

THE NATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF THE JAACL



PACIFIC CITIZEN

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Entrepreneur James
Sun's newest app



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NISEI VETERANS AWARDED LEGION OF HONOR

The French government awards
11 Nisei veterans with the country's
highest honor.



PHOTO: MALEA J. KO

National JACL Kicks Off 2014 Scholarship Program

The National JACL announces its National Scholarship and Awards Program for the 2014 academic year. The JACL annually offers approximately 30 college scholarships for students who are incoming college freshmen, undergraduates and graduates, and those specializing in law and the creative/performing arts. There is also a student aid scholarship to address the increased challenge students face in meeting rising tuition costs.

JACL, in partnership with Meiji Gakuin University in Tokyo, also offers a U.S.-Japan Scholarship for an incoming college junior who wishes to study in Japan. Meiji Gakuin University, founded in 1863, is one of the oldest universities in Japan. This two-year scholarship will lead the recipient to a bachelor's degree in International Studies. All classes are taught in English.

A scholarship program brochure and applications for 2014 can be found on the JACL website at www.jacl.org, and clicking "Education" on the menu bar. The National JACL Scholarship Program requires that all applicants be a student or individual member of the JACL. Membership under a parent will not fulfill this requirement.

Freshman Applications

Freshman applications must be submitted directly by the applicant to his/her local chapter, postmarked no later than March 1, 2014. Students who require the mailing address for their chapter may contact JACL Membership Coordinator Annie Noguchi at anoguchi@jacl.org or by calling (415) 921-5225. Please put "Chapter Scholarship Chair Address Requested" in the subject line of your email.

JACL chapters then have one month to screen the applications

and forward their "most outstanding" freshman applications to "National JACL Freshman Scholarship Committee," c/o San Diego JACL, 6917 Town View Lane, San Diego, CA 92120. There is no limit to the number of applications a chapter may forward to National for consideration, but it is requested they only be of the strongest applicants. Chapters must submit their selected freshman applications to the National Committee, postmarked no later than April 1, 2014, in order to be considered.

Other Grade Level Applications

Applications for the "other" scholarship categories (undergraduate, graduate, law, creative/performing arts and student aid) are to be sent directly by the applicant to "National JACL Scholarship Committee," c/o Washington, D.C. JACL, 5406 Uppingham St., Chevy Chase, MD 20815. Applications for these categories must be postmarked no later than April 1, 2014, to be considered.

U.S.-Japan Scholarship

The Meiji Gakuin-JACL Scholarship involves two completely different applications, which can be requested directly from Meiji Gakuin University via the JACL website.

It is requested that chapters inform their respective membership and communities of the National JACL Scholarship Program, which can be an opportunity to boost membership for the chapter and stimulate interest in the JACL.

For more information on the National JACL Scholarship Program, contact Regional Director Patty Wada at pwada@jacl.org, or National JACL VP for Planning & Development Chip Larouche at clarouche@jacl.org.

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Letter to the Editor

I want to compliment John Tateishi for his "Who Are We?" article (*P.C.*, Oct. 4-17, 2013). Some of the local chapters have done a wonderful job with their advocacy programs. However, a lot of the other chapters are more focused on social activities than political advocacy. There is nothing wrong with social activities or membership drives. However, JACL is a civil rights organization, and we need to be more active in issues that affect our communities such as immigration, voting rights and health care.

Sincerely,
Harry Budisidharta
Denver, Colo.

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NIKKEI VOICE

Japanese Americans Have a Lot to Be Thankful for on Veterans Day

By Gil Asakawa

At our local supermarket the weekend before Veterans Day, veterans were handing out little red poppies to pin on passersby's lapels as tributes to generations of war dead (it's a reference to John McCrae's 1915 World War I poem "In Flanders Fields").

I thanked the vet for giving me one and was heading in to shop when a scruffy-looking guy came up and growled that I was supposed to pay for the poppies.

I stammered as he walked away that I was going to give some change on my way out, but the man who gave me the poppy shook his head and said there was no donation required. He apologized for the second man's behavior.

I realized that the scruffy guy was probably reacting to my ethnicity. Sigh. He probably thought I was a "Damned Jap" or a "Gook" and didn't deserve to be wearing a poppy.

I should have yelled back at the scruffy guy that my dad was an American soldier, and I was wearing this poppy for him.

On Veterans Day, I was happy to see a TV news report about George "Joe" Sakato, a 92-year-old Nisei from Denver who traveled to Washington, D.C., to be honored as part of the release of a set of stamps paying tribute to World War II Medal of Honor recipients.

In 2012 when the U.S. Postal Service announced the new stamps, the plan was to have portraits of the 12 WWII Medal of Honor veterans who are still alive featured on the sheets surrounding the stamps, and the men would attend the unveiling this year. Three have died since the project was announced, including another Nisei soldier, the late Sen. Daniel Inouye of Hawaii. An accompanying booklet lists all 464 WWII Medal of Honor recipients.

Both Joe Sakato and Daniel Inouye fought in the celebrated 100th Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team in Europe. Inouye went on to forge an illustrious public career and passed away last December. Ironically, Sakato is a retired U.S.P.S. employee.

Sakato is a quiet, incredibly poised man. He's obviously proud of his medal — he wears it when he makes public appearances in the Denver Asian community and at Memorial Day and Veterans Day events. He was honored on the field a couple of months ago at a Colorado Rockies baseball game during the seventh-inning stretch. If you visit him in his north Denver suburban home, Sakato tells stories about his wartime experiences, but only if you prod him.

He was given his Medal of Honor, which was upgraded by President Bill Clinton from a Distinguished Service Cross, in 2000 at a White House ceremony where other Nisei soldiers received the same upgrade, 45 years after the end of the war.

Sakato was cited for his bravery during the famous battle to save the Texas "Lost Battalion" in the forests of France, who were surrounded by German forces. The 442nd was sent to rescue the Texans, and they ultimately succeeded after several days. More than 200 Texas soldiers were saved, but the 442nd suffered 800 casualties to accomplish the mission.

