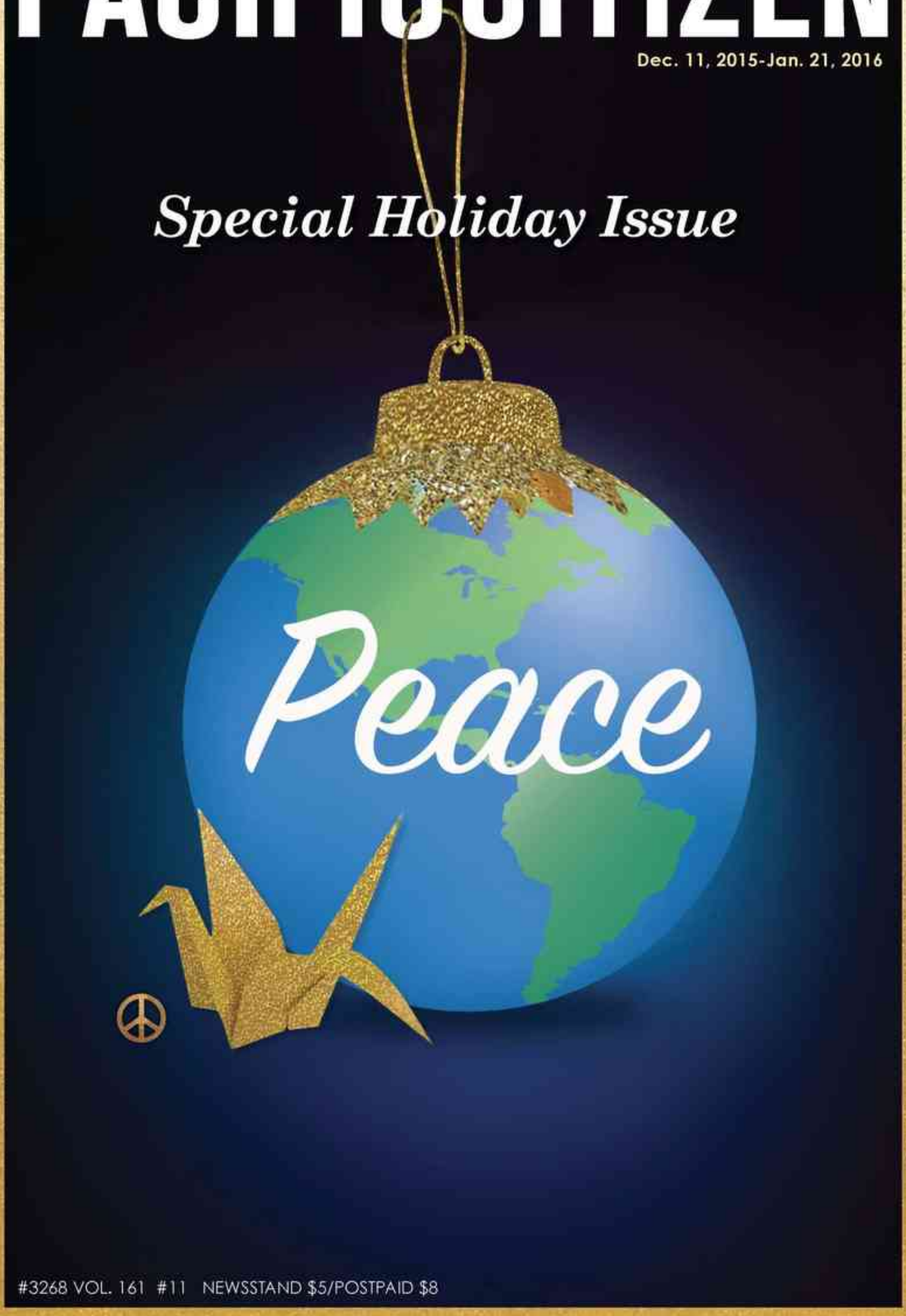
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Dec. 11, 2015-Jan. 21, 2016

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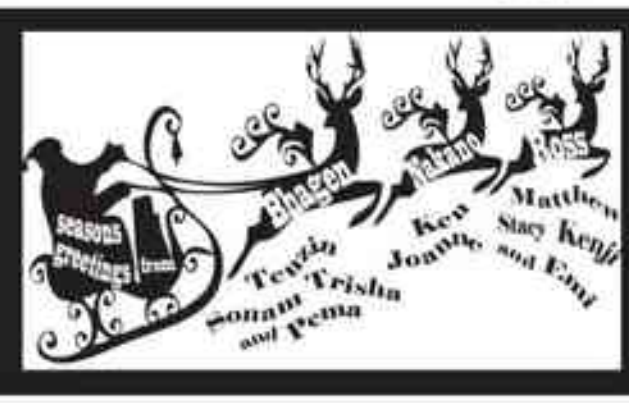
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Founded in 1929, JACL is the nation's oldest and largest Asian American civil and human rights organization with a 10,000 membership base. JACL has 104 chapters nationwide, four regional offices, a Washington, D.C., office and a national headquarters in San Francisco. JACL's mission is to secure and uphold the human and civil rights of Japanese Americans and all Americans while preserving our cultural heritage and values.

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Letter From the Editor



As the world we live in today has been rocked recently by tragedies that have shocked and saddened us all, recognizing the power of the holiday season to replenish our souls, rejuvenate our spirits and bring peace to our hearts and minds couldn't of come at a better time.

This year's holiday theme is "Peace," and it reminds me of words of a song written by Jill Jackson Miller, "Let there be peace on Earth, and let it begin with me." Inside this special issue, you'll find a wide assortment of contributions by writers who have looked within themselves to answer that very notion.



Cover Design: Marie Samonte

While attaining universal peace seems impossible when there are so many in our world who have varying beliefs as to what that truly means, the answer perhaps does lie in our own ability to look inward and examine our personal feelings of what type of peace we need in order to exist wholly and completely each and every day.

As President John F. Kennedy once said of peace, "We must show it in the dedication of our own lives. . . . Wherever we are, we must all, in our daily lives, live up to the age-old faith that peace and freedom walk together."

The journey begins with us.

As the *Pacific Citizen* celebrates its 87th year in 2016, the *P.C.* continues its own journey to provide you with the stories that matter most to our community — and you'll receive your news in print and digital form. It's a win-win solution for all of our JACL members and readers. Consider that *P.C.*'s own answer to attaining peace.

This issue would not be possible without the endless assistance we get from all of the JACL chapters that solicited ads for this year's issue. Thank you for the important work you do. It is 100 percent appreciated.

Finally, to the *P.C.* staff, let us forge ahead in the new year reinvigorated, at peace and ready to conquer the world one story at a time.

— Allison Haramoto, Executive Editor

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–Fred Hoshiyama,
on turning 100 years old in December 2014

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Asian American Drug Abuse Program

The Pacific Citizen has always been JACL's most visible benefit of membership, especially for members who are away from the Asian American clusters in different parts of the U.S. In many of our communities the PC is the lifeline to our organization. If we cannot easily access the information provided by the PC, JACL membership would have less value.

Although digital is the future of media, few newspapers have found a successful business model to go "all digital." And in the PC's case, the demographics of JACL's membership can't be ignored. Many of our members are older, and not able to access a website or a mobile device like a cell phone or tablet to get our news.

You, as members, your chapters and districts, contacted both the PC and JACL's national leadership to express your concerns about the way the decision was made to go all digital, and the timeline that was given for this conversion. Your message was heard.

Although the National Board on Nov. 30 changed its mind about going "all digital" at this time, there are still concerns about the "new" plan. The PC will continue to be printed, and current members will be given the choice to receive either a digital or printed version. New members may not have the option to receive a printed version at all.

We the undersigned, still believe that digital is the future, but JACL as an organization needs to think through the process and timeline to go digital. We believe in the transition to the PC of the future, but more discussion, including input from us as stakeholders, is critical.

We propose a major discussion on the future of the PC and a viable plan for attaining that future be discussed and voted on by the National Council at the 2016 National Convention in Las Vegas. NO changes to the PC nor the process of printing and distributing the PC should be made until after this vote.

We urge you to voice your opinion on this transition and how it should be handled. Please continue to pass along your concerns and opinions to the PC, to your chapter and district leaders, and to the National JACL leadership.

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Dear Editor,

I was extremely distressed to hear that the National Board had voted to discontinue the print edition of the *Pacific Citizen* and I am writing to protest this decision.

I am a longtime JACL member from a family that has been active in JACL from its beginning. I myself am a past president of the Chicago chapter. My grandfather was one of the founding members of JACL. My brother was JACL's Washington representative when redress/reparations was being implemented.

While a print edition has been a convenience to me as a baby boomer who is somewhat technologically challenged, it is an absolute necessity to my 89-year-old Nisei mother who does not own a computer and does not know how to operate one. Our senior citizen members are still a major element in JACL, and it ill serves our membership to cut them off from our national newspaper.

Please reconsider this decision.

Sincerely,

David K. Igasaki
Chicago, Ill.

Dear Editor,

Please cancel my subscription to the *Pacific Citizen (P.C.)* effective immediately.

As reported with the most recent *P.C.* issues, with the impending termination of the paper version of the *P.C.*, I no longer have a need for a *P.C.* subscription.

Today, I am/was a "Non-JACL Member" subscriber. However, I have been a *P.C.* reader for nearly four decades. In 1994, I terminated my JACL membership because as I wrote to the *P.C.* Editor then, I felt the JACL lacked focus, direction and a plan. As I stated in a Letter to the Editor, "There is an adage, 'If you don't know where you are going, any road will get you there.'" This characterizes the state of affairs of JACL."

At that time, I felt JACL was taking the course of the ship Titanic. It appears that the decision to terminate the paper version of the *P.C.* just could spell doom for the JACL as well.

Sincerely,

Clarence Ueda

Dear Editor,

I am a Life Member, my wife is spouse of a Thousand Club member, and we've supported the *P.C.* for decades. We will no longer support the *P.C.* despite the fact that contents are worth reading even after Hosokawa's columns had to stop.

Going digital because of hard copy and related cost reasons, though understandable and acceptable, means that many readers will lose interest. For example, I doubt very much that you or any other *P.C.* staff read or even know about the publication "ASIAN WISCONZINE." It originated years ago as a slick-paper, hard-copy monthly magazine distributed via U.S. Postal Department and made available in school, libraries and elsewhere. It had widespread readership in Wisconsin and other parts of the Midwest where Asians and Asian Americans comprise a small part of the total population. Hard-copy issues became too expensive; therefore, media transformation became necessary, and the publication had to go digital.

Formerly, copies of "ASIAN WISCONZINE" could be shared by students and other readers, so readership far exceeded the number of published copies. The first issue was January 2005, and I think the final hard copy was published in 2010. I have been a volunteer writer for years and continue even though I no longer peruse each monthly issue as thoroughly as I did when it was in hard-copy form.

Heidi Pascual (2006 U.S.-SBA Journalist of the Year for the State of Wisconsin) continues to produce monthly editions despite all financial, publication and other obstacles. Anyone with computer access may read any issue of "ASIAN WISCONZINE" by entering *www.asianwisconzine.com/archives.html*.

As far as I'm concerned, reading the *P.C.* on a computer monitor is for the birds. I refuse to read more than a page or two on the monitor and often request and get hard copies of reports from government or other sources when I want to read anything in its entirety.

Sincerely,

Paul H. Kusuda,
Madison, Wis.

Dear Editor,

Thirty-one governors have it wrong, our governor in Washington state has it right.

Gov. Inslee, you stated that America should continue to accept 10,000 Syrian refugees who need a home. Further, you cited an event in American history when our political leaders succumbed to fear and prejudice and chose an expedient political path, incarcerating more than 110,000 people of Japanese ancestry for no other reason than they looked like the enemy. Ironically, this indefensible action was led by President Franklin D. Roosevelt who declared, "We have nothing to fear but fear itself."

With current events, we need to be forever vigilant against any similar reactions of fear and prejudice towards Syrian refugees, and rebuke politicians who misguidedly cite the unconstitutional incarceration during WWII as a valid historical precedent.

Gov. Inslee, our organizations support your principled leadership and thank you for your honorable stand. We recognize that your position may not be popular with some people, but it is the right one. Your stance reaffirms our organizations' goal to "Let It Not Happen Again."

Sincerely,

Mary Woodward,
President, Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community

Bill Nakao,
President, Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial Assn.

Dear Editor,

I Thought It Was Simply a Business Decision, But . . .

Like many other JACL members, I had thought that changing to a digital PDF *Pacific Citizen* was simply a business decision. I now strongly feel that it SHOULD NOT be *simply a business decision*. I had not considered the damaging effect that it would have on the morale of our membership, on team-building efforts at the chapter and national levels, as well as affecting our current levels of activism.

The huge outcry of protests against digitization demonstrates that this issue is simply too vital to be entrusted in the hands of just a few well-meaning, results-driven, corporate-mindset officers on the National Board.

Prior to any move toward digitization, detailed financial information needs to be made available to all chapter presidents. The effects of digitization need to be studied, including those effects that might not be obvious. Any provisions for hard copies require a well-thought out plan, rather than being treated as an afterthought.

Over Thanksgiving dinner, a former editor of a small newspaper related to me that reporters hope that their articles would result in three actions by their readers: that it would be read, that it would be examined and digested. Finally, that it would cause readers to be motivated to apply what they read.

Until we become more acclimated to electronic media, I posit that we will not read, digest and examine as much as we did, and hence be *less inclined* to be moved to action with our *Pacific Citizen* safely stored in our computing device!

There is a subtle power in having a printed copy of the *Pacific Citizen* staring at us from our coffee table!

This issue is simply too vital to be left to the power of just a few. Chapters need to have a voice!

Sincerely,

Harold Kameya

PAPER PREFERRED

Member feedback prompts the JACL National Board to keep printing the *P.C.*, along with offering a digital PDF format.

By P.C. Staff

Pacific Citizen is staying printed — for now. Only 58 days after the JACL National Board voted unanimously to end the printed edition of the *P.C.*, the National Board met over a conference call on Nov. 23 to change the *P.C.* Digital Media plan once more.

JACL National President David Lin outlined the following during the call:

1. JACL will continue printing the *Pacific Citizen* in its current form.
2. JACL will, in an attempt to reduce print and mail expenses, get as many members as possible to sign up for a digital-only PDF on a voluntary basis. Members with an email on file currently will receive the PDF version of the *P.C.* so they can test it before they decide their format. JACL will also request emails from members with regular membership mailings.
3. New members will no longer receive the print *P.C.* as soon as it is feasible.

"In light of feedback and concerns from JACL members," Lin said, "the best course of action is to continue distributing the *P.C.* in its current print form. This will minimize disruptions to the current distribution system whether they are perceived or real disruptions."

Ideas were tossed during the meeting on how to go about collecting member information. Everything from postcard notifications to email messages was discussed as mediums to communicate with members, but a streamlined solution and execution plan was not formally agreed on. There is no word yet on when these plans will be finalized.

In regard to membership, VP Planning and Development Chip Larouche clarified that the date for new members who will not receive the printed *P.C.* is yet to be determined. Benefits to new JACL members today include a hard-copy subscription to the *P.C.*, free admission to the Japanese American National Museum and eligibility for the JACL Credit Union, as well as access to JACL scholarships, internships, fellowships and leadership programs. In previous years, benefits included discounted Costco memberships, car rental discounts and a group health insurance discount.

Over the years, JACL, like many other Japanese American organizations, has faced changes within the community. Such challenges have included a decline in membership while still trying to secure and maintain the civil rights of Japanese Americans and other Asian Americans. Newspapers have also struggled to adapt to a changing cultural and political landscape, going digital and losing the hard-copy paper.

Yet after much feedback from readers, JACL members, libraries and other institutions, the *P.C.* remains printed largely in part because its members are of an older generation. Seniors, mostly, have written letters and called the paper's office asking to remain printed or terminate their subscription or JACL memberships.

Many have posed the question of whether or not the paper is a service to the community or meant to make money.

Some have written letters stressing that the paper is indeed a service to JACL senior members in the Japanese American community, looking to stay informed. Others have argued that the paper takes away funds from other programs that also serve the Japanese American and Asian American community.

"The paper operates to inform, interpret, provide a service to readers and also entertain," Executive Editor Allison Haramoto explained. "The paper is a unique service that does all of those things on a national scale for our readers, who are all across the U.S. It better informs citizens or, in this case, JACL members about what the organization is doing with hard news and facts. For many readers, the *P.C.* is their only link to staying informed with what is going on in the Japanese American community."

Like any service, cost is vital. Financials based through September faced a significant deficit as revenue was under budget by roughly 11.5 percent, with a few notable underperforming programs, one of which is the *Pacific Citizen*. Secretary Treasurer Matthew Farrells gave the report and added that expenses were over budget.

For the *P.C.*, the paper relies primarily on earnings from its annual Holiday Issue, its largest fundraiser, as well as Spring Campaign donations to keep operating throughout the year. However, this year's Holiday Issue financial goal has been impacted due to several contributing factors.

"It has a lot to do with our entire office move during October and November along with the Digital Media Plan that was implemented during the same time," explained *P.C.* Business Manager Susan Yokoyama about this year's Holiday Issue challenges. "Chapters are struggling to find ads amidst worries that the *P.C.* is only going to be available digitally, we're struggling to assure our advertisers that the *P.C.* will still remain, all while trying to execute a Digital Media Plan that reorganizes our entire infrastructure. It's been quite challenging this year, but we're doing our absolute best to make our projected financial goals."

Planning, outreach, design and layout all happen within a six-month window for the paper. Heavy production begins in October of each year. Yokoyama and the *P.C.* staff are tasked with helping to organize hundreds of individual and business ads.

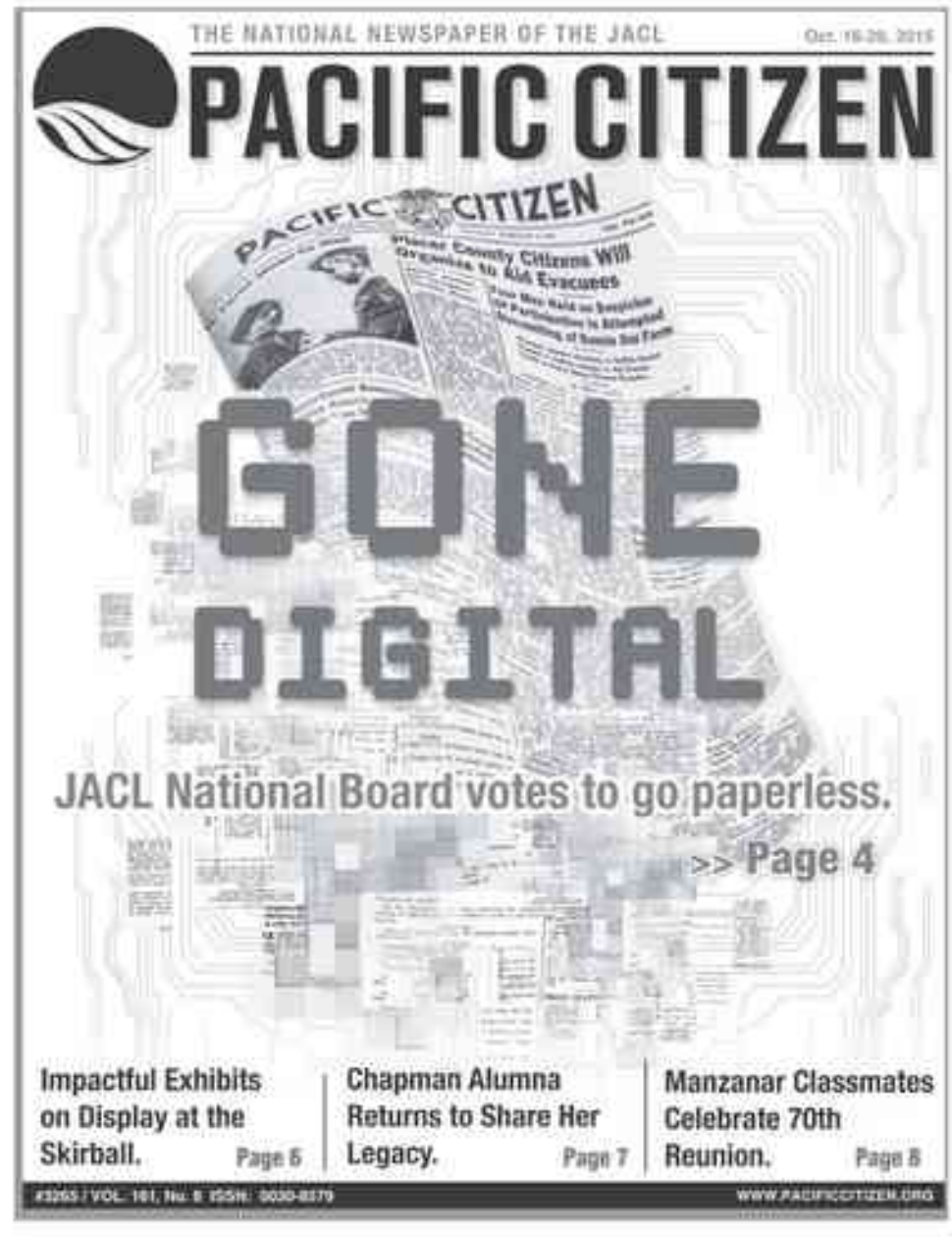
The 80-page edition will not be available online. JACL members and nonmember subscribers should expect to see their hard copy before Christmas.

For now, JACL members can enjoy a printed copy and a PDF version online. However, future JACL members won't have an option receive a hard-copy subscription to the *P.C.* Those members looking for a hard copy would therefore need to subscribe to the paper separately, requiring two payments: one for JACL and one for the *P.C.*

At this time, Lin is looking to see whether or not it makes sense to offer a new charge or nominal fee for JACL members looking to subscribe to the *P.C.*, thereby eliminating the double membership and subscription.

However, any changes to the cost for membership would need approval by the National Council. Looking ahead, the 2016 annual JACL National Convention in Las Vegas is expected to address those concerns.

The vote to amend the Media Plan was not unanimous unlike the Oct. 3 National Board Meeting in Chicago. There were five yes votes from VP General Operations, VP Planning and Development, VP Membership, MDC District Governor and NCWNP District Governor. Both VP Public Affairs and Secretary Treasurer voted to abstain. ■



CHICAGO

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SHARON HARADA

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Eric Inouye Family

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Happy Holidays
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Digger, Agnes & Rik Sasaki

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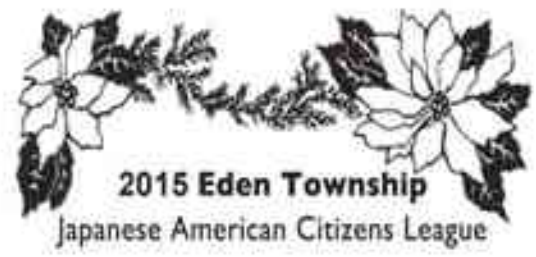
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Happy Holidays



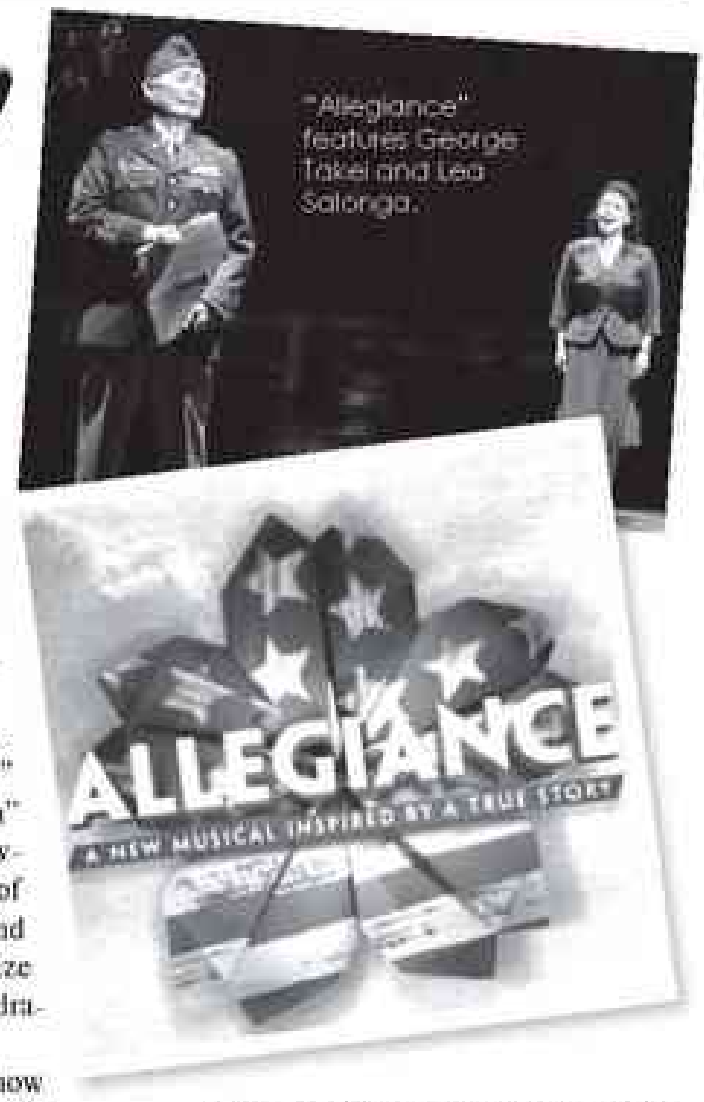
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Lasting Loyalty

'Allegiance' makes its long-awaited debut on Broadway and furthers the dialogue of an off-overlooked chapter in American history.



"Allegiance" features George Takei and Lea Salonga.

By Matthew Ormseth, Contributor

Some stories are harder than others to tell. Perhaps the hardest story of all for Japanese Americans — the story of their forced removal from the West Coast and subsequent incarceration during World War II — found its way onto Broadway and into the national spotlight last month when the musical "Allegiance" opened at the Longacre Theater on Nov. 8.

"Allegiance," billed as "a new musical inspired by a true story," tells the story of the fictional Kimura family, a family portrayed as an amalgam of the manifold Japanese American experiences during the war and incarceration.

Starring George Takei, Lea Salonga, Telly Leung, Greg Watanabe, Katie Rose Clarke and Christopheren Nomura, the musical first premiered at the Old Globe Theatre in San Diego in 2012; its Broadway debut marks the first time in more than a dozen years that an Asian-led cast has been on Broadway since the 2002 revival of "Flower Drum Song," which also starred Salonga.

In the "Fact or Fiction: Behind Our Story" resource on the musical's website, Sam Kimura, the story's protagonist, is explained to represent "the experiences of several Japanese Americans including George Takei; George's father, Norman Takei; and Ben Kuroki, a decorated World War II tail gunner in the Army Air Force who was perhaps the most famous Japanese American at war's end. Sam is also based on the many personal accounts of Japanese Americans incarcerated during the war and who later served in the U.S. armed forces."

"Allegiance" draws on historical events and facts — the attacks on Pearl Harbor, Executive Order 9066, the creation of the 442nd Infantry Regiment and the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki — in order to weave a backdrop for a story, a story of love, family and sacrifice, but a story that, we must remember, is ultimately fictional.

"Most of the story is true to historical fact," the "Fact or Fiction" section reads. "However, the invention of fictional characters and story moments utilize artistic license for dramatic effect."

The question of how much license an artist should take with historical events, especially events that hold a great amount of traumatic value for those involved, is a question without a definitive answer, and one that every viewer can decide for only him or herself.

But the JACL voiced its objection to the musical's inclusion of the organization's name and the name of Mike Masaoka in the story, as well as the musical's ambivalent depiction of Masaoka.

"Although most of the characters, which are loosely based on individuals, have fictional names," the JACL's Oct. 7 statement reads, "the JACL is disturbed by the play's use of the names of the Japanese American Citizens League and of Mike Masaoka. The JACL is concerned that by using actual names, audience members may forget that they are watching a historical fiction."

Greg Watanabe, who portrays Mike Masaoka with compelling ambiguity, responded to the JACL's objection to Masaoka's representation in "Allegiance," saying, "I think 'Allegiance' portrays Mike as someone who is faced with very difficult decisions, who believes with absolute certainty that what he's doing is for the greater good of Japanese Americans. In that way, I think that audiences . . . who've never heard of Mike Masaoka or the JACL will view him as a man who was doing the best that he could."

In "Allegiance," Masaoka is the intermediary between government officials and the Japanese American people, desperately trying to placate Washington's increasingly hostile attitude toward the JA population while struggling to protect the constitutional rights of his people.

