SPECIAL HOLIDAY ISSUE

PACIFIC CITIZEN



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(Continued on page 67)

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Letter From the Editor 2013

This year's theme is "The Gift of Giving," and no time is it more relevant than during the holiday season. As we prepare to welcome in a new year, let us take the time to appreciate the individuals, groups and companies that inspire us each and every day to do a good deed.

Gifts can range from the giving of one's "Knowledge," "Memories," "Money," "Resources" and "Time" — all attributes needed to truly make a difference in someone's life.

I am inspired by the following quote, given by an unknown author: "Sometimes a small thing you do can mean everything in another person's life."

The stories featured in this issue truly reflect the very best in our society — I hope they inspire you to do a good turn as well.

The *Pacific Citizen* salutes all those who selflessly give what they have of themselves so that others may learn and benefit from their knowledge.

And the *Pacific Citizen* is grateful to every one of our supporters — our *P.C.* Editorial Board, JACL staff, members and readers — who continue to help us operate and deliver the news since our inception in 1929.

In these challenging times, we acknowledge and appreciate your donations. We wouldn't be here without you. It is our readers who inspire us to improve ourselves.

Finally, thank you to all of the JACL chapters who solicited ads for this year's issue. We hope the commisions earned will allow you to continue to "give back." And to the hardest-working staff on the planet, THANK YOU for showing me the true meaning of the "Gift of Giving" every day.

— Allison Haramoto
Executive Editor



Cover Design: Marie Samonte

STORY INDEX

The Gift of Preserving the Past to Save the Future 8
By Alissa Hiraga

'Forever' Remembered 12
By Connie K. Ho

JACL Journeys to Fukushima, Japan 16

Sharing the Aloha Spirit With Deserving Kids 22
By Lauren Airii

Sign From the Past Delivers a Present 28
By George T. Johnston

A Year in Review 2013 35

Inside:
JACL Annual Report

Honoring a Leader in the Redress Fight in Philly 42
By Associated Press

Businessman Honors JA Mentors/ Sierra Post Celebrates 60 Years 43
By Roberta Barton

Community Comrades 55
By Connie K. Ho

Hugs for Hope 56
By Allison Haramoto

***Omiyage* Is One Japanese Custom That Promotes Politeness 64**
By Gil Asakawa

In Memoriam 2013: Tributes and Obituaries 68

AD INDEX

Alameda 21
Berkeley 48
Chicago 2
Cincinnati 26
Contra Costa 4
67
Delano 33
Detroit 33
Eden Township 41
Fresno 33
Greater L.A. Singles 25
HIP Snowflakes 53
Idaho Falls 41
JACL Credit Union 63
JANM 57
Livingston-Merced 2
Lodi 41
Mile-Hi 31
Monterey Peninsula 30
Mt. Olympus 26
New Mexico 20
New England 47
Olympia 33
Omaha 20
P.C.'s People Who Count 52
Philadelphia 25
Pocatello-Blackfoot 25
Portland 27
Puyallup Valley 20
Riverside 20
Sacramento 26
Salinas Valley 59
San Diego 26
San Fernando Valley 6
San Francisco 65
San Jose 20
San Mateo 21
Santa Barbara 30
Seattle 26
SELANOCO 44
Sequoia 47
Sonoma County 2
Southern California 70
Spokane 55
St. Louis 47
Stockton 39
Twin Cities 47
Union Bank 72
Venice-Culver 26
Ventura County 24
Wall of Fame 66
West Los Angeles 34
Wisconsin 2
DISTRICT COUNCILS:
Intermountain 34
Pacific Northwest 25
Pacific Southwest 34

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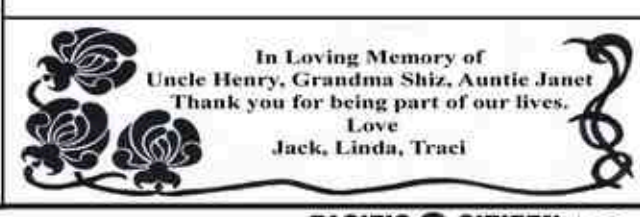
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The Gift of Preserving the Past to Save the Future

TIRELESS 'GUARDIANS' AT MANZANAR, TULE LAKE AND HEART MOUNTAIN WORK TO PRESERVE THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE.



PHOTO: NPS

Park Ranger Alisa Lynch *(center)* leads a tour at Manzanar in July.

By Alissa Hiraga
Contributor

The imprisonment of Japanese American citizens and noncitizens during World War II darkened the country's soul. Historical interpretation and preservation of that piece of U.S. history would be lost without those who tirelessly work as its guardians.

Manzanar, Tule Lake and Heart Mountain are among the 10 former concentration camp sites where such guardians are at work. Their efforts are fueled by unwavering commitment and collaboration in order to carry out their mission: to bring to light the human experience and lessons that are indispensable to all.

Brian Niiya, content director at Densho and editor of the "Densho Encyclopedia" and "Japanese American History: An A to Z Reference from 1868 to the Present," sees the impact these guardians have through his work on projects for Densho and the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii.

"I have found them to be uniformly knowledgeable, passionate and helpful, and I have been impressed with their professionalism in learning as much as they could about the sites and the larger history behind them," Niiya said. "A high percentage of visitors at Manzanar come . . . with essentially no prior knowledge of the story. I think the role they play in introducing the story to so many is of particular significance in making its important lessons for the present and future better known."

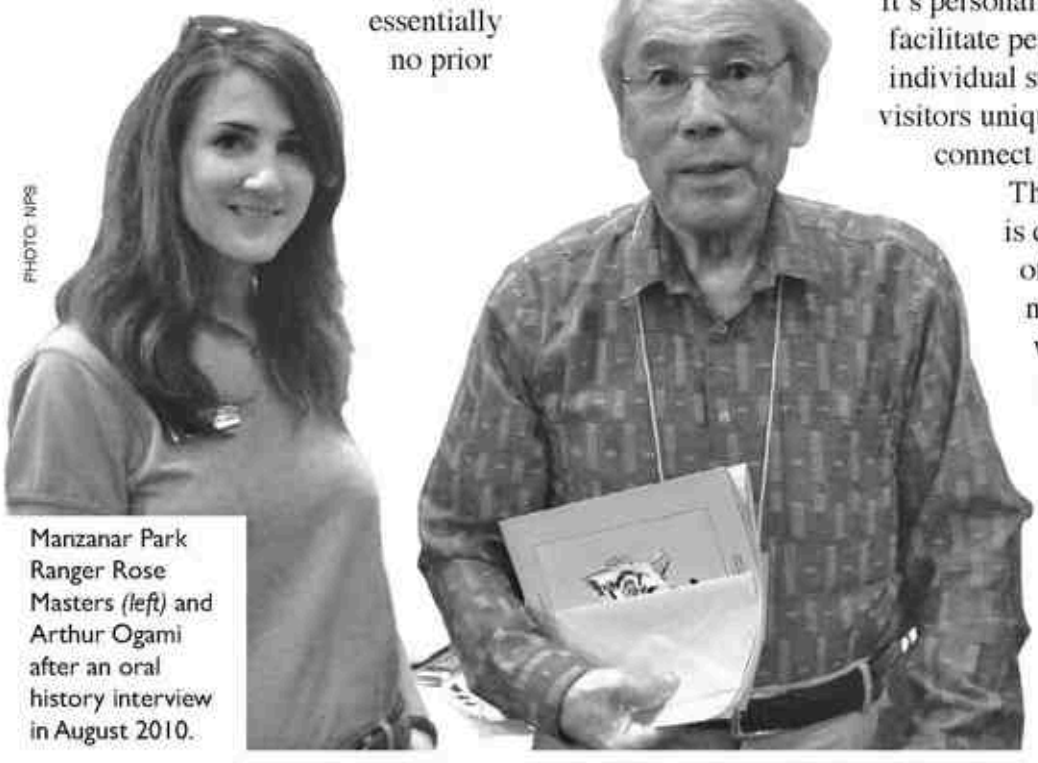


PHOTO: NPS

Manzanar Park Ranger Rose Masters *(left)* and Arthur Ogami after an oral history interview in August 2010.

MANZANAR NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Alisa Lynch, chief of interpretation at the Manzanar National Historic Site near Lone Pine, Calif., is a part of the dedicated National Park Service team who "interprets" sites and stories for visitors.

"We (the NPS) are not the story, just the facilitators and preservers," Lynch said. She and the site's team preserve artifacts, archives and maintain an extensive reference library collection. The Manzanar site receives more than 80,000 visitors each year. A large part of the effort involves operating the visitor center, where the team answers questions and offers ranger-led programs.

"It means a lot when visitors say they want to come back, learn more or tell their friends to visit," Lynch continued. "It means the most when Nisei say that history as we present it at Manzanar is how they remember it and how they want others to learn about it. It's not the kind of perspective that people always get from history books. It's personal; it's real. We facilitate perspectives by sharing individual stories and giving visitors unique opportunities to connect to them."

The team at Manzanar is driven by a sense of urgency. While national parks are what Lynch describes as "forever," chronicling lifetimes that are passing means a constant race against time. The team has conducted more than 400 oral history interviews with people confined at Manzanar and other camps, military police, War Relocation Authority staff and local residents.

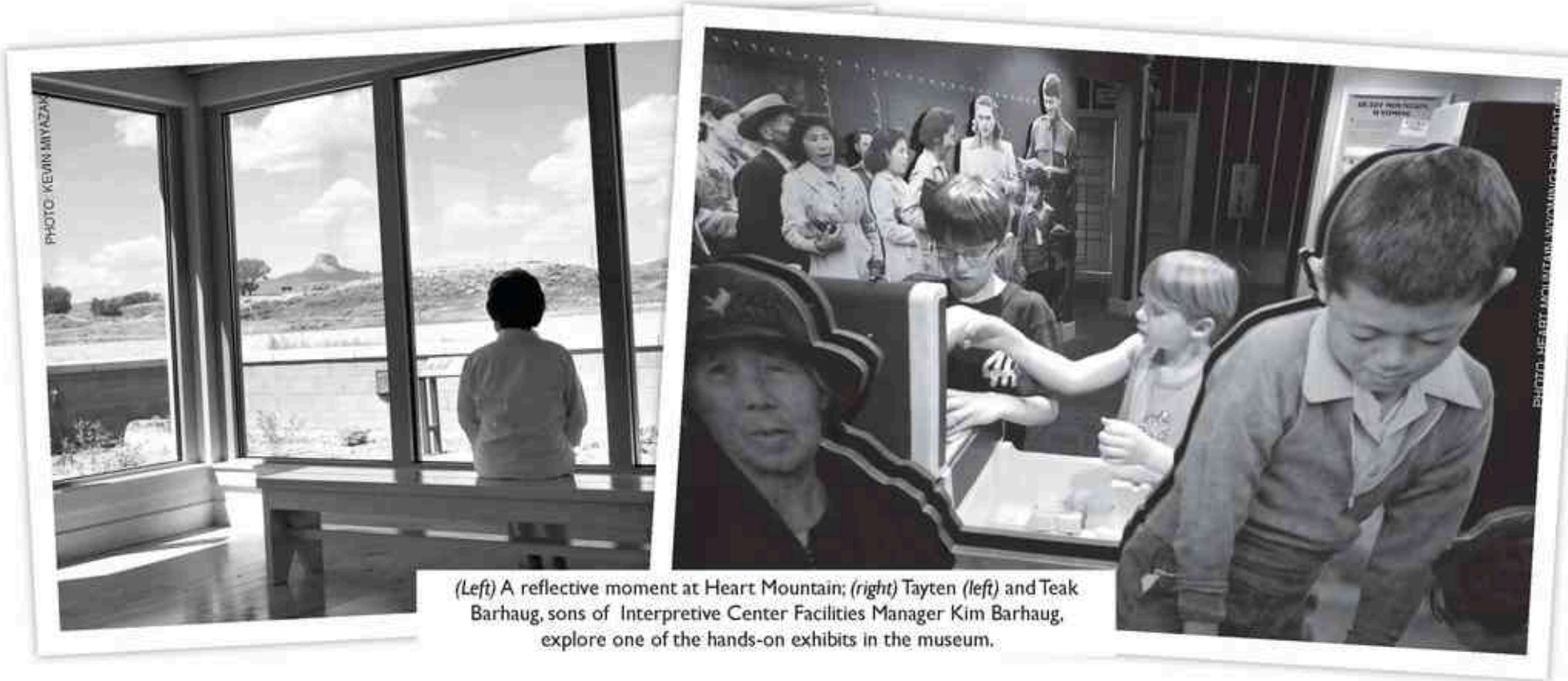
"We've only talked to a tiny fraction of the 11,070 people confined at Manzanar or the 120,313 confined in all. Still, visitors can see that while people had common experiences, they didn't all have the same experience, and they don't all have the same recollections or perspective now. . . . There is no single perspective," Lynch said.

NPS Ranger Rose Masters began working at Manzanar at age 17 as a member of the Youth Conservation Corps. Although she grew up in nearby Independence, Calif., she never studied Manzanar in school. Masters learned about Manzanar through her grandfather, who was a member of the Manzanar Advisory Commission. "The history of Manzanar is a very important part of the history of my home, and for that reason, the work I do is very personal," she said.

For Lynch and Masters, working at the Manzanar site has been a profound journey.

"Some people come to Manzanar on very personal pilgrimages; others have no direct connection, but they want to learn about it," said Lynch. "It's a fascinating continuum because you never know who is going to come in. I remember seeing the guest register book from our grand opening in 2004. A Nisei man from Los Angeles who had been shot by an MP while gathering scrap wood in May 1942 had signed his name on the line next to a man from Oregon who had served as an MP at Manzanar. I am sure neither man had any idea as they passed the pen. Another time, Gen. (John) DeWitt's granddaughter signed the comment book, but we had no idea at the time that she was visiting. It's endlessly unpredictable and fascinating."

Lynch's inspiration resides on a personal level through everlasting friendships. "They have enriched my life more than I can say," she said. "The hardest part is saying good-bye to *dai ji na tomodachis*, but I wouldn't trade knowing them for anything. I have learned much about endurance, kindness and forgiveness. I didn't



(Left) A reflective moment at Heart Mountain; *(right)* Tayten *(left)* and Teak Barhaug, sons of Interpretive Center Facilities Manager Kim Barhaug, explore one of the hands-on exhibits in the museum.

know their Issei parents, but the Nisei 'kids' are a great tribute to their immigrant parents who endured so much to make their lives in the U.S."

TULE LAKE

In Northern California near the Oregon border, the Tule Lake concentration camp was a "segregation center," where people of Japanese descent branded either "loyal" or "disloyal" to the U.S. were held.

Barbara Takei, who serves as CFO for the Tule Lake Committee, grew up in Michigan during the Civil Rights Movement. Along with other Sansei, she questioned why Japanese Americans didn't protest and speak out again the injustice of the incarceration.

"Tule Lake answers that question. . . . In fact, over 12,000 protested. . . . Outraged by the demand they show loyalty to the government that stripped them of their rights and freedom, used the so-called loyalty questions to protest the injustice of their incarceration. But, this mass protest was largely ignored or spun as the activities of disloyal troublemakers," she said.

"The TLC is an all-volunteer organization," Takei continued. "And the work of advocating for the Tule Lake site and raising money for the site's preservation has been done entirely pro bono. Members of the TLC's board are driven by a passion to tell the story of the Nikkei who protested the injustice of their incarceration and were segregated at Tule Lake. Our goal is to bring this story of protest into the Japanese American narrative. We also want to remove the stigma of disloyalty the government attached to this very American protest against wartime incarceration."

HEART MOUNTAIN

In a remote part of northwestern Wyoming, the Interpretive Center on the former site of the Heart Mountain Relocation Camp is a living gem for visitors who make the journey from near or far. The center includes a museum, gallery, small theater and archives. The site is a National Historical Landmark and encompasses an Honor Roll War Memorial built by internees, a walking tour and five original structures from the camp.

Brian Liesinger, executive director of the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation, has a strong sense of responsibility toward the site, invigorated by his determination to honor the internees and their families. Liesinger has a familial connection to Heart Mountain through his maternal and paternal grandparents, who served in WWII.

"When my mother's parents were discharged, they settled in Wyoming with the last crop of homesteaders to the area," said Liesinger. "As with homesteading veterans before them, they were given rights to scavenge materials from what was left of the Heart Mountain Relocation Camp. It was there that my grandfather, piece by piece, dismantled one of the hospital buildings and used the lumber to build their homestead house. During this project, he also uncovered the old school bell from the camp. Its historical significance was not lost on him. It became a fixture of my childhood. . . . Shortly before the opening of the Interpretive Center, my parents felt it belonged in the hands of the foundation. More than 50 years later, they returned to the place where it stood watch over people who, because of a complete denial of liberty, toiled in the shadow of Heart Mountain."

The patriotism of the internees and their ability to endure while transforming a camp into a community are unforgettable to Liesinger. He finds inspiration in the Japanese Americans who served during WWII and also the resistors who could not support a government that revoked their basic rights. Equally stirring as the history are the site's partnerships.

"I'm incredibly grateful for the foresight of area residents to preserve this site, long before the HMWF secured it and built the Interpretive Center," said Liesinger. "I am inspired by the steadfast support of our members and the many partners we have made. I'm inspired by the contributions — large and small, material and monetary — of donors who believe in our mission."

The selfless efforts of these guardians breathe life into the stories of people and of places that may go unseen or forgotten. They move to preserve the past to save the future.

"One of our greatest challenges has been to capture the stories of aging internees and use them to engage younger generations about the history and issues of Japanese American confinement," said Liesinger. "We strive to illustrate how this dark chapter in American history provides profound lessons for our future. Unfortunately, all our problems of prejudice have not been solved. By shining a light on what happened here, we strive to ensure that it never happens again." ■



Tule Lake Committee's *(from left)* CFO Barbara Takei, President Hiroshi Shimizu and Secretary Roy Ikeda at the 2009 Tule Lake Pilgrimage, which celebrated the designation of the Tule Lake site as a National Monument.

THE FUTURE

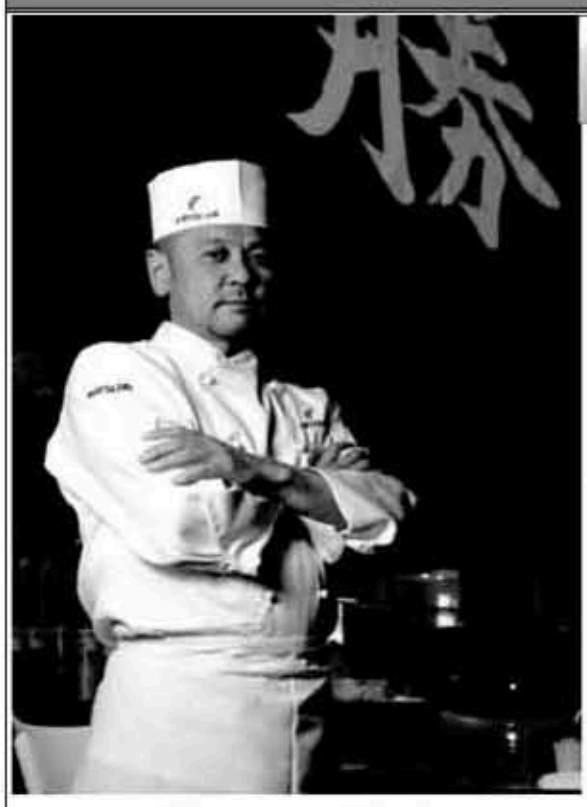
The Manzanar team is currently completing new exhibits for two reconstructed barracks buildings, with Friends of Manzanar fundraising to reconstruct the latrines, laundry and ironing room on Block 14. In 2014, the team will work with the Organization of American Historians to create an Administrative History of the creation and development of Manzanar as a National Historic Site. The Manzanar Committee's 45th Annual Pilgrimage is set for April 26.

The Tule Lake Committee has begun planning for the next pilgrimage, "Criminalizing Dissent," scheduled for July 4-7. Funds are also being raised to preserve the Tule Lake Jail. Notes Takei: "Tule Lake is the only one of the 10 concentration camps that was converted into a maximum-security segregation center. The government has recognized its significance by designating it as a National Historic Landmark. Tule Lake is now a National Monument and will, in the next decade, be a National Park."

Heart Mountain recently acquired one of the original root cellars built on the site by internees. The team hopes to stabilize, repair it and eventually open it for public viewing. With a recent Japanese American Confinement Sites grant from the federal government, the team is in the process of hiring an archivist to help with the creation of a Heart Mountain Archives Center at the museum. The annual pilgrimage is set for Aug. 22-23, with the focus on honoring Japanese American veterans and dedicating the Honor Roll memorial to the late Sen. Daniel Inouye.

For more information, visit Manzanar (www.nps.gov/manz), Tule Lake (www.tulelake.org) and Heart Mountain (www.heartmountain.org).