In telling the story of the battle, Sakato's eyes tear up every time when he describes how his buddy inexplicably stood up in their foxhole and was fatally shot. Sakato cradled his friend's head as he died, and then, enraged, charged the enemy position and killed every German. The Medal of Honor citation states, "During this entire action, he killed 12 and wounded two, personally captured four and assisted his platoon in taking 34 prisoners."

I'm glad Joe Sakato is getting the accolades he so richly deserves for his heroism, even though it has been so many years since he charged that bunker. It's nice to see his face on a sheet of stamps and in the newspaper and on TV news. We see him at many Asian and Japanese community events, even though he's now frail and is always accompanied by a friend or family member.

>> See VETERANS DAY on page 8



FOR THE RECORD

Manzanar Sojourn

By John Tateishi

The drive from the Bay Area to Manzanar is about eight hours, none of it very scenic until, ironically, you get to the Mojave desert and that long drive into the Owens Valley. The valley used to be fertile agricultural and ranching land until Los Angeles County diverted the water from the valley and destroyed a way of life there.

The desert valley is nestled between the lower Sierras to the west and the Inyo Mountains to the east. Nothing much grows there besides sage.

I traveled to Manzanar this week to find out about my father, about whose life at Manzanar I know so little. He was a Kibei who was caught up in the events of late 1942, which resulted in the Manzanar riot, and was taken away along with other so-called troublemakers.

What I knew about him was that he was sent to Moab, and I thought he spent his year away from Manzanar there until he returned, but it turns out he was transferred with the others taken out of Manzanar to a camp at Leupp, called an "Isolation Center."

The government carefully labeled the camps that imprisoned us anything but prisons. Assembly centers. Relocation centers. Isolation centers. The government actually used the term *concentration camp*, a term I used often during the years I ran the redress campaign, along with other terms like *internment* and *detention centers*.

Prison was one of my favorites.

In three days at Manzanar, I learned more about my father's life than I did in all the years I did research during the redress campaign. I found out that although he and Harry Ueno were kitchen workers in adjacent blocks, they really never got along. I learned that a Kibei informant (many of you in the Bay Area knew him) who had a grudge against my father

was responsible for much of the trouble my father got into at Manzanar. I learned that life in the so-called isolation center at Moab was hard and even worse at Leupp, and that my father was released at some point and sent to Topaz before he returned to Manzanar, one of two or three others who had been arrested and were allowed to return eventually (I had thought my father was the only one).

After reading through documents, I finally understood why he never answered when I asked him what happened at places like Moab. On two separate occasions, I asked my father about Moab, and both times he said nothing and walked away. This from a man who never avoided anything, who always wanted things out in the open.

So finally, after all these years, I now know and understand why he remained so silent about that year in his life — not from shame from his own actions but from what others imposed on his life. I had returned to Manzanar on this trip to find out but never expected to learn as much as I did.

Thanks to the incredible research done by Manzanar Park Ranger Rose Masters, I learned in detail what my father's life had been in the months before the riot and through the year after he was arrested and sent to Moab and Leupp. Rose was able to virtually trace in detail what happened to my father, where he was sent and how he was treated.

After years of running into walls in trying to research my father's life in camp, I've finally learned why he was so silent about the year he disappeared, thanks to the incredible research done by Rose.

>> See MANZANAR on page 8

Almost Seven Decades After WWII, 11 Nisei Veterans Receive the Legion of Honor Award

PHOTOS: NALEA J. KO



Don Seki (above) spoke at the Nov. 9 ceremony held in Little Tokyo, where Deputy Consul of France Fabrice Maiolino presented the Nisei veterans with the Legion of Honor award.

By Nalea J. Ko
Reporter

As a child, Tracey Seki Matsuyama says she used to wake up at five in the morning with her father, Don Seki, to help him tie his shoelaces and attach his prosthetic arm in preparation for his comptroller job at the Long Beach Naval Shipyard.

Seki, now 89, is a Japanese American veteran of World War II who lost his left arm in combat while serving in France with Company L of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. Working at the naval shipyard for nearly 30 years until retiring in 1977, Seki continued the early morning ritual with his daughter until an invention made shoelaces obsolete for him.

“No, because there is Velcro now,” said Seki Matsuyama, 54, with a laugh when asked if she still ties her father’s shoes. “It was the greatest thing.”

Wearing a pair of Velcro shoes, Seki was one of 11 Japanese American veterans of WWII who were awarded on Nov. 9 with the National Order of the Legion of Honor in the rank of chevalier. It is the highest honor France presents to foreign nationals and the country’s citizens.

“I was really flabbergasted at the beautiful medal,” Seki said about the award, which he has now stored in a cabinet with his war accolades, including the Purple Heart and 2011 Congressional Gold Medal, among others.

More than 30,000 Japanese Americans reportedly served in WWII, at a time when just looking Japanese meant being classified as an enemy. The Congressional Gold Medal was awarded in 2011 at a Washington, D.C.-based ceremony to soldiers who fought in the 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442nd RCT and the Military Intelligence Service.

Considered the deadliest war in history, many Nisei veterans fought and died in combat while their families

were unjustly incarcerated in U.S. war camps.

“As young adults you left your families, your friends and your homes to fight and die for our freedom,” said Deputy Consul General of France Fabrice Maiolino, who pinned the medal on each veteran’s lapel. “France does not forget, and France will never forget these men who stood up to the greatest dangers, submitting themselves to the worst sufferings and who consented so often to death.”

The Nov. 9 event, hosted by the Go For Broke National Education Center, also honored veterans Tokuji Yoshihashi (Company A of the 100th/442nd), Harry H. Kanada (Company K of the 100th/442nd), Hiroshi Nishikubo (Company L of the 100th/442nd), Don S. Miyada (Company A of the 100th/442nd), Fumio “Steve” Shimizu (Company F of the 442nd RCT), Takashi “Frank” Sugihara (Cannon Company of the 442nd), Harry H. Yoshimura (Company A of the 442nd), George S. Kanatani (Company A of the 442nd) and Makoto “James” Ogawa (Company C of the 100th/442nd).

