THE NATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF THE JACL

March 4-17, 2016

PACIFIC CITIZEN



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#3272 / VOL. 162, No. 4 ISSN: 0030-8579

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HELP SAVE THE *PACIFIC CITIZEN* WITH THE 2016 SPRING CAMPAIGN

My Fellow JACLers,

It is again time for our *Pacific Citizen* Spring Campaign. I want to thank everyone for his or her ongoing generous support of the *Pacific Citizen*. I know our staff and volunteers are working hard to provide you with a quality publication. Your donations greatly assist the *P.C.*

The *Pacific Citizen* has been a primary source of information for our community since 1929. Knowing the importance of this communication link, the JACL has included a *P.C.* subscription as part of the membership dues since 1943.

However, with today's decrease in JACL membership, the *P.C.* suffers from decreasing revenues. We are fortunate for the financial support all of you have provided. The *Pacific Citizen's* Spring Campaign is our opportunity to continue to support our own award-winning publication.

Although the *Pacific Citizen* has continued to decrease its expenses, the decrease in membership income has created a deficit in the *P.C.'s* budget. Therefore, we are setting our 2016 Spring Campaign goal high.

Our 2016 Spring Campaign goal is to raise $100,000. Absolutely 100 percent of the donations will be used for the *P.C.'s* operations. Your donations will help defray the rising costs at the *P.C.* and ensure that the newspaper will continue to provide you with the important AAPI news and information you need to stay in touch.

This year, the *Pacific Citizen* has included an added incentive to donate. With each donation of $150 or more, the donor will be entered into a monthly drawing for a box of delicious Fugetsu-Do Japanese manju. The winner will have the traditional Japanese confection delivered to his or her home. So, please join me in donating at the $150 or more level. Your tax-deductible donation will truly be appreciated.

With your help, we will continue to provide the best *P.C.* possible. Thank you again for all your past assistance. Please continue your generous support to ensure the *Pacific Citizen* continues into the future.

Respectfully,

Carol Kawamoto,
Pacific Citizen
Editorial Board Chair

THANK *YOU, P.C.* READERS



The *Pacific Citizen* has weathered many storms throughout the years, and each time, has faced the challenges placed upon it head on. Whether covering wartime news, incarceration injustices, civil rights struggles, staffing vacancies and the digital debate, the *P.C.* has SURVIVED and continued to serve its most important audience: YOU.

In November 2015, the *P.C.'s* survey regarding JACL National's decision to transition the *P.C.* all digital received 160 mailed responses in the span of one month, not including the numerous phone calls and emails received in the office. Of the total, 154 readers said no to digital. And of the unsolicited responses received, 19 said they would cancel their JACL membership should the printed *P.C.* no longer be available. YOU were heard and acknowledged.

Now in its 87th year, the *P.C.* is faced with yet another challenge, its greatest yet: Saving its future.

P.C.'s annual Spring Campaign is more important than ever, as the *P.C.* needs to raise at least $100,000 in order to ensure that JACL's award-winning publication continues to document the Asian American experience across the U.S.

The *P.C.'s* 2016 budget, as set by National JACL, is at an all-time high of approximately $300,000. Membership dues allocated from JACL to the *P.C.* are down due to declining membership numbers. Since 2013, *P.C.* has cut its office expenses 52 percent. *P.C.* is responsible for raising the remaining balance, and should it come up short, *P.C.'s* future is in absolute jeopardy.

P.C.'s Spring Campaign officially kicks off with this issue, and you'll soon see a progress meter marking how close *P.C.* is toward achieving its ultimate goal.

Thank YOU for so generously giving to the Spring Campaign. With your help and support, the *P.C.* can continue!

Sincerely,

Allison Haramoto,
P.C. Executive Editor

PACIFIC CITIZEN **The P.C.'s mission is to "educate on the past Japanese American experience and preserve, promote and help the current and future AAPI communities."**

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2016 SPRING campaign

More than ever, your funds will help preserve the legacy of the *Pacific Citizen*. Donations of $150 or more will be entered in a monthly drawing for a box of *"Fugetsu-Do"* Japanese manju delivered to the winner's door.

