Dec. 14, 2012-Jan. 17, 2013

HOLIDAY ISSUE

PACIFIC CITIZEN

Reflections of 2012

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Founded in 1929, JACL is the nation's oldest and largest Asian American civil and human rights organization with a 25,000 membership base. JACL has 112 chapters nationwide, four regional offices, a Washington, D.C., office and a national headquarters in San Francisco. JACL's mission is to secure and uphold the human and civil rights of Japanese Americans and all Americans while preserving our cultural heritage and values.

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2012 in Review

As the year draws to a close, the *Pacific Citizen* reflects on the defining news and events that shaped our lives in 2012. From historic firsts occurring within the JACL to remembering the Japan earthquake one year later to the November elections in which more Asian Americans were voted to office than ever before, the *P.C.* was there to bring you the news that mattered.

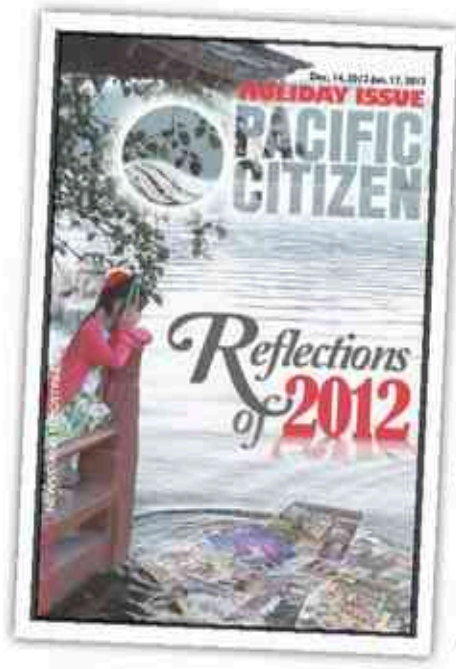
But as our special Holiday Issue was going to press, an unthinkable American tragedy occurred in Newtown, Conn., that made the nation stop and reflect on news of a whole different matter. In an instant, our lives were affected — stress that seemed monumental before now meant nothing compared to the fragility of life.

However, in spite of the darkness, there is hope. Hope for a better today than yesterday, hope for a better tomorrow than today.

The *P.C.* is perhaps the most hopeful. The newspaper has been through many changes this year, but with new faces and a new vision, the future is bright. Thank you to our readers and editorial board who have given us your encouragement and support. I promise we'll emerge in 2013 better than ever!

Lastly, I'd like to acknowledge all of the JACL chapters who solicited ads for this year's issue. We hope the commissions earned will continue to help you provide beneficial programs for our youth and keep your chapters strong. And special recognition goes to the *P.C.'s* hardworking and loyal staff. With your determination, professionalism and dedication to this paper, you have all stepped up in the face of adversity to produce issues you can truly be proud of.

— Allison Haramoto
Interim Executive Editor



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HOTTEL, Jodi	Santa Rosa
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MIZUTANI, Kota	Sebastopol
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SHIMIZU, Martin	Cotati
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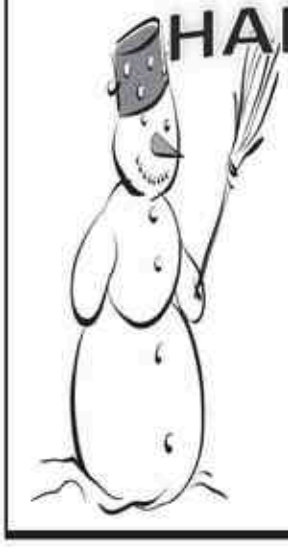


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Mt. Olympus - Ray Nishikawa
Pocatello/Blackfoot - Karl Endo
Salt Lake City - Jenn Ungvichian & Jeanette Misaka
Snake River - Janet Komoto
Wasatch Front North - Geoff Russell & Sandi Grant

SAN DIEGO

SEASON'S GREETINGS

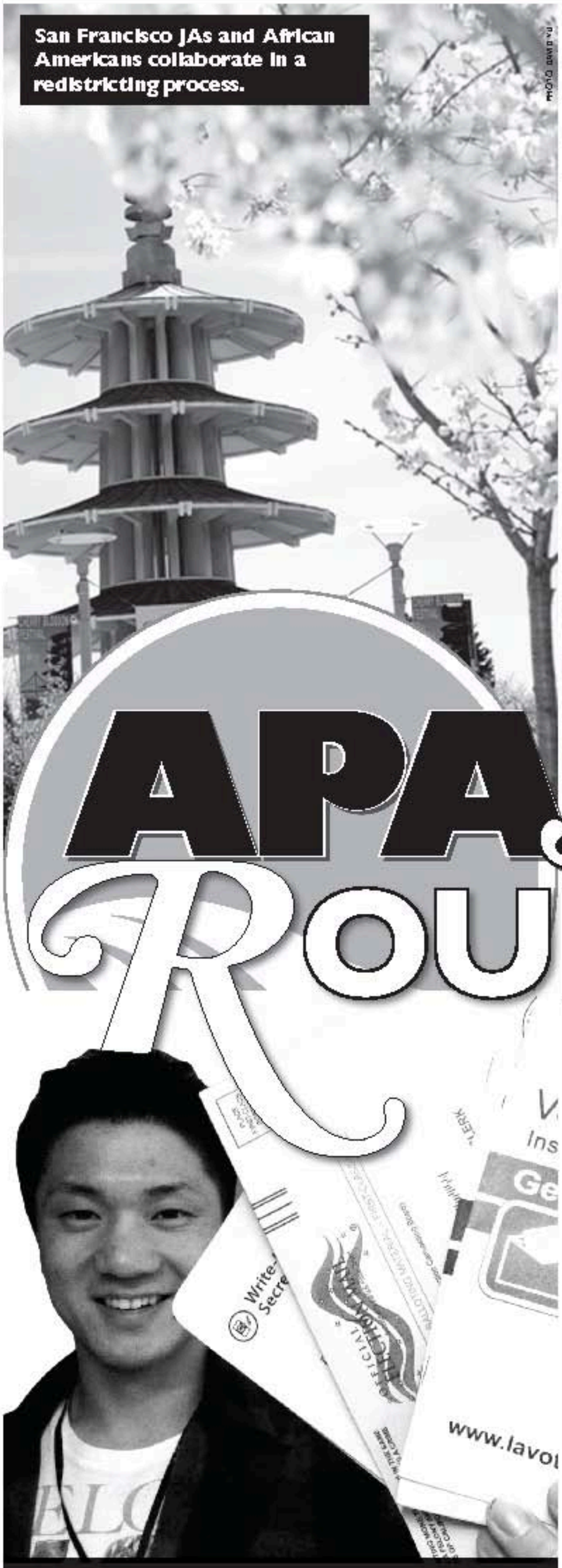
SAN DIEGO JACL, INC.

2012 OFFICERS

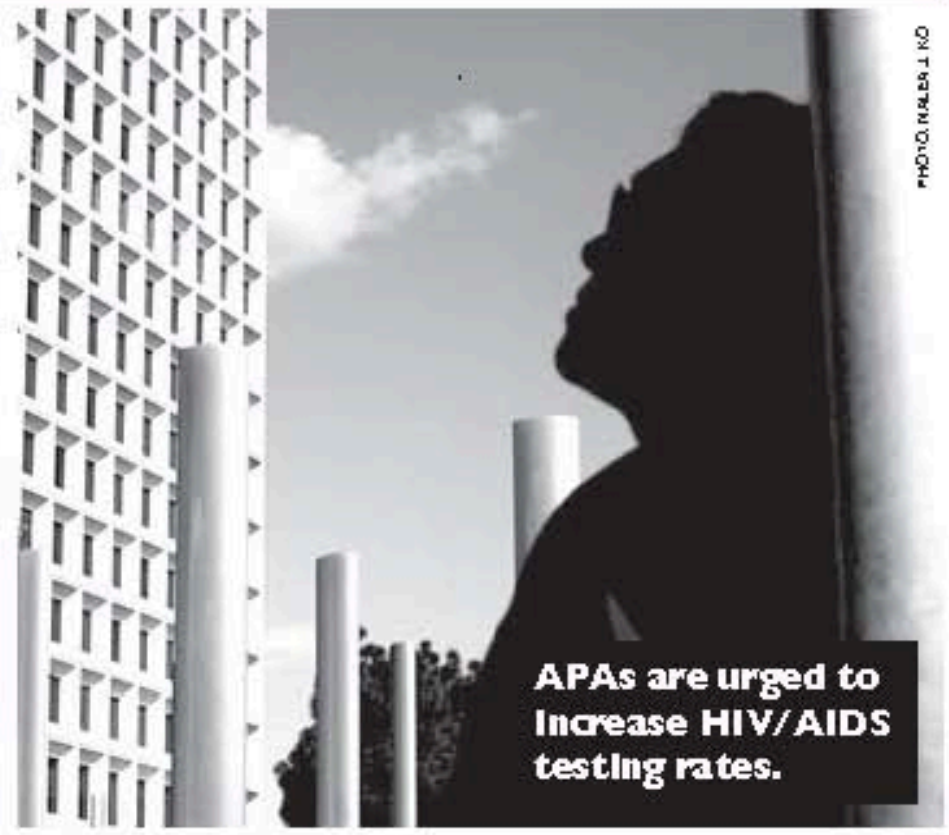
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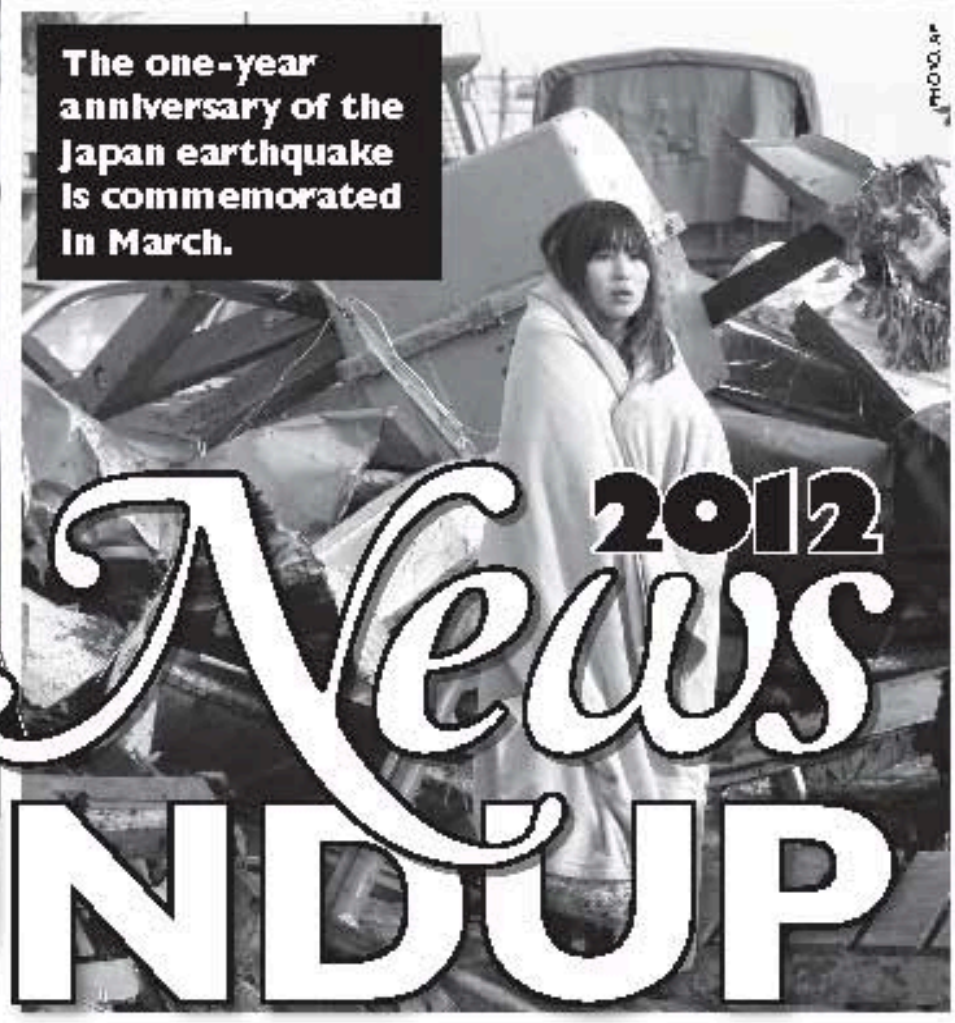
Carol Kawamoto
David Kawamoto
Kaela Kawano
Michael Kurima
Mitsuo Tomita
Greg Toya
Wendy Yamamoto



San Francisco JAs and African Americans collaborate in a redistricting process.



APAs are urged to increase HIV/AIDS testing rates.



The one-year anniversary of the Japan earthquake is commemorated in March.

APA 2012 News ROUNDUP

President Barack Obama is elected for a second term in November.

As the year comes to a close, the *Pacific Citizen* reflects on the news that made headlines in 2012. When Travyon Martin was shot and killed in Sandford, Fla., civil rights groups — including the JACL — demanded a further investigation into the case. The APA community on March 11 reflected on the one-year anniversary of the Japan earthquake and the country's journey to recovery. From the presidential election to the premiere of the controversial play "Allegiance," the *P.C.* covered the issues that mattered to the Asian Pacific American community.



THE PLAY 'ALLEGIANCE'

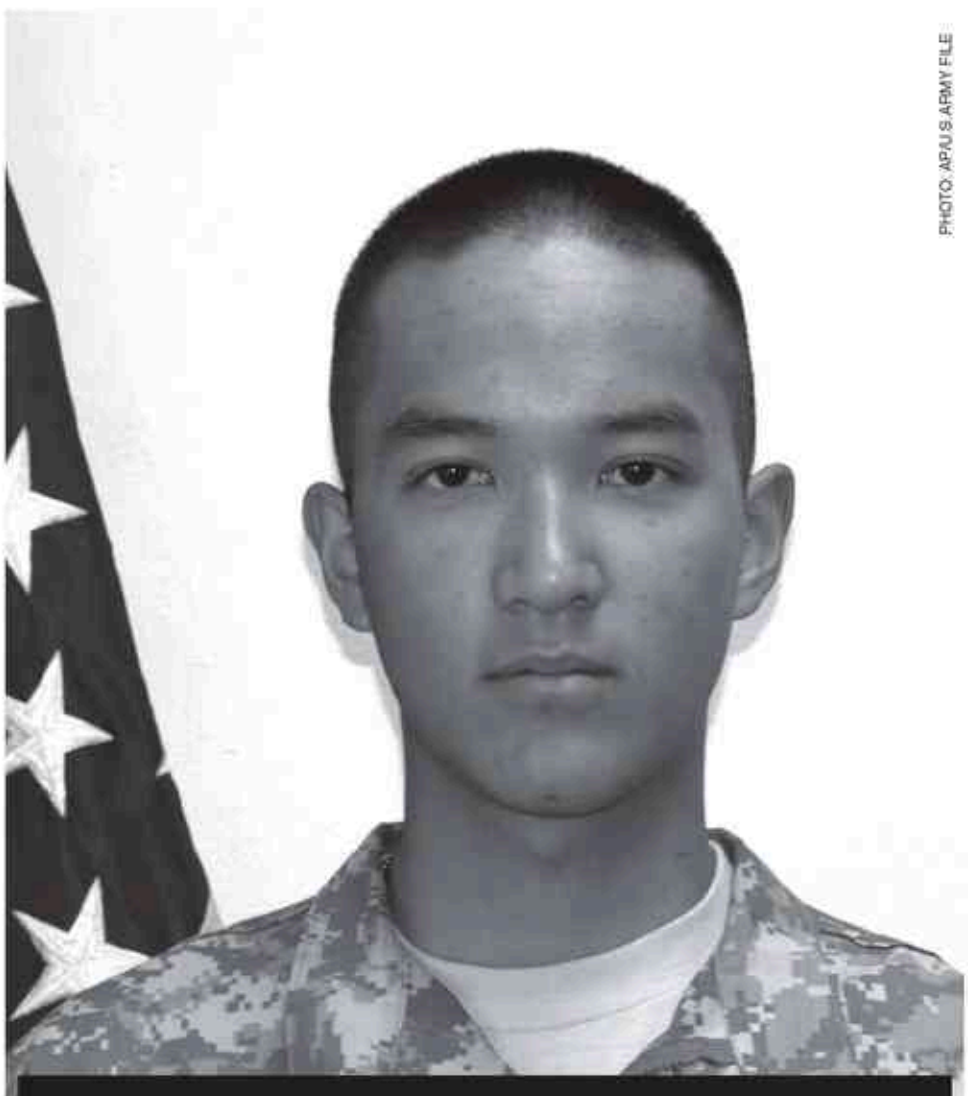
The controversial play "Allegiance: A New American Musical" premieres in San Diego, Calif., on Sept. 19, stirring debate over the depiction of the JACL and former JACL National Secretary Mike Masaoka.

PHOTO: HENRY [illegible]CO



COMFORT WOMEN

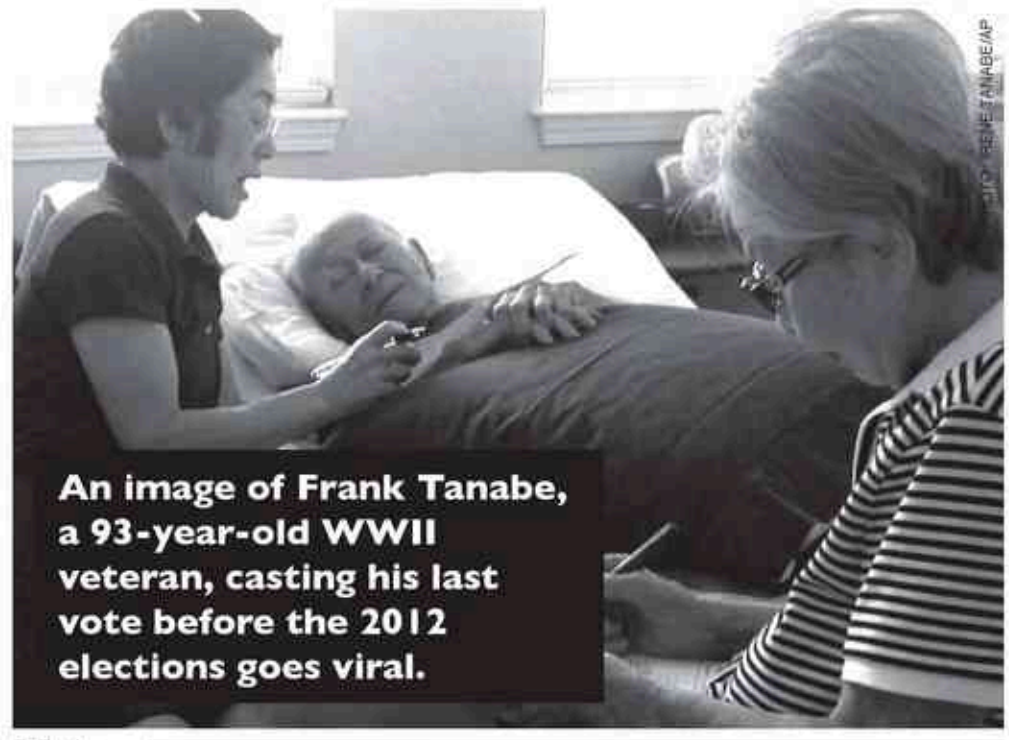
A plaque installed in Palisades Park, N.J. in honor of comfort women, who were abducted by the Japanese Imperial Army during WWII, draws international attention.



