

July 25-Aug. 7, 2014

**THE NATIONAL
NEWSPAPER OF
THE JACL**



PACIFIC CITIZEN



INSIDE!
**FOUR-PAGE
PHOTO SPREAD**
Page 8



**SPECIAL
CONVENTION
ISSUE 2014**

KAKEHASHI STUDENTS EMBARK ON A 10-DAY VISIT TO JAPAN

By JACL National Staff

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Forty-three Japanese American young adults traveled to Japan on July 15 as part of the Kakehashi Project, a program organized by the Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, JACL and the Japan Foundation to cultivate cross-cultural relationships and exchanges between Japan and the U.S.

The 10-day all-expense paid trip included an initial tour of Tokyo before the group split off into two smaller groups to visit either the Japanese city of Fukushima or Kyoto by way of the Shinkansen (Japanese bullet train).

The Fukushima group began its trip with a visit to Saiei Orimono Company and the Fukushima Prefectural Office. Later, the group attended Fukushima University to learn about revitalization efforts following the aftermath of the 3.11 triple disaster.

At Ten-ei Village, students participated in agricultural workshops and cultural exchanges with local students. Some Kakehashi students performed dance routines for local Japanese students in exchange for a musical recital by the local junior high school brass band. Other stops included the Ouchi Juku and Turuga-jo Castle.

The Kyoto group had an equally busy schedule, starting with a Shodo Workshop at the Japan Foundation and a company visit to Kyocera. Other highlights included a college exchange at Doshisha University, a visit to Fushimi Inari Shrine, a walking tour of Kiyomizu-Ninenzaka and a tea ceremony at Chunko-In Temple. The group wrapped up its Kyoto trip with a tour of the Kinkakuji Temple and Nijo Castle.

At press time, both groups have returned to Tokyo, where they will stay until the end of their trip on July 24.



The Fukushima Kakehashi group at Fukushima University



The Kyoto Kakehashi group at Doshisha University

In Tokyo, the Fukushima and Kyoto groups will visit Toyo University and Meiji Gakuin University, respectively, in addition to touring the Diet Building, Japanese Overseas Migration Museum and the Miraikan National Museum of

Emerging Science and Innovation, among other activities.

Follow JACL National on Instagram, @JACL_National, and Facebook to see pictures of the July Kakehashi trip.

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The **Pacific Citizen** newspaper (ISSN: 0030-8579) is published semi-monthly (except once in December and January) by the Japanese American Citizens League, *Pacific Citizen*, 250 E. First St., Suite 301, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Periodical postage paid at L.A., CA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to National JACL, 1765 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94115.

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

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A MOTHER'S TAKE

TAKING OUR HEARTS AND VOICES TO THE NEXT LEVEL

By Marsha Aizumi

Coming back from the JACL Convention in San Jose this month, I am filled with so many feelings: gratitude, increased passion to raise awareness about what Asian Pacific Islander (API) and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT) families experience, but most of all, I walked away as a mother with more hope in my heart for my children and our community.

First of all, I am so grateful to JACL National and all the people involved for choosing me as one of their 2014 Biennium honorees. When I look at those who have come before me and those who were also honored, I am overwhelmed and humbled to be listed with them. But without my family and so many others who have supported me, like Priscilla Ouchida, Bill Yoshino, Stephanie Nitahara, Harold and Ellen Kameya, San Fernando and Seattle JACLs, I would still be sitting at home wondering how I could even begin this journey.

As I was meeting with one of the chapters, I realized how JACL has come full circle to connect with my advocacy. Years ago, when my parents received their redress money, they gave each of their children a portion of the compensation. I spent my portion on the adoption of my daughter, who today is my son. So, in some ways, Aiden is



Honoree Marsha Aizumi (center) with (from left) Mike Inouye, JACL's Harold Kameya, Norm Mineta, son Aiden Aizumi and daughter-in-law Mary Aizumi

a JACL baby. As people like Grayce Uyehara have made it possible for me to have Aiden in my life, JACL continues to make sure that the life he has will not be threatened by those who fear his Japanese heritage and/or the fact that he is transgender. Thank you to ALL the JACL individuals who have been doing this work to further equality for both my

straight son and my transgender son.

I also feel that this conference has elevated my passion and strengthened my determination to create a more accepting world. I am renewed by the number of young people who are taking up the torch of advocacy. I am strengthened by the number of people who have been part of this work and have dedicated their life to civil rights. But mainly, I am inspired by the people who shared stories or tears with me. One gray-haired lady approached me after our presentation on Nikkei LGBTQ Justice, and as she spoke words of appreciation, tears trickled down her face. I have no idea where these tears came from . . . was she part of the LGBT community and afraid of being ostracized all these years? Did she have children or family members who hid in shame but could possibly feel free to be themselves now? Or was she just moved by the work we are doing? I may never know . . . but her tears are a part of me now . . .

I am also inspired by a young lady that walked up to me and shared how thrilled she was to see that LGBT issues are being brought more to the forefront of JACL's work.

>> See NEXT LEVEL on page 16



FOR THE RECORD

WHOSE LEGACY IS IT ANYWAY?

By John Tateishi

In the years after the war, the word *hapa* was not yet part of the Japanese American lexicon, although we were familiar enough with kids our age who were from mix-race marriages, usually those of Japanese war brides.

We didn't treat them well. We Sanseis shunned these kids of war brides. We viewed mixed-race marriages — Japanese female, white male — as somehow a threat to our sensibilities as Japanese. It set our equilibrium off balance. I'm sure it had everything to do with the fact that whites were the ones who abused us and did so much to take away our humanity.

What I came to understand later as I reflected on that time in our lives was that we didn't know how to relate to Japanese American kids who came from mixed marriages because it was our own discomfort that caused us never to try to befriend any of them. Unlike whites, who seemed to look down on these hapa kids as social outcasts, we didn't view them as inferior in any way but simply didn't know how to relate to them.

Sadly, children from those marriages suffered from discrimination on all sides. Eurasian kids, as they were called, were shunned by whites and by us. They never joined in the fun with us wherever we were, probably because we never made them feel welcomed to join us.

The image in my mind that captures all of that was a time when we had a church picnic at Santa Monica beach, with our families all gathered on blankets and tatami mats with umbrellas and bentos and having a good time together. A little ways off from us, there was a couple with their two hapa kids, much farther from us psychologically than the 20 feet of sand that separated us. My father invited them to come share our blanket, and even though they joined us, we could never get comfortable with each other.

All that has changed. Mixed-race marriages have become much more common among Japanese Americans, even to the degree that some in our community are concerned with the disappearance of "pure" Japanese Americans.

The question about "purity" troubles me because it expresses an underlying judgment that implies anything less than 100 percent Japanese threatens the racial integrity of the community. It's a judgment that states that if your racial lineage goes back to Japan on both sides of your family, your cultural legitimacy as a Japanese is somehow superior to someone who may have half or a quarter or an eighth Japanese blood.

But you and I know that isn't true. I know Sanseis who care no more about preserving their Japanese cultural heritage

than do their non-Japanese partners. And that's fine. To each his or her own. I certainly don't judge that because it isn't something that concerns me, and besides, it's none of my business.

Preserving our cultural heritage and legacy is one thing, but judging who is best qualified to preserve it is quite another. It goes back to the question I've asked before, "What does it mean to be Japanese American?" Language? I hope not because if that's it, we're all screwed since so few of us speak Japanese. The way we look? Racial features? Yes, mostly, but that's not all. I think it has to do with cultural values we inherit from our parents and community. Values inform behavior, right? We understand *enryo* or *gaman* or *kanshin*, etc., all those things we start to learn from our parents soon after birth.

Last month, I spent a few days with college-age students who were in California as participants of the Chicago chapter's Kansha Program. They were in Little Tokyo to experience and learn about the Japanese American legacy, and then they visited Manzanar on an overnight trip.