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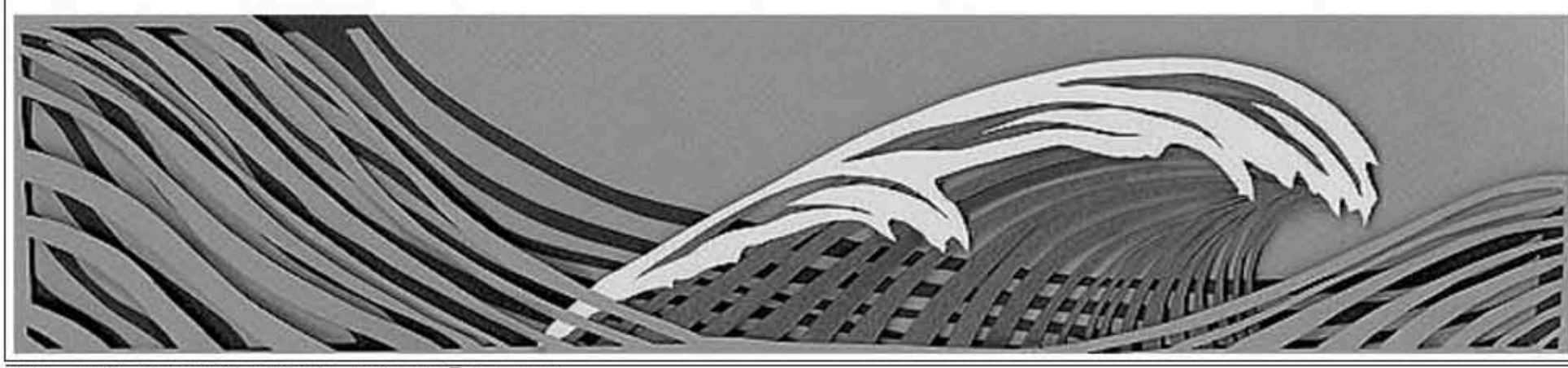




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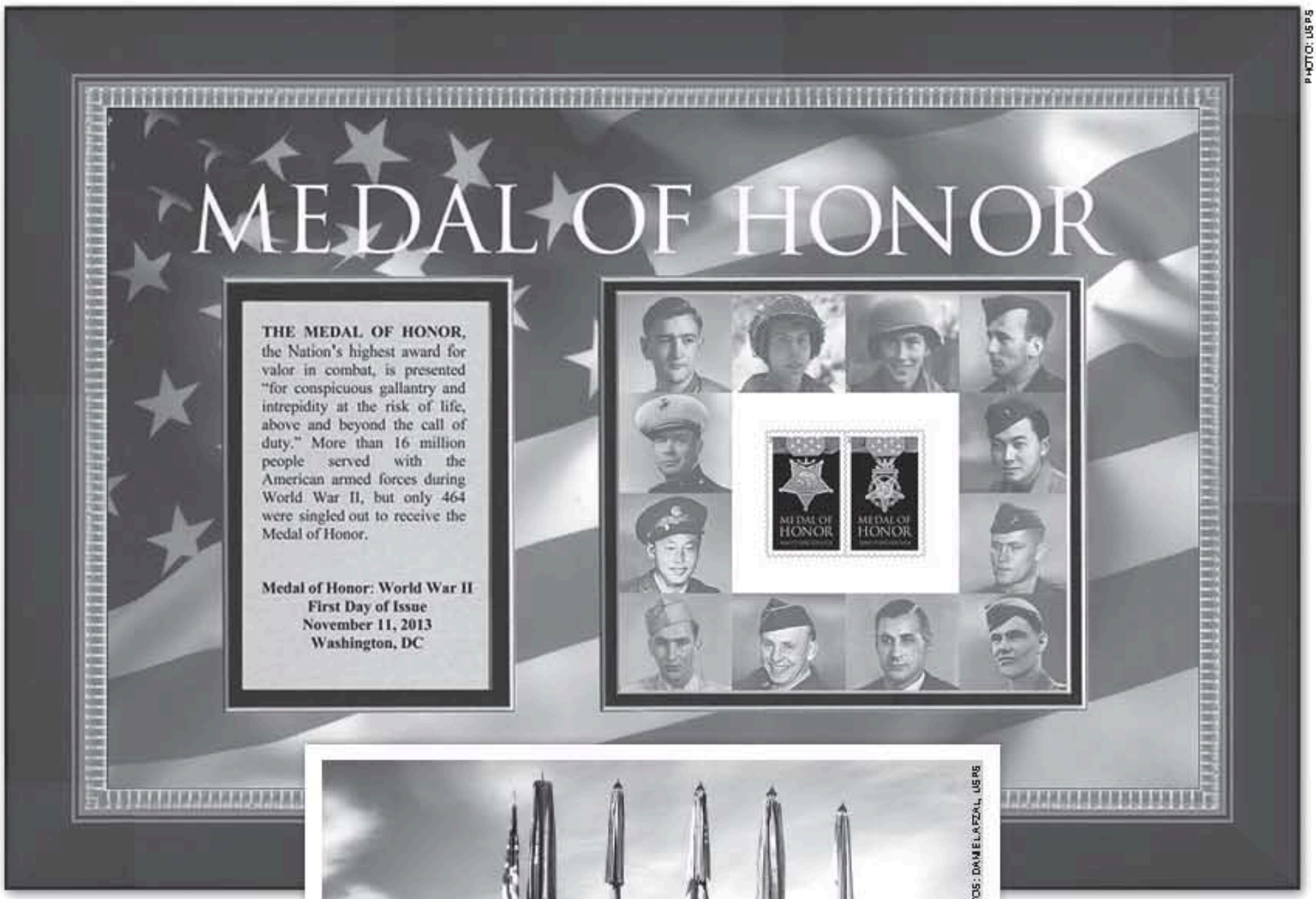


PHOTO: USPS



PHOTOS: DANIEL A. PZAL, USPS

Uniformed color guards presented the flags at the U.S. Postal Service World War II Medal of Honor Forever stamps dedication ceremony held at the National WWII Memorial in Washington, D.C., on Veterans Day.

By Connie K. Ho
Contributor

In early November, the U.S. Postal Service dedicated the World War II Medal of Honor Forever stamps to the 464 American veterans who were recognized with the country's highest military honor for their service during WWII. The Medal of Honor is awarded "for conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of life above and beyond the call of duty." Held at the National World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C., on Veterans Day, the dedication included two of the eight living World War II recipients of the country's military honor.

For stamp aficionados, the Medal of Honor stamp will be sold in a commemorative prestige folio.

"It's really been wonderful to have people talk to me about how over many years they've collected stamps, and these are older people, younger people. I think we've heard a lot of the challenges that the postal services has had," said Irene Hirano Inouye, who represented her husband, the late Sen. Daniel Inouye at the ceremony. "But stamp collecting is an important hobby for many people. To also include the Medal of Honor as an important stamp for those who collect stamps, but also the fact that the stamps are part of the presentation that lists the names of all of the Medal of Honor recipients, is just a nice way to combine a hobby for some but an educational opportunity for others. I've had many people ask me about the stamps because they are interested in collecting the stamps."

The Friends of the National World War II Memorial conducted the ceremony at the World War II memorial. George Sakato, an Army Private and retired postal employee, and Hirano Inouye, widow of Army 2nd Lt./Sen. Daniel Inouye, were both present at the ceremony.

"I went to Washington, D.C., me and Irene (Hirano) Inouye, Danny Inouye's wife — we had a chord to pull, and then we pulled the rope and showed the image of the postal stamp that will be coming out," said Sakato, who attended the ceremony with his daughter. "For me and Irene (Hirano) Inouye to be part of the ceremony was great."

Sakato and Inouye unveiled the stamps together and also participated in a wreath ceremony where they honored the memory of fallen World War II veterans.

"I think it reminds us of the men and women who served during World War II and the sacrifices that they made. For many of the veterans, when they gather together for events, they always remember their fellow comrades who didn't make



(*From left*) WWII Medal of Honor recipients George Sakato and Wilburn Ross, Irene Hirano Inouye, Vietnam War Medal of Honor recipient Harvey "Barney" Barnum and U.S. Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe

it, who didn't survive the war," said Hirano Inouye. "So, it's a time to not only remember those who serve but also to reflect back on the sacrifices that they made."

The late Senator received the Medal of Honor in 2000 in recognition of his heroism in April 1945. During an attack on a defended ridge, Inouye directed his platoon through automatic weapon and small arms fire.

"It was really nice on the part of the U.S. Postal Office to create a stamp that would commemorate the World War II Medal of Honor recipients. It was the first time that they were creating not only a stamp but also a package that would name all of the World War II [recipients] — there hasn't been another stamp like that," said Hirano Inouye. "I think it's wonderful to acknowledge and remember those who received the medal along with the thousands of others who served in World War II. There were a number of other veterans that came for the ceremony. It was a very special ceremony, and I think the Senator would have been very pleased that the postal service acknowledged the veterans in that way."

On Nov. 20, Inouye was also presented with the Medal of Freedom by President Barack Obama; Inouye is only the second person to receive both the Medal of Honor and Medal of Freedom.

"I think, for the Senator, it's been wonderful to be acknowledged in so many ways, to be acknowledged not only at home but also in Washington, D.C. I think he was always proud of having received the Medal of Honor; he always felt that he did that on behalf of all the men of the 442nd that he served with," Hirano Inouye said. "It has been heartwarming to have his many contributions and more than 50 years of service in Congress be remembered in such special ways."

During the war, Sakato was an inspiration to his unit for his ability to capture enemy soldiers, and he was recommended for the Medal of Honor but received the Distinguished Service Cross. He was upgraded to the Medal of Honor 50 years later in 2010.

"We did something — I don't think I would have been in the right mind, but I did," Sakato said from his home in Denver on his experience in fighting in World War II.

Prior to the ceremony in Washington, D.C., Sakato was honored at the Stockyards Station Post Office in Denver. A postal retiree who spent 27 years at the USPS, he left a strong reputation as a postal clerk. Sakato attended the Denver tribute with a number of other postal retirees.

'We hope these new Medal of Honor Forever stamps will provide everyone with one more way to preserve our veterans' stories for future generations.'

— U.S. Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe



Irene Hirano Inouye and U.S. Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe present a wreath during the dedication ceremony.

"He was always humble, and the fact that he received our nation's highest military honor never kept him from working hard each day for our organization," said Denver Postmaster Mark Talbott in a prepared statement.

The first side of the four-page design of the special stamp includes historical photographs of the last living recipients of the Medal of Honor from World War II. Both the Navy version of the Medal of Honor and the Army version of the Medal of Honor are featured in the stamps. There is also a list of the names of all 646 individuals who received the Medal of Honor from WWII.

"Our challenge as a nation is to never forget the sacrifices all of these individuals made on our behalf," said Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe in a prepared statement. "We hope these new Medal of Honor Forever stamps will provide everyone with one more way to preserve our veterans' stories for future generations. I urge you to use these stamps and mail them around the nation and the world. Save them for your children and grandchildren. Let them serve as small reminders of the giant sacrifices made by the heroes of World War II."

"The stamp is something that everyone can have access to — a stamp is used every day. To have a Medal of Honor stamp right there makes the contributions of the veterans very tangible, very real but something that everyone can acknowledge and can be proud of," Hirano Inouye said.

The set of 20 stamps is now available to customers and can be purchased online at www.usps.com/stamps, www.ebay.com/stamps, at Post Offices nationwide or by calling (800) STAMP24.

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Remembering 3/11

PHOTO: JACL

JACL journeys to Fukushima, Japan, to assess how to distribute the remaining $700,000 raised through Direct Relief for tsunami aid.

By Greg Marutani
Contributor

In early October, I made my first trip to Japan. With my Japan Rail pass in hand, I traveled down to Hiroshima and up to Sendai, making side trips to Aizu-Wakamatsu, where I spotted a sign that read, "Okei Monument." But I could not locate the monument and thought there may be some connection to the Wakamatsu Silk and Tea Colony that settled in Coloma, Calif.

When I learned that JACL Executive Director Priscilla Ouchida and National President David Lin would be visiting the Fukushima area, courtesy of Direct Relief, I asked if I might be able to join them. The response was affirmative. Floyd Shimomura and Larry Oda, who made the trip on their own expense, accompanied them. David, however, was unable to join the group as originally planned. Therefore, I sat in his seat in the minivan.

One of the places we visited was a "temporary housing camp" not far from Odaka, about 30 kilometers from the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant. There are over 30 such camps within the Fukushima Prefecture, housing at least 90,000 residents, complete with barrack-style apartments.

The individuals are free to come and go as they wish, but they cannot return to their homes just yet. The radiation damage, caused by the tsunami in March 2011, disrupted the area's plumbing.

We were allowed to enter Odaka, which for all practical purposes was a ghost town. We know the electricity works because we had to stop at the red lights. We were told we had to be out before sunset as the police patrol the area at night to prevent looting.

In our brief visit to Odaka, I did not see any reconstruction to repair the plumbing, indicating that the families in the temporary housing barracks will be there a while longer.

One of the bright spots was that some of the camps had established community centers or salons where people could gather together to create activities with others who had similar interests, or simply share a cup of tea and catch up on some of the gossip. These community centers are funded through the JACL Direct Relief Japan program.



PHOTO: JACL

Greg Marutani, who traveled to Fukushima Prefecture with JACL, sits on the steps of a temporary housing shelter for residents who were displaced following the 2011 earthquake and tsunami.

The majority of the people in the camps are the elderly, or others whose livelihoods were taken away, such as fishermen and farmers. There are also a number of families living apart, with one parent remaining in the camp to continue their paying job while the other is caring for their children in another area deemed safe from the radiation.

Although they are not prisoners in the camps, they face an unseen enemy. It is not the radiation per se — it is being from the Fukushima Prefecture (third largest in Japan). They are treated with suspicion.

The survivors from Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 must have carried such a stigma. In less than 70 years, another group has now fallen victim to radiation exposure. If forgotten, history has a way of repeating itself — and usually not the best part.

Greg Marutani is the JACL National Education Committee chair.

The JACL Executive Director's Japan Travel Log



EDITOR'S NOTE: **The following is written by Priscilla Ouchida, JACL executive director.**

JACL National President David Lin, Executive Director Priscilla Ouchida, legal counsel Floyd Shimomura, JACL U.S.-Japan Committee Co-Chair Larry Oda and National Education Committee Chair Greg Marutani traveled to Japan from Oct. 14-20.

DAY ONE



The JACL delegation arrived in Tokyo and met with several organizations to discuss proposals such as playgrounds at temporary housing settlements and computers for children's homes in the Tohoku region to address the digital divide.

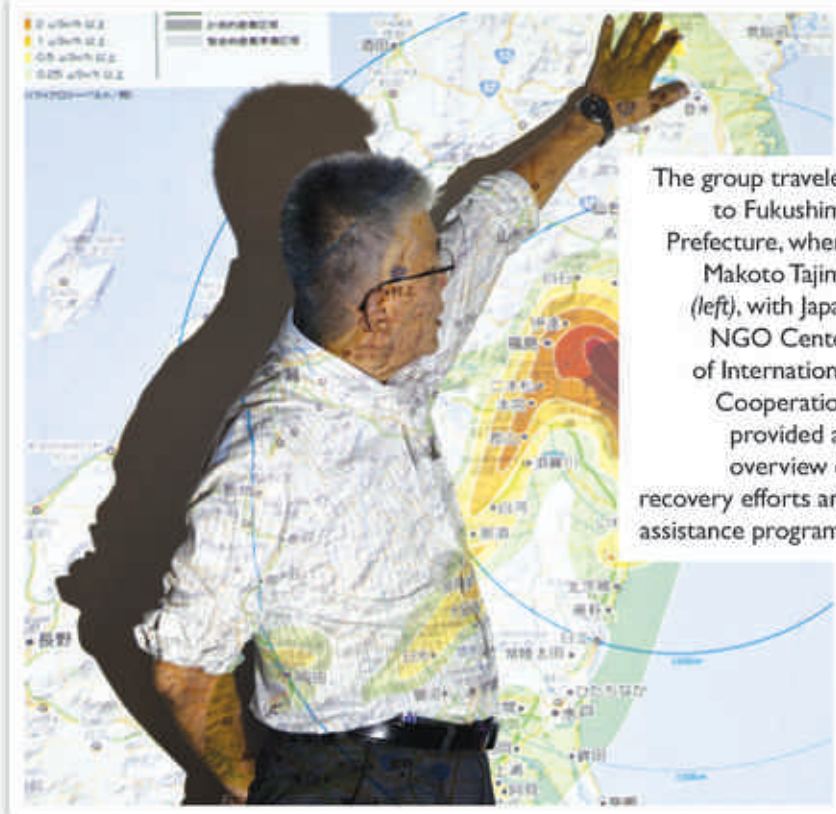
DAY TWO



Larry Oda *(left)* and Floyd Shimomura listen to a presentation at a nursery school in Fukushima Prefecture. Children there are required to wear radiation badges, which record the daily radiation exposure. Even food is subject to radiation scans to ensure safety.



Floyd Shimomura visits a playground in a children's home in Fukushima Prefecture. Playgrounds have been decontaminated through soil replacement.



The group traveled to Fukushima Prefecture, where Makoto Tajima *(left)*, with Japan NGO Center of International Cooperation, provided an overview of recovery efforts and assistance programs.

DAY THREE



Floyd Shimomura *(left)* and Larry Oda stand next to a Geiger counter, a device to measure radioactivity, on a playground at a children's home in Fukushima Prefecture. The government has approximately 540 similar Geiger counters throughout Fukushima Prefecture. JACL was told there is one Geiger counter in a 500-meter block area.

DAY FOUR



(From left) Floyd Shimomura, Larry Oda, David Lin, Kenko Sone (director at Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs' OECD division) and Rikimaru Takahashi (director at Centre for Global Partnership, the Japan Foundation) met to discuss the 2014 JACL Kakehashi program and a possible May 2014 trip for Japanese American *students*.

PHOTOS: JACL

DAY FIVE



The JACL delegation ended its trip with a visit to the Japan chapter, where former Japanese Ambassador Ichiro Fujisaki *(inset)* personally welcomed the group. ■



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"Peace on Earth and Good will to men." Luke 2:14
Stan and Diane

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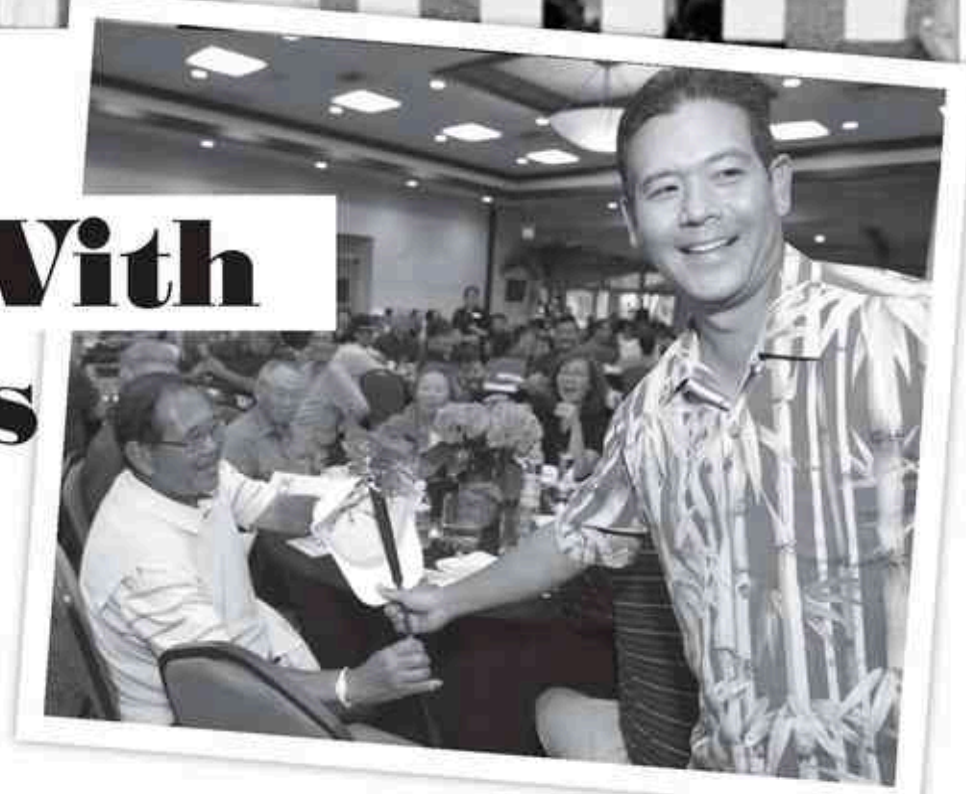
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(From left) HUYF founder Rob Fukuzaki, committee member Ron Tanaka and marketing director Ed Nishioka

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Sharing the Aloha Spirit With Deserving Kids



LOS ANGELES SPORTS ANCHOR ROB FUKUZAKI'S HEADS UP YOUTH FOUNDATION HELPS DISADVANTAGED YOUTH AIM HIGH FOR THE FUTURE.

By Lauren Airii
Contributor

For many people, this is the one time of the year that marks the "Season of Giving." But for others like ABC 7 Eyewitness News Sports Anchor Rob Fukuzaki, the season of giving is one that never ends.

Even before coming to Los Angeles to continue his broadcasting career, Fukuzaki was looking for ways to give back to the community. Fukuzaki's Heads Up Youth Foundation started off as a simple vision during the beginning of his sports anchoring career in Hawaii. He brought that vision to life when he moved to L.A.

"I still do a lot of charity events, especially in the Asian and Japanese American communities, but I wanted to do this back when I was still working in Hawaii. In my final year over there, I was just thinking about starting a nonprofit organization, and then I got the job in L.A. and decided to start it here."

Now in its 17th year, HUYF has helped thousands of underserved children in Southern California participate in various events, camps and mentoring programs — programs they would never have the opportunity in which to participate in their own communities. The foundation also provides funds to L.A.-area sports teams and their youth organizations, as well as various other programs that promote positive development in children.

HUYF not only assists existing nonprofit organizations but also helps teens in the Los Angeles foster care system. For more than 10 years, the foundation has been a sponsor of the Celebration One event held each June by the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services at the Walt Disney Concert Hall in Downtown L.A. It is at this event that the foundation awards four to five high school seniors in foster care with scholarships to help them continue on with their education.

HUYF CFO Calvin Higashigawa has been volunteering with Fukuzaki's foundation for 14 years. Higashigawa says one of his fondest memories of volunteering with HUYF comes from the Celebration One events.

"The first time I went there I was just amazed at these kids. Here are these kids [who have] parents that are drug addicts, in jail or what not, and you would not think that they even had a chance to get out of high school, but here they are going to college. It's just the stories that they tell there — it's amazing."

Adds HUFY committee member Jan Tanaka, "We really like helping the foster kids a lot because then we can see progress and hope."

