June 26 by a 5-4 vote.

“The federal statute is invalid, for no legitimate purpose overcomes the purpose and effect to disparage and to injure those whom the State, by its laws, sought to protect in personhood and dignity,” Justice Anthony Kennedy wrote in the majority opinion. “By seeking to displace this protection and treating those persons as living in marriages less respected than others, the federal statute is in violation of the Fifth Amendment.”

Justice Kennedy delivered the court’s opinion and was joined by Justices Stephen Breyer, Ruth Bader Ginsberg, Elena Kagan and Sonia Sotomayor. Chief Justice John Roberts and Justices Antonin Scalia and Samuel Alito all filed dissenting opinions. Justice Clarence Thomas joined Scalia’s dissent in whole and parts of Alito’s opinion.

The court’s rulings struck down a key portion of DOMA, which was enacted in 1996 and signed by President Bill Clinton. DOMA defined marriage solely as a union between opposite-sex couples and prevented same-sex couples whose marriages were recognized by their home state from receiving the benefits available to opposite-sex couples under federal law.

In all, there were two cases related to marriage equality. *United States v. Windsor* challenged the constitutionality of the federal DOMA, while *Hollingsworth v. Perry* challenged the constitutionality of California’s Proposition 8. The court ruled the heart of DOMA unconstitutional and that a district court’s decision that Proposition 8 is unconstitutional remains in effect.

Asian American supporters of gay rights celebrated the two historic rulings.

“When my grandfather was a young man, the federal government prohibited his marriage to an American citizen because of his race. Today’s decision is not only a victory for same-sex couples but for every American who has experienced discrimination,” said Priscilla Ouchida, national director of the Japanese American Citizens League.

The JACL was the first organization to adopt a resolution in support of marriage equality. The organization has been a



In April, the JACL joined the AAJC, NQAPIA and OCA National at a marriage equality rally in Washington, D.C. The June 26 U.S. Supreme Court rulings on two same-sex marriage cases are being seen as significant steps toward marriage equality for all individuals.

visible proponent of same-sex marriages since 1994.

“We applaud the Supreme Court for a decision that affirms our nation’s values of equality and diversity,” said David Lin, president of the JACL.

Rep. Mark Takano (D-Riverside), who is the first openly gay person of color to serve in the House of Representatives, called the Supreme Court’s decisions “monumental.”

“Today is a monumental day for families across America as we take a step closer toward full equality for LGBT Americans. By striking down Section 3 of the Defense of Marriage Act and allowing the Ninth Circuit court ruling to stand on California’s Proposition 8, the Supreme Court has brought full equality to thousands of married couples

across the United States and restored marriage equality in California.”

Opponents of gay marriage expressed disappointment in the high court’s rulings.

“While I am obviously disappointed in the ruling, it is always critical that we protect our system of checks and balances,” said House Speaker John Boehner.

Shortly after the rulings, President Barack Obama released an official statement: “This was discrimination enshrined in law. It treated loving, committed gay and lesbian couples as a separate and lesser class of people. The Supreme Court has righted that wrong, and our country is better for it.”

## U.S. Senate Passes Milestone Immigration Reform Bill

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The June 27 vote by the U.S. Senate on S. 744 is being lauded by Asian Pacific American legislators and advocates as a positive step toward immigration reform.

By a vote of 68 to 32, the Senate passed the Border Security, Economic Opportunity and Immigration Modernization Act.

However, while the passage of the bill was significant, the JACL expressed ongoing concerns about amendments to the bill and the failure to address key issues pertaining to the Asian American Pacific Islander community.

According to the JACL, the provisions in S. 744 limit family based immigration pathways to the United States

and eliminate family based immigration options for U.S. citizens to petition for reunification with adult children over the age of 30, married children and siblings.

“An immigration system that keeps families together delivers both social and economic benefits,” said Priscilla Ouchida, national director of the JACL. “Studies have found that immigrant families play a crucial role in the economy and in community development.”

The JACL also expressed disappointment in the inclusion of the Corker-Hoeven Amendment, which militarizes the southern border. S. 744 requires 40,000 border control officers, the use of drones, mandatory enforcement of E-verify and further obstacles for immigrants at a cost of \$40 billion.

“Although the measure did not address all issues of critical importance to the AAPI community, we celebrate a major milestone toward immigration reform,” said Ouchida. “The creation of a pathway to citizenship for undocumented residents in the United States, added protections for survivors of domestic violence and broader opportunities for workers are significant victories. We also hail the Supreme Court filing on the Defense of Marriage Act, which will make it easier for same-sex couples to sponsor their partners for citizenship.”

In a statement released by the Korean American Resource & Cultural Center in Chicago, Executive Director Sik Son

thanked the Senate for their effort and urged Congress to not give in to compromises.