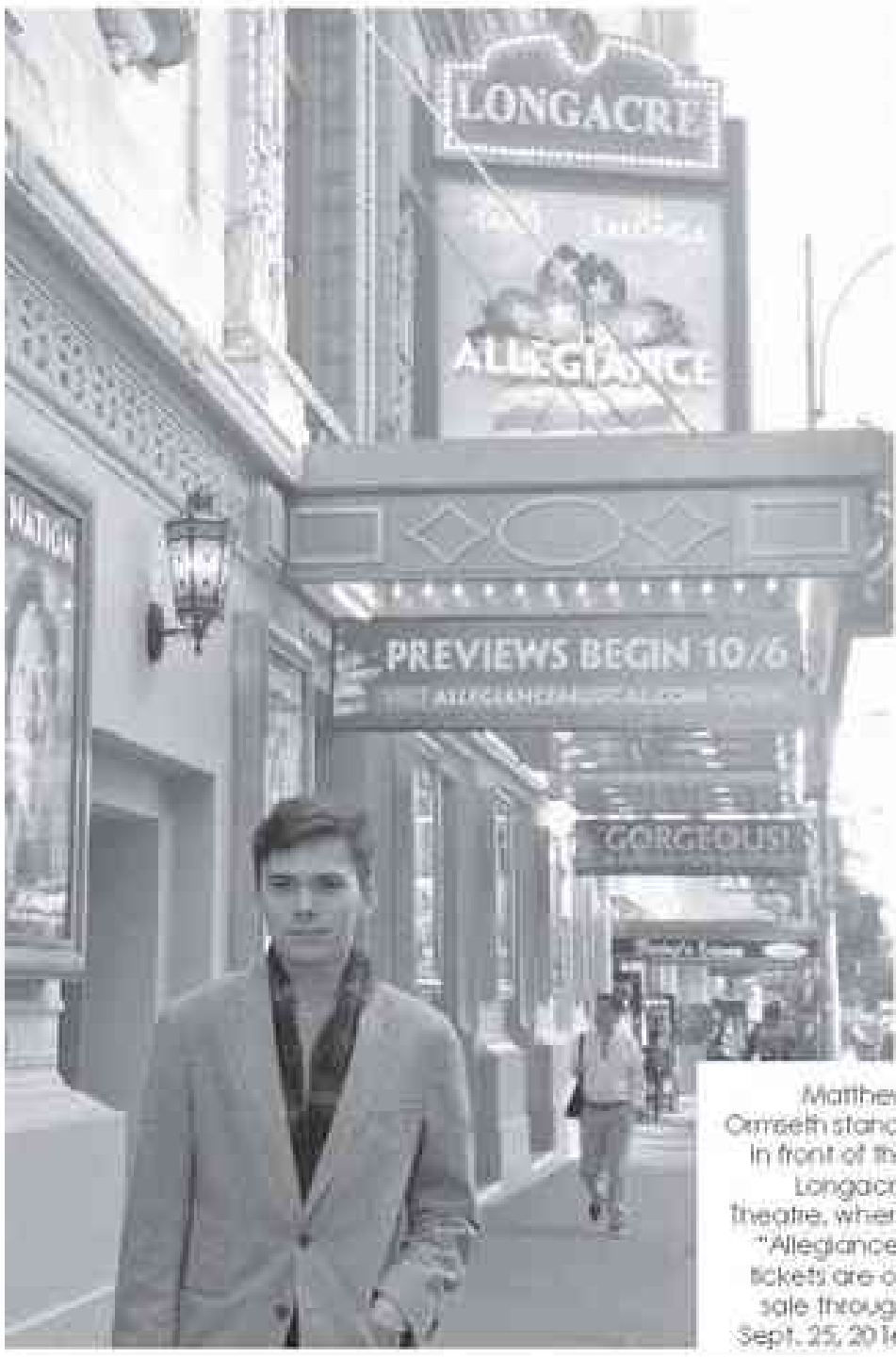
However, Masaoka and the JACL incur the disdain of many of the internees in the play, one of whom remarks, "Who put them (the JACL) in charge?" Director Stafford Arima's decision to array Masaoka in a dark, double-breasted suit places him squarely on the side of the faceless Washington functionaries and in stark contrast with the rest of the JA's in the film, clad in their farm-attire blue jeans, flannels and patterned sun dresses.

In the first act of the play, Masaoka makes the controversial decision to press for an entirely Japanese American infantry unit, the now-famed 442nd. "Give us our own segregated unit like the Negroes, and we'll fight harder than any soldier you've got," he tells a stone-faced Washington official. "We'll undertake the most dangerous missions, even if it means certain death."

Masaoka's self-inclusion in the 442nd with the pronoun "we" was certainly a point of ire among those interned; Masaoka was not signing up to fight. Masaoka was not even interned. The hypocrisy of his statement is there for the taking, if a viewer should choose to dwell on it.

But as Watanabe said earlier, he wants to believe that audiences will see Masaoka "as a man who was doing the best that he could," rather than merely interpreting his words and his portrayal in the play as an insulting condemnation of his and the JACL's supposed pandering to Washington politicos.

Masaoka truly believed he was making the best possible decision in a situation with no right answers, just as Sam Kimura, the story's protagonist, believed he was making the right decision by signing up to fight for a country that had imprisoned him and his family, and just as Frankie Suzuki, Kimura's fellow internee, believed



Matthew Ormseth stands in front of the Longacre theatre, where "Allegiance" tickets are on sale through Sept. 25, 2016.



The Broadway cast of "Allegiance." The musical is centered around the fictional Kimura family and the challenges its members face during World War II and the Japanese American incarceration.

"Allegiance" is a story about how three different men — Masaoka, Kimura and Suzuki — with three very different conceptions of duty — pledged their allegiance to a nation in crisis.

The conflict in "Allegiance" between those who enlisted and those who resisted — the so-called "No-No Boys" — is fascinating, and articulates a schism in the Japanese American community's definition of patriotism that persists to this day. Kimura was willing to fight for his country in the battlefields of Italy. And Frankie — Frankie was willing to fight for his country, too, by resisting the draft, even when his country became dissociated from his government.

"Allegiance" seeks to answer this question: Can a country become dissociated from its government, or are the two inextricable? When we think of America, we think of the Constitution; we think of civil rights and personal liberties, and we think of our commitments. Commitments to tolerance, equality and the dream of meritocracy. And when a government reneges on these commitments, betrays the promises enumerated in its most venerable of documents, and steals the property and the liberty of its own people, a government is quite capable of dissociating itself from its country.

In the play's culminating scene, a newly returned Kimura, now a decorated war hero, is shocked to see that his sister, Kei, has had a child with Frankie, whom he despises for refusing to enlist. Kimura renounces his sister and her new family, and as he leaves, Kei screams after him, "Coward!" Here, the writers of "Allegiance" depict not only conflicting conceptions of patriotism, but of valor, as well. In Kimura's mind, bravery meant risking one's life to fight. In Suzuki's mind, bravery meant risking one's life not to.

In light of this year's Holiday Issue peace theme, we might consider that risking one's life in battle requires a certain type of heroism, but so, too, does peace, and the decision to live. It requires a certain heroism to fight, quite literally, the terrible and natural urge to fight one another. The terrible urge to kill one another.

And when Kimura's sister denounces him as a coward, one can't help but feel that Suzuki's heroism — the heroism of peace, of refusing to fight for a country ostensibly out to defend democracy and liberty while imprisoning its own people at home — is a heroism on par with Kimura's. Only Kimura's heroics earned him a Purple Heart and the cover of "Life" magazine, while Suzuki's earned him a one-way ticket to Tule Lake.

The question of historical fidelity and artistic license mentioned earlier is a contentious one, especially for those who were themselves interned.



Greg Watanabe portrays Mike Masaoka in "Allegiance."

"Allegiance's" writers do play fast and loose with the facts at times for dramatic effect: upon arrival at Heart Mountain, internees are forced to strip to their underwear and sorted into lines with the chillingly familiar cry of "Men to the left, women to the right!" The scene is evocative of Auschwitz, and it conjures expectations of gas chambers and crematoriums.

While the invention of a love story between Kimura and a white nurse stationed at Heart Mountain is permissible within the boundaries of historically based drama, a greater faithfulness to the true conditions of the camps should have been observed, even at the expense of theatrical effect. These small details matter to former internees, especially as we fast approach the day when we no longer have eyewitness testimony from our ojii-chans and oba-chans, and have only the narratives — including "Allegiance" — to try to understand what it was like to live in the camps.

But for the vast majority of Broadway-goers, and Americans as a whole for that matter, their knowledge of the incarceration of Japanese Americans is largely restricted to some half-forgotten sidebar in their high school U.S. history textbook.

"If the American people knew more of the history of the camps, or more about Japanese Americans, and Japanese American culture (as opposed to Japanese culture), I think one could potentially tell a different story, create a different musical," Watanabe explained. "But despite the number of history books, Asian American studies and literature courses, documentaries, plays, poems, narrative fiction, even other musicals, the general public still knows nothing about Japanese Americans or their experience of incarceration during WWII."

For many of those in attendance at the opening of "Allegiance," the musical was a history lesson on unfamiliar material. Some might argue that the absence of an established, factual historical narrative among the American public creates an even more compelling case for a closer commitment to truth in "Allegiance," as an uneducated audience would not be able to differentiate between fact and fiction without knowing the facts in the first place.

But "Allegiance's" actors and writers seek to inspire the show's viewers through the pathos of a doomed love story and a family's tribulations, so that they might pursue the truth afterward and try to make sense of one of America's more shameful chapters in her history.

"I ... hope that they find it emotionally gripping enough, that they then feel compelled to seek more information, history and stories," Watanabe said. "Perhaps they'll even see other Asian American work, understanding that there is another way to view art and history; through an Asian American lens, a Japanese American lens. That our representation and point of view is valid and can be specific and universal at the same time."

The show's composer and lyricist, Jay Kuo, who interestingly enough is a former civil rights attorney, explained, "It was our hope that people would go out and learn more about what happened to 120,000 of their fellow American citizens and residents. To achieve this, it was vital that we present characters whose lives seemed relevant to the audience and in whom theatergoers could see themselves. When the audience weeps collectively for this family's reconciliation at the end of the show, we know that we have opened a window in their lives, even though they are of a different race, and of a different time."

At the show's conclusion, audience members were in tears. Perhaps they'd already known the difficult story of internment; perhaps they had not. Perhaps they'd forget in a matter of hours the grief they felt watching the suffering of the Japanese American people, or perhaps they'd go home and Google E.O. 9066, watch Frank Abe's "Conscience and the Constitution" or read some of the testimonies of those interned. It's impossible to know what they did that evening. However, Kuo, Watanabe and the rest of the cast of "Allegiance" and its creative team did what they had set out to do: tell a story that furthers the dialogue about this shameful, yet oft-overlooked chapter of American history. ■

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In Memoriam

Harue "Mae" Ninomiya

Harold "Bones" Onishi

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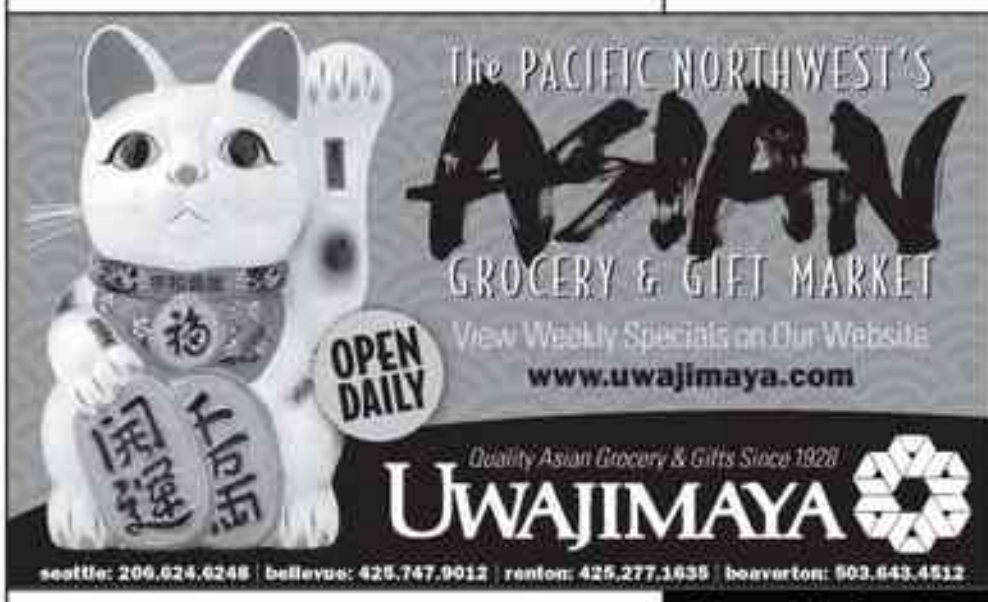
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Paying It Forward

Volunteers in France honor the memories of the 442nd RCT.



PHOTOS: GREG MARUTANI

Gerome and Tiffany Villain are pictured next to a Bruyeres memorial to the 442nd that was presented by the Japanese American Citizens League.

By Connie K. Ho, Contributor

Growing up in an area where the memory of World War II was still fresh gave Gerome Villain the desire to know more about the individuals who were affected. JACL Education Chair Greg Marutani first encountered Villain this past fall in Bruyères, France, and he remembers his trip fondly.

Marutani met Villain and his young daughter, Tiffany, at the train station in Épinal. From there, Villain took Marutani around and introduced him to others who were also able to speak about the history of Bruyères. Along with Villain, Bernard Hans and his wife, Josiane, took Marutani to the Épinal American Cemetery, where Americans from the 100th Battalion and the 442nd RCT are buried, and provided background information on the location. Villain and Hans are volunteers among a small group in France that lead tours of Bruyères to recount stories of the bravery of the men of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

Marutani believes that the volunteer guides are helpful in bridging cultural connections.

"They were all very open to spending time and sharing stories and filling me in," said Marutani, who visited Europe for the first time in October. "It was a much more memorable trip because they shared information that's not readily available on any plaque or any signage."

For Villain, his interest in the 442nd and the history of the region began early on.

"I started to be interested about the liberation when I was child, listening [to] my grandparents, neighbors relating to me their war stories," said Villain, who is a native from Fiménil, a small village south of Bruyères that was liberated by the units of the 36th Division. "I began my research about the 141st/36th, and the battle in my village, but also around it and, of course, the story of the Lost Battalion. Little by little, I discovered the story of the 442nd — not only its military story but also what happened to the Japanese American citizens after Dec. 7, 1941."

Villain was moved by the stories he found.



The Épinal American Cemetery contains the graves of 5,255 U.S. soldiers, most of whom lost their lives in the campaigns across northeastern France to the Rhine and beyond into Germany during World War II.



Gerome and Tiffany Villain with Claudie Fischer, whose father arranged for Bruyères to become a Sister City with Honolulu.

"It is very interesting to meet people coming from the USA who want to honor relatives, friends of the 442nd."

— Gerome Villain

"Terrible! Difficult to imagine these boys, fighting here, in the cold, mud, always wet, in the dark, against an aggressive and motivated enemy; meanwhile, their families were in camps! No better way to prove their loyalty!" said Villain. "Later, it motivated me to meet veterans or families and do something for them. It is very interesting to meet people coming from the USA who want to honor relatives, friends of the 442nd."

Inspired by his research, Villain gives tours of the Bruyères area to visitors free of charge and also takes the opportunity to learn from tourists.

"When people ask me for a tour, my first question is to know more about them and their relatives," Villain said. "To know the company, the regiment of their relative is very important. That helps me to plan a special or personal tour for them — memorials of Bruyères and Biffontaine, cities of Bruyères and Biffontaine, the Lost Battalion area, places where Gen. (John E.) Dahlquist passed the 442nd in review on Nov. 12 are places we visit."

Villain's interest in the 442nd has also led him to visit the National Archives in Washington, D.C. During his two visits there, highlights include seeing tracing paper drawn 70 years ago and handwritten book notes.

"It is the place to go when you are looking for files, maps, records — I discovered there are so many interesting records!" Villain said. "For a second, you can imagine the soldier who [drew or] wrote it maybe under a tent or a [barn] somewhere. These records are very helpful to plan the tours. The liberations of Bruyères, Biffontaine and the rescue of the Lost Battalion is difficult to understand — understanding each troop's movements



Tiffany Villain, 11, is pictured at "The Prayer" monument in Biffontaine, France.

day per day is not easy, so I feel very lucky to have [visited]."

His experience in the U.S. and France has made Villain feel grateful for those who came before him.

"If I can add something, I would like to say MERCI to our liberators. Each year, at Bruyères and Biffontaine, there are the commemorations of the liberations of these cities — we don't forget you, we don't forget the sacrifice of your brothers in arm fallen for our liberty," Villain said. "Vosgian people love you so much — we know, that if we are free today, it is thanks to you!"

Like Villain, Bernard Hans is another Frenchman that has lent his expertise to travelers. At a young age, Hans began to look into Japanese American history and the history of the liberation of Bruyères.



Bernard Hans and his wife, Josiane, at the Épinal American Cemetery

Hans' father often spoke of the war, as he was a prisoner of the Germans during a four-year period.

"My father was a photographer in Bruyères, and it was his reports I followed. From this way, I attended every year visiting U.S. military groups based in Germany who came for the ceremonies of the liberation and also during the period of contacts between Honolulu and Bruyères," said Hans. "There were ceremonies commemorating on monuments and dinners with luau, Hawaiian dances and performances."

Hans also spoke about the importance of the Bruyères-Honolulu Sister City Assn. At 80 members strong, the primary purpose of the group is to preserve the history and memory of the liberators of Bruyères. The association continues as a bridge of friendship between the two communities, connecting the past with the future. For visitors to Bruyères, he tries to adapt the itinerary to fit their interests.

"There are many strengths of our small town, with the town hall, the place of the monument [of the dead] and the main street," said Hans. "In the immediate vicinity, we also go to the top of the hill of Avison to enjoy an observation point on the region, which offers a panoramic view 360 degrees from the tower. We also go in the forest of Helledray, where the American Memorial to the soldiers who died for liberation [is located]. Twenty-five kilometers of Bruyères, there is also another place of pilgrimage, the memorial cemetery 'Quequement' near Épinal. There is a wall of remembrance for those who have no name or those who have not been found."



This memorial, located in the Vosges Mountains, recognizes the brave actions of the 36th Division, the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd RCT.



The "Friendship Knot" in Bruyères, sculpted by Shinkichi Tajiri, who was also a member of the 100th/442nd RCT in Company M, was dedicated on Oct. 16, 1994.



A plaque on a tree in the Vosges Mountains pays homage to Yohei Sagami, 442nd RCT, who was the first Nisei soldier killed in France.

Hans tells a number of stories to visitors, but he recounts one in particular regarding the grave of a soldier who died the first day the fighting began at Bruyères.

"Sgt. Tomosu Hirahara was from Hawaii — he was 21 years old. His grave is sponsored by the City of Bruyères. One plaque commemorates this soldier in Bruyères on a square dedicated to him," said Hans. "Many graves of soldiers who are buried in the cemetery are sponsored by the local people. There is an association that takes care of that. Each year on the memorial day, a rose is deposited on all the graves of the cemetery."

Many of the volunteers echo Hans' sentiment.

"It is always a great pleasure to receive friends and families of veterans of the 100th/442nd," said Hans. "We have a duty to them and friends of the association — we make it a point of honor to fulfill this mission."

Gerome Villain is currently assembling a "complete" history of Bruyères and the events that took place in the Vosges Mountains. Those with memorabilia and stories of Bruyères, Biffontaine or the rescue of the Lost Battalion are encouraged to contact him at geromevillain@hotmail.fr.



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Ellen and Harold Kameya wish to express our gratitude to the JACL organization and its members for supporting the civil rights of LGBTQ people.

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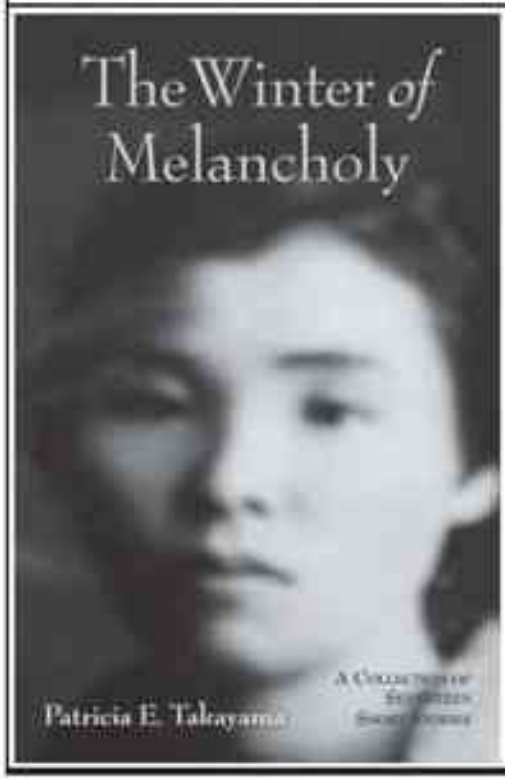
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Happy Holidays



Carol Taylor



A collection of 17 short stories in two parts, the collection opens in Manzanar during the incarceration of Japanese American citizens and their immigrant family members. Told from the viewpoint of the women, their strength, spirit, compassion and the resilience are traced through their stories from the immigrant to post-war generations.

Short stories by Patricia Takayama

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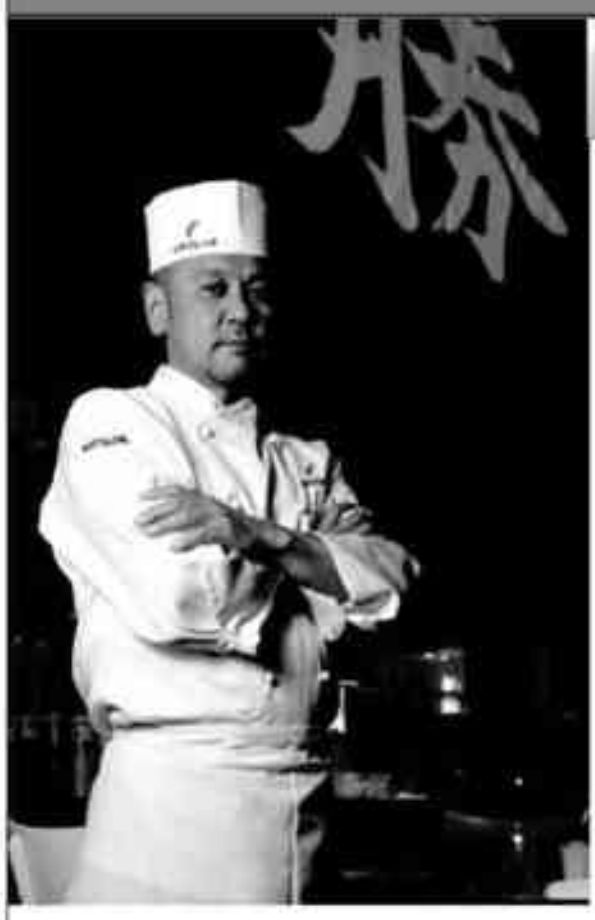
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Best wishes for 2016

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'What Would My Grandfathers Say?'

By Rhianna Taniguchi, contributor



Kamemoto's grandfather, Paul Kleintjes, shaking hands with Gen. George Patton

The theme I was asked to reflect on for this column was "peace." All I could think of were the wars, strife and hostility currently ravaging our world; finding peace seemed like a difficult task.

I was reminded of a poem by one of my best friends, Emi Lea Kamemoto, which speaks of coming from two families and two countries that have been at war in the past.

Emi was able to find beauty and peace in both worlds, and it is my hope that future generations will be able to find peace after the events that we faced in 2015.

Emi is currently a resident of Los Angeles and a member of the JACL National Youth Student Council.



Kamemoto's jiichan, a Kamikaze Pilot

What Would My Grandfathers Say?
By Emi Lea Kamemoto

What would my Grandfathers say
if they knew I saw the Enola Gay Today . . .
Its shining, towering, BULK and BRIGHT, happy name

Seemingly a Mockery of its true purpose.

Would Grandpa say?
"It ended the war."
"It had to be this way."

Would Jiichan say?
"War comes at a terrible price." And
"Had this plane not flown that day, I would have seen MY last day from the Cockpit of my own
shining, fiery monster."

Would they see the Irony of its gleaming facade and Jubilant moniker if they stood here beside me?

One plane, one bomb,
Thousands of lives
Gone
In an instant.
Thousands of lives
Saved
In an instant.

Would they see its proud display here today
with Shame?
with Sadness?
As a tribute to the Glory of War?

Or would they see it as a reminder? A Lesson of the cost of War.
One they were both fortunate enough to see the end of.

What emotions would this BLINDING pile of steel evoke?
Grim understanding that it ended a ceaseless war?
Or ANGER that to some this display only serves as a Reminder of a Battle Won.

Of Glory over an Orient enemy.

Do I, as a product of both my Grandfathers' service to their countries, stand here
Unfeeling & confused because I could never choose a side?

In the polished surface I see
Lives lost but also Lives saved.
I see the moment that these two men met and shook hands.
Former Kamikaze & Former Army Engineer becoming Family.

Staring at this gleaming heap of metal it is neither hate nor pride that I feel.
In its shining surface, I see perspective after perspective.

A million faces reflected back at me. Each with its own relation to this war.
I think my Jiichan & my Grandfather Are Proud.

That like they once did, the two parts of myself that hold pride and love for both my countries
Shook hands today.

Standing here, beneath the Enola Gay.
They gave me the gift to see past this hulking machine of war
To see the lives of the people affected by it.

"To display it is not inherently bad, Emi, my dear."

"From our actions we shall learn & with our stories we will teach, so that our granddaughters & grandsons will NOT live in Fear of Giant shadows & a silver Gleaming death."

Rhianna Taniguchi is an account executive at the Denver Post. She was the 2014 JACL Norman Y. Mineta Fellow.

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Bob and Aki
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Happy Holidays!
-Aujean Lee

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Valley Karate Dojo	Tues 5 PM, Thurs 7:30 PM
Valley Buddhist Temple	monthly TBD Sun 10 AM
Kinyu Ginshi-kai, Valley Shibu	Thurs 7 PM
Hoshunki Minyo Odori	Wed 6:30 PM
Karaoke	1st Sat 6:30 PM
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Season's Greetings,
Happy Holidays

Paul Jonokuchi



Happy New Year!

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We are so grateful for the messages of hope and understanding which JACLers around the country are sending to the LGBTQ individuals and their families. To greater peace in 2016...

Marsha, Tad,
Stefen, Aiden and Mary Aizumi

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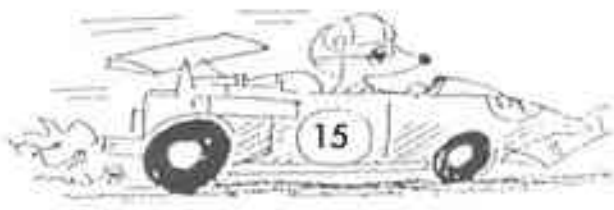


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and
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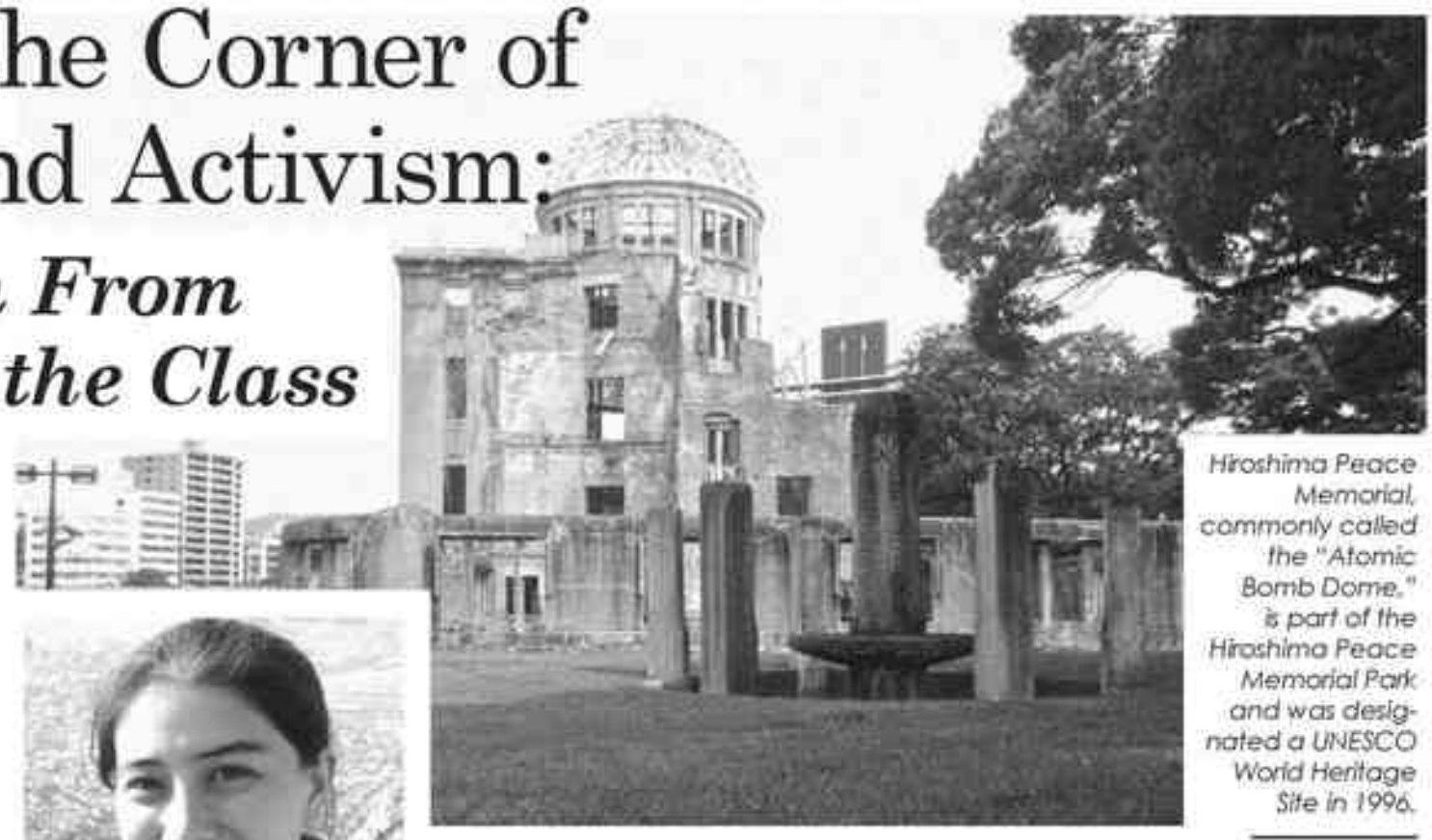


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Peace at the Corner of Apathy and Activism:

A Reflection From the Back of the Class



Hiroshima Peace Memorial, commonly called the "Atomic Bomb Dome," is part of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park and was designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1996.

By Mika Kennedy,
JACL Detroit Chapter

Mika Kennedy

It is 2003, and I am 12 years old. This year, I write a book report on "Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes" (Eleanor Coerr, 1977). I fold a lot of paper cranes.

In class we learn, briefly, about World War II. On the classroom iMac — so benignly round and colorful — we're required to take a personality quiz:

"Who would you be in Nazi Germany?"

If nothing else, I'm honest with my answers. And I am told that I am not a hero.

