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PACIFIC CITIZEN

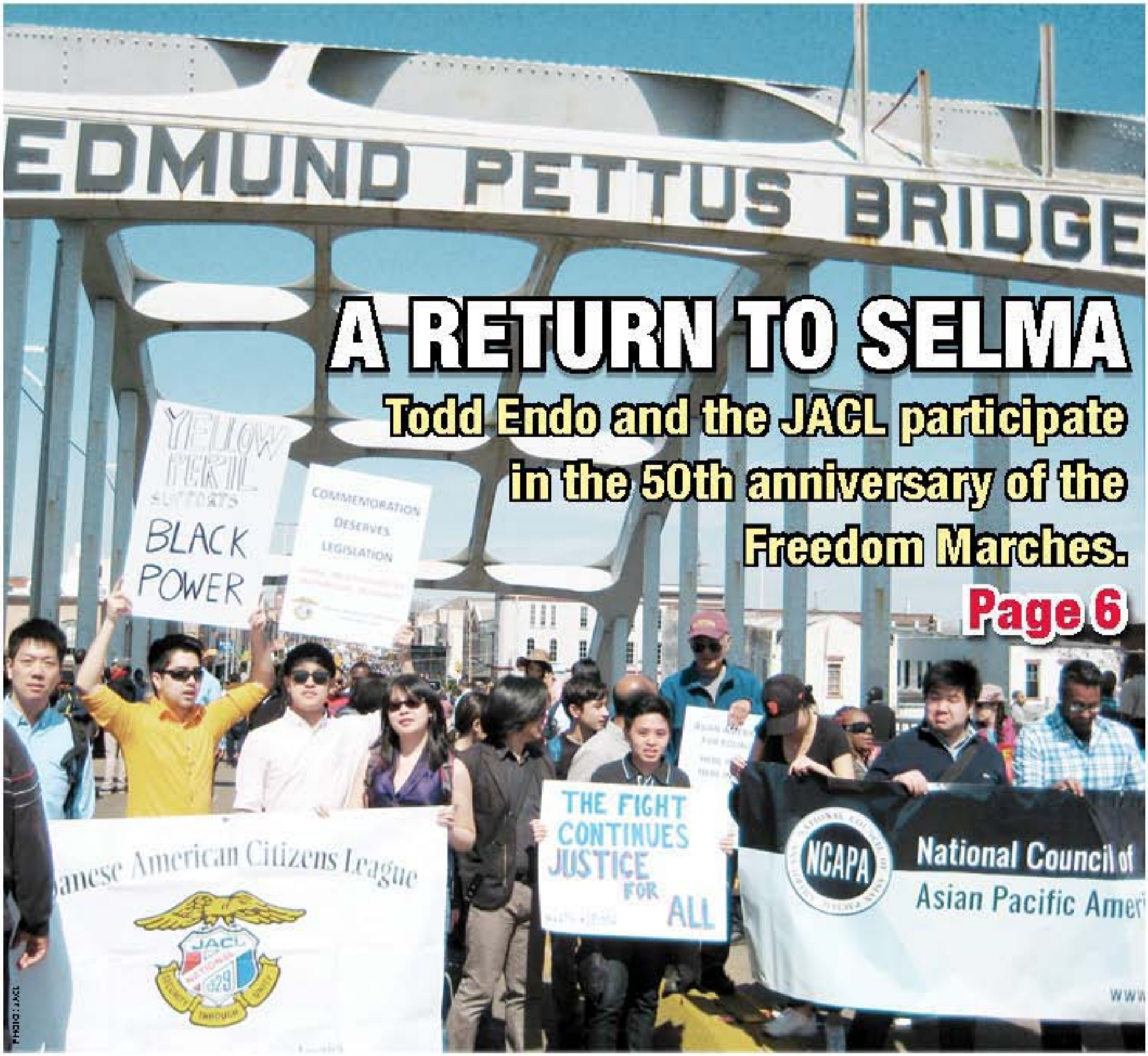


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A RETURN TO SELMA

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THE *P.C.* OFFERS YOUNG AAPI LEADERS THE OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP AND EXPRESS THEIR VOICES



A phrase that JACL youth members often hear is "the youth are the future of the JACL." While this is undeniably true, it is important to remember that the youth are also the "present" of the JACL. Indeed, we have our own opinions, experiences and concerns as both constituents of the JACL and community members.

One of the most crucial ways in which youth members can define and express themselves as both developing and current AAPI leaders is the *Pacific Citizen*. Too often, we forget the value of this flagship news publication as a space for expression and debate.

This space is certainly not a modern phenomenon. Since the organization's founding and the first issue of the *Nikkei Shimin*, the *Pacific Citizen* has provided a crucial means for young Japanese Americans to express their views, arguments and concerns over the state of their communities and livelihoods.

Of course, in today's world, with the power of social media, there are infinitely more mediums through which one can share thoughts and information. Some might even argue that the relevancy of news publications like the *Pacific Citizen* for young people has vanished.

Yet, it is not the case that there is no longer a desire for spaces to find information to express opinions. Rather, the shapes and forms of those spaces have evolved. And just because the world has changed does not mean that the *Pacific Citizen* is not adapting to the times. The beautifully updated *Pacific Citizen* website is just one example of the steps taken to keep the *Pacific Citizen* relevant for everyone.

I have personally benefited from the *Pacific Citizen* in this way. For many years, I enjoyed reading the *Pacific Citizen* and learning about the greater Japanese and Asian American community. Finally, a couple of years ago, I gathered the courage and had the opportunity to write my own article. Since that first article, I have written a handful of articles covering TV shows depicting the 442nd and the character of Fred Korematsu.

In each of these substantial pieces, I find a sense of liberation that I'm sure many, including my fellow young writers, can relate to. Amongst the dozens of social media outlets popular today, writing for the *Pacific Citizen* provides a special space, unrestricted by the pressures of Facebook friends or the 140-character limit of Twitter. What's even better is that thanks to the new website, I can also easily share my articles with my friends and family. In effect, I can amplify both my voice and the value of the *Pacific Citizen* to everyone around me.

If we lose the *Pacific Citizen*, we lose not a source of history and information for developing youth leaders, but also a crucial space for us to express our opinions and challenge the JACL to continue moving forward.

Thus, during this year's *Pacific Citizen* Spring Campaign, please donate to the *Pacific Citizen* and its hard-working staff. The Spring Campaign is perhaps the most critical opportunity to get behind the publication and show support. Your donations ensure that, together, we can continue to expand the newspaper's relevancy and quality, address the development and voices of young AAPI leaders and advance the mission of the JACL.

Sincerely,

Kota Mizutani,
National Youth/Student Council
EDC Youth Representative

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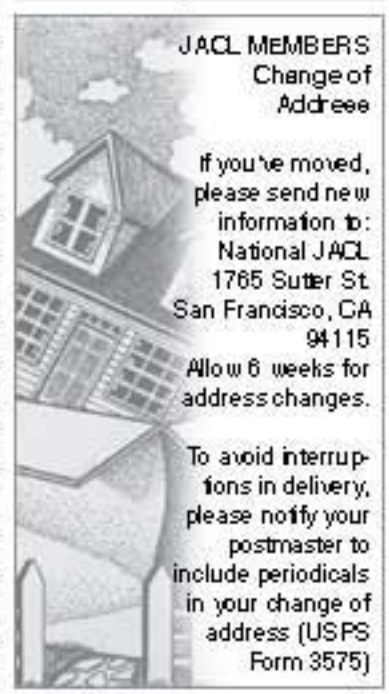
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MY COUNTRY

OUR BATTLE

By Rhianna Taniguchi

It is not all about being pro-choice. The battle for women's reproductive health is a much larger issue that all Americans should be fighting for, especially minorities.

Lawmakers looking to push their own beliefs onto women and doctors have recently increased their attacks on health care centers that provide critical cancer screenings and services for women. That should come as no surprise, as less than 20 percent of Congress is made up of women. Women and minorities are underrepresented in Congress, and that's why we need to take further action to protect women's reproductive rights. Women's health centers, especially those that provide abortions, have been under attack from Targeted Regulation of Abortion Providers (TRAP) laws.

TRAP laws single out the medical practices of doctors who provide abortions and impose unfair requirements that are not applicable to other medical practices. These clinics usually offer education, family planning services and preventative services for women and girls.