“We know that the fight isn’t over,” said Son. “While we celebrate the important pieces of the bill, we call on Congress to stop stalling on immigration reform and pass legislation without any more compromises. Those who further obstruct and oppose will know they have to answer to the power of an even more organized and powerful immigrant vote come election season.”

Said President Barack Obama: “The United States Senate delivered for the American people, bringing us a critical step closer to fixing our broken immigration system once and for all. . . . If enacted, the Senate bill would establish the most aggressive border security plan in our history. It would offer a pathway to earned citizenship for the 11 million individuals who are in this country illegally — a pathway that includes passing a background check, learning English, paying taxes and a penalty and then going to the back of the line behind everyone who’s playing by the rules and trying to come here legally. It would modernize the legal immigration system so that it once again reflects our values as a nation and addresses the urgent needs of our time. And it would provide a big boost to our recovery, by shrinking our deficits and growing our economy.”

“Today (June 27), the Senate did its job,” Obama concluded. “It’s now up to the House to do the same.”



# Steve Byrne Brews Up New Laughs for a Second Season of 'Sullivan & Son'



PHOTO: TBS

Focusing on a mixed Korean and Caucasian family, the show is the stand-up comic's creation and bears similarities to his real life.

By Nalea J. Ko,  
Reporter

**F**lip through the TV channels today and try to find a sitcom with as many Asian Americans sharing screen time like the performers do on "Sullivan & Son," a TBS show loosely based on Korean-Irish American Steve Byrne's real life.

Even more than 20 years after Korean American comic Margaret Cho tried to change the landscape of television with ABC's "All-American Girl," it's rare to find (on cable or on network television) a cast roster with more than two major Asian American characters.

Perhaps there's nothing like a bustling bar scene and a cold glass of bubbling beer to erase, however momentarily, racial boundaries because the mixed-race show "Sullivan & Son" returned to TBS on June 13 for a second season after drawing 2.7 million



Steve Byrne and Dan Lauria play father and son on the TBS show "Sullivan & Son."

viewers in its first season.

"I try to make the show as appealing as a neighborhood bar would be to anyone. Everybody's welcome," Byrne said in a phone interview with the *Pacific Citizen* about the show, which is executive-produced by Vince Vaughn and Peter Billingsley. "It doesn't matter how old you are, how young you are, it doesn't matter what race you are, just as long as you like to laugh."

Created by writer-producer Rob Long and stand-up comic Byrne, the TBS show was inspired in part by Byrne's firsthand experience juggling his personal life and the isolation of touring as a stand-up comedian.

A 15-year veteran on the stand-up comedy circuit, Byrne, who is also husband and father of a 1-year-old, is no stranger to the stresses of balancing a career and a family.

Byrne plays the starring role,





The cast members of "Sullivan & Son" say they enjoy getting together on Sundays for a relaxing BBQ at actor Dan Lauria's home.

Steve Sullivan, a successful attorney who saves and later helps run the Pittsburgh-based bar owned by his Irish American father, Jack Sullivan (Dan Lauria), and Korean American mother, Ok Cha (Jodi Long).

"When I wrote the initial pilot, I wrote it about a guy who is going exactly through what I was going through. He just wants to feel some sense of home and be around his friends and family," said Byrne. "Ultimately, it's Steve Sullivan that buys the family bar to keep it in the family name and be back with friends and family. I think the core of any meaningful life is to have those elements."

Those same core values are shared by the cast and crew, said Byrne, who added that after 18-hour workdays on set, the actors still find time to get together on Sundays for a good ol' BBQ at Lauria's home.

"We all go over to his house and just barbeque on the weekends and hang out," Byrne said. "We really like being around each other, which again I think is rare when you have a show full of actors and actresses, where there can be egos in play. Egos are checked at the door here on the set."

For Vivian Bang — who plays Steve Sullivan's sister, Susan — joining the cast of "Sullivan & Son" was a chance to also expand her extended family.

"We do have a very strong ensemble and good chemistry both on and off the set. I feel like I have new brothers," said Bang, who previously played Soo-Mi in the 2008 feature "Yes Man" with Jim Carrey. "I think everyone who comes to guest [star] on our show can sense this adoration and fun energy on our show, and it translates onscreen, I hope. We have a great time working."

For the role of Steve's mother, Ok Cha, Long landed the role after having past experience perfecting her Korean accent on shows like "All-American Girl."

"They originally didn't want to see me because I wasn't

Korean, so I went in the last day of the casting session, and it all went very quickly from there," said Long about auditioning for the role. "I thought the script was really funny, and I felt I really knew this woman because of all of the 'aunties' I grew up with."

The similarities between "Sullivan & Son" and "All-American Girl" are not lost on Long, who says the TBS show's mixed-race ensemble cast is reflexive of modern-day America.