I'm told that while I would not have sympathized with Hitler's regime, I would take no stand against it. I'd risk nothing for my Jewish neighbors. I'd put my head in the sand, not on the chopping block.

Even at 12, I know what that means: I'm the bad guy. Maybe not in any glaring, visible way, but when it comes to human rights, authoritarianism and apathy aren't so different. But people will call for an end to authoritarianism, and fight for it. It's harder to fight apathy because the apathists never show up.

***

In 2005, I write a poem that compares spring sakura falling from trees to the flight path, in August, of several tons of uranium235 and tungsten carbide.

"Was this your grandfather?" my teacher asks, of the man in the poem.

Baffled, I tell her no. If he'd been my grandfather, my mother would never have been born. In 1945, my grandfather was a child — his age still single digits — living in Hawai'i. None of my family members were even interned; the U.S. needed the farm labor. The poem I'm writing has nothing to do with me.

***

In 2009, I'm the kid sitting in the back of American government class doing calc homework instead, busily perpetuating stereotypes that at the time seem true enough that I'm unbothered by them: Asians are good at math. Asians are a model minority. And more critically than I can yet imagine: Asian Americans lack a history of resistance.

"There is no activism in the Asian American community."

***

In 2010, I have my first brush with the JACL. David Kawamoto brings UC San Diego's Nikkei Student Union (NSU) doughnuts, welcoming us as neighbors. He comes every year and is always a welcome face. I don't need to think about the JACL beyond that until 2012, and by then, I've eaten many doughnuts.

I've been designing cultural programming for NSU for a year, from Japan-U.S. relations to the history of SPAM to internment during World War II. I've organized a Day of Remembrance and a trip to Manzanar. I've even written a historical testimonial drama from the perspective of Setsuko Uno, who was interned at Minidoka.

I've learned a lot. And I've learned that all of this actually has everything to do with me — I'm JA, I'm American, I'm a citizen of the world.

Then, Leon Kimura of the San Jose JACL asks me and my fellow Nikkei Community Intern what we know about the JACL. Her parents are both members; but that's the most we can say. (I'm too embarrassed to mention the doughnuts, which evidently I had not deserved.) So, I tell Mr. Kimura what Setsuko Uno knew of the JACL: She wasn't a fan. Eighty-three years of nationally orchestrated political activism and that's all I've got.

Mr. Kimura is forgiving.

***

In 2013, my undergraduate honors thesis focuses on John Okada's "No-No Boy." It becomes the writing sample for my graduate school applications. Apparently, the girl who privileged calculus over government class — and in 2012 made the effort to vote absentee primarily because the American School was giving out free ice cream — decided it was a good idea to get a humanities PhD.

***

In 2014, I've written another paper on "No-No Boy," navigating a literary activism I still don't understand. I'm also busily wondering why Michigan doesn't carry pickled ginger in appropriately massive quantities.

I am a long way from home, and being JA means maybe more than it ever did.

March 2014: I'm on my way back from rural West Virginia, where the well-meaning locals still call us "Orientals." I've just totaled an American car and lived to tell the tale. I've also been accepted into the pilot run of the Kakehashi Project for Japanese Americans.

By May, I'm in the sky.

But what does this have to do with peace?

We spend most of our Kakehashi itinerary visiting Japan's major Buddhist temples and Shinto shrines.

Once, a friend of mine combated the idea that religion breeds violence by pointing to the Buddhists. I wanted to tell her about the Buddhists that set themselves on fire to protest the war in Vietnam, or the 2013 riots in Myanmar, where Buddhists attacked their Muslim neighbors, and vice versa. Buddhists, like everyone else, have committed a broad spectrum of violences.

But I have no plans to set myself on fire, and I've never attended a riot, so I said nothing. (The closest I came to a riot was in 2006, when an Asian girl was assaulted by another student in the middle of choir class. I was reluctant to offer her lawyer a statement; I hadn't seen anything, I said. And it was true. It was true because I hadn't turned around.

Maybe I hadn't wanted there to be a fight. Maybe I was just glad we didn't have to sing anymore, and guilty for the reason. Whatever it was, 14-year-old me pretended nothing had happened and kept staring straight ahead. Still, the girl ended up on the ground. That much I did know.

Maybe when you're a teenage girl trying to bring a case for assault, that's all your witness needs to say: She knew you were on the ground. Maybe that's the critical difference between your justice and legal denial of your pain.

I don't remember what I wrote in my statement.

***

Being in Japan for the first time means learning as much about America as you do about Japan. I don't mean the traveler's clichés — hightech toilets and the difference between American ketchup and literally everyone else's.



Mika Kennedy's fellow Kakehashi Project participants in Japan

With Kaleidadia, I learn how capricious "JA" really is because here we are, homeboards ranging from coast to coast, our conceptions and our flash inactive and our activisms spanning all quadrants of the known 4D.

We all have our specialties. We know Japanese; we know none at all; we're familiar with the culture; or not, we know JA history; we don't. We know how the JACL works, and what it does. Some of us still don't.

For my part, I was the one who went to Tule Lake on weekends at the same time I was writing poems that "had nothing to do with me" and wove myself to tears at a DOR I organized while somehow still feeling that "he trauma" thing.

Flying to another country with these Kaleidadia JAs pulled away a lot of what we could take for granted, sameness so familiar. It made the important things stand out. That is another traveler's cliché, but we learned a lot about each other.

Spend 10 days with a person, and you'll add full dimensions to your picture of humanity.

Spend 10 days in a country and you'll learn just enough to know you need to go back.

—

March 2015, one year later. I'm buying tickets to Tokyo.

—

One month before I leave for my trip (DTW to NRT via LGA, BWI, MDW LAS, SJC and LAX, because when you visit Japan, you learn a lot about American airports as you learn about Japan). I attend the JACL National Convention in Las Vegas.

At this point, I've been a disappointing member of the Detroit Chapter of JACL for only nine months. I know that one mostly because I joined the day Aura Rosen was shot and killed in Ann Arbor, Mich., one of the too many deaths now named by #BlackLivesMatter.

I'd meant to join when I moved to Michigan, having been viciously displaced from the pan-Asian community that comprised my daily reality back in California. I'd meant to join when I applied to the Kaleidadia Project last year, when I returned home from it. I'd meant it a lot of times. But when I walked off that plane, I knew that this time, I was not going to repeat. After all, Las Vegas is my least favorite city in the world.

What I mean is, this time I knew why I'm here. To help end the kinds of reactive people shootings here to make. I am in Las Vegas for Aura Rosen. For sexual equality (because JACL was the first non-LGBTQ civil rights organization to openly support gay marriage, a fact so prominent even my cohorts have known it). For segregation. For Asian American census data. For Hanapbibili. For a just immigration policy. For Native Hawaiian recognition, which, in spite of Hawai'i's history of Asian settler-colonialism and the vicious racial politics that attend it, doesn't seem at all like a strange irony for the JACL. It's 2015.

However long or short our histories — national, organizational or personal — they are always about change.

It's why we can still talk about peace even knowing what we did during World War II.

Seventy years ago, we, the United States, deployed the only atomic weapons to ever be deployed for military purposes. We issued Executive Order 9066. We followed it, we refused it, we did much else besides. We Japan — the part of us that can always count the Pacific — performed no better. War crimes in Manila — in China, Korea. We today dropped on bombs and pulled no triggers; there were did not touch our hands, but we remain responsible to them. We are responsible to our histories.

It's why I'm here. Island over the pavement in Las Vegas, even though I left my hypothetical lunch neighbor back in Germany in 1945.

—

PEACE IS NOT:

1. Ignorance
2. Complacency
3. Responsibility politics

Peace is not an outward absence of violence. It is not permission to "go switch" — to refrain to train, unread and see a fight. Peace is not something you can silent, like a class clue or a cultural championship. It gets avoided for.

Peace is not a static confection, harboring but empty in the middle. Peacemaker and peace daughter and two words optimistic are don't bother finding a lot of all they do right through the hole, preventing other people's hope from doing that. They can be elevated without work. Go ahead and eat the doughnut, it's not be an oasis. But know that it was given to you with more hopes for you than that.

Peace is also not respectability politics. It's not shushing and shaming people screaming their hurt, marching their pain, their fear, expressing their fury. We live in an unfortunate world where sometimes the only rightful response is fury. To silence that, without listening to what that fury's all about, is not the same thing as keeping the peace. It's what keeps us from peace.

—

In Las Vegas, I reunite with some of my Kaleidadia friends and make a new one. He's probably the coolest person I've ever met. For part one weekend, I listen to fantastic glossaries. I learn a lot about voter registration. How to perform it on a large scale, what kinds of the traits you need to know. Where things can go wrong. We want the Asian American vote to be something that commands attention. Something the outer presence of which turns politicians' heads. We want to be heard. More than that, we want everyone to be heard. So, start your hotlines and get out there!

But here's one thing I already know: I will never participate in a voter registration hotline, or any other kind of hotline. I won't be going door to door. That's not me.

—

But what about peace? What about civil liberties? What about justice?

—

I'm not the best guy. It's 2015, and I think I can forgive my 12-year-old self. I can walk beyond that shame.

Histories, after all, are about change.

When the representatives for H.R.40 walk to the mic, deliver eloquently their proposal and confidently respond to all queries, I know that will never be me. That's not who I am. But I also know that I believe in the resolution. If I were a delegate, I'd vote for it — and I'd mean it, even if there weren't time for remix contrived. When I see those green stone go up on the site, I believe in that and am committed. And to feel that — that's a kind of activism, borne out of the depths of apathy.

And, maybe that's something I've learned along. It's not that I didn't believe all my schooling, my research, my writing, to assist that goal. It's not that it was all a lie. I haven't spoken about where I fit in, and I'll learn fully seriously engaged by guilt, impostor syndrome, apathy by dint of insecurity and fear.

—

August 2015. I'm in Japan again. I'm not here to Eat, Pray, Love anything. Honestly, I'm on vacation. I'm here for cabin and ocean, and probably a lot of manga. Once. I'm here with friends and to see the friends who moved here. Most of us have been to Manzanar together, had breakfast sessions at Manzanar After Dark. Danced silent to the ruins and paid homage to a monument bedecked by the rainbows of Origamis and thousands of cranes.

Here in Japan, August marks the 70th anniversary of the atomic blasts that devastated Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

No, let's not think culpability.

August 2015 marks 70 years since the United States dropped Little Boy and Fat Man, and sent the nuclear arms race into a frenzy that still threatens global unrest and mistrust even to this day. It's not just here in Japan.

My friends and I walk the halls of the museum in Hiroshima. There is one wall about the bombs and a hundred more stories that belong to the victims — there are so many more than will never be told. The park outside is lush and now too quiet, marked by heavy bicycle traffic the teeming lively city of Hiroshima 2015, and for some reason, even paid no heed to it's running.

There isn't reason of untenable pasts or presents.

It's also not paralysis. If it's a practice, don't make me fight for anything? Peace is knowing where you fit and what you can do to pay it forward, bring peace to those who do not have it yet. My P.S. a verbal — an anathema.

While there are moments when since was the activist frontlines, I made my best contributions through teaching. I see my past self in my students, and I've learned how to pull away what we take for granted, become as familiar — here to trace my footprints until a space of learning maintains from my past. I've seen it done.

At the Children's Peace Monument — a place I've visited since I was 12 years old, going that book report — I told you, and once, and she told I love you. Do this.



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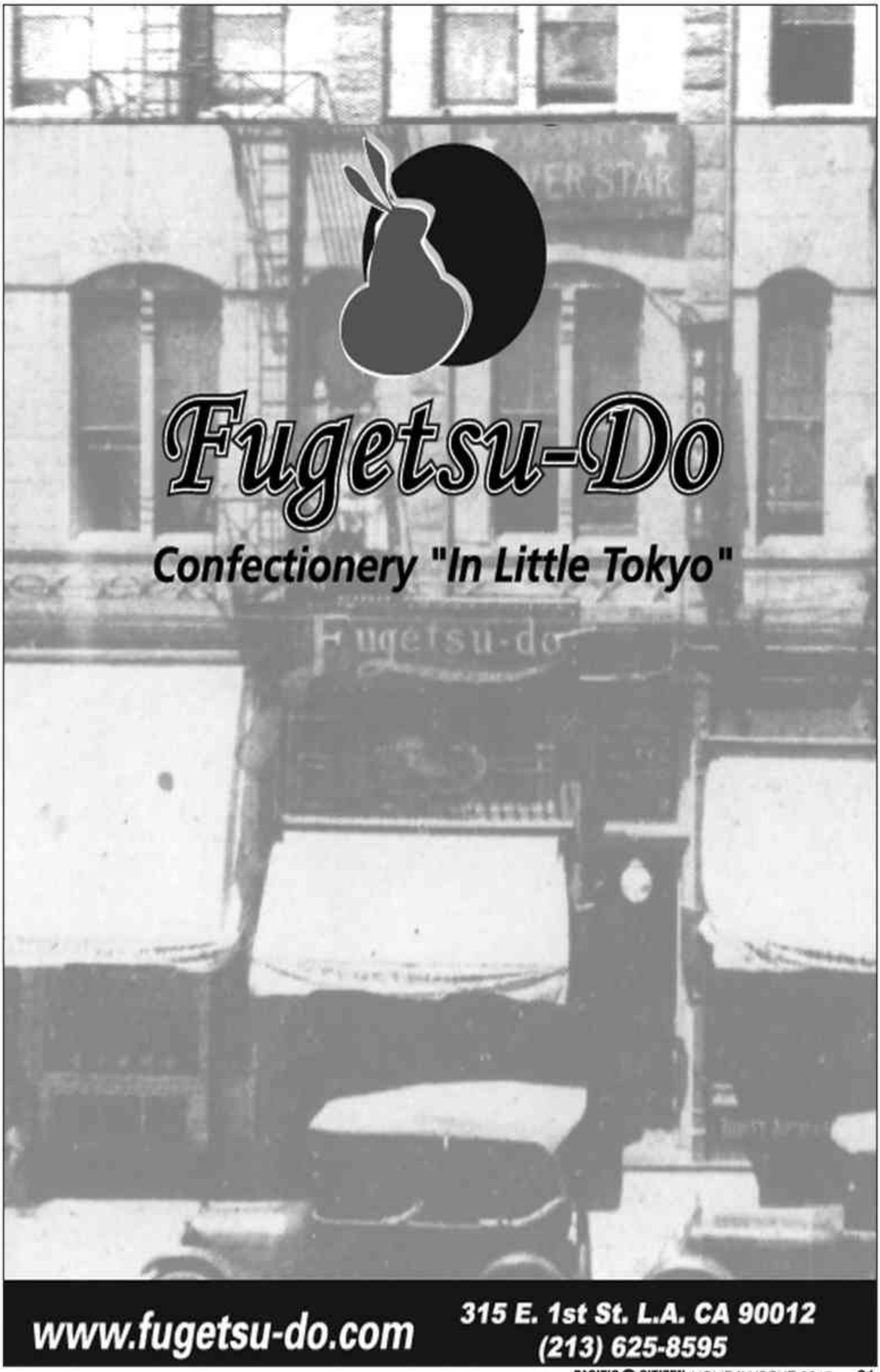
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Peacetime

When Tim Nishimoto and the Murakami family were finally released from wartime confinement and exile, were their homecomings what they longed for? Were those occasions harmonious, or even cordial? Did they feel secure?



Keiko Mary Kitagawa's graduation photo from the University of Toronto



Tom Shoyama Display for Nikkei Place Community Awards Dinner 2015



A map of the Hood River area



Richard Murakami put trailers and abandoned cars on his property for the homeless to seek refuge in.

By Diana Morita Cole, Contributor

Two months after the Japanese surrendered to the Allies at the end of World War II, Tim Nishimoto, a country chum of my siblings' past, was released from Heart Mountain prison camp. He returned with his family to live in his former home in Oregon's Hood River Valley, where my brothers and sisters were born.

This he did amidst all the cheering and celebrating going on across the land because after many years of open warfare in Europe and in the Pacific, it was now, according to the press and our politicians at least, "peacetime" once again.

But was it?

In October 1945, Tim received a homecoming he hadn't expected. As he explained it, "Once I was back at Odell High School, no one would speak to me, not even the students who knew me before we left — before the soldiers took us away and imprisoned us simply because of the way we looked.

"Maybe my old friends felt guilty," he continued. "I don't know. But now my father had to sell his produce through the Apple Growers Assn. … to hide our identity. And we had to travel all the way to the Dalles to shop because no proprietor in Hood River would sell to us. When we were in Heart Mountain, at least we were among friends."

Being able to live among friends. Being able to live quiet, peaceful lives. Being able to live in communities where everyone gets along, where everyone is kind to one another, and no one has to worry about drones flying overhead or the secret police, or the FBI pounding on doors at night, hauling people off to desolate destinations known only to the authorities.

It is this image of tranquility many of us imagine when we think about what the word "peacetime" *should* mean. But unfortunately, for far too many, Tim's experience is the more familiar one.

Yet, as bad as it was for Tim in Hood River, what the Murakami family of Salt Spring Island endured was tenfold worse. They had to wait for the provincial ban against the Nikkei to be lifted in 1949 and then an additional five years before they had enough money to return to British Columbia because they had been driven in destitution.

They returned to the island, hoping to recapture the life they once knew by settling into the house that Katsuyori Murakami had built before the war. But instead, to their shock, they learned their home had been confiscated and sold off by the provincial government without their permission during their expulsion to Alberta.

Forced to buy another house on marginal land, which they had to drain and develop, the Murakami family was soon accosted by the Arch Deacon of the Anglican Church, who advised them against returning to the fold because he didn't wish to worship in the company of evil people like them. And this happened at the church the family had helped build and where their children had been baptized.

As well as not being allowed to worship freely with her neighbors, Kimiko Murakami's daughter, Mary, was forced "off island" to find a teaching job because she was told, "No Jap is going to teach our children!"

And when Mary's brother, Richard, began his auto repair shop on Salt Spring Island in 1959, "No Parking" signs were deliberately posted outside his shop on Rainbow Road to interfere with his livelihood.

People in Canada often tell me the expulsion of the Nikkei from the West Coast of British Columbia was the unavoidable result of war, and some may actually believe that this expedient rationale erases every horror and injustice that was visited upon Japanese Canadians, who were badly mistreated by their government.

The Canadian government not only unjustly imprisoned them and sold off their properties without their consent, but it also even forced Japanese Canadians to pay for their own captivity — this in defiance of the Geneva Protocols of War.

Lately, I am sometimes surprised by my disinterest in responding to those who desperately wish to explain away the guilt they feel. And when I am silent, I sense their unease.

It's not as though I'm at a loss for words. I could, for example, ask why, then, were the Issei, some of whom were naturalized British subjects at the time, and the Nisei, born in Canada, denied the franchise to vote by the passage of the BC Provincial Elections Act in 1895?

And why was Tom Shoyama, who had obtained a degree in economics and finance while working at a pulp and paper mill to pay for his tuition, forced back to work at the mill because he was unable to find a job as a chartered accountant — a role he was eminently suited to fill?

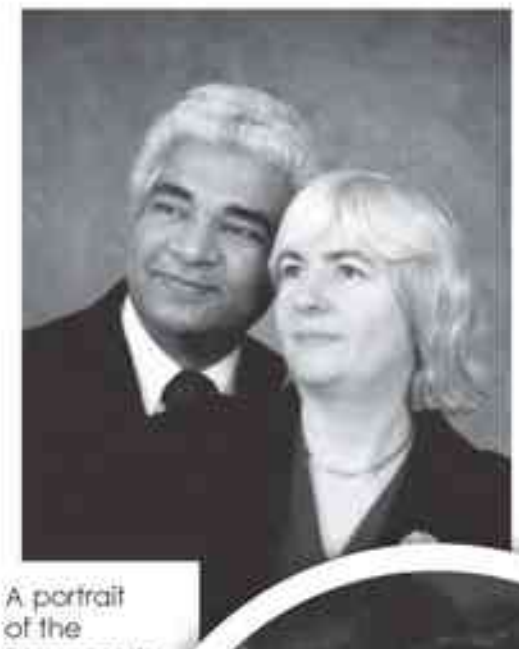
These acts of discrimination took place well before Canada declared war on Japan in 1941, which, incidentally, was not declared through a vote of Parliament, but rather by an autocratic Order-In-Council — despite the fact that Canada hadn't been attacked.

For some, it might be hard to believe that Shoyama, now considered the architect of Medicare in Canada and recipient of the Order of Canada, had to endure such bigotry.

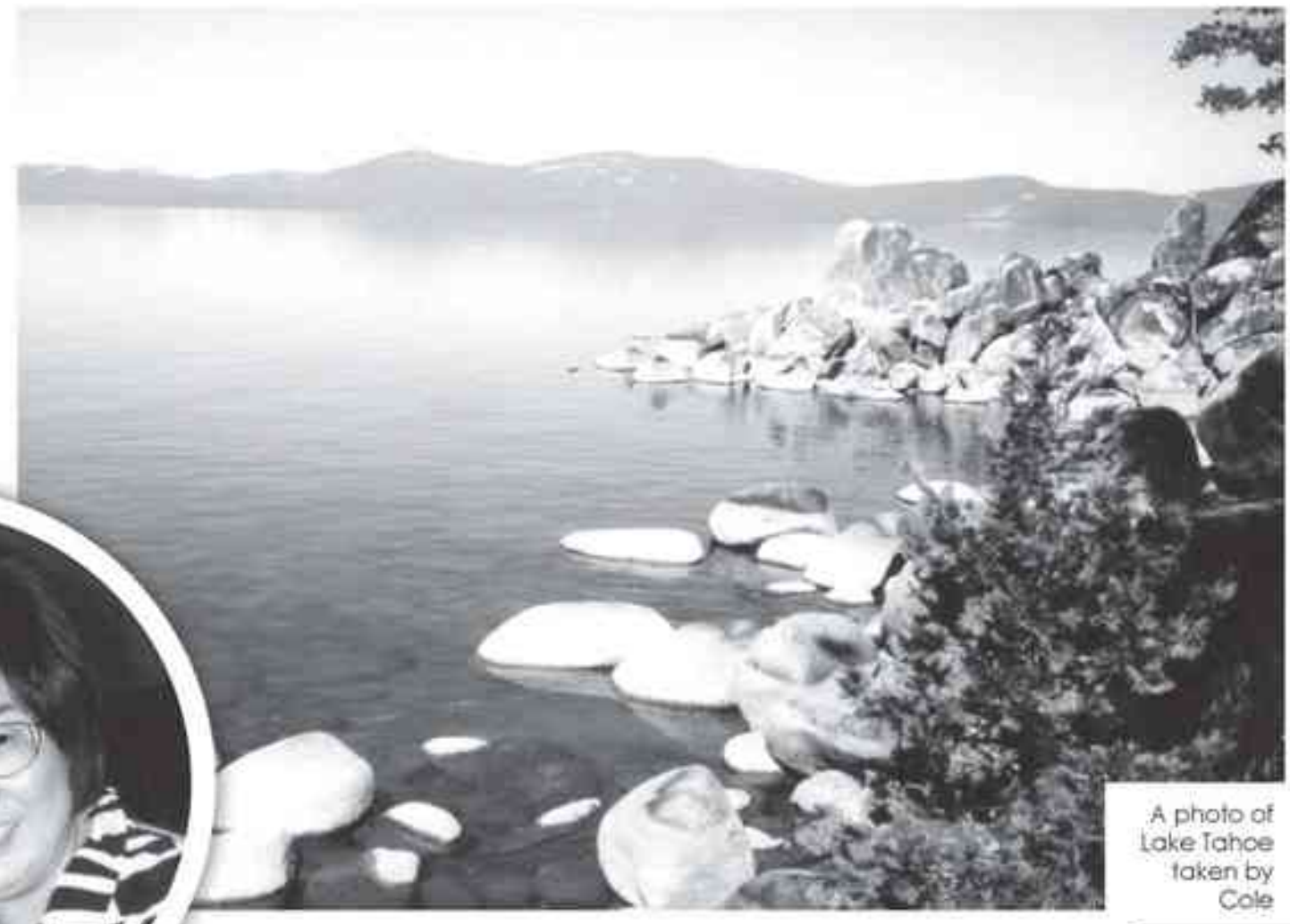
But it happened. And these hypothetical responses of mine don't begin to include all that they could — like pointing to the white labor riots of 1907 in Vancouver's Japantown and Chinatown, or the anti-Asian legislation that barred the Chinese, Japanese and Sikhs from trespassing into the bastions of Northern European privilege in Canada and in the U.S.

Yes, we call it "peacetime," but is it, really?

After having learned to practice hate, we humans often find it difficult to replace the primitive urge to destroy "the other" with benevolent feelings of love and compassion.



A portrait of the Bramadat's



A photo of Lake Tahoe taken by Cole



Diana Cole and a fellow delegate at the Physicians for Social Responsibility Landmine Conference

The sad fact is that seldom following the cessation of formal hostilities between countries can those who were cruelly relegated to the margins of society before and during the war expect to capture the regard they never enjoyed in the first place. It takes more than a declaration of peace to create a just society, especially for those practiced in warfare and whose ruling classes stay rich by creating and selling weapons of mass destruction.

Are we really afraid of conflict and violence? Or do we prefer the call to battle because we fear more the responsibilities of peace: ensuring the thoughtful, responsible and ethical care of our neighbors, friends, countrymen and for everyone else on this Earth?

When a group of Neo-Nazis burned a cross on Hitler's birthday on the outskirts of London, Ontario, in the mid-1990s, the minister of the local Unitarian Fellowship, Jane Bramadat, married to Angus Bramadat, a Trinidadian of East Indian descent, decided to form an association of like-minded biracial couples in response to this outrage. It became a club. The Seventh World met in the basement of my house and outlined a strategy to combat racism in society.

We shared stories of discrimination our children had endured and together decided to institute an essay-writing contest in the schools, which asked each student to imagine what it would be like to be prevented from using the school drinking fountain because he or she was the only blue-eyed student in the class. The specific ethical dilemmas we asked the children to tackle changed from year to year, but the theme remained the same, "How does it feel to be despised because you look different?"

Eventually, our outreach was embraced by the London Multicultural Youth Society, which volunteered to take on the task of administering the contest on a yearly basis, and the essays of the winners began to decorate the walls of city hall for the public to admire each spring. This strategy to combat racism spread throughout other school districts in southwestern Ontario.

In 1999, my husband and I moved to Incline Village, Nevada, on the shining shores of Lake Tahoe, where my husband worked as the library director for Sierra Nevada College. Two years later, I was asked to represent Nevada at the Physicians for Social Responsibility Conference on Landmines, which convened in Washington, D.C.

It was at this conference that a young man from Serbia-Croatia told me he was afraid to walk outside his home, afraid to put one foot in front of the other because he didn't know whether the pressure of his next step might set off a "toe-popper" that was lying in wait just beneath the ground in front of him.

I also learned about African mothers who felt compelled to tie their children to trees while they tended their crops in order to keep their offspring safe from landmines that were now scattered throughout their fields.

And then finally, I watched a film that documented the bravery of men and women risking their lives to demine large tracts of land in Vietnam.

Why aren't these stories reported on CNN? Why aren't they included in our history books? Maybe we should focus less on which side won which battle and more on the experiences of those mothers in Africa, the children burned by napalm and the other less-visible consequences of harm brought about by the hate and economic opportunism that control our world.

For these stories hold more of the truth about who we are and tell us more about what we, as human beings, could do to make our brave new world a good one. Indeed, these are the stories that deserve our attention, merit our discussion, deserve to be documented and understood.

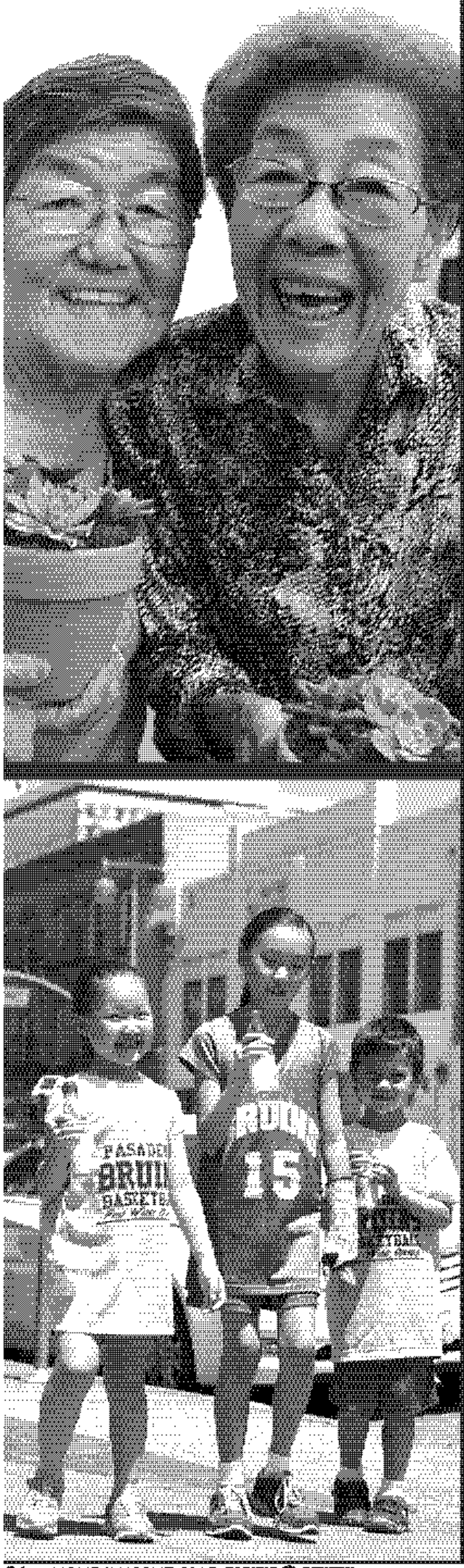
This holiday season as we look forward to the new year, perhaps we could find time to ponder these tales and find in them inspiration to create sound institutional structures that would allow us to live calm, productive lives in a world that values multiplicities, respect and safety, a world that allows everyone to live in a real "peacetime" — one we could sustain far longer than the brief lulls between the centuries of wars that have been our inheritance.