A friend who works for Planned Parenthood explained to me that TRAP laws could shut down a clinic for petty reasons like narrow hallways. No matter if you're pro-life or pro-choice, I think we can agree that we are all pro-health.

Reproductive justice is a movement for the complete physical and mental well-being of women and girls; it strives for economic, social and political equity. Narrow hallways and narrow minds should not stop its progress.

The Office of Women's Health (OWH), a division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, reported that Asian Americans are sometimes stereotyped as the "healthy minority . . . although Asian Americans have many real and serious threats to their health, including cancer, heart disease, diabetes and tuberculosis."

Those living in poverty or those who have limited English proficiency have poor access to health care.

According to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, "The percentage of women who indicated that their provider did not include them in making decisions about their care was higher for Asians than for Whites" in 2008. Asian American women are also much less likely to get routine Pap tests than women in other groups according to the OWH.*

Our community needs to take a personal and political stand for women's health.

Minorities are often targeted or disproportionately affected in laws concerning women's health. Earlier this year, the debate on abortions later than 20 weeks of pregnancy came up in Congress.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that only one percent of abortions in the U.S. are performed after 20 weeks of pregnancy. That one percent disproportionately affects females that are "teenagers, poor, African-American and with lower education attainment than women who have first-trimester abortions," wrote the *Huffington Post*.

The closing of health centers that offer abortions has also limited services logistically. Travel time, costs and multiple trip requirements (some of which were made to keep women from care) have restricted the ability for women to visit clinics. This is especially difficult for women who already have children and need to take off of work and find child care.

"Women who suffer from poverty, domestic violence, medical and psychiatric illness, abandonment, rape and other forms of reproductive coercion . . . have the greatest medical need," wrote the *Huffington Post*.

These factors contribute to late abortions and are a clear example of how laws can unreasonably hurt minorities or at-risk communities.

Luckily, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) has made great advancements for women, youth and families. Breast and cervical cancer screenings as well as contraception coverage is now accessible. ACA has also made cost equity a reality. Although the ACA has done much to improve the status of women's health, it has failed to make emergency conception care and education available to women without charge.

>> See BATTLE on page 8

EDUCATION MATTERS

Holocaust Museum of Houston Hosts Teacher Training Workshop

Seeing the large sign displaying the "Art of Gaman" traveling exhibit supported by the JACL at the Holocaust Museum of Houston — host of a teacher training workshop on Feb. 13, which was financed through a grant from the National Park Service's Japanese American Confinement Sites — added to the value of the workshop, as participating educators also had the opportunity to view the arts and crafts items made in the internment camps during World War II.

JACL Houston board members Gary Nakamura, Abbie Grubb and Colleen Morimoto worked in conjunction with Mary Lee Webeck and Emily Sample of the Holocaust Museum Houston, resulting in a turnout of inquisitive educators who posed many questions for the workshop's unique panelists.



Participants in the Houston teacher training workshop included *(front row, seated, from left)* Bill Yoshino, Sharon Ishii-Jordan, Lillian Ogata Bonner, Gary Nakamura, Natalie Hayashida Ong and Greg Marutani.

Lillian Bonner recalled her story as one of the 101 orphans in Manzanar's Children's Village. Storyboards documenting her life were presented through numerous photos about the camp and the special barracks that were erected for the Children's Village orphans.

Natalie Hayashida Ong was only a baby at the time she and her mother, Fumiko, were removed from Bainbridge Island, Wash. Both were immortalized in a famous photo taken of Ong's mother wearing a black coat and hat while carrying a 13-month-old Ong wrapped in a blanket on March 30, 1942. Fumiko Hayashida past away at age 103 on Nov. 2, 2014.

Houston JACL Chapter President Gary Nakamura shared his late father's experiences at Gila River camp and the Military Intelligence Service. Capt. George Nakamura and his family were uprooted from California and forced into Gila River in Arizona. In November 1942, Capt. Nakamura was one of the first 32 young men to volunteer for the U.S. Army when recruiters came to Gila River seeking volunteers. After training at Camp Savage and Ft. Snelling, Capt. Nakamura was assigned to the Dixie Mission in Yenan, China, where he worked alongside Mao Tse Tung and his men. After Japan surrendered, Capt. Nakamura volunteered to serve at Gen. MacArthur's GHQ in Tokyo and was transferred to the Counter Intelligence Corps (CIC). He served with the Occupation Forces in Japan until 1949, when he finally rejoined his family in the U.S.

At the lunch break, the panelists were all approached by the workshop's teacher participants, who had many more questions for the panelists about their individual family's experience in the camps and, in Nakamura's case, his father's military service.

JACL Midwest District Regional Director Bill Yoshino, who was also involved with the redress effort, provided the historical background and strategies involved in gaining the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which was signed by President Ronald Reagan.

Although the workshop ran well beyond the scheduled time due to the avid questions and comments made by the educators, all of the teachers stayed to complete their evaluations of the workshop.

The next teacher training workshop will be in Phoenix, Ariz., on March 28, hosted by the Arizona Chapter, followed by a final workshop on April 24, which will be sponsored by the Twin Cities Chapter.

E.O. 9066 & THE [IN]JUSTICE SYSTEM TODAY: Do Black Lives Matter to Japanese Americans?

E.O. 9066 forever changed the lives of the Nikkei community, as well as others with whom its history is forever connected.



DOR speakers included *(from left)* Rey Fukuda, Mike Murase, Dr. Curtiss Takada Rooks and Povi-Tamu Bryant.



Call to Action speakers Mariko Rooks and Alex Kanegawa address the audience during the DOR presentation.



Dr. Curtiss Takada Rooks and his daughter, Mariko Rooks

By Traci Ishigo,
Program Coordinator, JACL-Pacific Southwest District

Nearly 200 attendees joined together on Feb. 23 for the Los Angeles-Day of Remembrance, a moment to uplift a part of history not shared enough, yet has so much relevance to struggles today.

Since September 2014, the LA-DOR organizing committee, which includes multigenerational members of the JACL-Pacific Southwest District, the Japanese American National Museum, Nikkei for Civil Rights and Redress and the Manzanar committee, had been meeting to plan this annual commemoration of E.O. 9066 and its impact on the community. The conversations were undeniably shaped by the tragic death of unarmed 18-year-old African-American teen Michael Brown on Aug. 9, 2014, only a month prior to the committee's first meeting.

The use of fatal force by the unindicted officer, Darren Wilson, represents one of many modern-day legal murders of black lives, due to the state's protection of deadly law enforcement. Public outrage made the end of 2014 a time of nationwide protests, and organizers now recognize 2015 as the Year of Resistance.

With Los Angeles community members demanding justice for the death of Ezell Ford, a young unarmed black male shot in the back by LAPD on Aug. 11, 2014, and Little Tokyo at the heart of peaceful protests with LAPD headquarters nearby, the LA-DOR organizers began to discuss what became the theme of this year's program: "E.O. 9066 & the [In]Justice System Today."

E.O. 9066 not only changed the lives of the Nikkei community but also that of others with whom our history is forever connected. This year's theme was an effort to speak to the importance of remembering how wartime anti-Japanese racism and the U.S. Japanese incarceration camps led Nikkei and black community members to connect and build with each other in the face of oppression.

Emcees Helen Ota and Dr. Curtiss Takada Rooks began the program with the annual commemoration ceremony. They then led the audience through a historical presentation, highlighting stories of Nikkei and black leaders, working across difference with justice in mind.

The late African-American attorney Hugh Macbeth was one of those community leaders who acted upon his moral consciousness to defend Ernest and Toki Wakayama, who were forcibly removed from their California home following the announcement of E.O. 9066. He also worked with ACLU attorney A. L. Wirin to represent Fred and Kajiro Oyama in their challenge against the California Alien Land Act, which the Supreme Court ruled unconstitutional in January 1948.

African-American political leaders such as Congressman Ron Dellums and the late Congressman Mervyn Dymally were also honored for their impassioned efforts alongside Japanese Americans in the redress and reparations movement.

Late Japanese Americans like Yuri Kochiyama were recognized for their inspiring commitment to justice and black liberation while living and working amongst African-Americans. Nisei short story writer Hisaye Yamamoto DeSoto was another leading example through her experiences of writing for an African American newspaper, the *Los Angeles Tribune*. After her release from Poston, she compiled critical reports of lynchings across the country, and remarked once that the experience of working with the black community led her to feel that a "transformation did take place, the effects of which are with me still."