"Margaret Cho came to a taping of an episode and said, 'It was "All-American Girl" all grown up!'" Long said.

Despite the success of "Sullivan & Son," which was ranked one of basic cable's Top 10 adult summer series, Byrne is determined to continue winning over new viewers.

"We're all having a blast. The ratings are

great. But I think why just settle for good when you can do great," Byrne said. "We're trying to get this show out there to as many people as we can. I think of it as running for office: Every waking minute I have I'd rather be talking about the show and try to get somebody to tune in then to be complacent."

"Sullivan and Son" airs Thursdays at 10 p.m. on TBS

***'I try to make the show as appealing as a neighborhood bar would be to anyone. Everybody's welcome. ... It doesn't matter how old you are, how young you are, it doesn't matter what race you are, just as long as you like to laugh.'* -Steve Byrne**



Steve Byrne and Jodi Long play mother and son on the TBS sitcom.



Ken Jeong helped kick off the season two premiere of "Sullivan & Son."



# Bridging Communities Students Participate in Leadership Summit at Tule Lake



PHOTOS: JESS KYO/JACL/NPS

Bridging Communities students observe the history of Tule Lake inside the former incarceration center's museum.

By Jessica Kyo, Marisa Fujinaka and Sarah Bone

**SAN FRANCISCO** — Students in the Bay Area JACL's Bridging Communities: Preserving the Legacy Program went on a four-day Intensive Leadership Summit at the Tule Lake National Monument June 10-13.

Through interactive workshops, the high school participants engaged in a variety of topics such as intersections of identity, American Muslim and Japanese American history, civil rights and activism.

In addition, while at Tule Lake, the students were able to see, hear and feel Japanese American history through their tour of the former incarceration site and from hearing a personal account from former incarcerated and current Tule Lake Committee President Hiroshi Shimizu.

The National Park Service also provided students with a history and tour of the confinement site and two learning projects. The students' work on these projects helped contribute to NPS' ongoing efforts to document the remaining physical features of the Segregation Center and added to the students' understanding of the complicated history behind Tule Lake.

"The Bridging Communities Program is a great learning experience and taught me to be humble," said 14-year-old Jibraan Qureshi.

For Nina Abshar, 16, the program helped her "understand the importance of 'bridging communities,' that is to [have] compassion and empathy for communities that may not be our own and realize that we are all more connected than we think."

The students ended their trip by contemplating the importance of remembering all facets of history, and they also left with a shared sense of purpose, as stated by Nina



Students and staff of the 2013 Bridging Communities program take a moment in front of the Tule Lake National monument plaque.

Bazan-Sakamoto: "The knowledge that we gained on this trip has empowered us to understand what our ancestors have experienced. It has also allowed [us] to work toward preventing discrimination by creating understanding, starting from ourselves and the people around us."

The Bridging Communities Program was established as a pro-active response from JACL, Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress and the Council on American-Islamic Relations to a number of incidents of hate and intolerance experienced by the American Muslim community in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks. The program seeks to connect Japanese American, American Muslim youth and allies by synthesizing the differences and commonalities that bind people together. The program is funded by the NPS Japanese American Confinement Sites (JACS) Grant Program. ■

## Ventura County JACL Honors Scholarship Recipients



Ventura County JACL honored eight graduating high school seniors who received chapter scholarships totaling nearly \$5,000 at a reception in their honor at the Courtyard Marriott Hotel in Camarillo, Calif., on June 19. This year's scholarship recipients are (pictured front row, from left) Robert Olson (Pt. Hueneme High School), Averi Albios (Newbury Park High School), Jeffrey Goto Dees (Newbury Park High School) and Wyatt Hogan (Simi Valley High School) and (pictured back row, second from left) Nicole Fujimoto (Newbury Park High School), Hikaru Minami (Thousand Oaks High School) and Kyle Serrano (Royal High School). Also pictured (back row, left) is Scholarship Chairperson Jennifer Kuo and (far right) Scholarship Committee member Dr. Lily Welty. Not pictured is Kristi Nishimori (Camarillo High School).

## Puyallup Valley JACL Awards Scholarship Winners



The Puyallup Valley JACL honored four high school scholarship winners at a dinner on June 8 at the Tacoma Buddhist Temple. This year's winners are (pictured from left) JoAnna Yoshitomi (Franklin High School), Stephanni Wong (Lakes High School), Tana Tamaki (Lindbergh High School) and Declan Morita (Meadowdale High School).



# Japanese American Rear Admiral Assumes Command of Elite Navy SEALs Unit in San Diego

By Paul Coover  
Specialist 3rd Class

**SAN DIEGO** — Rear Adm. Brian L. Losey, a member of the Japanese American Veterans Assn., relieved Rear Adm. Sean A. Pybus as commander, Naval Special Warfare Command, during a change of command ceremony at Naval Amphibious Base in Coronado, Calif., on June 21. Losey assumes command of the elite Navy SEALs unit in San Diego.

