



# PACIFIC CITIZEN



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# THE IMPORTANCE OF CHAPTERS

By Priscilla Ouchida  
JACL National Director

On my way back to Washington, D.C., after the National Board meeting on Nov. 2, I am stopping in Albuquerque to meet with the

New Mexico chapter. The chapter is a stronghold in a purple swing state and is an important state chapter. JACL has many chapters like New Mexico, and the chapters set JACL apart from other national Asian American Pacific Islander organizations. From weighing in on immigration reform to the Affordable Care Act, JACL's presence in red, blue and purple states matters.

Sen. Mark Begich of Alaska is the chair of the Senate Democratic Steering and Outreach Committee. In annual meetings with the senator, I love telling him that we have a chapter in Alaska because that makes JACL a constituent organization.

Ted Namba of the Arizona chapter and Linda Toyota of the Houston chapter were recently at the White House to listen to President Barack Obama talk about immigration reform. It is great to have chapters in Arizona and Texas because of the statutory landscape in those states that impacts immigrant rights and voting rights. JACL chapters are golden when it comes to social justice issues.

There are three national AAPI organizations with a membership base — JACL, OCA and NAPABA. NAPABA is primarily a professional organization, leaving JACL and OCA as the only two general membership organizations. With triple OCA's membership base, JACL has the ability to effect change through grassroots participation.

In the next few months, we will be asking chapters to answer the call to action. This year has been historic in many ways. There were enormous victories on DOMA and Prop 8, but there were also significant challenges to the core of the civil rights platform. The U.S. Supreme Court's decision on voting rights was a serious setback, and for the first time, a question on the use of disparate impact has made it on the Court's docket.

In D.C., many are expressing the view that the civil rights landscape has not been this challenging since the 1960s. More than ever, confirmation of appointments to the judiciary and the housing agency are essential because the future hinges on key policy decisions.

I will be asking chapters to write letters and visit local congressional representations on the following issues. The outcome on these issues will have a longstanding impact, and if the decisions reverse current policy, it will be a long, hard road to regain ground.

- Before the U.S. Senate is confirmation of Mel Watt as director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency. Rep. Watt has 40 years of experience in housing and finance. As a 20-year member of the U.S. House Financial Services Committee, he oversees housing, banking, insurance and other financial services matters. He was one of the first members of Congress to speak out against predatory mortgage lending practices and has demonstrated a commitment to helping communities that have been hard-hit by the housing crisis. He has bipartisan support, and National JACL has joined the Leadership Conference in supporting his confirmation.

- Before the U.S. Supreme Court is *Mount Holly Gardens v. Mount Holly Township*, scheduled for arguments on Dec. 4. The case is a significant threat to the Fair Housing Act. At issue is whether having a disparate impact on minorities, even if it is not intentional, is a violation of the federal Fair Housing Act. JACL is signing onto the Leadership Conference amicus brief on the case.

- Before Congress is restoration of provisions of the Voting Rights Act that were nullified by the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Shelby County v. Holder*. A call for strong, fair laws that protect voters from discrimination in voting based on race. Chapters can join a national postcard campaign to enact legislation to restore the Voting Rights Act.

**FLREA Update:** When Congress passed the bill to restart government programs following the 16-day shutdown, it included a one-year extension of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act, which was due to expire in December 2014. The provision was added to the bill by Sen. Majority Leader Harry Reid. JACL was one of 34 organizations, and the only organization of color, that sent a letter to Sen. Reid on Sept. 25 to request an extension to the critically needed FLREA. The FLREA allows the National Park Service to charge entrance and recreation fees at national parks — those fees total about \$300 million. FLREA is important to the JACL and the Japanese community, as the revenue earned helps fund construction, preservation and education programs at Tule Lake, Manzanar and Minidoka. There is further work ahead on this important authorization, but the one-year extension is a solid victory. ■

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## NIKKEI VOICE

# Halloween Has Become a Haven for Stereotypes

By Gil Asakawa

*‘Ethnic dress in and of itself isn’t offensive, and in fact wearing an ethnic outfit could be a sincere tribute to a culture. But not if the clothes are presented as a cheap costume . . .’*

I hate Halloween. Every year, I brace myself for the inevitable racist costume that stereotypes Asians and sparks protests. Every year, I end up writing a blog post about the latest offensive getup.

This year almost went by without incident. Almost, but not quite.

Just a couple of days before Halloween, news coverage of the latest bad costume made the rounds: This time, it was a pair of Japanese-themed costumes sold by, surprisingly, Pottery Barn, the upscale home furnishings retailer.

Granted, this year’s costumes — a kimono for women and a sushi chef uniform for men — aren’t as offensive as some in the past. “Kung Fool” from a decade ago, which combined martial arts with a squinty-eyed, buck-toothed mask was a classic. This year’s sushi chef is downright boring — why would someone want to dress like a generic sushi chef?

But the kimono was a cheesy, phony imitation of a kimono, and my stomach clenched when I saw it. The costume has some features that look like a kimono, but it’s really a sheer polyester robe.

Asian Americans Advancing Justice, a civil rights organization, protested the costumes, and Pottery Barn withdrew them from its online catalog on Oct. 28.

“It’s not that ethnic dress is offensive. What we find problematic is packaging this type of dress as a costume,” the *Los Angeles Times* quoted Ling Woo Liu, director of strategic communications for AAAJ. “Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are real people who cannot and should not be commodified as costumes.”

Some people pushed back on this protest because the costumes weren’t as outright racist as some in the past. They say that “political correctness” is finding fault everywhere and making us into a society of victims. But that’s not true.

Ethnic dress in and of itself isn’t offensive, and in fact wearing an ethnic outfit could be a sincere tribute to a culture. But not if the clothes are presented as a cheap costume, as these were.

Because of the news story about Pottery Barn dropping the costumes, I had an interesting conversation with a Caucasian woman on Facebook who says she loves Japan and has worn a kimono and dressed as a geisha for Halloween before. She says she’s not racist, and I believe her.

I stated that the costume evokes the “geisha” stereotype, which has been twisted in the West to represent submissive femininity and outright prostitution (which is not what geishas are about). It feeds on stereotypes, which by definition are racially charged.

She countered that she wasn’t trying to represent “submissive femininity.” She said it’s not fair to assume someone is being racist just for wearing an ethnic costume.

But paying “homage” without thinking deeply can also be offensive. I don’t doubt that when she dons a kimono costume she means it sincerely — and people who don the Pottery Barn kimono may also. That isn’t racist.

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## FIRST-PERSON

# Following in the Footsteps of Heroes

By Dale Ikeda

*‘I often think of the Nisei soldiers and how they proved the loyalty of Japanese Americans at a time when their loyalty was suspect . . .’*

My wife, Debbie, and I had a chance of a lifetime to tour Italy with the Friends and Family of Nisei Veterans (“FFNV”) in May. The focus of the tour was to visit the battlefields of the 100th Infantry Battalion (“100th”) and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team (“442nd”). These World War II segregated units were made up of Nisei, second-generation Americans of Japanese ancestry. The units received seven Presidential Unit Citations, the highest honor for a military unit, and the soldiers of those units were awarded 21 Medals of Honor, 52 Distinguished Service Crosses, 560 Silver Stars and more than 4,000 Bronze Stars.

Shortly after the Empire of Japan attacked Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, the Selective Service reclassified draft-age men of Japanese ancestry “4-C, enemy alien” ineligible for military service. Later, the War Department approved the creation of the 100th Infantry Battalion, which was made up of Nisei volunteers from Hawaii.

The 100th distinguished itself in Italy, spearheading many attacks and suffering so many casualties. It became known as the “Purple Heart Battalion.” The War Department then sought volunteers from the War Relocation Centers, where more than 120,000 Japanese Americans, over 70% U.S. citizens by birth, were forcibly interned. These volunteers became part of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, were deployed in Italy and were then joined by the 100th as its First Battalion.

Forty two of us in the FFNV group started our tour by paying tribute to the fallen American soldiers at the American Cemetery at Nettuno. We traveled to various battle sites, where we were warmly greeted by the communities of Suvereto, Belvedere, Tendola, Fosdinovo and Pietrasanta with wreath-laying ceremonies at the memorials honoring the Nisei soldiers.