L.A.'s DCSF sends scholarship applications to HUYF, where recipients are selected by the organization's board based upon their grades and an essay submission. The foundation continues to support the teens every semester if they are still attending school and can provide current transcripts. For the past 10 years, Fukuzaki says his foundation has awarded more than $275,000 in scholarships.

Within recent years, HUYF has grown



HUYF committee members *(from left)* Danny Naritoku, Calvin Higashigawa, Debby Ishihara, Jan Tanaka, founder Rob Fukuzaki, Kim Vargas, Ron Tanaka, Kathy Fujita and Ed Nishioka

'(Rob) is very involved. He's a really busy guy, but . . . he finds the time. He has always said it's about putting the kids first.'

— HUYF's Calvin Higashigawa



Among its many fundraisers, HUYF hosts charity auctions and an annual golf tournament.



Rob Fukuzaki with Heads Up Youth Foundation 2013 scholarship winners at the foundation's awards banquet.

significantly in terms of money being raised and the amount of funds being distributed to various organizations, mostly due to the help of several dedicated volunteers. Fukuzaki refers to his foundation as a "mom-and-pop shop," as its board and committee members consist of his own family and friends.

"I really like the fact that it's a very simple foundation," says Fukuzaki. "Everything is completely voluntary. The people who work with my foundation have extremely busy schedules, but they run everything perfectly. I am very fortunate because they give all that time."

A majority of the funds that are generated through HUYF comes from the organization's annual charity golf tournament, which is held in July. The tournament has grown significantly throughout the years due to the combined effort and support of Fukuzaki and his many committee members and volunteers.

Higashigawa says that even though Fukuzaki has an excellent team, he continues to stay involved in every aspect of the foundation. "It's easy to not be involved when you have good people under you, but Rob still wants to. He is very involved. He's a really busy guy, but in those weeks leading up to the tournament, he finds the time. He has always said it's about placing the kids first."

As for HUYF's future and with 2014 quickly approaching, this year's golf tournament chair Danny Naritoku says that Fukuzaki has some new ideas up his sleeve. "This year, we branched out and did another smaller golf tournament as well a few months later at Pechanga. The goal for next year and subsequent years after is to do other things such as a bowling tournament or activities we can involve the youth in."

Fukuzaki's pursuit of helping inner-city kids stems from his own positive, personal experience growing up as a young boy in Hawaii. Sports and strong family values that were instilled in him from a young age clearly impacted his life. As a child, Fukuzaki was always a huge sports fan. He read the sports page in the newspaper every day and participated in baseball and basketball. Fukuzaki credits this passion to giving him the confidence he needed to follow and achieve his own dreams.

"When you do what I do in this industry, and especially at this level in a size of market like Los Angeles, you have to be confident in what you're doing," said Fukuzaki. "You have to know what you're talking about, and it has to come natural. I think growing up with it and having all those years of sports just running through my head has always been an advantage."

For nearly 20 years, Fukuzaki has been a part of the ABC 7 Eyewitness News team. He does not take one minute of his success for granted, and he uses his prominence as a tool to help open doors for others.

"Being on TV, you're obviously out there, the viewers know you, they see you, they watch you each night, and we're fortunate to be working at ABC 7. And for me, the community is the reasons why we're in the position we are in — they support us. So, that's why I like to support as many events or organizations that I can. I can't do it all, but I try to do as much as I can."

Although Fukuzaki is the very first male Japanese American TV anchor in Los Angeles at the No. 1 local news station, Tanaka says his rise to fame has not tainted him in any way.

"Rob is just an amazing person," said Tanaka. "He is a Japanese American celebrity, but he also is just the kindest person. One of his main focuses is to help out inner-city children and foster kids. He just really likes people, and Rob is really great with kids."

Whether he is fast talkin' play-by-plays at the anchor desk, reporting live from downtown's Staples Center, helping those in need or simply lending a listening ear and giving advice on following one's dreams, Fukuzaki has definitely lived up to the name of his foundation by keeping our "heads up."

For more information on the Heads Up Youth Foundation or how you can support, donate, volunteer or sign up for the foundation's next charity golf tournament, visit www.headsupyouthfoundation.org.

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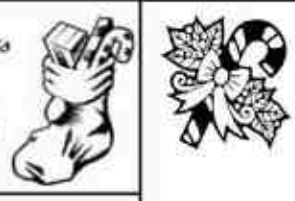
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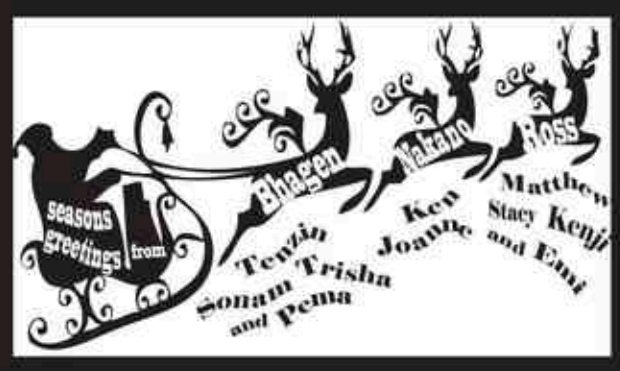


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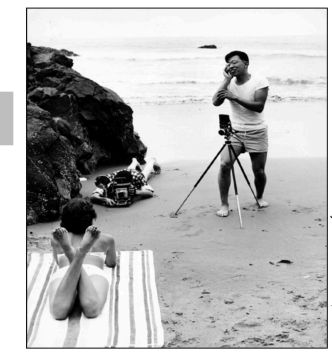
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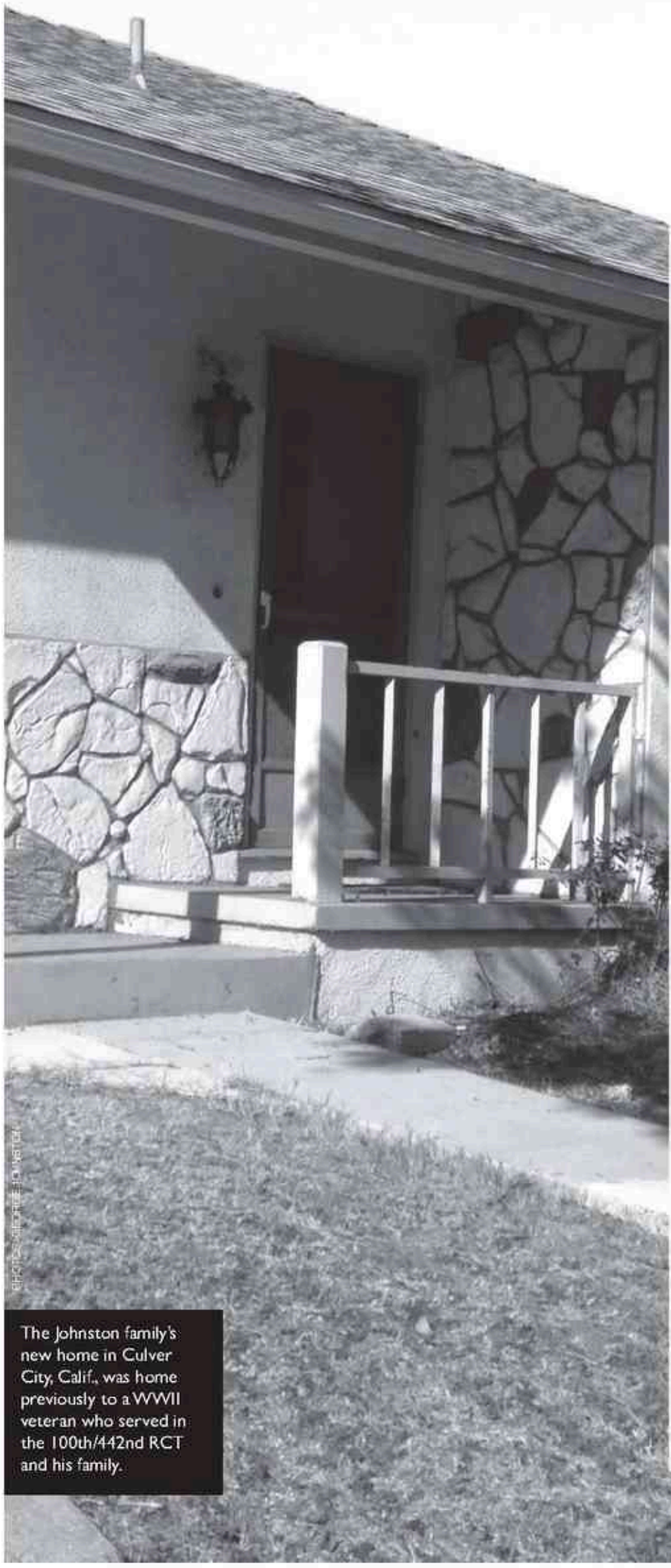
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WHEN IT CAME TIME TO BUY A HOUSE IN TODAY'S SUPERCOMPETITIVE MARKET, LITTLE DID THE AUTHOR KNOW THAT A CLUE FROM THE PAST WOULD HELP EVEN THE ODDS OF BECOMING A HOMEOWNER.



The Johnston family's new home in Culver City, Calif., was home previously to a WWII veteran who served in the 100th/442nd RCT and his family.

By George Toshio Johnston
Contributor

It was time to move. The two-bedroom townhouse in Santa Monica, Calif., where I had lived for about two decades had simply become too small.

My kids, Akari and Jameson, now 10 and 8, respectively, needed their own bedrooms. We also needed more space. The best option would be to purchase a single-family, three-bedroom house, but we were simply priced out of the market in Santa Monica.

Santa Monica, of course, has many attractive attributes, not the least of which is a well-regarded public school system. But Akari and J.J. attend El Marino Language School in Culver City, a few miles to the south. EMLS is unique because it's a language immersion school where the students learn either Spanish or Japanese. So, leaving Santa Monica for Culver City made sense.

Culver City has improved vastly over the past 15 years or so. In order to move, however, we had to sell, and to sell, we knew we needed to renovate. We didn't have a strict timeline, but we knew we wanted to begin the process after the new year. Our plan to move out while the work was under way was unexpectedly expedited, however, thanks to a water pipe burst in late-February 2013.

In a way, though, the burst pipe was a blessing in disguise. In addition to the repairs, insurance actually paid for much of the moving and storage. It also prompted us to quit delaying. By April, we had moved to an apartment that was near my office and closer to the kids' school. Repairs and renovations could begin.

By the beginning of September, we were able to complete the sale. Not only did the place look great, the timing was fortuitous since the housing market in Los Angeles County's Westside had reignited.

Now came the tough part: buying a house. It was a seller's market, but we were going from seller to buyer, and it had gotten tough to find a place. I heard some disheartening stories from co-workers of friends who tried and failed repeatedly to buy a house. I also read news articles in which people making cash offers were being outbid by others making *bigger* cash offers. I guess you could say the *kutsu* was now on the other *ashi*.

We were committed now, however, and we needed to find a house to make our home.

In late September, we attended yet another open house in Culver City. We'd been to probably 20 or more in the past months. In the back of my mind, I worried that we might not find anything suitable or affordable.

On that September day, we milled about the house along with all the others looking to buy. While old and not in the best of repair, the house seemed to be solid structurally. Not only that, the location of the neighborhood was very desirable: close enough to the middle and high schools for the kids to walk to in the coming years, with nearby shopping and recreational facilities.

'I cannot, however, help but think about that license plate and license plate holder. Everyone else who attended the open house that day presumably saw it, too. But not everyone else had that same observation and recognition of its significance.'



While touring what would soon become his newly purchased home, George Johnston discovered a piece of history hanging prominently in the garage: a 100th/442nd RCT Go for Broke license plate holder.

When I entered the garage, something caught my eye. Nailed onto a wooden cabinet was a discontinued blue-and-yellow California license plate with a 1983 sticker. Surrounding it was a license plate holder that read "100th/442nd RCT" across the top and "Go for Broke" across the bottom.

Could it be that the seller, who wasn't present, was Japanese American? I asked the selling agent, and the answer was yes. The homeowner, who had died months earlier, was a Nisei woman in her early 90s, and her daughter was selling the house as part of a trust sale. And yes, the widow's late husband was a 442nd vet.

Although the single-family, three-bedroom house was a classic fixer-upper, it was in our price range. The mantra you always hear when looking for a house to buy is "location, location, location" — and the location fit the bill of what we wanted perfectly.

Having just been outbid for another house closer to El Marino that was "move-in ready," my wife, Sachi, and I decided to make our bid more aggressive than before.

By this time, however, it was October. I had made plans months earlier to visit Japan with my sister to celebrate our mother's 84th birthday. Therefore, I wouldn't be in California during the bidding process.

Fortunately, Steve Sawaii, our buying agent who had also been our selling agent, was there to guide us through.

While in Japan, I had learned via Steve that it appeared we were in the running for the house along with two others. We were in a good position, having sold our townhouse and now able to pay a sizeable down payment.

But then, as I recall Steve telling me over the phone while I was in Japan, the other two rivals were willing to pay all cash. They were house flippers, meaning they didn't want to live there. Rather, they were interested in buying it to renovate it, then turn around and sell it. I have nothing against that. But that wasn't why we wanted to buy the house. We wanted to make it our home.

But I had been thinking about that license plate holder. I have the greatest admiration for the Nisei veterans who served in the United States military during WWII, whether as MIS specialists in the Pacific or in Europe as members of the 100th Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team. I had even made a short documentary about the 442nd a few years before. I knew that as an American of Japanese ancestry, their sacrifices and service in the 1940s made my life and the lives of my family members in the years afterward better.

I had been thinking that maybe I should write a letter to the woman selling the house to see if I could persuade her to sell to us, even though our deal was not all cash. My sister, June, also suggested that I write a letter.

Since I had the free time and my computer while in Japan, I wrote a letter to the seller, whose name I'm keeping anonymous. In it, I told her about my wife, children and me, and how my kids attended El Marino and played basketball out of the Venice Japanese Community Center, that my son practiced judo at the Sawtelle Judo Dojo, that my daughter was in the Girl Scout troop sponsored by the Venice Buddhist Temple and so on.

I also mentioned that it would be an honor to live in a house where a 442nd vet had once lived. I also noted that we weren't house flippers. We actually wanted to live in the community and have her house become our home.

I sent the letter to Steve as a draft to get his feedback. When I spoke with him later, he said he reformatted it and sent it to the seller via her agent. While I was actually a bit surprised that he did that, I also understood that time was of the essence.

As it turned out, the letter made a difference. The seller went with us. While I didn't get this directly from her, I was told that the letter was a factor in her decision to sell to us and not the others. With her OK, I went from wondering if we'd ever find a place to live in Culver City to achieving our goal of having a home there.

We closed escrow a few weeks ago. The house is ours. We've chosen our architect, who also happens to be a general contractor. In a few months, we'll be moving in after some work gets done. It's been a stressful time these past few months, but it is happening.

I cannot, however, help but think about that license plate and license plate holder. Everyone else who attended the open house that day presumably saw it, too. But not everyone else had that same observation and recognition of its significance.

In my documentary "Going for Honor, Going for Broke: The 442 Story," I made sure to add something about how the 442nd had not only served with distinction in WWII, but also that their service led to many unexpected benefits years later, whether it was greater acceptance of Japanese Americans, integration of the once-segregated Armed Forces or the ultimate success of the redress movement. Everyone who followed was a beneficiary of the 442nd, Japanese American or no.

When I saw that license plate and holder, it was as though something from the past reached out into the present and made a positive difference in my life. Once again, I was indebted to something that can never be repaid, only remembered and cherished and passed on to the following generations. ■

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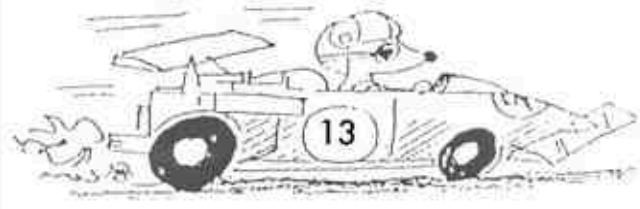
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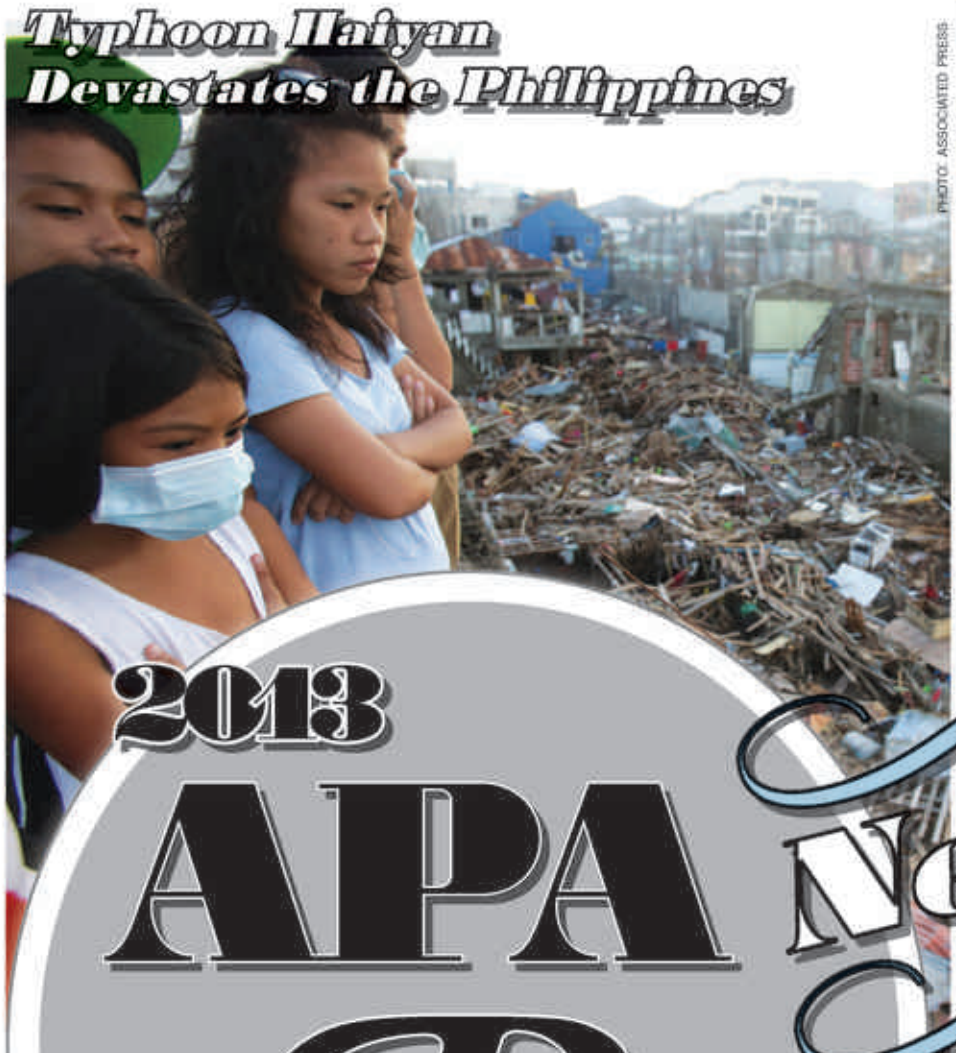
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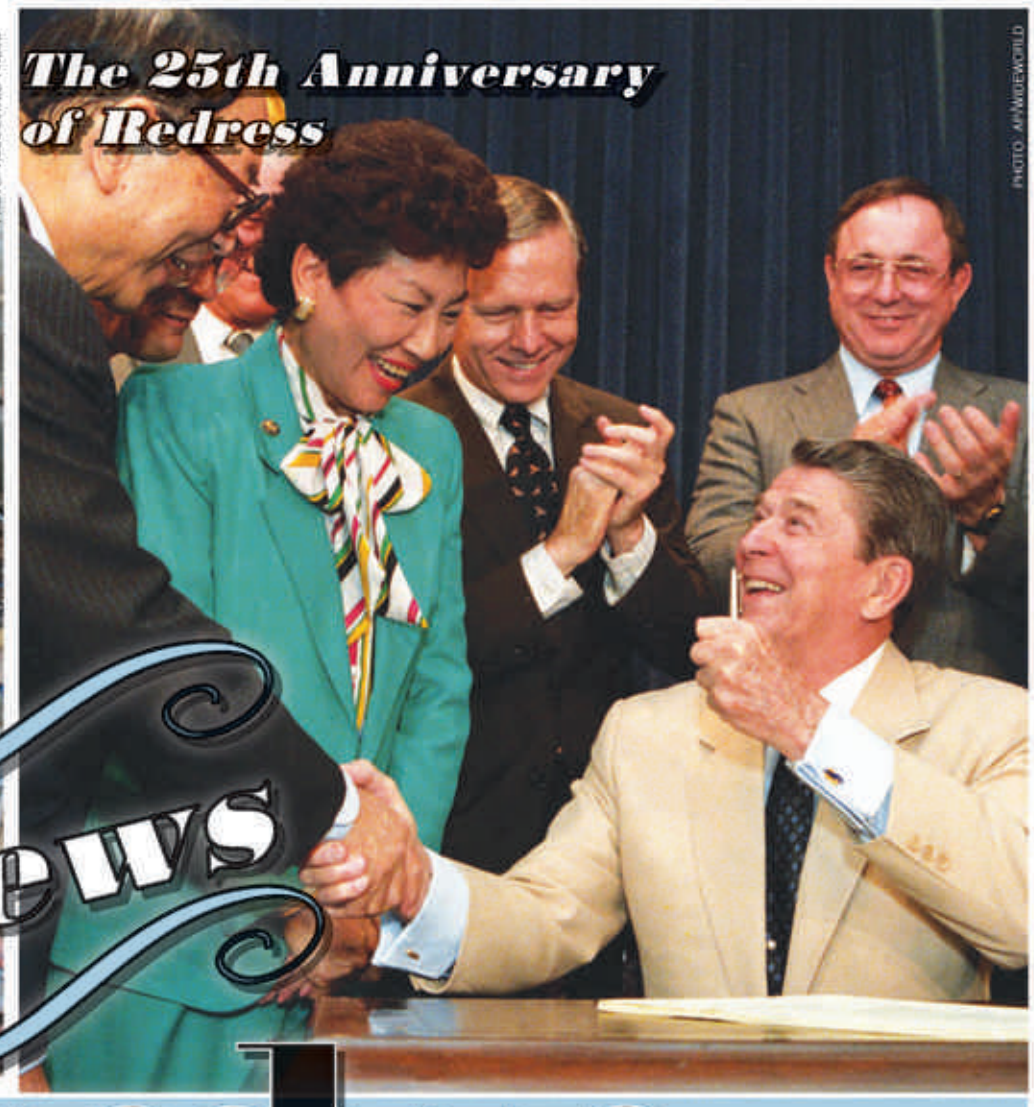
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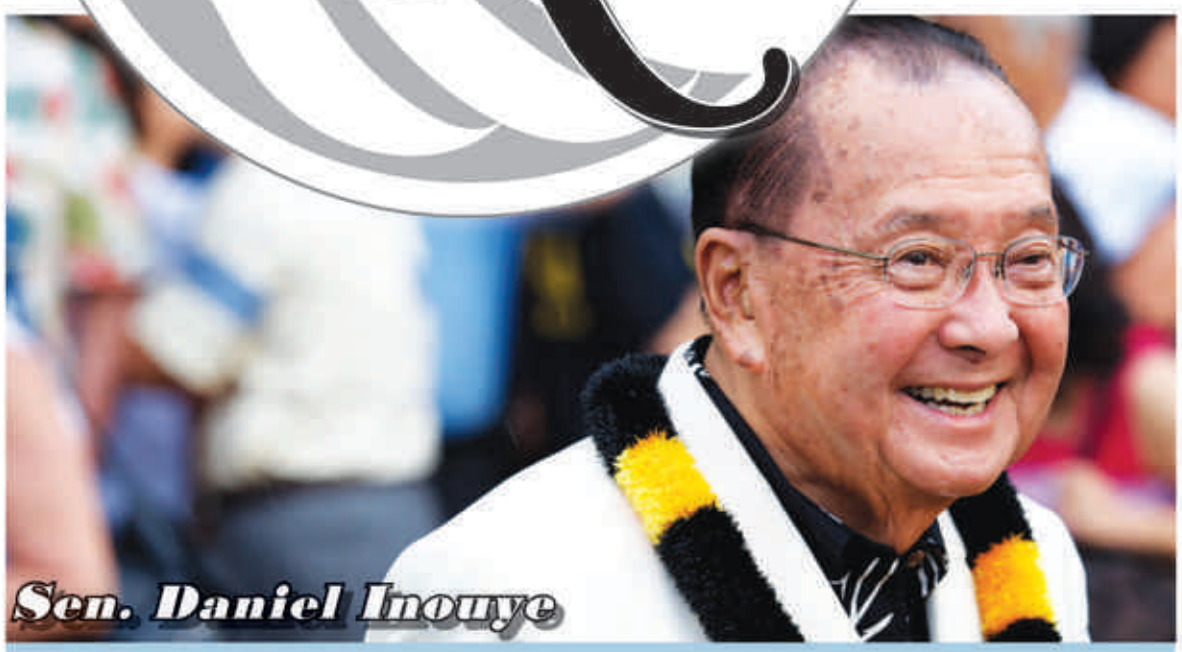
Typhoon Haiyan Devastates the Philippines