Losey, whose mother is from Nagoya, Japan, most recently served as commander of the Special Operations Command Africa. A 1983 graduate of the United States Air Force Academy, Losey also served as commander of the Combined Joint Task Force, Horn of Africa, Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti, and as director on the National Security Council in the executive office of the president.

Losey said he was honored to take command from Pybus.



(From left) Rear Adm. Sean A. Pybus, Adm. William H. McRaven and Rear Adm. Brian L. Losey at the Change of Command ceremony in Coronado, Calif., on June 21.

"The place produces warriors that are intensely focused and committed," he said at the ceremony. "The complex and dynamic security situations that are evolving around the world today will continue to call on the full extent of our commitment, our creativity and our adaptability. We will build on the course that Adm. Pybus has set for this community."

Pybus will leave CNSWC to command NATO's special operations headquarters in Brussels, where he will be promoted to vice admiral in his new assignment.

NSW is comprised of approximately 8,900 personnel, including more than 2,400 active-duty SEALs. NSW groups command, train, equip and deploy components of NSW squadrons to meet the exercise, contingency and wartime requirements of the regional combatant commanders, theater special operations commands and numbered fleets located around the world. ■

## National Park Service Begins Planning for Tule Lake With Public Meetings

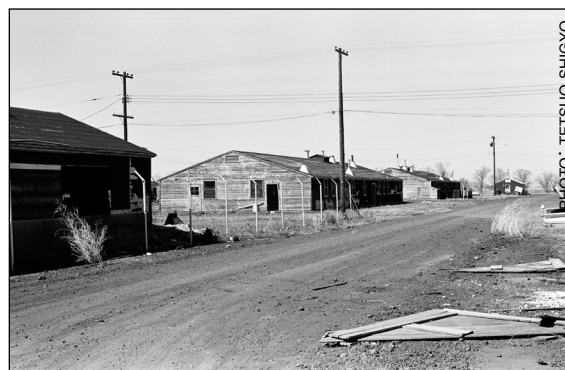
**TULE LAKE, CALIF.** — Japanese Americans living on the West Coast were forcibly removed and incarcerated in remote camps during World War II without being charged of any crime. Bringing that part of the nation's history to light in a meaningful and comprehensive way is the challenge facing the National Park Service at the Tule Lake Unit of WWII Valor in the Pacific National Monument in Northern California.

The NPS will hold public workshops until September to open a national dialogue about Tule Lake's future. This dialogue will result in a General Management Plan, which will identify how to effectively protect the site and educate the public about this chapter in American history.

The Tule Lake Unit preserves the site of the Tule Lake Segregation Center, which was one of 10 camps where 120,000 Japanese Americans were incarcerated during World War II.

Designated in 2008 by President George W. Bush, the purpose of the Tule Lake Unit is to preserve, study and interpret the history and setting of the incarceration of JAs at Tule Lake during WWII. Between 1942 and '46, more than 29,000 people of Japanese ancestry were incarcerated there, and it was the largest population center in California north of Sacramento. Two-thirds of those incarcerated at Tule Lake were U.S. citizens.

"The NPS is honored to be charged with telling and preserving such a challenging story for the American people. Public involvement in the planning for



the Tule Lake Unit will make the new unit a group effort. Working together will help the story become relevant to more people, so it will never be forgotten," said Mike Reynolds, superintendent of the Tule Lake Unit and Lava Beds National Monuments.

The NPS will hold 15 public workshops at locations in California, Oregon and Washington. Two virtual meetings will be held in September. This is an opportunity to learn about the Tule Lake Unit, raise issues, provide ideas and help define the future of the Tule Lake Unit. These meetings represent the "scoping" stage for the General Management Plan for the Tule Lake Unit.

Current information relevant to the GMP for the Tule Lake Unit is available at [www.nps.gov/tule/parkmgmt](http://www.nps.gov/tule/parkmgmt). The public comment period will close on Oct. 11. Comments can be sent to [tule\\_superintendent@nps.gov](mailto:tule_superintendent@nps.gov).

For a full listing of meeting dates, please visit the NPS website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/meetingNotices.cfm?projectID=46412>.

## JACL Seeks New Teaching Activities for its Curriculum and Resource Guide

The JACL's National Education Committee invites teachers, scholars and community members to share effective educational activities for the new edition of the JACL's Curriculum Guide.

The Curriculum Guide is a comprehensive tool to help K-12 teachers educate students about Japanese American history, experiences and contemporary issues. The JACL is in the process of updating its curriculum guide and would like to expand its collection of creative, engaging and effective teaching activities.