We shared a meal and refreshments and exchanged gifts. Our gifts included replicas of the Congressional Gold Medal (“CGM”), Congress’ highest civilian honor. (The original CGM was presented to the members of the 100th, 442nd and the Military Intelligence Service at a ceremony in Washington, D.C., on Nov. 2, 2011. Debbie and I were fortunate to have attended the ceremony and received bronze replicas of the CGM on behalf of our fathers.)

The Livorno edition of *La Nazione*, one of Italy’s national newspapers, covered the visit to Suvereto and Belvedere with a two-page spread replete with photos.

The community of Belvedere also unveiled a plaque at its church commemorating our visit. We enjoyed a reception followed by a 10-course, three-hour lunch in Fosdinovo with the mayor and city officials.

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PHOTOS: NALEA J. KO

The JACL National Board met at the organization's headquarters in San Francisco, Calif., on Nov. 2.

# JACL National Board Forecasts Year-End Budget Surplus

In other news, the JACL national board voted to sponsor California legislation to make the Day of Remembrance an annually recognized event.

By Nalea J. Ko  
Reporter

**J**ACL National Secretary/Treasurer Matthew Farrells at the recent JACL National Board meeting reported a projected year-end budget surplus.

The JACL's total actual revenues as of Sept. 30 are \$1,613,756, with actual expenses totaling \$1,728,532. The JACL is forecasted to be under budget by \$76,915 at year's end.

"We're under budget through the end of September," said Farrells at the Nov. 2 meeting in San Francisco. "And we're actually forecasting at this time — based on the forecasts and the actuals — through September an \$80,000 surplus at yearend, relative to a \$21,000 deficit, which was in our approved budget."

Farrells said the *Pacific Citizen's* revenues are currently under budget. However, he said, that does not include any expected income from the annual Holiday Issue.

The *P.C.* has traditionally raised about half of its budget through fundraisers such as the Spring Campaign and the Holiday Issue. The other half of the *P.C.'s* budget comes from JACL.

Allison Haramoto, *P.C.* executive editor, addressed the board at the Nov. 2 national meeting, Calif., requesting that members unfreeze the assistant editor position that was previously held by Lynda Lin, who resigned in 2012.

"If we can get the extra help in the office, we can start moving forward with the digital plan, thus making us more technologically savvy and getting our web presence actually back out there," Haramoto said. "In order to push ahead, we need to be able to have additional staffing to allow us to do that."

Haramoto says the *P.C.* has drafted and is finalizing a formal proposal to reinstate the assistant editor position.

Funding for the *P.C.'s* assistant editor position was eliminated from the JACL's budget for 2014, along with the JACL Pacific Southwest regional director position for 2013. The JACL National Board at its April 21 meeting last year approved the proposed 2013-14 budget, eliminating the assistant editor position.

However, at the 2012 JACL National Convention delegates passed a motion, with two opposed and one split vote, to reinstate both positions in the budget.



Mariko Newton (*foreground*), JACL national youth chair, reviews a report from the U.S.-Japan Committee.



Larry Oda (*right*), former national president, presented the board with an update on the JACL's recent trip to the tsunami-affected area of Japan.



JACL National Secretary/Treasurer Matthew Farrells (*left*) gave a budget update.

"I think it would provide me a lot more comfort if I'm able to see the numbers, see how much time they're allocating toward revenue-generating activities, and I think once we can review a proposal, or details such as that, I think it would provide me a lot more comfort because currently I don't think we could support an additional staff position on the *P.C.* side," said Farrells.

JACL National President David Lin agreed.

"In my mind, this board needs to see that because we usually go through a rigorous process to unfreeze or to create any new positions just given our financial situation," Lin said. "I don't want people to walk away to say, 'Oh, it looks like we have \$80,000 in the bank.' We don't have it in the bank."

Some board members explained that other JACL programs are also experiencing staffing shortages.

"I see that the *P.C.* is facing various struggles in terms of a shortage of staff," said Mariko Newton, national youth chair. "But I also wanted to note that there are other programs in JACL that are facing similar struggles and that includes the NYSC [National Youth/Student Council]. We do not have a full-time staffer."

Lin said once the *P.C.* presents the board with a detailed proposal for the assistant editor position, members will review it.

"Once again I want to be clear and upfront with everybody. For example, the last position we approved was the PSW regional director, and it was a time-bound position. So that gives the board flexibility in terms how we could manage the expectations," Lin said.

"I personally may think that the new position that you will be proposing— we may also put

some timeframes around it as well."

The next JACL national board meeting will be held March 1 at the San Francisco, Calif., headquarters.

#### Other matters discussed by the board include:

- JACL National Secretary/Treasurer Matthew Farrells announced unanimous board appointments made via email prior to the meeting. Mariko Newton was appointed as the national board youth chair. Kevin Mori will serve as the national board youth representative. Lastly, Toshi Abe was appointed to VP of membership.

- The board passed a motion to approve the July 24 minutes. A vote on July 27 minutes will be made via email.

- California Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi requested that the JACL national board sponsor legislation to make Day of Remembrance an annually recognized event in the state. The board passed the motion. Miko Sawamura, VP of general operations, moved to pass the motion, and David Unruhe, NCWNP district governor, seconded the motion.

- The board also passed a motion to provide JACL employees with \$250 to cover the change in healthcare deductibles next year as a result of the Affordable Care Act.

- JACL National Director Priscilla Ouchida said about \$650,000 remains in the Japan tsunami relief fund raised by the organization in partnership with Direct Relief. Lin said the board would decide in an email decision how the remaining funds will be distributed.

- The board passed a motion to waive insurance premiums for the JACL Hollywood (\$600) and Greater Pasadena (\$300) chapters.



The *P.C.*'s Allison Haramoto (*right*) and Susan Yokoyama were welcomed to their first JACL board meeting.

# Cynthia Kadohata is Named a Finalist for National Book Award

Cynthia Kadohata from Covina, Calif., is among the National Book Award finalists named by the National Book Foundation on Oct. 16.

Kadohata was nominated in the young people's literature category for her book "The Thing About Luck" (Atheneum) along with fellow nominees Kathi Appelt for "The True Blue Scouts of Sugar Man Swamp" (Atheneum), Tom McNeal for "Far Far Away" (Knopf), Meg Rosoff for "Picture Me Gone" (Putnam) and Gene Luen Yang for "Boxers & Saints" (First Second).

The finalists were chosen from a list of 10 authors announced on Sept. 16.

Awards will also be given for poetry, fiction and nonfiction at a ceremony to be held in Manhattan on Nov. 20.

Kadohata won a Newbery Medal in 2005 for "Kira-Kira" and the 2007 PEN USA Literary Award for Children's Literature and the Jane Addams Peace Award for "Weedflower." Her other books include "Cracker! The Best Dog in Vietnam," "Outside Beauty," "A Million Shades of Gray" and "The Floating World."

For more information, visit [www.cynthiakadohata.com/](http://www.cynthiakadohata.com/).



## APAs in the News



### ADM. HARRY HARRIS JR. PROMOTED TO COMMANDER OF THE U.S. PACIFIC FLEET

**PEARL HARBOR, HI** — Vice Adm. Harry Harris Jr. was promoted to head of the U.S. Navy in the Pacific on Oct. 16. Harris takes over from Adm. Cecil Haney, who is leaving to head the U.S. Strategic Command in Nebraska. Because his promotion came during the partial federal government shutdown, the change-of-command ceremony in Pearl Harbor was low-key, with Adm. Samuel Locklear presiding over the ceremony in place of the absent chief of naval operations. Harris becomes the 34th naval officer to command the Pacific Fleet since it was established in February 1941. As commander, Harris is responsible for 100 million square miles of the Indo-Asia-Pacific region. The Pacific Fleet currently consists of 200 ships/submarines, 1,100 aircraft and 140,000 sailors and civilians.