PHOTO: ASSOCIATED PRESS



The 25th Anniversary of Redress

PHOTO: AP/WIDEWORLD



Sen. Daniel Inouye

In 2013, the Asian Pacific American community remembered Sen. Daniel K. Inouye, the second-longest serving senator and third in line to the presidency, who died on Dec. 17 at age 88. The Nisei served in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team during World War II and lost his right arm in combat. In honor of the late senator, President Barack Obama on Aug. 8 posthumously awarded him with the Medal of Freedom.



Hawaii Legalizes Gay Marriage

PHOTO: GARY OKABAYASHI

Two decades after Hawaii initiated the national discussion about same-sex marriage, Gov. Neil Abercrombie signed a bill on Nov. 13 legalizing same-sex marriage. In 2011, Hawaii JACLers Gary Okabayashi and Lenny Zimmerman *(pictured above)* were featured in the *Pacific Citizen*, expressing their support for a civil unions bill.

With the new year looming, the *Pacific Citizen* staff takes this opportunity to look back at the headlines from 2013 that impacted the Asian Pacific American community.

The year was marked with great tragedies and victories — from the news of longtime Sen. Daniel K. Inouye's death to the verdict in the Trayvon Martin case that would divide the country.

This year celebrated the 25th anniversary of the landmark Redress legislation for Japanese Americans and the legalization of same-sex marriage in Hawaii.

When the news broke, the *P.C.* was there to bring you the APA news headlines that you care about.



California Personnel Board Issues Apology to JAs

The California Personnel Board issued a formal apology to Japanese American state employees who were unjustly fired during World War II. Ninety-four-year-old Sally Taketa *(inset)* was fired from her state job when WWII broke out. Some 265 California state workers of Japanese ancestry lost their jobs. With the help of JACL *(pictured above)*, Taketa finally received a long-overdue apology.



Carson City Council Renamed After JA City Clerk

Helen Kawagoe *(left)* in 2000 with former Atty. General Janet Reno and former Secretary of Transportation Norm Mineta. Kawagoe, called the "Mother of City Hall," served as the Carson, Calif., city clerk for more than 37 years until suffering from a stroke in 2011, forcing her to retire. The community rallied and succeeded in renaming the council chambers in her name. A ceremony was held on June 4.



Congressional Gold Medal Traveling Exhibit

George and Judy Morimitsu *(pictured above)* attended the Oct. 19 opening of the traveling exhibit "American Heroes: Japanese American World War II Nisei Soldiers" at the Chicago History Museum. The exhibit was developed by the Smithsonian in partnership with the National Veterans Network following the 2011 Congressional Gold Medal ceremony in Washington, D.C., to honor the Japanese American veterans of the 100th Infantry Battalion, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service. The seven-city tour began at the National World War II Museum in Louisiana and will end at the Holocaust Museum in Oregon on Jan. 24.



Government Shutdown Forces Manzanar Closure

When the government shutdown occurred in October after Congress failed to pass legislation to designate funds for 2014, national historic sites like Manzanar were closed down to the public. Sixteen employees at Manzanar were furloughed. Tule Lake operations were also impacted by the shutdown.



The Philippines Recovers From Typhoon Haiyan

Typhoon Haiyan, known locally as Yolanda, struck the Philippines on Nov. 8, killing more than 6,000 people. Some 4 million people have been displaced from their homes. Recovery efforts and the search for the estimated 1,900 missing persons continues.



PHOTO: JOE SHYMANSKI

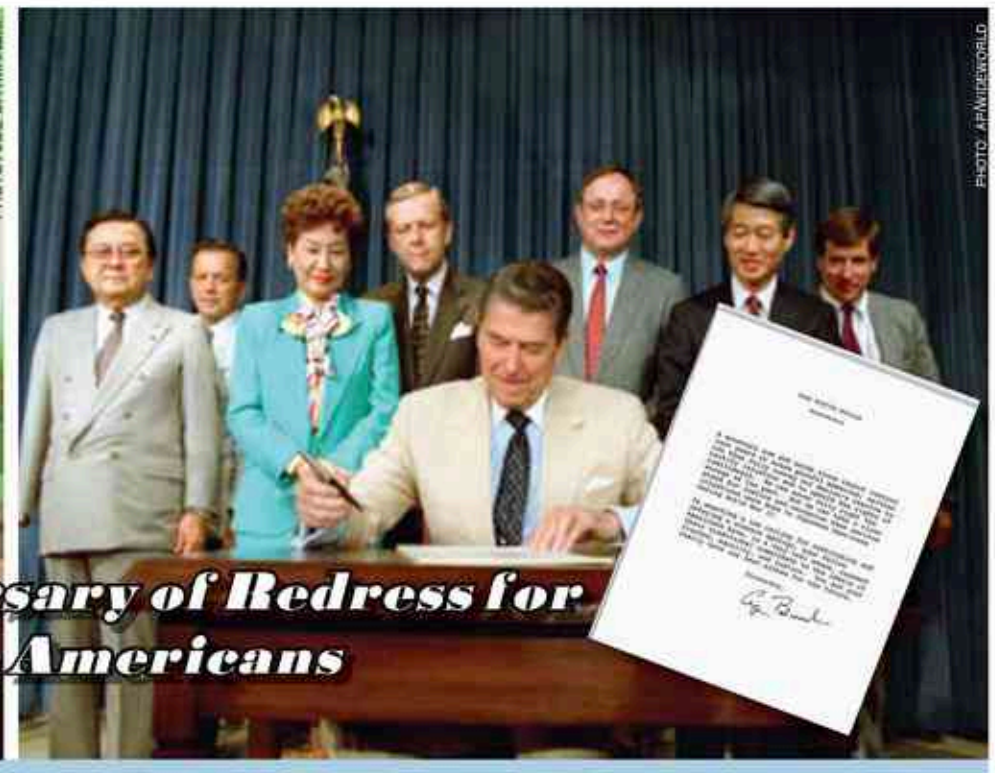


PHOTO: AP/WIDEWORLD

The 25th Anniversary of Redress for Japanese Americans

Executive Order 9066 and the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 *(pictured left)* were on display together at the National Archives in Washington, D.C., for the JACL National Convention in July. The display came one month before the 25th anniversary of a landmark victory for Japanese Americans.

President Ronald Reagan on Aug. 10, 1988, flanked by Japanese American community leaders, signed the Civil Liberties Act, which offered a formal apology to Japanese Americans for the World War II unjust incarceration of some 120,000 people of Japanese descent.



PHOTO: YOUTUBE

Asian American Groups Sound Off Over 'Anti-Asian' Video

Asian American groups — including JACL — were outraged when news broke on May 9 that the L.A. Department of Public Works produced a video about recycled water featuring a non-Asian American actor with a stereotypical Asian accent. The video was made using taxpayer money. In the end, an apology was issued, the video was removed from YouTube and mandatory cultural diversity training was scheduled.



PHOTO: NANCY TAKAYAMA

Korean 'Comfort Women' Monument

The Glendale City Council approved on July 9 the installation of a monument in honor of Korean "comfort women" of World War II. The Japanese Imperial Army enslaved some 200,000 Korean and Asian women during the war as sex workers.



PHOTO: AP/KYODO NEWS

Japan Tsunami Debris Washes Up in California

In April, a barnacle-covered fishing boat washed ashore in Crescent City, Calif. It was, said officials with the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, the first confirmed debris in California from the tsunami that struck Japan in 2011. This photo shows the cleanup efforts over six months in Wakabayashi-ward in Sendai, Japan.



PHOTO: WWII JAPANESE AMERICAN INTERNMENT MUSEUM

Jerome-Rohwer Interpretive Center

Also in April, actor George Takei, who was unjustly incarcerated at Rohwer as a child with his family, helped dedicate the Jerome-Rohwer Interpretive and Visitor Center in Arkansas near the World War II camp.

Eleven Nisei Veterans of World War II Awarded the French National Order of the Legion Honor



Deputy Consul of France Fabrice Maiolino presented 11 Nisei veterans of World War II with the National Order of the Legion of Honor award in the rank of chevalier. The ceremony took place on Nov. 9 at the Go For Broke monument in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo. The honor is the highest France awards to foreign nationals and citizens.

JACL Calls for Further Investigation Into the Trayvon Martin Killing



The JACL joined other Asian Pacific American groups in a calling for a further investigation into last year's shooting of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin. The JACL National Council voted at its convention this year to honor Martin by supporting the efforts to pursue a U.S. Department of Justice investigation into possible federal charges against George Zimmerman., who was acquittted of all charges on July 13.

Asian American Groups Express Outrage at Anti-Islam Ads



When anti-Islam ads popped up on San Francisco buses, Bay Area JACLers denounced the advertiements. The American Freedom Defense Initiative purchased the ads, which read: "In any war between the civilized man and the savage, support the civilized man. Support Israel. Defeat jihad."

Community Groups Protest Plans to Build a Solar Farm Near Manzanar



The Manzanar Committee on Aug. 16 publicly opposed the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's proposal to erect a 1,200-acre solar ranch for Los Angeles, Calif. customers. Japanese American community groups said the proposal, which would be constructed in view of the historic site, would destroy Manzanar's historic solid waste dump. ■

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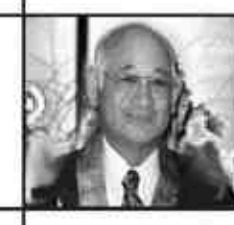
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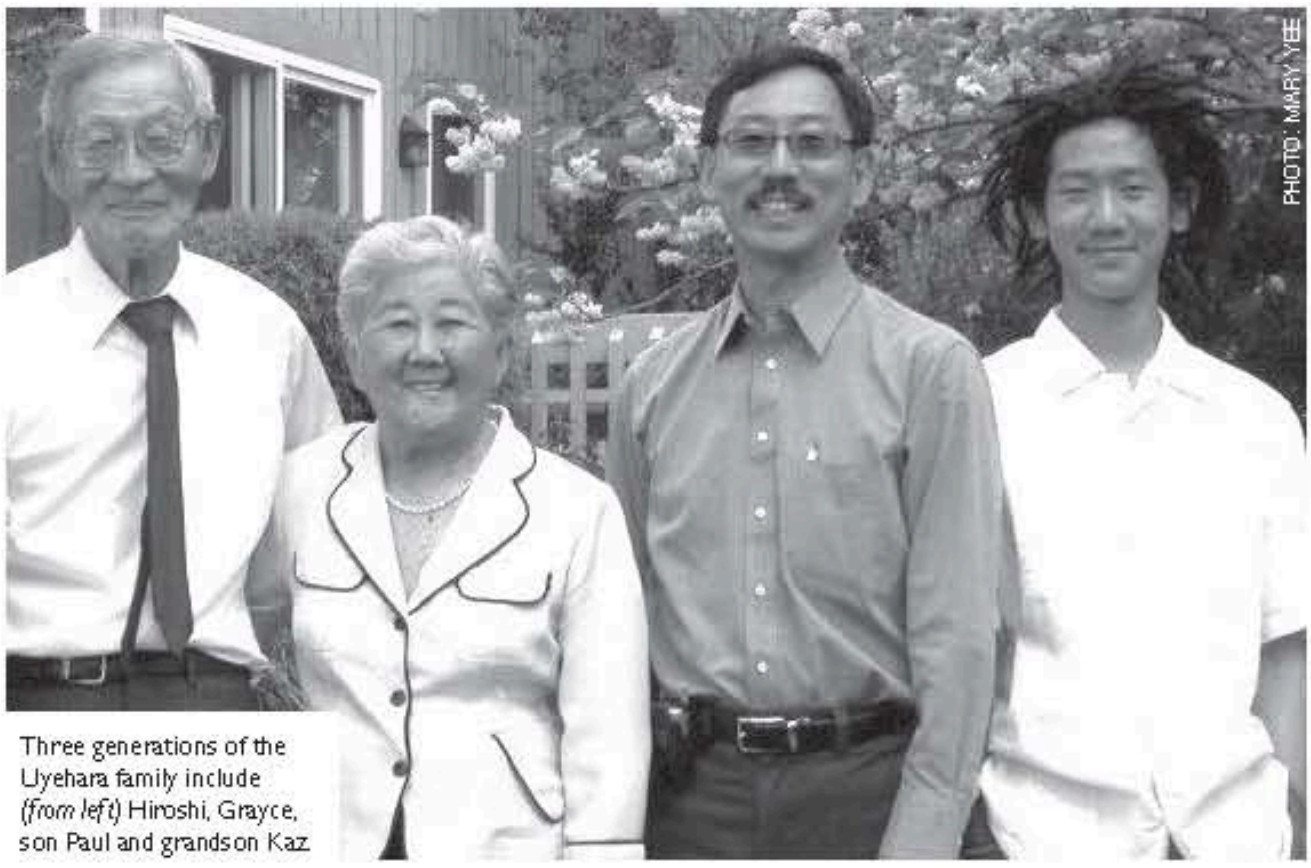
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PHOTO: MARY YEE

Three generations of the Uyehara family include *(from left)* Hiroshi, Grayce, son Paul and grandson Kaz.

Honoring a Leader in the Redress Fight in Philly

LONGTIME JACLER GRAYCE UYEHARA IS HONORED WITH THE STANDING UP FOR JUSTICE AWARD.

By Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Nearly everyone knows that Japanese Americans were imprisoned in internment camps during World War II.

And many people know that during the Reagan Administration, the federal government offered a formal apology and a $20,000-per-person reparation.

But hardly anybody knows that it was Grayce Uyehara, a retired Philadelphia social worker, who helped lead the national grassroots effort to win redress for Japanese Americans who lost not only their freedom but their homes, jobs and savings. After achieving that singular American victory, Uyehara returned to a quiet life in the suburbs.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. On Nov. 15, Uyehara was honored with the Standing Up for Justice Award, presented by Asian Americans United, an advocacy group.

Uyehara, 94, of Medford, was too ill to attend the gala at the Painted Bride Art Center. Accepting on her behalf was her son, Paul.

"They went through a lot of hard times, difficult times," said Paul Uyehara, 58, a Justice Department civil rights attorney in Washington, D.C.

He said he cannot recall his mother talking about her work to win redress, except for when community groups or news reporters asked her to speak. Perhaps because of her modesty, she has never gotten due credit for passage of the redress act, said Hiro Nishikawa, a board member of the Philadelphia chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League.

"Without her drive and involvement," said Nishikawa, who as a boy was interned with his parents and siblings, "I don't think it would have happened."

In fact, the redress movement easily could have failed.

Among political leaders, Sen. S. I. Hayakawa (R-Calif.), the son of Japanese immigrants, vehemently opposed any official apology. He said Japanese Americans had "welcomed the evacuation as a guarantee of their personal safety," and in the camps enjoyed "three years of leisure."

Some chapters of the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars were opposed, and the California-based Americans for Historical Accuracy called internment a "big lie," contending the Japanese Americans sat out the war in relative comfort.

Everywhere Uyehara went, she insisted internment was not only a Japanese American issue but an American one. In America, people aren't sent to prison based on suspicion. If Japanese Americans could be summarily locked up during one war, who would be locked up during the next?

It is 70 years since Japanese Americans were forced into bleak, overcrowded barracks surrounded by barbed wire and armed guards. And 25 years since the government said it was sorry.

But the issues around internment, described by the writer John Hersey as "the bitterest national shame," remain potent.

Japan bombed Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, bringing the U.S. into a war already raging in Europe and Asia. Several thousand Japanese Americans were quickly arrested. Politicians and newspaper editors demanded more, certain that saboteurs lurked.

In 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, citing "military necessity," signed Executive Order 9066, causing the removal and incarceration of people of Japanese descent. About 120,000 were confined, at least two-thirds of them American-born. Many were children. None were charged with a crime.

Uyehara, then a music major at what is now the University of the Pacific in Stockton, Calif., was sent with her family to a local makeshift camp, then to rural Rohwer, Ark. She played piano at church services.

When the War Relocation Authority loosened its rules, she was able to study at Minnesota State Teachers College. "I didn't even have any winter clothes when I left, but it didn't matter," she later told an interviewer.

After the war, she came to Philadelphia, where a brother was studying at Temple University. She married Hiroshi Uyehara, an engineer who also had been in the Rohwer camp. Together they helped organize the city chapter of the JACL.

Many internees never spoke of their internment experience, and their children often grew up unaware. That began to change in the late 1960s. The JACL established a National Redress Committee in 1978. The effort grew in 1982 when a commission that had been appointed by President Jimmy Carter found the internment was not caused by danger to national security but by prejudice and hysteria.

Uyehara, then retired from social work positions in Delaware County and Lower Merion, volunteered as national director of the Legislative Education Committee, the JACL's lobbying arm. She had no experience in partisan politics, no connections in Washington beyond those forged through the League of Women Voters.

But during years of labor in the JACL, she had built a reservoir of trust. So, if she phoned a JACL contact in New Mexico and asked him to go see Sen. Pete Domenici, he would go.

"Philadelphia was really the epicenter of redress, and it was the epicenter because Grayce lived there," said Grant Ujifusa, a retired editor and redress strategist. "She was the mother of us all."

On Aug. 10, 1988, President Ronald Reagan signed House Resolution 442, named for the decorated 442nd Regimental Combat Team, composed of Japanese Americans. The act provided money for 60,000 survivors and required that the history of internment be told through monuments and museum collections and in classrooms.

"An apology is a huge thing," said Ellen Somekawa, executive director of Asian Americans United, whose parents and grandparents had been interned. "It wasn't like, 'Sorry, now let's move on.' It was, 'Sorry, and now let's get to the business of telling this history." ■



JACL-LEC Executive Director Grayce Uyehara was honored in 2008 at the second annual JACL Gala Awards.

Central Valley Businessman Honors JA Mentors

By Roberta Barton
CCDC Vice Governor and P.C. Editorial Board Member

Abundant sunshine blessed the dedication of a local "Soul Consoling Tower" at Simonian Farms in Fresno, Calif., on Nov. 19. Hundreds of well-wishers gathered to view the opening ceremony of the tower, which is constructed of original barracks wood from the Poston incarceration camp.

The 26-foot-tall tower was created by Central Valley business owners Dennis and Bonnie Simonian as a tribute to the families of Shigeo and Kinuko Hayashi, Masao and Hanako Hayashi, Bob and Masako Nakadoi Mochizuki, Ted and Irene Takahashi and Yosh and Yo Takahashi. The five families were instrumental in teaching Dennis Simonian the value of hard work, honesty, importance of setting goals in life and becoming the farmer and person that he grew up to be. They served as mentors who graciously shared their passion and knowledge of farming over the years despite the fact that he was a competitor in the retail produce business.