After leaving the camps, African Americans and Nikkeis used to live amongst each other in neighborhoods such as East and South Los Angeles, where restrictive housing covenants had segregated communities of color. With the communities sharing space, black and Japanese American leaders worked to integrate their neighborhoods, where everyday moments for solidarity and transformation could take place.

But, how do these historical connections matter today? With Japanese Americans no longer living in black neighborhoods as they once used did, what is the community's connection to how the justice system in the U.S. continues to imperil the black community with police violence, profiling and mass incarceration?

To further this dialogue, a conversation took place between community members Povi-Tamu Bryant, Rey Fukuda and Mike Murase. Murase, a community activist raised in what is now South Central, challenged the audience to realize there are many days of remembrances. Going back to 1955, Murase recounted the names and years of many black individuals killed by the state, making the connection of how "racism, hysteria and the failure of political leadership" systemically continues to allow these injustices occur.

Fukuda, a transgender, mixed-race, Nikkei and Latino immigrant to the U.S., shared that regardless where he traveled to in the world, he witnessed anti-blackness and the stigma against black people. Sharing personal experiences of how his parents took issue with him dating his former black partner, Fukuda not only showed how anti-blackness is commonly perpetuated within non-black communities of color, but also how it is harmful and divisive within non-black families as well.

With hopes of building solidarity, Bryant, a black queer organizer with the Los Angeles chapter of the nationwide Black Lives Matter movement, shared how audience members could begin their support through self-awareness and a curiosity to self-educate themselves on issues affecting the black community, including a willingness to "show up," especially when black leadership asks for specific support from its allies. Bryant also powerfully reminded the audience that the Nikkei community is connected with the black community through much more than history, but also through the very bodies of mixed-black and Nikkei people. The audience then heard from one of those prophetic voices, Rook's 15-year-old daughter, Mariko Rooks.

Representing their generation, Mariko Rooks and 18-year-old Alex Kanegawa made a call to action for greater efforts of inclusion, awareness and solidarity from Nikkei community members. Often pulled between two racial identities, Mariko Rooks shared her experiences of people telling her that she is "not one of them," as a way to deny when they hurt and offend her with anti-black statements. She reminded everyone that she, too, is "one of them," as a call to realize the harm of anti-black racism, the need for change and the immensity of today's racist society on her life that matters.

From the Black Lives Matter website, the emcees shared: "Today, every 28 hours, a black man, woman or child is murdered by police or vigilante law enforcement. An estimated 25.1 percent of black women live in poverty. This is higher than any other ethnic group. The average life expectancy for a black transgender woman is 35 years."

And with a moment to register those facts of today's reality, the audience was asked: "Do black lives matter to Japanese Americans?" We ask with the hopes of not only remembering the historical connections, but the need to build meaningful contemporary ones in a time so critical as now. ■

WE HAVE FAR MORE BRIDGES TO CROSS

Fifty years removed from Bloody Sunday, Selma remains but one of many battles.



Ryan Kuramitsu traveled to Selma to participate in the bridge crossing's 50th anniversary.

By Ryan Kenji Kuramitsu



Half a century ago this month, thousands of Americans flocked to Selma, Ala., to peacefully protest an unjust political system that continually enshrined the supremacy of whites by creatively disenfranchising black citizens of the right to vote. Through a combination of financial plunder, predatory lawmaking and grassroots terrorism, Southern whites were able to deprive black constituencies of all political and social power.

Few expected sweeping change to come to Selma. Less envisioned it the epicenter of a moral movement. According to former Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee founder Bernard Lafayette, the organization had initially marked the city with an X on a state map after two preliminary worker teams sent there advised avoiding the area. Their consensus? The "White folks were too mean, and black folks were too afraid."

Yet, a quick constellation of catalyzing factors — civilian slayings, ritualistic mob violence, widespread media attention — accelerated a burgeoning conversation, and Selma was swiftly thrust to the national stage. Housed in homes, churches and chapels and joined by civic leaders, reverends, nuns, rabbis and bishops, a Baptist preacher from Atlanta, motivated by a liberationist theology that held to God's preferential option for the oppressed, led a march from Selma to Montgomery that drew international support and helped achieve passage of the Voting Rights Act — a keystone piece of modern civil rights legislation.

"White man, hear me!" pleaded writer James Baldwin, who joined Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on this historic trek. "History, as nearly no one seems to know, is not merely something to be read. And it does not refer merely, or even principally, to the past. On the contrary, the great force of history comes from the fact that we carry it with us, are unconsciously controlled by it in many ways, and history is literally *present* in all that we do."

Earlier this month, a crowd of 80,000 surged to see history in action as Americans commemorated the 50th anniversary of the Selma marches. A peculiar manner of fate seemed to be wrapping around to meet us half a century later, as our country's first black president was introduced by a veteran Congressman who was bloodied on that very bridge 50 years earlier — a monument still named after Confederate general and Ku Klux Klan Grand Dragon Edmund Pettus.

In his address, President Barack Obama encouraged us to remember the concealed perspectives hidden in comfortable historical narratives. After all, he intoned, Americans are not only the designers of the Constitution — we are the slaves who built the White House, those who perished under the Atlantic.

Interrogating the Official Version of History is key to the spirit of Dr. King's ethical reflection. We should always be willing to lend a special ear to the maligned and the unheard, what one Salvadorian philosopher has called "the crucified peoples of history." Through paying particular attention to the subplots churning beneath the surface's thrashing currents, we can often glean invaluable insights.

For instance, we all know of Dr. King's brutal marches through the South, but few of us have heard that he also said, "I have never seen — even in Mississippi and Alabama — mobs as hostile and as hate-filled as I've seen here in Chicago." We are fond of quoting Dr. King's admonition that "hate cannot drive out hate," yet we only rarely recall that King was also convinced that "the Negro's great stumbling block in his stride toward freedom is not . . . the Ku Klux Klanner, but the white moderate."

As our president recently reminded us, we are indeed "the Japanese Americans who fought for this country even as our own liberty had been denied." Yet, we are also the Japanese Americans who marked *no-no* on our loyalty questionnaires, the draft resistors and conscientious objectors who faced condemnation from their government and their community.

Extricating marginalized perspectives from familiar historical discourse will have direct consequences in the way we shape our shared history. It would mean uplifting the teachings of King, but also Malcolm X; speaking not only calmly of voting rights and civil protections, but subversively of yellow peril and black power.

Celebrating counternarratives would mean honoring Rosa Parks. It would also mean telling the story of Claudette Colvin — the pregnant teenager arrested for sitting on a segregated bus nine months before Parks, who was told by the NAACP that they would not rally behind her because she did not have the best hair, "skin texture" or correct social standing to become the face of the bus boycott movement.

Privileging the overlooked would mean paying special attention to not only the examples of white allies, but the untold stories of Japanese American leaders like Kiyoshi Kuromiya, the openly gay civil rights activist and personal friend of Dr. King, and Todd Endo, who returned to march in Selma 50 years later.

It would mean joining groups like the NAACP in support of landmark bills like HR 40, which calls for the United States to "acknowledge the fundamental injustice, cruelty, brutality and inhumanity of slavery" and form a congressional commission to study its legacy and lasting impacts.

If history is indeed "present in all that we do," we cannot afford to think of the civil rights movement as some bygone historical event. As Common raps in his song "Glory," "Selma is now — for every man, woman and child." The oppressed for whom King held a preferential option walk among us today. With Baldwin, they are shouting, "Hear me!" and, "We are people too!" Today, these calls might be translated as: "#YesAllWomen" or "Black Lives Matter!"

As far as we have come, the past is not so easily escaped. It ensnares us, and we carry these legacies of suffering around in our very bodies. "History repeats itself," some solemnly avow. It is surely more complicated than this. In the words of Baldwin, "People are trapped in history, and history is trapped in them."

We are 50 years removed from Bloody Sunday, yet inches away from modern manifestations of police brutality. We stand half a century apart from Selma's white-dominated economic system, yet our Department of Justice recently released a report detailing the damning collusions of law enforcement and judiciaries in their fiscal pillage of the black citizens of Ferguson.