In recent years, many states have adopted the Common Core Standards to ensure clearer and more consistent learning outcomes in schools. For more information about the Common Core Standards, please visit [www.corestandards.org](http://www.corestandards.org). Activities that (a) promote students' understanding of Japanese American history, experiences or issues and (b) promote students' mastery of Common Core Standards are preferable.

Each submission should describe

an effective teaching activity about Japanese American history, culture, identities or contemporary issues. Submissions should be no more than three pages in length and should include key information, such as title, learning objectives, materials needed, a description of the activity, debriefing questions and references/suggested readings. All authors are encouraged to use the Teaching Activity Template. To access the template, please email Greg Marutani at [education@jacsl.org](mailto:education@jacsl.org).

By submitting your teaching activity, you are agreeing that you have not published this idea in any other publication and that you are allowing the JACL to possibly include your teaching activity in its Curriculum Guide and its website without compensation. Accepted submissions will help primary and secondary teachers share valuable information about the Japanese American experience to students across the United States.

To submit a teaching activity, please email your document to the JACL by July 31 to [education@jacsl.org](mailto:education@jacsl.org).



## A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS



PHOTO: COURTESY OF WILDFIRES/FLICKR

## CALENDAR

## &gt;&gt;EDC

**The JACL National Convention  
WASHINGTON, D.C.****July 24-26****Renaissance Hotel Downtown  
999 Ninth St., NW**

This year's 2013 JACL National Convention falls on the 25-year anniversary of the historic signing of the Civil Liberties Act. The convention's theme is "Justice for All." It will kick off with an opening banquet on the first evening. The reception will be held in the National Archives, with the original Redress bill on display.

**Info: Email [dc@jacl.org](mailto:dc@jacl.org) or visit <http://jacl.org/2013>.**

**Boston Asian American Film Festival Accepting Submissions  
BOSTON, MA****July 17****Boston Asian American Film Festival****P.O. Box 121211****Cost: \$15/Shorts; \$25/Features; Free/For Members**

The Boston Asian American Film Festival, of the Asian American Resource Workshop, is accepting submissions. BAAFF is seeking narratives, dramas, comedies, short films, documentaries, animations and music videos for the Oct. 24-27 festival. For specific submission details, visit [www.baaff.org](http://www.baaff.org).

**Info: Email [Baaf@aarw.org](mailto:Baaf@aarw.org)**

**The Asia Society's 2013  
New York Awards Dinner  
NEW YORK, NY****Oct. 17, 6:30-10:30 p.m.****The Pierre****2 E. 61st St.**

The Asia Society's awards dinner will honor leaders who have earned global praise and recognition. The dinner also marks the launch of the Asia Society Policy Institute.

**Info: Call (212) 327-9335 or email [AnnualDinner@AsiaSociety.org](mailto:AnnualDinner@AsiaSociety.org).**

## &gt;&gt;NCWNP

**Oakland A's Baseball Game  
OAKLAND, CA****July 27, 12:05 p.m.****Oakland-Alameda Country Coliseum****7000 Coliseum Way****Cost: \$15/Per person**

The Contra Costa JACL chapter will again be selling tickets for its annual Baseball Game Outing. This year's game will be played against the L.A. Angels. Reserve seats by July 23.

**Info: Call Judy at (510) 528-6564 or [CCJACL@gmail.com](mailto:CCJACL@gmail.com).**

**The 40th Annual Nihonmachi  
Street Fair****SAN FRANCISCO, CA****Aug. 2 & 3, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.****San Francisco Japantown**

The Nihonmachi Street Fair is known as one of the longest-running street fairs in San Francisco that celebrates the Asian American community. There will be food vendors, live entertainment, contests and more. Applications are being accepted for the Food Fest, Asian artisans, nonprofit information tables, corporate information booths and the

Doogie World pageant and parade.

**Info: Visit [www.nihonmachi-streetfair.org](http://www.nihonmachi-streetfair.org).**

**A Panel Discussion on Research  
in Japanese American Studies  
SAN JOSE, CA****July 13, 11 a.m.****Japanese American Museum of San Jose****525 N. Fifth St.****Cost: \$5/Nonmembers; \$3/Students and seniors**

A panel of graduate student researchers will present significant findings from their research on Japanese American studies.

**Info: Email [PublicPrograms@jamsj.org](mailto:PublicPrograms@jamsj.org) or call (408) 294-3138.**

## &gt;&gt;PSW

**AADAP Presents Showtime 2013  
LOS ANGELES, CA****Aug. 3, 6 p.m.****East West Players****120 Judge John Aiso St.****Cost: \$40/General admission**

The Asian American Drug Abuse Program is celebrating its 20th annual benefit concert, featuring performances by Amy Anderson, Meg Kelley and Keaiwa.