>> See LEGACY on page 16



PHOTO: GARY MAYEDA

NATIONAL COUNCIL ROUNDUP

NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

'Notwithstanding all the work we need to do . . . we are poised to move forward in a very strong and forceful way . . . to accomplish not just our mission that we have set out to do, but I think we also have an opportunity to expand and think about other things we can do to make our organization continue to be relevant to the next generation of JA communities and the entire Asian American community," said National President David Lin during his opening remarks at the 2014 National Council Meeting.

NATIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT



PHOTO: GARY JIO

'We are still a very contemporary organization, and we have a richer history than any other national AAPI organization in the nation," remarked National Director Priscilla Ouchida. JACL has a presence in 103 communities in 26 U.S. states as it enters its 85th year in championing civil rights. Along with its long history of weighing in on Supreme Court decisions, JACL as a voice needs to adapt to change and continue to grow the organization through multiple generations.

SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT



PHOTO: GARY MAYEDA

'The fact that we ended the year with a \$62,000 surplus is a huge accomplishment. We hope to sustain the fiscal discipline to sustain a positive net position year over year," said Secretary/Treasurer Matthew Farrells. In addition, the organization's investment policy statement "underwent important reforms to position our endowment and scholarship funds to capture the expected return, given our level of risk," and a fund development director was authorized for the purpose of "driving more revenue for the organization." JACL also gained \$643,000 in membership fees for 2014, and Farrells added, "There is no intention to raise dues in the next biennium." The 2015-16 budget was approved.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

As of June 2014, JACL had a total of 10,622 members. The number represents a decline of 1,146 members since the end of 2012. There also are 2,345 members whose memberships have lapsed since the beginning of 2013. However, on a positive note, "we do have since the

beginning of this year about 280 new members, and I think this is a positive sign for us," said VP of Membership Toshi Abe. In the coming months, Abe and new Membership Coordinator Matthew Walters will be conducting a series of webinars to listen to JACL members and share ideas that will positively grow JACL's numbers.

PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REPORT

'I continue to work with the President's Council, our Executive Director, the Board President and Secretary/Treasurer to develop a long- and mid-range fund development strategy," said VP for Planning and Development Chip Larouche. Steve Okamoto continues to head the JACL Planned Giving effort. In 2013, \$56,254 was raised from the 2013 Annual Giving Campaign, a 17 percent increase over 2012. Also, 26 scholarships totaling \$64,000 was awarded to recipients in 2013; on par this year to award same amount. And Karen Yoshitomi is the program manager of the Legacy Fund Grants program, with Jane Katsuyama and Janice Faden serving as co-chairs of the Legacy Fund Grants Committee. In early June, the committee awarded grants to nine JACL entities, for a total of \$25,500. Certificates of award was presented to grant recipients at this year's Awards Luncheon.

NATIONAL YOUTH/STUDENT COUNCIL REPORT

'The NY/SC has been re-evaluating programs to see how to be more strategic and have more impact," said NY/SC Youth Rep Kevin Mori. Recently, the NY/SC held two

Leadership Summits, one in San Jose, Calif., and the other in Chicago. In 2014, it also held a Youth Delegate Campaign; NY/SC Benefit Drawing; a Youth Orientation; a Youth Luncheon, where it highlighted and recognized JACL and AAPI youth accomplishments, including its presentation of the Vision Award to ASPIRE; and Youth Closing Session, where participants reflected on their 2014 convention experience and connected with other young leaders.

PACIFIC CITIZEN REPORT

The *Pacific Citizen* recently welcomed new Assistant Editor Tiffany Ujiye. In addition, the *P.C.* will soon unveil a fully redesigned website that will feature easier navigation, late-breaking news, access to the archives and previous issues and a relaunching of the *P.C.*'s Facebook and Twitter feeds.

Also, the *P.C.* is continuing its Spring Campaign push to help complete its digital archives through 2010. And as the *P.C.* forges ahead with its media plan for the future, member feedback is crucial.

NATIONAL COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS

- (1) A resolution asking for a Presidential Medal of Freedom for Minoru Yasui.
- (3) There was an expressed appreciation to former U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Eric Shinseki for his years of dedicated service.
- (4) JACL expressed support for immediate legislative action to overturn the *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby* case.
- (5) The organization supported the removal of the "Redskins" logo from the National Football League's professional team in Washington, D.C.

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YOUTH PERSPECTIVE



A MESSAGE FROM THE NY/SC

By Nicole Horiuchi Gaddie

My name is Nicole Horiuchi Gaddie, and I am honored to represent the JACL as the newly elected National Youth Student Council Chair.

When I was in high school, my District Governor, Jeanette Misaka, reached out to me and urged me to enter the Min Yasui Oratorical competition.

I won the local and regional competition and was flown to the Chicago convention to compete nationally. The theme of the competition was modeled after President Obama's theme of "Creating Change."

I spoke about how Asian Americans could combat stereotypes and how important it was to connect with high schools and colleges to incorporate youth.

I won the competition, and my prize was an all-expense paid trip to Japan. In just a few short months, I had experienced all levels of the JACL. I was welcomed into the organization's community, taught the historical values and learned how the governing process worked.

When I visited Japan, I was welcomed by JACL Japan Chapter President John Ino. Later, when I moved from Salt Lake City to Seattle for college, I was once again welcomed, this time by District Governor Sheldon Arakaki. The mentorship and guidance of these members urged me to accept the position of Pacific Northwest Youth Rep on the NY/SC and later run for Chair.

For those of you that are unaware, the National Youth/Student Council (NY/SC) represents local JACL youth members, including students and young professionals, at the national level of the organization. The NY/SC consists of representatives from each of JACL's seven districts, as well as four at-large members. District youth/student representatives serve as the primary link between the NY/SC and youth in local JACL chapters and on college campuses.

As youth, we are united through our past and supported by our present community as we work endlessly to create a more just and humane world for the future.

On July 9, over 60 youth members gathered in San Jose for the 45th annual National Convention. We discussed problems of inequality and the racial stereotypes that continue to infiltrate our media and society. However, despite the challenges Asian Americans face, we as youth also brought a new energy and perspective to the discussion topics.

The Youth Opening Session provided a time to learn about the themes youth are passionate about. These themes included the environment, LGBTQ issues, women's rights and creating a space to discuss local grievances and controversy. The youth representatives were able to expand on these topics throughout convention with the goal of returning to their campuses and communities with a feeling of empowerment.

Serving as the NY/SC Chair is a very special privilege for me, and I plan to channel the youth's voice as much as possible to the National Council. I also plan to create an additional membership category for young adults that will fall between youth and adult members.

My goal for the Youth Council is simple: Increase the youth presence within the JACL. From advocacy to cultural preservation, our youth are enthusiastic to contribute.

I want to thank everyone who helped our youth representatives attend convention this year. Older JACL members are essential in guiding and sustaining our youth population. I look forward to a great two years as chair.

Please email me at ngaddie@jacl.org if you have questions or need any support.

NEW JACL NATIONAL BOARD



Former U.S. Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta installs the new JACL National Board for the 2015-16 biennial at the annual Awards Luncheon. Standing (from left) are David Lin, Matthew Farrells, Jeff Moy, Chip Larouche, Toshi Abe, Nicole Horiuchi Gaddie and Michelle Yamashiro.

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EASTERN CANADA HOLIDAY TOUR (New Tour)	SEP 17-25
Montreal, Quebec City, Ottawa, 1000 Islands, Toronto, Niagara Falls, Buffalo.	
JAKWV NOVA SCOTIA HOLIDAY TOUR (New Tour)	SEP 24-OCT 2
Halifax, Baddeck, Cabot Trail, Prince Edward Island, Charlottetown, Green Gables Farmhouse, New Brunswick, Bay Fundy, Lunenburg.	
ALBUQUERQUE BALLOON FIESTA HOLIDAY TOUR	OCT 6-11
Albuquerque, International Balloon Fiesta, Route 66, National Museum of Nuclear Science & History, Pueblo Cultural Center, Santa Fe School of Cooking.	
HOKKAIDO-TOHOKU HOLIDAY TOUR	OCT 6-17
Tokyo, Lake Akan, Abashiri, Sounkyo, Sapporo, Noboribetsu, Lake Toya, Hakodate, Aomori, Lake Towada, Morioka, Sendai.	
AUSTRALIA-NEW ZEALAND HOLIDAY TOUR	NOV 4-18
Sydney, Great Barrier Reef, Christchurch, Mt. Cook, Queenstown, Milford Sound.	