Clearly, Selma was but one of many battles. We have far more bridges to cross — and perhaps a few to burn. Though our nation still bleeds from centuries-old lesions of racial violence, we inch ever closer to our inevitable goal. King delivered a similar prophesy in a speech on the steps of the infamous Alabama State Capitol building following his harrowing four-day march from Selma. "The arc of the moral universe is long," he insisted, "but it is oriented towards justice."

Ryan Kenji Kuramitsu is the JACL MDC Youth Representative.

Utah JA History Book

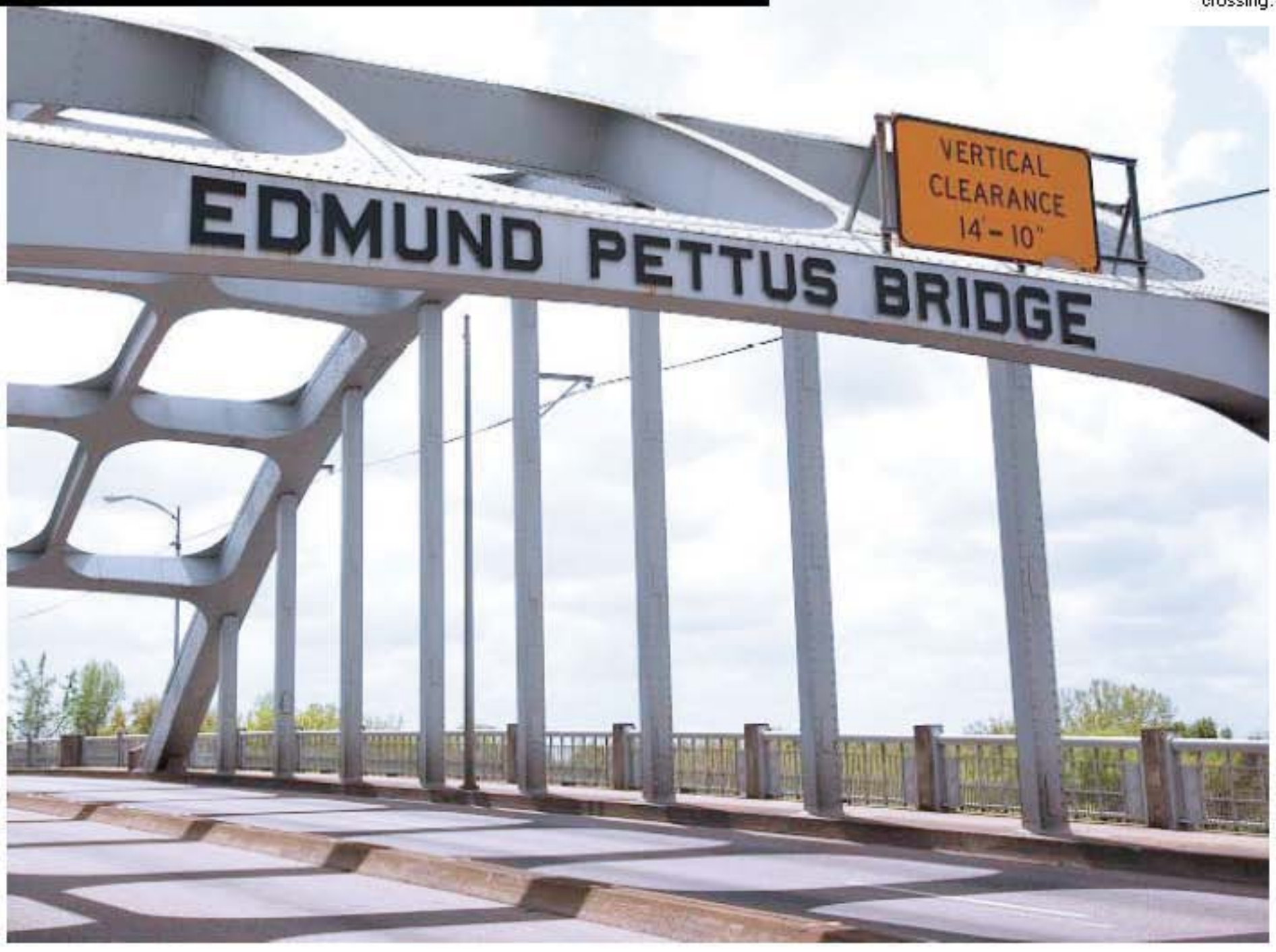


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A RETURN TO SELMA



Marchers convened in Selma, Ala., to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Selma bridge crossing.

Activist Todd Endo returns to Alabama 50 Years later for the bridge crossing jubilee.

By Connie K. Ho,
Contributor

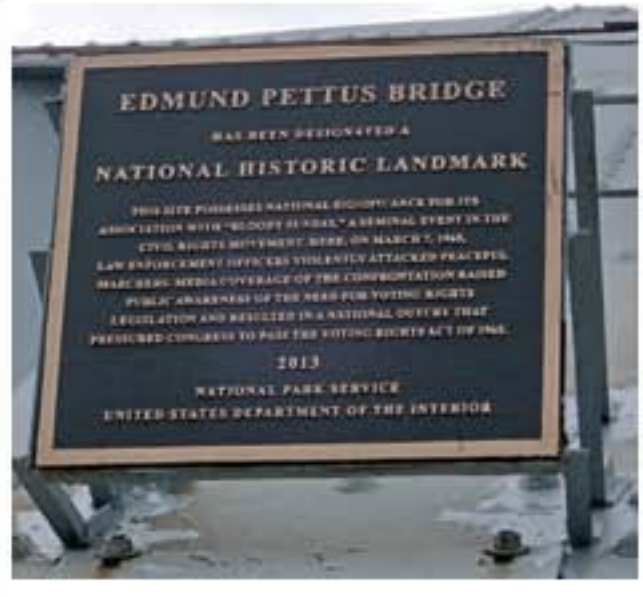
'Selma is a strategic battleground for the civil rights leader, a source of indignation and commitment for the outsider." These were the words by Todd Endo, an Oberlin graduate and JACLer who participated in the Selma to Montgomery Freedom Marches in 1965. Along with planning protests with members of the Student Non-Violent Coordinator Committee and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Endo wrote about his experiences in Selma, Ala., in the *Pacific Citizen* in 1965. He returned to Selma earlier this month for the 50th Anniversary Selma Bridge Crossing Jubilee.

Held from March 7-8, the jubilee included a variety of programming, including a speech by President Barack Obama and a walk across the Edmund Pettus Bridge. Endo made the trip with his wife, Paula, and met up with his three grandchildren in Georgia, some of whom had watched the film "Selma" prior to the anniversary event and had some context as to what the milestone was all about.

"I went for two reasons. The more philosophical reason was to see what changed and what hasn't," Endo said. "The second was more personal in that I hadn't been there in 50 years, and it was like, 'How am I going to feel in Alabama 50 years later?' I could go back to places I had been to 50 years ago. It wasn't nostalgia but reliving an event and wondering how it was different now and then."

During this year's trip across the Pettus Bridge, thousands of people walked over the structure, lined up shoulder to shoulder. One of the things that struck Endo on this visit was that there were more Asian American-led delegations, including the JACL, commemorating the work in Selma in 2015 than in 1965. A highlight for him was speaking with Vincent Wu, another Asian American who had been involved in the 1965 marches in Selma.

As a young adult, Endo learned early on about Japanese American internment during World War II from his family, and his mother stressed to him that Japanese Americans should not only focus on the injustices faced by them but also the injustices against all ethnic groups. Endo's family was incarcerated in Rohwer, Ark., for more than two years before moving to Ohio in 1944.



A commemorative plaque marks the site where marchers rallied for civil rights.



Todd Endo *(far right)* along with his two grandchildren *(next to him)* as they marched with Asian American delegations through the streets of Selma.





(From left) Vincent Wu, Todd Endo, Paula Endo and their two grandchildren. Wu and Endo met for the first time at the Jubilee; Wu also participated in the original Selma march.



(From left) Todd Endo with JACL's Kota Mizutani, Craig Shimizu and Bill Yoshino, Endo's two grandchildren, JACL's Korinne Sugasawara and Ryan Kuramitsu and Paula Endo gather in front of the Dexter Avenue King Memorial Baptist Church in Montgomery, Ala.