PVT. DANNY CHEN CASE

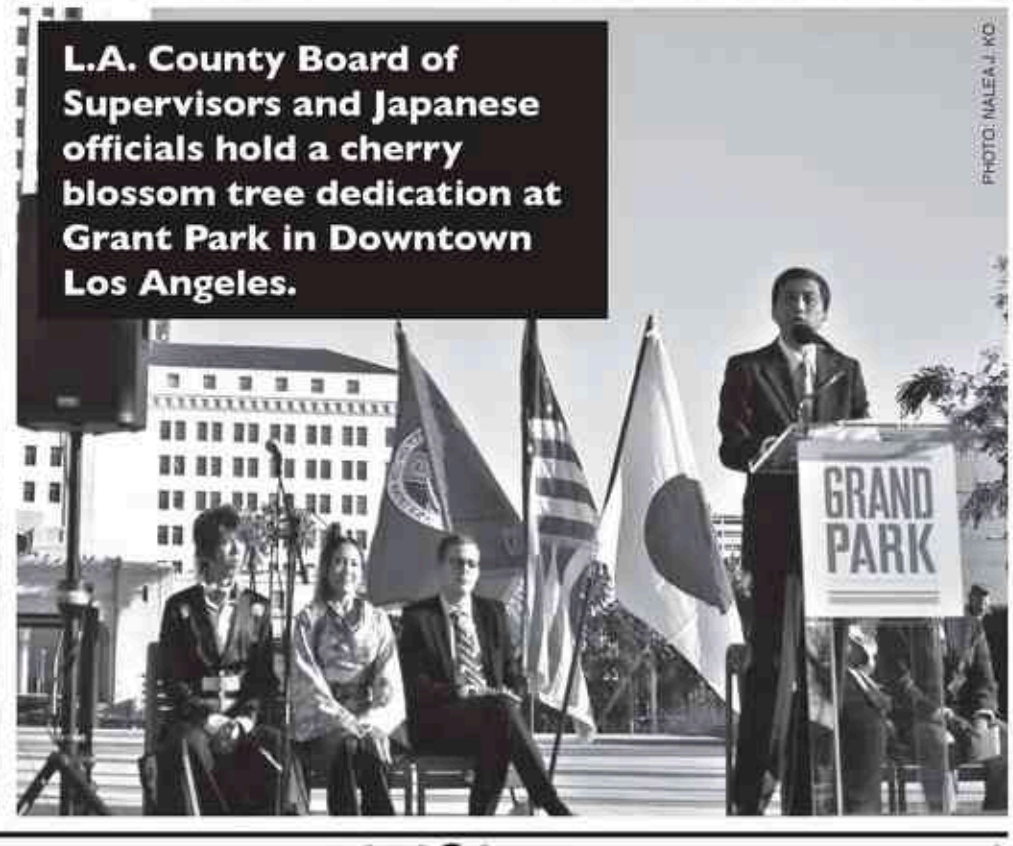
Pvt. Danny Chen, 19, who grew up in Chinatown, N.Y., and was deployed to Afghanistan, was allegedly subjected to verbal and physical abuse on Oct. 3 shortly before he was found shot from an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound.

PHOTO: APAJS ARMY FILE



An image of Frank Tanabe, a 93-year-old WWII veteran, casting his last vote before the 2012 elections goes viral.

PHOTO: [illegible]E TANABE/AP



L.A. County Board of Supervisors and Japanese officials hold a cherry blossom tree dedication at Grant Park in Downtown Los Angeles.

PHOTO: NALEA J. KO

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Shig Naito
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Jean Nakao
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Kieko E. Goto
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Mount Olympus JACL

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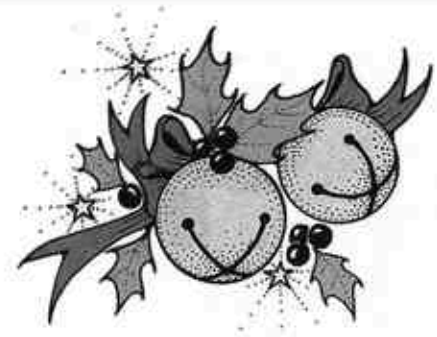
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Scholarships ..... Lynne Aramaki
Corresponding Secretary ..... Amy Tomita
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JESSOP, Tim, Mary, Mariko & Kimiye ..... Murray, UT
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OKAWA, Alan, Allison, Alex & Aidan ..... Salt Lake City, UT
WATANABE, Byron & Reiko ..... Salt Lake City, UT
WATANABE, Troy, Judy, Haley, Max & Josh ..... Salt Lake City, UT
WATANABE, Kenny ..... San Francisco, CA
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OKAMOTO, Gary, Ryoko, Chris, Andy & Brandon ..... Cottonwood Hts, UT
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USHIO, Roger & Cherie & Family ..... Holladay, UT
TOKITA, Robert, Tami, Eric & Alex ..... Sandy, UT
TOMITA, Amy ..... 4624 S. Zenia Meadows Ct, Murray, UT 84107
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SAN MATEO

Seasons Greetings
From

SAN MATEO JACL

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Special thanks to our generous supporters and community.

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INABA, Meiko ..... 4280 Mt Vernon Ave, Riverside 92507
INABA, Tony & Beverly ..... 1985 Bronson Way, Riverside 92506
KAMOTO Family ..... 4565 Spirit Ct., Riverside 92501
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MIKAMI, Toshie ..... 2160 W 235th Pl, Torrance 90501
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OGATA, Irene ..... 25214 Desert Willow Dr, Moreno Valley 92553
OKABAYASHI, Jennifer ..... 75 Via Abruzzi, Aliso Viejo 92656
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TSUBOTA, James ..... 5609 Kent Ave, Riverside 92503
URATA, Doug & Alice ..... 28202 Millwood Rd, Trabuco Canyon 92679
WATADA, Ben & Amy ..... 1738 Snowberry Rd, Beaumont 92223
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YOSHIKAWA, Akio & Helen ..... 2359 Patriot Way, Corona 91720
YOSHIMURA, Michiko ..... 2887 Balfore, Riverside 92506

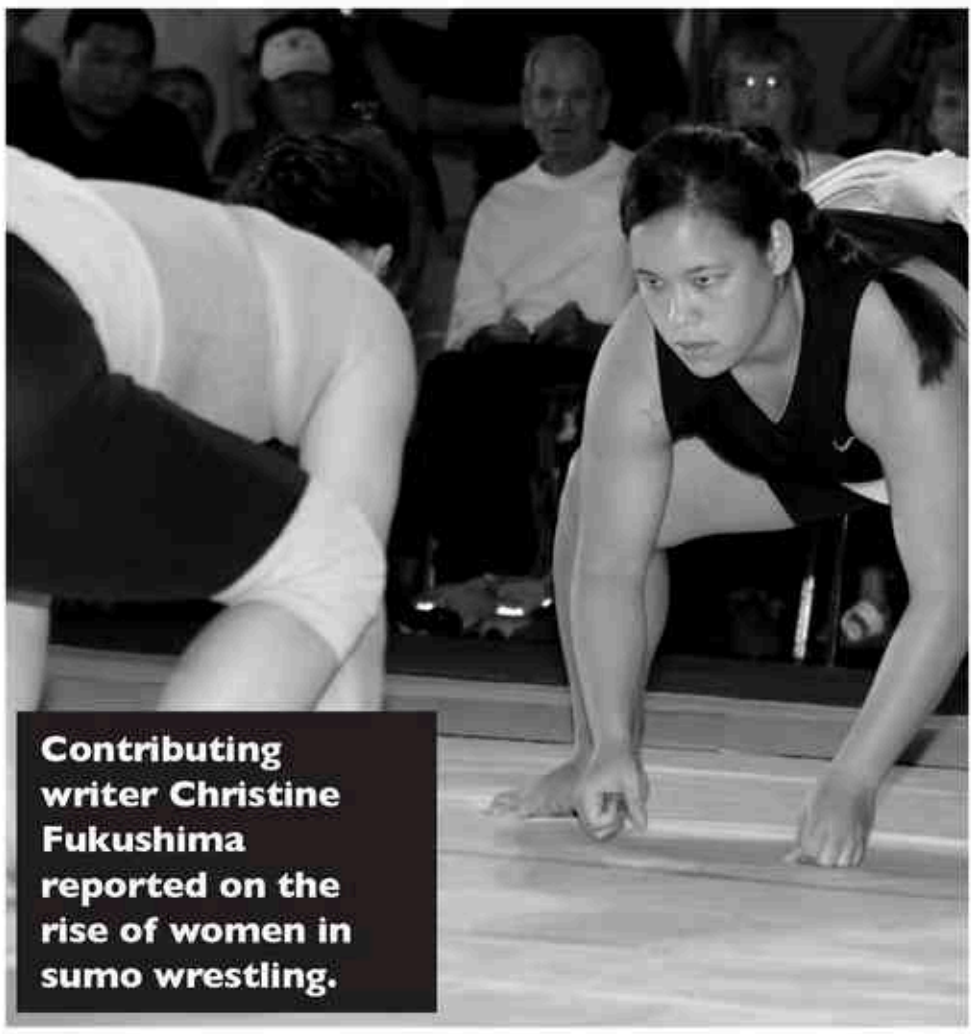




PHOTO: DARK SEVIERRE

L.A. RIOTS

April 29 marked the 20th anniversary of the Los Angeles riots. A survey indicated that L.A. residents felt safer in the city since the uprising.



Contributing writer Christine Fukushima reported on the rise of women in sumo wrestling.

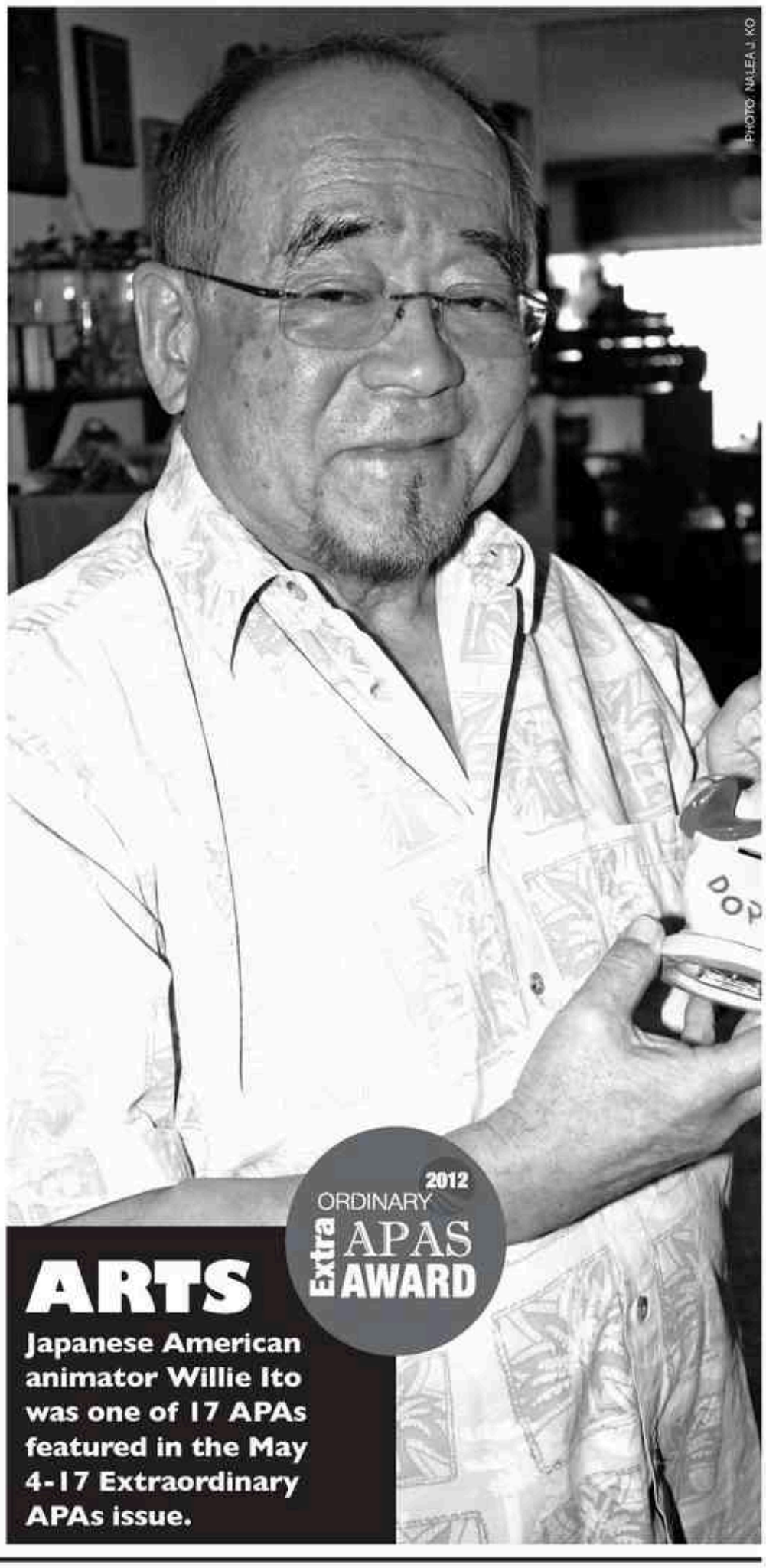


PHOTO: NALEA J. KO



APA groups across the nation called for an investigation in the Trayvon Martin killing after the 17-year-old teenager was fatally shot in Sanford, Fla., in February while walking home after buying Skittles and an ice tea. The JACL, in a statement, called for justice to be served.

2012 Extra ORDINARY APAS AWARD

ARTS

Japanese American animator Willie Ito was one of 17 APAs featured in the May 4-17 Extraordinary APAs issue.



HANNAH CARTER JAPANESE GARDEN

UCLA announces plans to sell the Hannah Carter Japanese Garden, which was purchased by Edward Carter and his wife in 1965. Preservationists and community members rally to save the cultural landmark.

APAS IN CONGRESS

Asian Pacific Americans elected in November to serve in the 113th U.S. Congress include (from left) Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii), Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), Tulsi Gabbard (D-Hawaii), Grace Meng (D-NY) and Mark Takano (D-CA).



VINCENT J. CHIN ANNIVERSARY

June 23 marks the 30th anniversary of the murder of Vincent Chin. Asian Pacific American community leaders used new technology on the 30th anniversary to raise awareness about Chin's legacy.



APA BONE MARROW TRANSPLANT DONORS

Janet Liang, who battled leukemia, died on Sept. 11 after receiving a near-perfect bone marrow transplant. Her story highlighted Asian Americans' struggle to find transplant matches with few APA-registered donors.

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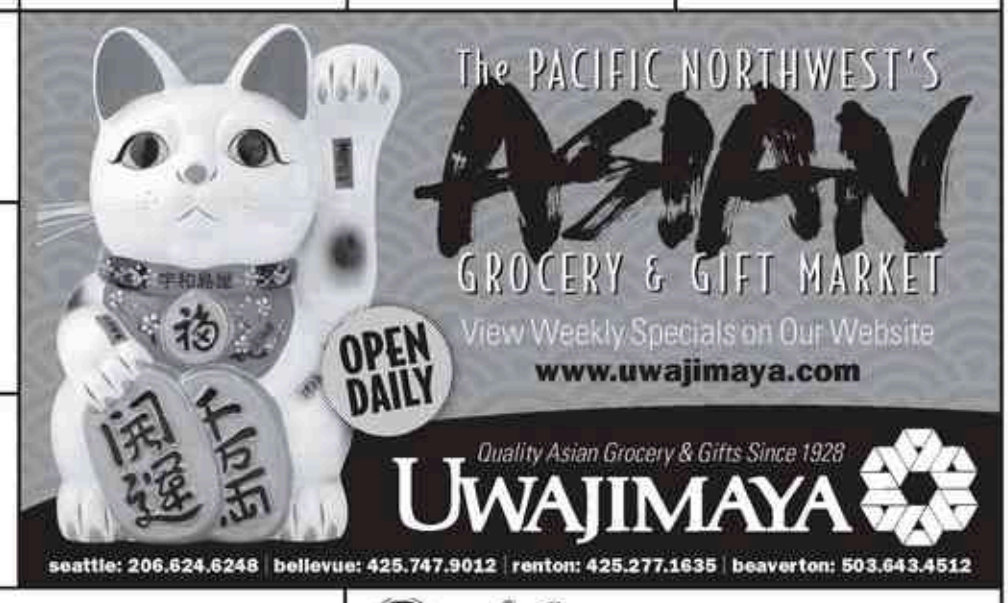
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Happy Holidays To All Our Friends

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ALL PHOTOS: CONNIE K. HO

Charlie Hamasaki *(left)* and Arnold Maeda speak prior to the start of the program.

'SPEAKING OF CAMP' Brings Together Collective Voices

By Connie K. Ho
Contributor

They came from all walks of life. Tall, thin, short, plump, freshly scrubbed, worn for wear — they all made their way to an auditorium in the heart of Little Tokyo. Smells of fresh coffee and sweet donuts greeted them from inside the room. Tables were filled with posters of faded photographs that depicted memories of long ago. Each of the individuals took a turn around the room greeting old friends, speaking with new ones, relaxing in a chair, waiting for the program to start. While a cold rain drizzled outside against the background of the gray sky, the individuals inside the room buzzed warmly with anticipation. It was a reunion of sorts — a reunion of individuals who had all lived through internment but who all had different stories to tell.



PHOTO: MNHS

Block 14 is a new section currently being constructed on the Manzanar National Historic Site grounds, located near Lone Pine, Calif. It will include two demonstration barracks — one showing the living conditions when JAs first arrived in 1942 and the other representing how a typical barracks evolved.

This was the scene of "Speaking of Camp . . ." an event jointly sponsored by the Friends of Manzanar and the Manzanar Committee. Held Dec. 1 at Maryknoll/St. Francis Xavier Japanese Catholic Center in downtown Los Angeles, the event was attended by dozens of individuals. Videographers also were in attendance at the event to record internees' thoughts and experiences of camp life that was to be collected in a set of oral histories.

"We think it's important to tell these wartime stories. It was a terrible travesty, and we can learn from that in the years ahead," said Rose Ochi, chair of the Friends of Manzanar.

A group of individuals gathered onstage to encourage others to share their experiences. Bruce Embery, co-chair of the Manzanar Committee, spoke of his family's own plight at Manzanar. As part of the Manzanar Committee, he has helped lead pilgrimages to the Manzanar National Historic Site for the past 40 years. His mother was 18 when she arrived at Manzanar and dreamed of attending college; however, she wasn't able to fulfill this goal until her 40s. Embery spoke about the forced removals and the lives that were disrupted as a result of the internment camps.

"People don't know what happened — they might know it vaguely," Embery said. "We want to preserve their story. They are part of our history that we have, and we must make sure everyone knows about it."

With the holidays looming close by, Mas Okui, a retired school teacher, described his experience growing up at Manzanar. Known as one of the famous flag fishermen, Okui first arrived at Manzanar as a child and attended school dutifully like many of the other adolescents at the camp.