Clearly moved by the project and the memory of his Japanese American friends, Dennis said, "I want to make one thing perfectly clear. This monument is *not* about Simonian Farms. It is *not* about Dennis Simonian."

According to Dennis Simonian, the monument originated from a conversation with his contractor, Ron Daniels, who had acquired Poston barracks wood. Both men felt strongly that the monument needed to be constructed well or not at all. Once the two men moved forward with their plans, Dennis sought advice from detainees and their families. Several designs were considered, and ultimately, the tower concept was selected for the Central Valley monument to resemble the monument at Manzanar.

"I want generations to know what happened in this country and how Japanese Americans were treated so it never happens again," said Dennis Simonian. "After the war, they returned from camps and instead of expressing hatred and resentment against their own country, they became model citizens and excelled with honor. They are all my heroes."

Visibly holding back tears, he continued, "My biggest regret is that the families to which this monument is dedicated are no longer with us. I only hope that I made them proud."



PHOTOS: DIANNE KIYOMOTO

Soul Consoling Tower at Simonian Farms



Dennis Simonian, who created the monument

A plaque near the 40-foot-high tower gives a history of Japanese American incarceration and shares the Simonians' story of friendship with their Japanese American mentors as well as a hopeful message symbolized within the tower's design: "The hope is that visitors will even feel a symbolic loss of their own freedoms for a moment or two. But as they look to the open sky, there is a message of hope . . . a hope that a free future is near . . . a veritable light at the end of the dark tunnel that one leaves behind them . . . but never forgets!"

The emotional ceremony concluded with comments by JACL CCDC Governor Bob Shintaku and Franklin Abe, a close friend of the Simonian family. The Rev. Saburo Masada gave the ceremony's benediction, where he recognized the tower as a symbol of the human spirit, commitment, gratitude and friendship. Finally, the monument was made open to the public.

Simonian Farms is located in Fresno. In addition to the Soul Consoling Tower, the landmark fourth-generation family farming business complex features a produce market, wine tasting and historical artifact displays. Simonian Farms is open year-round, seven days a week.

For more information, call (559) 237-2294 or go to *www.simonianfarms.com*.

POSTON COMMUNITY ALLIANCE LAUNCHES MEMORIAL BRICK CAMPAIGN

The Poston Community Alliance has launched a memorial brick campaign to help fund its efforts to restore Poston's remaining historic structures to create a museum. Inscribed memorial bricks will be placed at the existing Poston Memorial Monument and Kiosk site.

Each brick, which can be purchased for a donation of $100 or more, is 4 inches by 8 inches and has space for three lines to create a personalized inscription. Each line has a maximum of 14 letters, including spaces. To receive a brick order form, contact *diannerd79@yahoo.com* or go online to *http://postonprojectbrickcampaign.blogspot.com/p/about.html*.

The Poston Community Alliance is also working on these additional projects in need of financial support: master plan development for interpretive center and museum ($150,000); stabilization and preservation of original adobe classrooms ($160,000); assessment of historic structures by preservation architect ($40,000); completion of "For the Sake of the Children" documentary film ($25,000).

Donors will receive a receipt letter with the Poston Community Alliance tax identification number.

The Poston Community Alliance is a nonprofit organization, and all donations are tax deductible. ■

Sierra Nisei Post Marks 60 Years

Created by Nisei to demonstrate their loyalty after World War II, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Sierra Nisei Post 8499 celebrated its 60th birthday on Nov. 9. More than 125 veterans, spouses, family members and community supporters gathered at the Clovis Veterans Memorial District to honor the Central Valley heroes. Attendance at the milestone event echoed the Post's original membership of 120 members at the time of its formation on Oct. 17, 1953.

Highlights included presentations by keynote speakers Rosalyn Tonai, executive director of the National Japanese American Historical Society, who provided a progress report on the Military Intelligence Service Historic Learning Center at the Presidio of San Francisco, and Tom Graves, author of "Twice Heroes: America's Nisei Veterans of WWII and Korea," who spoke about his new book.

Born from discrimination, Sierra Nisei Post 8499 has thrived through diversity.

Despite their outstanding war record, Nisei veterans were often refused membership in veterans' organizations after World War II. Nisei veterans did not join mainstream veterans organizations such as the American Legion or VFW after WWII because of anti-Japanese sentiment. Eventually, with the help of Alva Fleming, Sierra Nisei Post 8499 was organized. Members represented WWII and the Korean War, and at least one Issei veteran of World War I. With a current roster of 84 members, Post 8499 has been strengthened by including veterans from all walks of life.



Central Valley heroes were honored as the VFW Sierra Nisei Post 8499 celebrated its 60th birthday on Nov. 9.

The celebration concluded on a high note, with Post veterans and surviving spouses gathering for a group photo. The event was co-sponsored by the Central California District Council JACL and the Clovis Veterans Memorial District.

— Roberta Barton

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"It's not what you look at that matters, it's what you see." Henry David Thoreau.

Happy Holidays!
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Spending the holidays with family, especially celebrating with Grandson Matt on his first-author story in the Sept. 2013 Optics and Photonics News.

Happy New Year!

Pat Kawamoto

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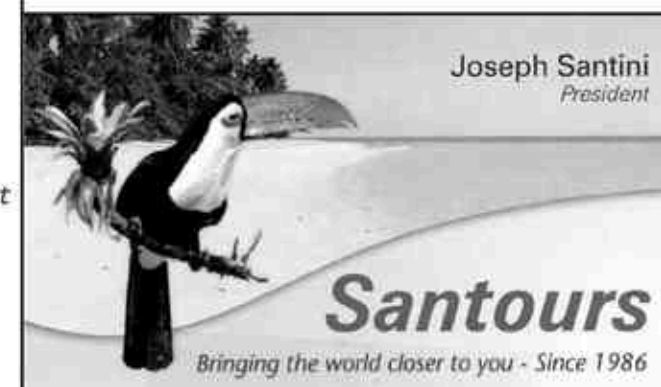
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Your Family, Friends & the communities you served, dearly miss you!

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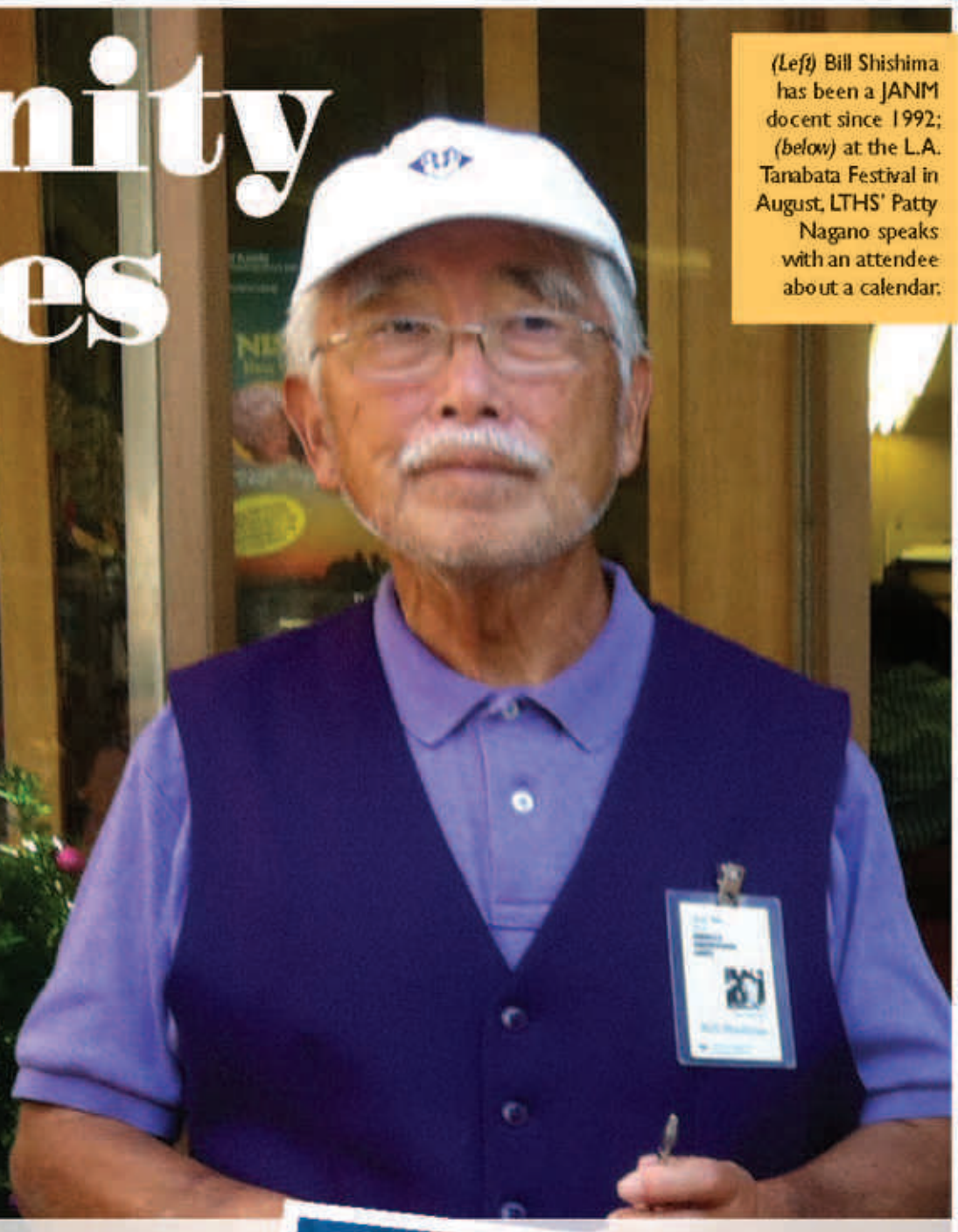
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Community Comrades

VOLUNTEERS OF ALL AGES AND BACKGROUNDS GO ABOVE AND BEYOND TO RETAIN THE SPIRIT OF LOS ANGELES' LITTLE TOKYO.



(Left) Bill Shishima has been a JANM docent since 1992; *(below)* at the L.A. Tanabata Festival in August, LTHS' Patty Nagano speaks with an attendee about a calendar.

By Connie K. Ho
Contributor

The holiday spirit is all about giving back to the community, and that is evident particularly in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo. The historic district bustles with volunteers of all ages and backgrounds. Following are a few organizations and volunteers who donate their time to the activities seen in Little Tokyo.

LITTLE TOKYO SERVICE CENTER

Dean Matsubayashi, executive director, discusses LTSC-affiliated programs, such as the Little Tokyo Residents Assn., as well as cultural and historic preservation.

"LTRA is kind of an effort that began 10 years ago when our community organizers worked with a lot of the low-income seniors in five of the low-income housing projects in the area. We try to organize them to increase their voice in what's happening. I know there are a number of residents who played a really active role in kind of helping to get it started and developed.

"A lot of past efforts resulted in a huge increase in the number of seniors who registered to vote — they participate in more civic engagement, key issues in the community like getting a crosswalk in front of the housing projects in Little Tokyo that connects them to the medical offices they often frequent. There's also been an increase in Korean tenants. Even developing a club where both Korean and Japanese residents can sort of interact and know each other better is something the volunteers help spearhead," said Matsubayashi.

"For cultural preservation, it goes beyond the physical structures but how can we preserve not just Little Tokyo as the historic cultural center for the Japanese American community in Southern California that includes the physical structures but also culture and traditions."

JAPANESE AMERICAN NATIONAL MUSEUM

Bill Shishima has been a docent at JANM since 1992, and he started giving a two-hour walking tour of Little Tokyo in 1994. Once a month, Shishima still gives the Little Tokyo walking tour. He also volunteers during the week to give school children tours of the museum.

"I like to, shall you say, give back to the community. Actually, when I was a young Boy Scout, I remember my scout master said, 'We serve the community,' so I was in the Boy Scout program for over 40 years as an adult leader and trainee, and then I heard the museum was going to open up," recalled Shishima.

"I was volunteering at the culture center and they said, 'We're going to have a history class on Japanese Americans,' and I said, 'Oh yeah, that's what I want to learn.' I wanted to learn about Japanese American history. And then it ended up being a workshop for docents, so that was how I got started. I didn't know enough about Japanese American history, so I came for my own information and benefit, and I ended up volunteering. I came mainly to learn about Japanese American history and having a teacher's background didn't hurt. I lived in and around Little Tokyo, so it really drew my interest already because I had interest in Little Tokyo.

"My biggest payday as a docent here was, one time, I was giving fifth-graders a tour and then I asked, 'Well, how was it today?' And a fifth-grader says, 'It was fun, even though we were learning.' So, that was my biggest payday. They were learning, yet they enjoyed it. To me, that's the pat on my back. They actually learned something, yet it was fun.

"I'm usually here a couple of days a week, and I learn a lot from the visitors as well, so it makes it more interesting. I feel like I'm giving back to the community and, at the museum, I'm giving back especially when I hear that they never heard about camps during the war, World War II, so it really gets me sort of hepped up to teach them about what happened to us during WWII. The main thing is we want the world to

See COMRADES on page 58.



Hugs for Hope

INSPIRED BY THE WORDS 'STRENGTH' AND 'BELIEVE,' JENNA TOMITA'S CHARITY PROVIDES SERIOUSLY ILL CHILDREN WITH HOLIDAY CHEER.



By Allison Haramoto
Executive Editor

Christmastime at the home of California State University, Long Beach, fourth-year student Jenna Tomita is as busy as the North Pole. Tomita and her many "elves" are hard at work in her own "Santa's workshop" busily decorating tiny T-shirts with inspirational sayings such as "faith," "hope," "strength," "believe" and "wish" for Build-a-Bear Workshop teddy bears that will make the Christmas wish of a seriously ill child a reality.

You see, Tomita's bears will soon be delivered to children battling life-threatening diseases at the City of Hope Hospital in Duarte, Calif. Any day now, their faces will light up with joy, their diseases put out of their minds with the gift of friendship and the love of a teddy bear.

Tomita's Hugs for Hope foundation has lifted the spirits of these children since September 2010, when Tomita began to raise money initially through bake sales in order to fulfill sick childrens' Christmas wishes.

"I got the idea after a friend passed away from cancer during my senior year of high school," said Tomita. "I was volunteering with the City of Hope, and I realized that I really liked helping others."

Tomita, who was 5 years old when her own mother died just days before Christmas, never thought of this holiday as the happiest time of year. But being able to give and actually see the joy she could bring to others made her determined to turn that all around.

"The children truly appreciate something so simple as a teddy bear. It is such an emotional experience, but words cannot describe how rewarding and humbling it is to see the children's faces light up," said Tomita.

In between semester finals, Tomita spoke recently with the *Pacific Citizen* about her foundation's success, the appreciation she has for all of her friends and family who help her each year and, oh yes, the 400-plus bears she has already delivered from her "workshop" and the 100 more ready to go.



(Above) Hugs for Hope founder Jenna Tomita at a fundraiser event in November; *(right)* Tomita *(center)* and *(from left)* Crystal Randovan and Gionette Sarino pose with 150 stuffed Build-a-Bears that were delivered to patients last year.

Your passion and dedication to Hugs for Hope is inspiring. What drives you every day?

Jenna Tomita: When thinking about how I would approach this project, I didn't really know how to start or where this would take me. I just knew that I wanted it to be personal and from the heart. I've always tried my best to help those who needed a hand. During my junior year of high school, my friend, Jeriel, was fighting cancer. I promised him that I would start a cancer foundation for him. I remember I saw a glimpse of hope in his eyes. I knew this disease was not only hurting him physically but also mentally and emotionally. I couldn't let people like him who needed love and support go unnoticed.

While most people your age are trying to figure out which holiday party to attend, you're brainstorming new ways to earn funds for your foundation. How did your recent event at Shakas restaurant in Monterey Park turn out?

Tomita: The turnout was great! It was so rewarding and humbling to see how many people truly believed in this cause that I am so passionate about. I felt overwhelmed seeing so many people come together for one cause that I could never have imagined would grow so much over the past few years.

How did you partner up with Build-a-Bear Workshop?

Tomita: I chose to work with Build-a-Bear because I wanted every aspect of my project to be personal. I thought anyone could donate used books or toys to hospitals, so I really wanted to go out of my way to make sure that this project was personal.

Hugs for Hope brings immense happiness to its recipients. How do you distribute the bears?

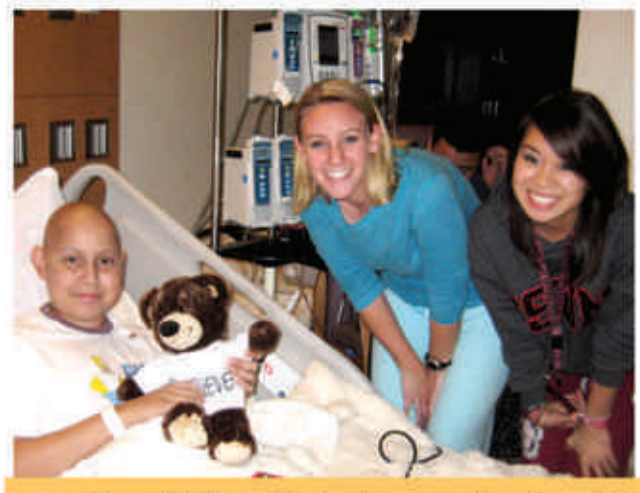
Tomita: All of the bears go to pediatric cancer patients at City of Hope hospital. Every year, it throws a Christmas party called the "Pajama Jam" for outpatients. Every year, we attend to hand out the bears. We also get to deliver the bears to patients who are unable to come down to the party.

How many bears have you distributed?

Tomita: This year, we will be donating just over 100 bears. My first year we donated 65, my second year was 150 bears and last year was 200 bears. Every year I strive to raise more money than the previous year. This year, we raised more funds, but I decided to use some of the money to fund future projects that I want to do next year. We are planning on getting a CD produced for this project. It's going to be a really big project, but I believe that music can really change lives and touch a lot of hearts.

Nothing brings more joy to a child's face than a teddy bear. What feedback do you get when you deliver their special gifts?

Tomita: The kids are always so thankful, and their faces completely light up. I remember one year, a kid came up to me asked, "Do you have any bears that say, 'wish'?" I found him one, and his eyes lit up. His mom came up to me and thanked me. She said, "My son got a Wish bear last year, and he sleeps with it every night. He's been looking forward to tonight for so long." Moments like that remind me that it's completely worth every ounce of stress and hard work that's put into this project.





Since 2010, Jenna Tomita's Hugs for Hope foundation has delivered more than 400 Build-a-Bear Workshop teddy bears during the holiday season to seriously ill children at the City of Hope Hospital.

Can you tell us your most memorable deliveries?

Tomita: I have two very memorable moments. The first happened my first year when we were visiting the inpatient rooms. I had always hated hospitals because it reminded me of my mom who passed away. I went into a room, and there was a boy around my age. After I gave him the bear, he asked why I was doing this. I told him that I hoped to make people like him have a happier holiday season. He looked me in the eyes and said, "Thank God for people like you." At that moment, I knew everything was worth it and that this was something I will continue to do for the rest of my life. Another moment happened last year. The nurse told us there was one room left, but the boy inside was pretty sick, so only I would be able to go see him. I was so nervous, but when I went inside, I saw one of my graduating classmates, Gary. I completely broke down and remember thinking, "How did I not know about this battle?" The whole time I was there, Gary was the one comforting me. I will never forget that night when our lives crossed paths because it taught me a lot about hope and fate.

You write words such as "hope," "strength," "faith" and "believe" on the bears' T-shirts. We can see these words drive you to keep going.

Tomita: These words mean so much. They all sort of intertwine because if you're strong, you can believe in yourself and have hope that there's a light at the end of the tunnel. Every year, I just hope and trust that these kids will find some sort of peace in receiving these bears.

Cancer has personally touched your life. How has it turned you into the person you are today?

Tomita: Cancer has definitely changed who I am for the better. It has taught me to never give up. I have learned to work hard and overcome the little bumps in the road. I've become so much more selfless and giving. And my Auntie Tanya has been my ultimate light in this journey. She had breast cancer, but her outlook and smile was always so radiant. Whenever you spend time with her, you would never know she had cancer. But I guess that's sort of the beauty of it. They have such a different light to them.

Support is crucial. Who helps you?

Tomita: Of course, my family has always supported me, and my dad and big brother Jeffrey have always helped me in any way that they can. My friends are probably some of my biggest supporters. They have always pushed me to my limits because they believe in this cause.

Have you decided what type of career you'd like to pursue?

Tomita: Yes, I hope to continue to work with pediatric cancer patients. I am currently studying psychology and human development. Ideally, I would like to be a therapist for children with cancer. I never imagined getting my Ph.D., but this project has motivated me to do my best.

Hugs for Hope, and you, are truly an inspiration. What do you hope for in the future?

Tomita: I hope that one day I will be a nationwide nonprofit foundation. I know it won't be easy to get there, but I know that God has a plan for this project. I know if I continue to trust Him, He will get me to where I need to be.

Finally, what does the "Gift of Giving" mean to you during this holiday season?

Tomita: It means to give whatever you may have to help someone else, whether it's big or small. I believe that by giving to others, you can create a chain reaction and inspire others to give, too!

To help or make a donation to Hugs for Hope, contact Jenna Tomita at jennatomita@gmail.com. All monetary donations will be used to purchase future Build-a-Bears for next year!