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The ***Pacific Citizen*** newspaper (ISSN: 0030-8579) is published semi-monthly (except once in December and January) by the Japanese American Citizens League, *Pacific Citizen*, 123 Ellison S. Onizuka St., Suite 313 Los Angeles, CA 90012
Periodical postage paid at L.A., CA
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to National JACL, 1765 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94115

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National Director: Priscilla Ouchida

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Periodicals paid at Los Angeles, Calif. and mailing office.



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A MOTHER'S TAKE

DREAMING AT ANY AGE

By Marsha Aizumi

Almost five years ago, I retired from a 13-year job I loved. It was time. And it was also frightening. Work gave me purpose and a place to belong. Would I find that same fulfillment now as a retired person? I had decided to write a book about my journey with my transgender son, and also I seemed to be moving in the direction of becoming something I knew nothing about . . . being an LGBTQ activist. Sometimes, you just have to follow your heart and take a leap of faith. So, that is what I did.

During these past five years, I have learned that my greatest power lies in being myself. I have also learned that age puts no limitations on what you can do. Everything is a choice. For the first part of my life, I really didn't know what being myself was. I was a perfectionist, because I never wanted to be wrong. And if I was perfect, nobody would criticize me. But often being perfect and expecting perfection from others gave neither of us room to grow and make mistakes. And it also put a tremendous amount of pressure on me. I didn't risk taking on anything where I could fail, and so I never took on things that could expand who I was as a person.

Often I was afraid to speak out for fear of offending others and having them judge me as a terrible employee, mother or human being. At work, my bosses would encourage me to share my thoughts and not be so invisible. I tried to be visible, but at the first hint of disapproval, I would quietly move into invisibility once again. Not being seen seemed safer.

And then Aiden came out as a transgender individual, and my world was turned upside down. Something inside of me changed. I could no longer think about myself. I needed to think about him. No longer could I go through life casually seeing how every day would unfold for me. No, I had to make each day count. I had to courageously step out, most of the time being scared of saying or doing the wrong thing, but doing it anyway.

Brene Brown, author of No. 1 *New York Times* bestseller, "Daring Greatly," says, "You can be brave and scared at the same time." Most of the time, you didn't have to tell me I was scared. I felt that inside. But brave was a whole new concept. If I was scared and I did it anyway, that was brave?

In the beginning, I made a lot of mistakes. I said the wrong thing, but I learned the power of saying, "I'm sorry." I did wrong things and learned the power of asking, "How can I do it better next time?" Sometimes, people did or said hurtful things to me. And I learned the power of saying, "I know you didn't mean to hurt me, but when you said that about my son, my heart felt bad." In most cases, I was forgiven, or given better ways to handle things or was apologized to. In all cases, I walked away understanding more, feeling prouder of myself or realizing how I could do things better in the future. The hard part of apologizing, asking how I could do better or sharing my feelings was that most of the time, I felt like a lobster without a shell. Later, I found out that was how you feel when you are being vulnerable.

But being vulnerable has helped me grow and provided me gifts that I never thought would come into my life as a retiree. Authentically sharing my journey of transitioning with my transgender son, I have met so many beautiful people all over the country. And taking on challenges like speaking to larger and larger crowds, even though I was scared, has given me a purpose greater than I thought I would have.

Last month, I spoke in Chicago at a conference called "Creating Change." At the end of the workshop, I stopped a young lady who left our presentation crying. "Are you OK?" I asked as she walked past me. "Yes," she replied, "I am walking out with hope." Two weeks later, I spoke to 800 educators and professionals in Dallas. I was scared going onstage, but I just kept telling myself, "Keep your heart open, and be yourself." At the end, they gave me a standing ovation.

I think what I want to share with you today is that you are NEVER too old to go out and make a difference. Forget your age. Find your passion! Go out and share who you are, who you authentically are.