One of the barracks served as a classroom, with low lighting and bare walls. They received books that were torn, dirty and broken — even in their



(From left) Mas Okui, Joyce Okazaki and Jack Kunitomi discuss their internee experiences onstage at the "Speaking of Camps . . ." event.



Friends of Manzanar Co-Founder Lillian Kawasaki *(center)* is honored at the event.



Charlie Hamasaki describes his internment experience in Bismarck, N.D.



Friends of Manzanar consultant Ellen Endo welcomes guests to the program.



Friends of Manzanar Chair Rose Ochi provides introductory statements.



Manzanar Committee Co-Chair Bruce Embery discusses the pilgrimage to the MNHS.

disheveled shape, the students were still happy to have the materials from which to learn.

Apart from his classroom experience at Manzanar, Okui distinctly remembers celebrating Christmas in 1942 at Manzanar. Held in Barrack 14, Christmas included a Santa dressed in a red suit and cotton beard, along with a set of presents. That year, he received a coloring book, complete with a metal paint box.

"As a teacher, every year people could never understand at my school how I had so much canned goods — well, it was because I would tell my story," said Okui, who told students about his childhood at Manzanar during the holiday season while collecting canned goods to give to the underserved.

One man spoke about his experiences at an internment camp in the Midwest. For Charlie Hamasaki, February 1942 is a date that is clearly seared in his mind. He was 18 years old when Pearl Harbor was hit in Hawaii, and he grew up never knowing that he was born in Japan. Soon after, that all changed.

"I was almost going to escape," Hamasaki said on his attempt to flee the police.

Hamasaki was sent to an internment camp in Bismarck, N.D.; he recounted his distaste for the food and reminisced about living alongside 5,000 other Japanese Americans.

"I'm the only survivor right now — they're all gone," Hamasaki said. "Since the war, it's been bittersweet."

Having heard other people speak about their experiences onstage, three friends decided to take the plunge and have their stories recorded by a videographer.

The small group consisted of sisters Yasuko Miyoshi Iseri and Kazuko Miyoshi, along with their childhood friend, Chiharu Koro Kitagawa. Both families were involved in the nursing business in Greater Los Angeles before the start of World War II. They described their experience relocating to Manzanar with their parents, specifically remembering how they could only take a handful of things that they could carry with them to camp.

"They never spoke about the war or tension — it was like we were living in a bubble," Miyoshi said.

Reminiscing on camp living, Iseri, Miyoshi and Kitagawa spoke of some of the hardships.

"Being in the desert, we had winds and the windows would rattle. We tired to cover the windows, and my mom put chopsticks in them so that they wouldn't rattle," Kitagawa said.

On the other hand, they detailed the simple pleasures they experienced at the camp, like digging a hole in the dirt floor to watch movies outside or packaging fresh tomatillos with which to play.

"My mother would give us gum — sugar was a real commodity that you couldn't have," Miyoshi said.

Readjusting to life after the camp was an adjustment for all three women.

"You knew you were going to be picked on — you looked like the enemy, and you felt that you had to be as good," Kitagawa said. "No matter where you were, you did the best that you could. You could never do anything shameful to the family name."

With these stories in mind, the National Park Service is working to preserve these memories with the development of a new section at the Manzanar National Historic Site. Known as Block 14, it will include two demonstration barracks. While one barrack will show the living conditions Japanese Americans first encountered on their arrival to Manzanar in 1942, the other barrack will show how barracks typically evolved during that time.

To learn more about this project, visit www.nps.gov/manz. ■

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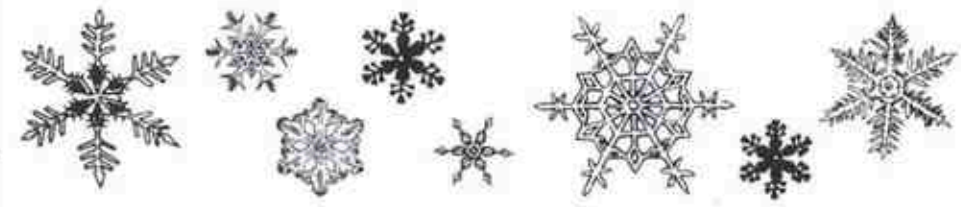
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Happy Holidays
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Celebrating the holidays with family and friends, with grandson Matt home during Christmas break from his research study in the Nanophotonics Lab at the National University of Singapore.

Wishing all a happy holiday season,
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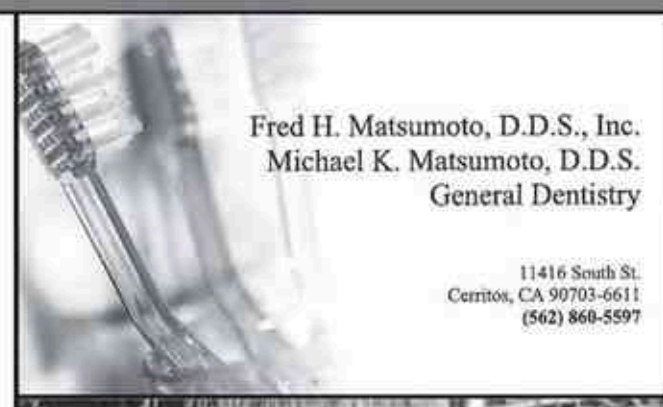
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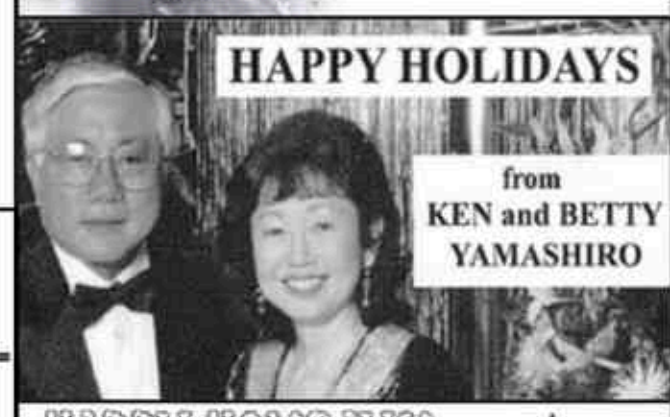
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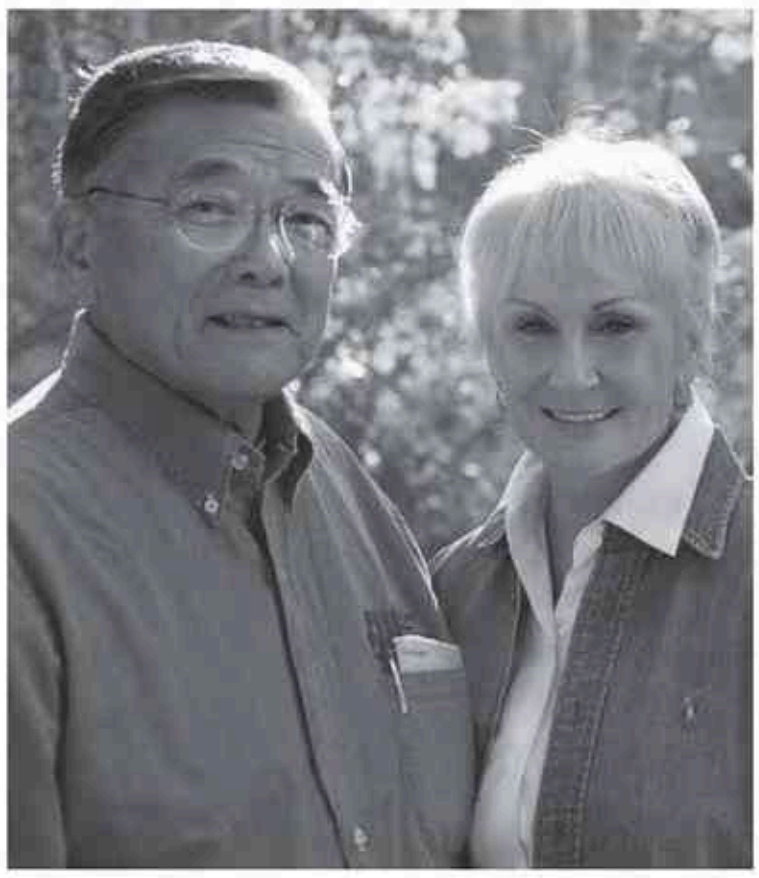
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Turret Gunner BEN KUROKI Took Aim at Germany, Japan

By George T. Johnston
Contributor

The day after Japan attacked Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, a young Nebraskan volunteered to fight for his homeland.

After visiting the recruiting office with his brother, Fred, the farm boy waited — but the Army never called.

Ben Kuroki realized the U.S. Army didn't want him, his younger brother or any other Americans whose lineage was from Japan.

Though it wasn't easy for Kuroki to get the opportunity to serve during World War II, once he got his chance, the Nisei (second-generation Japanese American) would fly 58 missions as a turret gunner, 30 in a B-24 over Europe and North Africa and 28 in a B-29 over the Pacific and Japan.

He also flew in a raid on oil fields and refineries in Ploiesti, Romania, a mission in which 52 of the 178 B-24s didn't return. Also in that WWII attack, 310 fellow Americans were killed and 127 became prisoners of war. All participants were awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, one of three such medals Kuroki would receive, along with the Air Medal with five oak leaf clusters.

Decades later, the Nebraska Press Assn. gave Kuroki its President's Award, which was followed by an honorary doctorate from his alma mater, the University of Nebraska.

The Smithsonian Institution dedicated a permanent display to him at its American History Museum. He also received the Audie Murphy Award — presented to veterans who went beyond the call during their service and, thereafter, became a positive role model for people — and, presented by President George W. Bush in 2005, the Distinguished Service Medal.

Before any of that occurred, Kuroki had to find a way to serve.

"My high school friends were going in right and left. Washington told all the recruiting stations to classify the Japanese Americans as aliens," Kuroki told *Investor's Business Daily*. "There was no way they were going to take an alien."

Now 95 and living in Camarillo, Calif., with his wife, Shige, Kuroki said, "I had to fight like hell to fight for my country."

Still out of uniform 71 years ago, Kuroki heard on the radio that the new Army Air Corps was taking enlistments in Grand Island, 150 miles from his Hershey, Neb., home.

"I immediately got on the phone and talked to the recruiting sergeant and asked him if nationality was a problem. He said, 'Heck no. I get two bucks for everybody I sign up,'" recalled Kuroki.

Because of his Midwestern roots, Kuroki was immune to President Franklin Roosevelt's February 1942 order that removed everyone of Japanese descent — numbering 120,000, two-thirds of whom were U.S. citizens — from the West Coast.

The Nebraskan was therefore one of just a handful of Nisei to serve in Europe during WWII who was not a member of the Army's segregated 100th Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team and the only second-generation Japanese American to fly bombing missions on the European and Pacific fronts.

Jean Lukesh's book "Lucky Ears: The True Story of Ben Kuroki, World War II Hero" recounts how the Kuroki brothers had to peel potatoes and wash dishes while fellow recruits received more military training at Sheppard Field in Texas.

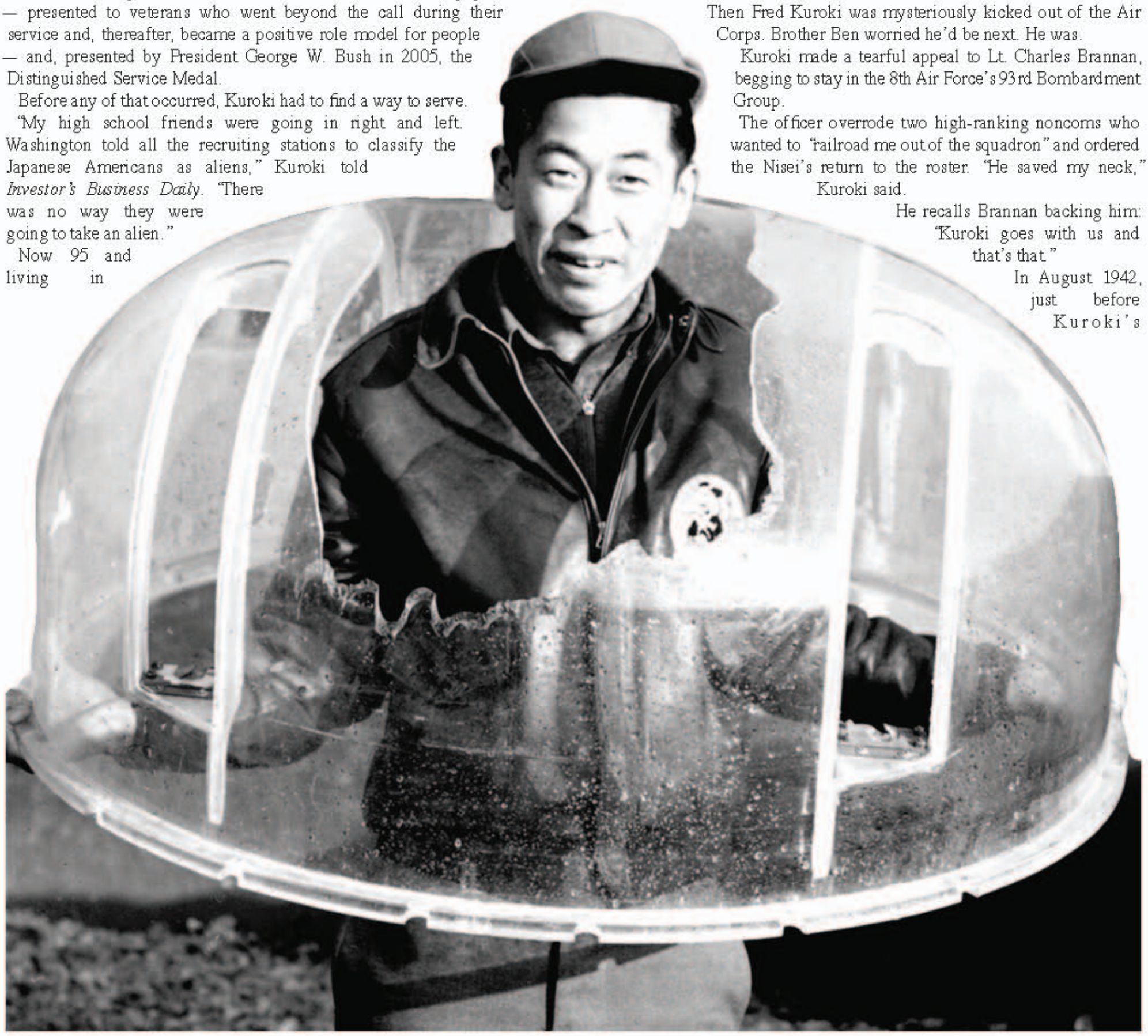
Then Fred Kuroki was mysteriously kicked out of the Air Corps. Brother Ben worried he'd be next. He was.

Kuroki made a tearful appeal to Lt. Charles Brannan, begging to stay in the 8th Air Force's 93rd Bombardment Group.

The officer overrode two high-ranking noncoms who wanted to "railroad me out of the squadron" and ordered the Nisei's return to the roster. "He saved my neck," Kuroki said.

He recalls Brannan backing him: "Kuroki goes with us and that's that."

In August 1942, just before Kuroki's





Now 95 and living in Camarillo, Calif., Ben Kuroki is pictured above with his wife, Shige, and friend, Akari Johnston.

group was to leave for England for additional training, he was again scratched from the roster. This time, Col. Edward Timberlake overrode the order, barking: "Bring him along."

As a technical sergeant, Kuroki became a B-24 turret gunner with the nickname Most Honorable Son, courtesy of his crewmates.

According to Bill Kubota's documentary "Honorable Son: Ben Kuroki's Amazing War Story," the Air Corps required B-24 crew members to complete 25 missions; most averaged 10.

After 25 missions, Kuroki volunteered for five more.

He should have been killed on his 30th mission, in late 1943 over Muenster, Germany, when flak shattered his Plexiglas turret. As chance would have it, his radio man below tugged on Kuroki's pant leg, and just as he bent down to talk, the turret was struck. He was knocked out, but unharmed.

After that, in January 1944, the War Department gave Kuroki a new assignment: public relations. It started out with static. According to Carroll Stewart's booklet "The Most Honorable Son: Ben Kuroki," the war hero was about to be interviewed on a popular radio show in Los Angeles in January 1944 when the plug was pulled at the last moment just as a producer on Ginny Simms' radio show got cold feet at the idea of a Japanese American discussing his perspective on the war. The news coverage of the cancellation led to an invitation to speak at San Francisco's Commonwealth Club the next month.

"He was really well-spoken," filmmaker Kubota told IDB. "He keeps saying he was just this farmer from Nebraska, but he was important, almost a statesman in a way — not that he sought that out."

A nervous Kuroki spoke for 40 minutes about the trials he overcame to join the Air Corps, the Ploiesti raid, seeing his pals die and how he learned the true meaning of equality and tolerance after 15 months of combat. He received a 10-minute standing ovation.

Kuroki then received his next orders: off to three of the 10 confinement camps to persuade fellow Japanese Americans to serve their country. "I was really shocked to see my own people in these internment camps like that," he said.

With the war far from over, the military needed every able-bodied man — including incarcerated Japanese Americans.

Although Kuroki was admired by most younger Japanese Americans, his Heart Mountain, Wyo., appearance didn't exactly draw a ticker-tape parade from those who felt the federal government had no right to draft them while their rights were abrogated.

Still, Kuroki swayed many of his fellow Nisei toward wearing Army green in the segregated 442nd Regiment, which served in Europe and North Africa in WWII and became the most highly decorated unit in U.S. military history for size and length of service.

Heartbroken upon learning his childhood pal, Gordy Jorgenson, was killed on the Solomon Islands by the Japanese, Kuroki put in for service as a gunner aboard the new B-29 — but the War Department excluded Japanese Americans from serving in bombers in the Pacific.

Kuroki received heavyweight backing from Monroe Deutsch, provost at the University of California, Berkeley; Chester Rowell, editor of the *San Francisco Chronicle*; and Ray Wilbur, former president of Stanford University — all of whom heard the young soldier at the Commonwealth Club.

Their appeal to Secretary of War Henry Stimson led to an exception, granted by Stimson himself, thanks to Kuroki's "splendid record."

By mid-1944, Kuroki was flying out of Tinian Island, near Saipan, on the way to 28 bombing missions. When his B-29 dropped bombs on Japan, he felt for the women and children on the ground, he told filmmaker Kubota.

After Kuroki's last mission, according to Stewart's booklet, a drunken fellow GI entered his barracks and yelled at him: "Tojo and Kuroki, damned Japs!"

Angered, Kuroki countered, "You can call Tojo a damned Jap, but don't call me one."

A fight ensued, and the unarmed Kuroki was almost killed by his knife-wielding assailant.

He was hospitalized with 24 sutures to his scalp. "That's when they dropped the atomic bomb," Kuroki said, referring to the Enola Gay — the B-29 that had been parked next to his B-29, the Sad Saki — which dropped the first of two of the weapons on Japanese cities. "The war ended, everybody jumped in planes and went home right away. They put me on a slow Liberty ship, and it took 21 days to get to San Francisco."