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

**L.A. Dodgers Japanese  
American Community Night and  
Fundraiser****LOS ANGELES, CA****July 12, 7:10 p.m.****Dodger Stadium****1000 Elysian Park Ave.**

Watch the L.A. Dodgers take on the Colorado Rockies.

Tickets to the event must be purchased online in advance.

**Info: Visit [www.janm.org/dodgers-night](http://www.janm.org/dodgers-night) or call (213) 625-0414.**

**Boxes and Bags Performance  
LOS ANGELES, CA****July 19, 8:30 p.m.****Company of Angels****501 S. Spring St., 3rd Floor****Cost: \$10-\$20**

"Boxes and Bags" celebrates the Asian American experience with a collection of short pieces from a young perspective.

**Info: Call (213) 489-3703.**

## &gt;&gt;IDC

**Tri-Chapter Matsumoto Sister  
City Picnic****SALT LAKE CITY, UT****July 24, 12:30-3 p.m.****Jordan Park****100 S. 900 W.****Cost: \$5/General admission; \$3/Kids; Free/JACL members and students**

Keeping with a tradition that began several years ago, the JACL Utah chapters will host a potluck picnic for students and their host families from Matsumoto, Japan.

Attendees are asked to bring side dishes and desserts. JACL chapters will provide the main dish and drinks.

**Info: Visit <http://jacl-utah.org> or email [saltlake@jacl-utah.org](mailto:saltlake@jacl-utah.org).**

**Heart Mountain Pilgrimage  
CODY & POWELL, WY****July 19-21****Heart Mountain Wyoming****Foundation****1539 Road 19****JACCC's 'Remembering Sadako:  
Folding for Peace' Event****LOS ANGELES, CA****Aug. 3-6, 3 p.m.****Japanese American Cultural and  
Community Center****244 S. San Pedro St.**

This four-day-long tradition of folding a thousand origami cranes is dedicated to the memory of Sadako, who was 2 years old when the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima.

The free event also includes a concert by Jackson Browne, the construction of a sand mandala and an interfaith call for peace.

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

The 2013 Heart Mountain Pilgrimage will celebrate the acquisition of the root cellar and the restoration of the hospital chimney. There will also be a dedication ceremony of the James Ito Victory garden. Former U.S. Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta will give the opening remarks at the opening ceremonies.

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

**Minidoka Pilgrimage  
TWIN FALLS, ID****June 20-23**

**Cost: \$350/Seattle Package; \$325/Seniors and Children; \$150/Boise, Twin Falls Package; \$125/Children and Seniors**

The annual Minidoka Pilgrimage will honor Japanese Americans who had "gaman." Attendees will be able to walk through an original barrack and mess hall from Block 22, a warehouse, fire station and root cellar. A bus will leave from Bellevue, Wash., to Idaho on June 20.

**Info: Visit [www.minidokapilgrimage.org](http://www.minidokapilgrimage.org) or email [minidokapilgrimage@gmail.com](mailto:minidokapilgrimage@gmail.com)**

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## FOR MORE INFO:

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# Memoriam

**Akutagawa, Torako, 100**, San Mateo, CA; June 17; survived by her children, Yoshinori, Shoji (Kazuko), Mitsunobu (Emi) and Robert (Ruth), son-in-law, Ron Shimamoto; 8 gc; 2 ggc.

**Chogyoji, Nariko, 94**, L.A., CA;



June 14; survived by her beloved son, Yasuhiro David (Tazuko) Kinoshita and grandchildren.

**Fujimoto, Takuya, 77**, Torrance, CA; June 2; survived by his wife, Fumie; daughters, Grace (Mike) Omiya, Judy (Kelly) Yoon, Christine (Jeff) Takeda and Cathy; brother, Kanji (Miho); sister-in-law, Noriko; aunt, Sadako; 7 gc.

**Higashi, Miyoko, 81**, Inglewood, CA; May 19; survived by her brother, Dick (Carmen) Higashi, and sister, Akiko (Kenneth) Akita.

**Honjio, Tadashi "Tish," 89**,



Sunland, CA; June 15; survived by his loving wife, Helen Honjio; children, Glenn (June) and Steven Honjio; also survived by many other loving family members; 2 gc.

**Inafuku, Elaine Akie, 76**, Torrance, CA; June 9; survived by her husband, William "Chuck" Inafuku; children, Cheryl (Craig) Tateishi and Nelson Inafuku; siblings, Ruth Flores and Irene Takahara; 2 gc.

**Inose, Yoshi, 104**, Torrance, CA; June 13; survived by her children, Kenichi Ken (Kay Kayoko) Inose, Kiyoko Rose Yoshiyama, Hiroko Helen (Masa G.) Sakamoto and Lily Yuriko (Dr. David T.) Nakatani; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives in the U.S. and Japan; 10 gc; 16 ggc.