### TRACIE BROWN NAMED S.F. SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE

**SAN FRANCISCO** — Tracie L. Brown, 42, of San Francisco has been sworn in as a judge of the San Francisco County Superior Court, becoming the first Japanese American woman to serve in that capacity. A democrat, Brown was appointed by Gov. Jerry Brown to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Kevin McCarthy. Brown previously served as an assistant U.S. attorney since 2002. Prior to that position, she was an associate at Cooley Godward Kronish LLP from 1997-2002. Brown earned her Juris Doctorate degree from the U.C. Berkeley School of Law and a bachelor's degree from Harvard-Radcliffe University. A ceremonial investiture was held on Oct. 15 at the Hiram Johnson State Building, where Brown was sworn in by Cynthia Ming-Mei Lee, presiding judge of the San Francisco Superior Court.



### TAKASHI YANASE, CREATOR OF 'ANPANMAN' DIES

**TOKYO** — Takashi Yanase, creator of one of Japan's most-beloved cartoon characters, Anpanman, passed away Oct. 13 of heart failure. He was 94. Yanase created Anpanman, a superhero with a head made of anpan, in 1973; over the past 30 years, Yanase sold more than 68 million copies of his comic book series. Anpanman, a smiley hero clad in a red suit and long cape, became known for fighting his archrival Baikinman, or germ man, while rescuing the weak. In 2009, the cartoon series "Let's Go! Anpanman" entered Guinness World Records for the largest number of characters at more than 1,700. A former graphic designer, Yanase also wrote poems and lyrics for children's songs.



### MICHELLE WIE NAMED YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES AMBASSADOR

**LONDON** — American golfer Michelle Wie has been named an ambassador for the Youth Olympic Games, the International Olympic Committee announced Oct. 21. Wie is expected to share her golf experience and advice with competitors at the Youth Games in Nanjing, China. A graduate of Stanford University, Wie is aiming to make the U.S. Olympic team when golf officially makes its return to the Summer Games in Rio de Janeiro in 2016. Wie made history when she became the youngest player to qualify for a United States Golf Assn. tournament at just 10 years of age. The second edition of the Summer Youth Olympic Games is scheduled to be held from Aug. 16-28, 2014.



### VOCALIST JUDITH HILL SIGNS WITH SONY AND BEGINS TOUR WITH JOSH GROBAN

Vocalist Judith Hill, best-known for her appearance in director Morgan Neville's 2013 documentary "20 Feet From Stardom," a film that highlights the untold true stories of backup singers to some of the greatest musical legends of our time, has begun touring with multiplatinum-selling singer Josh Groban as part of his fall "In the Round" tour. In addition, Hill, also known for her Season 4 appearance on NBC's "The Voice," recently signed a record deal with Sony Music, where she is putting the finishing touches on her debut record, which will be released early next year. Hill first burst onto the national canvas when she appeared as a backup singer for the late Michael Jackson. Hill also has performed with Stevie Wonder and Elton John.

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## Veterans Honored With Republic of Korea Ambassador for Peace Award



Dignitaries and veterans at the Nisei Veterans Committee and NVC Foundation ceremony in Seattle.

**SEATTLE** — A special awards ceremony was held at the Nisei Veterans Committee and NVC Foundation on Oct. 12 at the Nisei Veterans Committee Hall in Seattle to honor several Korean War veterans with the Korean Ambassador for Peace Award.

Song Young-Wan, consul general of the Republic of Korea, awarded the honor to Thomas T. Fujii, Michael Fukuda, Kiyoto Hashimoto, Paul Y. Hosoda, Noburo Koshiyama, Phillip McDermott, George H. Nakashima, Thomas K. Ohtani, Stanton Tsujikawa, Herbert Saito, Alfred N. Sakamoto, Hideo J. Sakai and Tom T. Tanaka.

The Republic of Korea instituted the Ambassador for Peace Medal in celebration of the 60th

anniversary of the truce that ended the Korean conflict on July 27, 1953. The medal was approved by the Korean government to express its heartfelt gratitude to all of the countries that fought among its countrymen in support of freedom and democracy.

Dignitaries in attendance at the ceremony included Washington State Senators Paull Shin and Bob Hasegawa; Washington State Rep. Sharon Tomiko Santos; Maj. Gen. (Ret.) James M. Collins, U.S. Army and Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army; Deputy Mayor of Seattle Daryl Smith; past Washington State Commander for the American Legion Jacob Cabuag; and Washington State Commander for the Veterans of Foreign Wars Ted Streete.

## Venice Culver Chapter Hosts Kitagawa Luncheon

The Venice Culver JACL Chapter hosted its annual Frances Kitagawa Luncheon on Oct. 13. This year's program included keynote speaker Leslie Ito, president and CEO of the Japanese American Cultural Center in Los Angeles, and Miharu Okamura, 2013 Kitagawa Intern, currently a film major at California State University, Long Beach, and president of NSU Cal State Long Beach.

Kitagawa was a founding member of the Bay Cities JACL, which later became the Venice Culver JACL. She was a chapter president and served on various committees for the regional and national JACL. In honor of Kitagawa, the Venice Culver JACL established the Frances Kitagawa Leadership Development Internship Program for young adults in 2001.

The Frances Kitagawa Leadership Development Internship Program has provided opportunities for individuals to work on projects at PSW District Regional office, Pacific Citizen, Japanese American National Museum and research for the Venice Japanese Community Center.



(Front row) Darin Noriyuki, Anna Sugimoto, Sharon Kumagai, Leslie Ito and Miharu Okamoto; (back row) Jane Yamashita, Mark Wakamatsu, Peter Wakamatsu, Carole Yamakoshi, Craig Ishii, Kuni Shimoguchi, Kerry Kaneichi, Diana Nishiura and Sam Shimoguchi

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The State of California has a new official marketplace for quality, affordable health insurance called Covered California. Starting on October 1 at CoveredCA.com, you can compare and choose from a number of high-quality health insurance plans that fulfill the coverage requirements of the Affordable Care Act. You may have thought you couldn't afford health insurance, but Covered California will provide the tools for you to shop for health insurance that meets your health care needs and financial realities. Depending on your income, you may qualify for financial assistance to pay for the plan that you choose, or even be newly eligible for Medi-Cal.

The new federal law that requires U.S. Citizens and Lawfully Present Immigrants to have health insurance is called the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (also known as Obamacare). As part of the Affordable Care Act, many new patient protection laws are already in place. For example, insurance companies may no longer deny coverage based on pre-existing conditions. This is changing the lives of people like Doug Ogden, age 51, of Beverly Hills: "For years I've had auto insurance, home insurance and earthquake insurance. To be told that I couldn't have health insurance because of a pre-existing health condition was the most frightening thing. For me, getting on the Pre-existing Condition Insurance Plan to get treated for my sleep apnea was a life saver."

Local Health Centers and County Social Services can also assist you with free personalized advice on coverage options and they can also help with enrolling in Medi-Cal through Covered California. Visit for your local health center:

<http://www.californiahealthplus.com/index.cfm/find-my-health-center/>

Open enrollment begins October 1, 2013 and you must have health insurance by January 1, 2014. For information in thirteen languages on your options and how to sign up for a plan, visit [www.CoveredCA.com](http://www.CoveredCA.com)



PHOTO: CONNIE K. HO

# THE ACCIDENTAL ARTIST

"Angry Little Girls" comic books, short films and merchandise are the brainchild of creator Lela Lee (pictured below).