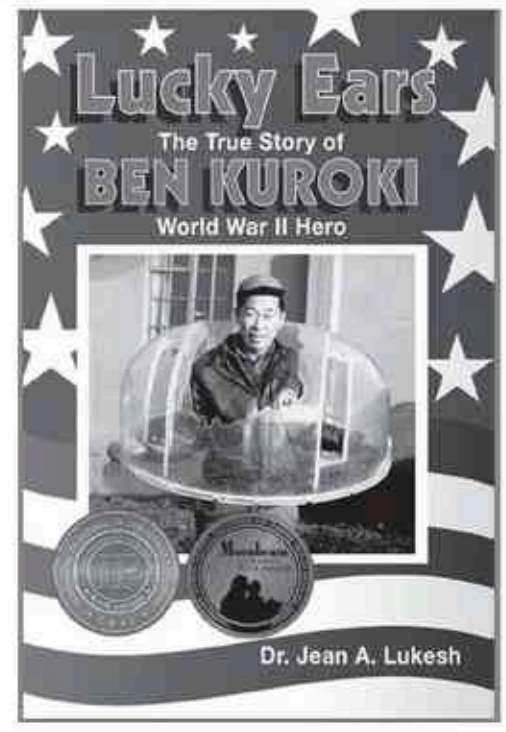
After recovering, he met his wife in Utah, used the GI Bill to get a journalism degree from the University of Nebraska in 1950, launched a career as a newspaperman and raised three daughters.

The world nearly forgot about Ben Kuroki. Among those who didn't were fellow soldiers eager to land him greater recognition.

Kuroki said he was invited to the White House four times in three years, with President Bush telling him on one of those visits, "I am proud to tell you, America is a better place because of you, Ben."

Kuroki's Keys

- The turret gunner was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal for his bravery in WWII.
- Overcame: Obstacles barring Japanese Americans from military service.
- Lesson: Persevere to achieve your goals.
- "I had to fight like hell to fight for my country."



This article originally appeared in the Dec. 7, 2012, edition of *Investor's Business Daily*, where George T. Johnston serves as assistant news editor.

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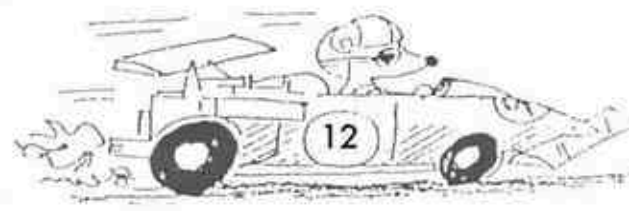
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A Year Dominated by Politics

By John Tateishi

When I reflect on 2012, in my mind it has been a year dominated by politics. Perhaps that's stating the obvious in an election year, but then, politics always seem to be at the forefront of my mind.

Singed in my memory are several things: the Republicans filibustering the Senate to stop any and all bills they didn't love; Paul Ryan boasting about his budget plan, which in reality was a vague synopsis of an even vaguer plan; the circus that became the Republican primary debates with its bevy of candidates out-clowning each other. I mean, really, did anyone take that group seriously?

What became obvious was this: Those vying for the Republican nomination were pandering to the right wing of the party. I don't mean to the conservative elements but to the extreme right, and they kept tripping over each other to prove who could be more conservative and extreme. It also seemed to me that in so doing, they each showed how easy, and sad, it is to sellout to one's own ambition.

As 2012 progressed from January through the spring and then on to the long days of summer, I watched with frustration President Barack Obama's ongoing inability to negotiate with the Republican leadership on issues of major importance to the country — things like the national debt ceiling, the budget and on finding measures to help ease the pain of unemployment. At times, it made me long for the days of someone like President Lyndon B. Johnson, who was more like a battering ram than a diplomat.

It was a year in which partisan politics became more important than doing what's best for the nation, where Republicans stuck to their pledge to ensure that President Obama would not be re-elected by refusing to consider any measures that could lead to an economic recovery. The term *fiscal responsibility* became the battle cry of the right wing, but fiscal responsibility at what cost, I wondered.

It was a year in which the intransigence of Republicans in both chambers made me wonder if their pledge to Grover Norquist's Americans for Tax Reform took precedence over their sworn pledge of office to carry out their constitutional responsibility to protect the well-being of the nation from threats both foreign and domestic . . . like Norquist's egomaniacal hold on Republicans.

In June, there were the Supreme Court decisions on the Affordable Care Act, aka "Obamacare," on Arizona's anti-immigration measure and on Citizens United — all judicial decisions but nonetheless all steeped in politics.

And in an election year in which we found ourselves on one side or the other of the political landscape, there was the presidential campaign and an election result that delighted Democrats but baffled Republicans to the point of disbelief and shock.

The presidential election sharply defined the differences between Democrats and Republicans. The Grand Old Party came out looking like its members didn't care much for or about women, African-Americans, Latinos, trade unions, the middle class, the 47 percent within the 99 percent, young voters, marriage equality for gays, education, the


President Barack Obama Wins the 2012 Election

environment, climate change and the separation of church and state.

Instead, Republicans turned their appeal to the wealthy and white blue-collar workers and rural voters, choosing to look back to a twice-failed trickle-down economic theory that felt like backward social policies.

The Tea Party also forced its will on the Republican Party in 2012 and made it virtually impossible to negotiate any compromises on issues that had even a hint of fiscal impact, forcing Republicans to take extreme stands and pushing the nation even further right than it already was.

And as the year began to wind down, 2012 found one last juicy scandal that began when two ambitious women overstepped their bounds and two Army generals who should have known better didn't, thus ending with the disgrace of one and the demise of the other's future military career.

Lastly, to put a final imprint on the year, Senate Republicans assaulted U.N. Ambassador Susan Rice for comments she made about the Benghazi terrorist attacks on the Sunday talk shows, criticizing her for presenting faulty intelligence information about the attack that killed U.S. Ambassador to Libya Christopher Stevens, forgetting that another Rice, Condoleezza, presented false intelligence information to the world, leading the U.S. to a senseless war in Iraq. And it was an army of Republican senators who defended those doctored reports. What do you mean that politics is full of hypocrisies?

But there's political hope in our future. President Obama made it clear in his post-election press conference that the economic policy he argued for throughout his campaign will rule the day and that he will be the strong and forceful leader many of us have yearned for. As Republicans criticize the president for leading the nation to the fiscal cliff, their threats are empty because either way, the fulfillment of the president's election promises on tax reform appear more inevitable as we march to the end of the year; seeing that inevitability, Republicans are beginning to break ranks to show that the nation's interest comes first.

If this column sounds negative, it's because it is. Although I'm a die-hard Democrat, I don't gloat over the seeming demise of the Republican Party. In fact, I worry about where the party has gone in its desperate effort to appeal to the extreme right as much as I worry about how the Democratic Party has shifted so far right that it no longer resembles the party that brought us the Civil Rights Act and the equally important Voting Rights Act, the party that had the conviction to end segregation and the courage to bring great social (not socialist) programs such as Social Security and Medicare.



'It was a year in which partisan politics became more important than doing what's best for the nation . . .'

I worry because I believe we're far better off with two parties that represent core beliefs without their fringe taking over as the Tea Party and Christian right and Americans for Tax Reform have done with the Republican Party.

And I worry that the Congress Newt Gingrich left in his wake is so embittered and partisan that the concept of politics in Washington, D.C., has to be redefined as a battleground rather than a place where opposing views can come together with the resolve to find solutions to the nation's problems through compromise. Search and destroy is a tactic best left on the battlefields of war — not in Congress.

I'm hopeful that President Obama's press conference and the new receptiveness of some Republicans signal a change in the coming year.

I'm also hopeful that the year to come will be better than this, the year that was. ■

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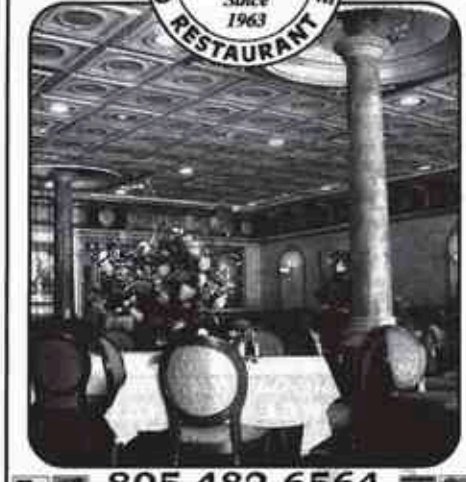
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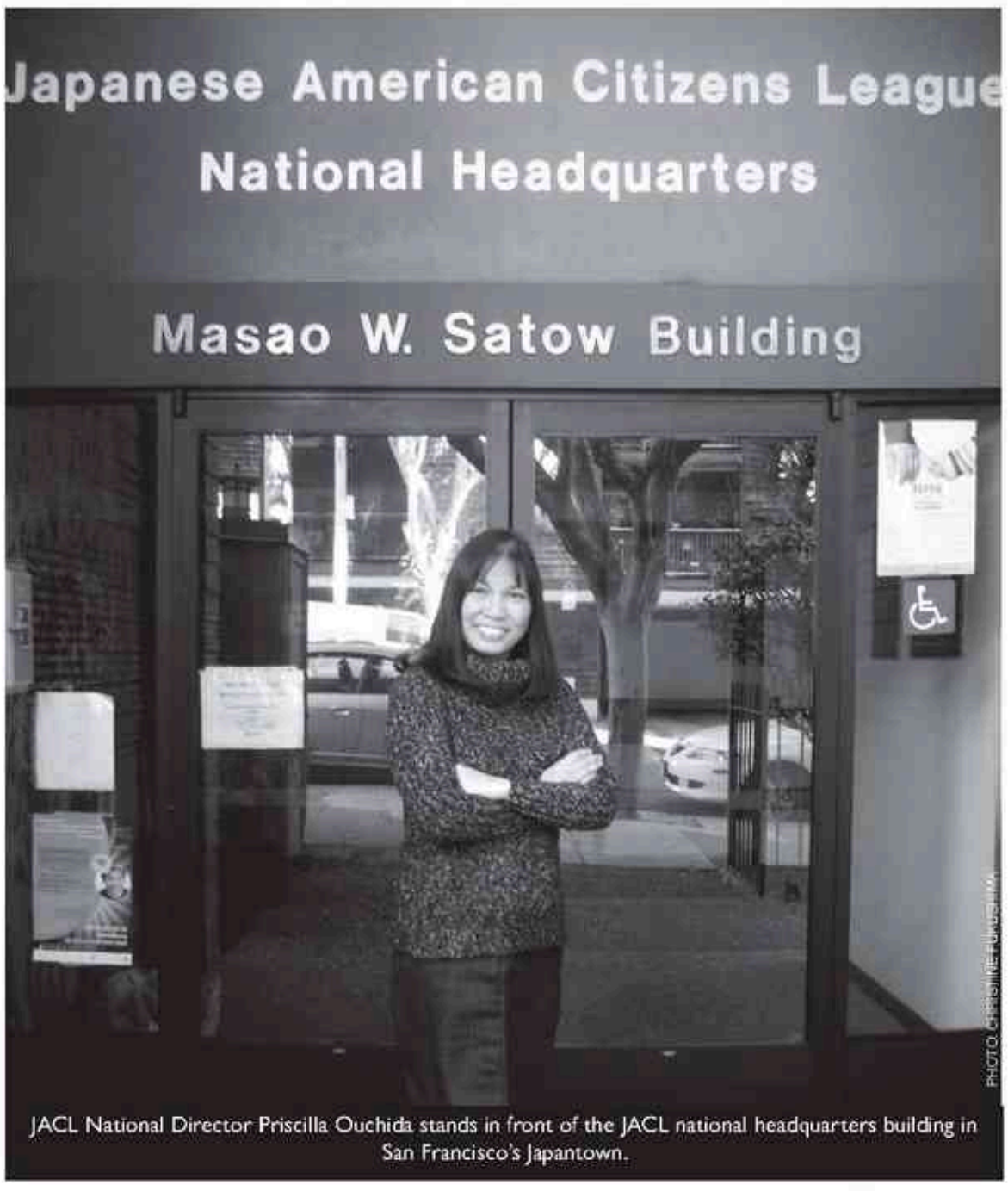
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The 2012-14 JACL national board is sworn in during the 2012 JACL National Convention, which was held in Bellevue, Wash., in July. Pictured *(from left)* are Secretary/Treasurer Matthew Farrells; National President David Lin; the late Elaine Akagi, who was elected vp of general operations; VP of Public Affairs Craig Tomiyoshi; VP of Membership John Moy; Chair of National Youth/Student Council Jeffrey Moy; and Youth Rep. Mariko Newton. Standing at the podium is Rep. Mike Honda (D-Calif.).

National Highlights JACL



JACL National Director Priscilla Ouchida stands in front of the JACL national headquarters building in San Francisco's Japantown.

The nation's oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization underwent historic changes in 2012. On March 1, Priscilla Ouchida became the first woman in the history of the organization to be named JACL national director. And in July, David Lin became the first American of Chinese heritage to be elected national president of the JACL.

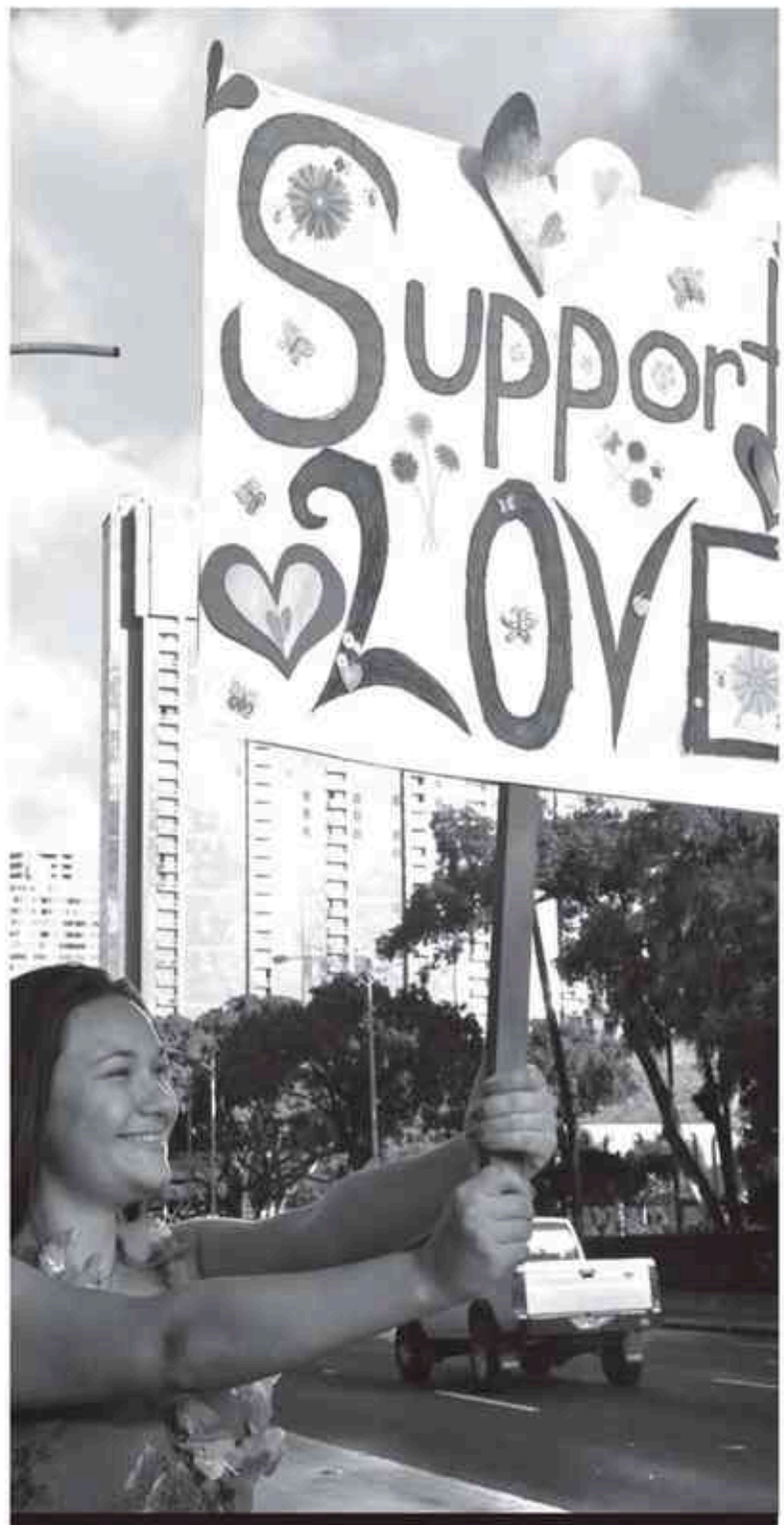
With its new leadership in place, the JACL continued to pave the way for civil and human rights while helping the APA community maintain its cultural roots and values.



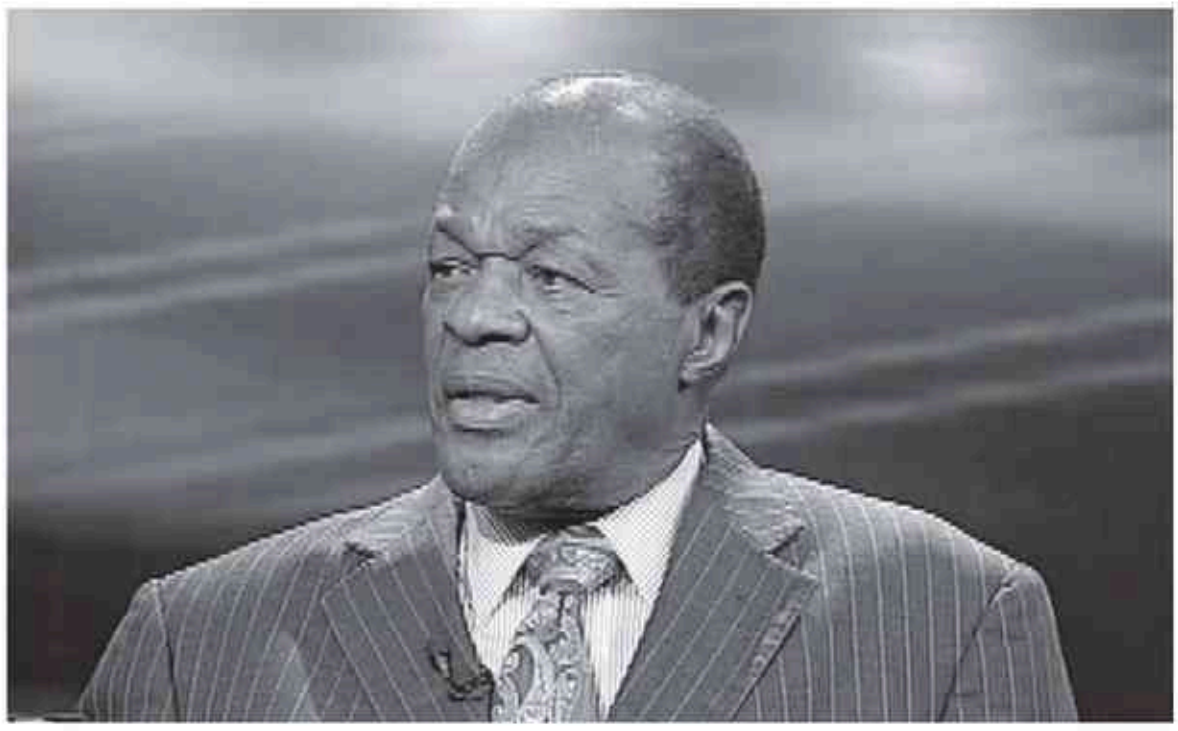
In November, JACL National Director Priscilla Ouchida attended a meet and greet event with several JACL chapters in Northern California. Pictured *(from left)* are Emily Teruya, Diablo Valley Chapter; Ron Tanaka, Berkeley Chapter; Judith Aono, Diablo Valley Chapter; Don Delcollo, Contra Costa Chapter; Ouchida; Mary Ann Furuichi, Contra Costa Chapter; Alexandra Tagawa, Berkeley Chapter; and Al Satake, Berkeley Chapter.