Any living veteran, who fought on French territory, can submit an application to be considered for the Legion of Honor distinction.

“The application for this award has been available for probably quite a few years, maybe upwards of 10 years,” said Don Nose, president of the Go For Broke National Education Center. “They were too humble to really feel that they wanted the recognition. I think maybe the Congressional Gold Medal ceremony all of a sudden changed that.”

Seki, originally from Hawaii, was 17 years old when he joined the Army. His father was a church treasurer and his mother went house-to-house on Oahu’s Manoa Valley, selling vegetables and gardenias from the family’s farm. A day before Pearl Harbor was bombed, Seki’s parents saved up enough money to leave Hawaii and return to Japan. But Seki refused to leave.

“I made a crazy decision not to go with them,” Seki said. “I disobeyed them. You don’t do that in Japanese culture.”

Like many other Nisei, Seki didn’t talk much to his four children about his experiences serving in the military during WWII. With his wife, Sumi, the veteran raised his children in Long Beach, Calif. Much of what his daughter, Seki Matsuyama, learned of her father’s service was discovered through eavesdropping on veteran reunions held at their home.

“What he told us specifically, missing his left arm, was that the dog bit it off,” said Seki Matsuyama jokingly about her father’s combat injury.

What really happened to Seki’s arm occurred after his unit saw combat in Salerno, Italy, and then in the Vosges Mountains. In 1944, after the 442nd RCT saved the Lost Battalion, Seki lost his arm when Germans opened machine gun fire on U.S. soldiers in Biffontaine, France. He was discharged in 1946.

Now nearing his 90th birthday, Seki’s old prosthetic arm is stored in his garage. It’s not clear, as Seki sits next to his daughter, how much of his story he still withholds when talking to nonveterans.

“I think Go For Broke got through to him to say, ‘If we don’t hear the stories than we’re going to lose them,’” said Seki’s daughter. “I think he’s more open now. He doesn’t talk to me one-to-one about the stories as much as my son and others. So, I just sort of sneak around and try to tape it.”

Nearly seven decades after WWII ended and changed his life, Seki says with confidence that he has no regrets.

“I’m American, and I’m glad I’m here. I’m going to be 90 years old, and I’m in pretty good shape,” Seki said. “I’m glad I did not go with my parents. I was so happy. What the outcome was, I was so glad that I didn’t go with them.”

For more information about applying for the Legion of Honor award, visit www.consulfrance-losangeles.org.

Pinedale Assembly Center Memorial Plaque Stolen

FRESNO, CALIF. — A brass plaque has been stolen from the Pinedale Assembly Center Memorial and Remembrance Plaza, apparently by metal thieves, according to local TV stations.

Dedicated on Feb. 19, 2007, to mark the 65th anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066, the plaque marks one of two internment sites in Fresno and is dedicated to the more than 4,800 Americans of Japanese ancestry who were confined at the site from May to July 1942.

“California Registered Historical Landmark No. 934. Plaque placed by California State Parks in cooperation with the City of Fresno, Japanese American Citizens League and Central California Nikkei Foundation.”

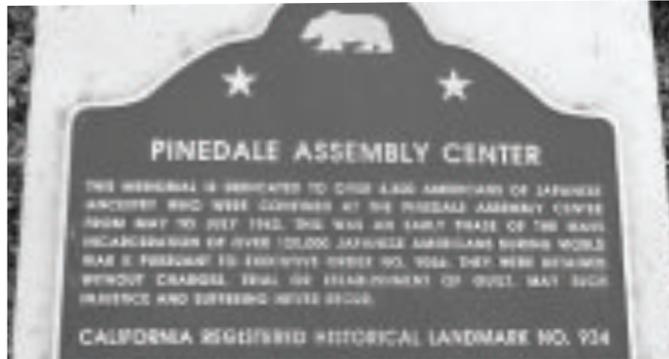
A smaller plaque, which was not stolen, was installed in February 2009. It reads, “This Remembrance Plaza is co-sponsored by the Clovis Veterans Memorial District in honor of all veterans who have served in the U.S. military, specifically those of Japanese American descent during World War II. Their bravery, loyalty and dignity serve as an inspiration to the entire nation, for all times.”

The theft was noticed on Nov. 5 by Bruce Thiessen, CEO of the Clovis Veterans Memorial District, which oversees the plaza. “To me it would take a sick person to do that,” he told KMPH-TV. “This marker represents families who went through a lot.”

The theft was also upsetting because it came just before Veterans Day, Thiessen said.

Fresno County Superior Court Judge Dale Ikeda, who chaired the memorial project, said that he initially feared the theft was a hate crime but now thinks it was part of a series of metal thefts.

“I think this is an aberration,” Ikeda told KMPH. “Maybe somebody stole this heavy brass plaque to sell it for scrap rather



The Pinedale Assembly Center Memorial plaque honors the more than 4,800 Americans of Japanese ancestry who were confined at the center in 1942.

than to direct it at the Japanese American community.”

The plaza’s 12 storyboards, which convey local Japanese American history, were untouched, noted Ikeda, whose parents and grandparents were among those interned.

Ikeda also chaired the construction of a memorial at the Fresno Assembly Center site, which was dedicated in 2011.

The Pinedale plaque is worth about \$50 at a recycling center, but might prove difficult to sell since metal recyclers are now required to take steps to ensure they are not buying stolen items. In recent years, thieves have taken everything from wiring for public utilities to guard rails on the roads.

Thiessen told KFSN-TV that the plaque will cost up to \$5,000 to replace, but that the district will not press charges if it is returned. “We’re more than happy just to take it back . . . and won’t have any hard feelings. But I just hope and pray that whoever’s got it realizes the injustice they’ve done.”

JACL’s Annual Giving Fund Drive Begins

As an important way to help build and sustain support for JACL, as well as to help it continue to stand up for the civil rights of all Americans, the organization announces the start of its Annual Giving Fund Drive.