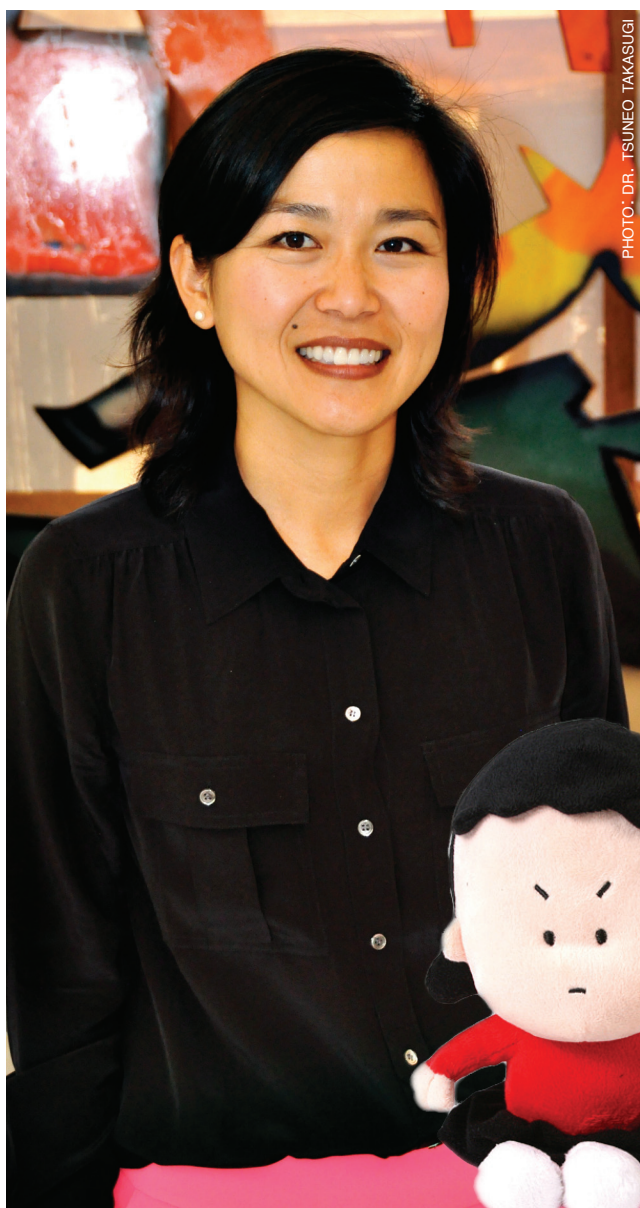


PHOTO: DR. TSUNEKO TAKASUGI

As part of its ongoing 'Marvels & Monsters' exhibit, JANM hosts a meet-and-greet conversation with Lela Lee, creator of the 'Angry Little Girls' comic books.

By Connie K. Ho  
Contributor

Growing up in a conservative, mostly white, suburban California city, Lela Lee had no idea that her sketch drawing of a little Asian girl would later be seen worldwide and turned into books, tote bags and now a doll. Lee, a Korean American who was ridiculed for her ethnicity at a young age, channeled her anger into her art, creating the character "Angry Little Asian Girl" while studying at the University of California, Berkeley. She visited the Japanese American National Museum on Oct. 19 to speak about her surprising career as a cartoonist and her plans for her "Angry Little Girls" characters.

Lee began the discussion by touching on her childhood in the 1970s in San Dimas, a small town about 45 minutes outside of Los Angeles.

"We were probably one of the few Asian families in that neighborhood, so a lot of kids didn't know what to make of us. On the playground, I got teased and I couldn't really speak back, I didn't know what to say to the taunts, and then my parents at home were really super strict. They were Korean, they worked hard and they just wanted me to study and

assimilate and make it in this world," Lee said. "When I would go to them about things that happened at school, they would just say, 'Oh Lela, just be nice.' So, I couldn't really talk about the racism that I was feeling as a kid, and I also didn't really know what it was — I didn't know it had a name."

Lee first began to understand what racism was when she arrived in Berkeley for college and began to take a variety of classes, including Asian American studies, women's studies and film.

"Someone told me, when [you] go to college, if you're undeclared, just take whatever class you find interesting," said Lee, who went through a bit of culture shock when she transitioned from living in a small, conservative town to a progressive, liberal city. "One of the things I remember feeling when I was taking these classes — the things I experienced growing up actually had a name and then I felt really disappointed, I felt betrayed. I felt like the teachers in my grade school, high school and my parents were hiding the truth from me."

Lee recounted an experience she had at the Palace of Fine Arts in 1994 in San Francisco, where she went to see an animation festival with a friend. After seeing the cartoons,

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## New Crop Shinmai Announcement

Here on our farm in the Central Valley, it's that time of the year when broad swaths of rice are slowly turning gold awaiting harvest. Year after year, this cycle repeats as we carry on in the tradition of our grandfather and Koda Farms founder, Katsuhiko Koda.

Our family has now been farming in California for over 85 years and we look forward to our approaching centennial. To some that may seem far and distant, but in farming, the long term picture is always in sight. This was especially true for our grandfather who during the World War II internment of Japanese Americans lost over 90% of everything he owned. After the family's release from Amache, Colorado, he fought tooth and nail to re-establish his farm and milling operations and instilled in those around him an indomitable sense of hope for a better future.

With the daily reminders of the changing seasons and imminent harvest, we extend our sincere gratitude to all of you folks that have made the aforementioned possible.

- The Koda Family

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# NEW CROP 2013

***‘... You have to have some standards and stay true to what you want to make. The world already has enough stuff in the landfills ... I want to make good stuff.’***

she was left fuming at the offending images and jokes. Her friend recommended that she create a cartoon about her own experiences growing up Asian American, and so Lee decided to try it out herself with some typing paper, markers and video editing equipment from her university's lab. What resulted was a short, "First Day in School," that featured foul language and a fresh take on race, sex and gender in the United States.

"After putting it together in the video classroom, I watched it and was like, 'Oh my gosh, that was so angry. I need to hide it.' So, I hid it, and I didn't ever think about it," said Lee.

After graduating from college with a degree in rhetoric, Lee went to work at her family's dry cleaners. The days at the dry cleaners were busy in the mornings, when all the customers dropped off their clothes, and then late afternoon, when they would return to pick up their items. Lee found that she had a span of free time in the middle of the day, and so she decided to work on a few short episodes.

While hanging out with some friends at her sister's apartment, she showed the first video she made and received positive feedback. She created a few more episodes during her down time at the dry cleaners, and these shorts were later shown in 1998 at the American Cinematheque, where she was volunteering at the time. The five shorts received strong reviews from the *Los Angeles Times* and *LA Weekly*, both of which praised her wit and acute observations of racism and sexism.

In interacting with her fans, Lee realized that the stories of "Angry Little Asian Girl" resonated with females of all colors, and she decided to expand the comic strip to "Angry Little Girls." The strip included Deborah, the disenchanted princess; Maria, the crazy little Latina; Wanda, the fresh little soul sistah; and Xyla (pronounced Zy-la), the gloomy girl. "Angry Little Girls" is now a weekly comic strip and the subject of published books (six titles so far). The comic strip characters can also be seen on bags, shirts, school supplies and other products. Lee, whose favorite comic books artists included Charles Schulz and Jules Feiffer, faced rejections a number of times in getting her books published but was resilient in finding the right people with whom to work.

"When I was first starting out, it was whoever would work with me, whoever would take me, but I was really picky, too," said Lee on how the "Angry Little Asian Girl" product empire has grown. "You have to kind of look around and see where you would fit; you also have to take whatever you can get, but you have to have some standards and stay true to what you want to make. The world already has enough stuff in the landfills. I don't want to make that stuff — I want to make good stuff."

Aside from speaking about her experience in writing and drawing, Lela also addressed her experience as an actress. She studied drama in college and took some time off during her junior year to pursue acting in Los Angeles. Lee has appeared on TV shows such as "Scrubs" and "Tremors," along with films such as 2002's "Better Luck Tomorrow" and 1997's "Shopping for Fangs."

"I'm sort of going back to [acting]. I really enjoy it; it's really fun. It's also a really good diversion because the thing about being a cartoonist is that it's a really solitary job."

"It's really lonely," Lee continued. "I just have a drawing table and my computer, and I just look for ideas on the Internet or I'll read stuff and jot things down. And I'll think about stuff, but I don't really get to see or interact with coworkers. So, it's really fun when I go to

auditions. I'll see my old friends in acting."

Those who attended the JANM event were a mixed group of ages and ethnicities, and many spoke about how the experiences of "Angry Little Asian Girl" related to their own feelings of being misunderstood at times. Toward the end of the session, Lee described a fan she had met at a past Comic-Con who was a recent survivor of cancer. The fan approached Lee to tell her how much the book had helped her through a difficult time in her life.

"To know that she could touch her anger, to express it — it's someone's really trying experience — it means a lot," said Lee, recounting the feedback she received from the fan. "It showed that my work helped her quell that anger because that was really why I created it, too."