2015 TOUR SCHEDULE PREVIEW

Discover Dubai Holiday Tour (Carol Hida)	Feb 17-25
Northern Lights Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida).	March
Southern Charm Holiday Tour (Elaine Ishida).	March 22-28
Japan Spring Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida).	April 9-19
Italy Holiday Tour (Elaine Ishida)	April 22-May 1
South America Japanese Heritage Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida).	May 6-18
Grandparents-Grandchildren Japan Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida).	June 22-July 1
Cape Cod Islands Holiday Tour (Elaine Ishida).	Aug 7-15
East Coast Island Getaway Tour (Carol Hida)	September
Europe Holiday Tour (Carol Hida).	September
Traditional Japan Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida).	Oct 1-11
Special Danube River Holiday Cruise (Carol Hida).	Oct 11-21
Korea Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida).	Oct 19-Nov 1
Kenya Safari Holiday Tour (Carol Hida)	Oct 29-Nov 10
Okinawa Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida).	Nov 12-21

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'WE ARE AMERICA'

The JACL National Convention's Sayonara Banquet remembers, honors and celebrates all those who have contributed to the great American narrative.

By Tiffany Ujiiye
Assistant Editor

Building an America as good as our ideals defines the mission of the JACL," said JACL National Director Priscilla Ouchida in her opening speech at the 2014 National JACL Convention's Sayonara Banquet on July 14 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in San Jose.

This year's theme, titled "We Are America," was a reflection of the diversity that exists within the Asian Pacific Islander community and the important role the community has in the nation's socioeconomic future.

"We've been working a long time on civil rights," Ouchida said, "and we're getting closer to that American ideal, but there's still work to be done. We are America, building an America as good as our ideals is a 365-day job. These people, all of you in this room, had incredible successes that have benefited all Americans. Together, we can still do more, and that is my challenge to all of us in this room."

As the oldest and largest Asian civil rights organization in the United States, the JACL has been at the forefront of change. This year's theme was specifically chosen by the 2014 National JACL Convention Committee and National Board to focus awareness on diversity and inclusion as an integral part of the fabric of American society.

"The diversity of the Asian Pacific American community and the diversity of this country could be a real strength," JACL National President David Lin said before honorees and guests. "Our job and our obligation as the premier Asian American civil rights organization is to lead and harness that strength to better the lives of not only Japanese Americans but all Americans."

Special recognition was given to those promoting change and diversity, including former U.S. Transportation Secretary Norm Mineta, Congressman Mike Honda, Consul General of Japan in San Francisco Masato Watanabe, San Jose Assembly member Paul Fong, San Jose City Council Member Sam Liccardo, Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors member Dave Cortese, Foster City Councilmember Steve Okamoto, San Jose City Manager Ed Shikada, Economic Development Manager of Santa Clara Ruth Shikada, the Sano family of Sano Farms and renowned judo instructor Yosh Uchida.

Master of ceremonies Mike Inouye, an Emmy Award-winning TV news anchor, introduced special guests and humored the crowd in remembering the nostalgic TV comedy "Cheers."

"I've always wanted to this, but if you could just shout that famous line to us Mr. Mineta," Inouye asked of Mineta.

"Hey, everybody!" Mineta shouted.

"Norm!" the room responded with great laughter and applause.

Mineta served as Transportation Secretary in President George W. Bush's Cabinet and Commerce Secretary during the last six months of President Bill Clinton's term, in



JACL National Director Priscilla Ouchida with former U.S. Transportation Secretary Norm Mineta



(From left) Ruby Pin honorees Carol and David Kawamoto with David Lin

addition to previously serving as the mayor of San Jose, which renamed its international airport in Mineta's honor in 2001.

"I am a proud son of the city of San Jose," Mineta said, welcoming the 2014 National Convention. "The San Jose JACL is proud to be hosting all of you for this 2014 convention. I appreciate that all of you have taken time out of your busy schedules to be here for a whole week to participate in various activities, taking on the work of the National JACL."

The evening's highest JACL award, the Ruby Pin, was given to David and Carol Kawamoto for their exceptional service to the JACL and the Japanese American community for 42 and 27 years of service, respectively.

"The Kawamotos exhibited unwavering dedication in furthering civil rights, social justice, youth development and cultural preservation that marked both of them as community treasures and a point of pride for the JACL," said Lin.

Ouchida awarded the Gov. Ralph Carr Award for Courage to the American Friends Service Committee, which was represented by Executive Secretary Shana Pereira. This award is given to an organization or individual for their principles in protecting civil rights; the AFSC was one of the few organizations to take a position opposing the Japanese American incarceration.

"I would say that one of the things that impressed me most about the JACL has been the courage and commitment that you have brought out of the incarnation experience to work for the rights and justice for all," Pereira said. "To fight discrimination wherever you saw it and to receive this award from such a principled organization is such an honor."

Stewart Kwoh, founding president and executive director of Asian Americans Advancing Justice Los Angeles, was awarded the Edison Uno Civil Rights Award, recognizing the organization's dedicated leadership in the field of civil rights.

The Japanese American of the Biennium Awards were given to Marsha Aizumi for her LGBTQ advocacy, Dale Minami for his civil rights activism and involvement in the Fred Korematsu conviction and Rob and PJ Hirabayashi for their cultural legacy in the Japanese American community. Each Biennium Award is presented to individuals with outstanding achievements in different fields of endeavor for their contributions to the sum of human knowledge and how they have enhanced the quality of life in American society.

The evening remembered, celebrated and honored all of those who have contributed and who are contributing to the American narrative, bringing color to the "We Are America" theme.



(From left) JACL's Floyd Shimomura, Matthew Farrells, David Lin, Chip Larouche, Toshi Abe, Kevin Mori and Carol Kawamoto.



PHOTO: TIFFANY UJIIYE

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PHOTO: ALYSHA TSUJI

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CELEBRATION TIME



PHOTO: ALYSHA TSUJI

(Far left) JACL members applaud Legacy Fund grant recipients. (Above) Henry Uyeda celebrated his 100th birthday with his daughter, Sharon.

The JACL Awards Luncheon honors Legacy Fund grant recipients, the George Inagaki Chapter Citizenship honoree and JACLer's of the Biennium.

By P.C. Staff

Legacy Fund grant recipients as well as the George Inagaki Chapter Citizenship and JACLer of the Biennium Award honorees were recognized for their legislative, civic, social and educational activities at the Awards Luncheon on July 12 before a warm crowd of special guests and members.

Program emcees George Kiriya and Jana Katsuyama welcomed speakers Congressman Mike Honda and Secretary Norman Mineta in discussing the JACL's future and past accomplishments. Special guests also included Judge Raymond Uno.

"One of the things I want to encourage is for JACL to continue supporting fellows," Honda said in his opening speech. "It allows young people to experience and be open to what goes on in Congress. Incarceration happened, building up stereotypes over time, and we need to fight it. We need to ensure that what happened to us will never happen again (and) to say no to the things that we need to say no to."

Honda also thanked the JACL for its support in funding his current fellow, Kelly Honda, the Mike M. Masaoka Legislative Fellow, as fellowships allow youth members to gain political and legislative experience needed to become future leaders.



PHOTO: GARY MAYEDA

(From left) Venice-Culver's Steven Sharp presented the George Inagaki Chapter Citizenship Award to Seattle's Toshiko Hasegawa and Paul Tashima.

Mineta installed the new JACL National cabinet for the next biennium, congratulating David Lin, Matthew Farrells, Jeffrey Moy, Chip Larouche, Toshi Abe, Nicole Horiuchi Gaddie and Michelle Yamashiro on their new positions.