“JACL has been very fortunate having thousands of committed members, and I am grateful for everyone’s support over the years,” said David Lin, JACL national president. “As we approach the end of the year, our Annual Giving Fund Drive is one way to help provide much-needed funds to support various JACL programs for next year, especially given the current challenging economic times. I hope you will join me in participating in this program to support the JACL.”

Adds Membership Coordinator Annie Noguchi: “Sustaining and growing JACL is absolutely important to our future. Fundraising that comes directly from our community is powerful, and it is inspiring to see how big of an impact we can achieve when we all donate together.”

The JACL is also pleased to announce a partnership with United Way of the Bay Area to become a Certified Agency. If you are a donor through United Way, California State Employees or Combined Federal Campaign, please consider designating JACL when you make a donation through your workplace.

Thank you for your continued support of JACL. To make a donation online, visit <http://jacl.org/misc/donate.htm> or call (415) 921-5225.

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Entrepreneur James Sun Tackles Mobile Space

Bursting on to the scene as a finalist on NBC's 'The Apprentice,' the tech businessman is now finding success in his latest offering, Anomo, a mobile social network that is giving Facebook some new competition.

By *Connie K. Ho*
Contributor

I love it, I wouldn't change my life or anything else besides being an entrepreneur." These are the words of 36-year-old Korean American James Sun, who started his first company when he was 11 and created his second one at age 18 — it's clear that he's had entrepreneurial leanings from the very start. He's also had his share of corporate America, having worked at Intel and Deloitte Consulting after graduating from the University of Washington with degrees in business administration and computer information systems, and fame (he was a Season 6 finalist of Donald Trump's "The Apprentice" that aired on NBC in 2007). He's now leading two companies, Pirq, a mobile app that's a punch card for consumers, and Anomo, a mobile social network that uses an avatar and has more app opens per day per user than Facebook (Facebook has 14.3 app opens per day, while Anomo has 18.2 app opens per day). Between meeting with investors, looking over reports and connecting with users via social media, Sun took some time to speak with the *Pacific Citizen*, where he highlighted some of his current projects and his experience as an entrepreneur.

How did the idea of Anomo come about?

James Sun: When I was a young kid, I was an introvert and, basically, it was hard for me to meet friends because I was more into academics. But one of the things that really got me out of my mold was sports. And so I really learned to enjoy sports and, in that process, I realized it's important to expose yourself and get to know new people wherever you go. And then I went to university and I realized it was not that easy to meet new people. And, in fact, after graduating college, it was still not easy to meet new people, and so, I thought, there must be a way to make it very easy to meet new people and have it be safe and authentic. With the trend of social networking and mobile, there must be a way to do this. And instead of traditional social networks where you put a photo up of yourself and say, "Hey, I'm James" and you're telling the whole world, like on Facebook, "This is who I am." As soon as you add that one new friend on Facebook, they see your whole world.

But what if I want to not stay connected with just my

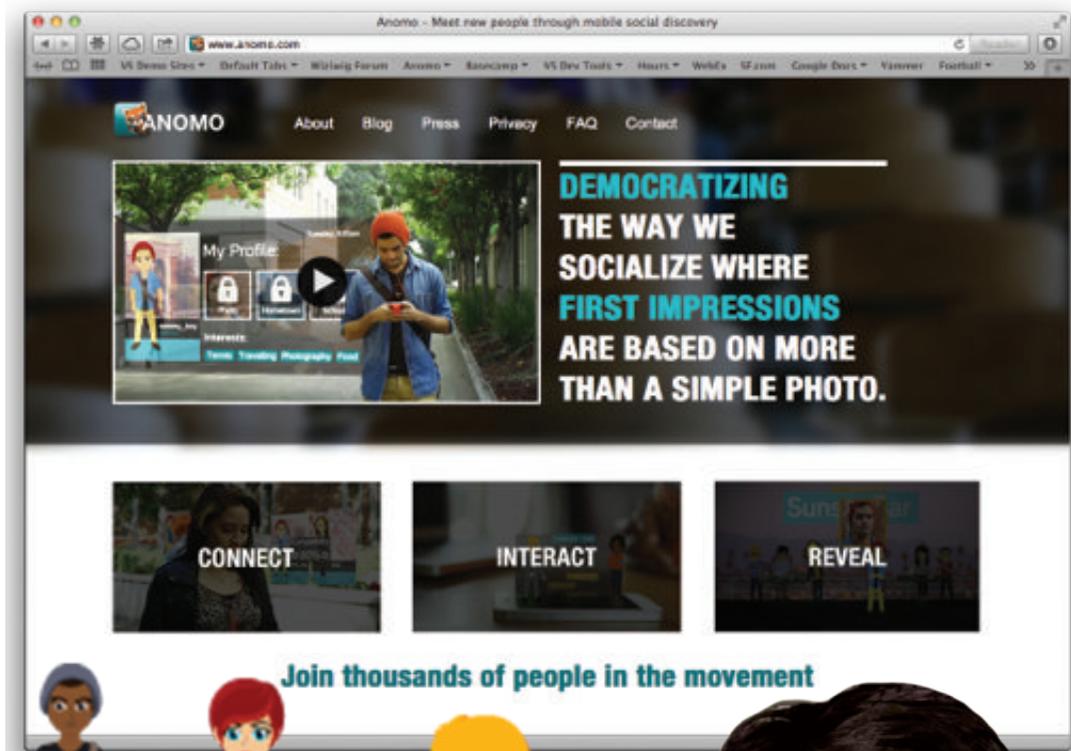
existing friends but meet new people, but I don't want to tell the whole world who I am and everything about me — I want to ease into the relationship, just like when you go on a first date, you don't tell them every bad thing about you or everything. I wanted to build a way to ease into the relationship and make it easy for people to actually interact digitally. Anomo uses basically a multi-identity social network where you use an avatar to represent yourself, and you get to meet other people and interact with them and, if the interaction goes well, that's when you get to reveal different pieces about yourself. So really, the essence of why we started this was that we knew that, as introverts, it's hard to meet people and how do you make that easier for the whole world.