If you are not sure what your life can look like if you do this, rent a movie called "The Intern" with Robert De Niro and Anne Hathaway. Or Google the name Virginia McLaurin, a 106-year-old lady who started a social media campaign at age 104 to meet President Obama and dreamed of being invited to the White House. The video of their meeting has gone viral and inspired so many!

We are never too old to bring value to the lives of others. And we are never too old to dream . . . .

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."



A YONSEI TRANSPLANTED

DEMOCRACY AND THE NATIONAL CHARACTER

By Matthew Ormseth

A few months ago, I was talking with a friend of mine at college, a French national, and we arrived, somewhat awkwardly, at the subject of immigration. It was only a week or two after the attacks in Paris, and all of Europe was eyeing the teeming crowds of migrants, boatload after capsize-prone boatload of them, with a new wariness. Could the next gunman, the next suicide bomber, be among those hundreds of thousands seeking refuge? My friend was gripped by this same wariness, a wariness that, in light of what happened the night of Nov. 13, 2015, was tainted with a xenophobia he now believed was necessary.

He told me he was opposed to the admittance of the hundreds of thousands of refugees for security reasons, yes, but also because the injection of many thousands of non-French Muslims into French society would change France dramatically and irrevocably.

The French way of life, he argued, would come to an end; the country's commitment to *laïcité* — the strict separation of church and state French society — would come to an end, thanks to the voting power of the refugees-turned-French citizens. Sharia law, or certain elements of it, might even be implemented, he posited.

I pointed out that many of the refugees fleeing Syria and Iraq are not hard line adherents of the Koran; in fact, many of them are *fleeing* the strict interpretations of Sharia law enacted by extremist groups like the Islamic State and the Taliban. But that didn't make much difference to him. The *character* of the French state would change, he persisted. France would no longer be French. It'd become a Muslim state, an Arab state.

But isn't that the nature of a democracy? Western, quote-unquote liberal democracies like France pride themselves on their diversity and promise entry to all those who are law-abiding and willing to work hard, regardless of their ethnicity or religious affiliation. Democracies represent the interests of a state's majority. If a nonnative ethnic or religious group becomes the majority, shouldn't their interests be represented in government?

It's a dilemma that is not unique to France; the U.S. finds itself at a similarly crucial juncture, and the state of Israel has been grappling with (or, as some would argue, ignoring) the same question. In certain regions of the U.S., namely parts of the Southwest, whites are no longer a majority, and the number of nonwhite citizens is only expected to rise in the coming decades.

While you may argue that the character of America is not necessarily white, that the country was founded by immigrants and diversity is so fundamental to our "melting pot" state it is nigh-inextricable from our national identity, take a look at Mt. Rushmore. Take a look at our national folk tales and folk heroes, our currency, our patriotic songs. What do you think of when someone mentions "Americana," or "Main Street, U.S.A?"

The American mythos is undeniably white, even if America itself was never undeniably white, because whites have always captured the foreground. The Hispanics, the blacks, the American Indians, the Asians have always been there, too, but always in the background, always behind the scenes, and never remembered or anthologized in the American mythos.

In Spike Jonze's 2013 movie "Her," Jonze writes, "The past . . . is just a story we tell ourselves." The American "character" is white, because the American story we choose to tell ourselves is white. And when Donald Trump bellows, "Make America great again!" what he's really saying is "Make America white again!"

Trump and his lackeys claim they only want to deport immigrants who came here illegally. They claim they'd evict them only because they broke the law in entering the country without proper documentation. But I'm skeptical of their motives. I think what they really want to do is return the country to their nostalgia-washed, hugely fictitious memory of an America in which you were guaranteed a good job and a decent living so long as you were white.

>> See DEMOCRACY on page 12

JANM HOSTS BOOK SIGNING BY S. FLOYD MORI

LOS ANGELES — The Japanese American National Museum hosted a presentation and book signing by S. Floyd Mori, author of "The Japanese American Story," on Jan. 23.

Mori's book includes a collection of stories and speeches he delivered while representing the Japanese American Citizens League from 2000-12.