I didn't realize at that time, but it wasn't the usual practice for adults to tell Sansei of what the experience of being interned was," said Endo, who was born only 23 days after the attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. My family was very open about that, we had a lot of discussion, had stories from a lot of different aunts and uncles and parents. I was well-versed by the time of Selma, about the Japanese American experience in World War II and the injustices of it."

In 1965, Endo traveled from Boston to Selma to participate in the 1965 Voting Rights Demonstrations, spurred on by the death of his friend, Rev. Jim Reeb, and the want to stand against discrimination of ethnic groups.

'Suddenly, the civil rights movement became very personal. A person I knew had gone to Selma, been struck on the head, lay near death," wrote Endo in the *Pacific Citizen*. The civil rights movement was no longer a faraway happening."

Following the 1965 marches in Selma, Endo pivoted from aspiring history professor to activist. Apart from the piece about the 1965 marches, Endo continued to contribute as a columnist for the *Pacific Citizen* from time to time.

I have always liked to write, so I would either write about things I read or things I experienced," said Endo. Three or four or five columns on Japanese heritage or Asian American heritage or what is my heritage — that was the big theme. Another part of it was about the JACL and how we should be using our experiences and history to work with other people."

He highlighted his motivations for pursuing activism in the *Pacific Citizen*.

I hope that my thinking aloud echoes the thoughts of many readers, because I feel that we all should be seriously weighing the importance of the civil rights movement in our lives. The biggest hurdle to our involvement is ourselves, for mountains of work are waiting for people of all talents, immense or meager, specific or general," wrote Endo in 1965. 'So, the question is not, 'What is there for us to do?' Rather, the question is, 'Do we care enough to rise from our complacency and comfort?'"

In that same article, Endo described a unified community of blacks working toward voter rights.

Now most of this community has fallen into ranks behind Martin Luther King in this monumental campaign. Unity has be seen in the ease with which the thousands of outsiders are transported, housed, and fed," he wrote. Unity can be seen in the friendly way each one greets you as welcome brother in the movement."

He believes that a unified community is still important and saw the importance of unity at the 50th Anniversary Bridge Crossing Jubilee.

'We got a lot of attention of photographers and interviewers and individuals that came up. Some of it was the signage, one that got the most attention was Asians for Black Lives, and I think that was probably a theme of camaraderie along the different groups, along racial and ethnic lines," said Endo. There were a lot of positive statements and questions that they received from other marchers, a lot of singing and chanting, and that was good and enthusiastic and built on one another. It was a very friendly crowd and purposeful, the idea of working across lines, whether it was race or ethnicity or age."

From his experience at the 50th Anniversary Selma Bridge Crossing Jubilee, Endo believes that there is still much work to be done. To him, Selma hasn't changed much in that there continues to be many people in need in the poor, rural community. His experience in Selma reaffirms the work that he has been doing as an activist. ■

What Should You Say?

By Steve Okamoto, Chairman, National Planned Giving Committee



There are two important conversations that must occur as people get to the time in their lives when things need to be put in order. These sometimes uncomfortable, painful and embarrassing talks need to be had to ease difficult decisions that will have to be made by those you leave behind. You have a definite idea about to whom and how your estate will be distributed after your death. However, if certain discussions are not had and actions taken, then those distributions could be made by someone who is *not* part of your life. That "someone" doesn't know the value, both intrinsic and sentimental, of the precious items you spent a lifetime collecting.

The first conversation that should occur is with your attorney or other financial advisors. If you use an attorney, it is advised to meet with one who specializes in Probate and Trust work. Why is that important? That specialty deals primarily with writing wills and trusts, and an attorney in this field should be up to date on the latest in tax laws and benefits of the various decisions you could make.

Your initial conversation usually should center on whether you should leave your assets via a will or a trust. Many factors go into that most important decision.

A will is much less costly to create, but it is usually more expensive to administer after your death. A simple will could cost as little as $100, but the law allows the person who probates your will as much as $30,000 in fees. And probating a will is NOT a private transaction. Your estate that is probated is published in the paper, and anyone who feels they have a legitimate claim could come forth and contest the will. The purpose of the will is to find all the assets, then distribute them to the heirs according to the provisions in the will, regardless of the situation of the heirs at the time. A will is not a very flexible document.

A trust, on the other hand, is more expensive to create, around $2,000 or more, but there are very few costs associated in administering the trust upon your death. When a trust is created, all important and pertinent assets (home, cars and bank accounts) are retitled in the name of the trust. You remain the trustee of all of the assets during your lifetime and the trust in its entirety, with all the assets that are included within the legal entity passing smoothly to your heirs upon your death. A trust administration is a very private transaction, so it is unlikely that someone could come and contest the trust provisions. A trust is also a much more flexible document than a will. For instance, if a special needs child needs extra care, the trustee has the power to make some changes to the distribution.

The second conversation you should have is with your family, especially adult children who are likely to receive assets in a will or become trustees of a trust. You may feel uncomfortable divulging the full extent of your assets, but it would be a good idea to let them know that there is a potential for a distribution of the estate at your death. This concept is important because studies have shown that when your children know that they are likely to inherit their parents' estate sometime in the future, they are better prepared to deal with sudden wealth in comparison to heirs suddenly receiving a substantial sum and not being prepared for the windfall.

No one looks forward to uncomfortable conversations, but these conversations can make a significant difference to what happens to the assets you have spent a lifetime accumulating and to the peace of mind of your family during difficult times. You owe it to yourself and them to have the courage to plan ahead.

One last conversation. Please speak to your local funeral director. I know this sounds a bit morbid, but I guarantee it will make everyone's life less of a headache after you pass. It's important that your funeral director and family know in advance of your last wishes. This conversation will avoid a lot of turmoil as to how you want your service conducted, where to bury you and whether you want cremation or not. Please think about it.

For more information, please send an email to steveokamoto1@gmail.com. Steve Okamoto is chairman of the National Planned Giving Committee.

BATTLE >> continued from page 3

Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.) recently introduced "The 21st Century Women's Health Act." The new bill "would mandate state Medicaid programs to provide full coverage for all forms of birth control, require hospitals and clinics to provide free emergency contraception to patients who have been sexually assaulted and order a study of how states are enacting laws to restrict access to abortions and other family-planning services," wrote the *Seattle Times*. This bright spot is worth highlighting, but this bill will not move forward without the voices of those who believe in reproductive justice.



Planned Parenthood Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Action fund made phone calls urging Coloradoans to vote no on Amendment 67 because government shouldn't be able to interfere with how and when a woman chooses to start a family.

I hope that more Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders take a stand for women, girls and families who are looking for support, education and equity. We need to take action. Here are a few ways you can join the fight:

1. Stay Informed — Keep up with local and national policies by signing up for newsletters that highlight news concerning women's health.

2. Volunteer — Educate your community about women's health issues, join political action groups or work at a women's health center. The opportunities are limitless.

3. Talk to Friends and Family About Your Thoughts — You're more influential than you think! Go a step beyond and write or call those who represent you in Congress.

4. Donate — Give to organizations that support women's health.

**The National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program provides free or low-cost Pap testing to women who don't have health insurance. To learn more about this program, please contact the CDC at (800) CDC-INFO (232-4636).*

Rhianna Taniguchi is an aspiring social engineer in Honolulu, Hawaii. She was the 2014 JACL Norman Y. Mineta Fellow.



COMIC BOOKS, VINTAGE NOIR AND AN API HERO

Tom Huang's YouTube Web series 'Unusual Targets' makes a unique debut and fights for a second season.

By Tiffany Ujiiye, Assistant Editor

Today's big-screen superhero films transport audiences to distant planets with hell-fire action scenes and futuristic technologies, but Tom Huang's dramatic YouTube Web series "Unusual Targets" calls for a much smaller and classic hero. Huang's latest series features an unusual twist on comic book superheroes, as the entire show is filmed in black and white, complete with monsters, vampires and an Asian American hero lead character.

"Unusual Targets" features Teddy Chen Culver as Lee Lin, a freelance crime photographer by day and hitman by night. The series unfolds around Lin's journey into his family's secret business: destroying monsters for a living. For centuries, Lin's ancestors hunted folklore and legends in Chinese villages, but now as a second-generation Asian American in Los Angeles, Lin decides to continue the tradition after his older sister, Agatha Lin, played by Joyce Liu, gives it up for a conventional life.