Your business partner is Ben Liu. Have you worked with him in the past on other ventures?

Sun: This is our first project actually, but we have mutual friends, and he's obviously a smart guy; he's from Princeton. And I think we respect each other at a level of trying to build a billion-dollar company. You want to do it with someone that you respect — someone who has good ethics but is also smart.

What has the process been like in developing Anomo?

Sun: We launched in June. I think it's been a lot of fun, and we took a big risk and a gamble because this is so new. Every social network out there, every social discovery app out there, uses real profiles right upfront, and we were the first ones to say, "Instead of using a real profile, let's actually mask it with an avatar, and let's see if that takes off." So, it was a big risk because we're not doing what everyone else is doing — we wanted to be



different. We launched, and we have tremendous growth right now. Our market is 16- to 20-year-olds, the same guys that are leaving Facebook right now are coming to our site and using our app. And what they do is take these little icebreaker questions to get to know each other before they start reviewing each other. And we've had 1.8 million icebreaker questions answered in the last two months.

So, this thing is growing, and now we realize that the product market risk is gone. Young people like this; they like getting to know other people this way. What's really interesting is that young people [want] to get to know people outside of their city. We thought that, initially, people just wanted to chat and meet people in their city, but they love asking [others questions] . . . someone from New York asking about L.A., somebody from Seattle asking about Miami and becoming almost pen pals and digital friends. It's pretty cool to see that the geographies are boundless — so once we open this up to the whole world, you can almost ask friends in India, friends in China if you're in Sioux Falls, S.D.

What else distinguishes Anomo from other social networks or apps?

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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 Azule, Colorado, he bought tooth and nail to re-establish his farm and milling operations and instilled in those around him an indelible 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

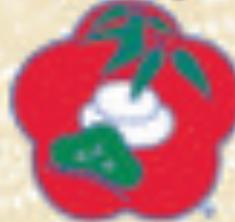
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 **ANOMO**

“Where first impressions are based on interactions rather than looks or status.”



Sun: We’ve got a really intelligent algorithm that basically, when you shake your phone, it’ll find four people that we think you’re compatible with based on age, interest, because you have to understand that these users are answering questions to get to know each other. We track every single one of those questions answered, so we are learning in real time more and more about that person, and we match them up with other people that they’re compatible with every time they shake their app. That’s a very unique experience.

What has been the feedback you’ve received on Anomo?

Sun: We’ve seen a lot of feedback from our emails to our reviews. What people are saying is that it’s the newest way to meet people, the easiest way to meet people — they’ve never seen an easier way to break the ice than this app, and they’ve already met friends, study partners, boyfriends; they’ve met people to play sports with and so on. It’s really an easy way to get to know people.

People are really authentic because they have an avatar. I’ll give you one story: There was a user that came to our site, and [the person] said that they were contemplating suicide. That’s a very serious thing, right? And I didn’t know what to do, I didn’t know if I should call law enforcement; I didn’t know what to do. The next thing I know, there are 63 comments on that thread from other kids that person’s age telling them why they shouldn’t do it, why life is good, encouraging the person. At the end, the guy says, “I appreciate all your encouragement, it really helped.” That was really cool — there is no way that they would do that on Facebook. On Facebook, that individual would not have the ability to post that because their parents, their school, everyone would track it, and there would be severe consequences.

You fly between Los Angeles and San Francisco, and you’re based in Seattle. What is it about each of these cities that interests you?

Sun: Seattle is probably the No. 2 tech city in the nation, I would say, after Silicon Valley/San Francisco. And one of the unique things about Seattle is that people here are very loyal to the project that they work on, so they’re not jumping around a lot. I notice that when I go to L.A. or San Francisco, they jump around a lot. L.A., in particular, has a lot of freelancers, a lot of independents. In San Francisco, people just jump from one company to the next. In Seattle, they’re very loyal; they stick around for a long time.

Because we have Amazon, we have Starbucks, we have Microsoft — we’ve got a lot of brands that are consumer-focused, and so consumer brands are very important here. We have a lot of good engineers here as well. But I do think that the ecosystem in L.A. is very interesting as well — L.A. has the entertainment side and so, for example, for Anomo, we met with Scooter Braun, Justin Bieber’s group, and Snoop Dogg’s group about doing some collaborations for our users and pulling in their social influences. So, we end up in L.A. quite a bit because we’re a social play but, in San Francisco, that’s where all the money is, all the V.C.’s and the investors. But I like the engineers in Seattle, I like the money in San Francisco and I like the entertainment contacts and culture in L.A. ■

VETERANS DAY >> continued from page 3



PHOTO: U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

George “Joe” Sakato (*left, second from bottom*) and the late Sen. Daniel Inouye (*right, second from top*) are among 12 World War II Medal of Honor recipients to be featured on commemorative stamps issued by the U.S. Postal Service.

I’m glad he lives in Denver and serves as an inspiration for younger JAs and Asian Americans. And I’m proud for my dad, who may not have earned any medal for heroism but served his country — my country — during a time of war.

I went through the supermarket looking for the scruffy guy who dogged me about the poppy, but I didn’t see him again.

On my way out after shopping, I stuffed a \$5 bill into the donation jar that was manned by the vet’s wife and proudly told the couple, “My dad served in the Korean War with the U.S. Army, and he’s now buried at Fort Logan.” Fort Logan National Cemetery is in south Denver and is the final resting place for almost 100,000 U.S. military, many who gave their lives for their country. Thanks, Dad, for your part in the country’s history.

And thanks, Joe, for your incredible heroism. Hope you had a terrific Veterans Day in Washington, D.C.

Gil Asakawa is a current member of the P.C. Editorial Board and former P.C. Editorial Board Chair. His blog is at www.nikkeiview.com, and he also is the Japanese expert for Answers.com at www.japanese.answers.com.