And maybe we could come to understand that what we do to one another, as individuals and as nations, affects everyone and everything on this big blue marble of ours.



(From left) Sen. Harry Reid, Diana Cole and Sen. John Ensign lobbied together to influence Congress to sign on the Ottawa Landmine Treaty.

Diana Morita Cole, a former JACL scholarship winner, is the author of "Sideways: Memoir of a Misfit," a story about Cole's birth behind barbed wires in Minidoka and her family's subsequent struggle to establish a home in Chicago. She is a recipient of the Columbia Basin Trust and Columbia Kootenay Cultural Alliance grant. Cole lives in Nelson, British Columbia. Copies of her memoir can be ordered by emailing diana@diasporapress.net.



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Little Tokyo Service Center

LTSC has been making positive change for the people and places of Little Tokyo and the broader Nikkei community in Southern California for more than 35 years. We provide seniors and low-income families with culturally sensitive high quality social service care, we strengthen neighborhoods through responsible housing and community development projects, and we promote the rich history of our ethnic community through sustainability initiatives so that future generations can call Little Tokyo their home.

www.ltsc.org

2015 APA NEWS ROUNDUP

As 2015 draws to a close, the *Pacific Citizen* staff looks back at the news headlines that impacted the Asian Pacific American community.

This year marked the 50th anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery Freedom Marches, Japanese American voices were heard as Rago Arts and Auction removed the sale of the largest collection of American concentration camp art, Japan Prime Minister Shinzo Abe made a historic U.S. visit, a grass-roots effort put an indefinite hold on industrial-scale solar projects threatening Manzanar and the Owens Valley and Honouliuli Internment Camp was designated as a National Historic Monument — and the JACL participated in them all.

Even the *P.C.* made headlines, as the JACL National Board's decision to cease print production in 2016 of the 86-year-old newspaper in favor of an all-digital format was reversed on Nov. 23.

In recent news, the horrific terrorist attacks in France and on U.S. soil in San Bernardino, Calif., have brought to the forefront Islamophobic and anti-immigrant rhetoric directed at the Muslim and Arab communities. In a statement released by the JACL on Dec. 9, "We expect the nation's leader to uphold our nation's values and ideals. These statements are guilty of the same mistakes that led to one of the most shameful episodes in U.S. history, one that destroyed livelihoods, entire communities and an ethnic culture," said JACL Executive Director Priscilla Ouchida. "Leaders should not emulate the lowest points of our history, but strive to provide direction that reflects the best of our democracy.

"JACL reiterates the need to defend the country's values and ideals during times of crisis, even when the nation is threatened. The organization continues to support the president's policy to admit Syrian refugees and to administer the nation's policies without discrimination based on race, nationality, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age or physical characteristics."

In our 86th year, the *P.C.* is proud to continue to deliver news that impacts all Americans.



PACIFIC CITIZEN TO REMAIN IN PRINT

After careful consideration of its membership needs and concerns, the JACL National Board voted on Nov. 23 to reverse its October decision to transition the *P.C.* to an all-digital publication starting in March 2016.

For the foreseeable future, the *P.C.* will offer members and nonmember subscribers the choice of receiving the *P.C.* in print via mail delivery or through email with an attached link for the PDF file issues. A direct mail letter will be sent to all readers requesting their preference of how they would like to receive the *P.C.*

The JACL National Board convened on Nov. 23 to respond to numerous questions and concerns raised by its districts, chapters and members regarding its October decision.

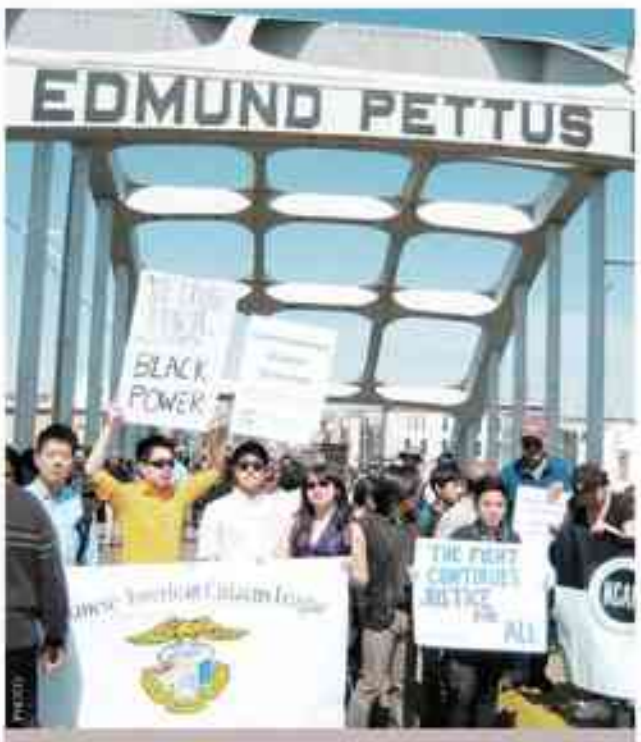


SMITHSONIAN AND JACL CELEBRATE DAY OF REMEMBRANCE IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

The Smithsonian National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C., the JACL and the Smithsonian Institution joined together for its annual Day of Remembrance on Feb. 19, an event that also kick-started the 2017 museum exhibit and the 75th anniversary of E.O. 9066.

The program also included a screening of the Emmy Award-winning documentary "The Legacy of Heart Mountain," and guests were given the opportunity to preview artifacts for the 2017 E.O. 9066 exhibit, which aims to capture the Japanese American camp experience and share the stories and voices behind the camp walls.

"The program, like many held across the nation, opened the door to educating a new generation about what Americanism means even at a time when the rights of citizens was sorely tested," said JACL Executive Director Priscilla Ouchida. "The prominence of the Smithsonian elevates the message — a message that is key to protecting the rights of future generations."



TODD ENDO AND THE JACL PARTICIPATE IN THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FREEDOM MARCHES

Marchers convened in Selma, Ala., in March to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Selma bridge crossing. Among them were Todd Endo, who participated in the Freedom Marches in 1965, and the JACL.

The jubilee included a variety of programming, including a speech by President Barack Obama and a walk across the famed Edmund Pettus Bridge.

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. Now 50 years later, Endo believes that a unified community is still of utmost importance.

"It was a very friendly crowd and purposeful, the idea of working across lines, whether it was race or ethnicity or age," said Endo.



JAPANESE AMERICAN OUTCRY PULLS AUCTION OFF THE TABLE

Thanks to more than 7,000 people online, the battle over removing the largest collection of American concentration camp art ended as the consignor and Rago Arts and Auction withdrew the sale of the items on April 15.

The collection, which was owned by John Ryan and assembled by crafts expert and historian Allen Hendershott Eaton, consisted of some 450 photographs and handmade artifacts representing a painful period in American history. As news of the largest private WWII Japanese American incarceration camp art collection surfaced, outcry over the auction sale was sparked by Asian American groups across the country.

The collection was withdrawn after George Takei contacted Rago Auction during its open house event, calling for the removal of the sale. Takei confirmed the halted auction on the "Japanese American History: NOT for Sale" Facebook page.

On May 4, the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles announced that it had acquired the collection.

>> See *ROUNDUP* on page 38



Keiro held a community hearing at Nishi Temple to address the community's growing concern.

Giving Change

As Keiro Healthcare sells its facilities, a community struggles to define what is best for its seniors.

By Tiffany Ujiiye, Assistant Editor

'Once there was a tree . . . and she loved a little boy.' — Shel Silverstein's 'The Giving Tree'

Published in 1964, Shel Silverstein's children's book was wildly unpopular amongst mothers and some critics. At the time of its release, Americans were watching the Civil Rights Act of 1964 unfold, and President Lyndon B. Johnson was submitting the "War on Poverty" initiative to Congress, which would later help establish federal programs such as Medicare and Medicaid. To put it simply, the era was marked by incredible change.

For those unfamiliar with the story, a boy and a tree meet and begin a lifelong journey together. As the boy matures, the tree provides him shade, fruit and lumber at his request. In doing so, the tree is happy but is reduced to a stump. When the boy returns as an old man, he tells the stump that he is tired, at which she apologizes for having nothing left. The 52-page story ends with the stump offering him a seat to rest on. "And the tree was happy."

Never once did he thank her, and never once did she deny his requests.

It's a dark tale that made me scratch my head, wondering, "Is this what I am to my parents?" Was I the child that would take from their life and was there nothing I could do to pay them back? And while my parents aren't seniors yet, I can't help but wonder what will happen to them when they become stumps.

Watching the sale of Keiro Senior Healthcare over the past several months, an entire forest of parents, grandparents and wise trees are facing yet again more change, and it has reminded me of Silverstein's book.

In March 2010, President Barack Obama signed the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), or what most people call "Obamacare." Without too much oversimplification, the plan brought around new industry rules with the intention of making health care more affordable to everyone.

To make light of how thick Obamacare is, it's roughly 300,000-400,000 words long, depending on which version you have in hand. Because while it's still shorter than Leo Tolstoy's "War and Peace," which boasts 587,287 words, professionals and experts continually discuss and debate over how the plan really operates.

Like any literary class, no one can agree, and everyone has something to say. So, therefore, I, even after pouring over pages on pages of facts, figures and graphs surrounding Obamacare, can't scratch the surface of its complexity. Each interpretation looks at the relationships between hospitals, physicians, nursing homes, community service providers, drug administrators, insurance companies and even makes McDonald's display how many calories are in its meals so people can make healthier choices.

Oversimplified? Maybe.

But for Keiro Healthcare, it's a web of complications and an opportunity for miscommunication. To interpret the behemoth reform and then translate it to Japanese while keeping it simple and digestible is close to impossible.

Keiro Senior Healthcare President and CEO Shawn Miyake explained patiently to me how Keiro "is a symptom of a larger problem." By this, he means *change* is the problem. It's a word everyone from the doctors, concerned community leaders, the Ad Hoc committee charged with attempting to stop the sale to residents living in Keiro's facilities uses. Change, change and more change.

Miyake and Keiro's Board of Directors have studied the evolving needs of the Japanese American community. Keiro's staff and board convened at a Healthy Aging Summit in 2011, discussing the range of options available for Keiro to sustain its culturally sensitive care. Groups like the University of South California Davis School of Gerontology and the Japan Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare were among the partners.

"The Japanese American community is facing a great deal of change, not just Keiro," Miyake said. "There are multiracial families that are diversifying the population of Japanese Americans in Southern California. That along with an evolving health care landscape brings a lot of uncertainty and made the decision to sell difficult."

Over the past decade, Japanese American organizations such as Nisei Week and the local basketball leagues have changed their qualifications for who can participate based on ethnic background. The traditional Japanese American family is expanding, and like Miyake said, "That's not a bad thing."

The sale will open opportunities for Keiro's Genki Living Program to combat the community's growing concern about how to prepare families for caregiving and senior loneliness, as well as many other issues.

"Keiro's mission has always been to enhance the quality of senior life in our community," Miyake explained. "After our extensive look into those changes, the decision was made to find a buyer."

Miyake explained that it wasn't just any buyer. Pacifica Companies, a private California-based company, has proved with their other facilities that it continues to uphold services to the highest community standards.

Pacifica's Garden Grove location is dedicated to the Vietnamese American community and offers traditional menus with noodles and other cultural programming.

The sale is now expected to close escrow in early 2016 and comes with a list of 12 conditions outlined on Keiro's website. Conditions include keeping current rents at the retirement home for another year and operate the facilities with the same cultural sensitivity in regards to menus, TV programming, activities, observance of Japanese holidays and library resources. The creation of a Community Advisory Board is also in the works to provide Pacifica community input on the facilities' services and care.

However, the conditions will lift after five years, at which Pacifica can do as it pleases.

But in good faith, Miyake along with the Board of Directors feels that Pacifica will adhere and respect the Japanese American community's standard of care.

In good faith is the problem for the Ad Hoc Committee named SaveKeiro. The group challenges Keiro's claim on a diversifying community, the financial impact of Obamacare and even the price of which Keiro will be sold: $41 million.

Ad Hoc Committee organizer and member Jon Kaji weighed in on Keiro's transparency during the sale.

"Is there an assumption by Keiro leadership that a senior care operator from outside of our community can do a better job of taking our senior citizens? Had Keiro leadership exhausted every possible option before choosing, what many believe, is a step taken only if the corporation is on the verge of bankruptcy?" wrote Kaji in an editorial column.

However, Kaji pointed out something outside the economical and political reasons around the sale. He examined if the sale met "the moral and ethical obligations owed to the Keiro residents and family members."

I would later ask him if this is what the disagreement over Keiro's sale really boiled down to.

"Of course, it's not that simple," Kaji told me, "but a generation that was dedicated to helping one another after the camps and a community that pulled together during hardships deserves an answer. Keiro was founded for that generation and the Japanese American community."

Which is true. Keiro was founded in 1961 by a group of community leaders that wanted to create a culturally sensitive environment for their seniors to call home. It first began with hospital care and would later expand into senior care and eventually a retirement home as the needs expanded.

The mission has stayed the same: enhancing the quality of senior life in the community. As it reads, "Keiro is an extension of family, enriching the lives of seniors with supportive, culturally-sensitive services and promoting healthy 'genki living' in our community."

And so even with all of the future challenges and changes, even the last living founder of Keiro, Frank Omatsu, says, "It's not right."

But for Keiro Retirement Home resident Paul Imahara, Keiro's decision was neither right nor wrong.

"It's OK," he laughed at his own unsatisfactory answer to the morality of Keiro's sale.

I met Paul after sending several letters to residents asking them about the sale. I don't know anyone that is actually in the Keiro Healthcare system, but Paul stepped forward in a response to my letter, and we met for a couple weeks.

"People are upset about the sale, sure," he told me on a beach outside of Keiro's Boyle Heights facility, which sits above the 101 freeway, looking out toward Downtown Los Angeles' skyline.

"People don't like change," he said. "Even I don't like change, but change is always happening." Imahara has lived at the retirement home for a little over two years and while others have lived there much longer, he doesn't consider himself new either.

I would ask him in several different ways to explain to me what others like him were thinking and feeling about the sale. Were they concerned if after five years Pacifica didn't uphold their agreement? Was he personally worried about his quality of life as a senior? Is this change bad?

What I found was that asking an incredibly Buddhist senior whether or not something was good or bad lead to a heavy life lesson. It turned into another head scratcher for me. In fact, he just asked my questions back: "Is anything really good or bad?"

Imahara is 80 years old and very much aware of what is going on within his retirement home and the Japanese American community in Los Angeles. He entered the facility around the same time Keiro began searching for buyers. In honesty, he'll tell you he has read the articles, sat in the meetings and doesn't understand Obamacare — or care for that matter.

He attends weekly essay workshops, takes pottery lessons, teaches Sunday class at Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple in Little Tokyo, tries to walk two miles in the morning and two miles after dinner. I have to call in advance or email him to schedule meet ups because his calendar is robust and busy.

"I would say I'm pretty happy at Keiro," said Imahara, his smile incredibly warm and assuring. "I can see the frustration and concern from people outside," and he draws a long pause before telling me that "rooms are empty here. If people really needed the retirement home, then why are there empty rooms?"

He took me to the dining hall where he treated me to lunch with other retirement home seniors. At the table, he pointed to a bulletin board on the wall. Marked by a blank paper were the empty seats available for lunch that day. There were about a dozen or so place cards with no faces and names.

If the need for Keiro as is was so great, then why were there empty seats at lunch that day?

I asked him how Keiro showed that it cared about him, and he laughed, "I do my part to attend Keiro's classes and programs. I keep myself busy, but you can't make people participate like you can't make people live in the retirement home. If they didn't care, I wouldn't have a chance to be busy."

Before living at Keiro, Imahara's life was anything but a calendar filled with enjoyable activities. Imahara, his parents, David and Mitsue Imahara, and siblings were incarcerated at Tule Lake during World War II. In 1946, the family moved to Hiroshima, Japan, to live with Mitsue Imahara's family.

David Imahara was enraged that as an American citizen, he was incarcerated. A few months before E.O. 9066 was signed, he had purchased a home and property for his young family. Things were finally turning around for the Imahara's until they were uprooted like many of the 120,000 Japanese Americans during that time. It made things bitter and even dark for the family.

As a kid, Paul Imahara was called the American devil, and growing up impoverished in Hiroshima post-WWII was "difficult" as he would describe it. He wouldn't elaborate any more.

He eventually married his high school sweetheart, Kazuko. He and Kazuko met in Hiroshima and after Paul enlisted, he brought Kazuko to Tacoma, Wash., where they raised three children at a young age. After his service, he went to college to earn a degree and find a better job. He did his best to care for his family and was even a gardener for a short time, eating his lunch on a curb with a lawnmower as company.

"I knew having an office job would make more money," he said. "I wanted to provide; I had an ego, too."

Over the years, he opened his own business, bought a house and sent his children to the University of Southern California, which "was not so inexpensive. I was scared to death the day I personally took a check to campus. I wondered if I could send all three, but I did."

All in all, Paul Imahara knew a thing or two about caring, but in 2007, Kazuko suffered a severe stroke, leaving her disabled.

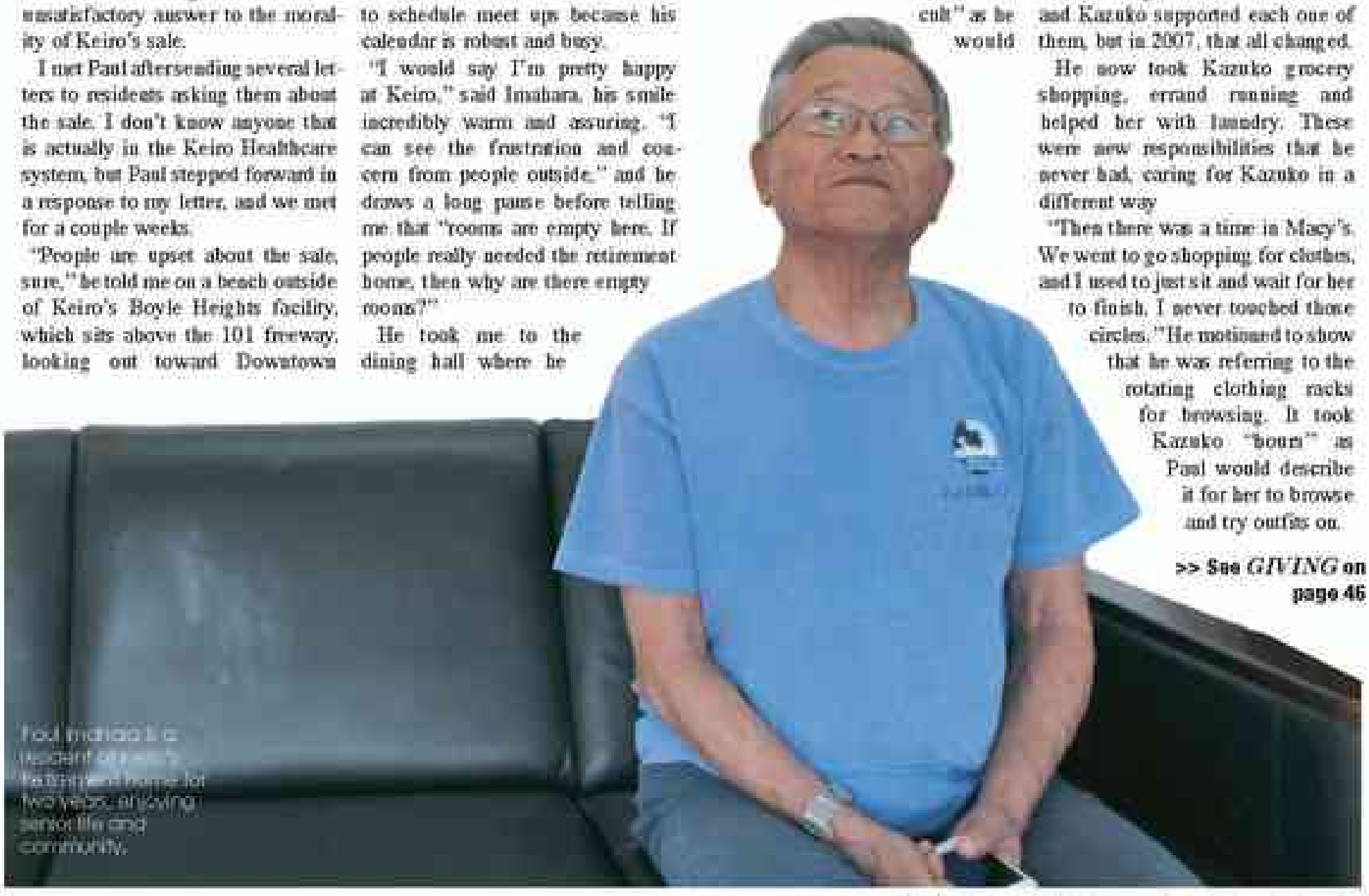
"At first, I wondered who was going to take care of me now?" he pointed to himself and looked at me. "For the first time in our marriage, I realized how selfish I was." By selfish, he went on to explain that while he did everything that a father and husband should do to care for his family, this new caregiving role was eye-opening.

"I made her take care of me for our entire marriage, and now I had to take care of her," he said. Early in their marriage, Paul called the shots and Kazuko supported each one of them, but in 2007, that all changed.

He now took Kazuko grocery shopping, errand running and helped her with laundry. These were new responsibilities that he never had, caring for Kazuko in a different way.

"There was a time in Macy's. We went to go shopping for clothes, and I used to just sit and wait for her to finish. I never touched those circles." He motioned to show that he was referring to the rotating clothing racks for browsing. It took Kazuko "hours" as Paul would describe it for her to browse and try outfits on.

>> See *GIVING* on page 46



Paul Imahara is a resident at Keiro's retirement home for two years, finding senior life and community.

ROUNDUP >> continued from page 35

PRIME MINISTER SHINZO ABE MAKES A HISTORIC VISIT TO THE U.S.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and his wife, Akie, arrived in Washington, D.C., on April 28 for their historic visit to the U.S. Dozens of JACL members were invited by the White House to attend the official State Arrival Ceremony for the prime minister on the South Lawn of the presidential residence.

At the ceremony, President Barack Obama remarked that the prime minister's visit was a celebration of "the ties of friendship that bind our peoples."

During his trip, Abe also made an address to a joint session of the U.S. Congress, the first by a leader from Japan, as well as met with a number of JACL members in Boston, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Washington, D.C.





HONOULIULI NAMED A NATIONAL MONUMENT

U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell joined state officials, community leaders and volunteers on March 31 in Honolulu to dedicate the Honouliuli National Monument, site of the largest and longest-used confinement site in Hawaii for Japanese American citizens, resident immigrants and prisoners of war during World War II.

The 155-acre site, located in the Kunia gulch near Pearl Harbor, opened in March 1943. In the years following the war, the area became mostly forgotten. However, after years of collaborative efforts by the public and private community partners including the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii and the Honolulu JACL, President Barack Obama established the new monument, which is now part of the National Park System. The site will be managed by the NPS.


Ronin Shimizu

SHIMIZU FAMILY SETTLES CLAIM AGAINST SCHOOL DISTRICT

The family of Ronin Shimizu accepted a $1 million settlement from the Folsom/Cordova Unified School District on Sept. 3 for the failure to protect their son from pervasive bullying, which led him to commit suicide at age 12 on Dec. 3, 2014.

School bullies targeted Shimizu with anti-gay attacks for being a male cheerleader, his creative interests and just for being who he was. Shimizu was the longtime target of physical and psychological bullying, which continued even after he changed school. His parents eventually were led to initiate home schooling.

Following Shimizu's death, District Superintendent Deborah Bettancourt expressed her condolences and outlined changes she and the district had implemented following the tragedy.

The Shimizu family has founded the organization Ronin's Voice, which they hope will provide support and assistance to victims of bullying.



FOUR KEIRO FACILITIES SET TO BE SOLD FOR $41 MILLION TO PACIFICA COMPANIES

In October, it was officially announced that four Keiro facilities — Keiro Retirement Home and Keiro Intermediate Care Facility in Boyle Heights, Keiro Nursing Home in Lincoln Heights and South Bay Keiro Nursing Home in Gardena, Calif. — would be sold to Pacifica Companies for $41 million; escrow is set to close early next year.

In November, an official letter was submitted to California Attorney General Kamala Harris by 16 members of California's Congress, requesting that the sale be postponed for a public hearing.

Harris approved the sale on Sept. 2. Keiro waived a public hearing on the sale, thereby blocking the community and the facilities' residents and families from voicing their opinions.

Conditions of the sale require Pacifica to operate the facilities for the next five years in the way Keiro has provided, including its handling of policies and insurance, resident care, Japanese cultural services and number of beds.

SOLAR ENERGY PROJECTS DELAYED INDEFINITELY IN CALIFORNIA'S OWENS VALLEY

In a joint statement, the Manzanar Committee and the Owens Valley Committee announced on Aug. 3 that two industrial-scale solar energy projects that would have had adverse impacts on California's Owens Valley and the Manzanar National Historic Site have been delayed indefinitely.

On March 12, the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power withdrew its proposed 1,200-acre Southern Owens Valley Solar Ranch from the Interconnection Queue for its Inyo-Rinaldi transmission line, which transports electricity through the Owens Valley, south to Los Angeles.

While the SOVSR has been placed on indefinite hold, the proposed solar energy generating facility is not dead, as the LADWP will continue to examine the viability of this renewable project at a later date.



ORIGINAL HEART MOUNTAIN BARRACK RETURNS HOME

A barrack originally built at the Heart Mountain Relocation Center was brought home to the National Historic Landmark site in August after the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation rescued it from demolition with the help of a community-wide effort.

The barrack, which was located in Shell, Wyo., was offered to the foundation by Iowa State University, which had been using it for housing at its geology field studies station just outside of Shell. The university had planned to demolish the building to make way for new housing; the HMWF discovered its plans and negotiated a rescue of the building. Iowa State agreed to donate the barrack at no charge if the HMWF could move it.

The HMWF estimated that it would need to raise $140,000 for the move, construction work and ongoing preservation of the structure for public view. The 120-by-20-foot dormitory is one of the more than 450 that housed internees, some for more than three years, at the 740-acre camp. ■



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MIN YASUI Awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom



The nation's highest civilian honor is given posthumously to the civil and human rights leader.

Minoru "Min" Yasui received a posthumous 2015 Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award, from President Barack Obama during an official ceremony at the White House on Nov. 24.

Yasui was among 17 distinguished Americans who were selected by Obama on Nov. 16 for their meritorious contributions to the security or national interests of the United States to world peace or cultural or other significant public or private endeavors.

During his remarks, Obama spoke about the diverse list of honorees — some of the country's most celebrated performers and Hollywood heavyweights, former Major League Baseball greats and civil rights pioneers, among them — and their accomplishments.

"What an incredible tapestry this nation is," he said. "And what a great blessing to be in a nation where individuals as diverse, from as wildly different backgrounds, can help to shape our dreams, how we live together, help define justice and freedom and love."

Honored this year were Yogi Berra (posthumous); Bonnie Carroll, Shirley Chisholm (posthumous), Emilio Estefan, Gloria Estefan, Billy Frank Jr. (posthumous), Lee Hamilton, Katherine G. Johnson, Willie Mays, Barbara Mikulski, Itzhak Perlman, William Ruckelshaus, Stephen Sondheim, Steven Spielberg, Barbra Streisand, James Taylor and Yasui (posthumous).

In 1942, Yasui violated the racially discriminatory military orders that led to the forced removal of all persons of Japanese ancestry from the West Coast during World War II. As a young attorney at the time, his deliberate intention was to initiate a case to test the constitutionality of the military curfew upon Americans of Japanese ancestry.

As Yasui, himself, said in 1986, the last year of his life: "This is the United States of America, founded in liberty, dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. . . . As an American citizen, as a lawyer, I felt that we owed at least the obligation as a citizen to tell our government that they are wrong! That is the sacred duty of every citizen, because what is done to the least of us can be done to all of us. I KNEW we had to protest it."

Yasui was interned at the Minidoka War Relocation Camp as he appealed his case to the Supreme Court. When he lost his case in 1943 (the Court ruled that it was constitutional to restrict the lives of private citizens during times of war), Yasui did not give up. He continued all his life to defend the human and civil rights of all people.

While his conviction was vacated in the 1980s after filing a *writ of coram nobis*, Yasui passed away in 1986 while appealing the government's conduct during his case. But his work to fight for reparations and justice for all communities was not forgotten, as reflected in the endorsements for his Medal of Freedom nomination by diverse organizations such as the NAACP, National Council of La Raza, the ACLU, the American Friends Service Committee, the Japanese American Citizens League and the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights.



Homer Yasui and Yuka Yasui Fujikura, brother and sister of Minoru Yasui, with the Presidential Medal of Freedom

Yasui's nomination for the honor was made by U.S. Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii) and bolstered by bipartisan support in both Houses, led by Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) and U.S. Senators from California, Colorado, Hawaii, Oregon, Washington and Wyoming, as well as in the House of Representatives, championed by Rep. Mike Honda of California, along with 25 other representatives endorsing the nomination, including Rep. Greg Walden of Yasui's hometown of Hood River, Ore.



Minoru "Min" Yasui spent his lifetime fighting for the civil rights of all Americans.

"Minoru Yasui stood up for what was right at a time of injustice toward Japanese Americans," said Hirono. "I am proud to have worked with so many passionate advocates in support of this nomination. The Presidential Medal of Freedom to Mr. Yasui recognizes him not only for his courageous stand during the time of the unjust internment of Japanese Americans, but for his lifelong commitment to civil rights and social justice."

Said Yasui's daughter, Holly, upon hearing news of her father's award: "My sisters and I are deeply honored that our father has been awarded the Medal of Freedom for his profound commitment to the ideal of democracy and justice for all, and the legacy he has left to us. So many people helped with his nomination, all of whom we thank from the bottom of our hearts, but in particular, I want to thank Peggy Nagae, lead attorney for Min Yasui's *coram nobis* case and co-founder of the Min Yasui Tribute project. Without her leadership, this process would never have been initiated nor come to fruition. From our first conversations in 2013 about working toward a centennial celebration for Min Yasui until today, Peggy, like my dad, persevered and never gave up!"