"I've written this to include the Asian American experience, or at least mine as a second-generation Chinese American," Huang said. "We follow Lin as he learns about his family's history in China — fighting ancient monsters — but we also follow him today in downtown Los Angeles battling similar and different demons."

The Chinese culture inspired Huang a great deal with its rich folklore and supernatural beliefs. Monsters like the Monkey King, about dragons and ghosts were often part of stories told to Huang by his parents and relatives.

"Some of the monsters come from ancient Chinese folklore and superstitions, but the plot places them in a world with iPhones and the Internet," Huang said. "It's unique and different in that sense as well. This series blends together and pulls from all different parts of filmmaking and story writing."

Huang was a sitcom writer for ABC's "Sons & Daughters" and CBS' "Still Standing" prior to "Unusual Targets." During his time in Hollywood, Huang recognized the lack of diversity and wanted to pursue a project that had an Asian American lead hero.

Recently, Hollywood did make strides in diversity with the premiere of the ABC sitcom "Fresh Off the Boat," a series based on Eddie Huang's memoir.

"Eddie Huang and 'Fresh Off the Boat' are making headway, and it's definitely a good change," Huang said about the new show. "But, it's still tough for API's to get their name onscreen."

While including Lin as the monster-slashing hero, Huang stylized each 10-minute "webisode" in black and white. Much of the series was inspired by Lon Chaney's 1940's monster movies, complete with stylized high contrast scenes and ghoulish nighttime creatures. However, the vintage noir underpinnings in Huang's series do more than just evoke an old-school vibe — it also borrows from comic book story telling.

"Comics are a tireless genre," Huang said about today's recent Hollywood blockbusters such as "Batman," "Captain America" and "Spider-Man." "The frames in each scene are small in the sense that the audience is watching Lin on their computer screen and not in the theater. So, the story is told through those close-up shots and stills just like on a small comic book page."

Throughout the narrative, moments of Lin's dialogue are shared through a monologue with close-ups of his face, giving depth to his expressions. In addition, fight scenes are filmed with limited angles and backs turned, and shadows against the walls are captured using little to no special effects.

Huang admits that the series' small budget limited the production's capabilities in shooting for a large screen.

"The small budget definitely helped me decide to translate the comic book style onto the Web series," Huang said. "We couldn't afford to do the wide cityscape shots or large explosions. In that sense, we were really limited to the old school '40s filmmaking. We had to be creative, and we made the most out of it."

The series began as a TV pilot in 2010, when productions such as "Twilight" and "Trueblood" began to gain popularity. At the time, Huang had trouble selling the series to companies, knowing that an Asian American cast was a hard sell in Hollywood. After several months with no responses, Huang decided to take on the project himself in 2013. The pilot premiered a year later, and the entire series was released on YouTube week by week. The first season featured nine episodes at 10 minutes each, and the second season is now underway. Campaign funding for Season 2 began last month on Indiegogo.

"It's a tough business, and funding is always a challenge," Huang explained about how today's popular Web series similarly struggled in their early years. "While resources and funding are limited, 'Unusual Targets' would not have been made possible without the support of its extensive crew and cast, many of whom contributed without pay.

"This is a creative project and a labor of love," Huang said. "You have an old horror black-and-white film style with an Asian American star in a comic book setting. This is something really different — [there is] nothing like it elsewhere."

Catch an episode of "Unusual Targets" on YouTube and visit the series' Indiegogo campaign at https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/unusual-targets-a-comic-book-noir-web-series to help contribute toward the completion of Season 2.



"Unusual Targets" takes place in the afterhours of downtown Los Angeles and is the only YouTube Web series starring an API hero.





"Unusual Targets" writer-director Tom Huang *(standing)* in between scenes with actors Teddy Chen Culver *(left)* and Joyce Liu.

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A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

CALENDAR

>>EDC

'The Naoshima Symbiosis for the Future: Art, Architecture and Nature'
New York, NY
April 1; 6 p.m.
333 E 47th St.
Price: General admission $25
For the first time at a symposium in the U.S., project initator Soichiro Fukutake will speak about the history of architecture, art and nature. Architects Kazuyo Sejima, Ryue Nishizawa and Hiroshi Sambuichi will also present and discuss their philosophies with an introduction by Akiko Miki and a discussion led by Eve Blau.
Info: Call (212) 832-1155.

'American: Exclusion/Inclusion'
New York, NY
April 19
New York Historical Society Museum and Library
107 Central Park West
Visit the exhibit to explore the century-old history of trade and immigration between China and the United States. This narrative begins from the late-18th century to the present, illustrating how the Chinese American experience is part of American history.
Info: Visit www.nyhistory.org or call (212) 873-3400.

'Children of Hangzhou: Connecting With China'
Boston, MA
April 26
Boston Children's Museum
308 Congress St.
Cost: Free
Engage with community members and learn about China through its children. The program is designed to nourish understanding, knowledge and appreciation for contemporary China in Boston's Sister City, Hangzhou.
Info: Visit www.bostonchildrenmuseum.org or call (617) 426-6500.

>>PNW

Lecture: The Camp Without a Fence
Moses Lake, WA
April 2; 7 p.m.
Moses Lake Museum & Art Center
401 S. Balsam St.
"Uprooted" curator Morgen Young will present a history of the Japanese American farm labor camp near Nyssa.
Info: Visit www.uprootedexhibit.com.

Nature and Pattern in Japanese Design Exhibit
Seattle, WA
April 19
Seattle Art Museum
1400 E. Prospect St.
Cost: Adult ticket $9
This installation includes two rotations of Matsugatani dishes, a type of flat dish with petal-shaped edges from early 18th-century Japanese porcelain. The naturalistic sensibility deeply rooted in Japanese design is on display on both dishes at the exhibit.
Info: Visit www.seattleartmuseum.org.

68th Annual Japanese American Community Graduation Banquet
Portland, OR
May 3
Maltunomah Athletic Club
1849 S.W. Salmon St.
Cost: Adult $35; free for graduating high school students
This year's annual banquet is sponsored by 11 Nikkei organizations from the Portland area. Scholarships will also be awarded at the luncheon. The event's keynote speaker will be Elizabeth Asahi-Sato.
Info: RSVP at larouche@msn.com or call (503) 698-4656.

'Ai Weiwei: Circle of Animals/ Zodiac Heads'
Portland, OR
May 23
Portland Art Museum
1219 S.W. Park Ave.
Cost: Adults $15, college students and seniors $12
The installation of Ai Weiwei's pieces consists of a dozen gold-gilt bronze sculptures representing the animal symbols from the traditional Chinese zodiac.
Info: Visit www.portlandartmuseum.org or call (503) 226-2811.

>>NCWNP

2015 Northern California Cherry Blossom Festival
San Francisco, CA
April 11-12, 18-19
San Francisco Japantown
1610 Geary Blvd.
Cost: Free
Japantown celebrates its 48th Cherry Blossom Festival this year. It is expected to be the second-largest festival outside of Washington, D.C. Join the celebration this year and watch the Grand Parade on April 19.
Info: Visit www.sfjapantown.org or call (415) 567-4573.

38th Annaul Nikkei Matsuri
San Jose, CA
April 26
San Jose Japantown
Jackson Street
Cost: Free
Enjoy a full day of authentic Japanese food, performing arts, live taiko performances, cultural exhibits and family activities at this year's Nikkei Matsuri. Activities include Japantown's Farmer's Market, a 5K walk and run, Yu Ai Kai's Health Fair and children's crafts at Wesley Methodist Church hosted by Suzume No Gakko. Don't miss the Japanese American Museum San Jose's 'Kodomo No Hi' (Children's Day) exhibit as well.
Info: Visit www.nikkeimatsuri.org.

>>MDC

Welcome Reception for the Honorable Toshiyuki Iwado
Chicago, IL
April 3; 6-8 p.m.
Mid-America Club
200 E. Randolph Dr., 80th Floor
Cost: General admission $40
The Japan American Society of Chicago, the Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Chicago and the Chicago Japanese American Council invite all to a welcome reception for the Honorable Toshiyuki Iwado, Consul General of Japan in Chicago. Registration for the event closes on March 31.
Info: Visit www.jaschicago.org.