Former U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta *(left)* joined S. Floyd Mori at his JANM book-signing event.

After an introduction by former U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta, Mori shared with the audience how his experiences with historical and current events influenced his life.

To this day, Mori, who is currently president and CEO of the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies and served as JACL national president, executive director and director of public policy, in addition to being a former California State assembly member and mayor of Pleasanton, Calif., sees that there are many people unaware or misinformed about what happened to Japanese Americans during World War II.

His book hopes to raise awareness of when the Constitution did not protect Japanese Americans against their unjust incarceration and ensure that future infringement of the rights and liberties of all Americans is not repeated.

"The Japanese American Story" is available for purchase at Amazon.com and Barnes and Noble. ■



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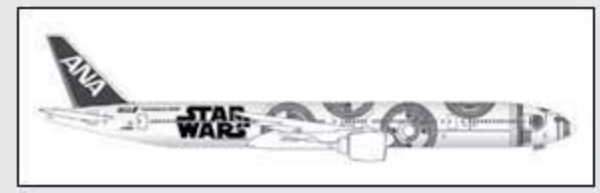
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APAs in the News/News Bytes

ANA Sets First International Flight Date for BB-8 Jet



LOS ANGELES — ANA, Japan's largest airline, announced March 4 the inaugural flight of the final of three aircraft decorated with special "Star Wars" livery. The BB-8 ANA jet (Boeing 777-300), featuring the new character from the film "Star Wars: The Force Awakens," will roll out on March 27 and commence international routes.

After an unveiling ceremony on March 27 at Osaka's Itami Airport, the aircraft will make a one-off domestic flight as ANA22 from Itami to Haneda, before departing the airport at five minutes past midnight on March 29 as flight ANA106 to Los Angeles, marking the start of the aircraft's international service. It will then fly various international routes, principally routes linking Haneda, Narita and the U.S. — Los Angeles, New York, Chicago, Houston and Washington, D.C.

Passengers will experience the world of "Star Wars" with specially designed BB-8 paper cups and headrest covers, and cabin attendants will wear BB-8 aprons.

Founded in 1952, ANA is the largest airline in Japan.

Go For Broke Welcomes New President Vince Beresford



LOS ANGELES — Vince Beresford has been named the new president of the Go For Broke National Education Center, the organization announced recently.

"We are excited to welcome Vince Beresford on board as our new president," said Bill Seki, GFBNEC board chair. "Vince's unique experience in the education and nonprofit sectors, combined with his community spirit and leadership capabilities, will continue to strengthen and grow our organization."

Beresford most recently served as adjunct professor at Azusa Pacific University, where he created experiential-based curriculum.

In a statement, Beresford said: "The Nisei soldier legacy is more than a Japanese American story — it is for everyone. They acted with courage, honor and virtue that helped pave the way for the Civil Rights Movement 15 years later. Theirs is the story of every social, racial, ethnic and economic equality movement of the past 75 years. We must never forget what was done for us by these World War II warriors. It is with this Go For Broke' spirit that we have committed to educate and inspire our nation to learn from our past, to make a better future."

Conductor Seiji Ozawa Wins a Grammy for Best Opera Recording



LOS ANGELES — Conductor Seiji Ozawa, 80, won the Grammy Award for Best Opera Recording on Feb. 21 for a performance of Maurice Ravel's "L'Enfant et Les Sortileges" (The Child and the Spells) in August 2013 in Matsumoto, Nagano Prefecture, by the Saito Kinen Orchestra.

Ozawa, the artistic director of the Ozawa Matsumoto Festival, had previously been nominated seven times for a Grammy.

In an official statement released by the executive committee of the Seiji Ozawa Matsumoto Festival, the conductor said, "I am very happy and honored that we produced this piece. I would like to share this joy with all of them," referring to members of the Saito Kinen Orchestra.

Ozawa is known for conducting some of the world's best orchestras, including a 30-year stint as music director at the Boston Symphony Orchestra and music director at the Vienna State Opera.