At the end of the talk, many of the attendees lined up to have their books signed by Lee. Fans of Lee will have more opportunities to interact with her next year as she will be celebrating the 20th anniversary of "Angry Little Asian Girl" with a number of events.

**To find out more information and receive updates on the anniversary, visit <https://www.facebook.com/AngryLittleGirls>.**



PHOTO: COURTESY OF LELA LEE



PHOTO: CONNIE K. HO

Lela Lee signs books for fans at JANM's meet-and-greet event. Fans will have the opportunity to interact with Lee more next year when she celebrates the 20th anniversary of "Angry Little Asian Girl."



George and Judy Morimitsu attended the Oct. 19 opening of the "American Heroes" exhibit at the Chicago History Museum.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF CHICAGO JACL

By Nalea J. Ko  
Reporter

Japanese American veterans of World War II gathered at the Chicago History Museum on Oct. 19 for the opening of the traveling Congressional Gold Medal exhibit.

The exhibit "American Heroes: Japanese American World War II Nisei Soldiers and the Congressional Gold Medal" honors the soldiers who fought in the 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service.

## Congressional Gold Medal Traveling Exhibit Stops in Chicago

"Working with Japanese American community leaders allowed us to enrich the traveling exhibition with the personal history and artifacts of local medal recipients," said Tamara Biggs, the Chicago History Museum's director of exhibitions. "Our Oct. 19 opening day was a truly moving experience. Fourteen Congressional Gold Medal recipients, seven widows and several hundred family members and community supporters gathered here. Veterans were recognized in an opening ceremony, they saw themselves and their combat buddies on display in the gallery where family members took pictures of the vets next to their service-era portraits and memories poured forth at the reception that followed."

The Congressional Gold Medal, Congress' highest civilian award, was formally awarded to the WWII Nisei veterans at a Washington, D.C., ceremony in 2011. More than 30,000 Japanese Americans served during WWII.

Many Japanese American soldiers fought in battle while their families were unjustly incarcerated behind barbed wire, following the bombing of Pearl Harbor when some 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry were forced from their homes.

The Smithsonian, in partnership with the National Veterans Network, developed the traveling exhibit to spread the story of the heroic Nisei soldiers, who bravely fought in WWII despite the widespread

discrimination against Japanese at the time.

"My grandfather served in the 442nd and never told his story of heroism and courage on the battlefield during WWII," said Marisa Fujinaka, a Chicago JACL chapter member. "The Congressional Gold Medal is a tribute to my grandfather and to thousands of Japanese Americans who dedicated their lives with honor and loyalty to the United States."

Sponsors of the exhibit include Cole Chemical, AARP, Comcast/NBC Universal, the Japanese American Veterans Assn., Pritzker Military Library, the Shiratsuki Family, Southwest Airlines and the Spirit Mountain Community Fund.

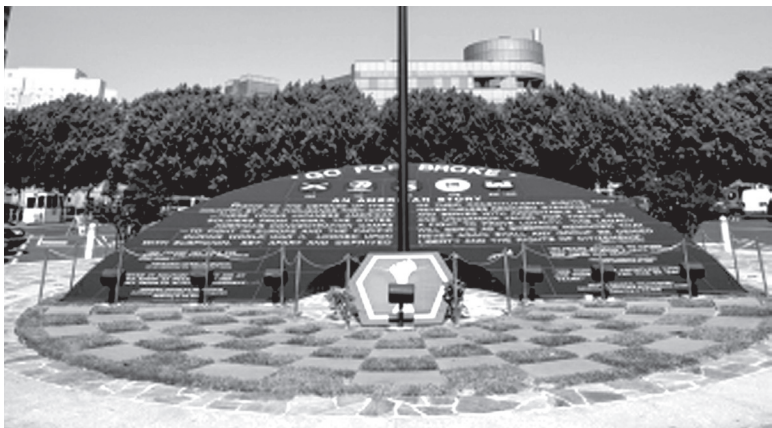
The Chicago exhibit was made possible thanks to community partnerships with the Nikkei WWII Veterans Tribute Committee, Chicago Japanese American Council, Chicago Japanese American Historical Society, Chicago Nisei Post 1183, Chicago JACL, Japanese American Service Committee and the Japanese Mutual Aid Society of Chicago.

"This little exhibition has a big heart, and I'm so glad I had the opportunity to work on it. You can quote me on that, too!" added Biggs.

The exhibit will leave the Chicago History Museum on Dec. 8. Its next — and final stop — will be the Holocaust Museum Houston on Dec. 19 until Jan. 26.

**For more information about the exhibit, visit [www.chicagohistory.org](http://www.chicagohistory.org) or call (312) 642-4600.**

## Eleven SoCal WWII Veterans to Receive France's Highest Honor



Eleven Japanese Americans veterans of World War II will receive France's highest honor at a ceremony in Southern California.

The Go for Broke National Education Center will host the Nov. 9 event at 10 a.m. at the Go for Broke National Monument in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo.

France Deputy Consul General Fabrice Maiolino will honor 11 Nisei veterans with the National Order of the Legion of Honor in the rank of Chevalier. A private reception for the honorees and their families will follow.

"We are so pleased that the French government has expedited making this prestigious award a reality for

these living veterans who are so deserving," said Don Nose, president of Go for Broke National Education Center.

The awardees include veterans Tokuji Yoshihashi, Harry H. Kanada, Hiroshi Nishikubo, Don S. Miyada, Fumio "Steve" Shimizu, Takashi "Frank" Sugihara, Harry H. Yoshimura, Noboru "Don" Seki, George S. Kanatani, Makoto "James" Ogawa and Takashi Wada.

These Nisei also received the Congressional Gold Medal in 2011 for serving bravely in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

**For more information about the event, contact Peggy Renke at (310) 328-0907.**

## NewsBytes

### Former POWs Visit Japan Foreign Ministry

**TOKYO** — A group of 13 Americans, consisting of former prisoners of war, widows and POWs and their caregivers, paid a courtesy call on Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida on Oct. 15.

The group was visiting Japan on an invitation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. According to the ministry, Kishida commented that he hoped this invitation would encourage further reconciliation for visitors with regard to Japan.

In response, Robert Heer, on behalf of the group, stated that he was impressed by the beauty of Japan and conveyed his appreciation for the invitation.

### 7.3-Magnitude Quake Rocks Japan's Coast

**TOKYO** — An earthquake of magnitude 7.3 struck early in the morning on Oct. 26 off Japan's east coast, the U.S. Geological Survey said. Japan's emergency agencies declared a tsunami warning for the area. Japan's Meteorological Agency raised the tsunami warning for the area of Honshu. But the U.S. Pacific Tsunami Warning Center did not post warnings for the rest of the Pacific.

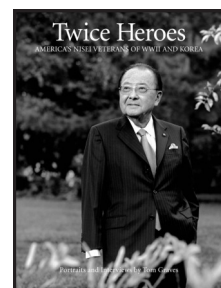
The quake hit at 2:10 a.m. Tokyo time, the USGS said, and was felt in Tokyo, some 300 miles away.

All but two of Japan's 50 reactors have been offline since the March 2011 magnitude 9.0 earthquake and ensuing tsunami triggered multiple meltdowns and massive radiation leaks at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant, about 250 kilometers (160 miles) northeast of Tokyo.

— Associated Press

*"I salute these great Americans who are indeed 'Twice Heroes' and whose stories come to life in Tom Graves' work." Senator Bob Dole*

## TWICE HEROES: America's Nisei Veterans of WWII and Korea



Twice Heroes is the only book that tells the Nisei veterans' stories in their own words, through their interviews with writer and photographer Tom Graves.

Give Twice Heroes to your children and grandchildren to share the untold stories of the Nisei generation's important chapter in our nation's history.

Order now for Veterans Day!  
[www.TwiceHeroes.com](http://www.TwiceHeroes.com)  
or call 415-550-7241

## HEROES >> continued from page 3



Friends and family of Nisei veterans descend the summit of Mt. Folgorito in Italy.



Brig. Gen. David S. Elmo (*left*) with 442 RCT veteran Roy Fujiwara (*center*) at the American Cemetery in Florence, Italy.