Spreading Devotion: Japanese and European Religious Prints
Chicago, IL
April 4
Art Institute of Chicago
111 S. Michigan Ave.
The Art Institute of Chicago will exhibit the first collaboration between the departments of Prints and Drawings and Asian Art, bringing together works from both collections to explore the rich printed traditions of the East and West. The exhibit will be presented by the Clarence Buckingham Gallery for Japanese Prints.
Info: Visit www.artic.org or call (312) 443-3600.

Duo YUMENO Recital
Chicago, IL
April 19; 2 p.m.
Ravenswood Fellowship United Methodist Church
4511 N. Hermitage Ave.
Cost: Adults $20, seniors and students $10
The program will feature traditional Japanese as well as contemporary music from Duo YUMENO, recipients of the Aoyama Music Award for their fusion of classical Japanese and Western music.
Info: Visit www.duoyumeno.com or call (773) 561-2610.

>>PSW

Hello Kitty's Head Designer
Los Angeles, CA
April 4; 2 p.m.
Japanese American National Museum
100 N. Central Ave.
Cost: General admission $20
Sanrio Tokyo's Yuko Yamaguchi has been Hello Kitty's head designer since 1980, and she will visit JANM to discuss her work.
Info: Visit www.janm.org or call (213) 625-0414.

L.A. Ukulele Expo 2015
Los Angeles, CA
April 18; 11:30 a.m.
JACCC
244 S. San Pedro St.
Grab your ukulele and join JACCC at this year's expo. This year's world-record attempt will use the song "Pua I Ka Ua." Featured will be Grammy winners Tia Carrere and Daniel Ho. All ages are welcome.
Info: Visit www.jaccc.org or call (213) 628-2725.

Amache Friends Reunion
Las Vegas, NV
April 28-29
Golden Nugget Hotel and Casino
129 E. Fremont St.
Cost: Prices may vary
The Amache Historical Society invites family, community members and friends of those who were incarcerated at the Amache Concentration Camp in Colorado to this year's reunion. RSVP by March 27.
Info: Call Irene Furuya at (626) 794-3036.

2015 Manzanar Reunion
Las Vegas, NV
September 14-16
California Hotel and Casino
12 E. Ogden Ave.
The Manzanar Reunion Committee is inviting all to attend and join the annual reunion this year. Stay tuned for more details and program highlights.
Info: Contact Cherry Uyeda at (805) 643-4417 or Grace Deguchi at (310) 968-1666.

Fiesta Matsuri
Los Angeles, CA
May 3; 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
JACCC
244 S. San Pedro St.
Fiesta Matsuri combines the Children's Day celebration of two communities — the Japanese Kodomo no Hi and Dia de los Ninos from Mexico. Celebrate the growth, happiness and success of the children for a day of workshops and activities designed for kids of all ages.
Info: Visit www.jaccc.org or call (213) 628-2725. ■

ADVERTISE HERE
Events in the calendar section are listed based on space availability. Place a 'Spotlight' ad with photos of your event for maximum exposure.
FOR MORE INFO:
tiffany@pacificcitizen.org
(213) 620-1767

In Memoriam

Fong, Joyce Eriko, 61, Monterey Park, CA; March 3; she is survived by her husband, Wayne Fong; brother, Kenneth Fujimoto; she also is survived by many other family members.

Fujihara, Sumiko, 90, Chicago, IL; March 10; she was predeceased by her husband, Frank; siblings, George (Kiyoko), Tsuhiko and Saburo Hata; she is survived by her children, Frank, Paul (Tracy) and Karl Fujihara; brother, Seiji (Shizuko) Hata; gc: 1.

Fujioki, Teueako, 94, Harbor City, CA; March 7; she is survived by her children, Nobuo (Emma) and Ruby Fujioki; siblings, George (Mary) Nakatsu and Susie Kuwahara; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2.

Hitomi, John Yaeumaea, 93, Glendora, CA; Feb. 15; he is survived by his wife, Hatsue Hitomi; children, Gary (Kinuyo) and Bruce Hitomi; gc: 2; ggc: 4.

Isobe, Jimmy Isao, 87, Gardena, CA; March 18; he was predeceased by his wife, Teruko Teri Isobe; niece, Donna Nagatani; he is survived by his son, Daniel Isobe; nephew and nieces, Craig Isobe, Linda Nakaba, Faye (Bob) Anderson and June (Kevin) Kobayashi; nephew-in-law, Tony Nagatani; he is also survived by other relatives.

Kawai, Teruko, 90, Mission Viejo, CA; Feb. 28; she is survived by her husband, Waichi Kawai; sons, Michael and Jon (Sharon) Kawai; sisters, Shigeko (Ken) Inaba, Sumiye Yakushiji, Masuko (Aaron) Gregory and Sakiko Yakushiji; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 1.

Kishi, Kent Y., 53, San Gabriel, CA; March 1; he is survived by his sister, Susan Kishi-Lew; nephews, Warner and Everett; nieces, Katherine and Ellie; brother-in-law, Jerry; he is also survived by other relatives and friends.

Kumagawa, Ken, 86, Fountain Valley, CA; March 6; he was a veteran of the Korean Conflict; he is survived by his wife, Shigeko Kumagawa; daughter, Ellen Kumagawa; siblings, Ichiro, Yaeko and Takeo Kumagawa; nephews, Miyuki, Scott, Jeff, Mark, Dean, Burt, Todd, Butch and Rusty; niece, Patricia.

Kurihara, Edward Teutomu, 79, Vista Cove, CA; Feb. 6; he is survived by his wife, Florence "Sachi" Kurihara; brothers, Kei and Frank Kurihara; sister, Shirley Harada; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Murashige, Shigeko Odama, 75, San Gabriel, CA; March 7; she is survived by her husband, Donald S.; sons, Michael S. (Laura Pulido) and Steven T. (Hinako Nishiguchi) Murashige; sister, Michi Nozaki; brothers, Hitoshi (Suzanne) Odama and Ron (Marilyn) Odama; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 3.

Nakada, Takeru Harry, 95, Los Angeles, CA; March 5; he is survived by his wife, Chiyoko Nakada; children, Ted (Linda) Nakada, Linda (Mark) Muto, Anna (Brian) Booth and Ruth Nakada; sisters, Tsugiyo Yasutomi Hiroko Igei and Sueko Arata; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 5.

Nakagiri, Nancy Fumiko, 65, Los Angeles, CA; Feb. 25; she is survived by her husband, Dan Nakagiri; children, Cindy (Erik) Matsubayashi and Cheryl Nakagiri; mother, Mie Ino; brothers, Stacy (Joyce) and Gary (Louise) Ino; sisters-in-law, Elaine (Sean) McCarthy and Karen (Wayne) Eguchi; brother-in-law, Tommy Nakagiri; she is also survived by nieces, nephews and many other relatives; gc: 2.

Nakata, Herbert Saburo, 94, Los Angeles, CA; March 1; he was a WWII veteran; he is survived by his children, Sharon Marlys and Mark Nakata; siblings, Jiro, Sadaye and Grace Nakata; sister-in-law, Elsie Nakata; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Nishimura, Katsuichi, 83, Northridge, CA; March 20; he is survived by his wife, Ikuyo Nishimura; son, Glenn Kenji Nishimura; daughter, June Motoko Nishimura; brother, Katsumi (Eiko) Nishimura; sister-in-law, Fukuko Nishimura; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Okimoto, Sueumu, 83, Marina Del Rey, CA; March 2; he was a veteran of the Korean Conflict; he is survived by his wife, Betsy Okimoto; daughters, Lori (Dale Wheatley) Okimoto-Wheatley and Stephanie Okimoto; he is also survived by sisters, many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2.

Okuno, Haru, 101, Los Angeles, CA; Feb. 27; she is survived by her son, Makoto (Carolyn) Okuno; daughter, Yoneko Takeda; brother, Sohei Hamano; sister, Toshi Iba; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 5; ggc: 9.

Ouye, Maryland Shizuko, 93, Palos Verdes, CA; Feb. 25; she is survived by her husband, Noble Ouye; sons, Lee (Lorraine) and Gary (Martha) Ouye; daughter, Kim (Ken) Miyake; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 5.