Sen. Mazie Hirono Introduces Resolution Remembering WWII JA Internment



WASHINGTON, D.C. — Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii) spoke before the U.S. Senate on Feb. 23 to gain support for a resolution she introduced commemorating the incarceration of Japanese Americans during WWII and declaring that the U.S. must stand against xenophobic sentiments directed to members of Arab, Hindu, Middle Eastern, Muslim, Sikh and South Asian communities.

Numerous civil rights organizations have backed the measure, including Asian Americans Advancing Justice, Council on American-Islamic Relations, JACL and the National Coalition for Asian Pacific Americans. ■

PORTLAND JACL PAYS TRIBUTE TO MIN YASUI

Marking the 100th anniversary of Minoru 'Min' Yasui's birth, Portland JACL dedicates its Day of Remembrance to his life and legacy as a champion of civil rights.

PHOTO: BETSY JAROJC IC



(From left) **Heath Hyun, who played a Min Yasui soliloquy, Peggy Nagae, Homer Yasui, Holly Yasui, Jeff Selby and Marleen Ikeda Wallingford during the opening of Portland JACL's DOR event, dedicated to Minoru Yasui.**

While Day of Remembrance commemorates the signing of Executive Order 9066, a document that uprooted and displaced thousands of Japanese and Japanese Americans during World War II, Portland JACL celebrated both DOR and civil rights activist Minoru "Min" Yasui with some 160 community members and guests on Feb. 21 at Portland State University.

This celebration comes after Yasui was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom last November by President Barack Obama for his dedication in fighting for civil and human rights. Yasui was famous for his legal work that challenged the constitutionality of a military curfew order during WWII on the grounds of racial discrimination.

For Marleen Ikeda Wallingford, this year's DOR dedication struck close to home. Wallingford's grandfather, Hisaichiro Hishikawa, worked on a small pear farm with Masao Yasui, Min's father. She spoke about her family's hardship during the incarceration camps, grappling with feeling "un-American."

"All of this anti-Japanese agitation caused a real turmoil in the community. How do we respond to this crisis?" Wallingford said during her opening remarks. "The National JACL believed that the best way to demonstrate our loyalty to the government was to follow orders and do exactly what we were told. But there were others who understood the Constitution and all the rights that citizens have. One of these men was Minoru Yasui."

His life was remembered and shared by JACL Portland Chapter board member and Yasui's daughter, Holly Yasui. She is the author of "Citizen Min" and co-director with Will Doolittle of the documentary "Never Give Up! Min Yasui and the Fight for Justice."

To complete the documentary, Yasui, along with her crew, filmed more than 20 interviews in Portland, Hood River, Los Angeles and Denver, including various audio recordings of Yasui in films, TV broadcasts, a classroom lecture, radio and personal interviews.

"At this point, we're about half done with the rough cut, and we're still seeking funds to finish it," Yasui said. Those interested in supporting the film can visit its website *(www.minoruyasuifilmorg)*.

A trailer of the documentary was also shown to the audience, along with Yasui's extensive presentation of her father's milestones and efforts.

"His legal case was not reheard in the federal courts, and he did not live to see the winning of redress," Holly Yasui said in regards to her father's legal work. "But it's the journey, the process that counts. He lived by the motto his father bequeathed to him and that he bequeathed to all those who are carrying on his legacy: 'We are born into this world for a purpose and that is to make it a better place.'"

Peggy Nagae and Yasui's son, Homer Yasui, also gave legacy presentations, discussing Yasui's work and accomplishments. Nagae was a key figure on the National JACL Redress Committee and the lead attorney in reopening Yasui's case. She was later appointed under President Bill Clinton to the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund.