Six people were killed and three wounded on Aug. 5 when a gunman opened fire at a Sikh temple in Wisconsin. JACL teamed up with the OCA to create a fund to support the victims. JACLer Greg Marutani *(pictured above)* attended a candlelight vigil in San Francisco to support the Sikh community.



When President Barack Obama publicly announced in an interview with ABC News' Robin Roberts that he supports same-sex marriage, the JACL praised the commander in chief for his "historic stance."



JACL issued a statement on April 25 condemning Washington, D.C., Councilman Marion Barry's disparaging remarks about Asian American business owners in the city. The organization was one of many Asian Pacific American groups to demand an apology from the councilman.

Community Highlights

JACL GO FOR GOLD

The P.C. salutes the many JACL chapters who honored our war veterans in 2012.



PLACER COUNTY Nearly 500 people gathered on Nov. 10 in Loomis, Calif., for the Placer County Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony, which honored Nisei who served in the military between 1941 and 1946. The ceremony also included the awarding of 14 posthumous Bronze Stars, the fourth-highest combat award of the U.S. Armed Forces. In all, more than 80 Gold Medals were awarded on this day, either to living veterans or to their family members. Pictured above are veterans *(back row, from left)* Shig Yokote, George Hamai, Asa Hanamoto, Norman Kamada, Frank Kageta, Leo Hosoda, James Iso and *(front row, from left)* Mack Tsujimoto, Tom Takahashi, George Kakiuchi, Masao Hamamoto, Goichi Hamamoto, George Goto and Frank Fujita.

NCWN PDC

The Northern California Western Nevada Pacific (NCWNP) District is the largest district within the JACL, both geographically and in terms of members and number of chapters.

At the national level, the district increased its presence this year with the selection in March of Priscilla Ouchida as JACL national director. Priscilla has spent her entire life in Sacramento and was very active in the Sacramento chapter. Also hailing from the Sacramento chapter is Miko Sawamura, the new JACL vp for general operations.

This year, many NCWNP chapters held local Gold Medal ceremonies to honor Nisei veterans who served in World War II. Special ceremonies were held in Sonoma County, Marysville, Placer County, Sacramento/Florin, San Francisco, San Jose, Watsonville, Cortez/Livingston, Monterey and Honolulu.

In addition, the Berkeley Chapter has been supporting the documentary "Honor and Sacrifice: Nisei Patriots in the MIS." Roy Matsumoto is a life member of the Berkeley Chapter and is a MIS veteran who was a member of the legendary "Merrill's Marauders."

In October, the Placer County Chapter unveiled a statue *(top)* honoring the 442nd RCT and the Rescue of the Lost Texas Battalion. This statue in Roseville and accompanying monuments also honors all Nisei WWII veterans and their families who were unjustly incarcerated.

The district also jointly sponsored the Memorial Day Ceremony with the Golden Gate Nisei Post at the National Cemetery in San Bruno. A potluck luncheon was held at JACL headquarters in San Francisco following the ceremony.

— David Unruhe, district governor

NCWN PDC

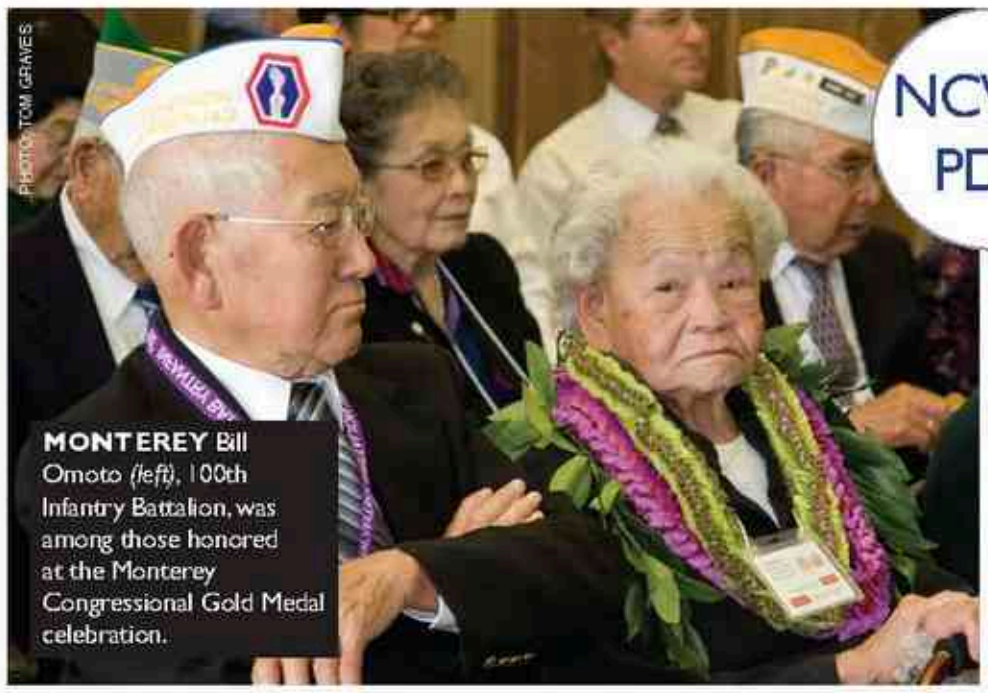


PHOTO: TOM GRAVES

MONTEREY Bill Omoto *(left)*, 100th Infantry Battalion, was among those honored at the Monterey Congressional Gold Medal celebration.



PHOTO: GONNAMI FUJI

SONOMA U.S. Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey presented replica Gold Medals to *(from left)* T/Sgt. Shiro Nakano (MIS), Pfc Minobu Furuta (442nd), Capt. Frank Masuoka (MIS) and S/Sgt. Ted Ito (442nd).

CCDC



In November 2011, Nisei veterans from the Central Valley made the trip to Washington, D.C., to personally receive their Congressional Gold Medals. Many are pictured here along with Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta *(seated third from the left)*.

Clovis — A tribute to the heroic Nisei veterans from the Central Valley was held on Feb. 19 at the Clovis Veterans Memorial Building. Replica Congressional Gold Medals were given at the Day of Remembrance event. "Because many of our local veterans could not travel to the Capital for the national ceremony, we wanted to take the opportunity here at home to pay tribute to their courage and patriotism," said Dale Ikeda, event co-chair.



PHOTO: CURTIS SUYEMATSU

PNWDC

OREGON Pictured here are Nisei veterans *(front row, from left)* Shizuo Kondo, Leke Nakashimada, Hakuzo Nitta, Jim Onchi, Larry Saito, Noboru Takashima, Akira (Ike) Iwasaki, Art Iwasaki and Kazumi Oda; *(second row)* Shig Imai; *(back row, from left)* Eisaku (Ace) Hiromura, Lorry Nakatsu, Kenji Yaguchi, Ben Soejima, Joe Onchi, Mark Namba, Sam Naito, Jimmy Mizuta, Shigeo Kuroye and Tex Irinaga.

Oregon — Twenty Nisei World War II veterans were presented with Congressional Gold Medals at a local ceremony held on Feb. 26. The event was organized by the Oregon Nikkei Endowment and the Oregon Nisei Veterans. More than 450 people attended the event at the Multnomah Athletic Club in Portland to recognize soldiers of the 442nd Regiment, 100th Battalion and Military Intelligence Service. The Gold Medals were presented to the veterans by Congressman Earl Blumenauer and retired Lt. Gen. Joseph Peterson and Brigadier Gen. Bruce Prunk.

PNWDC



The Pacific Northwest District Council mourns the passing of Elaine Akagi. During more than fifty years in JACL and in the field of Education, she has touched tens of thousands of lives and has enriched each and every one of them. She was a very special lady, and we all miss her very much.

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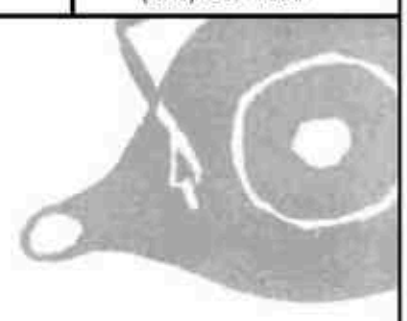
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IDAHO Pictured *(from left)* are Nisei veterans Sagie Nishihara, Harry Kawahara, Gov. Otter, Watanabe and Jack Ogami.

IDC

Idaho — Idaho Gov. Butch Otter hosted a Day of Remembrance proclamation signing ceremony on Feb. 20. Among the 65 attendees were Nisei veterans who recently received the Congressional Gold Medal. "When you are honored by your country, it's a magnificent feeling," said Nisei veteran Stanley Watanabe. "Serving your country is a privilege and an honor."



Salt Lake City — An audience of more than 1,000 gathered on Feb. 18 at the Grand Ballroom of Salt Lake City's Grand America Hotel to honor heroic Nisei soldiers of World War II at a Utah Regional Celebration *(above)*. A total of 141 replica Congressional Gold Medals were awarded to 36 surviving Nisei veterans and the families of 105 deceased members of the 100th Infantry Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service. Among the 141 honorees were three women who served in the Women's Army Corps.



ARIZONA The JACL Arizona Chapter Japanese Senior Center celebrated Veterans Day in October by honoring veterans *(pictured above)* who served in various branches of the U.S. military. The veterans were given awards and recognition for their dedicated years of service.

The chapters that comprise the Midwestern District of the JACL are all very active in the community, raising awareness of Japanese culture and heritage, educating all interested individuals about the history of Japanese Americans, sharing our desire to sponsor and fund scholarships and raising funds for our activities. It is with pride that we share some of our chapters' many activities and fun times!

— Colleen Morimoto, Midwest district governor, and William Yoshino, Midwest district regional director

MDC



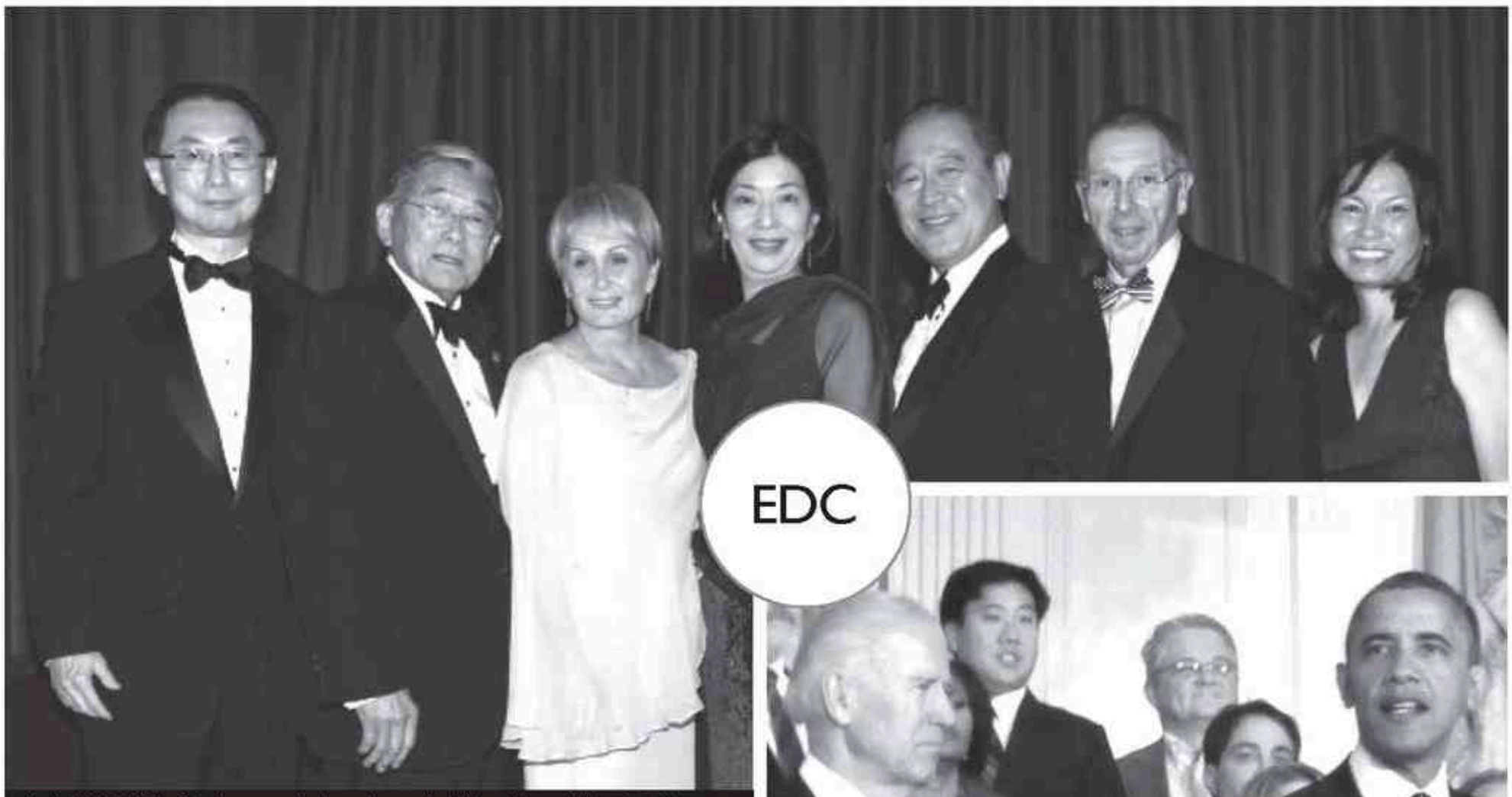
ILLINOIS In April, the Nikkei World War II Veterans Tribute recognized the contributions of Nisei veterans who served during WWII but are ineligible for the Congressional Gold Medal. "As wonderful as the Congressional Gold Medal is, we wanted to include the many Japanese Americans who served with no less distinction," said Howard Hieshima, chair of the tribute.



WISCONSIN Mayor Tom Barrett presented proclamations to each of Wisconsin JACL's Congressional Gold Medal veteran members. Consul General Yoshifumi Okamura *(below)* from the Japanese Consulate in Chicago served as the event's guest speaker. Pictured at left are event honorees.



EDC



At the 2012 JACL Gala, Japanese Ambassador to the United States Ichiro Fujisaki was presented the JACL President's Award. Pictured *(from left)* are JACL National President David Lin; U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta and his wife, Deni; Yoriko Fujisaki; Fujisaki; PNW District Governor Chip Larouche; and JACL National Director Priscilla Ouchida.

In his first public remarks since his re-election in November, President Obama called for making middle-class tax cuts permanent.

Washington, D.C. — The Washington, D.C. chapter remained extremely busy in 2012. In September, it held the sixth annual JACL Gala "A Salute to Champions," where Japanese Ambassador to the United States Ichiro Fujisaki was among the many honorees. In November, National Director Priscilla Ouchida attended President Obama's first public remarks since his re-election. Obama called upon Congress to work with him on preserving lower tax rates. And as the year ended, the chapter is hard at work planning the 2013 JACL Convention, set for July 24-26 in Washington, D.C.

PSWDC



(From left) Collegiate Japanese American interns Cathy He, Sakura Kato, Vivian Shih, Lawrence Lan and Lisa Lei



PHOTO: MARISSA KITAZAWA

Katarou Histories participants Evelyn Mitarai *(left)* and Paige Negoro collaborate together on collective poetry during their workshop session.

Los Angeles — The PSW thanks the chapters and our members for their work in supporting the JACL's mission to advocate for the civil rights of all people. This year, the PSW District launched its first intergenerational program, Katarou Histories, in the San Fernando Valley. This unique program, sponsored by AT&T, brought together individuals from many generations to share their stories and discover the hidden JA history of the valley. The Collegiate Japanese American Internship, sponsored by Southern California Edison, wrapped up its second year and provided hands-on community-based advocacy experience to dedicated college students. The PSW once again participated in Camp Musubi, a middle school JA heritage and cultural program, and Bridging Communities, a high school interethnic collaboration program.

— Eri Kameyama, PSW program associate

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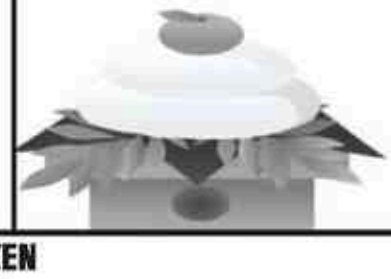
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Sequoia Chapter

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Greetings from
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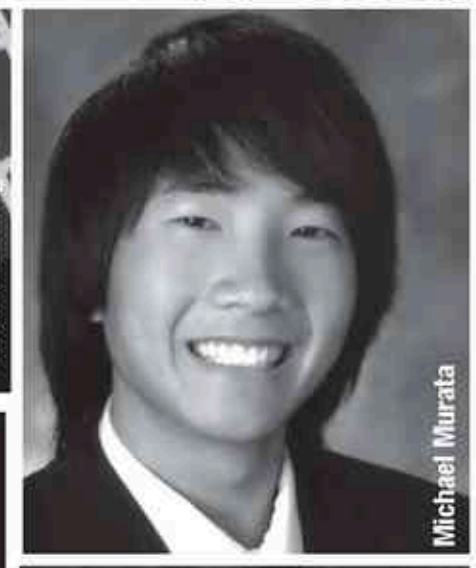
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2012 National JACL Scholarship Winners

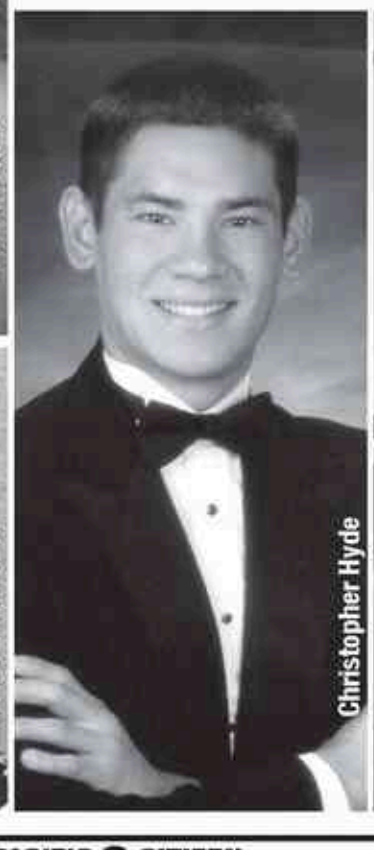
This year's National JACL Scholarship Program awarded a total of $61,000 to the 25 most-deserving applicants in their respective categories. This year, the student applicants were asked to address the following statement: "One young person remarked, 'Our generation believes in civil rights, but don't feel we need to join a civil rights organization like the JACL.'"

We congratulate all of 2012's student scholars and wish them well in their future endeavors.