JACL National President David Lin presented the JACLer of the Biennium Award to Lawson Sakai, a veteran of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. Sakai, a highly decorated war hero, volunteered for the 442nd RCT while incarcerated in Colorado. He received two Bronze Star awards and four Purple Heart medals, as well as the Congressional Gold Medal for his service and valor. Each year, Sakai speaks to hundreds of students of all levels, church organizations, civic groups and retired military organizations about his experiences and lessons learned during his service.

"I'm just another Nisei JACLer — all of you could deserve this award," Sakai said, discussing how such a recognition was a tribute to the other men who had fallen during the war to protect their country. "Over 800 young Nisei boys lost their lives, killed in action. But because of that, today we have what we have. Please do not forget them."

The second JACLer Biennium Award was given to Grant Ujifusa, legislative strategy chair of JACL's Legislative Education Committee. His work was critical in convincing the first Bush administration to agree to grant the late-Sen. Daniel Inouye's proposal to make redress payments and entitlement to all those who were wrongfully interned during World War II. As the founding editor of "The Almanac of American Politics," Ujifusa remains relevant in today's political landscape. Among his other numerous honors is the Order of the Rising Sun Award from the Japanese government.

Ujifusa was unable to attend the Awards Luncheon due to a long-standing family obligation, but he gave thanks to the National Convention and celebrated the lifelong accomplishments of longtime JACLer Grayce Uyehara, who passed away in June, in his acceptance speech.

"I am greatly honored by the award I received today," Mas Hashimoto read on Ujifusa's behalf. "I would like to accept it in the memory of Sparky Matsunaga, Cherry Kinoshita, Denny Yasuhara, Mike Masaoka and Grayce Uyehara."

The George Inagaki Chapter Citizenship Award was given to JACL's Seattle Chapter.

"The most impressive accomplishment of the Seattle chapter is their staunch commitment to the youth," said Venice-Culver JACL Chapter President Steven Sharp.



PHOTO: GARY MAYEDA

Congressman Mike Honda spoke about the importance of youth membership and participation in the JACL.

This Year's Legacy Fund Grant Recipients Included:

- Chicago Chapter: The Kansha Project
- Mile High Chapter: The Medal of Freedom Campaign
- NCWNP District: Japanese Culture Activity Book
- New Mexico Chapter: "Confinement in the Land of Enchantment: Japanese Americans in New Mexico During World War II (CLOE)"
- NY/SC: 2014 Youth Delegate Campaign
- Philadelphia Chapter: Biography of Kiyoshi Kuromiya
- Philadelphia Chapter: Youth Sponsorship
- Seattle Chapter: Develop an API Support Group for API LGBT Youth and Their Families
- Snake River Chapter: "Russell Lee in the Pacific Northwest: Documenting Japanese American Farm Labor Camps"

The Legacy Fund started a few years after the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, giving financial support to the Japanese American community in research and education to prevent future injustices. Earnings from this endowment are used to grant funds up to \$3,000 for projects that implement JACL's mission. All of the programs listed have shown and will continue the legacy of patriotism and the fight to improve civil rights.

"To a lot of young people here, I think it's easy for us to just go along on autopilot and think of things as being in the past," Katsuyama said in her closing remarks. "But I think one of the things I've learned from JACL and from the people who are here is that there is a daily fight, a daily vigilance that all of us are called upon."

Welcome Reception



(From left) Sec. Norman Mineta, JACL's Priscilla Ouchida and P.C. Board member Gil Asakawa

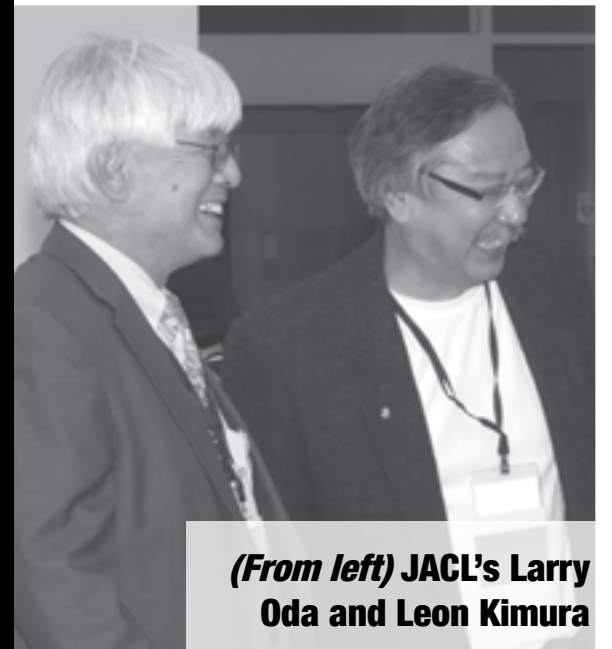


2014

JACL National Convention

The theme 'We Are America' reflects the diversity and change in today's AAPI community as part of the fabric of American society.

ALL PHOTOS: GARY JIO,
GARY MAYEDA, ALYSHA TSUJI
AND TIFFANY UJIYE



(From left) JACL's Larry Oda and Leon Kimura



A special performance by San Jose Taiko awaited reception attendees.

The reception was held at San Jose City Hall's Rotunda building.

'Valley of the Heart'



Le Petit Trianon Theatre



(Left) Playwright-director Luis Valdez discussed 'Valley of the Heart' following the reading.



Founding member June Kuramoto performed on the koto.



Drummer Danny Yamamoto

HIROSHIMA CONCERT



Grammy-nominated Hiroshima took to the stage at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel ballroom.

National Council Meeting

JACL delegates at the meeting and orientation.



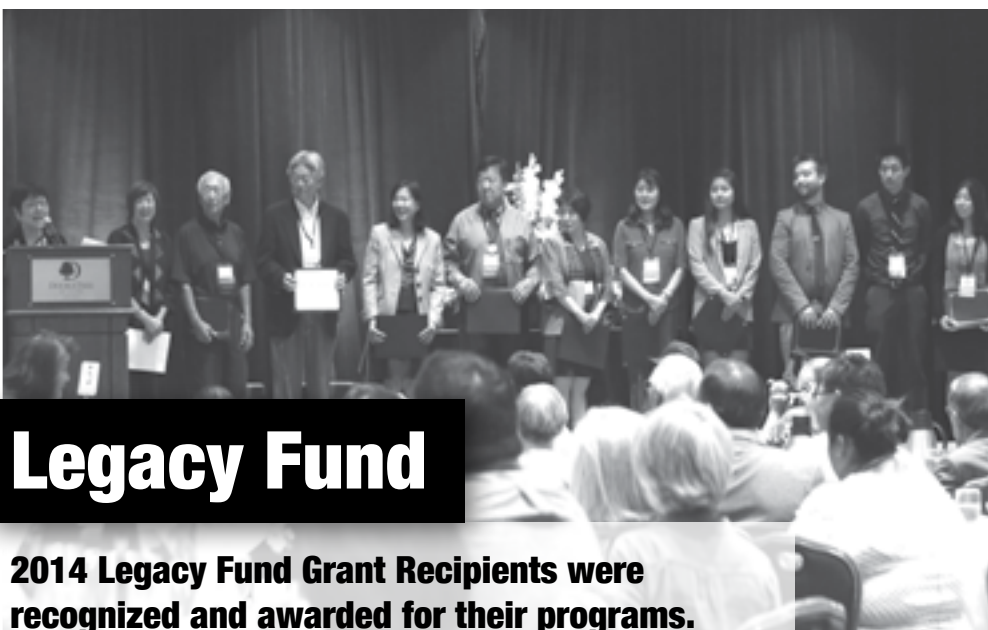
Plenary Session

(From left) Gil Asakawa, Whitney Davis, Bing Chen, PaKou Her and Jeff Yang following their AARP-sponsored panel discussion on social media.



