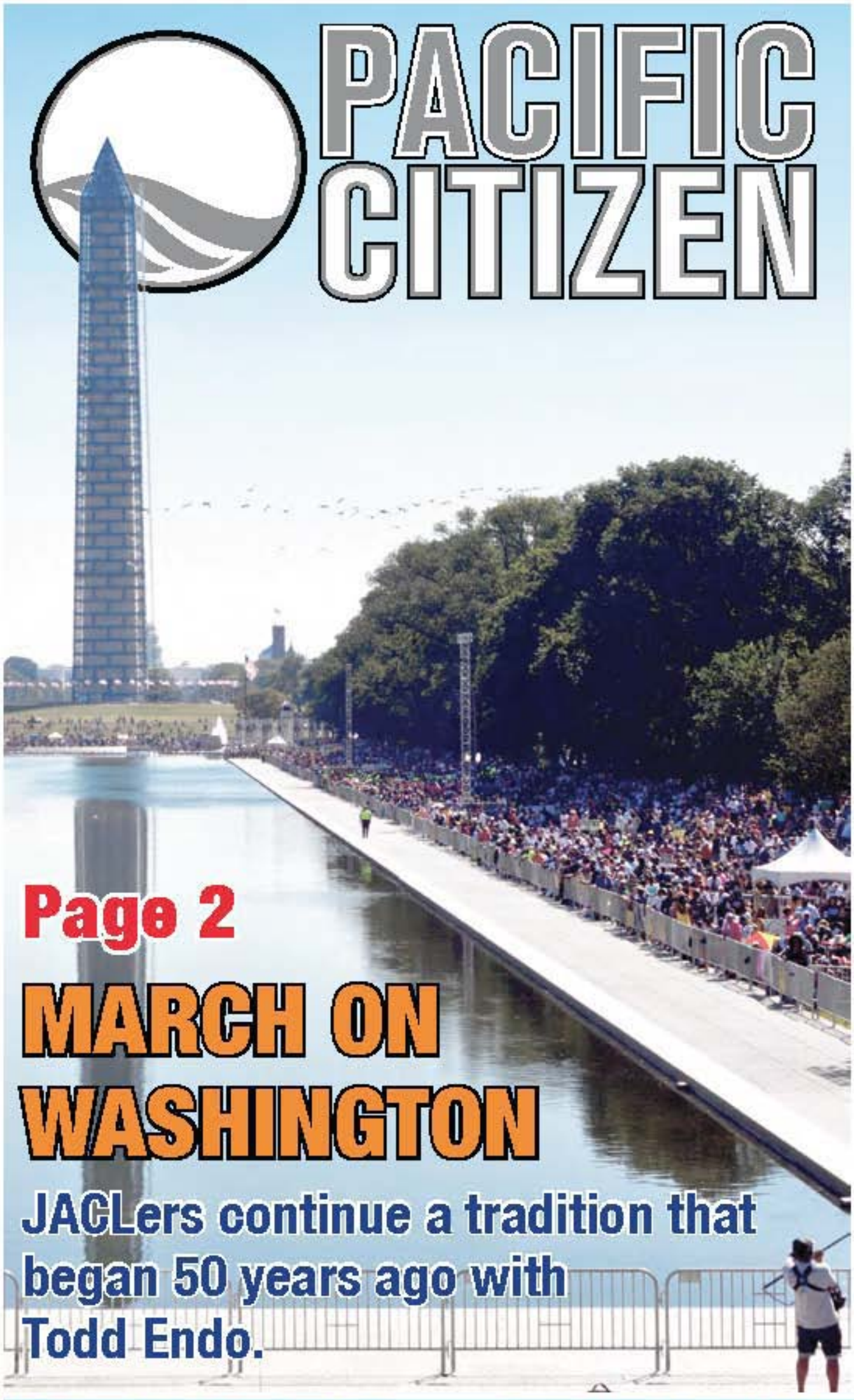
THE NATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF THE JACL

PACIFIC CITIZEN



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MARCH ON WASHINGTON

JACLers continue a tradition that began 50 years ago with Todd Endo.



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The JET Program Celebrates Its 27th Anniversary.

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2013 March on Washington Still About Same Issues

By Priscilla Ouchida
JACL National Director

Todd Endo was a 21-year-old college student when he carried the JACL banner and led 35 JACLers in the historic 1963 March on Washington. With three generations of his family, Endo again marched on Aug. 24 as part of the 50th Anniversary March on Washington. Endo has memories of when he walked alongside his mother and other members of the JACL, which was a co-sponsor of the 1963 demonstration.

The 71-year-old Endo recalled of the historic event, "It was packed, people were dangling their feet in the reflecting pool. But there was camaraderie and friendliness. Everybody said hello to each other."

Endo could not hear Martin Luther King Jr. speak and said that the famous "I Had a Dream" speech was not heralded at the time. "The King I remember is a later King and more recognized as a spokesperson, the one to follow. . . . The 'I Have a Dream' speech actually has a life of its own that comes after the march. He gave that speech and similar speeches before that, but it wasn't the reason that people remember the march then. It's the reason they remember the march now."

The day began at 7:40 a.m. with an NPR interview with Endo for "All Things Considered." Marchers were given white T-shirts emblazoned with the words "Still in Pursuit of the Dream." Lisa Hasegawa, executive director of the National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development, spoke to the gathering, followed by Endo.

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Marchers converge at the Lincoln Memorial as they begin their walk toward the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial.

Letter to the Editor

To the Editor,

I just now received my *P.C.* (Aug. 2-15, 2013), which happens to members living way out east in N.Y. I refer you to the article (page 4) written by Christine Fukushima, correspondent, titled "A Historic Night to Remember," where I'm somewhat written up. I don't remember being interviewed by her, but there is a need to get my part of the story straight.

I remember back in 1988 attending my very first National JACL Convention, held at the University of Washington campus. It was awesome to see all the JACL leaders in person, who I only read about in the *P.C.*

As the article stated, all the JACL leaders left for D.C. to witness the signing of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 by President Ronald Reagan. What surprised me was to see not Harry Kajihara, who I did not know, but Mike Masaoka by himself. This really surprised me since I thought he would be the most prominent JACLer to attend. He greeted me, and this was like my 15 minutes with him.

I gathered enough courage to ask why he did not attend the signing. It was then that he said with a smile, as the article stated, "I'm tired. I just want to relax. Let everybody else enjoy it."

After hearing this, there was something I liked about him, and it was indeed awesome for me that I did get to talk with a JACL legend.

And let me conclude to say that I did enjoy reading Ms. Fukushima's article.

Sincerely,
Stanley N. Kanzaki
JACL N.Y. Chapter

HOW TO REACH US
Email: pc@pacificcitizen.org
Online: www.pacificcitizen.org
Tel: (213) 620-1767
Fax: (213) 620-1769
Mail: 250 E. First St., Suite 301
Los Angeles, CA 90012

STAFF
Executive Editor
Alison Yamamoto

Reporter
Matthew Ko

Business Manager
Susan Yokoyama

Production Assts.
Marie Suenaga

Circulation
Eva Ting

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JACL President: David Lin
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NIKKEI VOICE

Is It Racist to Want Sushi Chefs to Be Japanese?

By Gil Asakawa

'I have my prejudices, and I'm willing to admit it. . . . If it's tasty and authentic, it doesn't really matter to me who makes it and what color she is.'

Recently, a Seattle sushi restaurant, Mashiko, posted an open letter on its website saying that people who criticize the restaurant for having non-Japanese employees are bigots.

"Stop being an ignorant racist," the letter said, after noting that the restaurant is Japanese-owned and there are Japanese as well as non-Japanese staff. The letter also defends one of the restaurant's most popular chefs, a Caucasian woman, who has worked there for 12 years and has a loyal and devoted following.

"Should you refuse her fare based on her gender or race, you are an absolute fool," the letter states.

I feel for the staff and owners of Mashiko, and I'm surprised that diners in such a great foodie town as Seattle would be so unsophisticated that they'd make decisions on food quality just on a racial basis.

Still, I think this is a much more complicated discussion than just bigotry (though that's part of it, for sure).

I have to admit that I am wary when I enter Japanese restaurants where the floor and kitchen staffs are not Japanese. I would make the same judgments of most ethnic cuisines — I like seeing Italians in an Italian restaurant, Mexicans in a Mexican restaurant and, yep, French people in a French restaurant.

But that doesn't mean non-Japanese chefs can't make terrific Japanese food, including sushi. It's been years since I've had anyone who's not Latino serve me at a Benihana, for example, and their food is still pretty darned good (mostly because it's been formularized down to a science, including the same bad jokes from years ago).