Judge Dale Ikeda (*left*) with Tod Fujiwara, son of 442 RCT veteran Roy Fujiwara, on Mt. Folgorito

The City Council of Pietrasanta commissioned a three-foot-high marble pedestal to display the CGM at its city hall. We observed Memorial Day, May 27, at the American Cemetery in Florence as special guests.

Gen. David S. Elmo, the keynote speaker, recalled the heroism of the Nisei soldiers who fought for freedom even as their own families and friends were confined in America's concentration camps. He acknowledged Sadao Munemori as one of his personal heroes. Pfc. Munemori received the Medal of Honor posthumously for taking out two machine guns with grenades before falling on a German grenade to save two of his comrades.

Gen. Elmo also greeted Roy Fujiwara, our sole Nisei veteran in the FFNV tour group.

The high point of the trip, literally and figuratively, was the ascent to the top of Mt. Folgorito, the site of one of the 442nd's greatest battles. For nearly six months, two divisions of Allied forces consisting of approximately 20,000 men were unable to break through the mountain fortress created by the Apennine Mountains in central Italy known as the "Gothic Line." The German High Command had fortified the Gothic Line with interlocking cannons and machine gun nests and deployed its best available forces with orders to hold at all costs. The high grounds of Mt. Folgorito controlled the movement of men and material through Italy to the Po Valley and, ultimately, Germany itself.

The 442nd was called in to lead a diversionary attack. The commander of the 442nd said his men could break through in two days. The plan included a nighttime climb up the 45-degree face of Mt. Folgorito and a daring attack at dawn.

On April 3, 1945, approximately 2,500 men of the 442nd breached the Gothic Line in 32 minutes, accomplishing what 20,000 men were not able to do in nearly six months. For this, President Harry S. Truman presented the 442nd with its seventh Presidential Unit Citation on the White House lawn. President Truman stated, "You fought not only the enemy, you fought prejudice and you won."

Twenty one of us from the FFNV tour started our own trip to Mt. Folgorito in a bus ride to the car rental agency. We were joined by Roy Fujiwara, 95 years young. He said he would not be joining the climb but recounted the assault on April 3, 1945.

Although only 5 feet six inches tall and 130 pounds, he was bigger than most and made the climb in 1945 armed with a 26-pound Browning Automatic Rifle carrying his own ammunition. He was part of

Company L, the first unit to reach the top of Mt. Folgorito. They climbed for eight hours in pitch darkness and were told that if they fell, even to their death, they were not to make a sound — the element of surprise was critical. Several of his comrades fell to their silent deaths as they climbed the goat trail lead by a local partisan. At dawn, they attacked, catching the Germans with their "pants down," according to Roy.

As the German soldiers fled, they left snipers to guard their retreat. Roy was shot by one of the snipers. The bullet entered his cheek and exited near his ear, leaving him deaf, reentered his shoulder and exited his back. Four stretcher bearers took him down Mt. Folgorito the same way they had come up the night before.

Roy told us this would be his last trip to Italy, and he might not see us again. He made the trip with his son, Tod, to remember and honor those who never made it home. He said he could feel their presence, tears welling up in his eyes. He said he wasn't a hero; the men who sacrificed their lives were the real heroes.

Our FFNV group climbed for about an hour and a half using the easy route, not the treacherous face of Mt. Folgorito. It was only the last 200 yards, climbing hand over hand and rock to rock that we got a sense of the Niseis' perilous ascent. We reached the summit marked by a metal cross. There, we placed U.S. flags and decals of the CGM in driving rain, pounding hail and a lightning storm overhead. Our local guides implored us to climb down before someone got hurt. One member went down on his butt, fearful that he would fall. We were wet and cold, but, nevertheless, elated to literally follow in the footsteps of heroes.

I've been blessed with a life relatively free of discrimination against me. I've had many opportunities to get a good education, become a lawyer and judge and participate fully in community life. I often think of the Nisei soldiers and how they proved the loyalty of Japanese Americans at a time when their loyalty was suspect. The trip to Italy was a personal pilgrimage out of respect for the Nisei veterans. I attribute much of my success in life to them. As members of the "greatest generation," their sacrifices, courage and perseverance in the face of danger paved the way for a better life for their families and generations to follow.

*Please visit the FCBA website for more information on the Nisei soldiers and follow the link to "The Japanese American Story of Internment and Redress."*

### Polaris Tours 2014 Tour Schedule

Mar. 30 ~ Apr. 08	<b>Spring Japan:</b> "Hiroshima, Kyoto, Inuyama, Hakone, Tokyo"
Apr. 07 ~ Apr. 19	<b>Beautiful South Korea:</b> "All Major Highlights & Drama Sites"
May 15. ~ May. 25	<b>Kii Peninsula:</b> "Koyasan, Kii Katsuura, Shirahama, Toba, Kyoto"
May. 17 ~ May. 25	<b>Wonders of Iceland:</b> "Stunningly Beautiful"
May. 24 ~ Jun. 02	<b>Gardens &amp; Villas of the Italian Lakes:</b> "Venice, Como, Bellagio, Lugano"
Apr or May or Jun	<b>Spring Las Vegas:</b> Show: "TBA"
Jun. 21 ~ Jun. 29	<b>The Best of Switzerland:</b> "Matterhorn, St. Moritz, Lucerne, Zermatt"
Jul. 07 ~ Jul. 16	<b>Japan By Train:</b> "Hiroshima, Kurashiki, Okayama, Kyoto, Tokyo"
Sep. 07 ~ Sep. 18	<b>Tohoku &amp; Hokkaido:</b> "Simplistic & Natural Beauty"
Sep. 07 ~ Sep. 21	<b>Highlights of Spain:</b> "Barcelona, Valencia, Granada, Seville, Madrid"
Oct. 04 ~ Oct. 11	<b>Andean Lake Crossing &amp; Chilean Wine Country:</b> "Bariloche, Santiago"
Oct. 09 ~ Oct. 18	<b>Treasures of France:</b> "Paris, Avignon, Arles, St. Remy, Nice, Monaco"
Oct. 15 ~ Oct. 27	<b>Dynamic Taiwan:</b> "Taipei, Taroko Gorge, Tainan, Kaohsiung"
Oct. 17 ~ Oct. 31	<b>South Africa &amp; Victoria Falls:</b> "Cape Town, Johannesburg & Safari"
Oct. 19 ~ Oct. 28	<b>Autumn Japan:</b> "Hiroshima, Kyoto, Kanazawa, Takayama, Tokyo"
Nov. 02 ~ Nov. 12	<b>Islands of Okinawa &amp; Shikoku:</b> "Naha, Takamatsu, Matsuyama, Kochi"



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## HALLOWEEN &gt;&gt; continued from page 3



PHOTO: POTTERY BARN

A kimono costume and a sushi chef costume sold by Pottery Barn were removed from the company's website after they were deemed offensive by the AAAJ.

To a Japanese person, however, it could appear as a trivializing of one's heritage. When I attend a Japanese festival, or visit an anime con, it's amazing to see how many non-Japanese people dress in what they consider an "homage" to traditional Japanese clothing and wrap themselves in, say, a bathrobe with a floral print on it and think they're showing appreciation for Japanese culture.

There has been a long history of Westerners appropriating Asian culture, especially in pop culture and for the sake of entertainment. So, I'm afraid even if people have good intentions, putting on a cheap imitation kimono will always seem in poor taste to me.

I feel the same about Native American "costumes" that have fake headdresses and fringed faux-suede pants or skirts. It's an unfortunate depiction of a racial stereotype, even if the person might be honestly in love with Native American culture and traditions.

I'm glad Halloween is over for another year, and I don't have to be on the lookout for the next racist costume.

*Gil Asakawa is a current member of the P.C. Editorial Board and former P.C. Board Chair. His blog is at [www.nikkeiview.com](http://www.nikkeiview.com), and he also is the Japanese expert for Answers.com at [www.japanese.answers.com](http://www.japanese.answers.com).*

## U.S. Energy Chief Offers Japan Aid With Nuke Cleanup

By Associated Press

**TOKYO** — U.S. Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz said Oct. 31 that he expects deepening cooperation with Japan over the high-stakes cleaning up and decommissioning of the crippled Fukushima nuclear plant.