I received news of this event with highly mixed emotions," said Yasui's brother, Homer. "I am so pleased and proud that this great honor will be conferred on my older brother by the president of the United States, yet at the same time, I feel bad and sad that Min did not live to receive this award in person. . . . He is the one who should have had the privilege of shaking the president's hand."

Added Yasui's youngest sister, Yuka: "We are honored that our brother, Minoru Yasui, has been recognized for his fight for the rights of all Americans, not just Japanese Americans. Whenever he saw injustice, he faced it with courage and conviction. Although Min has been gone for nearly 30 years, in many ways he is still with us in the civil rights work that others are carrying on in his name and in his spirit."

The awarding of the medal to Yasui comes at a timely juncture, as the "Never Give Up! Minoru Yasui and the Fight for Justice" independent film project is currently conducting a fundraising drive and the Minoru Yasui tribute committee is gearing up for the centennial celebrations to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Yasui's birth in 2016, which are currently being planned to take place in California, Colorado, Idaho, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah and Washington.

The Presidential Medal of Freedom was also awarded to Fred Korematsu in 1998 and Gordon Hirabayashi (posthumously) in 2012. Mitsuye Endo also has been recommended for a medal.

Since the award was established in 1963, President Obama has awarded more Presidential Medals of Freedom to Asian Americans than all other presidents combined.

For more information, visit the "Never Give Up!" independent film website at www.minoruyasuifilm.org and the Minoru Yasui tribute website at www.minoruyasuitribute.org.

JACL Applauds Posthumous Presidential Medal of Freedom Recognition for Minoru Yasui

The JACL issued the following statement on Nov. 17.

The Japanese American Citizens League applauds President Barack Obama for awarding the Presidential Medal of Freedom to the late Minoru "Min" Yasui for his dedication in fighting for civil and human rights. Yasui challenged the constitutionality of a military curfew during World War II on the grounds of racial discrimination.

"JACL commends the president for recognizing Min Yasui, who took a stance on behalf of 120,000 Japanese American men, women and children who were unjustly imprisoned during World War II," said JACL Executive Director Priscilla Ouchida. "He joins Fred Korematsu and Gordon Hirabayashi, who were previously recognized for their wartime courage. These men and Mitsuye Endo, whose case led to the release of Japanese Americans, challenged the government's ability to deny loyal Americans their basic rights. Their cases continue to remind all citizens of this great country of the strengths and fragility of the rights promised by the Constitution."

Yasui was an active member of JACL throughout his life, taking on leadership roles at both the local and national level. He was a founding member of the Mile High Chapter in Colorado and led the JACL National Redress Committee, which successfully sought an apology and compensation from the U.S. government for the unjust treatment of Japanese Americans during World War II.

Yasui's commitment to justice and community extended beyond his own. He worked with the African American and Latino communities to help establish the Urban League of Metropolitan Denver and the Colorado Latino Leadership, Advocacy and Research Organization, respectively.

Founded in 1929, JACL is the nation's oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization. As part of our commitment to social justice and diversity, JACL passed a national resolution in 2014 seeking a Presidential Medal of Freedom for Yasui. JACL is proud of the contributions our leaders have made in the fight for the civil and human rights of all Americans. ■

JACLers Mobilize Against the Scapegoating of Syrian Refugees and Justification of Concentration Camps

Fueled by outrage over the scapegoating of innocent Syrian refugees and those justifying it with the World War II concentration camps for Japanese Americans, the Sacramento area community quickly mobilized a news conference on Nov. 19 denouncing it. More than 30 Japanese, Muslim, Christian and Buddhist Americans, including a dozen former Japanese American WWII detainees, quickly gathered at the Buddhist Church of Florin, a site where the Japanese American WWII camps were first announced.



Florin JACL, CAIR-SV and other supporters gathered at the Nov. 19 news conference.

In November, several public officials said the following:

- On Nov. 18, Roanoke, Va., Mayor David Bowers proposed that Syrian refugees be excluded like imprisoned Japanese Americans were in WWII.
- Tennessee State House GOP Caucus Chair Glen Casada proposed rounding up all the Syrian refugees and sending them back to a federal immigration center.
- Rhode Island State Sen. Elaine Morgan (R) said "We should set up refugee camps to keep them segregated from our populous."

Organized by the Florin JACL and Council on American Islamic Relations-Sacramento Valley (CAIR-SV), representatives from the Parkview Presbyterian Church (Rev. Aart van Beek), Buddhist Church of Florin (Rev. Yuki Sugahara), Sacramento JACL (Janice Luszczak) and Rev. Saburo Masada (ret), Calvary Presbyterian Church (Stockton) spoke out. Basim El-Karra, executive director of CAIR-SV, and Florin JACL Co-Presidents Andy Noguchi and Marielle Tsukamoto, also made official comments.

Noguchi said Bowers' statement "justifies the exclusion of innocent Syrian refugees fleeing terrorism by the World War II imprisonment of Japanese Americans in American concentration camps."

Noguchi went on to say that "Japanese Americans and others are fearful that our country is making the same mistake, this time targeting innocent Syrians fleeing terrorism and seeking a safer life. The prejudice, war hysteria and failure of political leadership are being repeated."

CAIR-SV's El-Karra shared crucial information for understanding the refugee issue. Of the 800,000 refugees admitted to the U.S. since 9/11, not a single person has been found guilty of terrorism. The U.S. thoroughly investigates refugees from war zones in a two-year process before admitting them.

A dozen Japanese American elders imprisoned or excluded from the West Coast in WWII came out to support the news conference as well, including Stan and Christine Umeda, Utako Kimura, Toshiko Akiyama, Judie Miyao, Myrna Hitomi, Fumie Shimada, Rev. Saburo and Marion Masada, Marilyn Isenberg and Professor Isao Fujimoto. They didn't want other innocent people to suffer the same fate they had suffered.

People also rallied from the Asian Bar Association of Sacramento, API Rise, APIQSC, former Assembly Member Mariko Yamada, George Waegell (a WWII era supporter of local Japanese Americans), David Unruhe and Michelle Huey (Northern California JACL District), in addition to many other friends.

Four major TV network affiliates from NBC, CBS, ABC, Fox, and the regional newspaper covered the event.

Sacramento has emerged as a home for Syrian refugees in California. According to State Department figures, since 2012, 63 Syrian refugees have settled in Sacramento, the second-highest number in the state after San Diego. ■

JACL Supports Resettlement of Syrian Refugees in the U.S.

On Nov. 18, Roanoke, Va., Mayor David Bowers cited the World War II incarceration of Japanese Americans as justification for refusing aid to Syrian refugees. JACL Executive Director Priscilla Ouchida condemned Mayor Bowers' comments in a statement released by the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans.

It reads as follows:

A lesson to be drawn from the World War II incarceration of Japanese Americans is the fundamental necessity to defend our country's values and ideals during times of crisis, even when our nation is threatened. Despite calls to the contrary where numerous state governors and other officials wish to close their borders to Syrian refugees, the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) supports the President's program, which would allow for the resettlement of Syrian refugees in the United States.

In 1942, all Japanese Americans were deemed to be a security threat, which led to their forced removal from their homes followed by their incarceration in camps in America's interior. The banishing of Japanese Americans from the west coast caused virtually all the western governors to issue statements proclaiming that Japanese weren't welcomed in their states except within the confinement of a concentration camp. Today, we praise the lone governor, Ralph Carr from Colorado, who exhibited courage in the face of fear-mongering by welcoming Japanese Americans to his state.

In 1983, a federal commission tasked with investigating the wartime incarceration of Japanese Americans released its findings. The Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians found that the incarceration was caused by race prejudice, wartime hysteria, and a failure of political leadership. It's important to recognize and name that which may cause us to betray our values and ideals.

The United States has always been a sanctuary of freedom and opportunity for immigrants fleeing oppression and seeking a better life. Today, in the face of threats to our national security, the United States must lead with its values and ideals. We must not succumb to impulses motivated by fear. JACL unambiguously supports a program that allows for the resettlement of Syrian refugees in the United States. ■

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EDUCATION MATTERS

Salt Lake City Holds Final 2015 Teacher Training Workshop

Through the efforts of Intermountain District Governor Jeanette Misaka and her contacts in the Salt Lake City area, the tenth and final Teacher Training Workshop was held at the Hilda B. Jones Center in the Granite School District on Nov. 13.

Workshop participants including Paul Ross and Charlene Lui from the GSD Educational Equity and Robert Austin, director of social studies from the Utah State Office of Education, in addition to more than 30 teachers, some of whom attended from Wyoming, took part in the day-long event.

Panelists included Misaka, Lily Nakai Havey, author of "Gasa Gasa Girl Goes to Camp" and Ted Nagata, who all shared their recollections of their personal experiences of life in camp. The panelists represented three different camps: Amache, Topaz and Heart Mountain, respectively.

In addition, Rick Okabe, who is a member of the Topaz Museum Board, gave a brief presentation of the work that has been accomplished at the Utah site. He summarized that to date, more than 633 acres of the campsite have been purchased, including the barracks and much of the facilities that were a part of the day-to-day life within the camp.



Participants in the Salt Lake City Teacher Training Workshop included (back row, from left) Greg Marutani, Rick Okabe, Jane Beckwith, Richard Gomez and (front row, from left) Paul Ross, Lily Nakai Havey, Ted Nagata, Jeanette Misaka, Sharon Ishii-Jordan and Sandra Grant.

The teachers also heard from Jane Beckwith, who shared information about the Topaz Museum that has opened in Delta, Utah. She encouraged the teachers to plan a field trip to both the Museum and the campsite.

Much like the teachers who attended the New England Teacher Training Workshop a week earlier, the Salt Lake City participants also had a broad awareness of the incarceration, and the questions they posed went beyond the usual ones, such a hoe much did the government spend on the camps and what impact did the incarceration have on the current (Sansei) generation?

"Jane is a wealth of information about so many of the Issei and Nisei who were at Topaz, and she is responsible for the preservation of the many stories that have been shared with her by those individuals — she is a living encyclopedia about Topaz," said JACL's Greg Marutani. "So many of the younger generation owe her a debt of thank you for being able to connect them to their family's experience in Topaz, especially those who have made a visit to the campsite; given the name of the family, she gladly guides them to the block, barrack and apartment where a part of their family history spent time during World War II, behind barbed-wire fences without being convicted of any crime."

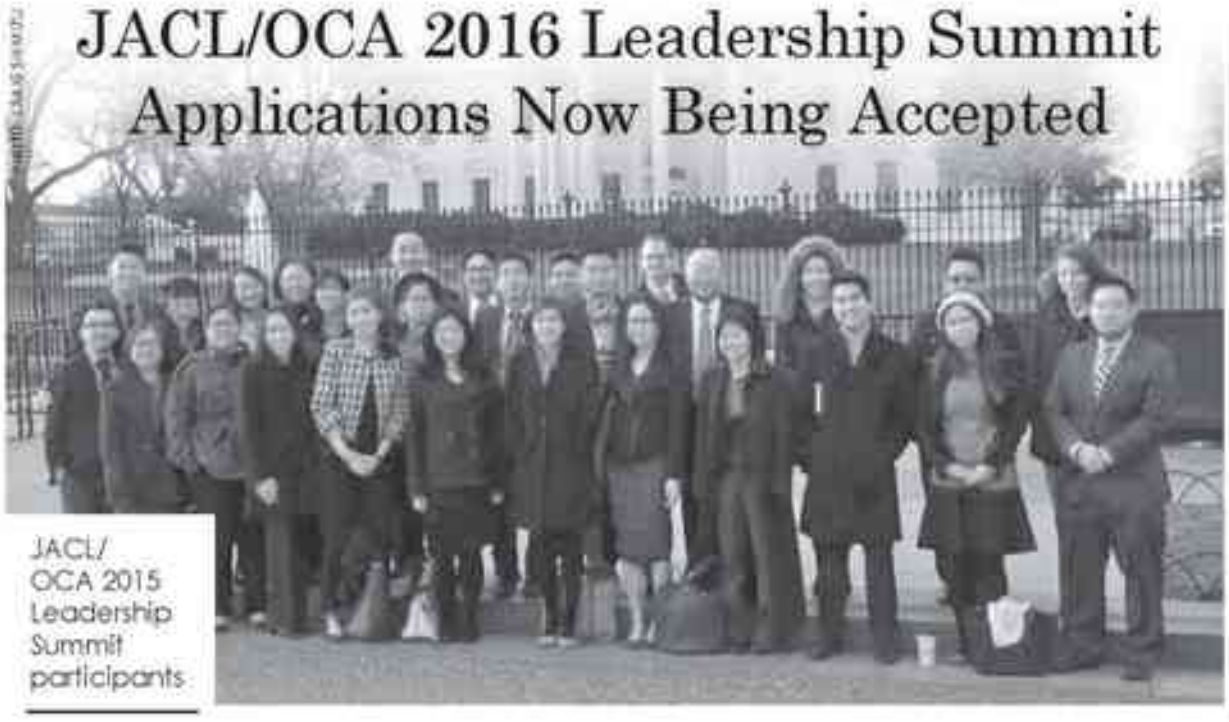
The Salt Lake City Chapter brought many items from its library collection of books and DVDs to the workshop to share with participants, and its members announced to all in attendance that the material would be available for teachers to borrow should any of the items be helpful in integrating the Japanese American experience in the classroom.

The chapter also would make itself available to assist any teacher who might want to have a "primary source" speak to his or her students.

Jeannie Serdar and her students at the Hilda B. Jones Center Food Service provided the morning refreshments and lunch, as well as cleaned up after the conclusion of the workshop.

The Teacher Training Workshops were made possible through a grant from the Japanese American Confinement Sites program of the National Park Service. ■

JACL/OCA 2016 Leadership Summit Applications Now Being Accepted



JACL/OCA 2015 Leadership Summit participants

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The JACL/OCA (Asian Pacific Advocates) Leadership Summit applications are now available for the Feb. 27-March 1 program. The leadership summit will provide an opportunity for emerging community leaders to learn firsthand about current national public policy issues facing the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities.

Participants will have the opportunity to meet with and attend briefings by public officials, key policymakers who serve in Congress, the White House, federal agencies, advocacy organizations and the media. In addition, participants will be briefed on legislative issues affecting AAPI communities and will examine the role Asian Pacific American civil rights organizations such as JACL and OCA play in affecting public policy and pursuing civil rights legislation in the nation's capital.

Established by the JACL in 1984, the four-day annual program co-convened with OCA Advocate (formerly the Organization of Chinese Americans) in 1994.

JACL leaders, advocates and students are encouraged to apply. Applications are available on the JACL website (www.jacl.org) and must be received by Jan. 8, 2016.

For questions regarding the summit, contact your District Governor or JACL D.C. office fellow Merissa Nakamura at mnakamura@jacl.org.

PSW Holds 19th Annual Awards Luncheon 'Emerging Leaders: Rising Up for Justice'



The PSW District held its 19th annual awards luncheon "Emerging Leaders: Rising Up for Justice" on Nov. 21 at the Quiet Cannon in Montebello. The event honored those who have made incredible community contributions and who have all played instrumental roles in the successes of PSW District Programs. Among the honorees were Betty Hung, Sam Miura, Kizuna, Seiko Watkins, Marilynn Takako Nakata, Jennifer Okabayashi, Jean-Paul deGuzman (pictured above with PSWD Governor Michelle Yamashiro) and Alice Ishigame-Tao.

GIVING >> continued from page 37

In an effort to help her, Paul began to browse those circles and found a blue blouse with flowers.

"I gave it to her to try on. She took her time, and she opened the door with this big smile on her face. I was so happy to see her smile, and I asked her if she liked it, and she nodded."

Paul's new life at 74 years old was to care for Kazuko.

"It didn't make up for our entire marriage, but I think she was happy," Paul said. Two years later, she collapsed in front of him and passed away in 2008.

The years after Kazuko's death, Paul was brokenhearted and also faced a number of health problems, one of which landed him in a hospital, where his youngest daughter, Annie visited him twice a day.

"She would come before work and after," he said. "She had her own family, you know with kids, but she took care of me, and I don't know. Annie welcomed me to her home, but I didn't want to be her burden, an extra person to take care of."

When Paul talked about his family, it made me think about the Giving Tree and the boy. Would life have been different if Paul had went shopping with Kazuko before her stroke or would Keiro not be for sale had the community been given an extra hearing?

Had the boy said thank you, would the stump still be a stump?

In a roundabout way, I asked Paul if it bothered him that Kazuko's passing made him understand what care was.

"No," he said. "It makes no sense to worry about what should have been or will be. It is impossible to be certain about the future, and the past can't be changed."

Back in September when I began following the events around Keiro's sale, I wasn't sure how to understand the change and the overwhelming reaction from the community.

At a macro level, Keiro's story was about the larger powers at play with Obamacare and the changing market, but on a micro level, it was about people's personal narratives and interpretations of what was right.

As Keiro Board Chair Gary Kawaguchi once said before an auditorium of angry seniors, "I would never do anything to hurt this community."

Likewise, everyone for and against the sale told me the same. Because like Silverstein's "The Giving Tree," the sale of Keiro makes us look at ourselves in evaluating what we feel is right or wrong, good or bad.

The story still bothers me, but it has led me to revisit my relationship with my parents and think about how I will care and thank them.

Similarly, the chaos around Keiro's sale had me evaluating the community and realizing the heart on both sides.

As Shawn Miyake had said previously, "Keiro is a symptom of a larger problem." The problem is change, and according to Paul Imahara, "Change is neither good or bad." Because "it's not that simple, what's best or right is never simple. Never," Jon Kaji told me. ■

JACL Kicks Off Annual Giving Campaign

Since it is the holiday season and we are all in the spirit of giving, now is the perfect time to talk about JACL's 2015 Annual Giving campaign. Thanks to your support, last year JACL raised more than $50,000 through two campaigns. This year, the organization's goal is $60,000 from this one end-of-the-year fund drive.

Your donations fund essential JACL work in social justice and advocacy. JACL has been on the frontlines this year advocating for vital democratic issues, including marriage equality, due judicial process and condemnation of anti-Muslim and anti-immigrant rhetoric. It has celebrated the declaration of Honouliuli incarceration camp as a national monument and the presentation of the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Min Yasui.

"It's wonderful to be a part of an organization that works so hard to preserve our community's history and promote civil rights in this country," JACL VP of Membership Toshi Abe stated. "I pledge to give $100 for this fund drive and hope that you will join me as we build and shape the future of JACL. If you donated last year and haven't yet this year, please consider giving now. If you have not given before, this is a great time to do it."

For more information about the Annual Giving campaign, thank you gifts for donors and to donate, visit www.jacl.org/donate or give the membership department a call at (415) 921-5225.

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Supporters who contribute over *$250* will receive a kokeshi doll dish towel. Contributions of *$500* or more will receive The Art of Gaman DVD. Supporters who donate *$1,000* or more will receive a Furoshiki Fabric Wraps book and a furoshiki. Contributions of *$5,000* or more will receive two Southwest Airline ticket vouchers. All thank you gifts (excluding vouchers) will be ordered from the Japanese American National Museum store. We reserve the right to substitute if above items are unavailable. All donations to the JACL are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law.

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The Lure of Violence Lies in MEANINGLESSNESS

By Matthew Ormseth



Religious leaders hold a sign for solidarity at a vigil held in Little Tokyo days after the San Bernardino shooting.



In the wake of the Dec. 2 rampage in San Bernardino, Calif., America has found itself in the grips of a fear the scale and extent of which we have not seen since Sept. 11. It seems every day word of some new, more gruesome and more spectacular atrocity seeps into our newsfeeds and onto the front pages of our papers. And now, the locales of some of these atrocities are not in distant Syria, Pakistan or Nigeria. They are in France, the United States. San Bernardino County.

Equally as disturbing is the response of some of our leaders. First, there was the pledge of over two-dozen governors in the wake of the Nov. 13 attacks in Paris to close their doors to Syrian refugees. And now, after San Bernardino, there have been calls to close our borders to all Muslims, indiscriminately.

There have been calls to establish a catalog and watchlist of Muslims in the U.S. Never in my 20 years of life have I seen such brazen racism garner so much support. There've always been bigots in America, spouting their hatred in the comment sections of web articles and flinging epithets out of car windows at passersby; racism is not a new phenomenon in this country.

What is new, though, is that the people spewing this hate are doing so at political rallies, cheered on by hundreds of thousands of people. What is new is that their disgusting and callous opinions are being discussed on CNN and MSNBC, rather than on lonely message boards of racist, right-wing forums. What is new is that these people are running for president.

It was especially disturbing for us Japanese Americans when Donald Trump, considered by many to be the current front-runner for the Republican presidential nomination, equivocated when asked whether he would have supported the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II had he been in FDR's shoes.

"I would have had to be there at the time to tell you, to give you a proper answer," he said in an interview with *TIME* magazine. "I certainly hate the concept of it. But I would have had to be there at the time to tell you to give you a proper answer."

Has Mr. Trump learned nothing from history? Does he mistakenly believe that imprisoning Japanese Americans kept the country safe and helped the U.S. win the war?

It's crucial to remember in such a climate of hysteria that for Islamic extremists like Sayed Farook and Tashfeen Malik, the perpetrators of the San Bernardino attack, their murderous ideology preceded their reading of the Koran, and not vice versa. These people were deranged and consumed with hatred to begin with. Their desire to kill and maim did not arise from their studies of Islam's holy text; rather, they shored up their pre-existing ideology of hate by picking and choosing verses at will, ignoring the many, many edicts of peace, tolerance and harmony to be found in Islam's holiest of books.

If they truly were devout, dedicated students of the Koran, they would have found verses that read, "Indeed, Allah enjoins justice, and the doing of good to others; and giving like kindred; and forbids indecency, and manifest evil, and wrongful transgression. He admonished you that you may take heed." Or, "And create not disorder in the earth after it has been set in order, and call upon Him in fear and hope. Surely, the mercy of Allah is nigh unto those who do good."

If they truly believed that God's word, inscribed in the Koran, should be the rule of the land, how could they reconcile their plans to murder and maim scores of innocent people with those verses mentioned above? These people are not real Muslims.

I think that perhaps this recent spate of extremist violence in the West is rooted not in religious issues, but in sociological ones. Most of the young men and women born in the West who leave their families in England, France and Belgium to wage jihad in Syria and Iraq worked menial, nondescript jobs.

Many jihadis have cited the listlessness of their lives in the West as their reason for joining the Islamic State. In one of the group's recruitment videos, Ruhul Amin, a 25-year-old Briton killed two months ago in an air strike, said, "All my brothers living in the West, I know how you feel. When I used to live there, in the heart you feel depressed. The cure for depression is jihad."

We have to ask ourselves why jihad is so appealing to so many young British, Belgian, French and now American men and women.

To a young man whose job offers no occasion for creativity or self-direction, to a young woman whose life seems to sapped of its very vitality, the Islamic State holds a powerful allure. It tells these men and women that they have a chance to make history in re-establishing an Islamic caliphate. It tells them that they can be powerful, feared and loved. And to someone with a dead-end job, whose life is decent without being fulfilling or passionate in any way, Syria must seem to them a place of rebirth and reinvention, where a cashier or a telemarketer or a food inspector can become a deadly, feared avenger.

This is not to excuse those who've joined the Islamic State. Millions of people around the world work jobs utterly bereft of pleasure or innovative thinking without ever joining extremist organizations.

Much of life in general is bereft of pleasure and innovative thinking, in my opinion. But I think we need to examine the ramifications of demanding that a certain group or class of people work dead-end jobs.

I, for one, derive self-respect from my work. When I feel I've written something well, be it an article, a column or an essay, I feel proud of myself. How can we ask people to derive self-respect from their work when we ask them to man the deep fryer at McDonald's, or sell tank tops at Forever 21?

I can recall the summer after my senior year of high school when I worked in retail at a Hollister in my neighborhood mall. My mind would go blank for hours from lack of engagement, my hands folding innumerable pairs of tastefully ripped jeans and striped polos entirely of their own volition.

How can we ask people to derive self-respect from their work when their jobs not only discourage critical and independent thinking but also explicitly forbid it?

In a piece written by *New York Times'* columnist David Brooks titled "Mow the Lawn," Brooks proffers his prescription for happiness. "Labor until fatigue is in your very bones," he says. "Persist day after day. Be stoical. Never whine. Think less about the why of what you do than getting it done. Get the column written. Start pondering the next." He concludes with, "In the everyday task at hand, for woman or man, happiness lurks."

Now, this formula is well and good for columnists at the *New York Times*. Laboring "until fatigue is in your very bones" is sure to be fulfilling and gratifying if your job entails sitting at a desk, being paid to type stories about your feelings (I am fully aware I'm doing just that right now).

The rituals of daily life can be fulfilling and gratifying if your daily life demands creativity and the ability to think independently. But when it doesn't, life can be very dull. It can be bereft of happiness and, more critically, bereft of meaning.

It's my guess that young, Western jihadis do not voyage to the caliphate of the Islamic State purely out of religious zeal. They do it also to leave behind their jobs at Primark and Tesco, to leave behind their listless, satisfactorily passionless lives, and reinvent themselves in the killing fields of the Levant.

If we want to stem the flow of recruits into the Islamic State and reduce the likelihood of lone-wolf attacks, we need to counter the group's narrative of jihad as a glamorous, heroic escapade, but we also need to offer young people, regardless of religion or race, opportunities for fulfilling, meaningful work.

Matthew Ormseth is currently a student at Cornell University majoring in English. He seeks to give an honest portrayal of life as both a university student and member of the Millennial generation.

STOCKTON

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Journey to Poston

The writer reflects on a personal journey that cements her own place in history.

By Dianne Nakamura,
Contributor

I was watching the evening news one day in 1968 when the anchorman announced, "The Japanese American community wins a landmark case against the United States government in the unlawful internment of its citizens during World War II. More details after the commercial break."

That clip shifted me back to 1974 when I was a Cal State college student on the verge of quitting a class that was tied to this piece of news.

"I hate my Asian Awareness class," I complained to another student.

"But you're Japanese, seems like fun," my well-meaning Caucasian friend pointed out.

"Fun — you mean the class or being Japanese?" I asked.

"The class," she clarified. "Isn't there a lot to explore?"

"Maybe, but we tend to be very private people and don't like to spill our guts," I said.

By the way, my friend's eyes shifted. I sensed she wasn't getting my point.

"No one ever talks!" I blurted out. "We sit around waiting for the next person to say something. Now it's not that I have anything against my kind, but do we really need a class for this? The boredom is killing me."

She burst out laughing. However, I was seriously considering dropping out of the class. I took it to fulfill a Humanities requirement, which I figured was a piece of cake, an easy A. If it wasn't for an upcoming field trip to visit a World War II Japanese American relocation camp and to see Arizona, a state I've never been to, I would've been long gone. Spring vacation, sight seeing and fun were the only scaderacs on my mind.

So, early one April morning, five cars caravanned out of Los Angeles journeying to a tiny border town called Poston. I rode with my class instructor, James, his assistant, Kathy, and a Thailand student, Lim, who sat in the back with me.

James shouted over the thrashing wind, "I want to see what remains of the camps." A dysfunctional air conditioner and the climbing desert heat forced his passengers to cool themselves with the four-windows-down-cross-ventilation technique.

His beat up car, a dusty Chevy, was not much comfort either after seeing a few old metal horses laid to rest in the harsh southwest desert.

James hollered on, "I also want to find a guy named Musso Nishimoto. He was confined in the camps during the war and from what I understand is still in the area."

James pushed up his sliding John Lennon glasses, one side of which was held together by a piece of duct tape. I felt sorry for him. He was a little, wiry guy that seemed to need mending all over. He always came to class in threadbare jeans and an old army jacket that made us poor students look rich — a visual contrast from the rumored wealth his family supposedly held before the war.

We skimmed through endless vistas of sand, cacti and shrubs with an occasional mountain or two fracturing the flat horizon. The hours gave the passengers ample opportunity to talk. It gave me ample opportunity to complain.

"Now, it's not that I have anything against Japanese," I whined to James, "but growing up in Gardena, I felt like an outcast within my own community."

My teenage resentments had not been forgotten, nor forgiven, and were a continual sore point of reference.

"My big family was the poor kid on the block. Our house stuck out with the broken screen door from too many kids running in and out. Our cluttered yard, an eyesore, compared to the manicured bonsai gardens of our neighbors with their perfect little pom-pom trees and perfect pom-pom fathers and pom-pom daughters — I could not compete! And to top it off, it seemed we were the only Japanese family in all of Gardena with eight kids, another big source of embarrassment! None of the other parents liked each other that much!"

Once I started ranting, it was a train barreling down the tracks without brakes — I couldn't stop.

I went on about the subtle class distinction between the mainland Japanese and the Hawaiians. "Us Hawaiian-born Kanakas were looked down on as a bunch of lowly, crude, beer-guzzling hooligans who spoke with funny-kine accents and wore gaudy shirts. That's why I identify with the Mexicans, as a matter of fact. I want to."

Suddenly, Kathy turned around having heard enough and said, "But you Hawaiians see us mainlanders as wampy, gudeum, aspi!"

Well, I couldn't argue with that.

Kathy's long hair stood up in the wind like a she-wolf on the attack. "Your parents and grandparents in Hawaii were not forced into concentration camps like ours. They did not suffer the wartime yellow paranoia, surrounded by flagrant anti-Jap propaganda. They were not forced out of their homes, publicly humiliated as traitors when they were just teenagers and knew nothing of Japan. The only island nation they knew was Boyle Heights."

She fished a wet strand of flyaway hair from her mouth that distracted me from what I really felt like doing. I suspected Kathy was James' girlfriend, a plump Yoko Ono-ish sidekick to his Lennon-ish persona. But whatever her political outrage, her passionate calls for justice or perhaps it was the bad hair, nothing could coerce the Jap in me to join her march. It only fueled the angry adolescent inside.