It all depends on training and passion. A good friend of mine from New York art school days is now a master chef in Seattle (teaching young gourmets at the Art Institute), and I know his food is authentic no matter which cuisine he chooses to cook or mix and match into a fusion style. When he began his career as a chef, he was so good at Asian-influenced cuisine that he was hired by Chef Roy Yamaguchi to travel the world and open Roy's restaurants.

And I'm sure a Caucasian woman can make terrific sushi (though in Japan, there's historically a myth that women can't make sushi because their hands are too warm, but that's another story about prejudice!).

Having said that, I've been to lots and lots of ethnic restaurants that are run by people who are not the ethnicity of the food they serve, and they're just cashing in on a fad.

>> See JAPANESE on page 16



FOR THE RECORD

The Dream

By John Tateishi

'We've progressed in our social evolution of race relations as a society, it's true, but as every reasonable measure of where we are today on equity issues indicates . . . we still have such a long way to go.'

On the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech in Washington, D.C., there's been a lot of soul-searching about the state of equality for black Americans today and how far we've come since the Rev. King (as he was often called) presented his historic vision in one of the greatest speeches in American history.

When I think of the Civil Rights Movement and the struggles that led up to it, most often I picture in my mind the image of freedom marchers in the South, mostly black but some white, and can picture in my mind the fire hoses turned on the protesters and vicious police dogs lunging at them. Occasionally, one of those dogs accidentally-on-purpose got loose from its handler (a white cop, naturally) and tore at the flesh of protesters.

Those were scary scenes. The dogs were vicious, but no more than the men and women who stood to the side baring their ugliness and hatred at those who dared to challenge the way things had been for so many decades in Southern society. Whites were spat on and called "N-lovers" and as often as not were pelted with bottles and rocks.

You could see the fear in the eyes of many of the black marchers, some very young kids, but you could also see the determination. "Just get through the day," they seemed to be thinking as they braved the hailstorm of angry epithets and hatred being directed at them.

I was in my 20s, a student at Berkeley, when we all still wore button-down collared shirts in those days before we morphed into longer hair and began to question authority and the quotients of the status quo. The freedom marchers, white men and women, mostly college kids from the North, went down to places like Mississippi and Alabama with the music of the Kinston Trio in their heads and came back to the sounds of Joan Baez and Bob Dylan.

It was a time of change, such as none of us who were around at the time had ever seen before in American society, and, I suspect, never will again. I started at Cal still looking like a guy who had just been in the army and came out a few years later listening to acid rock and the music of America's social revolution. The world we knew changed seemingly almost overnight, and we came out of that experience not only smarter from having had a great education but also wiser about the world and society.

As we look back through those 50 years since Martin Luther King's vision of a more equitable America, it's clear that things have changed, that we have made some progress toward the kind of world Dr. King would have wanted.

>> See DREAM on page 16

Chinese American Jack Chin Finds Bone Marrow Donor Match From Fellow High School Alum

ASIAN AMERICANS REPRESENT ABOUT 7 PERCENT, OR 720,000, OF THOSE REGISTERED ON THE NATIONAL BONE MARROW REGISTRY, ACCORDING TO THE BE THE MATCH PROGRAM.

By Nalea J. Ko, Reporter



PHOTO COURTESY OF AADP

Bone marrow donor Jason Tzou *(pictured left)* saved Jack Chin's *(right)* life last year. The two met for the first on July 20 time in San Jose, Calif.

Jack Chin, 24, was a regular college student in 2011, cramming for finals at the University of California, Los Angeles, where he was studying economics and accounting. The Chinese American says he used to take his health for granted, sleeping late and gobbling down fast food.

"I used to say to my parents when they tried to warn me about the hazards of the outside world, I was like, 'Shénme dōu bùpà!'" said Chin, a Cupertino, Calif., resident. "In Chinese that means: I'm not afraid of anything. I was that guy with the cavalier attitude toward life."

As finals week wrapped up, however, Chin began to have severe pain in his legs and needed the help of crutches to get around. Soon Jack was unable to use his legs and could only move, as he described, like double amputee Lt. Dan, who scooted on the floor in the 1994 movie "Forrest Gump." After an MRI and visit to the hematologist-oncologist, Chin learned he had acute lymphoblastic leukemia.

Chin had to quit his internship at Visa and begin chemotherapy. It was a confused whirlwind for Chin, who had to quickly learn new medical jargon.

"I remember waking up after the first day and my brother was there. I was like, 'Hey, bro, what does oncology mean? I keep seeing it around the floor,'" recalled Chin.

Doctors referred Chin to Stanford Hospital and told him in January of 2012 that he would need a bone marrow transplant. His fraternal twin, Jim, was not a match.

Out of more than 12,000 patients who are diagnosed every year with diseases such as leukemia and lymphoma, which require a transplant, 70 percent cannot find a match in their family, according to Be the Match, a national marrow donor program.

"Though I recognized that this feeling was illogical, I was intensely personally disappointed," said Jim Chin about finding out he wasn't a match for his brother. "In general, there was also this deep feeling of helplessness, knowing that while I would do everything possible to help Jack during this time, his fate was essentially in the hands of the generosity of strangers and random chance."



The best chance of a match for patients like Jack Chin is to find a donor within the same ethnic community. Asian Americans represent 7 percent of those registered on the national bone marrow registry, according to the Be the Match program. Mixed-race persons represent 4 percent, and Pacific Islanders are 0.2 percent. With more than 7.1 million registered (67 percent), Whites represent the largest group of potential adult donors.

To help Chin find a match, representatives with the Asian American Donor Program hosted local donor drives and drummed



PHOTO: JASON TZOU

The Chin family met and posed for photographs with Jason Tzou *(second from the left)* in July to formally thank him for donating his bone marrow last year.



PHOTO: JACK CHIN

When Jack Chin was told he would need a bone marrow transplant, his fraternal twin brother, Jim, was also told he was not a match.



PHOTO: JACK CHIN

> *'I really hope this helps open people's minds, especially in the Asian community, to donating.'*
>
> —Jack Chin

up publicity through local media to find potential donors. Attendees at various local drives took cheek swabs to register with the National Marrow Donor Program.

Getting those in the Asian American community to register, says AADP recruitment director Ruby Law, often requires fighting misconceptions about the bone marrow donation procedure.

"There are some people that still think that we have to take a chunk of your bone out for the donation. That's not true," Law said. "Sometimes if it doesn't happen to your family or your friends, you just simply ignore it. A lot of the patients say the same, 'I saw you come to our church once, but I never really thought about it. I thought it was really painful, so I didn't even want to visit the table.'"

Chin's match would end up coming from a Chinese American who also graduated from his alma mater, Monta Vista High School. Jason Tzou, a 28-year-old graduate of the University of California, Davis, was that match.

Tzou, a Sunnyvale, Calif., resident who registered in 2006, was flown to Washington, D.C., in April of last year to have his transplant procedure.

"I remember waking up in the anesthesia/recovery area and then later when they wheeled me out to the actual hospital room. Mostly it was just soreness around my hip," said Tzou, about the anonymous donor procedure. "I have two small dots. They're actually like a pen mark. You'd just probably think they're a freckle or something."

Tzou, who shares a mutual friend with Chin, said he knew with "95 percent confidence" that the leukemia patient was indeed Jack Chin. By Christmas time, Tzou received an anonymous thank you card from Chin and his mother, Ja-Nei.

Chin and his family would get the chance to thank Tzou in person on July 20 when AADP representatives hosted a luncheon in San Jose, Calif.

"I was nervous. I didn't know really what to say other than my intense gratitude," said Chin. "I'm not very eloquent, so I said thank you and gave him a hug. My family — we gave him a gift."

The Chin family gave Tzou a wristwatch to thank him. Both families plan to meet up again in private when it's convenient and when Chin's health improves.

Chin is currently battling graft-versus-host disease complications from the transplant. For now, he is focused on his health and returning to UCLA to finish his studies. After college, Chin hopes to work in federal law enforcement with the FBI.

"I want to do something that I wake up in the morning and I feel like, 'Wow! I'm going out and doing something with a purpose,'" Chin said, whose fellow UCLA friends have since graduated, landed jobs or are in graduate school. "It totally makes waking up early or standing outside in the cold worth it."

In the interim, Chin hopes to save lives by helping with donor drives and educating the public about the bone marrow registry.

"I really hope this helps open people's minds, especially in the Asian community, to donating," he said. "Even if the chances are not that great of finding a match, once in awhile it works. It makes the world of difference to the person, their family and friends."

Before getting off the phone with Chin, I tell him that his story inspired me to register to be a potential donor.

"Yay!" he says, laughing. "Oh, thank you!"

To register to be a marrow donor, visit www.aadp.org.