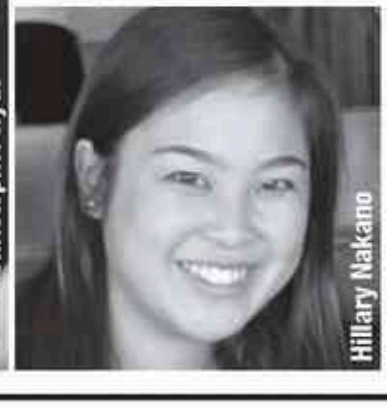

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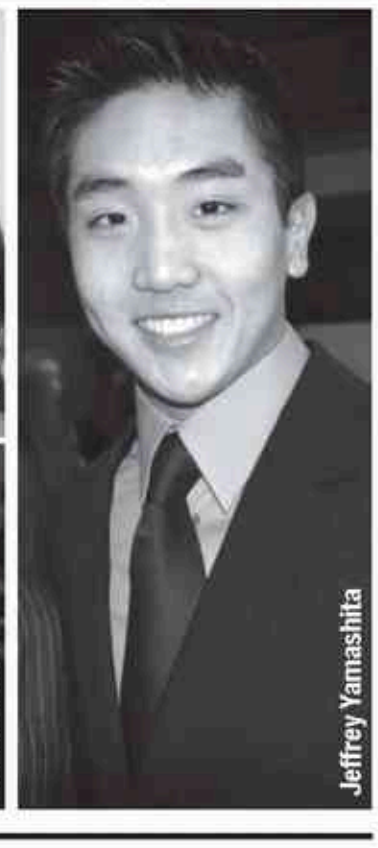

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Valley Buddhist Temple	monthly TBD Sun 10 AM
Kinyu Ginshi-kai, Valley Shibu	Thurs 9 PM
Hoshunki Minyo Odori	Wed 6:30 PM
Karaoke	1st Sat 6:30 PM
Shiatsu (Massage)	Sat 9:30 AM
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Happy Holidays

Mas & Norma Jean Yamashita

Grandchildren
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Brian and Jodi Moriguchi

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Nikkei Village Inc., is a non-profit venture by the San Fernando Valley Community Center, providing federally subsidized low income housing. Your inquiries are invited. Further information may be obtained by contacting Ms. Chico Iida, Manager, Nikkei Village Housing Inc., 9551 Laurel Canyon Blvd., Pacoima, CA 91331. (818) 897-7571. And, for information on Nikkei Senior Gardens, an assisted living facility for the elderly, contact Harry Nakada, (818) 892-7522.

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Los Angeles, CA

Have a Blessed Holiday Season

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Happy Holidays

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& Family &
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& Nicholas

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From the Kobata Family

Happy New Year

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Happy Holidays



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Happy Holidays
Lily Ikuta

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FUYO & KATS ARIMOTO

and the 9 grandchildren

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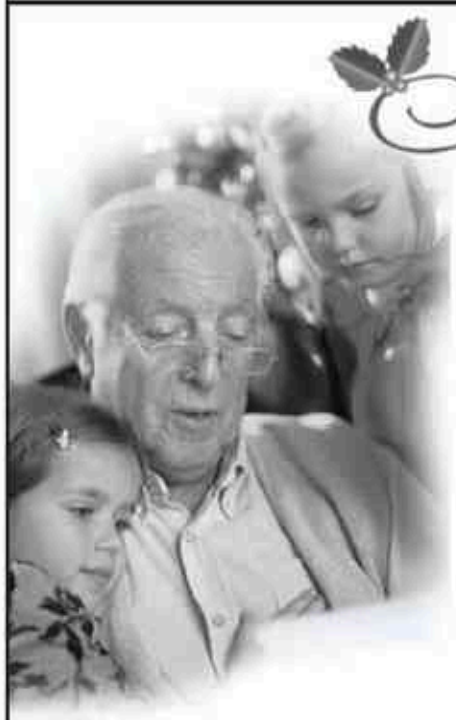
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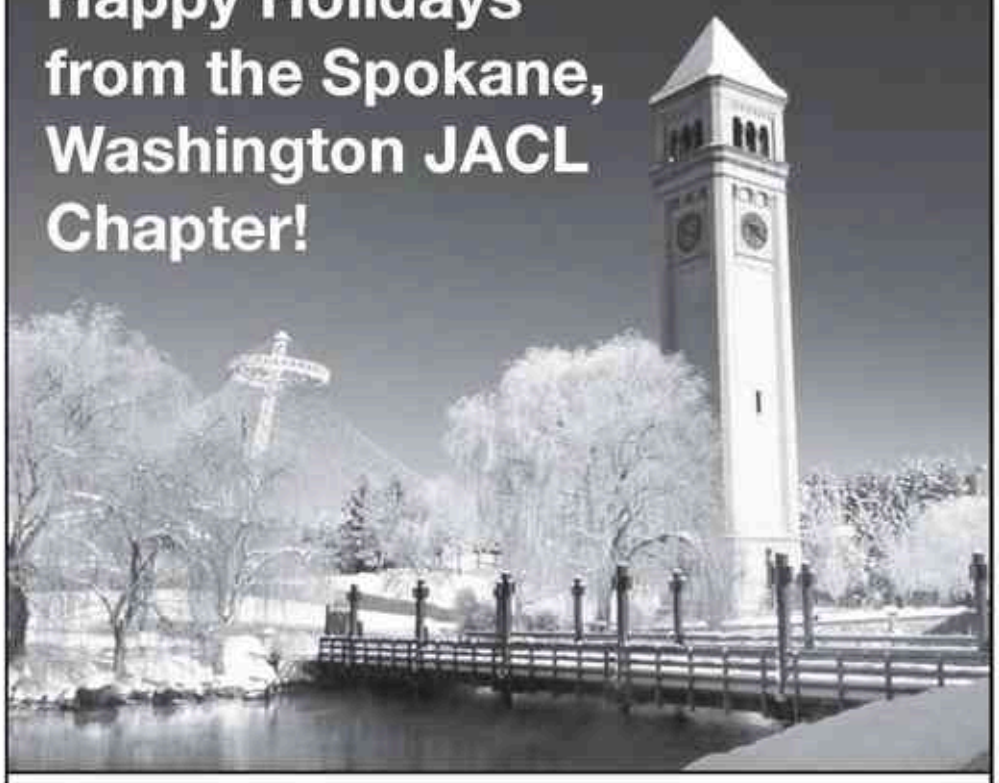
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Local award winners were honored again at the Emperor's Birthday Reception, with Consul General Ono *(at left)* and Kimiko Side *(at right)*, who was given the Emperor's Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays commendation, giving a toast.



NIKKEI VOICE

Ties between Colorado and Japan were strengthened in 2012

By Gil Asakawa

This was a good year for Japanese and Japanese Americans in Colorado. A lot of the credit goes to Consul General Ikuhiko Ono, who came to Denver late last year. He has truly made a concerted effort to reach out to the local JA community.

Previous consul generals have invited local JA leaders to their official residence for private dinners and special receptions and events, including an annual reception at a downtown Denver hotel to mark the birthday of Emperor Akihito, a national holiday in Japan, celebrated Dec. 23 on his actual birthday.

The Birthday Reception is a lively annual reunion for the local Japanese and JA community. We've been invited for years, and we end up seeing a lot of people only at this event. It's a great opportunity to catch up with one another.

But Consul General Ono and his staff do much more than just hold a party every December. During the past year, he has interacted with the community in lots of other ways, too — partly because of the aftermath of the March 11, 2011, earthquake and tsunami that devastated northeast Japan. Ono arrived in Colorado in the wake of a number of fundraising efforts for disaster relief, including events and donation drives by the Japanese community.

I recently spoke to a graduate student working on the JA community's response to the temblor and tsunami. Although many Japanese Americans don't feel a strong connection to Japan outside of some family traditions, familiarity with Japanese food and the habit of taking off shoes in their homes, the March 11 disaster reconnected all Japanese Americans to the country of their roots. They may not have reached out to contact distant relatives (most Japanese Americans' family origins were in southern Japan's prefectures anyway, so they weren't affected by the tragedy), but the disaster may have nudged their connection to the country out of sympathy and empathy.

The outpouring of emotion and support for Japan was so genuine that Consul General Ono thanked the community during a one-year memorial reception in March that featured the Kyogaku taiko drum group from Matsukawa, Japan. Ono and his staff (and his charming wife, Eiko) have been busy marking anniversaries and building bridges with the Japanese American community all year long.

And because this was the 100th anniversary of the gift of cherry blossom trees from Japan to the United States, the Consulate held a series of plantings of cherry blossom seedlings throughout Colorado. At many of these events, the Consulate featured Japanese cultural performances and flower-arranging displays by Denver-area artisans.

Consul General Ono and his staff have also brought Japanese artists to the area to perform free concerts, including the Abeya Tsugaru Shamisen Ensemble, which features members who are national champions of the stringed instrument in Japan.

Many of these events were well-attended by local Japanese and Japanese Americans.

Previous consul generals have also brought Japanese culture to Denver, though not as often. But Consul General Ono has added a new layer of outreach into the community by aggressively awarding commendations from his office and also facilitating recognition of local JAs by the Japanese government, including not just Coloradans but also recipients from Utah, which the consulate also covers.

Earlier this year, he awarded the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon, to Dr. William I. Higuchi for his work in educational and research exchanges with Japan, in addition to his role as special adviser to the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation, which works to keep alive the memory of the concentration camp there.

Consul General Ono then awarded the Commendation of the Consul General of Japan to two Denverites and a Denver organization for their contribution to ensuring a mutual understanding and establishing closer ties between Japan and the U.S.: Seiji Tanaka, a longtime leader of the Japanese Association of Colorado; Haruhisa Yamamoto, former owner of Denver Tofu Company; and Ikebana International Chapter 66, one of 69 branches of Ikebana International in the United States, which promotes "friendship through



'This was a good year for Japanese and Japanese Americans in Colorado.'

Consul General Ikuhiku Ono and his wife, Eiko, hosted many events and award ceremonies at their Denver home, including this reception to mark the end of the centenary celebration of cherry blossoms given as a gift from Japan to the United States.



Susan Hosokawa Boatright poses with the bust of her father Bill, the longtime Denver journalist and Japanese community leader. The bust was installed at the Denver Public Library, and another was placed at the Denver Botanic Gardens.



Volunteers planted cherry blossom trees at an event sponsored by the Japanese consulate.

flowers" with its artful flower arrangements.

In July, the Consulate awarded the Foreign Affairs Ministry's Foreign Minister's Commendations for promoting mutual understanding between Japan and the U.S. In this region, the recipients included attorney Richard Clark, a founder of the Japan America Society of Colorado (and a behind-the-scenes power who helped bring United Airline's direct flight from Denver to Tokyo, which launches next March); Denver County Court Judge Kerry Hada; and Mr. Raymond Uno, president of the Japanese Community Preservation Committee of Salt Lake City.

In November, Kimiko Side, a longtime leader of the Japanese community who was instrumental in the Denver-Takayama Sister Cities relationship, as well as in many organizations including JACL and JASC, received the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays, an imperial decoration and the highest civilian honor conferred by the country. Side was flown to Japan to receive the award from Emperor Akihito.

And finally, Yamamoto, the man who received the Consul General's commendation for running Denver Tofu for many years long before tofu caught the fancy of mainstream America, was just flown to Japan to receive the Minister of Agriculture's Award for Overseas Promotion of Japanese Food.

On top of the recognition for so many individuals, Denver was buzzing with Japan-related news and events all year, including a major Japan-related exhibit at the Denver Botanic Gardens, a Japanese Gardens conference, the opening and dedication of the Botanic Garden's Bill Hosokawa Bonsai Pavilion and Tea Garden and the installation of a bust of Hosokawa, a JA community leader and longtime journalist, at both the Botanic Gardens and the Denver Public Library. And, of course, the direct flight from Denver International Airport to Tokyo's Narita Airport on United's brand-new 787 Dreamliner jet was announced last spring and will start service on March 31, 2013.

There's a lot for the Japanese and Japanese American community in Colorado to be proud of from this past year. We may be a much smaller population than on the West Coast, but we're making an impact here – and we're building ever-stronger bridges between Denver and Japan.

Have a Happy Holiday and a great New Year, everyone!

Gil Asakawa blogs at www.nikkeiview.com and is a former Pacific Citizen Editorial Board Chair, as well as author of "Being Japanese American" (Stone Bridge Press 2004).

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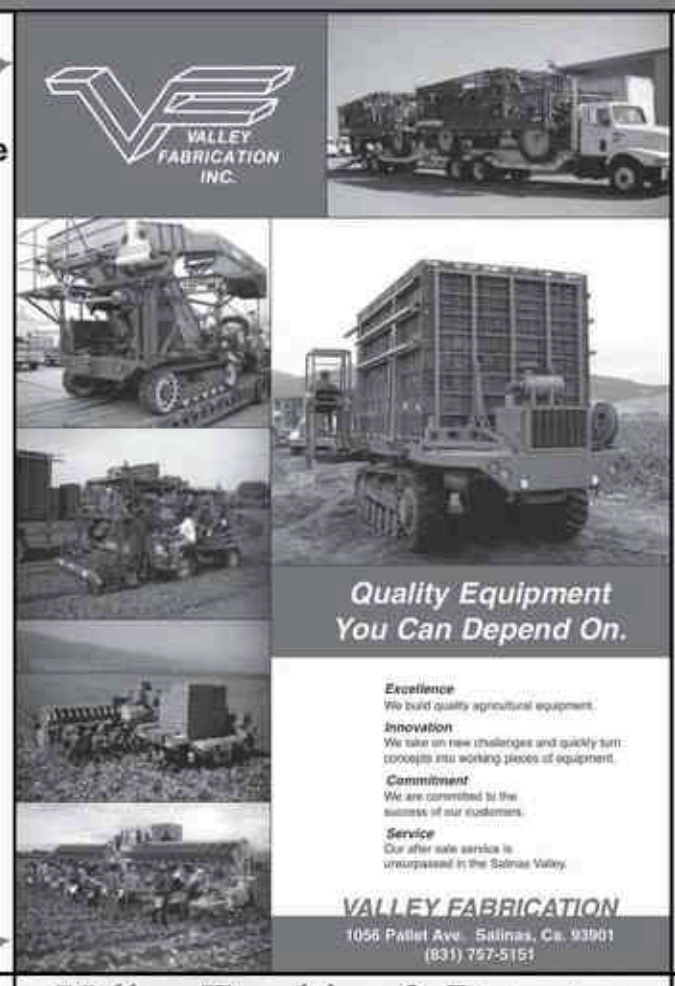
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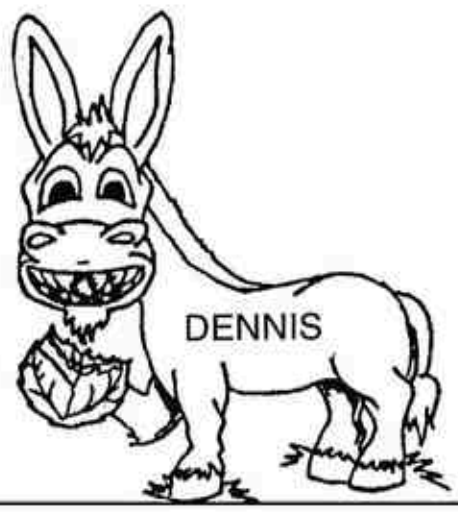
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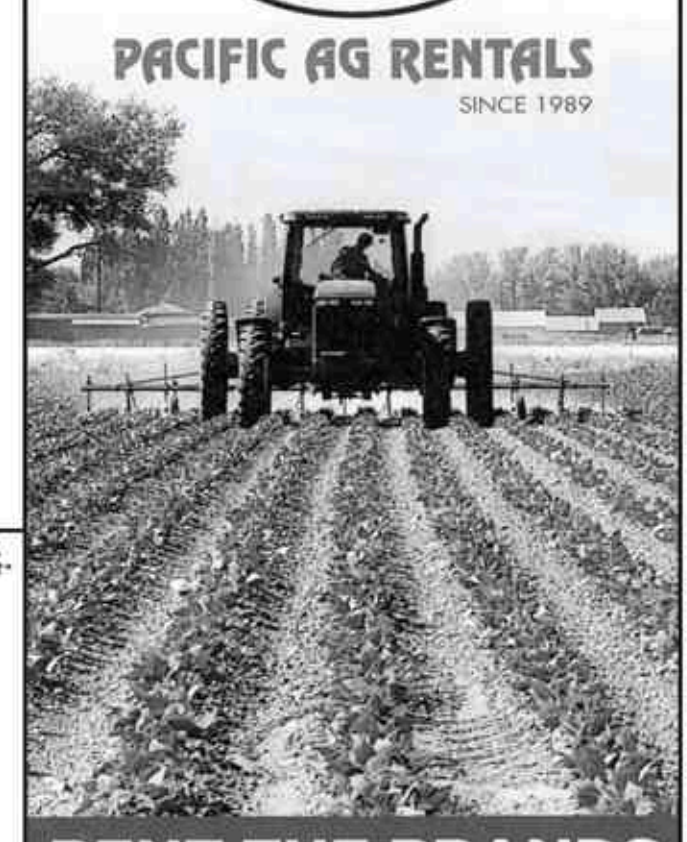
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A COMMUNITY LOSES ITS 'BIG SISTER'

Honoring Frances Hashimoto



PHOTO: MICHELLE SUZUKI

Frances Hashimoto, who died on Nov. 4, took over her family's business, Mikawaya, in 1970. She expanded the very definition of Japanese sweets. Hashimoto is pictured above with L.A. City Councilmember Jan Perry during the Nisei Week parade.

The passing of Frances Hashimoto leaves a hollow in the heart of Little Tokyo that will be very tough to fill.

By M. J. Nomura
Contributor

The gray skies over Downtown Los Angeles Nov. 15 only emphasized the pall cast onto what would have been a joyous occasion. The large gathering sat silent as Joel Friedman strode solemnly to make an offering on the altar erected for his wife, whose absence loomed heavily in the hearts of those present.

The ceremony was for the dedication of the Frances K. Hashimoto Plaza, at East Second and Azusa Streets in Little Tokyo, where the late Mikawaya CEO and community stalwart could be seen regularly, chatting with locals, on her way to her sweets shop or busy in her efforts to help the historically Japanese enclave continue to thrive.

After a long battle, Hashimoto succumbed to lung cancer on Nov. 4 at the age of 69. Her health had been improving to the point where she hoped to attend the previously arranged ceremony at the plaza, but her condition suddenly worsened as the dedication drew nearer.

"She was improving and doing really well, and while we knew it wasn't going to be a long, long time, we believed she was going to be able to return to going out, return to going to dinner, return to visiting and seeing all the people she loved," Friedman said at the dedication. "Unfortunately, it wasn't to be the case."