The Fukushima plant has had a series of mishaps in recent months, including radioactive water leaks from storage tanks. The incidents have added to concerns about the ability of operator Tokyo Electric Power Co., or TEPCO, to safely close down the plant, which suffered meltdowns after being swamped by the March 2011 tsunami on Japan's north-eastern coast.

"We expect the relationship in the area of decommissioning between TEPCO and our national laboratories to expand and deepen in the coming years," Moniz said in a lecture in Tokyo.

"Just as the tragic event had global consequences, the success of the cleanup also has global significance. So, we all have a

direct interest in seeing that the next steps are taken well and safely," he said.

Japanese regulators on Oct. 31 approved the removal of fuel rods from an uncontained cooling pool at a damaged reactor building considered the highest risk at the plant following its multiple meltdowns.

"Our decommissioning and decontamination industries stand ready to aid should Japan need their help," Moniz said. "The U.S. is ready to assist our partners with this daunting task."

Removing the fuel rods from the Unit 4 cooling pool is the first major step in a decommissioning process that is expected to last decades at the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant.

Japan's nuclear regulatory chairman Shunichi Tanaka has warned that removing the fuel rods is a painstaking, high-risk process.

Moniz said he expects nuclear power to remain a crucial part of the energy mix as the world moves away from fossil fuels in its effort to mitigate global warming. The Department of Energy has provided billions of dollars in loan guarantees for new nuclear plants in the U.S.

Smaller nuclear plants now under development probably offer the safest, most financially viable options, he said.

"We cannot lose perspective on nuclear as a clean, reliable supplier of baseload (electricity), while recognizing each country will make its own decisions," he said. ■



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## A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS



# CALENDAR

## >>EDC

**Art Lecture on  
Osamu Tezuka's Work  
NEW YORK, NY**

**Nov. 7, 6:30 p.m.**

**Japan Society  
333 E. 47th St.**

**Cost: \$25/General admission;  
\$20/Seniors and students**

Roland Kelts, author of "Japanamerica," presents this lecture on the work and legacy of Osamu Tezuka, who is known as the "Godfather of Anime and Manga."

**Info: Call (212) 832-1155 or  
visit [www.japansociety.org](http://www.japansociety.org).**

**'Songs of Struggle' Film Series  
CAMBRIDGE, MA**

**Thru Nov. 10**

**Harvard Film Archive,  
Carpenter Center for Visual Arts  
24 Quincy St.**

More than a dozen films by Shinsuke Ogawa will show in North America for the first time in many years. Ogawa's films document the student movement and violent conflict between authorities and farmers who were impacted by the proposed Narita Airport.

**Info: Call (617) 495-4700 or  
visit <http://hcl.harvard.edu/hfa/films/2013octdec/ogawa.html>.**

**Yoko Miwa Jazz Concert  
CAMBRIDGE, MA**

**Nov. 20, 8 p.m.**

**Scullers Jazz Club**

**400 Soldiers Field Road**

**Cost: \$20/Show; \$60/Dinner and  
a show**

Join pianist and JVC Victor Entertainment Recording artist Yoko Miwa for dinner and a show. The Yoko Miwa Trio was voted Best Jazz Act by the Boston Phoenix in the 2012 Best Music Poll.

**Info: Call (617) 562-4111 or  
visit [www.scullersjazz.com](http://www.scullersjazz.com).**

## >>CCDC

**The 45th Annual Manzanar  
Pilgrimage  
OWENS VALLEY, CA  
April 26, Noon  
Manzanar National Historic Site  
U.S. Highway 395**

The Manzanar Pilgrimage is sponsored by the Los Angeles-based Manzanar Committee. Participants are advised to bring their own lunch, drinks and snacks, as there are no facilities to purchase food at the Manzanar National Historic site. Bus transportation from L.A. is being arranged.

**Info: Call (323) 662-5102  
or email [info@manzanarcommittee.org](mailto:info@manzanarcommittee.org).**

## >>NCWNP

**San Jose Taiko Public Workshop  
SAN JOSE, CA**

**Nov. 16, 1-4 p.m.**

**San Jose Taiko Studio  
150 S. Montgomery St.**

**Cost: \$50/Per person**  
Taiko enthusiasts are invited to learn the basics of San Jose Taiko's style in this workshop. Attendees will be

introduced to the history of taiko and its proper techniques. Participants must be at least 15 years old.

**Info: Call (408) 293-9344 or  
visit <http://taiko.org/publicworkshops>.**

**Japanese American Museum of  
San Jose  
SAN JOSE, CA  
Nov. 9, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.  
San Jose Buddhist Church,  
Betsuin Gym  
640 N. Fifth St.**

The Japanese American Museum of San Jose's Winter Boutique will feature items from Japanese American artists and craftsmen. JAMsj members have an early admittance at 9-10 a.m. Interested vendors should contact Komo at [Winter\\_Boutique@JAMsj.org](mailto:Winter_Boutique@JAMsj.org).  
**Info: Call (408) 294-3138 or  
visit [www.jamsj.org](http://www.jamsj.org).**

## >>PSW

**Children's Oshogatsu Workshop  
LOS ANGELES, CA  
Dec. 27, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.**

**Japanese American Cultural &  
Community Center  
244 S. San Pedro St.**

**Cost: \$30/Per Child;  
\$25/JACCC Members**

This one-day oshogatsu workshop allows children, ages 7-12, to participate in hands-on activities lead by local artists and community members. Workshops have a 30-person limit. Advanced registration is required.

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

**The Fifth Advancing  
Justice Conference  
LOS ANGELES, CA**

**Nov. 14-16**

**The Westin Bonaventure Hotel  
404 S. Figueroa St.  
Cost: \$275/General; \$200/  
Nonprofit; \$120/Student; \$30/  
Capacity Building Institute**

The Asian Americans Advancing Justice's annual conference focuses on civil rights and social justice in the Asian Pacific American community. The conference includes three days of panel discussions, caucus sessions, skills and capacity building workshops and networking receptions. The registration deadline is Nov. 4 at 5 p.m. PDT. Onsite and one-day ticket prices vary.  
**Info: Call (213) 977-7500 or  
visit <http://conference.advancingjustice.org/2013>.**

**Japanese Cultural Center of  
Hawaii Celebrates Shichi Go San  
HONOLULU, HI**

**Nov. 17, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.**

**Japanese Cultural Center of  
Hawaii**

**2454 S. Beretania St.  
Cost: \$80/Nonmembers;  
\$65/JCCH members (fee  
includes dressing by Masako  
Formals staff.)**

The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii is holding its annual Shichi Go San: Keiki Kimono Dressing, which stems from the Meiji era (1868-1912)

**Topaz Museum Fundraiser  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA**

**Nov. 16, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.**

**Buchanan YMCA**

**1530 Buchanan St.**

**Cost: \$40/Adults; \$15/Children under 12**

This fundraiser benefits the Topaz Museum, which is slated to open in 2013 on the site where Japanese Americans were unjustly interned during WWII. Scheduled speakers include emcee Mike Inouye, author Delphine Hirasuna, author Karen Tae Yamashita, filmmaker Satsuki Ina and author Kimi Kodani Hill, who will talk about her grandfather, Chiuri Obata. The cost includes an obento lunch. The deadline to pay is Nov. 9.

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

when parents brought their kimono-clad children to shrines and prayed for their long lives. Children can dress up in elegant kimono and zori and capture the day with a professional photograph at this traditional event.

**Info: Call (808) 945-7633, or  
visit [www.jcch.com](http://www.jcch.com).**

## >>MDC

**MotivAsians Film Screening of  
'Linsanity'  
CLEVELAND, OH**

**NOV. 11, 7:30-9:00 p.m.**

**Cleveland Cinemas,  
Tower City Cinemas**

**230 W. Huron Road, #7256  
Cost: \$11/General admission**

MotivAsians for Cleveland, in collaboration with OCA Cleveland, is hosting a screening of director Evan Jackson Leong's documentary "Linsanity." The film follows professional basketball player Jeremy Lin on his turbulent journey to join the NBA.