CA State Assembly Passes Resolution Apologizing to Japanese Americans During World War II

SACRAMENTO — The California State Assembly on Aug. 19 approved a resolution that provides a formal apology to Japanese Americans fired by the state of California in 1942. Assembly Concurrent Resolution 19, authored by Assemblyman Richard Pan *(pictured)* and sponsored by the Japanese American Citizens League, will now be considered in the California State Senate.



Shortly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor by the government of Japan, the California Legislature adopted a measure that led to the firing of Japanese American civil service employees. More than 300 employees were charged with "fifth column" activities and dismissed from their jobs by the California State Personnel Board. In 1946, California ruled that charges against the employees, the most-investigated group of people in the nation, were unfounded.

JACL National Director Priscilla Ouchida said, "The Japanese American Citizens League applauds the passage of ACR 19 (Pan). In 1982, dozens of Japanese Americans gathered in the governor's conference room to witness Gov. Jerry Brown sign the first bill to recognize the World War II injustice that singled out loyal Japanese American employees of the state of California. Many of the employees clutched pink slips they had kept in hopes of vindication. Assemblyman Pan has taken the final step in a long struggle to right a wrong." ■



APAs in the News



Daphne Kwok Named a Recipient of JACL's Salute to Champions Award

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Daphne Kwok has been named a recipient of JACL's 2013 Salute to Champions Award for her decades-long commitment to providing a voice for AAPIs, disabled individuals and senior citizens.

Kwok, who currently is vp multicultural markets and engagement at AARP, also is chair of President Barack Obama's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

The Salute to Champions Gala will be held on Oct. 10 at the Capital Hilton. The award recognizes "individuals and organizations that have demonstrated a commitment to promoting diversity in their respective field or industry."

NJAMF to Honor Sec. Norman Y. Mineta With Lifetime Achievement Award



WASHINGTON, D.C. — The National Japanese American Memorial Foundation will present Sec. Norman Y. Mineta with its Lifetime Achievement Award at its 2013 Gala on Saturday, Nov. 2, at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel. Mineta's award honors his decades-long commitment to preserving the constitutional rights of all Americans during their careers.

The NJAMF is a nonprofit organization dedicated to education and public awareness about the Japanese American experience during World War II. In addition to honoring Mineta, the NJAMF also will recognize Admiral Mike Mullen (USN, Ret.) with its Award for Constitutional Rights, Terry Shima with its Special Recognition Legacy Award and Craig Uchida with its Chairman's Award.



Oscar-Winning Animation Director Hayao Miyazaki to Retire

VENICE, ITALY — Oscar-winning animation director Hayao Miyazaki's latest offering, "The Wind Rises," which is currently in competition at the Venice Film Festival, will be his last film according to his animation studio, Studio Ghibli.

Miyazaki, 72, is not in attendance at the Venice Film Festival, where his film is receiving its international premiere. The prolific director is one of animation's most-admired directors, having won a best animated film Oscar for 2002's "Spirited Away."

"The Wind Rises," Miyazaki's 11th feature, is a look at the life of Jiro Horikoshi, the man who designed Japanese fighter planes during World War II.

Buena Park Comfort Women Monument Proposal Rejected

The proposal to create a monument honoring comfort women in Buena Park, Calif., has been turned down, according to *The Orange County Register*.

The motion was stopped when Buena Park Councilmember Art Brown announced that he would not support it. The council first discussed the issue during a meeting on July 23, and no vote was made at the time. Brown showed sympathy to victims of sexual slavery and had asked that more time be given to research the issue. During the meeting, Mayor Pro Tem Miller Oh also asked that the issue be explored.

The Korean American Forum of California, a nonprofit focused on raising awareness about comfort women, had initiated the proposal for the monument in Buena Park. The group has had success in the past, having raised funds to erect a memorial to the comfort women in the City of Glendale's Central Park. The organization had planned to cover the $36,125 of building and maintaining the structure.

Japan's treatment of others in Asia during World War II has continued to be heated. In August, at least 2,000 protesters in South Korea and Taiwan demanded an apology from Japan and compensation for comfort women who had worked as sex slaves. Prior to the erection of the memorial in Glendale in July, Japanese nationalists had strongly protested against the statue. ■

Manzanar Committee Denounces LADWP Proposal to Build Solar Farm Near Manzanar

LOS ANGELES — On Aug. 16, the Manzanar Committee announced its opposition to the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's proposed 1,200-acre Southern Owens Valley Solar Ranch, which would be constructed east of the Owens River but in a direct line of sight with the Manzanar Historic Site, which lies to the immediate west.

The proposed site would generate electricity that would be delivered to LADWP customers in Los Angeles.

But generating that energy would result in the destruction of Manzanar's historic solid waste dump, which has not undergone an archeological study.

Equally important, the site's approximately 1 million solar panels, along with buildings, large equipment, transformers, a substation, transmission lines and much more, would destroy a significant portion of the historic landscape surrounding Manzanar National Historic Site.

"The importance of maintaining and enhancing the physical characteristics of the Manzanar National Historic Site cannot be downplayed or overlooked," said Manzanar Committee Co-Chair Bruce Embrey. "One of the most powerful parts of Manzanar is the unobstructed view and that many of the structures, gardens and other features of the World War II American concentration camp have not been bulldozed over or destroyed by 'development.'

"Some of the best and most memorable parts of Manzanar have always been seeing the remnants of the camp set in contrast to the natural landscape of the area," Embrey added. "The continued restoration of the gardens, the apple orchard and other crucial archaeological aspects, including Manzanar's World War II-era solid waste dump, which undoubtedly contains historically significant articles — none of that should be compromised for commercial exploitation."

Embrey noted that while LADWP has supported the Manzanar Pilgrimage for many years, this proposal is yet another blot on its poor record regarding the site.

"LADWP has a long and checkered history regarding the establishment of the Manzanar National Historic Site," Embrey stressed. "They have offered support over the years to the annual Manzanar Pilgrimage, led for decades by Sue Kunitomi Embrey. But the relationship between LADWP and the Manzanar Committee has been marked by serious and fundamental disagreements along the way.

"LADWP opposed efforts to establish a National Historic Site at Manzanar, arguing instead for a local memorial park," Embrey added. "Even as late as 1991, they continued their efforts, under then-General Manager Michael Gage, to prevent the establishment of a National Historic Site under the auspices of the National Park Service."

As a response to an LADWP-supported bill in Congress that would have established a locally administered memorial at Manzanar, rather than a National Historic Site, in an Oct. 5, 1991, letter to the editor, Sue Kunitomi Embrey, one of the founders of the Manzanar Pilgrimage and the Manzanar Committee, write in the *Los Angeles Times*:

"The DWP proposal is highly inaccurate and totally unacceptable to the Manzanar Committee for many reasons, the important one being that Manzanar has national significance, and local jurisdiction does not give Manzanar the integrity and national recognition it deserves."

More than 20 years later, LADWP's insensitivity and disregard for Manzanar, not to mention the people who were unjustly incarcerated there, and their families, continues.

"The very idea that any land in or around the Manzanar National Historic Site could be used for a massive generating facility would not harm the ongoing efforts to preserve and understand the tragedy of justice that occurred there is simply beyond insensitive, and it's not just insensitive to the Japanese American community, the survivors of America's concentration camps and their families," Embrey lamented. "That gross insensitivity extends to the efforts of the National Park Service, and others, who have worked so hard to bring this brief, but essential, part of American history to light.

"George Santayana said, 'Those who cannot remember the past are doomed to repeat it,'" Embrey added. "This is true for our nation and for the LADWP. Their proposed solar farm will severely harm efforts to remember our past. The long-term, negative impact on the Manzanar National Historic Site cannot be understated. We call on the Inyo County Board of Supervisors, as well as the LADWP, to revisit the proposal and find another more suitable location for the proposed solar generating station." ■



A view looking east from the visitor's center at Manzanar National Historic Site. The floor of the Owens Valley, along with the Inyo Mountains in the background, are visible. But this view could be destroyed by a massive solar energy generating station, proposed by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

PHOTO: NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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The 2013 JACL contingent joined marchers from the NCAPA to form a block of well over 100 participants. JACL marchers included National Director Priscilla Ouchida, VP of Membership Toshi Abe, EDC Governor Michelle Amano, Amy Watanabe, Kelly Honda, Todd Endo, Paula Endo, Erik Endo, Aidan Endo, Nancy Hall, Jen Hanold, Austin Hanold, Janice Faden, Michael Faden, Paul Igasaki, Louann Igasaki, Paul Uyehara, Mary Yee, Brigham Walker, Mackenzie Walker, Rosie Abriam, Patrick Lee, Noriko Sanefuji, Marsha Johnson, Greg Johnson and Lauren Yamagata.