**Isomoto, Dorothy Sonoko, 90**, L.A., CA; June 20; survived by her

children, Jacquie Takaha, Robert Isomoto, Dr. William Isomoto of New York and Becky Isomoto; sister-in-law, Dorothy Hokoyama; brothers-in-law, Tad (Tsutako) Isomoto and Hiroshi Isomoto; and also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; 6 gc; 8 ggc.

**Kambara, May Fumiko, 95**, L.A., CA; June 13; predeceased by her husband, George K. Kambara, and survived by four children; A9 gc; 2 ggc.

**Kohatsu, Mitsuko "Mitzi," 85**,



California; June 5; a California-born Nisei and former internee of Poston; predeceased by her brothers, Yok and George Kohatsu; survived by her siblings, Aiko and Tak (Marge) Kohatsu; sister-in-law Gladys Kohatsu.

**Kusaba, Aiko Outa, 85**, Culver City, CA; May 23; survived by her husband, Mike; children, Sachie Nitta of Washington, and Bill; 3 gc.

**Masuda, Yoshiyuki, 79**, Monterey Park, CA; June 12; survived by his wife, Jane Nobuko; son, Matthew (Kumiko); daughters, Stephanie (Jonathan Chen), and Sandra (Scott) Kinoshita; mother-in-law, Sumiye Suzuki; brothers-in-law, Steve Kobata and Tad Nakashima; and sister-in-law, Miyeko (Koji) Hirai; 3 gc.



**Miyashiro, Tsuneyoshi, 92**, L.A., CA; June 2; survived by his wife, Shigeko Miyashiro; daughter, Roseann (Art) Yoshida; sister, Margaret Iraha from Hawaii; brother-in-law, Ted Mitsuo (Kitty), Mas (Lily) and Edgar Akio (Helen) Hamasu; sister-in-law, Jeanne Matsuyo Kim; 2 gc; 2 ggc.

**Nakashimo, Shunichi, 74**,



Rosemead, CA; June 22; survived by his wife, Chizuru; son, Bruce Yoichi (Tomoko); brother, Shoji (Masako); sister, Miyoko (Sanji) Kanzawa; 2 gc.

**Naramura, Shizue, 99**, West L.A., CA; June 14; she was one of the early Japanese American real estate brokers in West L.A.; predeceased by her husband, Hiroshi; sisters, Toshiko Ichikawa, Amy Tominaga, Kaye Okitsu; and son, Glenn; survived by her children, Kenneth and Victor; sister, Hideko Mochizuki; 2 gc.

**Nishi, Chitose, 90**, California; June 17; predeceased by her husband, Soichiro Nishi; she is survived by her son, Kenneth (Shari), and daughters, Beverly Rogers and Carolyn (Dave) Calica; 6 gc; 2 ggc.

**Seike, Kazuko Ii, 84**, Santa Monica, CA; May 24; survived by her husband, Toyochi Seike; son, Yutaka Seike; twin sister, Nobuko Ii Kozawa.

**Shigekawa, Fred Seishi, 100**,



California; June 12; survived by his daughter, Frances (Richard) Fukumoto; daughter-in-law, Diane Shigekawa; 8 gc; 11 ggc.

**Suzuki, Grace Keiko, 80**, L.A., CA; May 28; survived by her husband, Richard H. Suzuki; son, Kent (Nancy) Suzuki; brother, Theodore Okohira; sister, Patricia (Dennis) Hokama; 2 gc.

**Suzuki, Naoshi, 94**, Fountain Valley, CA; June 9; survived by his daughters, Susanne Chiye (Gary) Holtz, Sandra Chiyo Suzuki and Linda Joy (Tommy) Licata;

brother, Toshiro (Shizue) Suzuki; 4 gc.

**Takara, Mitsuhide "Joe," 85**, L.A., CA; May 22; survived by his wife, Naomi; children, Joseph H. (Maria) and Cookie (Fred) Barthel; 4 gc.

**Tashima, Yoshiko, 90**, Artesia,



CA; June 24; survived by children, Peggy A. (Erwin) Bragg, Kristine T. (William) Wong, Laura C. (Tim) Uraine, Gail N. and S. Don (Doria); sister, Kiyo Yamabe; sister-in-law, Margie Yoshida; nephew, Yoshihiko (Chizuko) Matsumae; 9 gc; 2 ggc.

**Tawa, Haruko, 103**, Gardena, CA; June 5; predeceased by brothers, Moto (Lily), Gene, Tsuneo and Babe; survived by her brother,

Mas(Kiyo); nephews, Mike (Janet), Glenn (Diane), Ronald (Susan), Gary (Valerie) and Brian Tawa.