MANZANAR >> continued from page 3

I never really knew much about the broad scope of the work rangers are engaged in. I’m a backpacker, so I’ve encountered them at national parks, and honestly, that was my image of their work. After this past week at Manzanar and talking with Rose Masters and her colleagues — Alisa Lynch, chief of interpretation, Whitney Patterson, seasonal ranger, and Patricia Biggs (who assisted Rose by narrowing the search) — I have a completely new understanding of, and a constantly growing respect for, their work as conservationists, researchers, preservationists, and so much more.

They are total experts on life at Manzanar: the good, the bad and everything in between. I doubt there’s much they don’t know about that site and the people who were there. And they treat that knowledge with such tremendous respect.

To add to all the wonderful experiences with Rose, Alisa and Whitney, here’s the topper of my trip: Late on the evening of Nov. 6, we four left Manzanar a little before 8 p.m. for Lone Pine to get dinner, when all of a sudden, a bright fireball streaked across seemingly right in front of us.

We were in three separate cars and we all saw it, so I know I wasn’t hallucinating or imagining things, and we learned the next day that it was a meteor. How exciting and fantastical that was!

Maybe it was part of the good karma I sensed being with three new friends for whom I have so much respect, and being at Manzanar, which, thanks to these three, is no longer the same uninviting place I knew over 60 years ago.

John Tateishi is a former JACL national director.

Gov. Abercrombie Signs Bill Legalizing Gay Marriage in Hawaii

By Associated Press

HONOLULU — Hawaii Gov. Neil Abercrombie signed a bill Nov. 13 legalizing gay marriage in the state that kicked off a national discussion of the issue more than two decades ago.

Now, the island chain is positioning itself for a bump in tourism as people take advantage of the new law and the state provides another example of how differently marriage is viewed in the nation.

“In Hawaii, we believe in fairness, justice and human equality,” Abercrombie said Nov. 12 after the state Senate passed the gay marriage bill. “Today, we celebrate our diversity defining us rather than dividing us.”

Hawaii’s gay marriage debate began in 1990 when two women applied for a marriage license, leading to a court battle and a 1993 Hawaii Supreme Court decision that said their rights to equal protection were violated by not letting them marry.

That helped lead Congress to pass the federal Defense of Marriage Act in 1996, part of which was struck down earlier this year by the U.S. Supreme Court.

The decision led Abercrombie to call a special session that produced Hawaii’s gay marriage law.

Abercrombie signed the measure at an invitation-only ceremony at the Hawaii Convention Center, near the tourism hub of Waikiki.

The law allows gay couples living in Hawaii and tourists to marry in the state starting Dec. 2. Another 14 states and the District of Columbia already allow same-sex marriage. A bill is awaiting the governor’s signature in Illinois.

President Barack Obama praised passage of the Hawaii bill, saying the affirmation of freedom and equality makes the country stronger.

“I’ve always been proud to have been born in Hawaii, and today’s vote makes me even prouder,”

Obama said.

Senators passed the measure 19-4, with two lawmakers excused.

More than half of the chamber’s lawmakers spoke in support of the bill, with many urging the public to come together to heal divisions within the community.

“There is nothing more than the expansion of aloha in Hawaii,” said Sen. J. Kalani English, a Democrat from Maui.

Rep. Bob McDermott, a House lawmaker who filed a lawsuit to derail the special session, promised a new challenge after Abercrombie signed the bill. A judge said he would take up the case only after the law was fully passed.

An estimate from a University of Hawaii researcher says gay marriage will boost tourism by \$217 million over the next three years, as Hawaii becomes a destination for couples in other states, boosting ceremonies, receptions and honeymoons in the islands.

The bump is expected to level out as early trips decrease and possibly more states legalize gay marriage.

“We do know from lots of other states, if they don’t live in a state with marriage equality, they will travel,” said Lee Badgett, an economics professor at University of Massachusetts-Amherst and senior scholar at UCLA’s Williams Institute, a think-tank that conducts law and public policy research on sexual orientation and gender-identity issues. “It’s a reasonable expectation people will want to go to Hawaii. It’s a big wedding destination spot.”

But Badgett said Hawaii has competition from other states where gays can marry: “Some of them are making a play for same-sex couples very deliberately. . . . That’s totally new spending, and that’s great for the economy.”

Tritia Toyota, Velina Houston to Speak at WLA JACL Dinner

Tritia Toyota, award-winning broadcast journalist, and acclaimed playwright Velina Hasu Houston will be featured speakers at the West Los Angeles JACL’s holiday dinner on Monday, Dec. 9.

Toyota is a former Los Angeles TV news anchor for KNBC and KCBS who was a co-founder and past national president of the Asian American Journalists Assn. She is now an adjunct assistant professor in anthropology and Asian American studies at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Houston is best known for her groundbreaking play “Tea,” which portrays the lives of Japanese war brides who move to the United States with their American servicemen husbands. She is a resident playwright and professor of theatre at the University of Southern California.

The event, which begins at 6:30 p.m., will be held at the Napa Valley Grille, located at 1100 Glendon



Tritia Toyota



Velina Hasu Houston

Ave., in Westwood and is open to the public. Dinner is \$45.

For reservations or more information, contact Sandy at (310) 399-4526 or sanfran508@gmail.com.

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Do you know how to enroll in Obamacare?

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

A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS



PHOTO: JAIMEE ITAGAKI

Hiroshima's 'Spirit of the Season' Returns to J-Town LOS ANGELES, CA Dec. 14, 7:30 p.m.

**Japanese American Cultural and Community Center
244 S. San Pedro St.
Cost: \$27-\$36**

The Japanese-jazz fusion ensemble group Hiroshima is heading back to Japantown to present "Spirit of the Season 10." The show will feature guest-stars Terry Steele and Tetsuya Nakamura. The group will also debut its new CD "J-Town Beat," in tribute to JACCC's Duane Ebata.

Info: Call (213) 628-2725 or visit www.jaccc.org.