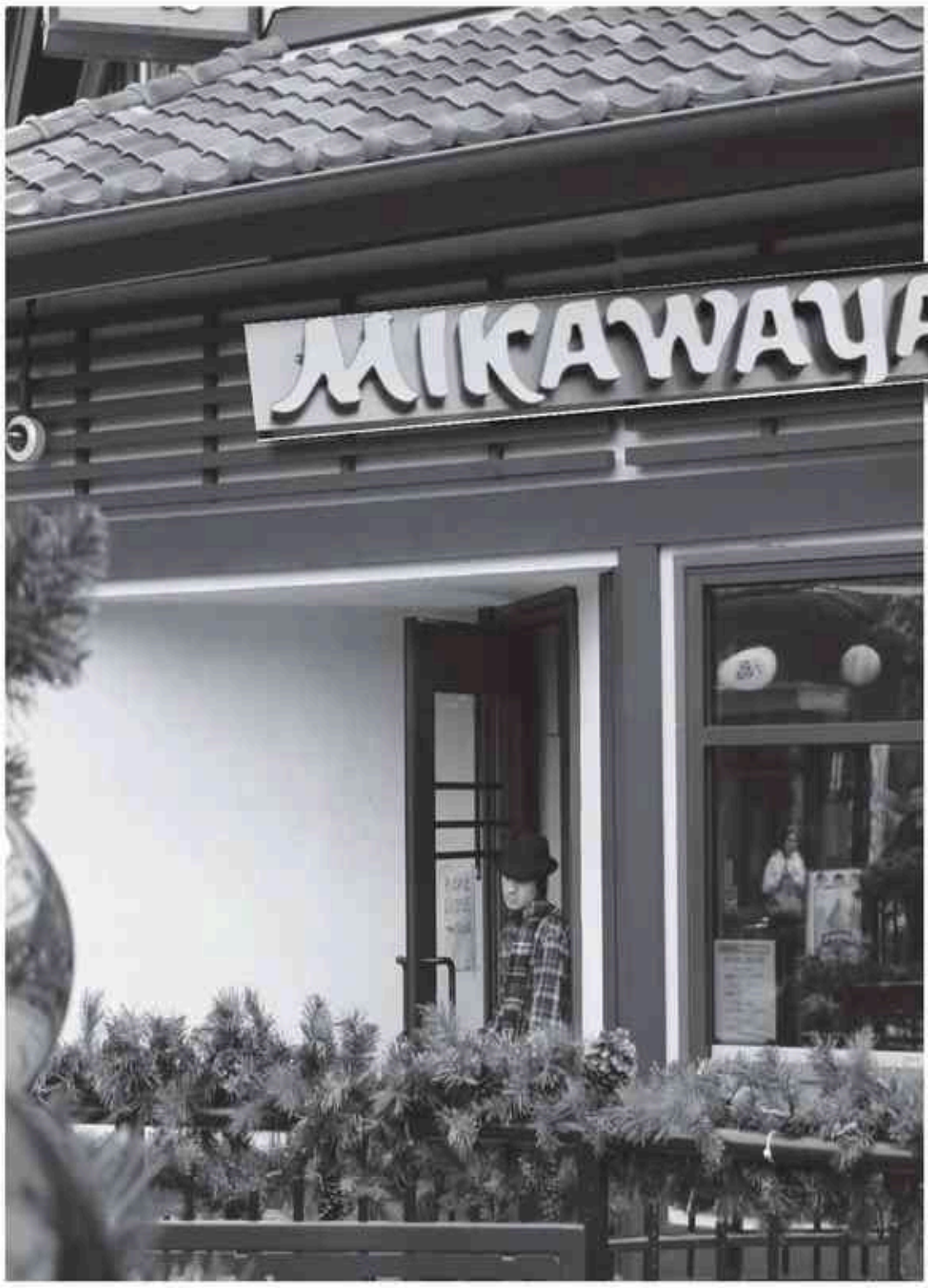
Hashimoto's path to becoming one of Little Tokyo's most influential and progressive business leaders began almost from birth. Her family business, which has spanned 102 years and three generations, flourished under her stewardship after she left her career as a teacher to take over the daily operations.

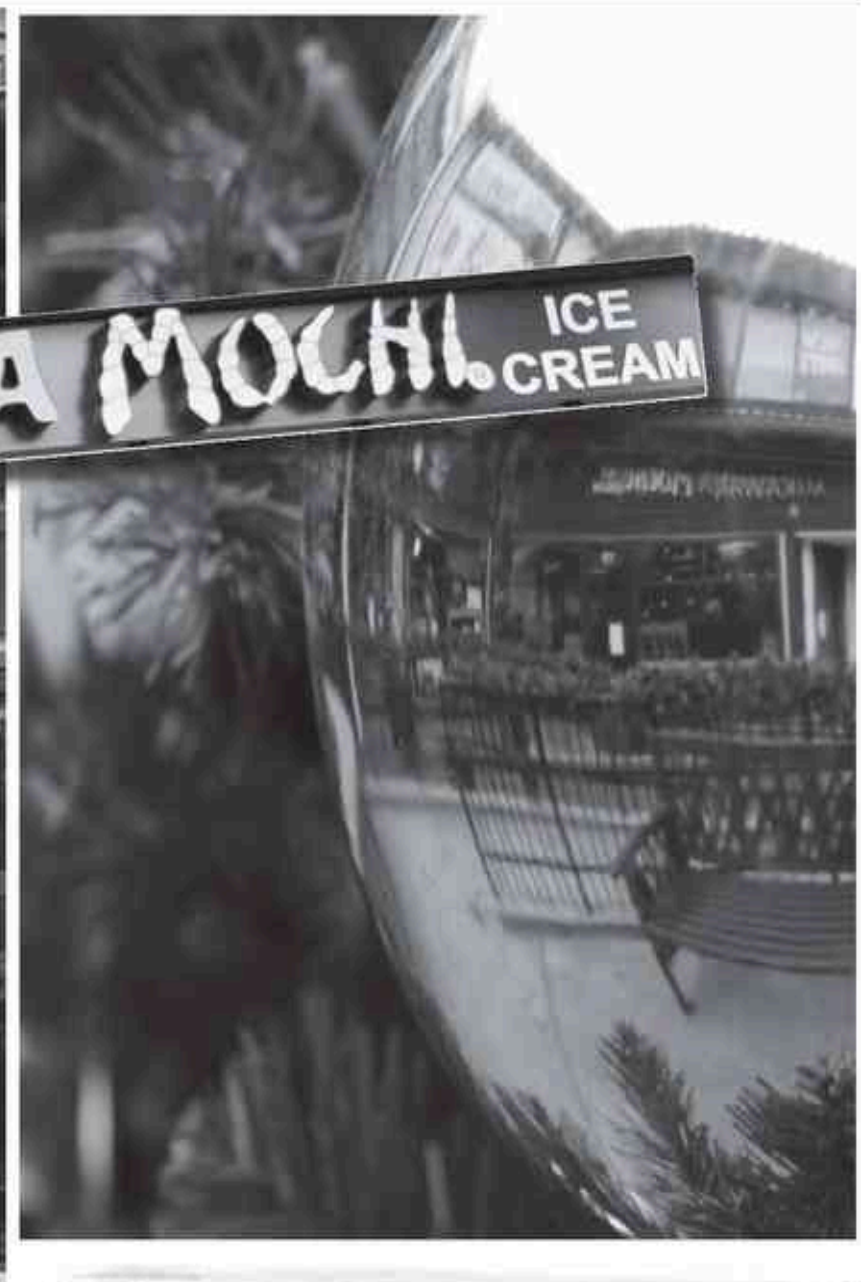
From the single, tiny Mikawaya shop in Little Tokyo, Hashimoto expanded the very definition of Japanese sweets, most notably with the invention of mochi ice cream, opening three more retail outlets across Southern California. The combination of ice cream wrapped in traditional rice cake — mochi — was an instant hit and is now found in mainstream stores such as Trader Joe's, Safeway and Ralphs.

Hashimoto was born on Aug. 26, 1943, at the World War II internment camp in Poston, Ariz. Her parents, Koroku and Haru, were among the more than 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry who were forced to leave their homes and close their businesses in order to be relocated in isolated communities for much of the war. The Hashimoto family's confectionery store, Mikawaya, which opened in Little Tokyo in 1910, was among the businesses shuttered.

In December 1945, shortly after the Japanese surrender that ended the war, Mikawaya reopened in Little Tokyo at 244 E. 1st St. Hashimoto grew up in nearby Boyle Heights, attending Hollenbeck Junior High and Roosevelt High School before moving on to the University of Southern California.

Former Rafu Shimpo editor Ellen Endo, who attended Hollenbeck with Hashimoto, remembered her classmate as a free spirit who pushed the limits,





The Mikawaya retail store in the Japanese Village Plaza Mall *(pictured above)* is a popular attraction in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo.

going so far as to wear her fingernails long and painted in school.

At the behest of her mother, Hashimoto abandoned her career as an elementary school teacher after four years and took over the reins as Mikawaya's CEO. From her first day in 1970, she looked to expand the reach of her family's decades-old store, with an eye toward reaching a decidedly non-Japanese client base.

A bakery was opened on Fourth Street in 1974 and locations were subsequently opened in Torrance and Gardena, Calif., Honolulu, Hawaii, and a new Little Tokyo Store in the Japanese Village Plaza.

The idea that would cement Mikawaya in the history books came from her husband, who sometime in the early 1990s suggested encasing a lump of ice cream inside a sheath of mochi.

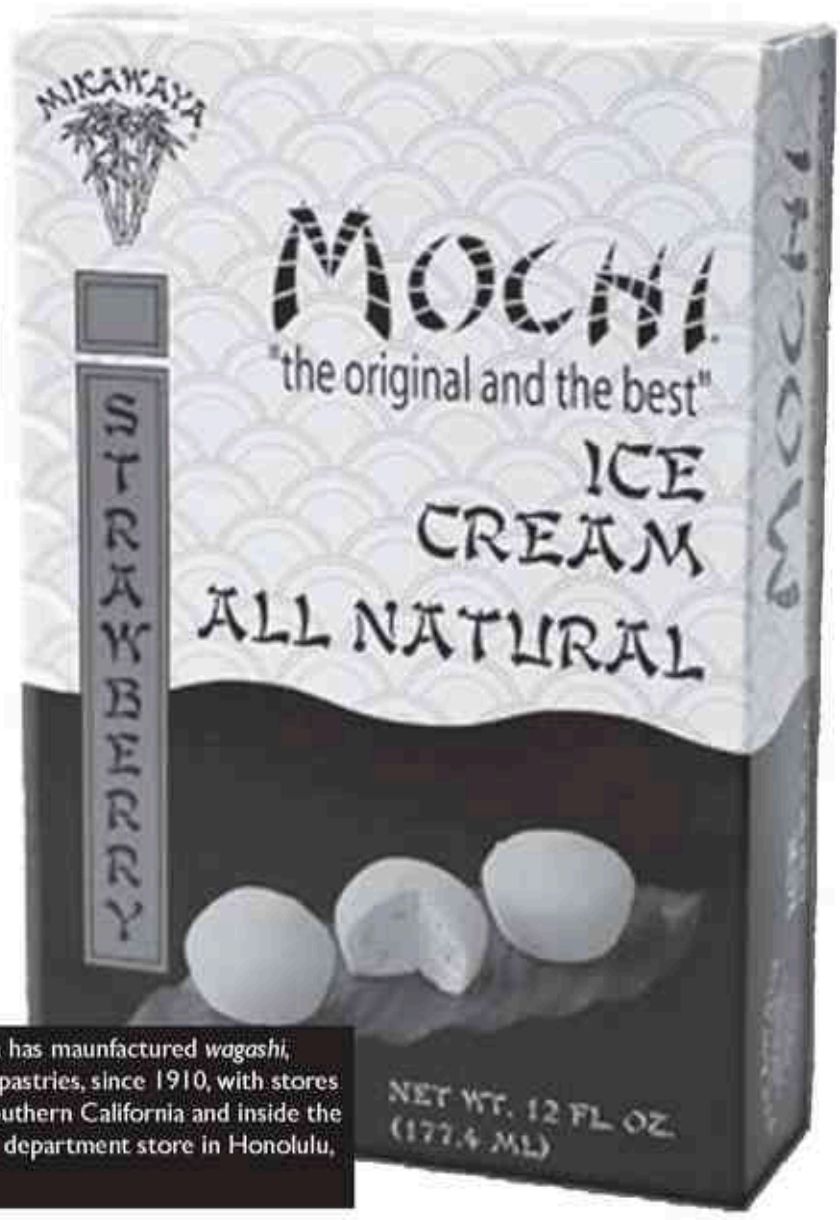
Aside from her business, Hashimoto was a tireless advocate of U.S.-Japan relations, actively promoting ties between the sister cities of Los Angeles and Nagoya. She was at the forefront for organizations such as Nisei Week, helping to bring together business concerns for the promotion of greater Little Tokyo on both sides of the Pacific. In 1982, she became the first woman to serve as chairperson of the Nisei Week Japanese Festival.

Endo said the push to continue and preserve Nisei Week — in spite of declining attendance and the rapidly changing demographics of the Little Tokyo area — came from Hashimoto's firm commitment to expose and educate young Nikkei about their history and heritage.

Hashimoto further served her community on the boards of several organizations, including the Little Tokyo Business Assn., where she was president from 1994-2008. She also sat on the boards of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce of Southern California and the Japanese American Community and Cultural Center.

A solemn honor was bestowed upon Hashimoto last spring, when the Japanese government awarded her the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays, for her accomplishments in U.S.-Japan relations.

Instantly recognizable by her breezy smile and golden locks, Hashimoto took great pride in greeting visitors to Little Tokyo, especially during the summer Nisei Week festival.



Mikawaya has maunfactured *wagashi*, Japanese pastries, since 1910, with stores across Southern California and inside the Shirokiya department store in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Joanne Kumamoto, who worked for years with Hashimoto on a variety of community projects, said, "I don't think people knew just how much she did for the community and for Little Tokyo. Often, she would do things without getting credit or recognition."

L.A. City Councilmember Jan Perry, who had been friends with Hashimoto long before taking public office, introduced a motion for the council to adjourn in her honor after the Nov. 6 meeting.

As a testament to the great number of lives she touched, funeral services for Frances Hashimoto were held in the 880-seat Aratani Japan America Theatre in Little Tokyo.

"She was my big sister and a big sister to many," Perry said. ■

LITTLE TOKYO

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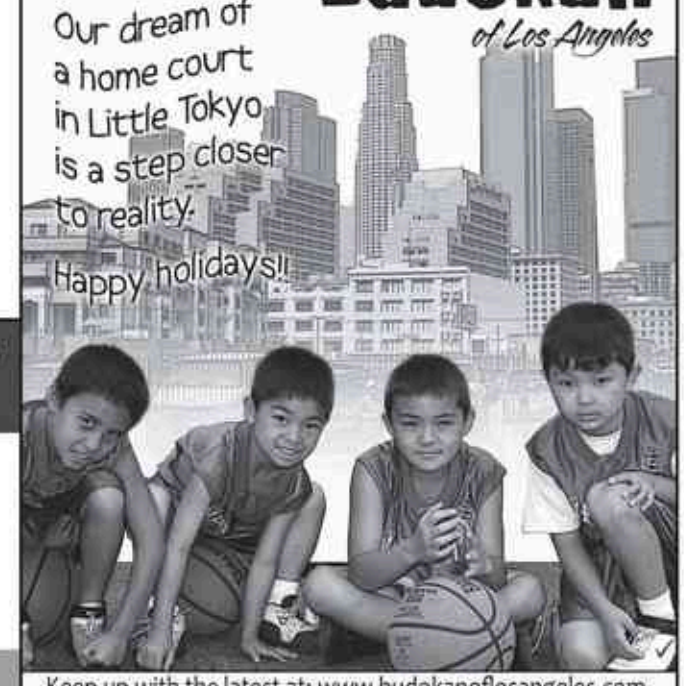
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Saturday, January 1, 2011*
9:00 a.m. (Bilingual)

*Our weekend Schedule remains unchanged:
5 p.m. on Saturday and on Sunday at 8:30 a.m. (Japanese) & 10 a.m. (English)

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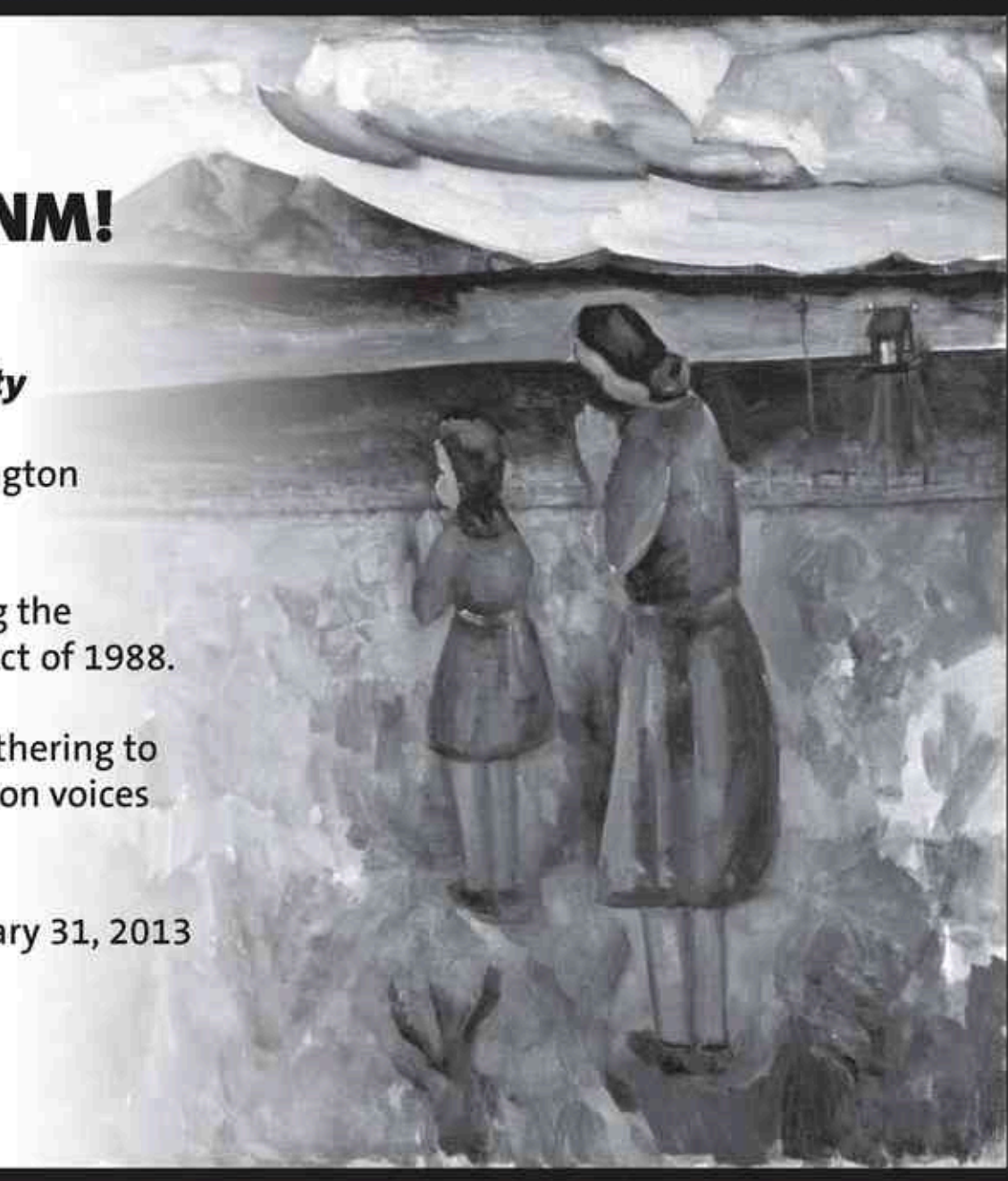
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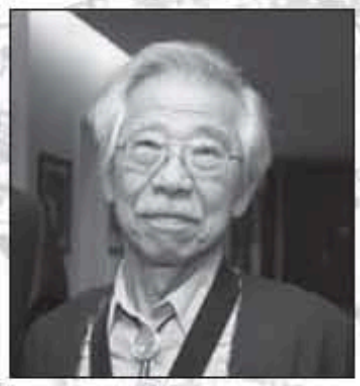
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In Memoriam 2012

JAMES HIRABAYASHI
Oct. 30, 1926-May 23



Four months after his brother Gordon Hirabayashi's death, Japanese American community leader James Akira Hirabayashi died in San Francisco.