Sayonara Banquet

(From left) The Embassy of Japan's Hideaki Mizukoshi and JACL's David Lin



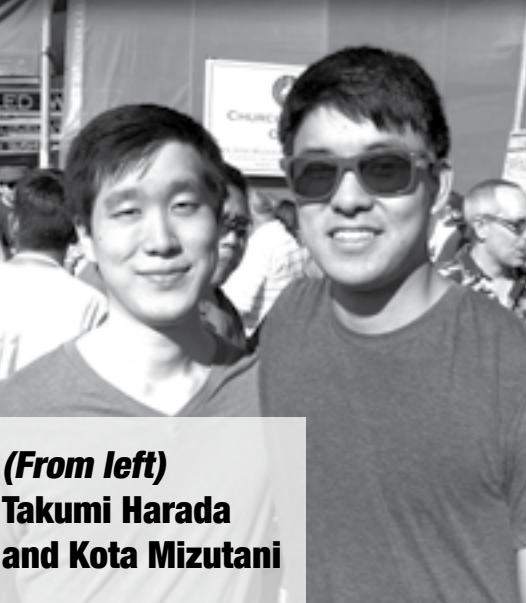
Legacy Fund

2014 Legacy Fund Grant Recipients were recognized and awarded for their programs.



Representatives from PSW at the Sayonara Banquet

San Jose Buddhist Church Obon



(From left)
Takumi Harada
and Kota Mizutani



San Jose
Taiko



(From left) Jeanette Misaka, Judge
Raymond Uno and Yoshiko Uno

Youth Luncheon



Kevin Mori
and Nancy
Okubo



(From left)
Jeff Moy and
Matthew Farrells



The 2014 Youth Attendees at JACL National Convention

NIKKEI LGBTQ INITIATIVE WORKS TO FORM AN INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

By Alysha Tsuji, contributor

A room full of people representing a wide variety of generations gathered for the LGBTQ Justice workshop on July 11 at the JACL National Convention. Bonnie Sugiyama, director of the LGBT Center at San Jose State University, introduced the panel that consisted of educator, author and LGBT advocate Marsha Aizumi; Pacific Southwest District Program Coordinator Traci Ishigo; and PSW Regional Director Stephanie Nitahara.

Sugiyama said that the goals of the workshop were to help participants gain awareness and understanding of how to create an inclusive community within the JACL, as well as to empower chapter and district representatives to expand injustice work in their own communities.

The meeting began with “Terminology 101,” led by Nitahara, in which the words *lesbian*, *gay*, *bisexual*, *transgender*, *cisgender* and *queer* were defined. Although awkward silence scattered throughout the beginning of the session, as Nitahara explained the terms, participants began raising questions that gave way to clarifications.

Ishigo stepped up to hash out the difference between gender identity and sex identity using a diagram called the “Genderbread Person” as a visual aid.

“It’s not necessarily how other people read you, but it’s how you read yourself,” said Ishigo. “And everybody has the freedom to define their own gender.”

The Genderbread Person displayed an array of graphs concerning gender identity, gender expression, biological sex and attracted to. Ishigo went on to point out that there are no ties between gender and sex identity. She said, like the chart, the definitions of gender and sex are fluid — a scale that slides according to an individual.

Then, Aizumi rose to provide information about the LGBT advocacy work that has been accomplished through the JACL. But first, she shared her personal story about her experience being the mother of her transgender son, Aiden Aizumi.

When he was in elementary school, Aizumi said that Aiden was a girl with “masculine tendencies,” and that she and her husband thought Aiden was simply a tomboy. However, in middle school, Aizumi said there were “many challenging situations and incidents.”

Transitioning into high school, Aiden developed panic attacks and started to withdraw and become depressed. She came out as a lesbian as a sophomore.

“We thought it was going to get better, and it got worse,” said Aizumi. She said harassment and bullying reached overwhelming ferocity to the point where Aiden had to graduate high school by studying from home.

Aizumi said that after turning 21, Aiden told her, “I’m not a lesbian, I’m a boy.” Her family, including her husband, spent 2009 transitioning their daughter to their son.

Reflecting on the experience brought tears to Aizumi’s eyes as she revealed how challenging it was, but this story has a happy ending.

“Since then he has found his place . . . he really has soared,” said Aizumi. “He has been able to come out as an individual, not only just be his true self, but really his heart has been able to open up and he has immersed himself in the community.”

Together, Aiden and his mother have written a book published two years ago, “Two Spirits, One Heart: A Mother, Her Transgender Son, and Their Journey to Love and Acceptance.” They’ve also marched in parades, held workshops and shared their story via public speaking arrangements.

Aizumi’s website (marshaizumi.com) features an endorsement from George Takei: “. . . gender identity is rarely discussed in many Asian American communities. I recom-



(Top) PSW Regional Director Stephanie Nitahara (center) leads a discussion group; (bottom, left) LGBT advocate Marsha Aizumi makes her presentation; and (bottom, right) PSW District Program Coordinator Traci Ishigo explains the “Genderbread Person” visual.

mend their co-written memoir “Two Spirits, One Heart.”

Following her family’s story, Aizumi dove into the next portion of the workshop to discuss LGBTQ justice in relation to the JACL. She highlighted the activism in the San Gabriel Valley, Seattle, Chicago, New York, Washington and the Midwest District. The workshop capped off with small group discussions, separating the room into three groups led by Nitahara, Ishigo and Aizumi.

The San Gabriel Valley Asian Pacific Islander PFLAG (Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) Chapter is the most active in LGBTQ work. It has monthly meetings along with two different methods to provide the community with support and education.

One of those mechanisms is the family circles, in which PFLAG facilitates conversation to “build bridges between family members in a positive and private way,” according to the SGV API PFLAG website. The other is afternoon teas, which are culturally arranged meetings where attendees can openly discuss LGBT issues over tea and snacks.

The group caters to a multitude of dialects, including Chinese, Hindi, Japanese, Korean, Punjabi, Tagalog, Thai and Vietnamese.

The Pacific Southwest office generated another fresh major justice group: the Nikkei LGBTQ Initiative. The Initiative’s vision is to establish “a thriving Nikkei community that is actively inclusive and safe” by organizing educational programming through events.

Thus far, two events have taken place in March and May of 2014 prior to the JACL conference workshop. The second was hosted at Centenary United Methodist Church and even featured United Methodist minister Bishop Roy Sano as a speaker.

The next Nikkei LGBTQ gathering is headlined “Okaeri,” which means “welcome home.” It is set to take place at the Japanese American National Museum on Nov. 15 from 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. — the longest event to date — and will fea-

ture “educational and storytelling workshops,” according to jaclopsw.org.

Aizumi said that attendance numbers nearly doubled from the first event to the second.

Despite the positive reports from the LGBTQ Justice workshop, a couple attendees posed sobering questions at the tail end of the presentation portion.

One gentleman inquired about the extent of the lack of public acceptance of the LGBTQ community. He said he encountered some opposing LGBTQ views at a recent funeral and that it surprised him a great deal. Another man asked about what the panel’s experience was co-sponsoring events with Christian churches.

In regards to public understanding of the LGBTQ community, Aizumi said, “I think it’s evolving . . . there’s more understanding.” At the beginning of the workshop, the panel noted the title of the session highlighted, “LGBTQ Justice in the Nikkei Community: There’s Work to be Done!”

In terms of partnering with churches, Ishigo said that it is fully dependent on the climate of the congregation because they don’t want to create issues by forcing their events upon anyone. She said that they’ve backed out of holding an event at a church before as to not cause unwanted problems.

Although Aizumi added that she is extremely appreciative of accepting churches since her transgender son, Aiden, was asked to leave their church.

“When you are struggling, you hope you have a spiritual support, and you’re asked to leave a church — that’s very difficult,” said Aizumi. “So, when I see churches today trying to understand and help their church be more inclusive, I’m just so grateful for that work.”

The purpose of Okaeri is “to make the Japanese American community in Southern California a home for the whole community,” said Nitahara. “This is one of the baby steps.”

Registration for Okaeri is open at www.okaeri-la.org.

FUN IN THE SUN

Locals gather at the beach in the name of fun and family at the San Diego JACL's annual picnic.

By Genevieve A. Suzuki, contributor

The 2014 San Diego JACL's annual picnic wasn't a typical American picnic. Rather, it featured geta races, rice bags and Top Ramen for raffle, as well as free shave ice at East Crown Point Shores on June 29. Passersby and other beachgoers stopped to stare every now and then as approximately 300 attendees screamed with laughter during silly races and a rather creative opportunity drawing.