"Maybe you're right, but I'll never forget the mistreatment I got from my own peers. The boys threw trash at me, and the girls, mean, asking how much my shoes cost then walk away snickering. I couldn't tell them my mother got it from Kmart blue-light specials. In a middle-class, competitive Buddhahead town like Gardena, I was the poor kid, the dumbhead and loser, a neighborhood friend once slipped that her mother said I'd probably end up pregnant in high school. Comments like that still stick to this day!"

Kathy and I both stopped and turned to James like a referee waiting for his call.

James sat quietly, calmly smoking his pipe, Fu Manchu goatee. My backseat companion, Lim, on the other hand, was biting his thumb, trying to suppress a good laugh. Suddenly, Lim stuck his head out the window like a dog, shouting: "I want to gawk at all the crazy Americans! Gawk! Gawk!"

"Pull your head in," I reprimanded, "we're in redneck country. They might think we're a bunch of geeky illegals and send us back to Japan!"

"I'm from Thailand," he declared with pride.

Lim curled his hands around his eyes like binoculars. "I see Poston!"

Poston was a good 80 miles away. The only things in sight were rocks and sand, cacti and a mountain or two. "I can see it because I have eagle eyes!" Then, as if on cue, a bug flew into his eye.

"Well, Mr. Eagle Eyes, you should have seen that one coming." I poked out of a little revenge for laughing at my teenage angst.

For some unknown reason, Lim and I bonded. This was peculiar because often we'd sit side by side in the back of the class and not acknowledge or say one word to each other.

I thought he was this weirdo foreigner, transparent thin with pale, white, unblemished skin any geisha would covet. He also had fine, slender hands that spoke of his privileged background. His real surname was Limprapaliptipat, but we called him Lim because no one could get through the longer version without cracking up.

He said generations ago, Chinese immigrants kept their family names, then added Thai-sounding pieces to assimilate. However, families of different bloodlines couldn't share the same surname. So, people got creative by adding pieces from cities, streets or, in his family, their marital partner's name.

Well, that got me thinking. "So Lim, what if someone wanted to leave the family, say like Pat. Would he take his contribution and leave Limprapaliptipat just hangin'?"

Lim rolled his eyes and shook his head out, "Gawk, gawk."

By late afternoon, our procession slowly arched into town. It was hot and dusty, our caravan casting long shadows that stretched across the sunset-hued dirt much like weary wagon trains after a long journey.

A little girl stood in the doorway of a weathered hut and waved. I imagined she was Native American since Poston was a Colorado River Tribe reservation before, during and after the war.

A few of the camp bungalows still remained, surrounding the largest structure, an old dilapidated gym where the 20 college students from California would stay.

Early the next morning, James was up and ready to go. Some of the guys were still laid out on their sleeping bags, snoring on the gym floor when he woke us up. The women slept on the stage, which didn't move the noises coming from below.

James was excited because he located Mamo Nishimoto, the person he had been searching for.

He was told Mr. Nishimoto owned a vast commercial farm and was willing to meet us.

The farm was another long, hot drive. We waited in a barn until Mamo or "Mas," as he called himself, strode in, tall and tanned, all cowboy boots and jeans. He was startled to find so many students staring at him, but James eased the atmosphere with introductions and the reason for our visit. That's when Kathy dove in with the first question.

"So, Mr. Nishimoto, what was it like to be considered the No. 1 enemy and national threat to the American people?" she said. Her aggressive militant stance irked me once again.

"I was a teenager," he answered. "I wasn't a threat to no one, 'cept maybe the girls." Mas' slight country twang amused us. "What was life like back then? My family was crammed into a single room bungalow that was, depending on the weather, either hotter than hell or freezin' cold. Sometimes, just to get out of the compound we worked the local farms, dug ditches, but we also had some fun times, playing cards, baseball, talent shows. But barbed wire has a way of reminding you this wasn't a vacation. My parents tried their best to hide their worries, but sometimes I could see their sadness. That's war."

The cowboy suddenly became quiet, smiling uncomfortably at the floor. I wasn't sure if it was the prying eyes of strangers or the memories of the internment camp that was making him uneasy. I scribbled "war" on my notes, closed my book feeling his discomfort and was ready to move on since the county fair was next on the agenda.

Fun, after all, was the reason I came to Arizona.

When we returned to the gym late that afternoon, I was unprepared to find the gym swarming with activity. A busload of high school students from, of all places, San Fernando Valley, had invaded "our camp" for a basketball tournament. Sick from too much sun, cotton candy, Indian fry bread and spinning rides, I was in no mood for annoying teenagers. I whined to James if he expected any more school buses from L.A., but he ignored my complaints, too busy setting up a slide projector.

As evening fell, James had everyone sit on the gym floor. I wasn't sure if the gathering was an impromptu presentation, but it seemed James was well-prepared as he began flashing old black-and-white photos onto the wall.

My eyes fastened to each image: a young mother sitting on a trunk with two small children at her side. Camp children pledging allegiance to the American flag. Young teenage boys playing baseball — was one of them Mas? A crowded gym full of Japanese families standing in long lines with government officials stamping papers. Could this gym where we sat be the same one in the photo?

The lights went on after the slide show, and an open discussion was held with the high school students, most of whom were Anglos, then Hispanics, a few blacks and fewer Asians.

One girl asked, "Why were the Japanese picked, not the Germans or Italians?"

James replied, "Asians were obvious to the American public. We stuck out because we looked different and didn't share the same cultural background. That's why we were rounded up and incarcerated."

The students were genuinely curious and started asking more questions such as why were women and children imprisoned? Where were the men — were they drafted in the American army?

Kathy answered, "My father was in the 442nd Battalion sent to Europe. Did you know they were the most highly decorated U.S. Army unit in American history? Made up of almost entirely Japanese American soldiers, they were awarded the most Purple Hearts. Out of the 2,500 men sent to Europe, less than one-third returned home. I believe they proved their loyalty and love of their country — America."

"My father fought in that unit." One voice from our class rang out, followed by others. "So did mine ... and mine ..."

"My father fought in Guam," I declared.

Just then, a Japanese boy from the high school bolted up in anger. "My father was in the camp, and he said it wasn't so bad. He said he had fun and made a lot of friends there!"

"That may be true, but that's a heck of a way to make friends," said James as he took control. "My grandparents worked hard all their lives. The strawberry fields they toiled their backs for in Palos Verdes are now planted with multimillion-dollar estates. They lost everything. But that's money. What about the lost lives?

In Hawaii where the Japanese were not interned because it would bankrupt the island, thousands of families crowded the ports to see their sons off to war. In the mainland, imagine this — mothers banned from seeing their sons leave for battle, many of whom never returned home. How would that feel?"

The students were silent, some wiping tears from their eyes.

Lim stood up. "I'm so shocked by this. I am from Thailand, and we think America is great, lots of money, lots of happiness. Right now, Cambodian refugees are coming to my country because their people are being tortured and killed if they are educated, speak English, have wrong jobs — silly reasons. This is wrong, but it happens anywhere, everyday, and it could happen again if we let it."

"And that's exactly my point," James concluded. "No people should be persecuted based on color, status, sex, religion. Right now, there is a movement among us. We want justice from the U.S. government on behalf of our families and to protect future generations as well. Learn from history and the experiences we have taught should make us all vow to never allow such human violations again!"

That night, I was moved.

Early the next morning, our class decided to celebrate the last day in Poston by climbing a low mountain that bordered the area. Each of us, hand by hand, pulled one another up a boulder at a time.

Only Lim remained on the ground because of asthma and a fear of heights. I felt bad for all the teasing I inflicted upon him the entire weekend.

When the last person scaled the top of the mountain, we cheered and embraced, including Kathy and myself. The event was commemorated with each of us signing our names on a smooth stone that was then buried under a mound of dirt and stones.

James marked the site by placing a large rock on top, then carefully inserted a small American flag to the side as the final touch. We smiled proudly for a group photo in front of our simple, makeshift monument. I remember the morning air was still cool and crisp from the mountain top, and patches of farm fields could be seen in the distance, perhaps one being Mas' little green paradise, miles of vast desert, and Lim jumping up and down at the base happily waving his arms.

The celebrations continued into the night by a campfire under an endless canopy of star-spangled, indigo-blue skies of Arizona. Conversation commingled with the scent of marijuana and a bottle of tequila.

That night marked many firsts for me: marijuana, I didn't like; tequila shots, I LIKED! Perhaps it was in the ceremony of licking the salt off one's palm, the slow burn of the fire juice and the sting of fresh lime ... man, I loved this class!

Talk kept drifting back to the events of the weekend.

"So James, what do you think of that high school kid?" I asked, knowing he understood to whom I was referring.

Kathy moaned, "Oh, that banana, yellow outside, white inside!"

James replied calmly, "You can't force understanding on anyone, they have to come to it on their own."

"Not even with a good beating?" I joked. Lim and I started to perform drunken kung fu moves, albeit, there was only one drunk, kung fu-ing fool since Lim was allergic to alcohol and shouldn't partake.

James slowly evoked his peace — it was the same pensive gesture I saw once before. Then he answered, "Someday ... he'll understand ..."

The evening news returned from the commercial break when the anchorman announced, "A major victory was won by the Japanese American Citizens League over the illegal imprisonment of 120,000 persons of Japanese descent during the World War II hysteria. Today, a formal apology was issued from the United States presented by Ronald Reagan in a legal battle that had been raging for years ..."

When I heard that news, I was overcome with gratitude toward James and all those who fought for justice in honor of their grandparents, parents and future generations, doing so with determination, courage, dignity and perhaps a little militancy.

What an extraordinary feat to challenge the United States government and win. And though I can't take any credit for this victorious outcome, I do reserve a small memento in my heart that somewhere under the indigo blue skies of Arizona, where endless vistas of sand and cacti are fractured by a mountain or two, up high on one of those mountain tops, my name is buried there ... under a rock. ■

Season's Greetings from the Holiday Issue Project

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A MOTHER'S TAKE

A HEART OF PEACE



By Marsha Aizumi



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MARSHA AIZUMI

A peaceful and loving moment with Aiden



Two books on peace



Celebrating Stefen's college acceptance

When I was first approached to write this article about peace, it seemed so overwhelming that I wasn't sure where to start. Even though these are important topics, I knew I wasn't going to write about world peace or peace between communities or countries. Writing about environmental peace like Greenpeace wasn't something I felt passionate about. So, I found myself walking around my home, which I consider peaceful, hoping I could find answers.

I looked through my library of books, thinking a title or two would jump out and say this is the direction for me to write. Nothing spoke to me. Then I began to study the many pictures and sayings I had around my rooms, hoping to find inspiration.

I wandered around uninspired. Finally, I decided that I wasn't ready to write this piece, and so I gently let go of the idea I had to get clarity in the moment. I trusted that I would find direction soon, released the feeling I had to do it now, and I immediately felt at peace.

That night, I was watching television with my husband. The program was called "Longmire." He is a sheriff from Wyoming. Sheriff Longmire was interviewing candidates for an open deputy position. One by one, the candidates were narrowed down to only two. Sheriff Longmire confessed that he didn't think he would be hiring anyone for the open position. He was not ready. One of the candidates stormed off in a huff. The final candidate thought the sheriff was not going to hire him because of his past history of struggling with his brother's murder. He accepted this decision and vulnerably shared the way he found peace in spite of his brother's death. He said, "Peace is not the absence of conflict. Peace is the acceptance of conflict."

This concept of acceptance resonated with me. I knew that acceptance of conflict was the direction I wanted to write, but there seemed to be something missing. Then, I stumbled on a quote from Maya Angelou that said, "Courage is the most important of all virtues because without courage, you cannot practice any other virtue consistently."

Now, besides the word acceptance, courage was another component of my thoughts on peace.

During all the years of struggle with Aiden, first coming out as lesbian and then transitioning from my daughter to my son, I was faced with conflict all the time.

In the beginning, this conflict brought nothing but fear, guilt and a sense of not being enough. I was never at peace. But as our journey progressed, I began to trust more and more that I would find the answers or be the person who could handle any situation. I accepted there would be challenges along the way, but trusted that I could find solutions.

Suddenly, peace began to enter my life, but it was a work in progress. In order to maintain this sense of peace, I had to courageously trust and accept myself and others over and over again.

When I saw myself judging others, I had to transform that judgment into trusting that they are on their path, just as I am. When I felt myself judging my thoughts, actions and concluding that I was a terrible mother, I had to step back and recognize all the ways I was a good mother, learn from my mistakes and move forward. It wasn't easy.

But when I didn't trust or step up with acceptance; I struggled, worried, and my heart felt at war. A third component of peace was now apparent, and it was trust.

Although Aiden has graduated, is married and creating his own amazing journey, life has still brought me more practice in being peaceful.

My recent focus has been helping my younger son finish college. He is a more private and independent child who likes to do things on his own, but I worried that he was not going to make the best decisions without my help. He had struggled academically, and I feared that he would lose hope and not graduate.

However, this past year, Stefen selected a private college in Irvine and submitted his application to transfer from a junior college. I wanted to manage the process . . . he said he didn't need my help. He was not accepted on his first application because he was missing some classes. Guilt descended on me. Why hadn't I stayed on top of this better? I wanted to step in.

But, Stefen assured me that he had things under control, and so I had to take a step back and work on my trust and acceptance. I honestly didn't do such a great job. How did I know? My heart and stomach were often tied up in knots. There were moments I was at peace, but then doubt and worry would creep in, and I wanted to intervene. I would check in with Stefen, hoping he would need my support.

Stefen got into the college he wanted to attend last August and is now living in Irvine, where he is finishing up his bachelor's in business economics. When I worried about him not getting into this university and I judged myself as a terrible mother, I lived with endless feelings of inadequacy. Then I found the courage to consistently trust and accept that he would get into the college of his choice, and he took responsibility.

The most wonderful part of this story is that I could see my son's feeling of accomplishment, knowing he was the one who achieved the result, not his mother or father. He did it on his own, so the achievement was his alone. In the end, I felt like a good mother because in spite of my fears, I decided to trust him to make the right decisions for him.

My greatest lessons about peace are that I not only have to be courageous over and over again to achieve peace, but I must also have the courage to look at myself and decide what I need to change in order to realize the peace I so desire.

It is so easy to be trusting, accepting, kind and loving when the decisions are simple. But to show up consistently takes courage, especially when I am faced with difficult situations or when I need to change something about myself to make things better. In the end, I know I can only change myself. I have no control over others.

My father, who passed away in 1999, often told me the Serenity Prayer was his favorite quote. For those who are not familiar with this prayer, it goes like this:

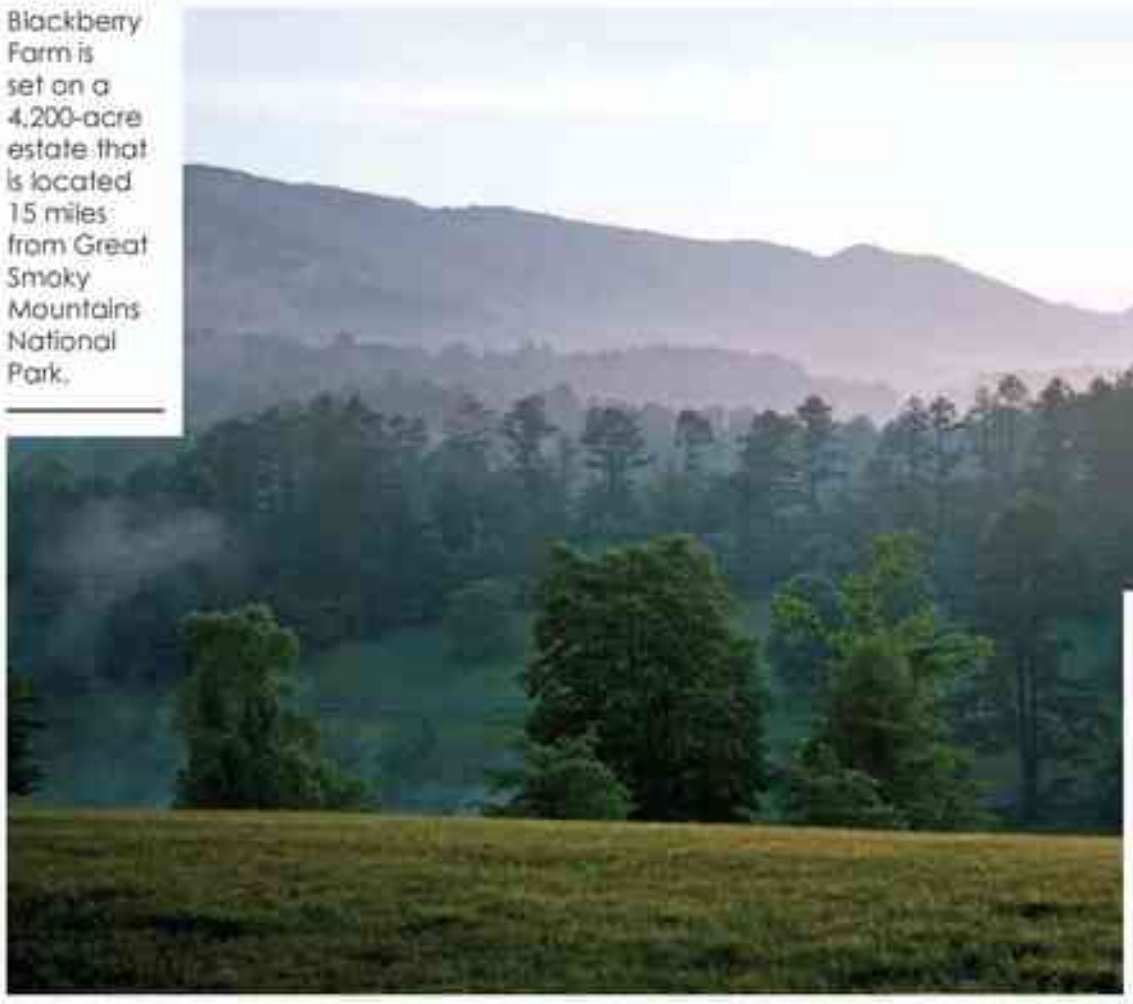
"God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; courage to change the things I can; and wisdom to know the difference."

So, through all my ramblings and searches and struggles, I have come full circle to these words . . .

The Serenity Prayer. It is a prayer of peace and a way to bring peace into my life through courageously changing who I am and courageously accepting others as they are. It sounds so simple, but for me, I think it will be something that will be a lifelong journey. But I am at peace with that . . . .

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

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF BLACKBERRY FARM AND L'AUBERGE DE SEDONA



Blackberry Farm is set on a 4,200-acre estate that is located 15 miles from Great Smoky Mountains National Park.



Blackberry Farm offers Deep Healing Woods Experiences



Guests at L'Auberge de Sedona in Arizona are encouraged to step into water while listening to the quiet sounds of nature that surround them.

A Path to Health and Wellness With Forest Bathing

The practice of *shinrin-yoku* highlights the positive effects of nature on human health and happiness, ultimately leading to finding one's greatest peace.



L'Auberge de Sedona also offers relaxing massage treatments within nature.

By Connie K. Ho, Contributor

Take a walk in the park. Breathe in the fresh air. One might not know it, but these small actions can boost one's health and well-being. One of the top health and wellness trends in 2015 has been forest bathing. The practice, also known as *shinrin-yoku*, is based off of the traditions of mindfulness, where individuals take in the forest atmosphere.

SpaFinder, which specializes in the wellness industry, explains that this Japanese concept focuses on quietly walking and exploring the outdoors while keeping one's senses open to the sounds, scents, colors and "feels" of the forest; the idea is to "bathe" in the forest's essence, breathing deeply and mindfully. It is rooted in a range of transcultural practices that highlight the positive effects of nature on human health and happiness, and it has become more and more popular as people seek to unplug from their technological devices.

According to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, forest bathing has both mental and physical benefits. Some of these improvements include boosting one's immune system, lowering blood pressure, reducing stress and increasing energy levels and the ability to focus. Studies have shown that while people breathe in fresh air, they also breathe in phytoncides, airborne chemicals that plants give off; these chemicals help the body respond by increasing the number and activity of white blood cells.

Forest bathing can be helpful for not just adults but children as well. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation cites past studies have shown a decrease in attention fatigue for children who spend time outdoors. Researchers are looking into utilizing natural outdoor environments to supplement approaches to managing attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), and forest bathing can be a practice that is inexpensive, accessible and free of side effects.

Even though the practice has increased in popularity this past year, the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries first coined the term *shinrin-yoku* in 1982. The Tokyo Convention and Visitors Bureau even promotes the practice, directing travelers to visit locations such as Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden, Arisugawa-no-miya Memorial Park, Meiji Jingu Shrine and Yoyogi Park. Following are a few places across the United States where one can find opportunities to partake in forest bathing.

Blackberry Farm, Tennessee

Blackberry Farm, a luxury and hotel resort in the Great Smoky Mountains that is located close to Great Smoky Mountains National Park, is one resort offering forest bathing with its Deep Healing Woods experiences. This luxury hotel and resort, situated on a 4,200-acre estate, has been promoting the practice at Blackberry Farm's Wellhouse since June 2014. It was inspired by Japanese studies on wellness and offers programs that incorporate tree bathing, including hiking, running, meditation and yoga options.

"[Participants] are able to focus on the five senses, let go of any mental clutter that they might have," said Amanda Myers, director of wellness for Blackberry Farm. "It's a very unique experience where we can highlight what we have right in our own backyard."

Myers notes that the program can be done any time of the year, as each season brings different scenery to refresh one's inner self.

"When people arrive on our property, it's pretty consistent that their stress goes down — you're surrounded by the beautiful mountain views, more connected and grounded, 100 percent in the moment so that your mind doesn't drift," said Myers.

Participants also have the opportunity to become more knowledgeable about their surroundings.

"They learn about what's here in the national park — we ask them to touch this, feel this, hear the creek so that there is a mind-body awareness," said Myers.

For more information, visit www.blackberryfarm.com or call (865) 984-8166.

L'Auberge de Sedona, Arizona

Last year, the L'Auberge de Sedona launched the L'Apothecary Spa, which allows guests to become closer to nature and seek benefits from the environment. The spa was created as a version of an apothecary, which has historically been used to provide remedies for physical ailments. As part of its efforts, L'Auberge de Sedona recently introduced a Forest Bathing Program to help guests connect with the earth on a greater level. The property is located along the Coconino National Forest, which is known for its diverse landscapes ranging from red rocks and pine forests to desert and alpine tundra.

"The vision behind creating a new spa concept was inspired by our natural surroundings and the connection our guests make with the creek during their visit," said Greg Hanss, L'Auberge de Sedona's managing director, in a statement.

In the Forest Bathing program, guests are led by certified forest bathing experts at the resort on a gentle, guided walk along Oak Creek. The practice of forest bathing is helped with the thick canopies of Sycamore trees found on the property. The experience can be customized for each guest depending on what the person is looking for. In particular, guests can partake in the resort's "Feet in the Creek" option, which facilitates a three-part connection between the earth, nature and the participant. Guests are guided to Oak Creek, where they are encouraged to step into the ankle deep water while listening to the quiet sounds of the surrounding landscape. The treatment also includes a foot reflexology treatment and massage.

For more information, visit www.lauberge.com or call (855) 905-5745.

The Lodge at Woodloch, Pennsylvania

The ultimate sanctuary for the senses can be found at the Lodge at Woodloch in Pennsylvania. Named by Travel & Leisure as the No. 3 spa destination in the world, this award-winning destination spa, nestled in Pennsylvania's lake region, offers guests an extraordinary respite for the mind, body and spirit.

The Lodge offers visitors numerous wellness activities and options. During its Forest Bathing program, master herbalist Nathan Whitmore takes guests on a guided walk. The property, with a private 15-acre lake and 150 woodland acres, is located about 95 miles from New York City and Philadelphia metro areas in the Pocono Mountains.

"The Lodge at Woodloch provides an escape from the real world while grounding each guest in the nature that surrounds us," said Robert Baldassari, general manager of the Lodge at Woodloch, in a statement. "This location was chosen because of its breathtaking natural beauty and opportunity for activities that truly take in the great outdoors."

The walks aim to be slow, contemplative and deliberative with a focus on deep breathing and mind-body awareness. In a little under two hours, guests can also learn about the local history and resident flora and fauna. The varying seasons of the Pocono Mountains brings different viewpoints; spring brings flowers and wild berries to the woodlands while fall foliage is a treat during the walks.

"There is growing research that supports the ancient tradition and understanding that spending time in the deep woods has profound healing power. Over time, forest bathing can produce quantifiable changes in the body and mind," said a representative of the Lodge at Woodloch in a statement. "Plus, the added benefit is that it just feels good."

For more information, visit www.thelodgeatwoodloch.com or call (800) 966-3562.



The Lodge at Woodloch, Pennsylvania



Each season brings different scenery to refresh one's inner self at Blackberry Farm.



In Tokyo, Arisugawa-no-miya Memorial Park is a popular place for Forest Bathing.

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A POSITIVE PEACE AND THE INTERDEPENDENCE OF ALL THINGS





Nina Akamu sculpted the Japanese Crane Monument at the National Japanese American Memorial in Washington, D.C.

By Kenji Kuramitsu

This year's Holiday Issue asks, "What is peace?" This question is perhaps especially pertinent in light of all the tumultuous events that have ruptured our consciences over the past few weeks, months and indeed, centuries. This year, we have seen terror attacks take place in the United States at the hands of white racists in the form of mass shootings, arsons, killings by law enforcement. In my city of Chicago, nearly 3,000 people have been shot so far this year, and children like Tyshawn Lee and Laquan McDonald have been executed by both street gang violence and by police gang action. Abroad, other militant groups who rely on the destruction of civilian life as an operative tool continue to split apart families and nations, threatening global welfare.

Talk of peace, both in a global and personal sense, is an idea that receives wide support. And yet the men who control the prisons and munitions factories cannot be said to be peacemakers. The gun lobby, with its claim that more weapons will lead to less killing, does not actually care for an end to human violence. The politicians and dronelords who profit from war and death-dealing are not legitimately invested in the project of peace, as much lip service as they might expend in its public honor. Theirs is a hollow, diseased sort of peace, by which they simply mean the absence of protest. It is a false peace that emerges from the grave, beckoning the vulnerable into death.

Recent research has revealed that police officers — who some brand "peace officers" — receive, on average, 58 hours of firearms training, nearly 50 hours in defensive tactics and only around eight hours in de-escalation tactics. What can talk of peace mean when we have ordained a generation of persons to enforce an unequal status quo with fundamentally violent tools? What can "peace" mean when often the term serves to simply mask an economic system that needs to keep humans trapped in prisons, deportation centers, low-paying jobs and dangerous employment in order to function? What can grand treaties and talk of peace mean to those whose bodies are still experiencing war on a cellular level because of nuclear poison?

Against all false definitions of peace we must insist: *la desigualdad social es más violenta que cualquier protesta*. Social inequality is more violent than any protest. This is what Martin King was pointing to when he argued that the less visible forms of social destruction are in fact the most severe — that "if the violations of law by the white man in the slums over the years were calculated and compared with the law-breaking of a few days of riots, the hardened criminal would be the white man."

I am convinced that our society's profoundly anemic view of peace comes from a derelict understanding of violence. Streets that look quiet are assumed to be "peaceful," and neighborhoods alight with flames and surging bodies are not seen as helping to accomplish lasting positive peace.

But because poverty is violence, even a calm street on a silent night, in an area without sustainable economic infrastructure, is not peaceable. Because inequality is violence, mansions and yachts, elegant boutiques along Michigan Avenue are not peaceful. Because cutting off human beings from one another is violence, sprawling prisons, riotous fences along borders and gated communities, which are understood to be markers of social order, are themselves terribly violent.

In Washington, D.C., amidst a nest of cherry blossom trees, there is a metal statue created by a Japanese American artist named Nina Akamu. It stands 14 feet tall and features two spiraling red cranes, each mirroring the other in reaching upwards for freedom while being strangled by spools of razor wire from below. In their struggle for freedom, the two cranes, explains the memorial's website, have a deep "need for communal support and interdependence on one another." The birds must rely on each other to achieve their liberation, in this moment of crisis more than ever.

In our day, we are realizing more than ever a phrase produced by the civil rights era: "Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly." Environmental analyst Lester Brown, describing what he calls "the new geopolitics of food scarcity," has written on how a simple quick jump in world grain prices in 2007 left more human beings hungry than at any time in world history, and describes the related violence and loss of life in Thailand, Egypt, Haiti and Mexico.

In our increasingly globalized world, the dominoes are all closer together. Our fates are more obviously intertwined. This greater proximity brings good and ill: a drought in rice fields in Vietnam means starvation and revolution in Egypt; a butterfly flaps its wings in Lisbon and the Caribbean descendants of African slaves receive reparations; a stock drops in New York City and the fields of *campesinos* are burned in a country whose name we cannot pronounce.

To recall the words of Martin King, we are caught up in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny, one that is swirling all around us. Indeed, the carnival of human exploitation that undergirds our "peaceful" lives has startling dimensions.

All talk of peace must start by acknowledging the hidden economies of suffering that enable us to live our lives with this awful, cannibalistic ease. It is only when we come to understand our profound dependency on the poor that we will feel a responsibility to clothe those who have sewn our garments, feed those who grow the ingredients destined to constitute our meals, name those who singularly stitch together the electronics on whose screens we have come to filter our lives.

As we move into this annual season of increasingly caffeinated consumerism, it can feel as if the world is in the denial stage of the grieving process. Each Christmas, shopping malls glow and trees sparkle in a dewy spectacle of bright, cagey fluorescence that forces a cheerful countenance as other parts of the world are smoldering. I have seen this eager attitude around dinner tables and on social media feeds, from family and friends who imbibe the glittery drinks and are forced to sweep sadness or loneliness away from the sunny and well-lit parts of our own hearts.

Just as peace is not demonstrated by violent systems that urge the polite acceptance of inequality, peace cannot be baldly pretending to be OK when one's spirit lies battered and bleeding within. Creating peace in our lives can only begin when we admit that we are not even possible outside of the living of others. Peacemaking near and far must begin with acknowledging our radical interconnectedness with all people.