JACL and NCAPA arrived at the national mall as the program commenced. Speakers included Atty. Gen. Eric Holder Jr., Rep. John Lewis (who was the youngest speaker in 1963), House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, Rev. Al Sharpton and Martin Luther King III. Mee Moua, president of Asian Americans Advancing Justice, addressed the more than 200,000 individuals in the crowd, as well as recognized JACL's participation and Endo's presence.

As Endo surveyed the National Mall, he observed that people were dressed a lot more casually and that Jumbotrons and audio technology made it possible for everyone to hear the speakers. Instead of the blue and gold JACL banner carried by Endo a half century ago, Igasaki and Amano carried a white banner. JACLers held signs in support of voting rights and immigrant rights. Endo noted that the issues — voting rights, jobs and other civil rights issues — had not changed much in 50 years.

The March on Washington was a reminder of the critical role JACL played in advancing social justice. As a child, I remember watching the March on television. Today, I followed a new generation of young JACLers who carried the banner for what still needs to be done.

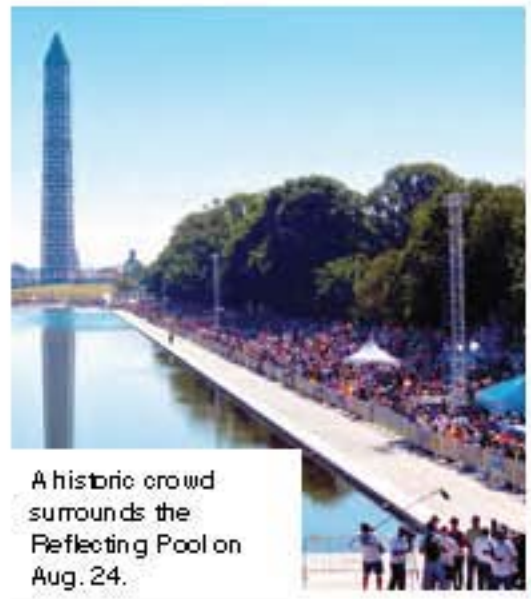
Endo met other veterans of the 1963 March, including Ernest Green, one of the original Little Rock Nine. The two, who were the same age in the historic March, exchanged stories about their experiences before their live interview on Al Jazeera America.

The 1963 March impacted Endo's life. He said, "The March told me that I'm more of an activist than [an] academic." He decided to forge a career in education and helped integrate schools in Maryland, as well as worked with high school drop-outs.

Endo concluded the day with his thoughts. "Fifty years later, there's still that dream that's not realized. You never get there. But that sense of unity and working together and peacefulness has carried on and remains influential." ■



The JACL was represented at the first March on Washington 50 years ago.



A historic crowd surrounds the Reflecting Pool on Aug. 24.



Todd Endo's grandson, Aiden, holds a sign at the march.



Leaders of the National Coalition on Asian Pacific Americans form the front line for the APA contingent of more than 100 marchers. Pictured *(from left)* are JACL's Priscilla Ouchida, Virginia delegate Mark Keam, Maryland delegate Susan Lee and Christine Chen.



JACLers as well as Todd Endo *(in maroon cap)* and his family, including his wife, Paula *(front row with camera)*, grandson, Aiden *(holding banner at left)*, his son, Erik *(standing behind Aiden at center)*, and his sister, Marsha Johnson *(center with sunglasses)*, participated in the 50th March on Washington event.



PHOTO: PRISCILLA OKIMOTO

(From left) Todd Endo with NAACP Washington, D.C., Bureau Director Hillary Shelton and Ernest Green, who in 1957 was one of the first African American students to attend Little Rock Central High School in Arkansas. Both Endo and Green also participated in the 1963 March on Washington.



'The March on Washington teaches us that we are not trapped by the mistakes of history; that we are masters of our fate. But it also teaches us that the promise of this nation will only be kept when we work together.'

— President Obama

Japanese American Freedom Marcher Invited to the White House

TODD ENDO PARTICIPATED IN THE MARCH ON WASHINGTON IN 2013 AND 1963.

By JACL staff

Todd Endo has a unique place in Japanese American history.

He is believed to be the only Asian American to have marched at both the 1963 March on Washington and the recent 50th Anniversary March on Washington.

In light of his historic achievement, his participation garnered the attention of President Barack Obama and his White House staffers.

On Aug. 27, Todd and Paula Endo were invited to a special reception at the White House commemorating the historic demonstration on behalf of civil rights.

For several hours, Endo was in the company of several hundred prominent civil rights leaders. Endo related, "I met my personal hero, Congressman John Lewis, in whose shoes I barely walked in the March on Washington and in Selma. I talked with C. T. Vivien, Andrew Young, Joseph Lowry and Julian Bond. My wife, Paula, took pictures with each of these giants of the civil rights movement."

The highlight of the evening at the White House came when Endo joined a select group of individuals that personally met President Obama. Endo was given the opportunity to shake the president's hand as well as pose for an official White House photo with the nation's commander in chief. The photo should be arriving at his residence any day now.

Endo proudly marched with his son, Erik, and grandson, Aiden, in the 50th Anniversary March on Washington. Other Endo family members also participated, including Todd Endo's wife, Paula.

Still a social activist, Endo observed, "We never fully achieved the dream that Martin Luther King spoke about in 1963, and we are still in pursuit of the dream in 2013. We aim to preserve voting rights in 2013 rather than enact voting rights as in 1963. We push for a living wage in 2013 as in 1963. We argue that no child should go to bed homeless or hungry in 2013. We urge a comprehensive reform in immigration laws, as we did in the 1950s and again in the 1960s and 1980s.

"Each time, we get closer to achieving the dream, but there is always more work to be done," Endo continued. "We never achieve the dream. I believe all this, and many, many speakers expressed these same thoughts about the unfinished business that we need to work on now and in the near future. To make our voice more effective, individuals and JACL must work with others across racial, language and income identifications. Together we can. And, we shall overcome, someday."

Endo concluded, "I am happy to have participated in the 50th Anniversary March and look forward to the 75th Anniversary event, when my son's generation and grandson's generation will be in the lead on the activities designed to pursue the dream in 2038." ■

Budokan Project in Downtown Los Angeles Awarded $1.3 Million Grant

LOS ANGELES — The City of Los Angeles, Bureau of Engineering, officially announced this month its selection of grantees for its Prop K funding cycle, and the LTSC Community Development Corp. was one of the agencies selected for the highly competitive funding awards.

LTSC Community Development Corp., a nonprofit community-based organization that has been providing services for more than 30 years to the greater Los Angeles community, was awarded a $1.3 million grant to fund the construction of the Budokan of Los Angeles, which is a multipurpose facility with a roof-top park in Little Tokyo, near Downtown Los Angeles.

The Budokan project will be located at 237-249 Los Angeles Street, between 2nd and 3rd Streets in Little Tokyo, near the Little Tokyo Branch Library and Vibiana LA. The Budokan project will consist of a gymnasium, community space and a roof-top park and will also feature an array of sports (basketball, volleyball and martial arts), afterschool projects, special events, tournaments and programming for people of all ages.

"I am extremely excited and pleased that the Budokan project received this highly competitive Prop K funding," said Los Angeles City Councilmember José Huizar, who represents the Little Tokyo community. "The Budokan project will benefit the community in multiple ways by bringing a much-needed recreational facility and park space to the area. The award also recognizes that this worthy project will serve a broad and diverse audience in Downtown Los Angeles and the Little Tokyo community."



An artist's rendering of the Budokan of Los Angeles.

The passage of Proposition K created a city-wide assessment district, which will generate $25 million each year in funds for the acquisition, improvement, construction and maintenance of city parks, recreation facilities and other projects through an annual real property tax assessment on city residents over a 30-year period. Funding is for capital improvements and maintenance. The primary purpose of Prop K is to combat the inadequacies and decay of the city's youth infrastructure, which has resulted in serious unmet needs for parks, recreation, childcare and community facilities.

"I would like to thank the City of Los Angeles for their partnership with LTSC on the Budokan project and for their recognition on the importance of expanding recreational opportunities in the Downtown area for a broad range of potential users, especially for many within the area who don't have access to affordable recreational opportunities," said Dean Matsubayashi, executive director of the Little Tokyo Service Center. "The Budokan project will fulfill many of these unmet needs, plus provide a boost to the local economy and serve as a cultural icon for Little Tokyo in the near future."

The Budokan of Los Angeles is currently working on a $22 million capital campaign that was launched in August 2011. LTSC anticipates the capital campaign to run for approximately two and a half to three years, with an estimated groundbreaking in 2015 and an estimated construction timeframe of 16 months. ■

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Applications Available for State Farm Youth Advisory Board

The State Farm Youth Advisory Board is now seeking new board members for 2014-15. The board is given responsibility over $5 million to grant service-learning and community impact projects that seek to solve domestic issues.