Last year, the picnic was a much more scaled-down event as the San Diego JACL took a one-year hiatus in its official hosting duties. This year, the chapter, in striving to bring back the family fun, knew just the man to make it happen.

Annual picnic chairperson Robert Ito, a second-generation JACL member, has been going to the picnic since he was a toddler. "I have a photo that was taken when I was about 3 years old at the Silver Strand," said Ito, 63. "It's been a community tradition for at least 60 years."

Despite attending the picnic for six decades, this was the first year Ito served as chair. "I have always helped out for as long as I can remember by doing whatever needed to be done," he said. "Driving the box truck the day before the picnic to pick up the water and soda, the prizes, the canopies, trash cans and anything else that needed to be taken to the picnic. Then the day of the picnic, I have always driven the trucks down to the picnic at 6 a.m. to make sure we get our area. Set-up and breakdown has always been my job."

As chair, Ito's goal was to restore the child-friendly atmosphere he enjoyed as a little boy. "As a 3-year-old at my first JACL picnic in the '50s, I had fun. This year, we focused on having things that would be fun for a child under



Annual picnic chairperson Robert Ito has his face painted during just one of the day's many family-friendly activities

5 years old. The first-time-ever face painter and inflatable bounce house were a huge success," Ito said.

San Diego native Ito relied on members of his family and close friends to help him pull off the large-scale event. His cousin, Sandy Kobayashi, ran the opportunity drawing, which was comprised of numerous gift baskets crafted by picnic attendees. Tickets were drawn for each of the baskets, which varied in size and value. There were also prizes for three of the most popular baskets, with first place getting a wine-tasting gift certificate for up to 12 people.

Although there were some new things at the picnic, much of the tried and true was preserved. "Well, we're still at the beach, but you don't see the waves and we don't have the perch fishing contest. We also had the annual geta races that are now the annual picnic trademark," Ito said. "There's been changes, sure, but what hasn't changed is that it is still fun for families and the kids."

San Diego JACL president Michael Kurima said he is grateful to Ito and his committee for successfully organizing



This year's picnic was held at East Crown Point Shores.

the picnic. "It was wonderful to see the families and members of our Japanese American community come together once again for the annual picnic," said Kurima. "For the JACL, it was an opportunity for us to get to know the community a little more, as many of the board members are new."

And because several of the board members are fairly recent San Diego transplants, they and their families formed their own adopted family: the Ronin Clan.

"I loved the Ronin Clan idea," said Alisha Tomita, treasurer of the San Diego JACL. "All of us without immediate family in San Diego have become family, and we welcome everyone openly to our clan. When I am missing my family the most in Northern California, I have my JACL 'Ronin Clan.'"

Ito is already gearing up for next year's event by taking note of what worked and what didn't. Fortunately for all who attended the picnic, most of it was a complete success, save for the lack of an adequate number of Port-a-Potties.

When asked what his plans are for 2015's picnic, Ito said, "A couple more Port-a-Potties, we're going again with the face painter and inflatable house for the under-5 kids, games that will engage younger and older generations and, of course, the opportunity gift basket contest."

Perhaps the best news is this year Ito more than accomplished what he set out to do. Five-year-old Quinn Suzuki said she will never forget her first JACL picnic: "I won some Silly Putty after I walked really fast with an egg on a spoon. I also got to eat spam musubi, make new friends and get my face painted. I can't wait 'til next year!" ■

BOB NAKAMURA AND 'SAT' ICHIKAWA TAKE PART IN ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER HERITAGE MONTH PRESENTATION



(From left) Lt. Col. Brandon Bowline, Bob Nakamura, "Sat" Ichikawa and Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Wrighton Jr.

As part of May's Asian Pacific Islander Heritage Month, Bob Nakamura and "Sat" Ichikawa had the opportunity to meet the command staff and members of the 56th Multifunctional Medical Battalion (MMB) on May 27 in Fort Lewis, Wash.

Nakamura, who is president of JACL's Olympia Chapter as well as a life member of the NVC/NVCF and commander of VFW Post 11402 in Lacey, Wash., took the stage first, where he presented a history of Japanese Americans on the West Coast and in internment camps during World War II. Nakamura also provided an overview of the "Issei," or first-generation immigrants to America, and how they adapted to the American way of life and culture in the states. Nakamura went on to explain how the Issei generation's ability to immerse themselves in America affected and influenced the world of the American-born Nisei, the second generation, while still keeping true to

their Japanese heritage.

In closing, Nakamura spoke about the emergence of the Nisei from the internment camps to form the U.S. Army's 100th Battalion/442nd RCT and the MIS Units. The 100th Battalion/442nd RCT is recognized as the most-decorated unit for its size in U.S. Army history.

Ichikawa, a life member of the NVC/NVCF, followed Nakamura's presentation by showing a CD of his personal experiences in camp — his younger years prior to World War II and memories leading to his internment at Minidoka, Idaho, and Crystal City, Texas. He also touched briefly about his experience in the U.S. Army during the Korean War and life afterward.

Nakamura and Ichikawa were awarded with certificates of appreciation for their well-received presentations by command and staff of the 56th MMB and from the command and staff of the 62nd Medical Brigade. ■

A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

CALENDAR



PHOTO: PACIFIC CITIZEN

Annual Heart Mountain Pilgrimage Powell, WY August 22-23 Heart Mountain Interpretive Center 1539 Road 19

Honor the service of American veterans and recognize the soldiers from Heart Mountain at the Annual Pilgrimage. Families and former incarcerated are encouraged to attend the Pilgrimage in recognition for their time at the internment camp. This year's event includes Honor Roll Memorial dedications, distinguished speakers, film screenings and a banquet. Registration applications are open to all.

Info: Email at info@heartmountain.org or call (307) 754-8000.

PNW

Bon Odori: Japanese Folk Dance Festival Capitol Lake, WA Aug. 16, 5-9 p.m. Water Street

The Olympia JACL Chapter will host the annual Bon Odori with live drumming and family activities. Food booths will be open along with martial art demonstrations by Aikido Olympia and dancing at 7 p.m. Free dance lessons are available on Aug. 15 at the Olympia Center for Bon Odori.
Info: Call (360) 791-3295.

'Uprooted: Japanese American Farm Labor Camps' Ontario, OR Sept. 12 Four Rivers Cultural Center 676 S.W. Fifth Ave.

The Oregon Cultural Heritage Commission and the Four Rivers Cultural Center are proud to present "Uprooted: Japanese American Farm Labor Camps." Learn about the 33,000 individuals issued for seasonal farm labor and the Oregon Plan for the forced removal and incarceration of Japanese Americans during the war.
Info: Visit www.uprootedexhibit.org.

EDC

Toshio Shibata: Constructed Landscapes Salem, MA Aug. 31 Peabody Essex Museum

161 Essex St.

Toshio Shibata is one of Japan's preeminent landscape photographers, exploring the delicate balance between nature and mankind's landscapes. His photos explore erosion control barriers, roads, dams and bridges to examine the unique appearance of each in Japan.
Info: Visit www.pem.org or call (978) 745-9500.

MDC

59th Annual Ginza Holiday Chicago, IL Aug. 8-10 Midwest Buddhist Temple 435 W. Menomonee St. Cost: Entry Donations \$6-\$12 Join the Midwest Buddhist Temple for its 59th annual Ginza Holiday, a Japanese cultural festival, this summer with Japanese cultural exhibits, taiko drumming, Japanese classical and folk dances, martial art demonstrations along with tasty bites and dishes. **Info:** Visit www.ginza-chicago.com or email info@ginzachicago.com.

NCWNP

Japanese American Heritage and Cultural Night Stockton, CA Aug. 7, 5 p.m. Banner Island Ballpark 404 W. Fremont St. Cost: Discounted tickets are \$6 The Japanese American

community in the Stockton area and the Stockton Ports, an affiliate of the Oakland A's, will be hosting the Japanese American Heritage and Cultural Night. Watch the Ports play against the Modesto Nuts with community members and recognize and honor the veterans of the 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the MIS-Military Intelligence Service.
Info: Call (209) 644-1912.