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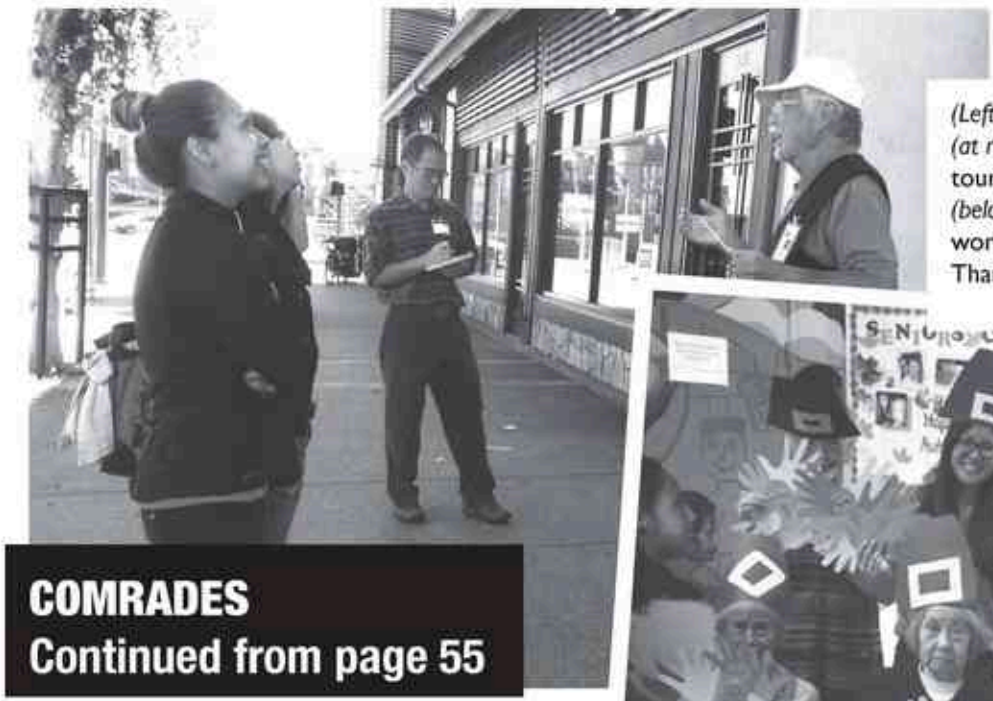
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(Left) Bill Shishima *(at right)* gives a walking tour of Little Tokyo; *(below)* LTSC volunteers work with seniors on Thanksgiving crafts.

COMRADES
Continued from page 55

know how we were mistreated during WWII because we were incarcerated behind America's concentration camp just because we looked like the enemy. It was not military necessity — it was because of war hysteria, failure of our politicians and prejudice. And so, we hope that nothing like this ever happens to anyone, anywhere again. It almost happened after 9/11," said Shishima.

"They said, 'Put them in camps,' just like we were put in camps, so America didn't learn its lesson. [People of a certain race and culture] shouldn't be put in camps just because they look like terrorists. We looked like the enemy, the Japanese, even though I was a young American citizen; I was classified as 'enemy alien.' President (Franklin D.) Roosevelt classified all of us as enemy alien — that's why we were incarcerated in the camps. That shouldn't happen again. Initially, it was shocking to me to find out that the general public didn't know what happened to us during WWII and, let alone, some Asians don't even know what happened to us. So, I'm glad the museum is here so we can tell our story. It shouldn't happen again."

LITTLE TOKYO KOBAN AND VISITOR'S CENTER

Brian Kito, the third-generation owner of sweet shop Fugetsu-do, helps manage the volunteers at Koban, a center for public safety that also serves as a visitor's center for tourists.

"We first got involved because of this facility," said Kito. "Actually, Little Tokyo Public Safety Assn. used to be called Little Tokyo Anti-Crime Assn. Back in the early-'90s, late-'80s, this area became really bad security-wise — car break-ins and panhandlers kind of ruled the streets at night.

"And so I was about ready to close my business because it was too crazy, and people didn't want to work after dark down in Little Tokyo. Before I closed my business, I decided that I better try something. We tried a volunteer patrol to help and secure security. We had zero budget to do security. We had one security guard here I think about eight hours a night, from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. because our businesses were being broken into at night.

"That was how it got started. The volunteer corps started off with only three guys, and it grew and grew. We had sons and grandsons of people who lived in Tokyo Towers who jumped onboard. There was concern about their grandparents' or their parents' safety here in Little Tokyo. It grew to 50 volunteers in about a three-year period. And from there, it just was nothing but success because we had enough manpower to get the job done.

"Generally, most of the time, it's all for the goodwill of Little Tokyo, whether it's for me, the self-preservation of my own business. But you know, it has to do with the cultural tie in Little Tokyo. Every Japanese American has some type of roots that have come through here. I would say 90 percent of them at least. So, if you're a *sansei* or a *yonsei*, most likely your grandparents or great-grandparents were somehow involved with Little Tokyo because back in, say after the war or before the war, this was the only place where you could find Japanese food. You didn't have Marukai, you didn't have Mitsuwa — you only came to Little Tokyo if you wanted to get your teriyaki meat or your tofu, and you wouldn't find it in your Ralph's market. I think that's kind of where the need to volunteer and make Little Tokyo better comes from. That's where it all stems from.

"Japanese speakers living in the U.S. may come to us if they need a go-between to go to law enforcement. We are that go-between because most Japanese speakers will probably not make police reports if something happens. That's what we try to prevent — if there's a problem, they can come to us, and we can assist them. Whether it be the LAPD or Long Beach Police Department or Sheriff's Department, we have contacts with them all."

Concluded Kito: "When you do volunteer work, you meet the best people that you could possibly meet. All in all, it's very rewarding meeting a lot of people that are willing to do volunteer work because usually they're really good people."

LITTLE TOKYO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

LTHS President Mike Okamura has been a longtime volunteer in Little Tokyo, first getting involved with JANM. In 2010, Okamura became active with LTHS, which was established in 2006. LTHS captures the stories of Little Tokyo with an annual calendar and oral histories, as well as a writing contest (submission deadline is Jan. 31).

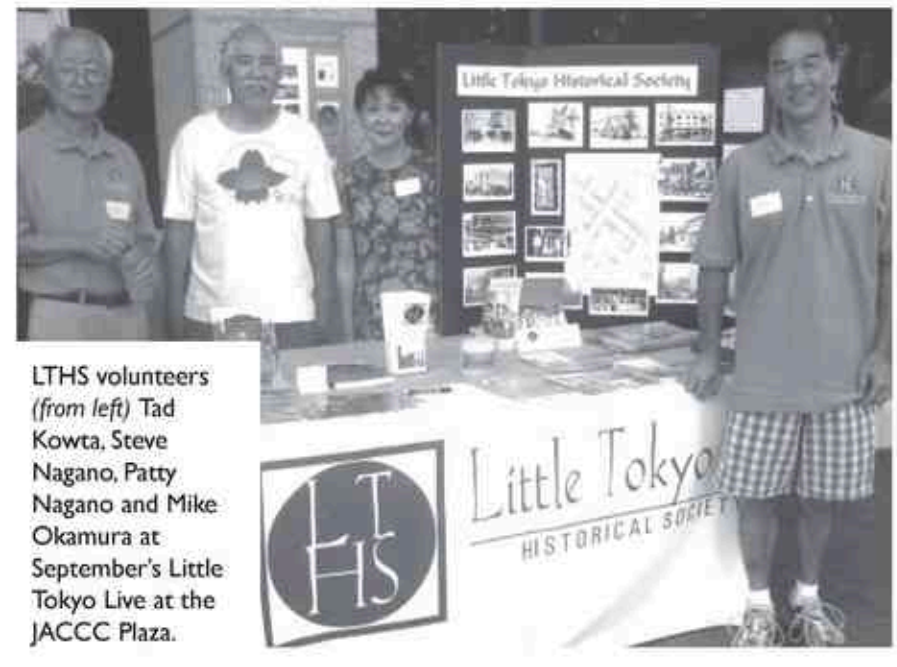
"The big thing we do every year is our calendar, something in addition to a book that we do — 'Los Angeles's Little Tokyo' — that was published in 2010. We had a photo community day in 2009 where we invited people throughout the Japanese American community to send in photos of Little Tokyo; it could be old, current — we wanted to capture that history and be able to archive it and add it to our collection so the images weren't lost.

"We received quite a bit; a positive response to bringing in photos. We scanned them, and now they're in our collection, the vast majority of which went into production of the book. But we had all these other photos in the collection, and we thought, 'Let's share them.' It's part of our mission to educate, share and preserve the history of Little Tokyo. The membership decided to do a calendar and use all these photos — we're able to share those images with the general public."

Continued Okamura: "We're also working closely with the Boyle Heights Historical Society, a very important neighbor to the east of Little Tokyo. It has a historical connection with Little Tokyo. Like my father and his family, they lived in Boyle Heights and worked in Little Tokyo. You find remnants of a very vibrant community at one time because there are two Buddhist temples still there. LTHS and Boyle Heights Historical Society are working on the application process to get it designated as a Historical-Cultural Monument by the city of Los Angeles.

"We want to create the exposure, the awareness, especially, in my opinion, because (Little) Tokyo is changing so rapidly in the last 10 years. The demographics have changed, the businesses have changed — we don't want to lose the flavor of the Little Tokyo image. We don't want it to become another gentrified neighborhood, a clone of a neighborhood that has no distinct image or history. We want to keep the vitality here, the energy — it's here. We just want to make sure people know that there's a historical tie that goes back way before 1884.

"I've become more passionate about Little Tokyo because of my involvement with LTHS. I've always been involved with the museum for years but, now through LTHS, it's more because it's just this neighborhood. Everyone's passionate about Little Tokyo in one way or another — the past teaches us for the future, and the next generation needs to know that there are 200 years (of history) at Little Tokyo here." ■



LTHS volunteers *(from left)* Tad Kowta, Steve Nagano, Patty Nagano and Mike Okamura at September's Little Tokyo Live at the JACCC Plaza.

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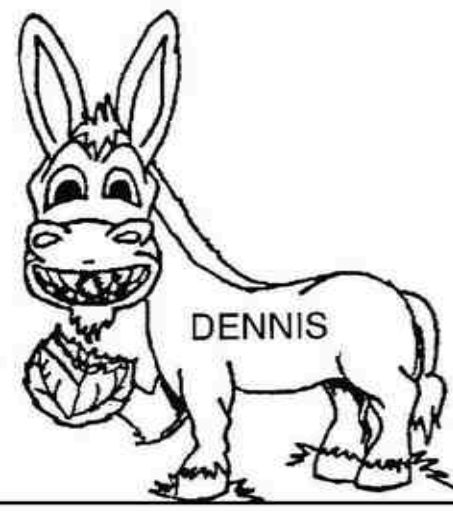


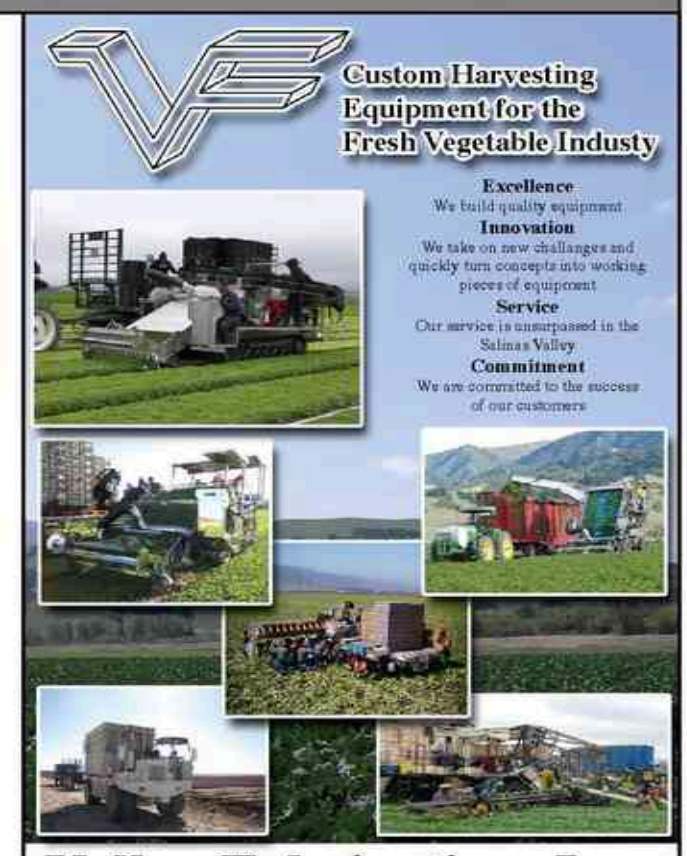
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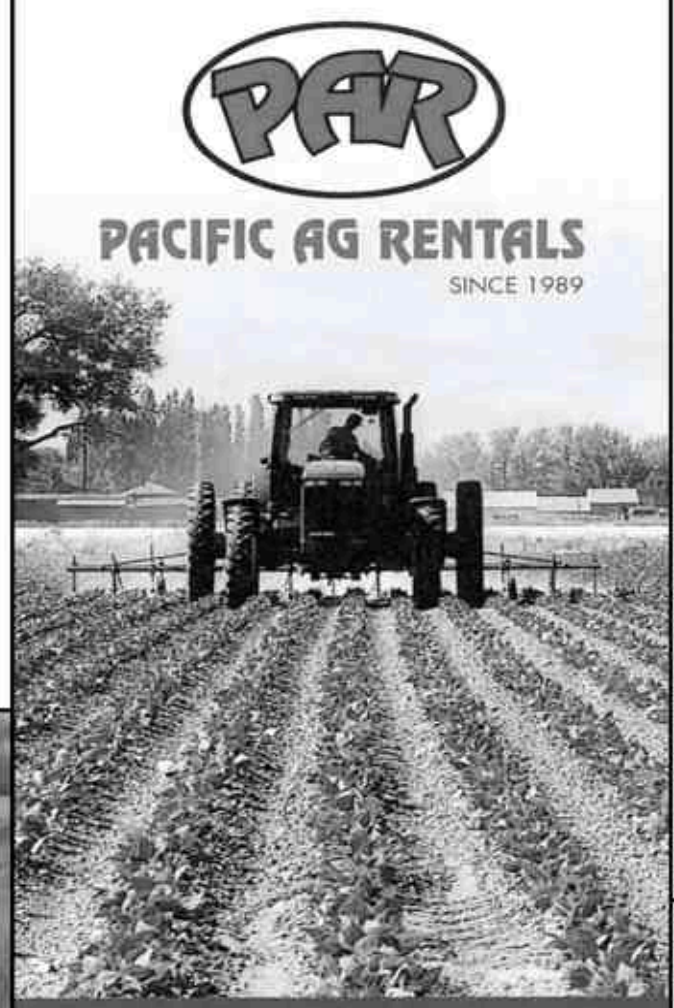
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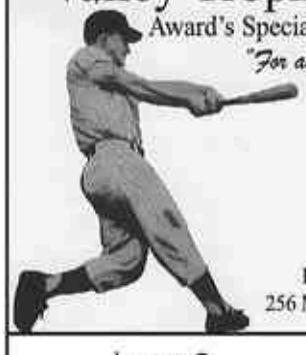
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NIKKEI VOICE



Friends at dinner receive a scarf and calendar of Colorado aspen photos.

PHOTOS: GIL ASAKAWA

Omiyage Is One Japanese Custom That Promotes Politeness

By Gil Asakawa

When my wife and mother and I traveled to Japan a couple of months ago, we prepared for the trip by going shopping. We weren't just buying clothes and luggage for travel, though we did that, too. We bought *omiyage*, or small gifts to give to people in Japan, not just relatives but also friends we planned to visit.

Japanese Americans use the term generically, but in Japan, the word is specifically for souvenirs that you might bring back from a trip, usually in the form of a packaged food or snack. It's the polite thing to do.

Although taking a lot of *omiyage* can add bulk and weight to suitcases, we took boxes of Colorado-made Enstrom's toffee, which everyone loves. Some recipients looked forward to their toffee because they got a box the last time we visited Japan. We also took calendars we made with photos that I took of Colorado aspen trees in the fall. Such gifts are the best because they reflect our home in Colorado and are treasured more for it by recipients in Japan.

In the past, I've taken little gold-plated aspen leaves and photo books of Colorado. One year, I bought a book about the state for which my younger brother, Glenn, took the photos. But I've also taken gifts that aren't specific to Colorado. For years before Starbucks brought an appreciation for overpriced coffee with fancy names, Japanese thought of Sanka instant coffee as the standard, and they appreciated it when I gave them jars of Taster's Choice freeze-dried instant coffee, which they considered a luxury item.

OK, so things change, and *omiyage* evolve.

One year, I made the mistake of taking packages of beef jerky from Costco. But it was during the mad-cow disease scare when Japan banned U.S. beef for a decade (they finally lifted the ban in January 2013), and all our packages of jerky were confiscated and destroyed. So, do a little bit of research first if you're taking something edible, and contact the Japanese consulate near you for a list of approved items.

For this year's trip to Japan, we bought extra-large suitcases — keeping in mind that there's a 50-pound weight limit before expensive fees get added — because we knew we'd be buying *omiyage* to bring back.

While in Japan, we even went to a discount store to buy a backpack and duffle bag that were sold as "carry-on" pieces of luggage, so we could stuff them with more stuff. Again, be careful of what you buy to bring back. We heard horror stories of ramen noodles being confiscated and travelers slapped with steep fines for innocently packing certain types of food.

We managed to escape close scrutiny of our bags, which we packed with laundry and *omiyage*. We bought snacks, crackers, unique food from places we visited and little charms at temples and shrines that were easy to pack and carry. It included food and gifts for ourselves, of course . . .

We also had to make room for the gifts we were given by everyone we saw. Relatives gave us boxes of special cookies made in Hokkaido, where they live. Family friends gave us cute trinkets and books (one was a gorgeous book of the design work that my friend does, using digital light displays). Handkerchiefs and small towels are very popular *omiyage* in Japan. One year, I had to bring home an entire blanket that was given to me from a relative.

It shouldn't take a trip abroad to keep *omiyage* in mind. It's not just something you do because it's a rule, it should be a way you think, all the time.

We don't go out and buy presents to give whenever we go over to someone's house for dinner, but we always — always — ask what we can bring, and even if we're told "nothing," we make something or stop and buy something to take on the way anyway.

If we're invited to the home of someone more important than us, like a dignitary, we try to take something small but from the heart. It's like taking a six-pack to a friend's house to watch the big game, even if you know everyone else is bringing drinks and food. I think that's why Japanese American families and community organizations love to throw potlucks — we're hard-wired already to bring stuff when we see each other.

This mentality of gift-giving is an important cultural value of our community. Just think if everyone in the world gave gifts whenever they interacted with others and whenever they visited people, close by or far away.

The world would be a nicer, more civilized, more polite and more appreciative place.

Happy holidays, everyone!

Gil Asakawa is a P.C. Editorial Board member and former P.C. Board Chair and blogs at www.nikkeiview.com. He thinks his book "Being Japanese America" would make a great omiyage for anyone.



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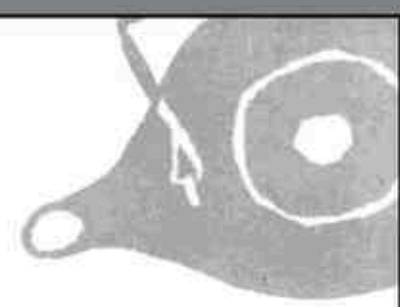
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In Memoriam 2013

Tributes

HARRY K. HONDA

Aug. 12, 1919-
July 3, 2013



Honda, Harry K., 93, Rowland Heights, CA; July 3.

Honda, an Army veteran, served as editor of the *Pacific Citizen* for more than 30 years.

After receiving his bachelor's degree from Loyola University in 1950, he worked as a sports writer at the *Rafu*, then as the English editor at *Sangyo Nippo* and later the assistant editor of *Nichibei Shimbun*. He joined the *P.C.* in 1952. He was very active in the JACL and Pan American Nikkei Assn. Honda was also a founding member of the Nisei Athletic Union and Asian American Journalists Assn.

He is survived by his wife, Misako; daughter, Patricia (Dan) Arra; grandchildren, Michelle, Joseph, Nicole and Benjamin Arra; nephew, Ted (Gayle) Kodama; also survived by many relatives.

KATHRYN KOREMATSU

March 14, 1921-
Oct. 28, 2013



Korematsu, Frances Kathryn, 92, Oakland, CA; Oct. 28.

Born on March 14, 1921, in Greenville, S.C., Korematsu received her bachelor's degree in 1942 from Winthrop College (now known as Winthrop University) and her master's degree from Wayne University.

On Oct. 12, 1946, she married Fred T. Korematsu. They were married for 58 years until his death in 2005.

The Korematsu case made history by challenging the constitutionality of the World War II internment of some 120,000 persons of Japanese descent.

She was active with the First Presbyterian Church of Oakland, the Girl Scouts and Cub Scouts, among other organizations.

Kathryn Korematsu is predeceased by her brother, Paul David, and sister, Virginia Lee.

She is survived by her daughter, Karen, and son, Ken. She is also a mother-in-law to Donald and Cecy, and is survived by her sister-in-law, Carolyn Pearson, as well as nephews and nieces, grandnephews and grandnieces.

NOBUYUKI SHIMOKOCHI

Nov. 13, 1928-
Oct. 8, 2013



Shimokochi, Nobuyuki "Nob," 84, Royal Oak, MI; Oct. 8.

Shimokochi is predeceased by his parents, Tamesaku "George" and Shimayo, and sister, Yuri Koga. He was born in Los Angeles, CA; he is survived by his wife, Anna (nee Nitta); children, David (Nancy), Kenneth and Susan Latos (Frank); also survived by many cousins and relatives; 5 gc; 1 ggc.



Arakaki, Harumi, 73, Los Angeles, CA; Nov. 21; she is survived by her husband, James; sons, Dean (Lisa) and Brian (Susan); sisters, Lucy (Kuni) Kishaba, Akiko Toyama, Reiko (Jerry) Masada and Nayo (Marcel) Ohta; brothers, Lawrence (Jamie) and Keith Uchima; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; 3 gc.

Doy, Tadakazu, 78, Pacific Palisades, CA; Nov. 8; he is survived by his wife, Yoshiko; daughters, Stephanie May Doy Loo (Tom), and June; siblings, Kathleen (Jimmy) Tan and Charles (Liz) Williamson; sister-in-law, Mayumi (Toshio) Tanimura; 1 gc.