SFYAB members are trained to work on a team, prioritize, write requests for proposals, read grant applications, question a budget, exercise critical thinking and make grant decisions.

Applications are now available at *www.sfyab.com/apply/the-board*. The deadline to apply is Oct. 4. Anyone between the ages of 17-20 who is passionate about service learning and positively impacting communities within the U.S. and Canada is eligible to apply.

For more information, visit www.sfyab.com.

Japan to Fund Ice Wall to Contain Leaks

THE PLAN IS ANNOUNCED DAYS BEFORE DECISION ON TOKYO'S BID FOR 2020 OLYMPICS.

By Associated Press

TOKYO — The Japanese government announced Sept. 3 that it will spend $470 million on a subterranean ice wall and other steps in a desperate bid to stop leaks of radioactive water from the crippled Fukushima nuclear plant after repeated failures by the plant's operator.

The decision is widely seen as an attempt to show that the nuclear accident won't be a safety concern just days before the International Olympic Committee chooses among Tokyo, Istanbul and Madrid as the host of the 2020 Olympics.

The Fukushima Dai-ichi plant has been leaking hundreds of tons of contaminated underground water into the sea since shortly after a massive 2011 earthquake and tsunami damaged the complex. Several leaks from tanks storing radioactive water from recent weeks have heightened the sense of crisis that the plant's owner, Tokyo Electric Power Co., isn't able to contain the problem.

"Instead of leaving this up to TEPCO, the government will step forward and take charge," Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said after adopting the outline. "The world is watching if we can properly handle the contaminated water but also the entire decommissioning of the plant."

The government plans to spend an estimated 47 billion yen (U.S.$470 million) through the end of March 2015 on two projects — 32 billion yen (U.S. $320 million) on the ice wall and 15 billion yen (U.S.$150 million) on an upgraded water treatment unit that is supposed to remove all radioactive elements except water-soluble tritium — according to energy agency official Tatsuya Shinkawa.

The government, however, is not paying for urgently needed water tanks and other equipment that TEPCO is using to contain leaks. Shinkawa said the funding is limited to "technologically challenging projects" but the government is open to additional help when needed.

The ice wall would freeze the ground to a depth of up to 100 feet through a system of pipers carrying a coolant as cold as minus-minus 40 Fahrenheit. That would block contaminated water from escaping from the facility's immediate surroundings, as well as keep underground water from entering the reactor and turbine buildings, where much of the radioactive water has collected.

The project, which TEPCO and the government proposed in May, is being tested for feasibility by Japanese construction giant Kajima Corp. and is set for completion by March 2015.

Similar methods have been used to block water from parts of tunnels and subways, but building a 0.9-mile wall that surrounds four reactor buildings and their related facilities is unprecedented.

An underground ice wall has been used to isolate radioactive waste at the U.S. Department of Energy's former site of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Tennessee that produced plutonium, but only for six years, according to the *MIT Technology Review* magazine.

Some experts are still skeptical about the technology and say the running costs would be a huge burden.

Atsunao Marui, an underground water expert at the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology, said a frozen wall could be water-tight but is normally intended for use for a few years and is not proven for long-term use as planned in the outline. The decommissioning process is expected to take about 40 years.

"We still need a few layers of safety backups in case it fails," Marui told the *Associated Press*. ■

New 'UNFORGIVEN' Honors Great Filmmaking

By Associated Press

TOKYO — The Japanese remake of Clint Eastwood's "Unforgiven" isn't a mere cross-cultural adaptation but more a tribute to the universal spirit of great filmmaking for its star, Ken Watanabe.

"I was convinced from the start that this will be an original Japanese movie in its own right," said Watanabe, who has become the go-to Japanese actor for Hollywood.

Watanabe was happy Eastwood welcomed the idea of the remake, and they kept in touch. But, once shooting began, he was focused on delivering what director Lee Sang-il wanted in the new movie, not an easy reinterpretation.

"What I cherish as my joy is that sense of purpose we shared with Clint as people working hard on a film," Watanabe said before departing for the Venice Film Festival, where the Japanese film premiered Sept. 6.

The remake turns the tables on Eastwood, whose stardom originated in Spaghetti Westerns, the European films depicting the American West, which often remade samurai films and were influenced by Japanese directing styles. The 1964 classic "A Fistful of Dollars," starring Eastwood, was a retelling of Akira Kurosawa's "Yojimbo."

Eastwood's "Unforgiven" was released in 1992 and earned four Oscars, including Best Picture. The Japanese remake, which opened in its home country Sept. 13, keeps the original's title, characters, themes and plot: an aging, reformed warrior picks up his weapon — a sword rather than a gun — to help prostitutes who want revenge for abuse.

The landscape changes from the sandy Old West to the freezing, sometimes-snowy island of Hokkaido in the 1880s, setting a different ambience. Instead of a shootout, this film's climax is a bloodily cruel choreography of swordsmanship.

Eastwood's original was stunning when it came out for defying the stereotypes of cowboy movies, where the gun-slinging good guy triumphs over the bad buys, but instead raised fundamental questions about what was really good versus evil, according to Watanabe.

The remake examines those issues further, reflecting psychological complexities and introducing social issues not in the original, such as racial discrimination.

"It reflects the modern age. People are stifled, burdened and suffering to survive," Watanabe said, appearing more relaxed and younger than in the movie. "The original was simple and straight-ahead. The new version is more problematic. It's as though all the characters are writhing in thick mud."

Watanabe, 53, has become sought after in Hollywood since appearing alongside Tom Cruise in "The Last Samurai" in 2003. He starred in Eastwood's "Letters From Iwo Jima" (2006) and "Batman Begins" (2005).

While Watanabe takes Eastwood's starring role in "Unforgiven," veteran Akira Emoto plays the sidekick previously portrayed by Morgan Freeman. Yuya Yagira, named Best Actor for "Nobody Knows" at the 2004 Cannes Film Festival, plays the younger, troublemaker cowboy. Koichi Sato plays the villainous sheriff, the role that earned Gene Hackman a Best Supporting Actor Academy Award in Eastwood's film.

Watanabe is also set to be in the 2014 "Godzilla" remake, as well as in the upcoming Martin Scorsese film, "Silence," based on Shusaku Endo's novel about the historical persecution of Christians in Japan.

Watanabe stressed he was proud of the legacy of Japanese films, a legacy he has helped create in a career spanning more than three decades, following legends like Toshiro Mifune and Tatsuya Nakadai.

Sometimes he worries the old glory of Japanese movies may be fading. He hopes his "Unforgiven" might help win over new foreign fans. ■