68th Annual Sacramento Buddhist Church Japanese Culture and Food Festival Sacramento, CA Aug. 9-10, 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Sacramento Buddhist Church 2401 Riverside Blvd. Enjoy delicious food and live entertainment at this tradition. Live Japanese folk dancers and singers as well as taiko drummers will make an appearance along with other Japanese cultural exhibits and demonstrations at Sacramento's largest Japanese and cultural food event. **Info:** Visit www.buddhistchurch.com or call (916) 446-0121.

'Valley of the Heart' San Juan Bautista, CA Aug. 23-Sept. 22 El Teatro Campesino 705 Fourth St. Written and directed by Luis Valdez, "Valley of the Heart" is a love story, the dramatic interaction of two share-cropping families, the

Yamaguchis and the Montañas, during the trying days of World War II. This memory play takes on themes of marriage and survival from the foothills of Northern California's Santa Clara Valley to Heart Mountain Internment Camp in Wyoming.
Info: Visit www.elteatrocampesino.com or call (831) 623-2444.

PSW

Concert for Peace: Remembering Sadako Los Angeles, CA Aug. 2, 7 p.m. Aratani Theatre 244 S. San Pedro St. Cost: Tickets vary \$30-\$60 The Japanese American Cultural & Community Center presents its second annual Concert for Peace, headlined by Grammy award-winning singer/songwriter Melissa Manchester. As part of a three-day event at the JACCC Remembering Sadako: Folding for Peace, other performances include David Lindley, L.A.-born saxophonist Justin Klunk and a special performance from Yuji Sasaki, the nephew of Sadako Sasaki, from Japan. **Info:** Visit www.jaccc.org.

OCA Asian Pacific American Advocate National Convention Los Angeles, CA Aug. 7-10 Millennium Biltmore Hotel 506 S. Grand Ave. "On Location for Advocacy" is

the theme of this year's national convention in an effort to focus on both national and local issues. The convention will feature programs, workshops, events and activities designed to give necessary tools for future APA community, government, business and corporate leaders. This event is one of OCA's premier events at the beautiful Millennium Biltmore Hotel.
Info: Register at www.oca-national.org.

74th Annual L.A. Nisei Week Japanese Festival Los Angeles, CA Aug. 9-17 Little Tokyo, locations may vary Enjoyed by thousands every summer, come join the greater Japanese American community in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo. One of the nation's longest-running ethnic festivals of its kind, it features free Japanese cultural events, activities, exhibits, music, entertainment, food and games. **Info:** Visit www.nisseiweek.org.

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:
tiffany@pacificcitizen.org
(213) 620-1767

In Memoriam

Higa, Michael Wayne, 63,

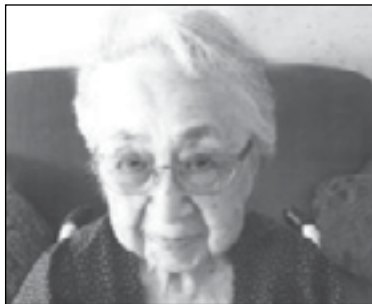


Seattle, WA; July 17; he is predeceased by his parents, James and Hatsumi; he is survived by his sister, Janette (Roy) Gatbunton; brother, Warren (Susii); nieces, Nicole Gatbunton, Dana Gatbunton, Jamie Gatbunton, Danielle Higa, Alexandra Higa; nephew, Robert Higa.

Ito, Roy H., 54, Long Beach, CA; July 21; he is survived by his loving parents, Hideo and Mitsuko Ito; his sisters, Anna Buckles and June (Michael) Moore; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Munemoto, Eiji, 59, Buffalo Grove, IL; July 21; he is survived by his wife, Lisa (nee Kulku) Munemoto; mother, Chizuko; brother, Shinji (Nancy) Munemoto; nephew, Andy; niece, Amy; he is predeceased by his father, Hatsuichi.

Muneno, Tomiye 'Tomichi,'



100, Santa Barbara, CA; May 29; she is predeceased by her husband, Daizo Edward; brother, Joe Watanabe; sisters, Miye Numazu and Amy Hirata; she is survived by her children, Jeanne Gray, Judy (Ernest) Karner, Donald (Sharon), Carolyn (Patrick) Kawaguchi, Teddy (Naomi) and Patsy (Russel) Okamoto; 8 gc; 11 ggc.

Nobuyuki, Takanori 'Kevin,' Torrance, CA; July 2; he is survived by his loving wife, Suzanne Ouye; sons, Kevin and Michael; daughters, Sharon (Craig) Akioka and Donna (Eric) Sugimoto; siblings, Ken (Linda), Karl (Sandy), Karen, Sekko (Kazuko), Art Sumio (Tami), Akira; uncle, Shiz (Eunice) Morita; also survived by many nieces, nephews

and other relatives here and in Japan; 5 gc.

Nagano, Miyoko Francis, 88, San Diego, CA; July 7; she is survived by her children, Arthur (Julia) Nagano and Sachi (Richard Suhl) Ocean; siblings, Satoshi (Rosabel) Kakuda and Kazuko Kurahashi; sister-in-law, Amy Kakuda; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; 3 gc.

Sagara, May Reiko, 90, Aleta, CA; June 25; she is survived by her children, Harley (Cora) Sagara and Cindy (Norman) Morishige; sister, Florence Edwards; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; 3 gc; 5 ggc.

Sakai, Barbara Fumiko, 86, Honolulu, HI; July 4; she is survived by her daughters, Sandra Goo and Dorothy Morioka; brothers, Richard and Thomas Settsu; 5 gc; 1 ggc.

Shigekuni, Henry Masaaki, 89, Los Angeles, CA; June 29; he is survived by his children, David (Chris) Shigekuni, Diane (Michael) Manuel and Barbara (John Hicks) Shigekuni; brother, Thomas (Ruth) Shigekuni; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; 5 gc.

Shinzato, Carolyn Aki, 79, Cerritos, CA; June 28; she is survived by her husband, Kazuo; children, Vicki (Dr. Paul) Shinto, Miles (Leti) Yokota, Robin (Mark) Wittenberg, John (Helery) Shinzato; siblings, Erni (Jun) Arai, Steven (Leslie) Kodama; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; 9 gc.

Tachibana, Mitsuo, 89, Hilo, HI; July 20; a decorated WWII veteran who served with the 442nd RCT; he is survived by his wife, Ruth; daughters, Arlene Padamada, Diane Matsuzaki and Carole Abril; 6 gc; 4 ggc.

Tagamori, Yutaka, 94, Honolulu, HI; June 24; he is survived by his daughters, Janice Konishi and Janet China; sister, Marilyn Kira; 5 gc; 5 ggc.

Bert Shigemi, Tamura, 77, Monterey Park, CA; July 11; he is survived by his wife, Alice; son, David Paul; siblings, Raymond (Darlene) and Alvin (Jenny), Joanne Sakata, Susan (Les) Nishimura and Eleanor (Hisao) Lee; brother-in-law, William (Julia) Reel; also

survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Tanimoto, Itaru, 94, Honolulu, HI; July 13; a Schofield Barracks retiree and an Army veteran; he is survived by his wife, Ann; sisters, Betty Sato and Alice Albin.

Ukita, John, 57, Monterey Park, CA; July 2; he is survived by his sisters, Linda Ukita (Tony Quon) and Jan Komuro; nieces, Lisa Komuro and Cheri Komuro; grand-nieces, Zooey, Aiko and Zara; uncle, Hideo Iwanabe; cousins, Ted (Bev) Iwanabe, Tad (Miyo) Ukita and Charlene Ballesteros; he is also survived by many other family members and friends.