At the heart of it, this Holiday Issue should be about pausing to reflect: on global harmony, on peace in our own lives, on the things that truly matter to us in a world shorn between chaos and glitz. Perhaps the point of a holiday — a holy day — is to point out the fact that all days are holy. All water, all lives, all places, are special and filled with the potential for human flourishing and peace. All hands are important, all bodies are valuable, all water is holy, all places sacred, all days the peaceful tomorrows that we can only together envision. I am wishing wellness and assurance for all of the readers of the *Pacific Citizen* this season.

Kenji Kuramitsu is the JACL MDC Youth Representative.

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For more information, Contact Janet at Janetf127@gmail.com or (209) 631-1933



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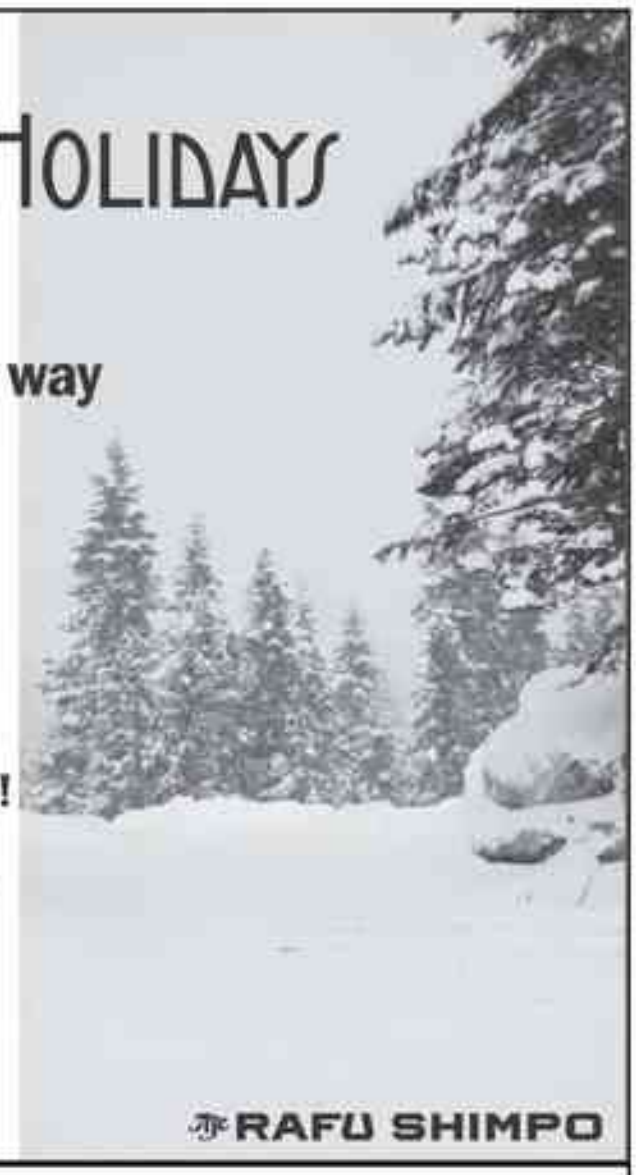
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Apr. 24 – May 06	South Korea (East Coast): "Seoul, Jeju, Busan, Gyeongju, Seorak, Pyeongchang"
May 08 – May 22	Bikkuri #1 with Ken: "Misawa, Oriwase Valley, Atsumi Onsen, Kaminoyama Onsen"
May 15 – May 26	German Highlights: "Frankfurt, Cologne, Dusseldorf, Berlin, Munich, Oberammergau"
May 22 – May 28	Southern Charm: "Charleston, Savannah, Jekyll Island, Jacksonville"
Jun. 10 – Jun. 24	The Scandinavian: "Copenhagen, Stockholm, Lillehammer, Bergen, Oslo"
Jul. 10 – Jul. 19	Japan By Train: "Hiroshima, Miyajima, Himeji, Kurashiki, Okayama, Kyoto, Tokyo"
Sep. 05 – Sep. 17	Great Canadian Rail Journey: "Toronto, Jasper, Lake Louise, Banff, Victoria, Vancouver"
Sep. 30 – Oct. 10	Ecuador: From the Andes to the Amazon: "Quito, Otavalo, Papallacta, Banos"
Oct. 05 – Oct. 18	Portugal In Depth: "Lisbon, Oporto, Viseu, Evora, Algarve"
Oct. 16 – Oct. 25	Autumn Japan: "Hiroshima, Miyajima, Himeji, Kyoto, Kanazawa, Takayama, Shirakawa-go, Tokyo"
Oct. 27 – Nov. 07	Discovering Poland: "Warsaw, Krakow, Wroclaw, Gdansk"
Oct. 30 – Nov. 10	The Best of Kyushu: "Fukuoka, Nagasaki, Kumamoto, Ibusuki, Kagoshima, Miyazaki, Beppu"
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Japan Spring Holiday Toor (Ernest Hida) . . . . . Mar 27-Apr 8
Tokyo, Scenic Train to Shimoda, Lake Yamanaka, Matsumoto, Takayama, Kanazawa, Kyoto.
French Riviera Holiday Tour (Elaine Ishida) . . . . . Apr 14-21
Nice, Monaco, Antibes, St. Paul de Vence, Grasse.
Canyon Country (Carol Hida) . . . . . Apr 28-May 6
Scottsdale, Monument Valley, Grand Canyon, Lake Powell, Bryce National Park, Zion National Park, Las Vegas.
Washington DC Holiday Tour (Elaine Ishida) . . . . . May 12-17
Mount Vernon, Arlington National Cemetary, Annapolis, World War II Memorial, Smithsonian Institution.
Grandparents-Grandchildren Japan Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida) . . . . . Jun 26-Jul 5
Tokyo, Hakone-Atami, Hiroshima, Kyoto.
Canadian Rockies-Calgary Stampede Tour (Elaine Ishida) . . . . . July 11-19
Calgary, Waterton Lakes-Glacier National Park, Banff, Columbia Icefields.
Nova Scotia Holiday Tour (Carol Hida) . . . . . Aug 10-18
Halifax, Baddeck, Cabot Trail, Charlotte Town, Prince Edward Island, Grand Pre, Lunenburg.
China Silk Road Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida) . . . . . Sep 12-23
Beijing, Urumqi, Turpan, Dunhuang.
British Landscapes Holiday Tour (Elaine Ishida) . . . . . Sep 12-21
England, Scotland, Wales.
Korea Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida) . . . . . Oct 4-17
Seoul, Nami Island, Sokcho, Daegu, Gyeongju, Busan, Cheju Island, Gwangju, Daejon, Suwon, KBS Drama Center, DMZ Tour.
New England Autumn Holiday Tour (Elaine Ishida) . . . . . Oct 11-18
Boston, Woodstock, Stowe-Vermont, North Conway-New Hampshire, Boothbay Harbor, Kennebunkport-Maine.
Kyushu-Shikoku Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida) . . . . . Oct 27-Nov 9
Fukuoka, Nagasaki, Kumamoto, Ibusuki, Kagoshima, Miyazaki, Beppu, Matsuyama, Kochi, Takamatsu, Shodo Island, Tokushima, Osaka.
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NIKKEI VOICE



Medal of Honor recipient Joe Sakato *(pictured)* always remembered the heroic efforts of his friend, Saburo Tanamachi, who died in his arms after being shot by a Nazi soldier during the battle to rescue the "Texas Lost Battalion" during World War II.

WAR and PEACE and HEROISM

By Gil Asakawa

I was saddened to hear of the passing of George "Joe" Sakato, a Denver resident who was a World War II hero, a veteran of the famed 442nd Regimental Combat Team/100th Battalion that fought in Europe during World War II. He was 94 years old.

"We were fighting prejudice in the States . . . and fighting the Germans in Europe," he told Denver news anchor Adele Arakawa in a 2013 profile.

The last time I saw Joe (he preferred that everyone call him Joe) was during the annual Japanese American community's Nisei Veterans' Memorial Day Service at Fairmount Cemetery, where a memorial to Nisei veterans was built to honor not only the WWII veterans but also all local deceased JA vets since then. My father's name is included where non-WWII vets are honored.

Joe Sakato always attended the service accompanied by his daughter, Leslie, but he was in poor health earlier this year, so I don't think any of us expected him to show up this year.

But shortly after the speeches began, there he was, with his daughter at his side. As always, Joe got special recognition during the memorial service.

In 2014, my wife, Erin, and I helped Corky Lee, a New York-based photographer who calls himself the "undisputed unofficial Asian American Photographer Laureate" (the title fits), meet and photograph Joe for his collection of notable Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. We met Joe and Leslie at the Nisei War Memorial, and he pointed to a name, Saburo Tanamachi, on the WWII section of fallen heroes.

Joe often told the story of how his friend, Saburo, died in his arms after being shot by a Nazi soldier during the harrowing battle to rescue the "Texas Lost Battalion" in the forests of France in the waning days of the war. The 442nd, mostly Japanese Americans, suffered 800 casualties to save 200 Texans who were hopelessly trapped. When his friend inexplicably stood up and was killed, Joe became enraged and charged up the hill, where he killed 12 Germans, wounded two and captured four.

Every time Joe told that story, he choked up as if the memory was from just yesterday. It was for that battle that he was honored with the Medal of Honor.

He was the only member of the 442nd "Go for Broke" Medal of Honor recipients in Colorado and the last surviving member of the 442nd who had received the medal in a ceremony with President Bill Clinton, half a century after his heroic actions.

He was also included last year on a commemorative stamp from the U.S. Post Office celebrating Medal of Honor recipients.

Anyone who knew Joe will miss his irrepressible spirit and good humor. With Joe's death, another Nisei hero has passed on. But we should remember all of them for their heroism and honor their memory as Japanese Americans move forward into fourth, fifth and even sixth generations.

We owe them a debt of gratitude for what they accomplished in the past, to help bring peace to the world and help our community thrive today and in the future.

Marking Joe's passing during this holiday season, I can't help but jumble together my concerns over the recent mass shootings including the unfolding tragedy of the San Bernardino killings that are related to terrorism, and the way many lawmakers are fighting to keep out Syrian refugees and how one Virginia mayor even evoked Japanese American wartime incarceration as the model for treating Syrians.

I was fortunate to see a performance of George Takei's musical "Allegiance" on Broadway the same week the mayor made his remarks. The musical, a powerful moving story about the Japanese American incarceration and its damaging effects on families and friendships, was inspired by Takei's own life — his family was imprisoned when he was a boy.

Takei had the best possible response to the mayor's ignorance: He invited the mayor to see "Allegiance" and understand the nature of patriotism and of bravery, and the complex decisions Americans have had to make to prove our bravery and find both personal and national peace.

I fear for peace because our country is so divided and angry and fearful. I fear that the spirit of America of 1942, when so many in our community were sent to concentration camps, is in the air today.

For all our sakes, I hope not.

Gil Asakawa is a P.C. Editorial Board member and former Board Chair. He is AARP's AAPI Marketing Communications Consultant, and he blogs at www.nikkeiview.com. A new revised edition of his book, "Being Japanese American," was published in August by Stone Bridge Press.

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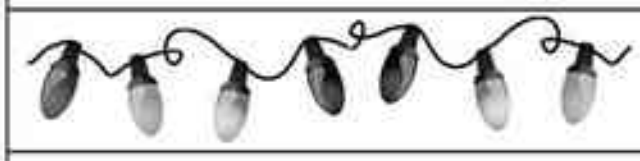
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In Memoriam 2015

Tributes

Toshiko Shimoura

Feb. 28, 2015



Shimoura, Toshiko K., 88, Detroit, Mich. Shimoura was the former president of the JACL Detroit Chapter and a member for more than 60 years. She was a dedicated community member and was also recognized for the promotion of Japanese culture in the United States, receiving the Foreign Minister's Commendation by the government of Japan in 2014.

Shimoura was born and raised in Fremont, Calif., and attended Michigan State University and the University of California, Berkeley. During World War II, she was incarcerated at Topaz Camp.

She was a professor and mentor in teaching and demonstrating the art of Ikebana flower arranging. Shimoura also was a founding member of the Ikebana International Society, Detroit Chapter.

She was predeceased by her husband, James Shimoura; son, Gerald; she is survived by her children, James, Steven and Susan Hane; gc: 5.

Pete Hironaka

March 25, 2015



Hironaka, Pete, 87, Kettering, Ohio. Celebrated editorial cartoonist for the *Pacific Citizen*, Pete Hironaka was well known for his 53-year contribution to the paper. In 1957, Hironaka began a series of thoughtful cartoons in reaction to Mike Masaoka's Washington Newsletter column about Nisei soldiers during WWII.

During his tenure with the *P.C.*, Hironaka's cartoons captured themes on kindness, compassion, the need for advocacy and raising awareness on many API initiatives. His career included publishing works for the *Dayton Daily News* and for E. F. MacDonald, an advertising agency.

Hironaka's legacy continues through his art, reflecting JACL's mission and values. He was an active Dayton Chapter member and also published a book in 1993 titled, "Pete Hironaka's Report From Round-Eye Country: A Collection of Sketches, Both Verbal and Visual, by a Transplanted American."

He was predeceased by his wife, Jean; he is survived by his son, Stan (Laurie) Hironaka; daughter, Cathy Hironaka; sisters, Miyo Yamada, Shirley Sato and Agnes Deguchi; gc: 2.

Akiyama, Toshio, 92, Honolulu, HI; Nov. 9; he was a U.S. Army veteran; he is survived by his wife, Mitsue Toyama; son, Wade T.; daughter, Lynn E. Rask; brother, Seito; sisters, Irene A. Fujimoto, Ethel Hankami and Myra Takahiki; gc: 4.

Fuji, Irene Hatsuko, 95, San Gabriel, CA; Nov. 17; she was predeceased by her parents, Genzaku Matsumura and Yoshino Nagata; she was survived by her sons, Dave (Frances) and Allen (Romeo); gc: 5; ggc: 3.

Fujimoto, Gregory Masanobu, 94, Los Angeles, CA; Oct. 30; he was a veteran of WWII; he is survived by his wife, Nobuko Fujimoto; children, Carla and Kathy Fujimoto; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2.

Fujimoto, Saburo, 90, Honolulu, HI; Nov. 28; he was a U.S. Army veteran; he is survived by his wife, Yoko; son, Clifford; daughters, Eveline Tanaka, Tina Arita and Heidi; and Jill Fujimoto; sister, Mary Chock; gc: 4; ggc: 5.

Fujitaki, Akiko 'Katie,' 88, Altadena, CA; Nov. 30; she is survived by her children, Ron (Jackie) Fujitaki and Margaret "Maggie" (Jon) Seki; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 3.

Fukuma, Shogi, 88, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA; Nov. 9; he is survived by his wife, Karlene Mariko Fukuma; son, Glenn (Aiyoe Sonata) Fukuma; daughter, Kerry (Tak) Yoshikawa; sister, Nobuko Randall; gc: 2.

Furuto, Mary Masako, 89, Culver City, CA; Nov. 20; she was predeceased by her husband, Minoru Furuto; she is survived by her sons, Steven (Johanne) and Andrew (Alison) Furuto; daughter, Marian (David) McCarthy; she is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 7; ggc: 2.

Harada, Emiko, 92, San Gabriel, CA; Nov. 11; she is survived by her husband, Ben Tsutomu Harada; sons, Michael (Linda), John (Sumi) and Scott (Carol) Harada; daughter, Nancy (Glenn) Corbell; she is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 7.

Higa, Keith Yukio, 48, Hacienda Heights, CA; Nov. 23; he is survived by his wife, Elisa; sons, Bryan and Joshua; parents, Richard and Masae; brothers, Lance and Craig; sister-in-law, Tomoko; niece, Sanna.

Hoshiyama, Fred Yaichi, 100, Culver City, CA; Nov. 30; he is survived by his son, Matthew (Latty); daughter, Bella (Dennis) Sweet; sister-in-law, Miwo Hoshiyama; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Isemoto, Ine, 89, Hilo, Hi; Nov. 19; she is survived by her brother, Larry; sisters, Tomie Shigi, Yoshie Araki and Sachie Kanashiro.

Kanashiro, Doris Sumi, 81, Monterey Park, CA; Nov. 19; she is survived by her son, Todd Kanashiro; son-in-law, Bill D. Scott; sister, Mildred Shiro; brothers, Alvin, Paul and Douglas Kuniyoshi.

Kashimoto, Yukie, 95, Hilo, HI; Nov. 4; she is survived by her sons, Ronald and Clayton; daughter, Aileen Honda; gc: 4; ggc: 2.

Kimura, Ken, 89, Los Angeles, CA; Nov. 15; he was a veteran of the U.S. Navy; he is survived by his wife, Mary Masuoka Kimura; children, David (Carol) and Andy Kimura and Naomi (Ron) Kageyama; gc: 3.

Kodama, Joy Faith, 64, Honolulu, HI; Nov. 28; she is survived by her companion, Steve Turnage; daughter, Leilani Turnage; brothers, Roddy and Ray.

Kubota, Rose Yoshiko, 91, Torrance, CA; Nov. 17; she was predeceased by her husband, Tom Tamotsu Kubota; sister, Kikuyo Mary Kayano; brothers, James Wasano and Carl Wasano; she is survived by her daughter, Jane Junko Kubota; sisters-in-law, Mitsu Wasano and Iwako Wasano.

Kurahuzu, Leslie Toshio, 80, Monterey Park, CA; Nov. 9; he was predeceased by his wife, Carol; he is survived by his daughters, Jan (Stephen Abe) and Dawn (Willie Wong) Kurahuzu; sisters, Nancy (Albert) Okuhara and Martha (James) Igawa; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and cousins; gc: 4.

Kuroki, George Shigeru, 95, Gardena, CA; Nov. 16; he is survived by his daughters, Yukio (Robert) and Christine (Tom); sons, Jeffrey (Patricia) and Eric (Lisa); brother, Yukio Kuroki; gc: 7; ggc: 2.

Masuda, Hideko Kay, 86, Huntington Beach, CA; Nov. 14; she is survived by her children, Dennis (Michele) Masuda, Diane Masuda and Janet (Tony) Yamada; gc: 8.

Murakami, Tadashi, 93, Torrance, CA; Nov. 22; he is survived by his wife, Namiko "Nina" Murakami; children, Alan Murakami, William "Bill" Murakami; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 3; ggc: 3.

Matsukawa, Charles Koyei, 100, Kaneohe, HI; Nov. 9; he is survived by his wife, Sadako; sons, Charles, Richard and Ronald; daughters, Carol Oanko, Sharon Matsuyama and Gaye Hayashi; brother, Joseph; sisters, Mazie Matsukawa, Alice Toguchi, Emily Ishihara and Grace Higa; gc: 14; ggc: 23; gggc: 4.

Matsumura, Yeiko, 88, Monterey Park, CA; Nov. 26; she is survived by her husband, Bill Shigeru; daughters, Carol Naomi Tanaka and Grace Kazuna (David) Matsumura Fukuyama; sister, Kazu Fukuda; brother-in-law, Fumio Watanabe; nephews, Ken (Juliette) and Jun Watanabe, Akira and Minoru Fukuda; nieces, Irene (John) Ota and Emily Matsumura; gc: 3.

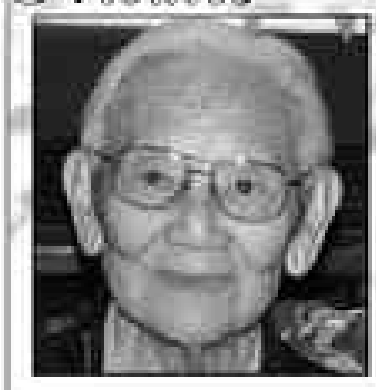
Miyoshi, Yoshiki, 87, Gardena, CA; Nov. 7; he was a veteran of the U.S. Army MIS; he is survived by his wife, Reiko Miyoshi; children, Ann (Mark) Lowey, Michael (Nancy), Kenneth and Lester (Loreen) Miyoshi; brothers, Hideo (Kimiko) and Nono (Shigeko) Miyoshi; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 3.

Mukogawa, Ken, 70, Torrance, CA; Nov. 27; he was predeceased by his sister, Amy Hino; he is survived by his children, Christine (Richard) Sato, Dan (Sandra) Mukogawa and Craig (Sherry) Mukogawa; brother, Kay Mukogawa; sister, Mae Nakashima; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 6.

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Tributes



Willy Kazuo Suda

Nov. 14, 2015

Willy Kazuo Suda was born on July 2, 1919, in Fresno, Calif. He was the first son of Zenzaro and Akiko Suda. Willy passed away peacefully on Saturday, Nov. 14, at the age of 96, surrounded by his wife and children in the beautiful home he built. Willy married Lily Kuwabara in 1949, and during their 66 years of marriage, they had four children, nine grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Willy graduated from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1941, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Entomology. He then served in the United States Army during World War II while his family was interned in Jerome, Ariz. In 2010, he was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal for his military service.

Following the war, he obtained his Bioanalyst license, allowing him to own and direct many clinical laboratories in the Fresno area, which included Fresno, San Joaquin, Selma, Sunnyside and Montecito Clinical Laboratories.

After retiring in 1988, Willy traveled extensively with his wife through Europe, Alaska, China, Japan and Southeast Asia. He loved golf and was a lifetime member of Belmont Country Club. His passions included fishing and tending to his beloved aloe palm trees. He was a card playing wizard. He was a past president of the Fresno Buddhist Church and member of the Fresno JACL. Family was most important to him and above all, his cherished wife, Lily.

His sense of humor, quick wit and passion for life will be dearly missed.

He was preceded in death by siblings, Fumiko Yokoyama, Noboru Suda and Dr. Hiroshi Suda. Willy is survived by his wife, Lily; daughter, Kathleen Suda and husband Wayne Oshergaard; daughter, Patricia Memida and husband Fanu; daughter, Debra Sato and husband Kreyne; son, Richard W. Suda, M.D. and wife Jena; grandchildren, Robert, Kevin, Karen, Leah, Brooke, Russell, Kirk, Jarod and Nolan; great-grandchildren, Taiseo Hashem and Makenna; and extended family Toey, China, Erynn, Ashlee and Ansel.

Visitation was held at Lutz Funeral Home on Saturday, Nov. 21. A funeral service was held at Fresno Betsuin Buddy Dharma Center, 2690 E. Alluvial Ave., Fresno, Calif. 93720, on Nov. 22. See more at *www.legacy.com/obituaries/fresnobee/*. In the website's search bar, type in "Willy Suda." Condolences may be sent to Lily, care of Kathy Suda, at 6606 N. Fuller Ave., Fresno, CA 93720.



Ben Kuroki

Sept. 2, 2015

Kuroki, Ben, 98, Sept. 2. Kuroki was a decorated airman and received three Distinguished Flying Crosses, participating in Europe and North African raids. He received special permission from the War Department during his service. He flew 30 bombing missions and was part of the decorated and honored 442nd Regimental Combat Team during the Italian campaign and was a member of the Military Intelligence Service.

Like many Japanese Americans during World War II, Kuroki faced harsh bias and racism. However, despite these challenges, Kuroki went on to receive the Distinguished Service Medal in 2005 and was saluted by *Time Magazine* in 1944.

Kuroki was born in Gothenburg, Neb., a son of Japanese immigrants. He was raised in Hershey, Neb., as one of 10 brothers and sisters on a family farm. He joined the Army Air Force shortly after the onset of WWII. He and his brothers were rejected upon their first try but later received admittance by a draft board official.

He is survived by his wife, Shige; daughters, Julie, Kristyn Kuroki and Kerry Williams; sister, Rosemary Uta; gc: 4; ggc: 1.



Susumu Ito

Sept. 29, 2015

Ito, Susumu 'Sus,' 96, Sept. 29. The 442nd veteran and Harvard Medical School professor was known for helping to liberate Holocaust survivors during World War II.

In 2011, Ito was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal and met with President Barack Obama at the White House with other Nisei veterans.

Ito was born to Japanese immigrant sharecroppers and grew up in California's Central Valley. In the wake of WWII, Ito served in the 442nd/522nd fighting in Europe campaign.

Notably, Ito was part of the rescue of the "Lost Battalion" of the 36th Division in France's Vosges Mountains in 1943. Two years later, his battalion was credited with rescuing some 5,000 Holocaust survivors.

After his service, Ito pursued a career in science and received a Ph.D in biology, going on to teach at the Harvard Medical School and Cornell Medical School.

He was predeceased by his wife, Minnie; he is survived by his children, Linda Ito-Adler (James), Cecilia (Berry) Doe and Bruce Ito, daughter-in-law, Ellen Ito; gc: 5.

Nishioka, Richard Tsutomu, 87, Lomita, CA; Nov. 2; he was a U.S. Army veteran, he is survived by his wife, Katsuko Nishioka; son, Robert (Yuri) Nishioka; gc: 2.

Oshiro, Scott Shoji, 30, Honolulu, HI; Nov. 6; he is survived by his parents, Wilfred and Gail; grandparent, Hideko Higatonda.

Sakato, George 'Joe,' Denver, CO; Dec. 2; a Medal of Honor and Distinguished Service Cross recipient and member of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team during WWII. His unit rescued Texas' "Lost Battalion." Following the war, he became a U.S. Postal Worker; he was predeceased by his wife, Bessie Saito Sakato; he is survived by his daughter, Leslie Sakato; brothers, John and James Sakato.

Sameshima, Nobuo 'Sam,' 89, Torrance, CA; Nov. 6; he was predeceased by his wife, Angela Aiko Sameshima; siblings, Masaobo Sameshima, Yoriko Tabata and Akira Sameshima; he is survived by his children, Michael (Judy) Sameshima, Margaret (David) Lamdagan and Steven Sameshima; he is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Shimizu, Hisako, 97, Pearl City, HI; Nov. 9; she is survived by her sons, Andrew, Benjamin and Ernest; daughters, Judith Beatos and Kathleen Shimizu; gc: 11; ggc: 9.

Shimozawa, Koko, 93, Los Angeles, CA; Dec. 2; she was predeceased by her husband, Fumiaki "Bill" Shimozawa; she is survived by her daughter, Keiko (Joseph) Nims; sister, Eiko Nii; sister-in-law, Keiko Sakaguchi; she is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 3.

Shiosaki, Alan Tadashi, 59, Pasadena, CA; Nov. 8; he is survived by his mother, Tatsuko Shiosaki; brothers, Ed (Joan) and Milton (Sheri) Shiosaki; nephews, Randy, Craig (Jodie), Shane and Skyler Shiosaki; nieces, Christine (Michael) Shiosaki-Tsang and Megan Shiosaki.

Toyoshima, Dick Y., 97, Pacoima, CA; Nov. 11; he is survived by his son, Ronald Toyoshima; daughter, Joan Toyoshima; gc: 3.

Tsuji, Kimiko, 89, Los Angeles, CA; Nov. 19; she was predeceased by her husband, Thomas Tsuji; she is survived by her daughters, Julie Dojiri, Betty Wong and Margaret (Frank) Larrama) Miya; gc: 4; ggc: 4.

Uyeda, Shizuko, 100, Los Angeles, CA; Nov. 14; she is survived by daughters, Chiyoko Yamashiro and Aiko Kawano; son, Satoru Uyeda; sister, Kazumi Tatsumi; brother, Tadashi Kishi; gc: 8; ggc: 11.

Wada, Frank, 60, Los Angeles, CA; Nov. 11; he is survived by his brothers, Michael and Richard (Sophia) Wada; nephews, Tomas and Paul Wada.

Wakimoto, George, 88, Gardena, CA; Nov. 7; he is survived by his wife, Yuko Wakimoto; children, Mariko (Keiko) Wakimoto, Jimmy (Heather Iwamuro) Wakimoto and Nancy (John) Shimabe; brother, Arae Yamaguchi; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 6.

Watanabe, Helen Toshiko, 94, Gardena, CA; Nov. 11; she was predeceased by her husband, Terry M. Watanabe; she is survived by her sons, Ronald (Joan), Gary (Marsha) and Richard (Karen); siblings, Hazel Amemoto and Aiko (Roy) Ebihara; gc: 6; ggc: 2.

Yokomi, Misako, 103, Los Angeles, CA; Nov. 10; she is survived by her daughter, Jean Minami; son, Richard (Shigemi) Yokomi; daughter-in-law, Sue Yokomi; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 6; ggc: 6.

Yoshida, Bert Tadashi, 94, Gardena, CA; Nov. 17; he was a WWII veteran, he is survived by his wife, Sadako Teresa Yoshida; children, Mary (Russell) Tsuji, Amy (Adchara Dongdoung) Yoshida and Theresa (Dan) Nakagawa; sister, Katherine Kaiima; gc: 3.

Yoshioka, Masako 'Janet,' 88, Gardena, Ca; Nov. 22; she was predeceased by her husband, Jitsuo Yoshioka; she is survived by her children, Wayne (Irene) Yoshioka, Pamela (Rodney) Ieiri and Susan (Jun) Nishikawa; sister, Fusako Nishikawa; she is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 6; ggc: 4. ■

Dr. Hitoshi Tamaki

Feb. 28, 2015



Tamaki, Dr. Hitoshi, 97, Plymouth, PA; July 3. Tamaki was a celebrated doctor who was a former JACL Mamoru Fellowship Fund chair and Millennium Club member. Born in Eatonville, Wash., in 1929 to the late Seichi and Toki Tamaki, he went on to attend public school in Tacoma and graduated summa laude with a B.S. degree from the University of Puget Sound.

Tamaki also attended the Boston University School of Medicine and completed his residency training in pathology at Montefiore Hospital in Pittsburgh, Penn. In 1948, Dr. Tamaki was appointed director of pathology at Montgomery Hospital and was president of the staff in 1965. His medical accomplishments and memberships were diverse and celebrated.

Dr. Tamaki was president of the Philadelphia chapter of the JACL, receiving the distinguished Ruby Pin from the JACL National Board. His awards included being recognized as one of Montgomery County's outstanding citizens in 1962. He was also named to Who's Who in the East, Paul Harris Fellow in Rotary International. In 1992, he received citations from the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and also from the Montgomery County Commissioners. Dr. Tamaki received a letter of commendation from former Gov. Richard Thornburgh and received the key to the Borough of Norristown from former Mayor John Marberger with proclamation of "H. Thomas Tamaki Day" on April 14, 1992.