CALENDAR

>>NATIONAL

The JACL National Convention SAN JOSE, CA

**July 9-12
DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel
San Jose**

**2050 Gateway Pl.
Next year's JACL National Convention's theme is "We Are America." More details will be available soon on the JACL website.
Info: Visit www.jacl.org.**

>>EDC

JACL Southeast Chapter Holiday Dinner DECATUR, GA

**Dec. 2, 5:30 p.m.
Sushi Avenue
308 W. Ponce de Leon Ave.
Cost: \$30/Per person**

Join the JACL Southeast chapter for its annual holiday celebration. Munch on appetizers, sushi, hot entrees and rice while trading stories with old and new friends. RSVP by Nov. 28.
Info: Call (404) 378-8448 or email atlantasam@icloud.com.

The Harry H. Dow Memorial Legal Assistance Fund Celebration BOSTON, MA

**Dec. 6, 6:30-9:30 p.m.
China Pearl Restaurant
9 Tyler St.
Cost: \$75-\$125**

The 28th annual celebration of the Harry H. Dow Memorial Assistance Fund is held in

partnership this year with the Asian American Lawyers Association of Massachusetts. The event honors Harry H. Dow, the first Asian American attorney to be admitted to the Massachusetts Bar in 1929. Michelle Wu, Boston City Council at-large candidate, will be the keynote speaker.

Info: Call Fred Dow at (617) 640-4008 or email frederickdow@gmail.com.

Philadelphia Asian American Film Festival

**PHILADELPHIA, PA
Nov. 13-17 & Nov. 22-23
Ibrahim Theater at the
International House
3701 Chestnut St.
Cost: \$8/General admission;
\$6/Students and seniors**

The 28th annual Philadelphia Asian American Film Festival celebrates the Asian American experience through culturally relevant films. The festival will break from Nov. 18-21 and resume screenings on Nov. 22 at the Asian Arts Initiative located at 1219 Vine St.

Info: Visit www.phillyasianfilmfest.org.

>>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.

>>NCWNP

JACL Tri-Chapter Installation of Officers

**WATSONVILLE, CA
Jan. 19, 11 a.m.
JACL Tokushige Kizuka Hall
150 Blackburn St.**

Cost: \$25/Per person
The Gilroy, San Benito County and Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL chapters will hold a joint installation officers luncheon. There will be a Japanese buffet lunch.

Info: Call Bobbi Jo Palmer at (408) 842-2879.

Kimochi Silver Bells Arts & Crafts Faire

**SAN FRANCISCO, CA
Dec. 14, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
St. Mary's Cathedral
1111 Gough St.**

Help support Kimochi's programs and services for seniors as you shop for unique holiday gifts such as jewelry, bags, stationery, ceramics and more! There's a free Kimochi shuttle service to

and from Japantown.

Info: Call Steve Ishii or Sakura Suzuki at (415) 931-2294 or visit www.kimochi-inc.org.

Redress for Japanese American Internees Open Forum

**SAN JOSE, CA
Japanese American Museum of
San Jose**

**535 N. Fifth St.
Cost: \$5/General admission;
\$3/Seniors and students**

Community advocate Grace Shimizu will provide an update on the campaign for redress for Japanese Latin American former World War II internees. There will also be a screening of the film "Hidden Internment: The Art of Shibayama Story," a documentary about Art Shibayama's experience during WWII.

Info: Call (408) 294-3138 or visit www.jamsj.org.

>>PSW

Japan Tsunami Aftermath Open Forum

**SAN DIEGO, CA
Jan. 29, 6 p.m.
Mission Valley Public
Library**

2123 Fenton Parkway
Kotaro Nakamura, director of the San Diego State University School of Art and Design, and JACL's Sandra Moriyama will talk about their observations after traveling to the tsunami-affected areas of Japan.

Info: Call (619) 512-2534 or email info@jaclsandeigo.org.

Ruthie's Origami Class: Kusudama

**LOS ANGELES, CA
Nov. 23, 1 p.m.
Japanese American
National Museum
100 N. Central Ave.
Cost: \$14/Nonmembers;
\$9/Members**

Learn how to make decorative origami for the holidays. There are 10 seats in the class, so RSVP early.
Info: Call (213) 625-0414 or visit www.janm.org.

New Year's Ohana Festival HONOLULU, HI

**Jan. 19, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Japanese Cultural Center of
Hawaii**

2454 S. Beretania St.
The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii's Ohana Festival features fun, crafts, entertainment, food and family-friendly cultural activities.

Info: Call (808) 945-7633 or visit www.jcch.com.

ADVERTISE HERE

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

FOR MORE INFO:
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Memoriam

Bryner, Kamala Marie, 50, Oct. 20; survived by husband, Gilbert Victor Rivera; sister of Derrick Elliot Bryner and Deanna Bryner; stepdaughter of Chikako Higa Bryner; half-sister of Sidney Chiho and Samantha Chito Bryner; niece of Dale (Linda) Bryner.

Higa, Karin, 47, Los Angeles,



CA; Oct. 29; she was a curator for nearly a decade at the Japanese American National Museum; she graduated from Columbia University and received her master's from UCLA; survived by her husband, Russell Ferguson; her mother and brother.

Hirai, Jack Yoshinobu, 88,



Oxnard, CA; Nov. 1; during WWII, he was interned at Gila River Relocation Camp; he served in the Army during the Korean War; survived by his wife of 63 years, Michiko; children, Arleen Ayers, Dianne (Clayton Chun), Bruce (JoAnn) and Brigette (Tony Avalos); and a sister; 8 gc; 1 ggc.

Irei, Hideo, 87, Honolulu, HI; Nov. 2; a retired Pearl Harbor machinist and an Army veteran; survived by sons, Kenneth and John K. Tengan; brothers, Larry and George; sisters, Nancy H. Asato, Aiko Irei-Shiroma and June O. Akamine; 4 gc.

Isa, Hatsue Helen, 90, Sun Valley,



CA; Oct. 27; she is survived by her loving sons, Stan (Nancy) of Nevada, Don (Karen); daughter, Doris (Jim) Umemoto; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; 7 gc.