Wakamatsu, Albert, 59, Los Angeles, CA; July 1; he is survived by his mother, Betty (Hiroshi Nishikubo) Wakamatsu; brother, Robert; sisters, Ellen, May, Susan and Dorothy; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Watanabe, Kenichi, 90, Waipahu, HI; July 1; a veteran who served in the Korean and Vietnam wars and a retired federal government analyst with the Pentagon; he is survived by his wife, Michie "Miki"; daughters, Lori Binek and Linda Reiland; brothers, Tsuneo and Kazuyuki; sister, Takako Endo; 6 gc; 2 ggc.

Yoshimoto, Lynn, 63,



Aina Haina, HI; July 1; she is survived by her husband, John Hatori; daughter, Rovyn Nakahara; she is also survived by many other family members and friends. ■

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.

Contact:
busmgr@pacificcitizen.org
or call (213) 620-1767

TRIBUTE

WILLIAM 'BILL' YOSHIO HIROSE



William "Bill" Yoshio Hirose, born June 4, 1929, died peacefully, surrounded by his family, at home in El Cerrito on May 26, 2014. He was the youngest brother of George Hirose, Jack Hirose, Frank Hirose and Motoko Kanzawa.

Bill grew up in the Mission District of San Francisco. During World War II, his family was sent to the Topaz Internment Camp in Utah. Upon returning to San Francisco, Bill attended

Mission High School, City College of San Francisco and the University of California at Berkeley, where he played on the lightweight basketball team. In 1951, Bill graduated from U.C. Berkeley. After serving in the U.S. Marine Corps, he attended Boalt Hall Law School. He received his J.D. and was admitted to the California State Bar in 1957. In 1959, he became a Certified Public Accountant. He formed an accounting partnership that led to the practice named Hirano & Hirose and later moved his practice to Oakland, where the Hirose & Oto firm, later known as H.O.B., was formed. In 1986, he was admitted to the United States Tax Court, and in 1987, received a Certificate of Educational Achievement in the area of Personal Financial Planning. After retiring from accounting in 1995, he was Of Counsel with the law offices of Minami Lew and Tamaki, where he enjoyed the vim and vigor of the young attorneys.

Bill was an avid fan of the Warriors, 49ers and the Giants. He dedicated countless hours volunteering as a coach to youth basketball and tirelessly supporting numerous nonprofit organizations. He knew how to celebrate any occasion on any day — planning the unexpected, orchestrating surprises and finding fun and unique ways to enjoy life and family.

Bill is survived by his wife of 52 years, May (formerly Omura), and his four children, Paul, Nora, Ruth and Anne. He was the loving Bapa to his eight grandchildren: Bryce, Sierra, Gabriela, Matthew, Marcus, Jonathan, Lucas and Bella.

He will be deeply missed by his family and friends.

A memorial service was held on June 14 at Sunset View Cemetery in El Cerrito.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Always Dream Foundation at 125 Railroad Ave., Suite 203, Danville, CA 94526, or the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California at 1840 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94115.

TRIBUTE

LILY HANAKO IKUTA

Family memorial services for the late Mrs. Lily Hanako Ikuta, a 93-year-old, Scottsbluff, Neb.-born Nisei resident of North Hollywood who passed away peacefully on June 12, 2014, were held privately at Forest Lawn Hollywood Hills, officiated by Rev. Ruy Mizuki of West Valley United Methodist Church. The family respectfully requests that in lieu of flowers or koden, donations be made to the charity of your choice.

Predeceased by her husband, Joe H. Ikuta; siblings, Lois Morioka, Helen Kaneko, Ted Nanbara of Nebraska and Mary Nanbara.

Mrs. Ikuta was the beloved mother of Joanne (John) Daniels and Philip (Judy) Ikuta; proud grandmother of Megan and Brianne Daniels, Benjamin and Amelia Ikuta. Also survived by many other family members.

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EDUCATION MATTERS

PRESERVING THE FUTURE BY PREPARING TODAY



Sonoma County JACL's Jodi Hottel (right) speaks to Education Component members of the JACL's Livingston-Merced Chapter.

NEXT LEVEL >> continued from page 3

Perhaps, now, she and her sibling will not face a wall of silence from their family but will be openly embraced because a respected organization continues to voice their LGBT support.

But the strongest emotion I walked away with from the Convention was hope. I felt hope when people made references to the LGBT community, like the executive director talking about her LGBT child and former Secretary of Transportation Norman Mineta making positive statements about marriage equality. I was hopeful when Congressman Mike Honda shared with me his connection to PFLAG, a national organization that supports, educates and advocates for LGBT individuals and their families. When I talked with chapters who want to do more to send a message

of support and acceptance to their LGBT families, my heart filled with hope. One chapter leader said, "We have to do more."

I am home now, thinking about all I have learned, all the wonderful people I have met and all I want to do in the future. JACL will be part of my future. I am certain of that. Two conversations that have stayed with me since the Convention are these: Our work is about the humanity we share, and our work is about families and love. Humanity, family and love . . . could there be any greater purpose to what we are doing?

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

LEGACY >> continued from page 3

Six of the 10 participants were hapa with a variety of mixes: Irish, Norwegian, Lebanese, Swedish, German and more, and, of course, Japanese. The one thing the participants had in common — whether they were full Japanese or mixed-race — was their search for identity as Japanese Americans, something they shared equally.

I was deeply moved when I listened in one workshop session to the participants describe how they each have had to struggle with identity issues and how acceptance and rejection have been such a part of their lives. Living in areas where there are not large populations of Japanese Americans like on the West Coast has made their personal quests that much more difficult and even painful.

You would think being in California where multiethnicity is not at all uncommon these days among younger Asians and certainly among the Yonsei would afford the Kansha participants the opportunity to be totally free of the very notion of identity.

Unfortunately, that wasn't the case. On one of the tours in Little Tokyo, a guide apparently questioned the legitimacy of one of the participants identifying as Japanese. I was angered when I learned about this the next day, knowing how painful it must have been to be the brunt of this kind of narrow-minded ignorance.

It's a reminder of how important it is for us to remember that hapa youth who identify as Japanese American embrace their Japanese heritage as much as (and maybe even more than) the rest of us do. We take it for granted, while they cherish that part of their identity.

This year's Kansha group was awesome, each and every one of them. On the flight back to San Francisco, I thought about them and thought, if they are our future and the bearers of our legacy into the future, our legacy will be more than just fine in their hands.

John Tateishi is a former JACL National Director.

Like with so many JACL chapters, the Livingston-Merced Chapter (Central California) relied on the Nisei to respond to requests from schools and organizations to share their "first-hand" experience about the forced removal and incarceration of Japanese Americans in the "relocation" camps, but with the passage of time, that number has declined.

In an effort to recruit Sansei and Yonsei to continue on with the work they have been doing for the past 20 years, the Livingston-Merced Chapter's Education Component was fortunate to have the Sonoma County JACL's Jodi Hottel and Cynthia Kishi describe some of their organizational tools and show their PowerPoint presentations that were developed for their chapter's Speakers Bureau. Hottel generously gave materials that her chapter created over the years so that the Livingston-Merced Chapter would not have to "reinvent the wheel."

After the initial meeting, the Education Component had a small core of potential participants. Their next step will be to create a common presentation that any speaker can use going forward. Once the curriculum is prepared, they hope it will encourage retired and/or "empty-nester" Sansei and others to join the chapter's Speakers Bureau, as it is an important tool to educate both young and

old about U.S. history and the importance of safeguarding our civil rights.

Throughout a three-day period recently, more than 230 third- to eighth-grade students were the beneficiaries of "bus grants" made available to the local schools courtesy of the Education Component of the Livingston-Merced JACL. The students visited the Merced Assembly Center Memorial at the Merced County Fairgrounds and, with the assistance of 14 volunteer docents who also answered questions posed by the young students, made rubbings of names on the Wall of Names while others read the names of the camps on the benches; the students then were able to go to the map to see the actual location of these places.

The Merced Assembly Center Memorial is currently in Phase II, with plans to have a mural on the back of the Wall of Names of those who were held there. A garden is included in Phase II, but it is currently on hold due to a statewide requirement regarding water consumption limits on fairground landscapes during the current drought.

The Education Component hopes to continue and improve upon this successful school program next year.

For more information, contact Kiyono Kishi at kkishi@gvni.com.



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