Eguchi, Kazumi, 86, Nov. 2; he is survived by his wife, Mieko; children, Joan K. (Randall K.) Toji, David S. (Lynda) and Fred M. (Tracy); brother of Fumio (Elizabeth); 6 gc.



Fukawa, George, 90, Lompoc, CA; Nov. 16; he is predeceased by his wife, Dollie; he is survived by his children, Richard (Bernadette), Patti (Shunji) Nishimura and Michael (Arlene); brothers, Jeff and Koji (Kazumi) Fukawa; sister, Chieko (Ted) Iida; 6 gc.

Fukushima, Taro, 93, Rolling Hills Estates, CA; Nov. 13; he is survived by his wife, Miwako; daughter, Rhoda (Loren) Madson; son, Ron (Akemi); sisters-in-law, Kazuko (Mitsuo) Murakami and Betty Tanaka; brother-in-law, Frank (Edith) Tanaka; also survived by several nieces and nephews; 3 gc.



Hayashibara, June Junko, 87, Gardena, CA; Oct. 31; she is survived by her children, Wayne (Shirlene), Eugene (Phyllis), Edd (Nancy), Pauline, George (Kit) and Corene (Don) Robinson; sisters-in-law, Sue, Irene, Reiko and Chieno Takaki; brother-in-law, Keiji Yata; 15 gc; 2 ggc.

Higa, Karin, 47, Los Angeles, CA; Oct. 29; she was a curator for nearly a decade at JANM; she graduated from Columbia University and received her master's degree from UCLA; she is survived by her husband, Russell Ferguson; as well as her mother and brother.

Higa, Takashi, 57, Pasadena, CA; Nov. 24; he is survived by his wife, Midori; son, Yutaka; daughter, Akane; mother, Sadako; brother, Kazuaki; sisters, Atsuko (Shinichi) Fukawa and Reiko (Sadayoshi) Gushi.

Horikoshi, Shoji, 86, San Francisco, CA; July 16; he was interned in Tanforan and Topaz during WWII; he served in the U.S. Army and later became a forensics expert who lectured at the Virginia FBI Academy; he was predeceased by his siblings, Akira, Shuichi, Asa and Hiroshi; he is also survived by nieces, Patricia Cochrane and Ann Mayeda; and nephews, Brian and Carl Horikoshi.



Imada, Harue Mary, 86, West Los Angeles, CA; Nov. 11; she was predeceased by her husband, Eugene Hideo; she is survived by her children, Leonard (Gwen), Richard (Joyce), Bessie (Gary) Teraoka and Bill; her brother, Dr. Tom T. (Akiko) Maeda, and brother-in-law, Ben Tsutomu (Mariko) Imada, and sister-in-law, Aiko Imada; 5 gc; 2 ggc.

Kamachi, Roland Yoshiharu, 91, Nov. 11; a veteran of WWII; he is survived by his wife, Grace Setsuko; children, Teresa (Michael) Furukawa, Denise (Geoffrey) Yamamoto, Patrick and Anna (Tom) Ito; brother, Don; brothers-in-law, Motoe (Martha) and Shiro Teramoto; sister-in-law, Maxine Teramoto; 12 gc; 3 ggc.

Kawasaki, Masashi, 91, Hacienda Heights, CA; Nov. 22; he is survived by his son, Darryl (Ruth); daughters, Donna (Larry) Nakano, Sheri (Roland) Chung and Joyce; 7 gc.



Kimura, Hideo, 78, Rosemead, CA; Nov. 4; he is survived by his wife, Maria Tiyoko; sons, Ken (Elizabeth Harumi) and Ted Akira; daughter, Fumi; brother, Hiroshi (Michiko) Kimura; sisters, Nancy Sadako Matsumoto, Setsuko Tokunaga and Kuniko (Katsutoshi) Kido; 2 gc.

Kochi, Kikuo Clifford, 89, Los Angeles, CA; Nov. 13; predeceased by his wife, Sally Sakae (married 1951); he is survived by his sons, Georg, Don and Bill; daughter-in-laws, Michiko Akao and Lori Thorn; 3 gc.

Koga, Robert K., 83, Fallbrook, CA; Sept. 8; he served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean Conflict and later became the second LAPD Asian police officer in 1955; he developed an arrest-related training technique known as the "Koga Method"; Koga is survived by his wife, Susan; his children, Michael, Frank, Kelleen and Thomas; and by his stepfather, Frank Shoda; 6 gc.

Maeda, Wayne H., 65, Sacramento, CA; Feb. 27; Maeda was one of the founding members of the Cal State Sacramento ethnic studies

In Remembrance Of . . .

Tributes

program; predeceased by his parents, Masao and Ayako; survived by his wife, Lorrie Toohey Maeda; daughters, Yumi (Carly Tan) and Sachi; and ex-wife Elaine (Matsumoto); siblings, Hatsuye Catherine and Setsuo Ralph.



Matsuno, Hanako, 92, Los Angeles, CA; Nov. 4; she is survived by sons, Alvin (Carol) and Kenneth (Myma); 4 gc; 4 ggc; sister-in-law, Suzie Kariyama.

Nakamura, Dorothy Yumiko, 95, Rosemead, CA; Nov. 24; she is survived by a brother, Rev. Harry Murakami; sister, Chickie Sakauye; four daughters, Caroline, Pat Kersten, Judy Griggs, Grace; 4 gc; 7 ggc.

Nomachi, James Junji, 88, Los Angeles, CA; Nov. 4; he is survived by his wife, Mary Nakaki, son, Bruce (Billie); his siblings, Rose Kinaga and Atsumi; 3 gc.

Ohara, Miki Mikio, 67, Los Angeles, CA; Nov. 19; he is survived by his wife, Emily; children, Kevin (Brenda Garcia), Deena (Kevin) Ohara-Lewis; brother, Kent (Jacqueline) Ohara; aunts, Miyo and Setsue Ohara; 2 gc.

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



Okazaki, Jimmy Hajime, 89, Nov. 19; he was a carpenter for 60 years and served in the U.S. Army; he is survived by his daughter, Kendis Okazaki-Fukui; son-in-law, Gregory Kaname Fukui; sister, Roseline Minko; 3 gc.

Oyama, Henry, 86, Tucson, AZ; March 19; a civil rights pioneer and longtime educator who fought a state law in the 1950s that prohibited interracial marriage; his family was interned at Poston during WWII; he was drafted into the Army in 1945; survived by his wife, Laura Ann; children, Mary Catherine Tate, David, Patrick and Steven; stepchildren, Susanna Minegishi, Chris Toledo, Elizabeth Toledo, Pablo Toledo and Andrea Leyva; 14 gc; 6 ggc.

Sakamoto, Col. Thomas T. Sakamoto, 95, Los Gatos, CA; Oct. 18; he served in the Military Intelligence Service during WWII; his family was unjustly interned at Rohwer; he served as an interpreter for President Eisenhower during his visit to Okinawa; predeceased by his wife, Sadie; brothers, George and Donald, and sister, Clara (Kenji Honda); survived by brothers, Frank (Maryann), Jim (Kaz) and Paul; sister, Bertha (Tom); sister-in-laws, Mary and Aggie.

Shigekawa, Dr. Sakaye, 100, Hollenbeck Palms, CA; the Nisei physician helped internees when she was unjustly interned at the Santa Anita Assembly Center during WWII; she is survived by her brother, Satsuki; sister, Masako Katow; nieces, Jean Katow, Janet Shigekawa Nakamaru; nephews, William Yamada, Philip Shigekawa and their families.

Shimoji, Michiko, 85, Alhambra, CA; Nov. 11; she is survived by her children, Nadine and Stanley Shimoji; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.



Takaki-Ching, Arlene Megumi, 49, Los Angeles, CA; Nov. 2; she is survived by her husband, Gregory Ching; parents, Kenny and Chieko; brothers, Richard (Donna), Frank (Cindy), Michael (Margie) and Don (Leta); sisters, Katherine and Dorothy (Terry) Kunihiro.

Tokuda, Kip, 66, Seattle, WA; July 13; the former Seattle state lawmaker suffered from a heart attack while fishing on Whidbey Island; he founded the JACCC of Washington and the Asian Pacific Islander Community Leadership Foundation; he is survived by his wife, Barbara Lui; daughters, Molly and Pei-Ming; his mother, Tama Tokuda; brother, Floyd; sisters, Valerie Chin, Wendy Tokuda Hall and Marilyn Tokuda.

Tomihiro, Chiye, 87, Chicago, IL; lifelong JACLer; 1977-78 president of the Chicago chapter; she also helped pass the Civil Liberties Act.

Uchida, Hitoshi, 81, Gardena, CA; Nov. 28; he is survived by his wife, Tomoko; children, Masaru (Yukie), Kaoru (Yuriko) and Atsushi (Asako); 3 gc.



Washizaki, Kazume Oda, 89, West Covina, CA; Nov. 8; she is survived by her son, Alan (Flo); daughter, Joyce (James Conway); brother, Frank (Barbara) Oda; sister-in-law, Mary Oda; brother-in-law, Yo Oshiki; 4 gc.

Yatabe, Sadao, 90, Alhambra, CA; Nov. 20; he is survived by his daughter, Gale (Larry) Inadomi; sisters, Shiz Tagami, Masako Arata and Hisako Kanow; also survived by many other loving family members; 2 gc.

Yoneshige, Irene Setsuko, 75, Monterey Park, CA; Nov. 10; she is predeceased by her husband, Ted K.; survived by her siblings, Ralph (Rachel) Okimura and Judy (Tom) Ikeda. ■

GEORGE ARATANI

May 22, 1917-
Feb. 19, 2013



Aratani, George, 95, Los Angeles, CA; Feb. 19. Aratani was a Japanese American businessman, community leader and philanthropist. He was born near Gardena, Calif., to Setsuo and Yoshiko Aratani.

After the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Aratani, whose birth parents had previously passed away, was sent with his stepmother to the Gila camp in Arizona. In 1944, he married Sakaye, who was sent to Poston.

Aratani spent his life giving back to the Japanese American community. He founded Mikasa china and Kenwood electronics. With a group of fellow community leaders, Aratani created Keiro Senior Healthcare in 1961 to help Japanese American seniors.

In 2004, Aratani and his wife bequeathed $500,000 to UCLA to enable the first endowed chair to study the World War II internment of Japanese Americans and subsequent redress movement. The Aratani Foundation, established in 1994, continues to support Japanese American organizations and initiatives.

A memorial service was held on March 2 at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center's Aratani/Japan America Theatre.

Aratani is survived by his wife, Sakaye; daughters, Donna (Liong Tek) Kwee and Linda; 7 gc; 4 ggc.

ANABEL STENZEL

Jan. 8, 1972-
Sept. 22, 2013



Stenzel, Anabel, 41, Redwood City, CA; Sept. 22.

Stenzel, who received two lung transplants, co-authored the memoir "The Power of Two" with her twin sister, Isabel Stenzel Byrnes. Stenzel and her twin sister were diagnosed with cystic fibrosis at birth and were not expected to live to be 10 years old.

Their memoir was developed into a documentary. In 2011, Stenzel was diagnosed with cancer.

Stenzel received her bachelor's degree in human biology from Stanford and a master's degree from the University of California, Berkeley. For more than 16 years, she worked at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital and continued to raise awareness about organ donation and cystic fibrosis.

She is survived by her sister, Isa (Andrew Byrnes), and husband, Trent Wallace. She is also survived by her parents, Hatsuko Arima Stenzel and Reiner Stenzel, and her brother, Ryuta.

GENE HASHIMOTO DOI

Nov. 3, 2011



Doi Hashimoto, Gene, 93, Atlanta, GA; Nov. 3, 2011.

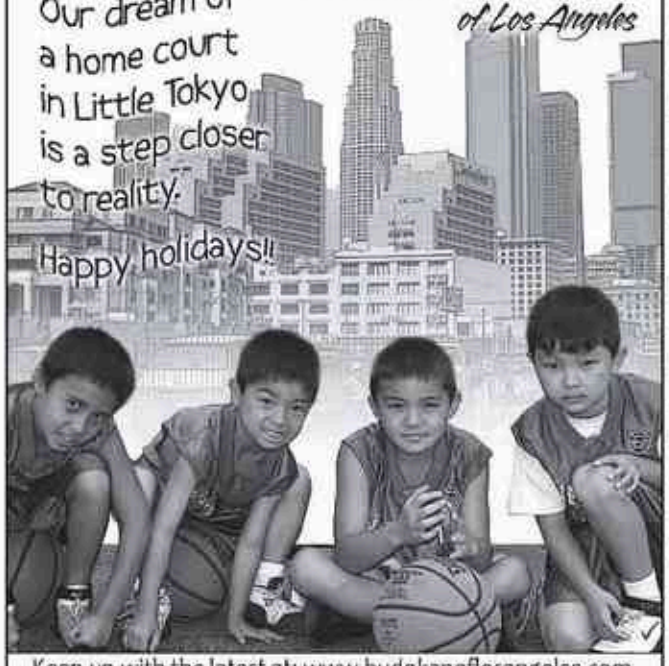
She was born in Camarillo, CA., interned at Manzanar and lived in and loved her family and many friends in Atlanta, Ga., until 2011. She will be remembered for tirelessly lobbying Georgia Republican Sen. Pat Swindall for his "swing vote" on the Redress Bill.

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INSIDE:

President's Message 2
Organization Structure 2, 3
Programs 3, 4
Highlights 5
Scholarships 5, 7
Financials 6
Special Thanks 7

JACL

JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE













ANNUAL REPORT 2013

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It is my pleasure to share with you the 2012-2013 issue of the JACL Annual Report and I hope you will find this report useful and informative. We started publishing this report last year in an effort to enhance communications with our members, constituents and the general public. I believe that we are making progress towards that end as this report summarizes our successes and many of our key programs. Looking back, I am proud to say that this past year is marked by many positive changes and we have made significant progress towards making JACL a stronger and a better organization.

We have come a long way since our beginnings in 1929 as an organization fighting for the interests of Japanese Americans. With over 100 Chapters around the country and approximately 10,000 committed members, the JACL has adapted to the changing social and political environments to fight for the rights of not only Japanese Americans, but for all Asian Pacific Americans and groups in need of a voice. This year, we have a major milestone to celebrate - the 25th Anniversary of the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. We have come a long way.

The JACL has made great strides in the past year, both externally and internally. Within JACL, we continued to explore innovative programs that would be relevant to our members; we examined and implemented processes to further improve our financial reporting capabilities; we commissioned a technology assessment to bring our critical infrastructure up-to-date; and most recently we hired a new Pacific Citizen Executive Editor to lead our premier communications vehicle into the future.

Externally, the JACL has always been at the forefront of advancing the cause of the AAPI community through a variety of education programs; working with elected officials and other civil rights organizations on a number of initiatives such as the Immigration Reform; and taking the lead on important issues with our leadership positions on the Leadership Conference of Civil & Human Rights (LCCHR), National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA) and the Asian Pacific American Media Coalition (APAMC). Additionally, we re-constituted the U.S.-Japan Education Committee in an effort to better educate our members while fostering greater cooperation between Japanese American community and Japan.

Our national organization is run by a small team of dedicated and hard-working individuals who have made advancing JACL's mission their primary goal. Our National Staff and Pacific Citizen Staff are the ones who work hard on a daily basis to keep the organization moving forward and I am grateful for their commitment and dedication. At the same time, JACL is only as strong as its members, so I encourage all of you to get involved in our organization and make a difference for your chapter, your district and our country. It has truly been an honor and a privilege to serve as your National President this past year and I am equally grateful to the National Board for working with me.

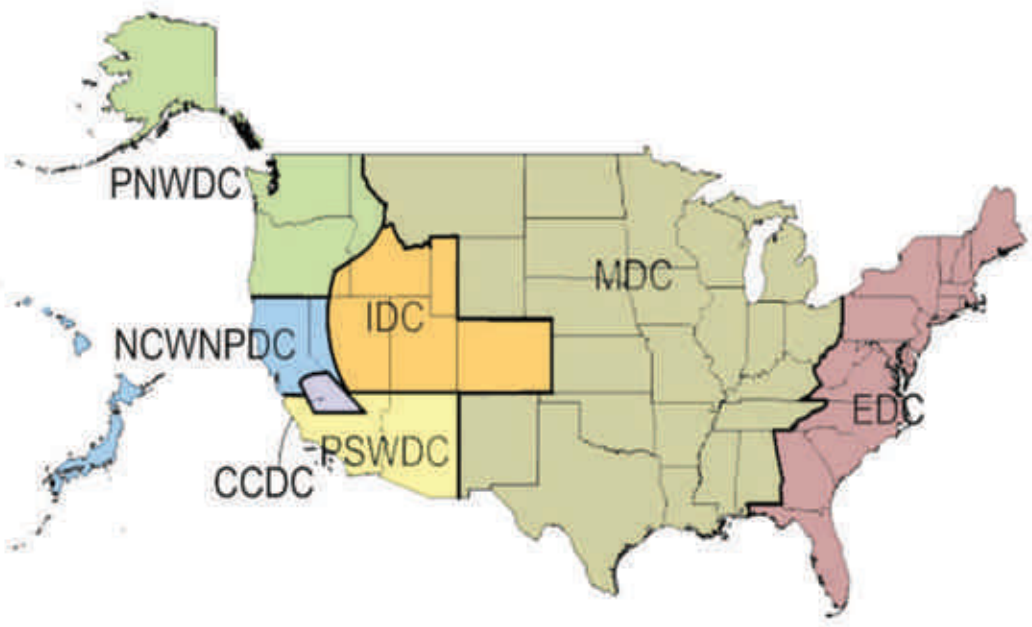
In the following pages you will find the detailed information of our national organization, regional offices and our major accomplishments over the past year. I am extremely proud of what we have done and I know that we are capable of achieving even greater accomplishments. I look forward to working with all of you in the coming year!

Sincerely yours,

David T. Lin

David T. Lin
National President

OUR NATIONAL ORGANIZATION



The Japanese American Citizens League consists of 106 chapters nationwide and in Japan. These chapters are divided geographically into seven district councils, each of which is headed by a district governor. The national organization is guided by the National Board, which consists of elected officers and district governors.

Chapter Directory

Pacific Northwest District Council (PNWDC):
Alaska
Gresham-Troutdale
Olympia
Portland
Puyallup Valley
Seattle
Spokane

Central California District Council (CCDC):
Clovis
Delano
Fowler
Fresno
Livingston-Merced
Parlier
Reedley
Sanger
Selma
Tulare County

Northern California/Western Nevada/Pacific District Council (NCWNPDC):
Alameda
Berkeley
Contra Costa
Cortez
Diablo Valley
Eden Township
Florin
Fremont
French Camp
Gilroy
Golden Gate
Honolulu
Japan
Lodi
Marin County
Marysville
Monterey Peninsula
Placer County
Reno
Sacramento
Salinas Valley
San Benito County
San Francisco
San Jose
San Mateo
Sequoia
Silicon Valley
Sonoma County
Stockton
Watsonville-Santa Cruz
West Valley

Pacific Southwest District Council (PSWDC):
APAN
API Lambda
Arizona
Downtown Los Angeles
East Los Angeles
Gardena Valley
Greater LA Singles
Greater Pasadena
High Desert
Hollywood
Imperial Valley
Las Vegas
Marina-SCAN
Orange County
Pasadena
Progressive Westside
Riverside
San Diego
San Fernando Valley
San Gabriel Valley
San Luis Obispo
Santa Barbara
Santa Maria
SELANOCO
South Bay
Torrance
Venice Culver
Ventura County
West Los Angeles

Intermountain District Council (IDC):
Arkansas Valley
Boise Valley
Idaho Falls
Fort Lupton
Mile High
Mount Olympus
Pocatello-Blackfoot
Salt Lake City
Snake River
Wasatch Front North

Midwest District Council (MDC):
API Gulf Coast
Chicago
Cincinnati
Cleveland
Dayton
Detroit
Hoosier
Houston
New Mexico
Omaha
St. Louis
Twin Cities
Wisconsin

Eastern District Council (EDC):
New England
New York
Philadelphia
Seabrook
Southeast
Washington, D.C.

OUR NATIONAL ORGANIZATION

For more than 80 years, JACL has been at the forefront in championing the fight against racism and discrimination. Founded in 1929, JACL continues to address emerging civil rights issues. JACL is a contemporary organization with a rich history, and pursues the ongoing mission to promote social justice and diversity.

For more information about JACL programs and how to become a member, please contact one of our offices:

Regional Offices

National JACL Headquarters
1765 Sutter Street
San Francisco, CA 94115
Phone: 415.921.5225
Fax: 415.931.4671

Midwest Regional Office
5415 North Clark Street
Chicago, Illinois 60640
Phone : 773.728.7170
Fax : 773.728.7231

Northern California/Western Nevada/Pacific Regional Office
1765 Sutter Street
San Francisco, CA 94115
Phone : 415.345.1075

Pacific Northwest Regional Office
671 South Jackson Street, #206
Seattle, Washington 98104
Phone : 206.623.5088
Fax : 206.623.0526

Pacific Southwest Regional Office
250 E. First Street, Suite 303
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Phone : 213.626.4471
Fax : 213.626.4282

Washington, D.C. Office
1629 K Street, Suite 400
Washington, D.C. 20006
Phone : 202.223.1240

National Board Members

David Lin
President

Toshi Abe
VP—Membership

Robert Shintaku
CCDC District Governor

David Kawamoto
PSW District Governor

Carol Kawamoto
Chair—Pacific Citizen Editorial Board

Miko Sawamura
VP—General Operations

Matthew Farrells
Secretary/Treasurer

Michelle Amano
EDC District Governor

Colleen Morimoto
Midwest District Governor

Craig Tomiyoshi
VP—Public Affairs

Mariko Newton
Chair—NY/SC Council

Jeanette Misaka
IDC District Governor

David Unruhe
NCWNP District Governor

Chip Larouche
VP—Planning & Development

Kevin Mori
NY/SC—Youth Representative

Sheldon Arakaki
PNW District Governor

Floyd Shimomura
Legal Counsel

National Staff

National Executive Director
Priscilla Ouchida

Midwest Regional Director
Bill Yoshino

Northern California/Western Nevada/Pacific Regional Director
Patty Wada

Pacific Northwest Regional Director
Karen Yoshitomi

Pacific Southwest Regional Director
Stephanie Nitahara

Business Manager
Clyde Izumi

Membership Coordinator
Annie Noguchi

Assistant Program Coordinator
Christine Munteanu

Bookkeeper
Mei Kuang

Membership / Data Entry
Tomiko Ismail

Corporate Relations & Special Programs
Amy Watanabe

Daniel K. Inouye Fellow
Tara Ohrtman

Norman Y. Mineta Fellow
Rhianna Taniguchi

The Japanese American Citizens League is a national organization whose ongoing mission is to secure and maintain the civil rights of Japanese Americans and all others who are victimized by injustice and bigotry. The leaders and members of JACL work to promote cultural, educational and social values, and to preserve the heritage and legacy of the Japanese American community.