Hirabayashi was an emeritus professor of ethnic and Asian American studies and anthropology at San Francisco State University. He died on May 23 at the age of 85.

His brother, Gordon, was a civil rights leader who defied the evacuation and internment of Japanese Americans during World War II. Gordon died Jan. 2 at the age of 93.

Hirabayashi is perhaps best known for the integral role he played in creating the first ethnic studies program in 1969 at SFSU. His son, Lane, is an Asian American studies professor at the University of California, Los Angeles.

In 1968, Hirabayashi and other SFSU professors went on strike, risking their jobs. Their efforts resulted in the creation of the ethnic studies school at SFSU.

Hirabayashi later became the AA studies chair and the first dean of AA studies.

Hirabayashi was born in 1926 in Thomas, Wash. The family was incarcerated in Tule Lake. After WWII, the Hirabayashi family returned to Seattle. Hirabayashi earned his bachelor's degree and master's degree from the University of Washington.

Hirabayashi is survived by his children, Lane (Marilyn Alquizola) Hirabayashi, Tai-Lan and Jan (Steve Rice). Hirabayashi is also survived by his sister, Esther Toshiko Furugori. He was predeceased by his first wife, Joanne, and last wife, Christine.

ELAINE REIKO AKAGI
Aug. 28, 1945-Oct. 18.



Seattle JACL co-president Elaine Reiko Akagi passed away on Oct. 18 in Silver Spring, Md. Born in Detroit, Mich., she began her work with JACL when she joined the youth council of the Detroit Chapter.

In 1987, she moved to Seattle. She was presented the JACLer of the Biennium Award at this year's National Convention.

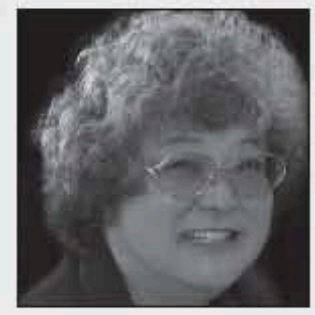
JOHN JIRO SAITO
July 4, 1928-Oct. 16.



Born and raised in Los Angeles, John Saito was interned at the Poston Relocation Center during WWII and later served in the U.S. Army. After graduating from Loyola University in 1955, he spent 25 years with the L.A. County and led many causes in the Japanese and Asian American communities. In 1979, he began a second career with the JACL, becoming the PSW's regional director during the redress campaign.

He is survived by his wife, Carol Ann; children, John, Mark and Jennifer (Brian); grandchildren, Hayley Ann and Joey Fukai; brother, Shinobu "Doc" (Yoko) Saito; sister-in-law, Winifred (Arthur) Uyesato; and nephews, Michael, Gerald, Ronald, Phillip and Robert Uyesato.

Tribute Listings



Akazawa, Sally Sumiye, 67, Gardena, CA; Sept. 26; a memorial was held on Oct. 13 at Green Hills Memorial Chapel; she is survived by her brother, Ray (Crystal) Akazawa; her sister, Elaine (Byron) Wakayama; nieces, Stacy and Jennifer Akazawa and Nicole Wakayama.



Asai, Gene, 86, Lake Oswego, WA; Oct. 18; he graduated from Heart Mountain High School; upon his release, he served in the MIS; four brothers, Taro (Tot), Masami (Min), Itsuo (Dick), Masaki (Half), sister Masako, and son, Randy preceded him in death; he is survived by his sons, Rickland and Rodger; daughter, Bonnie Trumbull; two sisters; Mika Hiuga and Mitsuko (Mitzi); numerous nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews; 4 gc; 1 gg.

Asano, Fumiko, 87, Isleton, CA; Aug. 2; a French Camp JACLer, she was predeceased by her parents, Kiyoshi and Chii; brother, Seiichi; survived by Hidenori, her husband; children, Mineko Walterhouse (Douglas), Toshio Richard (Susan), and HR; siblings, Carrie W. Hill (Frank), Mary Toshiko Asahina (Saburo), Susan Teruko Ruterink (Cornelis) and Takashi Watanabe (Sachiko); nieces and nephews; 3 gc.

Bing, Wu, 77, Los Angeles, CA; she was known and revered as the "mother of Asian/Chinese American literary studies in China"; she founded the Chinese American Literature Research Center at the Beijing Foreign Affairs University.



Dymally, Mervyn, 86, Los Angeles, CA; Oct. 7; he was a strong supporter of redress for Japanese Americans in the 1980s; he's the first African American to be elected as a California senator and to serve as lieutenant governor; he also was elected to the U.S. Congress, representing the city of Gardena; he survived by his wife, Alice; son, Mark; and daughter, Lynn.

Hijikata, Franklin A., 89, Baltimore, MD; March 1; he was sent to Tule Lake War Relocation Center; he was a member of the Religious Society of Friends; he is predeceased by son, F. Bruce Hijikata; he is survived by his wife of 61 years, Rose Takano Hijikata; sister, Ruth Tsuchiyama; and a daughter-in-law, Sandra Hijikata; three daughters, Judith Hijikata, Susan Hijikata and Heidi Hijikata; 4 gc.

Hiratsuka, Shigeki, 95, Sierra Vista, AZ; Jan. 14; he and his wife were active members of the Washington, D.C., JACL Chapter; during WWII, he was interned at Amache; survivors include his son, Jon Hiratsuka; his daughter-in-law, Luz Hiratsuka; two brothers, George and Roy Hiratsuka; and his longtime friend, Deanie Allen.

Hironaka, Yo, Aug. 30; San Francisco, CA; she was incarcerated with her family at Topaz; she served on the JCCCNC board and the San Fran JACL chapter; predeceased by husband David "Taxy," daughter Marcia, parents Konosuke and Rui Kiwatan and brother, Kenichi Kiwata; Yo is survived by several nephews, a niece, great-nephews and great-niece; survived by Angeline Ong, the mother of two of her great-nephews and a great-niece, who provided friendship and support over the years.

Ijichi, Kosuke "Ko," 92, Walnut Creek, CA; Nov. 18; his education at UC Davis was interrupted during WWII when his family was sent to Rohwer Arkansas; he was predeceased by his wife, Lucy; survived by sister, Amy Mori; children; Kenneth (Roxanne), Karen Perkins (Arnold), Mary and Jean; many grandchildren and great-grandchildren; also survived by nieces, nephews and close friends.

Ishikawa, Roy, 96, Carmel, CA; Aug. 13; predeceased by his wife, Edna; parents and six sisters; he was interned at Poston; a longtime member of the Monterey Peninsula JACL; he is survived by his children, Susan, James, Rona (George), Curtis (Cherie), Troy; his sister, Misue Imazu of Japan; sister-in-law, Haruyo Ishibashi; and numerous nephews and nieces; 1 gc.

Kadowaki, Toshi, 94, Sylvania, OH, June 1; predeceased by husband, Joe; she was interned in Poston; she was a member of the Order of the Eastern Star, JACL and Heatherdowns Country Club; predeceased by her parents, a son, Joe George Jr., siblings Masao, Esao, and Yetsuko; survived by daughters, Janet (Jim) Brothers and Kathy (Irland); sisters, Haruko Kobata, Teruko Kuwada and Aiko (Bob) Wada, and brother, Sumi (Kiyo Anne); 6 gc; 10 ggc.

Kameoka, Takeshi, 97, Petaluma, CA; Sep. 9; a longtime Sonoma County JACLer who was honored with the Lifetime Service Award by Enmanji Buddhist Temple; born in Watsonville, he was an Amache internee; survived by his wife, Yukino; children, Mary Peebles (Patrick), George (Kathleen), Kathleen Terusaki (Steven), Jennie Kameoka-Yu (George), Carolyn; predeceased by parents, Ei and Buichi Kameoka of Yamaguchi-ken and daughter, Martha; 5 gc; 3 ggc.

Kawano, James Tadao, 93, Mount Holly, NJ; June 10; while attending USC, James worked at Kyosai Drugs, owned by his future father-in-law; James' studies at USC were interrupted in 1942 by Executive Order 9066; predeceased by his son, Gary; survived by his wife, Shigeko (nee Sakamoto); sons, Arnold (Sandra) and James (Madelyn); 2 gc; 1 ggc.



Kuwahara, Yukiye "Yukie," 85, Honolulu, HI; Nov. 26; she was a longtime member of the Idaho Oregon Buddhist Church; Yukie is survived by her sister, Jackie (Yayeko) Demise; brother, Ben Demise and wife Darlene; daughters, Gayle (Ray) Burgard, Laurie (Eugene) Kaneshiro and Christine (Steve) Slosek; preceded in death by her husband, Harry, and daughter, Marilyn Flanagan, and brother, James (Yataro) Demise; 5 gc.

In Remembrance Of...

TRIBUTE

Col. (ret.) Ko S. Sameshima



Ko Stanley Sameshima, 90, of Fairfield, Calif., passed away on Nov. 23, 2012. Ko was born on Dec. 6, 1921, in Long Beach, Calif. He grew up in the Los Angeles area and graduated from Manual Arts High School. When he was a freshman at Caltech, his education was interrupted and his family was interned at Amache. Ko was able to complete his education at the University of Texas. Drafted into the Army, he completed 32 years of service and retired as a USAF colonel. His military career included Military Intelligence Language School, Gen. MacArthur's Japan Occupation, Mosquitoes during the Korean War, tours in Wright Patterson AFB and Tokyo. His military retirement was followed by second careers with Ford Aerospace and Nissan Motors.

He is survived by Sumie, his wife of 61 years; sons, Steve and Glenn; daughter, Sarita; and six grandchildren. He will be buried at Sacramento Valley VA Cemetery.

JAMES MURAKAMI

Sept. 7, 1926-April 28



James Murakami helped lead the Redress Movement while serving as national president of the JACL from 1976-78.

Murakami died on April 28. He was 85.

At 15, Murakami and his family left their Sonoma County, Calif., home to be relocated to Amache in Colorado for three years.

This unjust incarceration fueled Murakami's later efforts to help win redress for the Japanese American community. It was 1988 when the legislation for an apology and redress payments were signed into law.

For 40 years, Murakami, a U.C. Berkeley graduate, owned his own company, Murakami Engineers.

Murakami is survived by his wife of 59 years, Margarette; his son, Alan; daughter, Kimiye Beane; and sister Fuji Kamatami.

LILLIAN YURIKO TATEISHI

Dec. 5, 1913-Jan. 24



Lillian Yuriko Tateishi passed away peacefully on Jan. 24 in Culver City, Calif., from complications of a stroke. She was surrounded by three generations of her family.

Born in 1913 in Riverside, Calif., she was sent at age 6 to live with her maternal grandparents in Japan. After her return in 1922, her family moved to Torrance and eventually to Lawndale. She married Sam Tateishi in 1934, and in 1940, moved with their four boys to West Los Angeles until the outbreak of WWII, when they were incarcerated at Manzanar.

She was a devoted member of the West Los Angeles United Methodist Church, and she dedicated much of her life in service to her church.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Sam; she is survived by her four sons, Toshi (Judith), Bob (Lilibeth), Bill (Sandy), John (Carol); eight grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.



Mitoma, Edwin, 88, Oakland, CA; July 8; he was active in JACL, editing the South Bay JACL newsletter; he is survived by his wife, Eiko; daughters, Carolyn Mishima (Yasuo) and Jeanne Kobayashi (Craig); many nieces and nephews; 3 gc.

Nishi, Dr. Setsuko Matsunaga, 91, New York, Nov. 17; she is a professor emerita of sociology at Brooklyn College and the City University of New York Graduate Center; her dad, Tahei Matsunaga, was the unofficial "mayor" of Little Tokyo; in 1942, she wrote to President Franklin D. Roosevelt to recognize that the rights of Nisei; she was incarcerated at Santa Anita Assembly Center. At Brooklyn College, Nishi taught the first courses on Asian American studies. She is survived by her children, Geoffrey, Lisa, Paula, Stefani, and Mia; numerous grandchildren; and her brother, Ernest Michio Matsunaga.

Nose, Akira Paul, 94, Rockville, MD; May 27; during WWII, his family was interned at Topaz, Utah; he served briefly in the U.S. Army; he was a member of the JACL. He was predeceased by his sibling, Marguerite Stock. Nose is survived by his wife, Yulie; children, Peter, Ellen, Steven and Nancy; two daughters-in-law, Karen Nose and Maria Nose; two sons-in-law, Alex Bodien and Tom Murphy; 6 gc.

Sakai, Henry K., 86, Chicago, IL; Jan. 27; beloved husband of the late Mary S. Sakai; devoted father of Lisa A. Sakai, Jay G. (Julie Squire) Sakai and James Todd (Leah) Sakai; proud grandfather of Joseph, Alexandra and Emily; fond brother of Mary (late Shingo) Shima and Rosie (Bob) Fukuhara; and teasing uncle to many nieces and nephews.

Sasagawa, K. William, 93, Hollister, CA; Jan. 17; survived by his beloved wife, Susan Sasagawa Sanone; (Mike) of Gilroy, sister, Katherine Uyeno; and brother, Frank Jay (Susie); he was a member of the Philadelphia and Sequoia JACL, EDC Chairman of JACL and 1000 Club member.



Sato, John Masaji, 92, Glendale, AZ; Sept. 28; John worked on his family's farm in Ontario until he enlisted in the U.S. Army; he was active in JACL, Desert Cross Community Church, Japanese Senior Center, Asian Chamber of Commerce, Arizona Buddhist Temple and the Arizona Matsuri; predeceased by his beloved wife, Mei; survived by four sisters, Mary Ishida, Maxine Morioka, Lola "Tattie" Hanada and Roseanne Sato; two daughters, Denise Brush (Jeff) and Michele Namba (Ted); as well as many nephews, nieces and family friends; 3 gc; 2 ggc.

Sato, Yoichi, 91, Dayton, OH; May 8; survived by his wife of 61 years, Yaeko; sons, Richard (San Francisco) and Toshio (Dayton); founding member of Dayton Chapter JACL.



Shigekawa, Misako, 103, Arcata, CA; Oct. 31; in the 1930s, she served as president of the Terminal Island chapter of the JACL; she married Kiyoshi Shigekawa in June 1941 before they were relocated to Poston, Ariz.; she is survived by her brother, William Ishii; children, Gerald, Marlene and Linda; and many nieces and nephews; 1 gc.

Taniguchi, Howard Hideo, 85, Cortez, CA; Sept. 1; he was a WWII MIS vet; member of the Stockton Buddhist Church and Cortez Howakai, Cortez JACL, Cortez Shinwakai, Cortez Growers Association and the American Legion; he was predeceased by sister, Peggy Yoshimoto; survived by his wife of 59 years, Alice; daughters, Elaine (Cliff) Emery, Norine Shultz, Vicki (David) Unruhe, Pat (Jim) Ticer; survived by siblings, June Asai, Mae (Harry) Kajioka, Ned (Lois), William and Betty (Cal) Kitazumi; and many nieces and nephews; 8 gc.

Takehara, Gerald "Jerry," 65, Sacramento, CA; Feb. 22; he was the president of the JACL Health Benefits Trust and the VP of Bocho Doshi Kai; he was also a member the Sacramento JACL. He is survived by his wife, Janet Whitehouse Takehara; daughter, Jessica (Bryan) Ingram; son, Craig (Tokiko) and son, Douglas; also survived by his brother, Steven; niece, Kimberly with her family Derek Bean, Isaac and Katelyn; and niece, Nicole and fiancee Michael Martucci; sister, Paula with her family Thomas Suzuki, Heather and Scott; 1 gc.



Uomoto, Calvin, 63, Seattle, WA; Oct. 26; he served as executive director of World Relief Seattle; he received a bachelor's in psychology and a master's in public administration from the University of Washington. In the early 1980s, Uomoto helped to establish the Indochinese Farm Project, where Southeast Asians still grow their vegetables and flowers; he also helped Mien refugees establish the Mien Evangelical Church; he is survived by his wife, Ann Uomoto; sons, Timothy, Jordan, Titus and Brendan Uomoto; his mother, Fumiko Uomoto; and nine siblings.

Wakayama, Jimmie Haruo, June 13; Jimmie attended Petaluma High School and enlisted into the Navy. He was also an active member of the Sonoma County JACL and board member at the Enmanji Buddhist Temple. He is survived by his wife, Hiromi; daughters, Cathy and Amy; 1 gc.

Yamashita, Masato "Mauch," 86, Lodi, CA; Dec. 7; Mauch graduated from Rohwer High School during WWII; he served in the 100th Battalion, 442nd RCT; he was a member of the Lodi Buddhist Church, the JACL and the Nisei VFW Post No. 8985 in Sacramento. He is survived by several cousins and spouses; John (Ruby) Hiramoto, Terry Ogata Hiramoto, Masako (Hiro) Fujikawa, Keiko (Claude M) Hiramoto-Hess, Edward Hiramoto, Kenny (Yuki) Yamashita, many second cousins.



Yasui, Dr. Robert, 88, Philadelphia, PA; Aug. 20; a 50-year physician for the Little League Baseball World Series; while attending the University of Oregon during World War II, Yasui's family was unjustly incarcerated; he was the brother of civil rights champion Minoru Yasui. He is survived his wife, Phyllis; five children; 12 gc; 3 ggc.

Watanabe, Chisato, 89, Nov. 13; she is survived by her sons, Dr. Bruce (Terry) and Craig (Debbe) Watanabe; brother, Henry (Dorothy) Nishioka; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; 4 gc.



Watanabe, James R. "Sonny," 64, Nampa, ID; Oct. 13; he was a Life Member JACL; he was predeceased by his parents, James and Bobbie; he is survived by his sister, Sharon Hicks Crofts (Terry); his nephew, Kimber Hicks; and his nieces, Michelle Hicks (Anthony), TaMia Campbell and Tianna Campbell. ■

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from National JACL Staff & Volunteers

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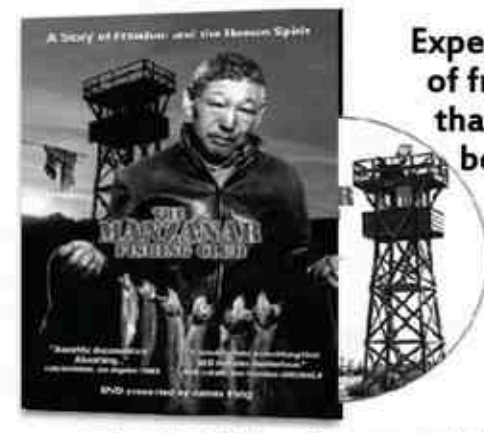
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