PHOTO: AP/ISHIZUKA AMBAYASHI

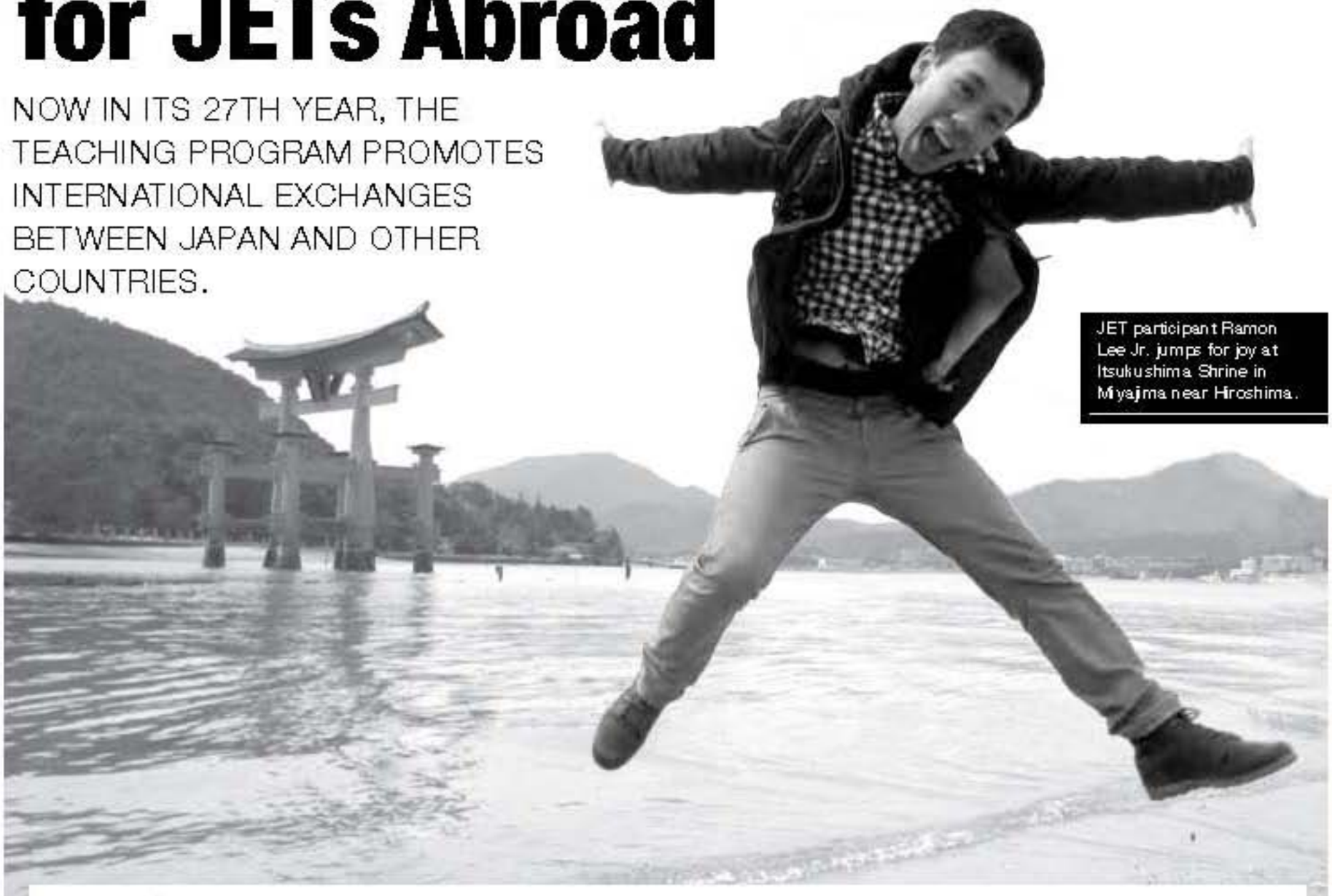
"Unforgiven" actor Ken Watanabe *(pictured here on Sept. 3)* is hoping that his latest film will help win over new foreign fans.

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Fall Signals Start of School for JETs Abroad

NOW IN ITS 27TH YEAR, THE TEACHING PROGRAM PROMOTES INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGES BETWEEN JAPAN AND OTHER COUNTRIES.



JET participant Ramon Lee Jr. jumps for joy at Itsukushima Shrine in Miyajima near Hiroshima.



JET teacher Rebecca Mesch visits Nagoya Castle in central Japan.

By Connie K. Ho
Contributor

It was the first week of school, and Rebecca Mesch, a 25-year-old petite blonde, was ready for her second year of teaching English in Japan. She was working in Shibukawa, a small city in Gunma Prefecture that has about 80,000 people, and had been using the last few weeks of summer to prepare for her students. Among her completed projects included a passport system with prizes from different countries, with incentives such as delectable candy from Korea and vegemite cracker packs from Australia. Just as kids all over the United States are trekking to school now, Mesch is just one of the participants in the Japan Exchange and Teaching Program (JET) who is gearing up to teach English in classrooms across Japan.

The JET Program, celebrating its 27th year, focuses on promoting international exchanges between Japan and other countries. This year's JET Program class hails from locations as diverse as the United States, Australia, Canada, Europe, New Zealand and South Africa. The Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR) administers the JET Program, and there are currently 4,372 participants this year.

JET Program participants can be employed as an Assistant Language Teacher (ALT), a Coordinator for International Relations (CIR) or a Sports Exchange Advisor (SEA). ALTs are placed mostly in public school or local boards of education, assisting classes taught by Japanese Teachers of English/Language (JTEs/JTLs). Some of their duties include providing support in preparing teaching materials and executing extracurricular activities such as English clubs or sport teams. More than 90 percent of JET Program participants serve as ALTs in varying locations in Japan, ranging from remote mountainous villages to metropolitan cities.

Mesch, originally from Sunnyvale, Calif., works in the countryside, teaching at a junior high school and an elementary school. During a day in class, Mesch might find herself facilitating language games, leading readings of English texts or conducting demonstrations and presentations. Mesch has past experience in these areas, having worked with Japanese exchange students during college. It was her experience with these exchange students along with her time in the campus' Japanese Student Assn. that piqued her interest to teach abroad in Japan.

"I just wanted to push outside my comfort zone and experience something that, after I settle down and get married, I won't be able to experience life like this ever again," Mesch said.



'I'm really happy about starting up this year again, getting into the groove of teaching.'

— Rebecca Mesch



With cherry blossoms blooming in the background, teacher Ramon Lee Jr. takes in the Higashiyama District in Kyoto.

Apart from her daily tasks, Mesch also provides grammar and pronunciation support for students on their compositions for a speech competition.

"I'm really happy about starting up this year again, getting into the groove of teaching. I feel a lot more competent and more confident than I did last year," Mesch said.

Mesch takes advantage of cultural opportunities outside of the classroom, enrolling in Japanese language classes and partaking in traditional Japanese celebrations. This past New Year's, Mesch visited the family home of her Japanese friend Nanami near Mt. Fuji, where she practiced her Japanese language skills, sampled a traditional Japanese feast, donned a kimono, visited local shrines and even watched the first sunrise of the New Year at Enoshima Beach.

"I felt really grateful to Nanami that I got to experience these things," Mesch said.

JET Program participants can also foster relationships with their fellow teachers and students. Ramon Lee Jr., a 23-year-old from Anaheim, Calif., currently teaching in the city of Kyoto, has been able to see the interpersonal growth in his students since arriving in Japan last August. During the first week of school, he was happy to see some of the students he had taught last year.

The students were fifth-graders whose first few moments of English exposure were with Lee. As he was walking home, he stumbled across his students who were playing soccer nearby. They ran over to him and attempted to practice English with him.

"Even though they had only learned 'hello,' 'my name is,' little simple introduction stuff, it really stuck out to me because, at such a young age, they were trying to use English to speak with a foreigner, whereas a lot of Japanese people who are older (may be) afraid to speak English because of their own personal insecurity with it," Lee said. "So, it was really cool to see 10-year-old kids go out and try it, even though they could be really shy in class."

This year, Lee is working at three junior high schools, three elementary schools and one special needs school. He was inspired to teach abroad after hearing stories of Japan from his mother, who had studied abroad in the country when she was a college student. Lee applied to the JET Program during his last year of college and, over the past year, has savored his time in Japan.



Standing alongside her friend Nanami, Rebecca Mesch celebrates the New Year holiday in traditional Japanese garb.

Lee has traveled throughout the country during his time in the JET Program but really loves his placement city for its cultural, historical and political history.

"You can just walk down a neighborhood or walk down a narrow street and walk into an ancient temple that's been there for hundreds or possibly a couple of hundreds of years, so that's always really cool," Lee said. "I think it's great because there are a lot of festivals in Kyoto, especially during the summertime, and even during the regular week, you'll see people walking around in traditional kimonos."

Over the years, the JET Program has received international acclaim for its efforts to bridge local and global communities. Lee, himself, has been able to make friends from around the world. Teaching in Kyoto has also helped him better understand language education and Japanese society.

"I think our community is great. I've made friends from all around the world — from South Africa, Australia, New Zealand — we've formed a lot of good friendships," said Lee, who was born in the Philippines. "As for professionally, I think that the experience of working abroad really challenged me to be confident in myself and to really learn to effectively communicate with people who may not even speak a common language." ■



Ramon Lee Jr. stands at the Fushimi Inari Shrine in Kyoto.

A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS



Go for Broke Annual Evening of Aloha
LOS ANGELES, CA
Oct. 12, 5 p.m.
Westin Bonaventure Hotel & Suites
404 S. Figueroa St.
This year's Evening of Aloha Gala Dinner celebrates "embracing the past to navigate the future." The dinner will be prepared by chef Roy Yamaguchi of Roy's Restaurants Worldwide and chef Akira Hirose of Maison Akira, with the dessert from King's Bakery. Winners of this year's essay contest will be awarded a ticket to the gala dinner.
Info: Visit www.goforbroke.org or call (818) 242-9108.

CALENDAR

>>EDC

Asian American Commission's Young Leaders Symposium
BOSTON, MA
Sept. 27, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
State House, Great Hall
24 Beacon St.
The Young Leaders Symposium is designed to introduce Asian American youth to leadership and service roles in the public sector. Speakers and workshops are scheduled to educate attendees about running for office and careers in government, among other things.
Info: **Visit www.**aacommission.org or call (617) 367-9333.