This annual report covers programs and projects of the Japanese American Citizens League from July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013. A full version of the report complete with pictures will be available in January 2014.

Report compiled by Amy Watanabe. Design and layout by Renee Nakagawa.

PROGRAMS

Defamation & Hate Crimes

JACL monitors and responds to incidents of defamation and hate crimes throughout the United States. JACL co-chairs the Asian Pacific American Media Coalition (APAMC), and serves on the Executive Committees of the National Coalition of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA) and the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights (LCCHR). Through these coalitions, JACL works with national entertainment and broadcasting networks, coalition partners, and others to address incidents of defamation and hate crimes to protect the welfare of the community.

Studies show that Asian American teens are the most bullied in U.S. schools (almost twice as likely than other groups) – 54% of Asian Americans reported they have been bullied versus 31.3% of whites, 38.4% of African-Americans, and 34.3% of Hispanics. Online bullying raises even greater concern with over 60% of Asian Americans reporting having been bullied online.

In 2012-13:

- JACL urged law enforcement to fully investigate hate crimes at Columbia University in New York, and Southern Methodist University in Texas, where students were assaulted after being accosted with racial slurs.
- JACL admonished KNPR, Nevada Public Radio, and KLFY in Lafayette, Louisiana for airing the terms "Jap" and "Chinaman."
- JACL addressed negative political campaign tactics in two separate incidents. JACL responded when Elaine Chao, the wife of Senator Mitch McConnell was racially disparaged by a group called Progress Kentucky. Similarly, the JACL responded when Michelle Rhee was called an "Asian bitch" at a rally organized by United Opt Out National.
- JACL admonished Jay Leno for portraying Asians as dog-eaters. JACL also protested an episode of Mike & Molly where a character stated, "Oh, Lord, bless that nasty Chinaman that lives across the street…and probably eats dogs."
- JACL objected to smartphone apps that included racial overtones. JACL sent letters condemning a Google app called "Make Me Asian," which used overlays such as a "coolie" hat and a "Fu Manchu" mustache that could be placed on photos, and an Apple app called "Transformat Celebrities," similar to Google's.
- Following a shooting at a Sikh Temple in Wisconsin, JACL joined with other organizations in urging the Department of Justice to revise their Hate Crime Incident Report to allow for the collection and tracking of hate crimes committed against Sikh Americans.

Court Cases

JACL monitors cases before the United States Supreme Court, and files "friend-of-the-court" briefs on cases involving civil rights issues. In 2012-2013, JACL joined in filing amicus briefs for the following cases:

- On August 13, 2012, for *Fisher v. University of Texas at Austin*, JACL joined with sixteen civil and human rights

PROGRAMS

(Continued from page 3)

groups, the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights and the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. The brief in support of the University of Texas argues that affirmative action policies are necessary to help create a more diverse learning environment for students, and that colleges should reserve the right to consider race in admission criteria. The courts decided in favor of the University of Texas.

- In *Township of Mount Holly v. Mt. Holly Gardens Citizens in Action, Inc.*, the case about whether or not claims under the Fair Housing Act require proof of intentional discrimination, and whose plaintiffs were members of a mostly black and Latino New Jersey neighborhood slated for demolition and gentrification and focused, JACL joined with over 200 national organizations in support of Mount Holly residents. The brief filed on October 28, 2013 argued that the availability of disparate impact claims has been integral to the FHA's goal of achieving equal opportunity in housing for not only African Americans, but all protected classes. The case was settled before arguments were heard by the U.S. Supreme Court.
- JACL joined the Anti-Defamation League and faith groups on an amicus brief on *United States v. Windsor*, which challenged the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). By a vote of 5-4, the Supreme Court decided that Section 3 of DOMA, which defined a legal marriage as the union between one man and one woman, was unconstitutional and violated equal protection under the Fifth Amendment.
- JACL also weighed in on *Hollingsworth v. Perry*, which addressed the constitutionality of California's same-sex marriage ban. The Court dismissed the case, striking down California's Prop 8 ban on same-sex unions, but avoided the larger issue of the constitutionality of the right of same sex couples to marry. The Court determined that defendants, who sought to uphold California's Proposition 8 ban on gay marriage, did not have the legal jurisdiction to appeal lower court rulings against the ban.
- JACL participated in an amicus brief on *Arizona v. Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc.*, regarding Arizonan voter identification law. The brief argued that the Arizona law violated peoples' voting rights. With a 7 - 2 vote, the U.S. Supreme Court decided that Arizona's proof of citizenship requirement conflicts with the federal law requiring that states use the federal voter registration form.

JACL/OCA D.C. Leadership Summit & Collegiate Leadership Summit

JACL/OCA Washington, D.C. Leadership Summit and Collegiate Leadership Summit remain premier programs offered to JACL leaders and college students from throughout the United States. The goal of these JACL leadership programs is to develop a sustainable source of effective leadership for the Asian Pacific Islander community. In 2013, both programs were merged and featured sessions on hate crimes; bullying and immigration; Hill Visits with Congressional staff members on the issue of military hazing and immigration; receptions with Congressman Mike Honda, Congresswoman Grace Meng, Congressman Mark Takano and Secretary Norman Mineta; and briefings by agency personnel at the White House. Twenty-four JACL/OCA participants and 12 students attended the 2013 Leadership Summits.

National Youth/Student Council

The National Youth/Student Council (NY/SC) is comprised of dedicated students and young professional JACL members across the nation from the seven JACL districts. The mission of NY/SC is to raise awareness of AAPI issues and to engage and develop young leaders who create positive change in our community. The NY/SC envisions a national network of collaborative young community leaders and allies with the collective power and passion to make change.

The National Youth/Student Council plans and implements several Youth Leadership Summits throughout the year. These summits provide educational opportunities for young people to grow their skill sets and learn about new advocacy issues. Youth Leadership Summits provide an opportunity for students and young professionals to discuss local and national challenges facing their respective communities. In 2013, summits were held in Los Angeles, San Francisco, Salt Lake City, Seattle, Portland, Washington, D.C., and Berkeley, with topics ranging from leadership development to combating xenophobia.

Internships & Fellowships

JACL internships and fellowships provide opportunities to college students and recent graduates to work in areas of public service, public policy, and advocacy in JACL offices and congressional offices in Washington, D.C. The internship and fellowship programs provide experience-based training and first-hand experience of the federal policy-making process and advocacy work in the AAPI community.

2012-2013 interns and fellows include:

- Adam Kuranishi, (Mike Masaoka Fellow)
- Jason Hata (AARP Norman Y. Mineta Fellow)
- Amy Watanabe (Daniel K. Inouye Fellow)
- Lauren Namba (John Moy & Southwest Intern)
- Rosie McDonnell-Horita (AAPD Intern)
- Juliet Shen (OCA Intern)

Scholarship Programs

In 2012, the National JACL presented $61,000 in scholarships to deserving students. JACL began its National Scholarship and Awards Program in 1946 to support JACL youth in meeting their educational dreams. The program offers scholarships for college freshman, undergraduate and graduate students, as well as awards for law, creative arts and performing arts students and those in financial need. Many local JACL chapters and districts have separate scholarship programs. National JACL, chapters and districts awarded approximately $284,100 to JACL student members in 2012.

National JACL also established a U.S. – Japan scholarship, in 2012, in partnership with Meiji Gakuin University (MGU) in Tokyo, Japan. Established in 1863 by Dr. James Curtis Hepburn, an American doctor and a missionary, Meiji Gakuin University is one of the oldest universities in Japan. The scholarship is offered to a deserving student pursuing a degree in International Studies.

Nutrition Program

JACL partnered with the University of Hawaii to create culturally sensitive nutritional information for the Japanese American and AAPI community. The Asian American population is the fastest growing minority group in the U.S., and heart disease is the leading cause of death for Asian Americans. Asian American males have higher mortality rates due to stroke than white males. Despite having lower body weight, Asian Americans are more likely than Caucasians to have diabetes, affecting 10% of Asian Americans. About 90-95% of Asians with diabetes have Type 2 diabetes. Studies have shown that dietary acculturation of Japanese Americans toward a Western diet may increase the risk of Type 2 diabetes. Through this program, JACL engages its membership and communities in an exploration of the correlation of traditional Japanese American diets and better health outcomes.

In 2013, thousands of nutritional fact sheets and magnets were distributed at the Convention, health fairs, and employee health programs.

Bridging Communities

The Bridging Communities program brings youth from the Japanese and AAPI community together with Muslim and Arab American youth to gain a better understanding of the consequences of intolerance and the strength in community partnerships. This unique program is designed to connect Japanese American, Muslim American and ally youth by synthesizing the difference and commonalities that bind us all together.

In 2013, the Passing the Legacy Down: Youth Interpretations of Confinement Sites in the Western United States, also known as Bridging Communities: Preserving the Legacy Program partnered with the Council on American-Islamic Relations-San Francisco Bay Area (CAIR-SFBA) and the Tule Lake Committee for a four day Youth Leadership Summit at the Tule Lake Unit of World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument.

Through interactive workshops, participants engaged in a variety of topics such as intersections of identity, American Muslim and Japanese American history, civil rights and activism. The National Park Service (NPS) provided the students with a history and tour of the site. A culmination activity followed, where participants shared their reflections on the Segregation Center, as seen through the eyes of their generation. Participants also conducted a service-learning project led by the National Park Service that focused on the preservation of the Tule Lake story through various forms of on-site resource documentation. The collection of this information is critical to the NPS's ongoing efforts to document the remaining physical features from the Segregation Center.

Teacher Training Program

JACL conducts teacher-training programs to promote the inclusion of the Japanese American experience in classrooms, museum exhibits, and community-based programs. In 2014, JACL will conduct teacher-training programs centered on World War II confinement sites for 250 teachers.

As a way of encouraging teachers to include units about the Japanese American incarceration in their classroom curriculum, JACL annually attends the National Council for the Social Studies Conference (NCSS). In 2012, the NCSS held its conference in Seattle where JACL distributed copies of its educational materials including its acclaimed curriculum guide, A Lesson in American History: The Japanese American Experience.

JACL Legacy Fund Grants

The National JACL Council established the JACL Legacy Fund on June 20, 1990, after the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, to support and sustain research and education that would help prevent future injustices such as the forced removal and incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II. Approximately $5,000,000 was donated by individuals incarcerated in the camps who wished to use their redress awards to further the legacy of patriotism and hard-won civil rights central to the story of Japanese Americans in the United States.

In 2013, ten applicants were awarded $3,000 each for a variety of innovative projects aimed to increase youth participation, build broader awareness of and appreciation for Japanese American contributions to the community and country, and create greater collaboration with diverse community groups.

At the 2013 National JACL Convention, the following awardees and projects were awarded for the 2013-2014 grants cycle:

- Idaho Falls Chapter- Japanese Garden Project
- Chicago Chapter- Kansha Project
- National Youth/Student Council- 2013 Youth Delegate Campaign Project
- Twin Cities Chapter- MIS Language School Project
- Boise Valley Chapter- Densho Legacy Garden Project
- Portland Chapter- Youth Project
- Mile High Chapter- Informational Brochures Camp Amache Project
- Berkeley Chapter- Living Legacy Speaking Series Project
- San Francisco Chapter- TEDx Event Project
- Pacific Southwest District- Collegiate Asian Pacific Internship Project



Program Sponsors

JACL programs would not be possible without the support of the following sponsors:

Eli Lilly	UPS Foundation	Comcast
AARP	Ford Motor Company	National Park Service
AT&T	Southwest Airlines	Verizon

HIGHLIGHTS



White House and Congressional Meetings

President Barack Obama met with 14 national leaders representing Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander organizations on May 9, 2013. Immigration reform and access to affordable health care were discussed with the President. Priscilla Ouchida, Executive Director, represented JACL in this historic meeting in the Roosevelt Room of the White House.

JACL met twice with the Democratic Steering and Outreach Committee (DSOC) with leaders of the broader civil communities and the AAPI community. On June 6, 2013, AAPI community leaders discussed immigration legislation and voiced concerns regarding support for minority-owned small businesses and steps to reduce institutional bullying. On July 10, 2013, the Executive Committee of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights discussed the Supreme Court decisions on the marriage equality cases and Voting Rights Act, immigration reform, pending nominations, employment discrimination and human dignity and equality issues.

50th Anniversary of the March on Washington

JACL commemorated the 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington, and joined marchers on the National Mall to call for justice, jobs, peace and freedom. JACL was one of the original sponsors in the March on Washington in 1963. Todd Endo, who was a 21-year old student when he carried the JACL banner leading 35 JACLers in the historic march, participated in the 2013 March. The 2013 JACL contingent of 37 marchers, joined with over 100 members of the National Coalition of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA). JACL's contributions were recognized in both national and international press.

At the "Let Freedom Ring" Ceremony on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial on August 28, 2013, speakers at the program held on the National Mall included Attorney General Eric Holder Jr., Rep. John Lewis of Georgia (who was the youngest speaker in 1963), House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, Rev. Al Sharpton, and Martin Luther King III. Mee Moua, President and Executive Director of Asian Americans Advancing Justice- AAJC, addressed the crowd of over 200,000 and recognized JACL's participation and Endo's presence. President Obama included in his remarks a reference to Japanese Americans who had been incarcerated and fought and won on the "battlefield of justice."

25th Anniversary of Civil Liberties Act of 1988

In 2013, JACL celebrated the 25th anniversary of the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which provided a presidential apology and monetary redress for the forced removal and incarceration of 120,000 Japanese Americans during World War II.

JACL organized a historic display of Executive Order 9066 and the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 together for the first time at the National Archives. Co-sponsored by JACL and the National Archives, the month-long exhibit highlighted the historical significance of the two documents. Thousands of American and international visitors viewed and learned about the two documents critical to the illegal incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II.

During the 2013 National JACL Convention, for the first time ever, JACL members were invited to a private reception at the Residence of the Japan Ambassador hosted by Ambassador Kenichiro Sasae and Mrs. Sasae in Washington, D.C. That evening the Governor Ralph L. Carr Award for Courage was presented for the first time since it was created by a 2012 JACL National Council resolution in honor of Governor Ralph Carr of Colorado who opposed the unfair incarceration and courageously defended the constitutional rights of Japanese Americans.

Immigration

The JACL National Council passed a resolution urging for the enactment of comprehensive immigration reform that provides a pathway to legal residency and citizenship. On April 10, 2013, JACL and thousands of community, labor and immigrant rights supporters joined with immigrant families for the "Citizenship for 11 Million" Rally on the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol. Prior to the rally, JACL participated in a media briefing with National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA) and members of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC).

During the 2013 JACL National Convention, JACL members met with over 65 Congressional offices, and shared their personal immigration stories and advocated for comprehensive immigration reform. This was an exciting opportunity for JACL members to discuss with Members of Congress about pressing issues in their communities and local districts.



Congressional Gold Medal Tour

JACL partnered with the National Veterans Network and Smithsonian on a seven-city tour of the Congressional Gold Medal award to Japanese American World War II veterans. The Congressional Gold Medal was awarded in 2011 to members of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, the 100th Infantry Battalion and the Military Intelligence Service. As the highest civilian honor bestowed by Congress, the Congressional Gold Medal recognizes the courage and patriotism displayed by the Nisei veterans during World War II.

The tour launched in January 2013 at the National World War II Museum in New Orleans, and has traveled to Honolulu, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Portland, and Chicago. The tour will end in January 2014 in Houston at the Holocaust Museum.

Japan Disaster Relief

JACL partnered with Direct Relief International (DRI), a humanitarian aid organization, to establish the Japan Relief and Recovery Fund after the March 2011 earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disaster in Tohoku, Japan.

Through 2013, the Fund has granted nearly $5 million to support local nonprofit organizations and non-governmental organizations such as the Association for Aid and Relief, Japan (AAR), the Japanese International Volunteer Center (JVC), the Japan NGO Center for the International Cooperation (JANIC), and Living Dreams. These organizations conduct programs to support the victims of the tsunami through material aid, community building, and education, or to raise awareness about nuclear energy concerns and educate the wider public about the existing dangers. In 2013, JACL will distribute the remaining $650,000.

New Orleans

JACL sponsored the Family Circle Program managed by the Vietnamese American Young Leaders Association (VAYLA) in New Orleans East, Louisiana. The after-school program offers peer-to-peer support to at-risk high school students.

The Vietnamese community in Village de l'Est endured three cataclysmic historical episodes: the Vietnam War, Hurricane Katrina, and the Deep Water Horizon (DWH) Oil Spill. There have been few, if any, systematic, culturally relevant models for addressing Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) in the Vietnamese community, resulting in prolonged psychological suffering, intra-household abuse, and the transference of trauma among family members. New Orleans East community schools also have a less than 50% graduation rate.

JACL continues to partner with the MQVN Community Development Center to break down cultural barriers and address food quality, safety, accessibility, production and environmental impact for the Vietnamese community in New Orleans East.

SCHOLARSHIPS

2012 Recipients

Freshman Scholarships

Holden L. Parks, Eden Township
Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship

Kristy L. Ishii, Salinas Valley
Mr. & Mrs. Takashi Moriuchi Scholarship

Kathryn E. Cunningham, Seattle
Paul & Katherine Ohtaki Memorial Scholarship

Ross Seeman, Portland
Paul & Katherine Ohtaki Memorial Scholarship

April K. Dennison, Twin Cities
Shigeki "Shake" Ushio Memorial Scholarship

Alethea K. Endo, Philadelphia
Patricia & Gail Ishimoto Memorial Scholarship

KayLene Y. Yamada, Wasatch Front North
Hanayagi Rokumie Memorial Cultural Scholarship

Kristi M. Lin, San Diego
Mas & Majiu Uyesugi Memorial Scholarship

Undergraduate Scholarships

Rachel Seeman, Portland
Nobuko R. Kodama Fong Memorial Scholarship

Matthew Iritani, Mile Hi
Shigeru "Shig" Nakahira Memorial Scholarship

John Kanemoto, Florin
Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship

Kevin Mori, SELANOCO
Railroad & Mineworkers Memorial Scholarship

Michael Murata, Berkeley
Saburo Kido Memorial Scholarship

Alexandra Wong, Chicago
Alice Yuriko Endo Memorial Scholarship

Graduate Scholarships

Katherine Soe, Diablo Valley
Kenji Kajiwara Memorial Scholarship

Christina Lee, San Fernando Valley
Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship

Jeffrey Yamashita, Berkeley
Minoru Yasui Memorial Scholarship

Jean Shiraki, Washington, DC
Chiyoko & Thomas Shimazaki Scholarship

Continued on page 7

FINANCIALS

BALANCE SHEET

As of December 31st

	2012*	2011
ASSETS		
Current Assets		
Cash & Cash Equivalents	$ 1,557,358	$ 1,062,531
Contribution & Other Receivable, net	269,508	120,745
Prepaid Expenses & Other Current Assets	86,093	56,957
Total Current Assets	1,912,959	1,240,233
Long-term Investments	9,281,989	8,004,198
Property and Equipment, net	175,681	193,289
	$ 11,370,629	$ 9,437,720
LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable & Accrued Liabilities	$ 212,831	$ 250,984
Deferred Revenue	64,907	63,861
Accumulated Postretirement Benefit Obligation	738,556	674,285
Total Liabilities	1,016,294	989,130
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	1,922,434	609,704
Temporarily Restricted	1,866,957	1,348,697
Permanently Restricted	6,564,944	6,490,189
	$ 11,370,629	$ 9,437,720

REVENUE & EXPENSES

For the year Ending December 31

REVENUE		
Public Support, Contributions & Events	$ 2,179,358	$ 1,222,039
Grants & Fundraising	128,493	245,012
Membership Income	724,639	722,916
Investment Income	959,879	174,674
Newspaper Revenue	142,860	185,787
Other Revenue	76,264	51,394
	$ 4,211,493	$ 2,601,822
EXPENSES		
Program	$ 1,578,201	$ 1,950,564
General & Administrative	418,278	343,406
Fundraising	309,269	425,940
	$ 2,305,748	$ 2,719,910
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	$ 1,312,730	$ (168,867)
Temporarily Restricted	518,260	59,450
Permanently Restricted	74,755	(8,671)
	$ 1,905,745	$ (118,088)

**2012 Financials are preliminary*

SPECIAL THANKS

JACL recognizes its major donors from the Spring 2012 and Winter 2012 Fundraising Drives and throughout the year, whose contributions help to continue the mission of JACL.

Special Gifts of $5,000+

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Sadako Ishizaki Trust
Kuwahara Trust
Craney Ogata Trust
Bill Sasaki

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Continued from page 5

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JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE

National JACL Headquarters
1765 Sutter Street
San Francisco, CA 94115
Phone: 415.921.5225

Washington, D.C. Office
1629 K Street Suite 400
Washington, D.C. 20006
Phone: 202.223.1240

www.jacl.org