**Info: Visit [www.tugg.com/events/6329](http://www.tugg.com/events/6329) or email [info@motivasiations.org](mailto:info@motivasiations.org).**

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## FOR MORE INFO:

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



# Memoriam

**Endow, Lily Kumie, 96**, Santa Barbara, CA; Sept. 23; she is survived by her children, Everett (Gladys) Endow and Nancy (Bob) Brophy; sister-in-law, Koko Endow; brother-in-law, Frank Endow; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; 6 gc; 6 ggc.

**Harada, Joseph Masukazu, 86**, Sherman Oaks, CA; Oct. 17; survived by wife, Yoshiko Harada; children, Christine June (London Lawson) Harada of Washington, D.C., Josephine Naomi Harada of Boston, MA; siblings, Fumi Utsunomiya and Jimmy Harada; also survived by many other relatives both here and in Japan; 2 gc.

**Hiji, Betty Tamiko, 86**,



Westlake Village, CA; Oct. 21; she is survived by her husband, Tsugio; children, LuAnn (David) Shudo, Kenji (Akiko) Hiji, Doris (Clifford) Kotake and Donald (Alice) Hiji; sister, Hisako (Bob Hisao) Hiji; brothers, Jim Arimura and Bobby (Masako) Arimura; and many other relatives; 11 gc.

**Hitomi, Masao, 89**, Long Beach,



CA; Oct. 6; he is survived by his son, Richard Hitomi; brother, Frank Hitomi, sister-in-law; Kazuko Kato, brother-in-law, Shuji Uyematsu; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

**Imamura, Misako, 90**, Los Angeles, CA; Oct. 7; she is survived by her daughters, Yasuko and Yoko Imamura; son-in-law, Howard Nakamura; she is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives here and in Japan; 1 gc.

**Isoda, Sadashi, 82**, Torrance, CA; Sept. 18; he is predeceased by his

daughter, Valerie Isozaki; survived by his wife, Alice Isoda; children, Steven Isoda and Allison (Eric) Hamasu; son-in-law, Kevin Isozaki; favorite dog, Chibi; and survived by many other nieces, nephews and other relatives; 4 gc.

**Kitano, Toshiko Tahara, 87**, Long Beach, CA; Oct. 7; survived by her husband of 56 years, Roy Kitano; her daughter, Judi Kitano (Mike Yogi); sister, Sachiko Suzuki, brother, Masayoshi George Tahara; and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her sons, John Kitano and James Kitano; 3 gc.

**Kobayashi, Itsuko, 81**, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA; Oct. 11; survived by her husband, Robert; children, Hope (William) La Salle, Dr. Mark (Dr. Suzan) and Bradley (Brenda) Kobayashi; siblings, Fujiko (George) Kodama, Tomohiro (Cynthia) Hamasaki and Etsuko (Takeo) Yamamoto; nephew, David Ishibashi; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; 7 gc.

**Kohara, Tadachi, 83**, Garden Grove, CA; Oct. 17; a survivor of the Hiroshima atomic bombing; recipient of Cue Collectors Assn.'s Lifetime Achievement Award and an inductee of the Japanese Billiard and Pool Assn. and the American Cue Makers Assn.; survived by his wife, Setsuko Kohara; children, June (Kenyon) Quon, Kay and Fred Kohara; brother of Dr. Sachiko (Rev. Toshio) Okamoto of Ohio; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

**Murai, Joyce Anne, 64**, Torrance, CA; Oct. 7; she is predeceased by her husband, Jeff Murai, father-in-law, Peter Murai, and mother-in-law, Lorraine Murai; survived by her son, Brian Murai; parents, Takashi (Ellen) Suzuki; siblings, Laurie (Kei) Teramoto and Andy (Keiko) Suzuki; brothers-in-law, Daniel (Amy) and Randy (Carol) Murai; sister-in-law, Carol (Rick) Kawakami.

**Nonaka, Michiko, 94**, Los Angeles, CA; Oct. 2; survived by her children, Rumi (Yoshio) Shimada, Miho (Kanji) Fujimoto, and Seishi (Hitomi) Nonaka; great-grandchildren; sister, Fumiyo Ueno of Japan; also survived by many other relatives in Japan; 4 gc.

**Nozawa, Ann Masumi, 76**, Los Angeles, CA; Oct. 4; she is

survived by her siblings, Elizabeth and Eddie (Barbara) Nozawa, and Cheri (Isao) Shitara; sister-in-law, Chikako Nozawa; brother-in-law, Stan Miyakawa; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

**Ohno, Teruko, 87**, Torrance, CA; Oct. 19; she is predeceased by her husband, Ted Takeshi Ohno, and her daughter, Christine Fumiko Ohno; survived by her children, Barbara Hatsuye Ohno and Tim Hiromu Ohno; siblings, T oshihiko (Yasuko) Sakano, Atsuko Shoji and Kazuko Takahashi, all of Japan; survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

**Oseki, Yukiko, 81**, Los Angeles,



CA; Oct. 4; survived by her husband, Shosaku Oseki; daughters, Grace Masako Oseki and Shirley Yoko Oseki-Rivas (Leonardo Rivas); sister, Frances Fumiko Borth; brother, George Shoji Rokui of Chiba, Japan; also survived by many nephews, nieces and other relatives here and in Japan.

**Ouchi, George Yoshinobu, 82**,



West Los Angeles, CA; Oct. 10; survived by his wife, Kimie; children, Randy, Rick and Donna; sister, Terry, and brother, Ichiro; 4 gc; 1 ggc.

**Saito, Toshio "Henry," 89**, Nyssa, OR; Oct. 20; he and his family were sent first to Tule Lake and then Heart Mountain during WWII; predeceased by his parents and his brothers, Frank and Jim; survived by his sister, Rose Kasahara; brother, Fred Saito; sisters-in-law, Virginia Saito and Shiz Saito; numerous nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

## TRIBUTE

### KATO, TADASHI J., 92

San Carlos, Calif. Oct. 16, 2013

Born in 1920, survived by his wife, Toshie; children: Kathleen, Patricia (Bill), Peter (Joyce), Robert (Traci); gc: Kevin, Tai, Mariko.

**Senda, Osamu, 88**, Laguna Hills, CA; Sept. 28; a veteran of the Korean Conflict; survived by his wife, Kazuko Senda; children, Marie (Walter) Shioji and Donald Senda; siblings, Toru (Makiko) Senda and Masaya Yamamoto; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

**Shigekawa, Dr. Sakaye, 100**, Los Angeles, CA; Oct. 18; survived by her brother, Satsuki Shigekawa, and sister, Masako Katow; nieces, Jean Katow, Janet Shigekawa Nakamaru; nephews, William Yamada, Philip Shigekawa and their families.

**Shiokari, Violet "Vi," 88**,



Los Angeles, CA; Oct. 6; survived by her family, daughter, Patti Shiokari; son, Mark (Denise) Shiokari; brother, Jimmy (June) Saito and brother-in-law

Tom (Nobie) Shiokari; 2 gc.

**Toyama, Norman Noriyuki, 59**, Los Angeles, CA; Oct. 18; he is predeceased by his father, Saburo "Zip" Toyama; survived by his wife of 28 years, Blanca Olguin Toyama; daughter, Vanessa Tomoko; mother, Lois Tomoko Toyama; brothers, Tim (Naomi), Nathan (Carol) and Titus (Donna); nieces and nephews, Diana, Sergio, Megan, Kaitlin, Aaron, Elizabeth, Lucinda, Evan, Manuel Jr., Victor Hugo Jr., Vilma, Paulina, Celeste, Frida, and Viviane; brothers-in-law, Dario, Sergio (Yolanda), Antonio (Alma), Victor; sisters-in-law, Janet (Alfonso), Angeles (Victor Hugo), Gloria (Javier), Elvia (Manuel) and Consuelo (Humberto).

**Uyeki, Mitsugi Roy, 94**, San Gabriel, CA; Oct. 9; he is survived by his beloved wife, Fumiko Uyeki; children, Hiroko Julie (Bob) Otake and Janice Junko (Trey) Sawyer; also survived by his brother, Hitoshi Uyeki, sister, Toshie Uyeda, sister-in-law, Harue Ueki, and three sisters in Japan and many other relatives; 4 gc; 5 ggc.

## 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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