**Tsukashima, Chiyeko, 85**, Laguna Woods, CA; June 4; survived by children, Ross (Debra) and Lori Szikra; siblings, Choye and Akira Sugita, and Takako Yamashiro; brother-in-law, Yuku (Lynn); sister-in-law, Tsuma Suminaga; 4 gc.

**Yamagami, Don Akira, 100**, California; June 12; survived by his daughter, Frances (Richard) Fukumoto; daughter-in-law, Diane Shigekawa; 8 gc; 11 ggc.

**Yamane, Hideo, 77**, L.A., CA; May 29; survived by his wife, Keiko Kay Yamane; daughter, Akemi (Roy) Yamane; siblings, Kinuko Hayashi of Fresno, Ken (Doris) and Eiji Yamane; brother-in-law, Shiro (Keiko) Ono; sister-in-law, Marsha (Shoye) Iwo; 3 gc.

**Yim, Moses M., 93**, California, May 21; preceded in death by his beloved wife, Helen, and son, Howard Yim; survived by his daughter, Noelle (Frank) Chow; daughter-in-law, Inja Yim; 3 gc.

## TRIBUTE

### AYA (NODA) ENDOW

Aya Endow passed away in her home on June 12, 2013. She was born in Woodland, Calif., on March 16, 1918, and lived in California until she was interned at Heart Mountain, Wyo., in February 1942. She married Sho Endow Jr. in 1945 and has lived in the Hood River Valley since then. She is survived by her four children, four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

## PLACE A TRIBUTE

'In Memoriam' is a free listing that appears on a limited, space-available basis. Tributes honor your loved ones with text and photos and appear in a timely manner at the rate of \$20/column inch.

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## DEMOLITION >> continued from page 2

1. Planning, Shig Wakamatsu (Chicago). Leadership training and staff needs were proposed and accepted.
2. Public Relations, Pat Okura (Omaha). Re International Relations, JACL can't risk being seen as pro-Japan by American public.
3. Budget-Finance, Roy Nishikawa (SWLA). Emphasis on JACL-ADC (Anti-Discrimination Committee) Fund to promote Japanese immigration, restoration of birthright for renunciants and human rights.
4. Legislative-Legal, Tom Hayashi (New York). Pushing for Hawaiian Statehood, repeal of the Japanese Exclusion law and aims of the JACL-ADC
5. Resolutions, Seichi Mikami (Fresno). Met in executive session to review wording of resolutions and conformity.
6. Evacuation Claims, Frank Chuman (DTLA). Explains the Hillings amendment passed in 1954 to expedite final determination of remaining big claims.
7. National Conventions, Abe Hagiwara (Chicago). San Francisco is next, but no bids for 1958. Convention sites are usually nailed down four years in advance. How-to-Run-Convention Guide to be printed.

Mike Masaoka's biennial report were explored in his weekly Washington Newsletter. They were summarized at the convention.

The Tsuji Citizenship Case dealt with WWI Issei soldiers who expected citizenship by virtue of military service as were all other aliens, but the Japanese were denied. Mike reviewed Evacuation Claims, Refugee Relief Act of 1953, Japanese Peruvians in U.S. appeal to Congress for reparations, Nisei casualties in Korean Conflict Act of 1953, listing the six "Nisei Firsts" and to urge the president to commute Tomoya Kawakita's death punishment to permanent self-exile in Japan, which President Eisenhower allowed during his final days in office.

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

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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"
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## LANGUAGE >> continued from page 3

Word: **KANJI**

Sometimes, the Japanese will add their own twist. There are lots of combinations of words to create new ones in Japanese, for instance. Take *karaoke*, a word that's now very familiar to Westerners, even if most can't pronounce it correctly. It's a splicing of a Japanese word (*karappo* — "empty") with a Western word (*okestora* — "orchestra"). This mash-up practice can become mind-boggling: Personal computer in Japan isn't referred to by our common abbreviation, the "PC." Nope, in Japan they call those things *pasocon* — short for "pasonaru computah."

I'm no linguist, but I suspect the Japanese language evolves faster than many. Japanese Americans may find it bewildering to find that some of the words we use often and take for granted are no longer used in Japan. If you say *benjo* for bathroom — a word that every Japanese American I've ever known uses all the time — in Japan, you'll get some shocked looks, as if you're an Asian Rip Van Winkle who just woke up after a 50-year snooze. Today in Japan, you say *o-te aria* ("washroom") or better yet, *toireh* (a Japanese pronunciation for "toilet" — one of those katakana words my mom hates).

So, this wordplay and the explosion of foreign words has been going on for more than a generation, and it's not likely to stop, even if some angry Japanese want to sue to make it stop.

*Gil Asakawa blogs at www.nikkeiview.com and is a former Pacific Citizen Editorial Board chair.*



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