The 14th Manjiro Festival
FAIRHAVEN, MA
Oct. 5, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Center and Walnut Streets
The 14th annual Manjiro Festival honors Manjiro Nakahama, who is believed to be the first Japanese person to live in the United States. The daylong event features Japanese and American food, martial arts demonstrations, arts and crafts vendors and taiko drumming performances by Odaiko New England. The festival is sponsored by the Whitfield-Manjiro Friendship Society.
Info: Call (508) 995-1219 or visit **www.**whitfield-manjiro.org.

Japanese American Association of New York's Charity Golf Tournament
BOONTON, NJ
Sept. 30, 10 a.m.
Knoll West Country Club
990 Greenbank Road
Cost: $250/Entry fee
The Japanese American Assn.'s 20th annual Charity Golf Tournament kicks off at 10 a.m. with a lunch buffet. Golfers are asked to report to the course at 11 a.m. The shotgun is at 12:15 p.m. The grand prize is an All Nippon Airways business class ticket to Tokyo. To enter, register by Sept. 7.
Info: **Visit www.**jaany.org or call (212) 840-6942.

>>NCWNP

The JCCCNC Fall Auction
SAN FRANCISCO, CA
Until Sept. 15
The Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California's Fall Auction is now open online. Sale items include Japanese ceramic pieces, gift certificates to restaurants, sports memorabilia, wine tastings and more.
Info: **Visit www.**jcccnc.org or call (415) 567-5505.

Florin JACL Women's Forum
SACRAMENTO, CA
Sept. 14, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.
Capsity Center
2572 21st St.
Cost: $10/Nonmembers; Free/JACL members
The 20th annual Women's Forum, organized by the Florin JACL, is developed to spark engaging and valuable health, family and community dialogue. The event includes a continental breakfast, lunch and gift bag. RSVP, as there are a limited number of seats.
Info: **Visit www.**florinjacl.com or email FlorinJACL@hotmail.com.

Fourth Quarter NCWNP District Meeting
STOCKTON, CA
Nov. 9, 10 a.m-4 p.m.
Calvary Presbyterian Church
2343 Country Club Blvd.
The JACL French Camp chapter is hosting the fourth quarter Northern California-Western Nevada-Pacific District Council meeting.
Info: Contact **Kent Higashiyama** at higashiyama@att.net.

Midori Kai's Annual Boutique
MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA
Sept. 14, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Mountain View Buddhist Temple Gymnasium
575 N. Shoreline Blvd.
Midori Kai, Inc., a nonprofit professional business women's organization, will feature its annual arts and crafts boutique with works of Asian American artists and crafters.
Info: Contact **Phyllis Osaki** at (925) 596-1770 or **Marsha Baird** at (510) 579-1518.

Santa Cruz County Fair Opening Night Gala
WATSONVILLE, CA
Sept. 10, 5:30-8:30 p.m.
Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds, Heritage Hall
2601 E. Lake Ave.
Cost: $75/General admission
The 2013 Santa Cruz County Fair's first annual Opening Night Gala tickets include valet parking, fair admission and entrance to the private gala in Heritage Hall. The National Register Rodgers House will be open, with docents dressed in period costumes. Proceeds will benefit the Heritage Foundation.
Info: **Visit www.**santacruzcountyfair.com or call (831) 724-5671.

Pacific Rim Film Festival
SANTA CRUZ, CA
Oct. 17-23
Rio Theatre
1205 Soquel Ave.
The theme of the 25th annual Pacific Rim Film Festival is "When Strangers Meet." Featured films will focus on fostering a cross-cultural understanding. The free festival is funded by the community and Ow Family Properties.
Info: **Visit www.**pacrimfilmfestival.org.

>>PSW

PSW District Awards Luncheon
LOS ANGELES, CA
Sept. 21, 11 a.m.
The Grand Event Center
4101 E. Willow St., Long Beach
The 17th annual PSW District Awards Luncheon is "Commemorating the 25th Anniversary of Redress." Keynote speaker is Grant Ujifusa, with awardees including Southern California Edison, Phil Shigekuni, Harry Kajihara and George Wakiji.
Info: Email Carol **Kawamoto**, chairperson, at ckkawamoto7880@gmail.com.

Film Screening of 'MIS: Human Secret Weapon'
SAN DIEGO, CA
Oct. 19, 11:30 a.m.-1:15 p.m.
College-Rolando Library
6600 Montezuma Road
The San Diego JACL chapter is hosting a free screening of the documentary film "MIS: Human Secret Weapon" by director Junichi Suzuki.
The film tells the story of the heroics of the Military Intelligence Service during WWII. A Q&A with the film's narrator, Lane Nishikawa, and professor Susan Hasegawa will follow the screening.
Info: **Visit www.**jaclsandiego.org or call (619) 512-2534.

>>PNW

Portland Japanese Garden 50th Anniversary
PORTLAND, OR
Sept. 15, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
Portland Japanese Garden
611 S.W. Kingston Ave.
The Portland Japanese Garden's 50th anniversary will feature activities, food, music, origami, taiko drumming and Takohachi workshops. There will also be a book signing with "Japanese Celebrations" author Betty Reynolds.
Info: **Visit www.**japanesegarden.com or call (503) 223-1321. ■

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In Memoriam

Dohi, George Keiichi, 86, Los



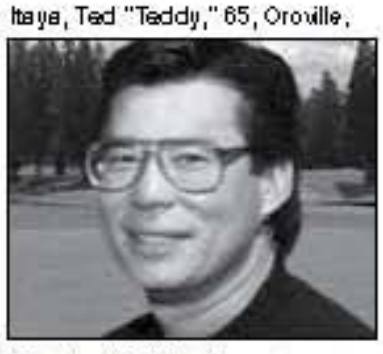
Angeles, CA; Aug. 8; survived by his son, Steven (Donna); daughters, Katherine (Eric) Sasaki and Lynne; 5 gc.

Hazama, Miteuo, 90, Los Angeles, CA; Aug. 3; survived by his children, Lori (Carlos E.) Guizar, Jon (Kay) and Terry; brother, Sam Hazama; 5 gc.

Hoshino, Shizuye Tachiyama, 90, Los Angeles, CA; Aug. 16; survived by her children, Wyman and Cheri (Len Trautman); sister, Hatsumi Harada; 1 gc.

Ishii, Nancy Shigeko, 86, Buena Park, CA; Aug. 15; survived by her children, Donna and Alan (Karen); brothers, Kazuma, Shigeo (Yumi) and Fred (Patty) Nakata; sisters-in-law, June Watanabe and Clara Ishii; brothers-in- law, Ka Osumi, Tom (Mitzi) and Shig (Frances) Ishii; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; 5 gc.

Itaya, Ted "Teddy," 65, Oroville,



CA; Aug. 10; U.S. Army veteran; survived by his son, Andrew; daughter Brianne; and Jane; also survived by many other relatives.

Koyama, Haru Rose, 96, Los Angeles, CA; Aug. 4; survived by her children: Arthur (Naomi) and Joan; also survived by sister-in-laws Mitsie Yanari, Mikki Toshima and Belen Koyama; and many nieces, nephews and other relatives; 2 gc.

Fukawa, Hiroshi Ted, 99, Arleta, CA; Aug. 11; survived by his wife, Yuriko Betty; sisters-in-law, Yoshiko (Tokunori) Takahashi and Louise (George) Tanaka; brothers-in-law, Tomio Chijiwa and Bob Endo; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives in the US and Japan.

Fukumoto, Henry Kiyoshi, 91, Los Angeles, CA; Aug. 6; predeceased by his wife, Bessie; survived by his sisters, Yoshiye (Edward) Mayeda and Teruko Koshiyama; also survived by many nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

Matsumoto, Tomio, 81, Torrance,



CA; Aug. 15; survived by his wife, Sadako; children, Tachi (Larry) DeWeese, Jason (Sheree) and Charlene (Rolando) Zuniga; brother, Hiroshi; sisters-in-law, Noriko and Sue Okada; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives in the U.S. and Japan; 4 gc; 1 ggc;

Morikawa, Marjorie Mieeto, 92, Los Angeles, CA; Aug. 18; survived by her children, Diane (Tim) Sumarnkant, Gregg and Mark (Ewa); siblings, Shig (Donna) Nakagiri, Bob Nakagiri, Jane Shitani, and June (Jimmy) Akioka; also survived by many nieces, nephews, and other relatives; 7 gc.

Nakayama, Tadako, 81, Gardena,



CA; Aug. 17; predeceased by her husband, Shigeo and her brother, Torao Ishimori; survived by her son, Shigekazu; siblings, Mitsuko (Masami) Tanaka, Masami (Yoji) Sakamoto and Katsuaki (Michino) Ishimori; sister-in-law, Kazu Ishimori; also survived by many other relatives, both here and in Japan.