Sadakane, Tomiko, 86, Anaheim, CA; Feb. 28; she is survived by her daughter, Sharon Sadakane; son, Glenn Sadakane; brother, Teruo (Shigemi) Shimasue; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Sameshima, Akira, 85, Anaheim, CA; March 12; he is survived by his wife, Yukiko Sameshima; children, Cassie Miyuki (Dennis) Yoshikawa, Eugene Akihiko Sameshima, Wayne Masayoshi (Angela Yee) Sameshima; he is also survived by many other relatives; gc: 3.

Sugasawara, Jim Yaeji, 91, Arleta, CA; February 27; he was interned at Manzanar Relocation Center during WWII; he was predeceased by his wife, Chizu Sugasawara; he is survived by his son, Dennis (Melinda); brother, Bob; gc: 1.

Takemoto, George, 91, Murrieta, CA; Feb. 21; he was predeceased by his son, Glenn Takemoto; he is survived by his loving wife, Florence Takemoto; son, David Takemoto; daughters, Carol Takemoto, Keiko (David) Usui, Miki (Ted) Masumoto and Karen Takemoto; step-son, Leslie Doi; step-daughter, Sandra (Rod)Lau; sister, Yeiko Imamura; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 7; ggc 5.

Tamura, June Miteuko, 77, La Palma, CA; March 11; she is survived by her husband, Ralph Tamura; children, Tracy (Richard) Tamaki and Darrin (Jaime) Tamura; sisters, Clara (Albert) Shota and Joan (Charlie) Shimizu; gc: 5.

Tazawa, Gail, 67, Pasadena, CA; March 4; she was predeceased by her parents, Roy Tsutomu and Mary Tazawa; she is survived by her sisters, Jeanne and Faye Tazawa; nephew, James Tsutomu Matsuoka.

Tokunaga, Harue, 98, Mission Hills, CA; March 10; she is survived by her children, Allan Hideki and Tom Tokunaga, Michiko Kus and May Wood; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 7; ggc: 4.

Tomita, Toshiyuki Glen, 89, Los Angeles, CA; Feb. 18; he is survived by his children, Derek (Joan), Kurt (Gaye), Mark (Joanne) and Grant (Stacy) Tomita; brother, Yoshinori (June) Tomita; brother-in-law, Yoshimi (Yuki) Shiraki; sisters-in-law, Toni and Nako Tomita; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 8.

Uyemura, Irie Yumiko, 77, Gardena, CA; March 5; she is survived by her husband, Joe; children, Linda (Wes) Ozima, Cliff Uyemura, Faith (Jon) Enomoto and Vic (Kathy) Uyemura; sister, Michiko Suzuki; gc: 9. ■

TRIBUTE

GORGONE, CYNTHIA NAKAO

Gorgone, Cynthia Nakao, 49; Cleveland, Ohio; Feb. 4; she is survived by her husband, Philip; her mother, Alice Takeda Nakao; father, Tom Nakao; nephew, Nicholas; sister, Ruby; she was predeceased by her brother, Tom Nakao Jr.; she is also survived by aunts, uncles, cousins and other relatives. A memorial service was held in March.

TRIBUTE

CATHERINE YOSHIYE HIRAGA



Catherine Yoshiye Hiraga was born on June 2, 1920, in San Francisco, Calif. She passed away at her home in Fresno on Monday, Jan. 26, 2015, at the age of 94.

Cathy grew up in San Francisco, Calif., attending Yerba Buena Grammar School and graduating from Girls High School of San Francisco. She and her family were interned at Heart Mountain Relocation Center in Wyoming during World War II. After the war, she met and married her husband, Kenji, in Chicago. They resided in New York, Wisconsin and Kansas before settling in Sanger, Calif., where they resided for 50 years.

After raising her children, Cathy began working at the IRS Center in Fresno in 1972, where she retired as a tax auditor and supervisor after 16 years. She was a volunteer at the Fresno Metropolitan Museum and enjoyed traveling, cruises and Fresno Flowers. She also took every opportunity to journey to the Chukchansi and Table Mountain Casinos. However, she most enjoyed spending time with her family, especially her five grandchildren, and friends. In recent years, she spent her time at the Windham Retirement Community in Fresno.

Cathy is survived by her husband of 67 years, Kenji; daughters, Donna (Alan) Sepheriadi of Berkeley, Calif., and Iris Hiraga of Fresno, Calif.; son, Ronald (Gaye Yoshizawa) Hiraga of Albany, Calif.; and five grandchildren, Evan and Cory Hiraga, Nicholas and Daniel Sepheriadi and Troy Higgins. She is also survived by her sisters, Agnes Doi and Irene Yoshizaki, as well as many nieces, nephews and their families.

PLACE A TRIBUTE

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

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JAVA Member Lt. Col. Kay Wakatake Graduates From Airborne School

FORT BENNING, GA — More than 400 new paratroopers earned their wings in November 2014 after completing the three-week Army Basic Airborne Course and five jumps. One of the new paratroopers is JAVA Life Member and former editor of the *JAVA Advocate* Lt. Col. Kay Wakatake.

Wakatake is currently assigned as Deputy Staff Judge Advocate for the U.S. Army Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg, N.C. Military lawyers are assigned to all Army units.

Some units, such as the 82nd Airborne Division, require soldiers to be Airborne-qualified before they can be assigned to the unit. Other units do not require airborne qualification, but when lawyers earn Airborne wings, they demonstrate that they are willing to go through the same training as the soldiers they support.

As one of the most senior-ranking officers in the course, Lt. Col. Wakatake was extremely proud of her accomplishment at this stage of her career.

"Although I am twice as old as most of the other students, I was confident that I could handle the physical fitness requirements. It was the exit from the plane and the landing that concerned me the most," said Wakatake. "Fortunately, I was scared enough to pay close attention during the fine training I received, and that paid off."



PHOTO: SSGT MP

Lt. Col. Kay Wakatake returns to the assembly area after completing her first airborne jump.

JAVA President Wade Ishimoto (a paratrooper himself) provided moral support to Wakatake.

"Congratulations to Lt. Col. Kay Wakatake on becoming a qualified paratrooper," he said. "She joins several other JAVA members who are also paratroopers, including JAVA Secretary Lt. Col. Al Goshi (Ret.) and Treasurer Lt. Col. Mark Nakagawa (Ret.)" ■

U.S. Veterans Return to Iwo Jima for 70th Anniversary

By Associated Press

IOTO, JAPAN — Dozens of aging U.S. veterans, many in their early 90s, gathered on the tiny, barren island of Iwo Jima on March 21 to mark the 70th anniversary of one of the bloodiest and most iconic battles of World War II.

More than 30 veterans flown in from the U.S. Island territory of Guam toured the black sand beaches where they invaded the deeply dug-in forces of the island's Japanese defenders in early 1945.

They were bused to the top of Mount Suribachi, an active volcano, where an Associated Press photo of the raising of the American flag while the battle was till raging became a potent symbol of hope and valor to a war-weary public back home that was growing increasingly disillusioned with the seemingly unending battle in the Pacific.

Speeches at the Reunion of Honor ceremony held near the invasion beach were made by senior Japanese politicians and descendants of the few Japanese who survived the battle. Also speaking were U.S. Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus and Gen. Joseph Dunford, the commandant of the Marine Corps, who noted that the battle for Iwo Jima remains the "very ethos" of the Marine Corps today.

"We should never forget that the peace and prosperity of Japan and the United States at present has been built on the sacrifice of precious lives," Japanese Defense Minister Gen Nakatani said in his remarks.

This is the first time that Japanese Cabinet officials attended the anniversary ceremony, now in its 16th year.

The Marines invaded Iwo Jima in February 1945, and it was only declared secured after more than a month of fighting. About 70,000 U.S. troopers fought more than 20,000 Japanese — only 216 Japanese were captured as POWs and the rest are believed to have been either killed in action or to have taken their own lives.

The island was declared secure on March 16, 1945, but skirmishes continued. In about 36 days of battle, nearly 7,000 U.S. Marines were killed and 20,000 wounded.

It is to this day considered sacred ground to many Japanese. As a haunting reminder of the ferocity of the fighting, search teams continue to dig up more and more Japanese remains each year.

The U.S. returned the island to Japan in 1968. Twenty-seven Medals of Honor were awarded for action in the battle, more than any other in U.S. military history. ■

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