Kato, Toshio, 71, Irvine, CA; Oct. 19; he is survived by his wife, Yachiyo Kato; sons, Ryu (Haruna) Kato and Taiga Kato of Japan; sister, Michiko Kato.

Kawasaki, Cobey Andrew, 11,



Canyon Country, CA; Oct. 25; he is survived by his parents, Craig and Nora Kawasaki; sister, Courtney Kawasaki; grandparents, Albert and Cua Ogues; aunts, Marsha Kawasaki and Alice Ogues; uncles, Roland (Bernadette) and Mark Ogues; cousins, Nicole and Joshua Ogues.

Kiyan, Yoshihisa, 78, Los Angeles, CA; Sept. 27; he is survived by his children, Gary (Darlene) and Linda Kiyan; siblings, Ikuko (Shoichi) Ikei, Shigeko (Noboru) Shimane, Yoshimasa (Kiyoko) Kiyan and Sadako (Tatsuzo) Kinjyo all of Japan, and Fusako Nakagawa of HI; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives in the U.S. and Japan; 2 gc.

Komai, Kiyoko Kay, 92, Temple



City, CA; Oct. 23; she was predeceased by her late husband, Khan Komai; she is survived by her loving family; sons, Ralph (Trinidad), Neil (JoAnn), Chris (Qris Yamashita) Komai; daughter, Karen (Jack) Margolis; sister, Chieko Tada; sister-in-law, Mary Moritani and former daughter-in-law, Patricia Komai; she is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; 4 gc.

Masuda, Shiro, 92, Los Angeles,



CA; Oct. 1; he is survived by his children, Sam (Betty), James (Martha), Thomas and David Masuda; siblings, Teruso and Hiroko Masuda; 6 gc; 2 ggc.

Matsumoto, David, 63, Los Angeles, CA; Oct. 20; he is predeceased by his father, Yutaka Matsumoto, and uncle, Toshikazu Tamura; he is survived by his loving daughter, Pamela Jeanette Matsumoto of Nevada; mother, Emiko Matsumoto; sister, Karen (Kenneth) Matsumoto Deck; brother, Kenneth Eugene (Wendy) Matsumoto; aunt, Akiko (Masuo) Okui; mother of Pamela Matsumoto, Leslie Shannon; nieces, Mia, Emi and Lana Deck; nephews, Carter and Owen Deck.

Okamura, Mildred Akiko, 76, Torrance, CA; Oct. 19; she is survived by her children, Mark (Terrie) Okamura, Karin (Garrick) Sato, and Darin Okamura; also survived by many brothers, sisters, nieces, nephews and other relatives; 2 gc.

Okimoto, Sumiko, 87, Los Angeles, CA; Oct. 2; she is survived by her children, Ted (Sharon) Okimoto, Sachie Okimoto, Noritaka (Ling Ling) Okimoto, Kazumi (Keith) Sawa and Dr. Tom Okimoto; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; 7 gc; 7 ggc.

Sato, Kunio, 79, San Carlos, CA;



Oct. 28; he was born and raised in Kona, HI; he spent three years in the U.S. Army; he is survived by his wife, Kimiko Sato; his daughters, Sharon Wada and Laura Sato-Wong; son-in-laws

TRIBUTE

YOSHIRO "BABE" FUJIOKA



Yoshiro "Babe" Fujioka, 85, Los Angeles, CA., October 23; survived by his wife, Shizuko Fujioka; children, Robert (Holly), Margaret (Cedric), Janice (John), and Thomas (Kathy); sister, Miye Kawai, sister-in-law, Aiko Jonokuchi (James), brother-in-law, John Sakihara; also survived by 14 grandchildren, many nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

Jon Wada and Bob Wong; also survived by two brothers, Hide Sato and Kenji Sato; 5 gc.

Sugimoto, Jean Yasuko, 92, San Dimas, CA; Oct. 12; she is survived by her husband, Masato Sugimoto; daughter, Barbara Sugimoto; also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives in Los Angeles, Hawaii and on the East Coast.

Takagawa, Tsuyu "Trudy," 85, Colma, CA; Oct. 24; she is survived by her sons, Michael (Debra) and Cary (Debra) Takagawa; daughter, Lorna (Robert) King; brother, Shigeru (Yoko) Yuzuriha; also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; 6 gc.

Tsukayama, Toshi, 88, Aiea, HI; Oct. 13; a retired U.S. Postal Service worker and a U.S. Army veteran; he is survived by his sons, John K. and Randall K.; brothers, George and Takeshi; and sister, Hideko.

Watadaaraki, Jean Toshiye, 68, Los Angeles, CA; Oct. 2; she is survived by her loving children, Tracy and Lauren Araki; sisters-in-law, Yuriko, Irene and Mabel Araki; 2 gc.

Yamamoto, Hiroshi, Edward, 80, Kaneohe, HI; Oct. 24; an Army veteran; survived by brothers, Richard and George; sisters, Alice Takamoto, Grace Kamei, Jane Kuniyuki and Nancy Agodong.

Yasuhara, John Yuzo, 92, Los Angeles, CA; Sept. 30; he is survived by his children, Victor Shigeo (Elizabeth), Jose Luis Sakae, Paul Akira and Mario Yoshio Yasuhara; siblings, Michiko Yasuhara Garcia, Albert Iwao Yasuhara and Richard Kinzo Yasuhara; sisters-in-law, Mariko Nakashimada and Hiroko Tai; 2 gc; 2 ggc.

Yoneyama, Bob Kazumi, 81, Rosemead, CA; Oct. 26; a Hollywood, Calif.-born Nisei; he was a former internee of the World War II Gila River Relocation Camp; a devoted volunteer of the Japanese American National Museum and the Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute; he is survived by eight nieces and nephews.

Yoshimura, Haruyo, 88, Aiea, HI; Oct. 21; she is survived by her loving daughters, Carol F. Tokushige and Aileen K. Mimura; brother, Isami Okin; 3 gc; 4 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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