Nakamura, James Yoshio, 88, Los Angeles, CA; Aug. 21; he is survived by his wife of 62 years, Tsuyako; children Gary (Sue) and Linda; sisters, Mary (husband Ray) Nagao, Joyce Takeguma, Tamiko Lowe; sister-in-law, Shizuko Nakamura; many nephews and nieces; 4 gc; 3 ggc.

Okuda, Kikue, 92, Fremont, CA; Aug. 10; predeceased by husband Franklin and son Calvin; survived by son Paul, and Sumi; sister-in-law Esther Tanizawa and Yayoi Hashimoto; many nieces, nephews and their children; 3 gc. Memorial service will be held on Sept. 14 at 3:00 p.m. at Turlock Funeral Home.

Sunada, Richard, 81, Los Ange-



les, CA; Aug. 4; survived by wife Shirley; siblings Marie Takahashi and Robert (Kiku).

Torisawa, Kikuko, 98, Los Angeles, CA; Aug. 7; survived by her daughter, Akiko Watanabe; grandson, Kosho Watanabe & Cynthia Chun; granddaughter, Nijo Watanabe & Dominic Ta and great-granddaughter, Umi Watanabe.

Yamada, Ayako, 89, Monterey Park, CA; Aug. 6; survived by her daughter, Patricia (Tom) Kaneshiro; step-grandson, Nicholas Kaneshiro; 2 gc; 4 ggc. ■

PLACE A TRIBUTE

'In Memoriam' is a free listing that appears on a limited, space-available basis. Tributes honor your loved ones with text and photos and appear in a timely manner at the rate of $20/column inch. Contact: nalea@pacificcitizen.org or (213) 620-1767

TRIBUTE

SHOJI HORIKOSHI



Shoji Horikoshi was born Nov. 5, 1926 to Seijiro and Mitsu Horikoshi in San Francisco. Shoji passed away July 16, 2013 after a valiant 5-month battle with cancer. Those who know Shoji will not be surprised to know he was upbeat and optimistic throughout his fight with cancer.

Shoji was a Boy Scout and attended Raphael Weill Elementary, then Roosevelt Junior High when World War II began.

During World War II, Shoji was interned in the Tanforan Racetrack Center Stables for 8 months. Then he and his family were sent to Topaz Relocation Center in Utah. Topaz was named for a local mountain when the local residents of Delta, Utah refused to allow the use of their town as the name of a "prison for the innocent." The four members of Shoji's family lived in a single small room in the camp. Shoji later said the camps made him keenly aware of civil rights and the need to protect them in our country.

Shoji left the camp to work at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. He enlisted in the Army in 1945 and served in Europe with the occupation forces. After graduating from UC Berkeley in 1953, majoring in Criminalistics, he got a job at Macy's working in the warehouse. Shoji said, "You do the best you can under the circumstances."

In 1955 he got an entry level job with the San Francisco Police Crime Lab, and would rise through the ranks until he was appointed Director of the Lab. He stayed in that position through a dozen chiefs of police, working for 38 years for the police dept. Shoji was a renowned forensics expert who lectured at the FBI Academy in Virginia. Although technically a civilian employee, Shoji's position within the SFPD was equivalent to that of a police captain. The San Francisco Police Crime Lab at Hunter's Pt. was named "The Shoji Horikoshi Crime Laboratory." This lab was considered state of the art with the ARS fingerprint computer, DNA testing capability, and electron microscopes.

He was also active in the SFPD's Asian Police Officers' Association and was one of the founding members and later President of the Northern California Asian Peace Officers' Association. His colleagues say that he was a mentor, role model, and friend to generations of Bay Area law-enforcement officers. When Shoji retired from the SFPD, the main ballroom of the Hyatt Regency in San Francisco was packed with friends, colleagues, and dignitaries to honor his service to the SFPD, City and County of San Francisco, and for his ongoing work in the community.

After he retired, Shoji joined the Kimochi Board of Directors in 1997 and was Chair from 2000-2006. He also served as Chair of the Budget/Finance Committee. In 2010, Shoji received the Kimochi Spirit Award to recognize his community spirit, longevity, and continued heartfelt "kimochi." He remained an active member of the Board until his passing. In addition to supporting Kimochi, Shoji served as a leader with the Northern California Asian Police Officers' Association, Nisei Voters League, California Association of Criminologists, and California Association of Crime Laboratory Directors.

Preceded in death by his siblings Akira, Shuichi, Asa, and Hiroshi, Shoji is survived by nieces Patricia Cochrane and Ann Mayeda, and nephews Brian Horikoshi and Carl Horikoshi.

Shoji's childhood was marred by racism and injustice, but he took an optimistic view of an imperfect world. He worked to make the world a better place than he found it. He had a passion for community service and a deep love of San Francisco and his many friends here. Shoji left many lives that are better for knowing him, and his memory brings smiles to all who knew him. We should all be so blessed to have lived such a life.

Per Shoji's wishes, no service will be held. Remembrances can be made to his favorite charity, Kimochi, Inc., 1715 Buchanan Street, San Francisco, CA 94115.

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Are there Japanese restaurants run by Japanese that are awful? I'm sure there are. I've certainly dined at some that I wouldn't return to.

But I would say the chances of a Japanese restaurant being bad are exponentially higher if the owners and staff are not Japanese. If Japanese was chosen because the owners thought it will be popular, uh . . . no thanks.

I know that chefs can't all be trained in Japan or Hong Kong or Paris or wherever to earn their "authenticity chops." I know most chefs in Japanese restaurants in the U.S. don't get to go to Japan to be trained. Not even Benihana does that anymore — for years, their chefs used to undergo rigorous training in Japan before they could start throwing knives and eggs around.

Not every sushi chef can spend a lifetime perfecting his craft like the father and sons of the documentary "Jiro Dreams of Sushi." I know a young man who became a sushi chef in Denver because the restaurant needed someone, and he volunteered. He learned some rudimentary things about sushi, and off he went.

I have had a lot of AWFUL sushi over the years, and the fault isn't so much ethnic differences but simple lack of training, education and cultural sensitivity.

The worse offenses and obvious signs of fakery: Rice that's either overcooked or undercooked. Using cheap nori that's hard to bite through, using cheap nori and not toasting it correctly or not toasting it at all. Not using sushi vinegar in the rice. Putting a huge mound of wasabi on the plate or serving wasabi with "California rolls," other "futomaki" or inari sushi, which don't need wasabi and soy sauce.

Does Mashiko in Seattle have to have an all-Japanese staff to serve good sushi and authentic Japanese food? Nope.

In Denver, many sushi places are run by Koreans. In fact, the best sushi-to-go is made by a Korean family who runs a counter within a large Korean supermarket. This family makes the sushi that's sold at the one Japanese grocery in downtown Denver.

In the end, you can't judge sushi by who makes it. You have to judge sushi by its taste, quality and authenticity. I have my prejudices, and I'm willing to admit it. But I'm also willing to give places a try to see if the food's good.

If it's tasty and authentic, it doesn't really matter to me who makes it and what color she is.

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

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But it's also clear that we have a long way to go. Every social measure of black America turns up profoundly negative, with the African American community still with the largest numbers in poverty and unemployment, with a criminal justice system that discriminates heavily against them and an African American community with the lowest educational achievement levels compared with just about every other cohort. The list is disheartening.

And in this year, the 50th anniversary of that great speech that expressed so eloquently Dr. King's hope for a more equitable society, the state of Florida made a mockery of that vision when it acquitted George Zimmerman for having shot and killed Trayvon Martin, a young black man who tried to defend himself against a man who attacked him with a gun.

The logic of Florida's "stand your ground" law made it OK for Zimmerman to kill an innocent black kid because he was, simply, black. If it was young Trayvon who accosted Zimmerman in a similar fashion, there is no question the state of Florida would have found Trayvon Martin guilty of murder, stand your ground law or not.

The outcome of the Trayvon Martin killing was nothing more than racial rationalization at its worse.

Or, perhaps not.

In an Oakland BART station on New Year's Eve three years ago, Oscar Grant, a 22-year-old black man, was shot in the back and killed by a BART policeman named Johannes Mehserle. The entire episode was captured on camera: Grant lying face down, Mehserle standing over him and firing a shot into his back.

Despite such striking evidence, Mehserle was acquitted of any wrongdoing, and once again, that verdict was a mockery that said, simply, if you're a black man in a confrontation with a white man with a gun, you lose either way.

In profound ways, the deaths of Trayvon Martin and Oscar Grant are obscene lessons for what can, and probably does, happen too often across the social landscape of America.

We've progressed in our social evolution of race relations as a society, it's true, but as every reasonable measure of where we are today on equity issues indicates — for blacks, for Asians, for Latinos — we still have such a long way to go.

John Tateishi is a former JACL national director.