He is survived by his wife, Marion Z.; children, Dwight T. (Patricia), Gregory H. (Julia) Tamaki, Karen Tora (Philip) Buecher and Drew Sei Tamaki; brother, Tensio "Ted"; sister, Shizue "Sue" Sasagawa; gc: 9.

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Edgar Fukutaki
Takeo Shirasawa
Kit Mizukami
John Tobe
Edward Y. Mayeda
Nelly Kobayashi
Margaret Oyama
Mary H Aoki
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Aiko Jane Okubo
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(The list above includes the individuals who generously donated $150 or more to the annual Spring Campaign.)

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(The list above includes the individuals who generously donated $150 or more to the annual Spring Campaign.)



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2015 JACL ANNUAL REPORT

















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This annual report covers programs and projects of the Japanese American Citizens League from **July 2014 to July 2015.**

Message from the President



It is my pleasure to share with you the 2014–2015 issue of the JACL Annual Report and I hope you will find this report to be useful and informative. We started publishing this report three years ago in an effort to enhance communications with our members, constituents, funders and the general public. I believe that we are achieving the objective as this report highlights our successes and many of our key programs. In summary, I am proud to say that this past year was marked by many positive changes and we have made significant progress towards making JACL a stronger and a better organization.

First, I wanted to thank the National Council for re-electing me to the position of the National President in July 2014. It has been a great honor and privilege to serve in this capacity since July 2012 and I am grateful for placing your trust and confidence in me to lead this premier Asian American civil rights organization.

At the Japanese American Citizens League, we have come a long way since our beginning 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, JACL has continued to adapt to the changing social and political environment to fight for the rights of not only Japanese Americans, but for all Asian Pacific Americans and groups in need of a voice.

JACL has made great strides in the past year, both externally and internally. Within JACL, we continued to explore and develop innovative programs that would be relevant to our members; we revamped and updated our infrastructures, in the forms of both physical assets and online assets; and we examined and implemented processes to further improve our financial reporting capabilities and overall transparency.

One such initiative that I would like to highlight is the Kakehashi Program. Kakehashi is a youth exchange opportunity JACL offers with financial support provided by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and the Japan Foundation. During this past year, we brought close to 100 youth in 4 groups to visit Japan. We received nothing but the most complimentary feedback on how invaluable this experience was to JACL participants. I am so pleased that JACL was selected to offer this opportunity to our youth and to further the relationship between the people of United States and Japan. I am also delighted to report that we will not only continue, but expand, the Kakehashi Program in 2015–2016 with over 180 participants!

Externally, JACL has always been at the forefront of advancing the cause of the AAPI community through a variety of education programs and working with elected officials and other civil rights organizations on a number of initiatives. Unfortunately, we also continued to see acts of intolerance against AAPIs in politics, in media and in our society, often based upon outdated stereotypes or general ignorance of our heritage and culture. JACL must remain vigilant in identifying and responding to such incidents not only to stand up to racial intolerance, but also to show others that we will not idly sit by when our heritage is denigrated. JACL must continue its adherence to the fundamental principles of social justice and civil rights that the organization was originally founded on, through advocating for equality and fairness for AAPIs and for all Americans.

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. Members of 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 hard work and commitment to JACL. 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 and your community. It has truly been an honor and a privilege to serve as your National President and I am equally grateful to the National Board for their hard work and collaboration.

In the following pages, you will find detailed information on 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 reaching even greater height through you hard work, dedication, and commitment to JACL. I look forward to working with all of you this coming year!

Sincerely yours,

David T. Lin

David T. Lin
National President

JACL District Councils

The Japanese American Citizens League consists of nearl 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.

Pacific Northwest (PNW):

Alaska
Gresham-Troutdale
Olympia
Portland
Puyallup Valley
Seattle
Spokane

Central California District Council (CCDC):

Clovis
Fowler
Fresno
Livingston-Merced
Parlier
Reedley
Sanger
Selma
Tulare County

Northern California/Western Nevada/ Pacific (NCWNP):

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
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Sonoma County
Stockton
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West Valley

Intermountain District Council (IDC):

Boise Valley
Idaho Falls
Mile High
Mount Olympus
Pocatello-Blackfoot
Salt Lake City
Snake River
Wasatch Front North

Midwest District Council (MDC):

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Detroit
Hoosier
Houston
Omaha
St. Louis
Twin Cities
Wisconsin

Pacific Southwest District Council (PSWDC):

APAN
Arizona
Downtown Los Angeles
East Los Angeles
Greater LA
Greater Pasadena
High Desert
Hollywood
Las Vegas
Marina-SCAN
New Mexico
Orange County
Pasadena
Riverside
San Diego
San Fernando Valley
San Gabriel Valley
San Luis Obispo
Santa Barbara
Santa Maria
Selanoco
South Bay
Torrance
Venice-Culver City
Ventura County
West Los Angeles

Eastern District Council (EDC):

New England
New York
Philadelphia
Seabrook
Southeast
Washington, D.C.



*Approximate number of members for each district

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 of promoting social justice and diversity.

For more information about JACL programs and membership, please visit www.JACL.org or contact one of our 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, IL 60640
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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
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Seattle, WA 98104
Phone (206) 623-5088
Fax (206) 623-0526

Pacific Southwest Regional Office
244 South San Pedro Street, #507
Los Angeles, CA 90012
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1629 K Street NW, Suite 400
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Craig Shimizu
Daniel K. Inouye Fellow



Vision

Aware of our responsibilities as the oldest and largest Asian Pacific American civil rights organization, JACL strives to promote a world that honors diversity by respecting values of fairness, equality, and social justice.

Mission

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.

Programs

DEFAMATION

JACL monitors and responds to incidents of defamation and hate crimes that occur throughout the United States. JACL co-chairs the Asian Pacific American Media Coalition (APAMC) and serves on the executive committees of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights (LCCHR) and the National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA).

JACL responded to a number of incidents in 2014-2015, including:

- JACL responded to remarks by Justice Clarence Thomas in the Obergefell v. Hodges same-sex marriage decision where he commented on notions of dignity by saying that those held in internment camps did not lose their dignity. Executive Director Priscilla Ouchida responded that the internment was "tantamount to the destruction of a community, a culture and an American system of constitutional protections…There is no dignity in inequality."
- JACL reiterated its position that the Department of Homeland Security end the family detention program for women and children seeking asylum in the U.S. JACL condemned the building of new facilities at Dilley and Karnes in south Texas, which resemble the WWII-era camps for Japanese Americans. In its statement, JACL said, "Karnes, Dilley, and Artesia must not be remembered as we remember Manzanar, Heart Mountain, and Tule Lake."
- JACL issued a statement on the Ferguson, MO decision in the death of Michael Brown saying that, "JACL is deeply troubled by the grand jury's failure to indict Officer Darren Wilson…We support those who are working tirelessly to reform a broken system." The statement went on to explain that the legal system often rationalizes police brutality and fails to value black and brown lives.
- JACL issued a statement about the HBO series from Australia, Jonah from Tonga, in which a white actor in brown makeup and wig depicts Jonah, a young Tongan teen. Numerous scenes in the series mocked or misrepresented Tongan culture and customs. The series was eventually dropped.
- JACL issued a statement chiding General Wesley Clark for suggesting internment camps for "radicalized" individuals. In its statement, JACL said, "The threat of terrorism is real, but we must remain circumspect about the responses we pursue. The apology to Japanese Americans says that we owe it to ourselves, to our own sense of honor that we do not go down a path that jeopardizes the rights of Americans."
- JACL issued a statement on affirmative action in response to a lawsuit filed against Harvard University by a group called Students for Fair Admissions. JACL reiterated its support for affirmative action, saying "It is clear that Asian Pacific Americans benefit from affirmative action. Portions of the Asian Pacific American population, including Southeast Asians, Pacific Islanders, and recent immigrants, experience significant educational disparities and benefit from race-conscious admissions policies that account for the unique obstacles faced by these groups."

COURT CASES

JACL signed onto the following amicus briefs during July 2014–July 2015:

Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs v. The Inclusive Communities Project (U.S. Supreme Court, 2014)

This case focused on Dallas, Texas, where over a period of years a housing agency reinforced residential segregation by consistently approving affordable housing only in African American neighborhoods. The U.S. Supreme Court reviewed a key provision of the Fair Housing Act questioning whether it prohibits unjustified practices that disproportionately exclude or harm people based on race, ethnicity, religion, family status, or other characteristics covered by the standard of "disparate impact." JACL joined an *amicus* brief filed by filed by the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) and the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights on behalf of a coalition of organizations. The brief provided evidence supporting the arguments that segregation continues to generate social harms whereas integration conveys benefits that accrue both to individuals and to society.

Obergefell v. Hodges; Tanco v. Haslam; Deboer v. Snyder; and Bourke v. Beshear (U.S. Supreme Court, 2015)

These cases challenge state constitutional amendments in Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, and Tennessee that define marriage as exclusively between one man and one woman. JACL joined a coalition signing onto an *amicus* brief filed by ADL that recounts how the U.S. Supreme Court has long rejected the argument that religious and moral disapproval can be used to justify discriminatory laws targeting disadvantaged groups.

Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Craig (Colorado Court of Appeals, 2015)

The complainants in this case, a gay couple, were denied the opportunity to order a cake for their wedding reception. The Colorado Civil Rights Division held that this constituted sexual orientation discrimination in violation of the Colorado Anti-Discrimination Act, a finding upheld by the Colorado Civil Rights Commission. Masterpiece Cakeshop appealed the Commission's ruling to the Colorado Court of Appeals, arguing that enforcing the nondiscrimination law was unconstitutional under the Free Exercise Clause and the compelled speech doctrine. JACL joined an *amicus* brief submitted by ADL urging the court to affirm the Commission's decision and reject arguments that religious or moral disapproval is a legitimate basis for discrimination.

Conde-Vidal v. Armendariz (1st Cir. 2015)

This case challenged Puerto Rico's marriage ban, a state constitutional amendment that defines marriage as exclusively between one man and one woman. JACL joined an *amicus* brief filed by ADL arguing that overturning the marriage ban would not only ensure that religious considerations do not influence which marriages the state can recognize, but would also allow religious groups to decide the definition of marriage for themselves.

Brenner v. Armstrong (11th Cir. 2014); DeLeon v. Perry (5th Cir., 2014); Wolf v. Walker (7th Cir., 2014); Baskin v. Bogan (7th Cir. 2014); Henry v. Himes (6th Cir. 2014)

These cases challenged state constitutional amendments in Florida, Indiana, Ohio, Texas, and Wisconsin, which defined marriage as exclusively between one man and one woman. The JACL joined *amicus* briefs filed by ADL on behalf of a coalition of 25 organizations arguing that overturning these marriage bans would ensure that religious considerations do not improperly influence which marriages these states can recognize.

Latta v. Otter (9th Cir., 2014)

This case challenged Idaho's marriage ban. ADL filed a brief on behalf of a coalition of 23 organizations, including JACL, arguing that overturning the marriage ban would not only ensure that religious considerations do not improperly influence which marriages that state can recognize, but would also allow religious groups to decide the definition of marriage for themselves.

Texas v. U.S. (5th Cir., 2015)

JACL and more than 150 organizations joined an *amicus* brief filed by the American Immigration Council that provided powerful stories on the potential DACA expansion as well as DAPA beneficiaries. This brief attempted to demonstrate to the court that aspiring Americans who may be eligible for these initiates are entrepreneurs, community leaders, and individuals committed to ensuring their families' well being and to improving their communities.

Bahlul v. U.S. (D.C. Cir. 2014)

In light of JACL's history and the incarceration experience during World War II, JACL and several other AAPI organizations filed an *amicus* brief contesting the use of military tribunals on non-citizens and urged the court to apply a strict scrutiny level or review for the Military Commissions Act.

2015 JACL/OCA D.C. LEADERSHIP SUMMIT



JACL and OCA - Asian Pacific American Advocates partner every year to co-direct the JACL/OCA leadership summit in Washington D.C., an intensive three-day civil rights and advocacy seminar that introduces emerging Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) leaders to public policy advocacy strategies.

In 2015, twenty-six participants from across the nation visited Congressional offices to advocate for education and immigration policies relevant to the AAPI community. They also met with former Secretary of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta, attended a White House briefing with the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (WHIAAPI) staff, ate dinner with Doua Thor, Senior Advisor of WHIAAPI, and took part in a speaker series with Congressman Mark Takano and Mike Honda.

INTERNSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS



College students and recent graduates have the opportunity to work in the areas of public service, public policy, and advocacy via JACL internships and fellowships in Washington D.C. Fellows and Interns in the JACL Washington, D.C. office work on a wide variety of policy issues, advocacy efforts, and JACL National programs and projects. The Mike M. Masaoka Congressional Fellowship provides Fellows with the unique opportunity to gain first-hand experience in the policy-making process as members of a Congressional staff.

Kelly Honda
Mike M. Masaoka Fellow

Craig Shimizu
Daniel K. Inouye Fellow

Korinne Suagasawara
Norman Y. Mineta Fellow

Theo Bickel, Grace Kim
OCA Interns

CAMPUS OUTREACH

JACL's Campus Outreach Program visits campuses nationwide to present workshops on topics of interest to young Asian Americans. In 2015, JACL presented a workshop on Multiracial Identity at the Midwest Asian American Student Union Conference (MAASU) at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. A workshop on anti-Asian sentiment, titled "When Hate Hits You" was presented to students at Creighton University as part of a Day of Remembrance commemoration.

BRIDGING COMMUNITIES



The Bridging Communities Program brings together high school students from the Japanese American and Muslim American communities to foster a better understanding of the consequences of intolerance and the need for strong community partnerships. Students in Bridging Communities examine the similarities between the WWII incarceration experience of Japanese Americans and the post-9/11 experience of Muslim Americans by visiting Japanese American incarceration camps and satellite sites. Bridging Communities is funded in part by the National Park Service Japanese American Confinement Sites Grant Program.

Sixteen students traveled to Little Rock, Arkansas, as part of the 2015 Bridging Communities program. They learned of the struggles faced by African Americans at Little Rock Central High National Historic Site, where nine courageous African American students enrolled in the newly integrated school. Afterwards students viewed artifacts made by incarcerated Japanese Americans at the Butler Center for Arkansas Studies, and heard the story of Richard Yada, a Rohwer incarceree and resident of Little Rock. Finally, participants explored the site of Rohwer Relocation Center outside of McGehee, Arkansas.

TEACHER TRAINING PROGRAM



JACL conducts teacher-training workshops to promote the inclusion of the Japanese American experience in classrooms, museum exhibits, and community based programs. In 2015, through the National Park Service Japanese American Confinement Sites (JACS) Grant Program, JACL conducted teacher-training workshops in Phoenix, AZ; Santa Fe, NM; Houston, TX; Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN. Two additional workshops are scheduled for 2015 in Boston, MA and Salt Lake City, UT.

JACL LEGACY FUND GRANTS

Established in 1990 by JACL's National Council, the Legacy Fund provides grants up to $3000 for projects or activities that support the organization's Program for Action. Funding for the grants are provided by revenues from the approximately $5,000,000 donated to the Legacy Fund by individuals who were incarcerated in the World War II camps.

In 2015, a record number of fourteen projects were awarded grants to increase youth participation, foster collaboration with diverse community groups, and build broader awareness of and appreciation for Japanese American contributions at the local, district and national levels. Awards were presented at the 2015 JACL National Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada.

- The Chicago Chapter will create the Kansha Project Alumni Leadership Board in order to enable Kansha Youth Alumni to assume leadership of the program.
- The Cincinnati Chapter seeks to educate the Butler County youth about the contribution and history of Japanese Americans through literacy and the arts.
- The New England Chapter's project, entitled Bend, features features a solo multimedia performance piece for colleges and universities that tells the true story of two Japanese American men who were incarcerated in camp during World War II.
- The New Mexico Chapter will support the translation of the recently uncovered Santa Fe internee scrap album and correspondence, and also the translation of the Lordsburg prisoners' diary.
- The New York City Chapter's Japanese American Oral History Project will focus on unique stories of Nisei and Sansei regarding the New York City Redress and Reparations movement.
- The NY/SC will engage with JACL youth and young professionals nationwide, support District Youth Representatives, and increase the visibility of the NY/SC in all JACL Districts through a series of NY/SC retreats.
- The Philadelphia Chapter is supporting Good Luck Soup Interactive, a virtual community and interactive website that highlights the Japanese American and Japanese Canadian post-WWII experience.
- The Pacific Southwest District Council's project will strive to provide a positive and inclusive experience for 15 Japanese American college students who identify as LGBTQ and are allies for LGBTQ justice.
- The Puyallup Valley Chapter will focus on improving the chapter's operational infrastructure by supporting the development of technological communication and providing training to sustain it.
- The San Diego Chapter will support a documentary, *Never Forget*, which commemorates the 70th anniversary of the end of WWII and focuses on the veterans of the 100th/442nd Regimental Team and Military Intelligence Service. The chapter will also revive its annual Gala.
- The Seattle Chapter will create a well-designed website which will enhance marketing and communication for the Chapter.
- The Snake River Chapter's arbor structure will provide vital shade in the rehabilitation of the second largest Japanese garden in Oregon.
- The Washington D.C. Chapter will engage community members in the maintenance of the National Japanese American Memorial and will educate them about the history of the Memorial and the Japanese American experience.

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM



JACL launched a campaign to increase civic engagement among Japanese American and under-represented AAPI communities. JACL partnered with Asian Resources Inc. and My Sisters House to organize the JACL Get Out the Vote (GOTV) Campaign in Sacramento County, California. Students made over 42,000 phone calls to Sacramento residents encouraging local Japanese, Vietnamese, South Indian, Hmong, and Laotian voters to participate in the 2014 midterm elections. Additionally, all JACL members were called in an effort to encourage full voter turnout for the elections and provide resources to assist in the voter registration process.

JACL partnered with Asian & Pacific Islander Americans Vote (APIAVote) during the 2015 Convention to provide workshops on increasing civic engagement. More than 125 JACL representatives from over forty-five chapters participated in presentations on voter mobilization, campaign plan development, and effective voter registration programs.

JACL 2015 NATIONAL CONVENTION
LAS VEGAS - MONTE CARLO RESORT **JULY 13-15**

KAKEHASHI



In 2014, JACL sent eighty-five Japanese American undergraduate and graduate students to Japan through the Kakehashi Project, hosted by the Japan Foundation. Participants traveled to Japan in May, July, and October, exploring cities and taking part in various cultural activities to facilitate cross-cultural understanding. Kakehashi participants also met with Japanese professors, students, and business and political leaders to learn about U.S.-Japan relations.

At the 2015 Convention in Las Vegas, Minister Tamaki Tsukada of the Embassy of Japan announced that the Kakehashi Project would be made a annual program. Minister Tsukada also announced that the total number of participants would increase to 186, and opened the program to non-Japanese Asian Americans. In 2015, JACL will be coordinating seven nine-day trips with the Japan International Cooperation Center (JICE) in the winter of 2015 and spring of 2016.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

JACL works to preserve the heritage and legacy of Japanese Americans and to ensure that the diverse experiences of the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities are included in American history.

- JACL opposed the auctioning of over 450 crafts and artifacts made by incarcerated Japanese Americans by Rago Auction House. Rago had acquired the historic artifacts from a descendant of Allen H. Eaton, a folk art expert who opposed the wartime incarceration. Families had donated the items to Eaton with the mutual understanding that the items would be for public educational purposes. After strong community outcry, the artifacts were withdrawn from public auction.
- JACL advocated on Capitol Hill for the National Park Service Japanese American Confinement Sites (JACS) Grant Program, which provides funds to preserve and interpret World War II Japanese American incarceration camps. Thirty-eight members of Congress signed onto letters in support of securing over $2.9 million in funding for the JACS Grant Program.
- JACL protested the filming of a reality television show, "Diggers," at Rohwer in Arkansas, the site of a World War II Japanese American incarceration camp. The show features hosts who excavate historic sites in search of artifacts and valuables. JACL expressed concern in letters to Half Yard Productions Company and Mayor-Elect Jeff Owyoung of McGehee, Arkansas. Subsequently, JACL received word from Half Yard Productions that they would not be filming "Diggers" at Rohwer.
- JACL is a member of the All Camps Consortium, which brings together a number of leaders representing the World War II incarceration sites, as well as the community stakeholders working to preserve and interpret the Japanese American incarceration experience. JACL attended a number of All Camps meetings in Washington, D.C. in 2015 to strengthen these relationships and build capacity through the sharing of resources, information, and best practices.

NATIONAL YOUTH/STUDENT COUNCIL



The National Youth/Student Council (NY/SC) is composed of dedicated students and young professionals from each of JACL's seven districts. The mission of the NY/SC is to raise awareness of AAPI issues and to engage and develop young leaders who create positive community change. The NY/SC envisions a national network of collaborative young leaders and allies with the collective power and passion to make change happen.

The NY/SC plans and implements several Youth Leadership Summits throughout the year with sponsorship from State Farm and Southwest Airlines. These summits provide educational opportunities for young people to grow their skill sets and learn about new advocacy issues. Held in Clovis, CA; Los Angeles, CA; Washington, D.C.; and Seattle, WA. Topics ranged from the LGBTQ Asian American community, racial stereotypes, networking, and inter-communal racial identity.

NY/SC Youth Delegates Kota Mizutani and Kenji Kuramitsu traveled to Selma to participate in the 50th Anniversary of the 1965 voting rights demonstrations, and continue the fight for racial equality. The NY/SC sponsored a resolution at the 2015 National Convention calling upon JACL to support House Resolution 40, which proposes studying the effects of slavery on the African American community.

NY/SC Members:

Nicole Gaddie
National Youth Chair

Michelle Yamashiro
National Youth Representative

Macy Elliott
CCDC Youth Representative

Kota Mizutani
EDC Youth Representative

Charles Aoki
IDC Youth Representative

Nathan Iwamoto Fukumitsu
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Mary Coomes
Member-At-Large

Kurt Ikeda
Member-At-Large

Emi Lea Kamemoto
Member-At-Large

Highlights

ART OF GAMAN



Sponsored by JACL, the Art of Gaman continued its nationwide tour by bringing the exhibit in Houston, TX in February of 2015. The Art of Gaman features over 120 artifacts made by Japanese Americans while incarcerated during World War II and has been viewed by over half a million people in the United States and Japan. Curated by Delphine Hirasuna, the collection includes tools, artwork, photographs, and furniture and invites viewers to explore the Japanese concept of *gaman*, "to endure the seemingly unbearable with patience and dignity."

JACL and AARP sponsored an opening program for The Art of Gaman at the Holocaust Museum Houston on February 3, 2015. The reception featured a screening of ABC7 Los Angeles news anchor David Ono's Emmy-winning documentary, The Legacy of Heart Mountain. The Art of Gaman will be on display in Houston until September 20, 2015.

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE



JACL and the Smithsonian National Museum of American History hosted 300 people for the 2015 Day of Remembrance, featuring a screening of ABC7 Los Angeles news anchor David Ono's Emmy Award winning documentary, The Legacy of Heart Mountain. A panel discussion followed and the event concluded with a spoken word performance by G. Yamazawa, the 2014 National Poetry Slam Champion. Day of Remembrance is observed on February 19th, the date President Roosevelt authorized the incarceration of 110,000 Japanese Americans by signing Executive Order 9066 in 1942.

VOTING RIGHTS ACT RALLY



JACL partnered with The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights to advocate for the restoration of the Voting Rights Act. JACL visited over twenty Congressional offices in support of restoring voter protections weakened by the 2013 United States Supreme Court decision Shelby v. Holder. JACL marched for these key provisions in 1965, and the passage of the historic Voting Rights Act enfranchised minorities across the United States.

JACL joined over 300 people from more than 25 community and civil rights organizations in Roanoke, Virginia, calling for Representative Bob Goodlatte, Chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, to hold a hearing on restoring the Voting Rights Act.

HONOULIULI



JACL started a process in 2005 to make Honouliuli, the largest and longest used World War II incarceration site in Hawaii, part of the National Park Service. JACL met with the Director of the National Park Service Johnathan B. Jarvis, members of Congress, and other government officials on a number of occasions to inform them of Honouliuli's historic and cultural significance.

JACL passed a resolution in 2011 supporting a special resource study to review Honouliuli for inclusion into the National Park system. Members from the Honolulu JACL and Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii (JCCH) visited officials in Washington D.C. in December 2014 to deliver petitions with over 6,000 signatures to support designating Honouliuli as a National Historic Monument. JACL participated in both the historic Oval Office bill signing and dedication ceremonies designating Honouliuli as a National Historic Monument in March 2015.

2015 JACL CONVENTION



JACL held its 46th National Convention on July 13-15, 2015, in Las Vegas, Nevada with over 250 people in attendance.

Delegates passed four resolutions, including one sponsored by the NY/SC supporting House Resolution 40. The resolution calls for Congress to establish a commission to study the institution of slavery in the United States and make recommendations on appropriate remedies. JACL is the first membership-based Asian American civil rights organization to support House Resolution 40.

JACL continued its support of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer/questioning (LGBTQ) community with the passage of an emergency resolution calling upon JACL to be an ally to the transgender community. Other resolutions passed recognized the leadership and service of Mike Masaoka to the Japanese American community, and honored the importance of artifacts created by incarcerated Japanese Americans during WWII.

The Convention featured two plenary sessions on relevant current issues: a LGBTQ plenary that shared the personal experiences of a multigenerational, multi-ethnic panel from the Asian American LGBTQ community and presentation from AARP on livable communities. Chapters participating in the Civic Engagement Campaign attended training sessions by Asian & Pacific Islander Americans Vote (AAPI Vote) on the importance of voting for Asian American and Pacific Islanders and effective voter registration campaign tactics.

Highlights of the 2015 Convention included a youth mixer and Kakehashi reunion to promote youth engagement, and an exclusive screening of the animated film Minions.

PRIME MINISTER ABE VISIT



JACL members participated in a number of events commemorating the first official state visit of the Prime Minister of Japan, Mr. Shinzo Abe, to the United States. Over one hundred JACL members welcomed the Prime Minister at the official White House State Arrival Ceremony, where President Obama and Prime Minister Abe delivered speeches highlighting the deep friendship between Japan and the United States.

JACL participated in events and meetings with the Prime Minister in Boston, MA; Washington, D.C.; San Francisco and Los Angeles, CA, and witnessed Prime Minister Abe's historic address to a joint session of Congress. JACL Executive Director Priscilla Ouchida attended the official State Dinner with President Obama and Prime Minister Abe.

SELMA



JACL made history in March 2015 when a JACL delegation traveled to Selma, AL to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the 1965 demonstrations that led to the passage of the landmark Voting Rights Act. The JACL delegation brought together a multigenerational group, including Todd Endo, who participated in daily marches to the courthouse in 1965 to push for racial equality and the right to vote.

On the 50th anniversary of the historic march across Pettus Bridge, Kota Mizutani and Kenji Kuramitsu joined Todd Endo and a torch was passed from one generation to another. The JACL delegation then joined a contingent of over 70,000 people for the reenactment of the Pettus Bridge crossing.

Scholarships: 2014 Recipients

JACL offers scholarships for college freshmen, undergraduate and graduate students as well as scholarships for law, creative and performing arts students, and those in financial need.

2014 FRESHMAN SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS:

FRESHMAN

Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship — **Colvin Endo**, Philadelphia JACL
Paul & Katherine Ohtaki Memorial Scholarship — **Emily Isakari**, French Camp JACL
Paul & Katherine Ohtaki Memorial Scholarship — **Allysha Yasuda**, Snake River Valley JACL
Mr. & Mrs. Takeshi Mariochi Scholarship — **Daniel Souza**, Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL
CWO 4 Mitsugi Murakami Kouzi (Ret) Memorial Scholarship — **Marisa Eng**, Mt. Olympus JACL
Shigeki "Shorty" Ushio Memorial Scholarship — **Eric Langowski**, Hoosier JACL
Patricia & Gail Ishimoto Memorial Scholarship — **Kayla Umemoto**, Sacramento JACL
Sam & Florice Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship — **Sydney Kajioka**, Sacramento JACL
Sam & Florice Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship — **Seth Karpel**, Philadelphia JACL
Deni & June Uejima Memorial Scholarship — **Megan Ingram**, Puyallup Valley JACL
Hanayagi Rikunne Memorial Cultural Scholarship — **Kelli Todemaru**, Venice Culver JACL

2014 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS: UNDERGRADS, GRADS, LAW, ARTS, STUDENT AID

UNDERGRADUATE

Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship — **Hana Yamahiro**, Wisconsin JACL
Shigeru "Shig" Nakahara Memorial Scholarship — **Marisa Kawamitsu**, South Bay JACL
Kenji Kajiwara Memorial Scholarship — **Megan Iritani**, Mile High JACL
Dr. Thomas T. Yatabe Memorial Scholarship — **Kristen Yang**, Chicago JACL
Alice Yuriko Endo Memorial Scholarship — **Tsukuma Tina Niwa**, New York JACL
Sabura Kido Memorial Scholarship — **Nicole Hamasaki**, Torrance JACL
Kyutaro & Yasui Abiko Memorial Scholarship — **Garrett Sano**, Fresno JACL

GRADUATE

Henry & Chiyo Kuwahara Memorial Scholarship — **Suzuko Shimasaki**, Mile High JACL
Rev. H. John Yamashita Memorial Scholarship — **Elizabeth Uno**, Florin JACL
Minoru Yasui Memorial Scholarship — **Christine Muntean**, Chicago JACL
Dr. Kiyoshi Sonoda Memorial Scholarship — **Kimiko Agari**, Stockton JACL
Maguichi & Shizuko Kato Memorial Scholarship — **Peter Yamamura**, Seattle JACL

JACL 2015
National Convention

JULY 13-15

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A. Hirotoshi Nishikawa
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Takeko Wakiji
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