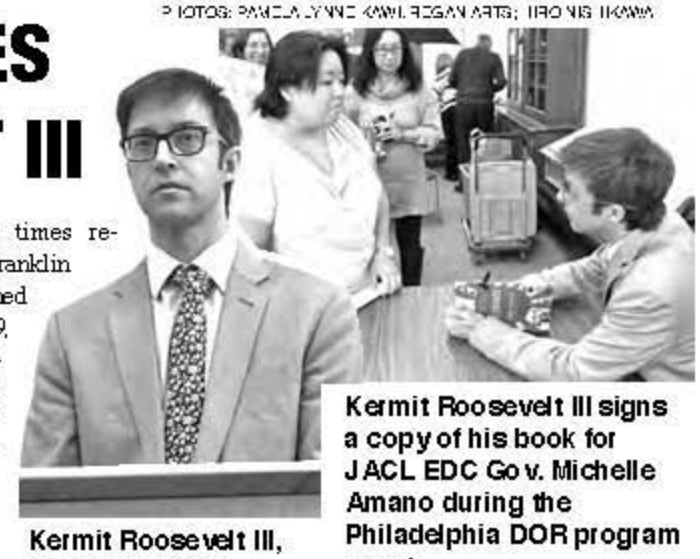
Following Nagae was Yasui's son, Homer Yasui, a Navy veteran and retired physician. He was imprisoned in Tule Lake and Minidoka as well. A photomontage presentation gave attendees a look into the Yasui family and his father's youth in Hood River, Ore.

"Minoru Yasui did indeed leave the world a better place," Homer Yasui concluded.

A historic walk from Yasui's Law Office in Portland's Old Japan Town to the former site of the Second Avenue Police Headquarters is set to take place on March 28. ■

PHILADELPHIA DOR PROGRAM FEATURES KEYNOTE SPEAKER KERMIT ROOSEVELT III

PHOTOS: PAMELA LYNNE KAWI, REGAN ARTS; HIRO NISHIKAWA



Kermit Roosevelt III, keynote speaker

Kermit Roosevelt III signs a copy of his book for JACL EDC Gov. Michelle Amano during the Philadelphia DOR program event.

By Hiro Nishikawa, Philadelphia JACL Chapter

Professor Kermit Roosevelt III was the keynote speaker for the Philadelphia JACL's Day of Remembrance program, which was held on Feb. 20 at the Quaker's historic Friends Center in center city Philadelphia, Pa.

The event, which harkened back to a dark chapter in American history during World War II, attracted a diverse audience of more than 50 people, including two-dozen JACL members.

Roosevelt recently released his latest novel, "Allegiance," a fictional story set in the Philadelphia Main Line area during WWII. The story involves issues related to Executive Order 9066 and its impact on Japanese Americans.

Instead of a run through regarding the plot of his novel, Roosevelt's talk focused on the real history of detention and incarceration of Japanese Americans with comparisons to the present-day treatment of Muslims and Arabs following the 9/11 attacks.

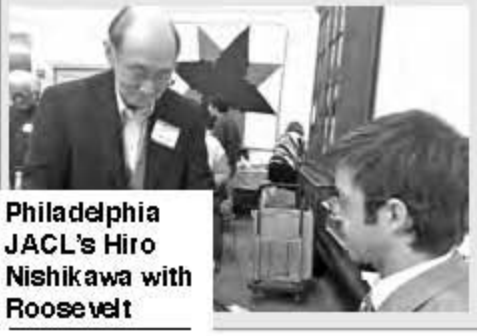
In his "day job" as a professor at the University of Pennsylvania Law School, Roosevelt's academic interest has centered on constitutional law involving detention and interrogation such as that related to Guantanamo Bay.

During his presentation, Roosevelt also provided a rich background comparing and contrasting events of the 1940s with the 2000s.

Roosevelt's family lineage is also fascinating.

His fifth cousin, four times removed, was President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who signed E.O. 9066 on Feb. 19, 1942. His great-great-grandfather, President Teddy Roosevelt, presided over the Portsmouth Treaty in 1904, which ended the Russo-Japanese War, and was engaged in the "Gentlemen's Agreements" between the U.S. and Japan to regulate immigration between the two countries. Initiated in 1908, these agreements prevailed to 1924, when Congress passed an exclusion act that then totally halted Asian immigration to the U.S.

The DOR lecture was followed by a Q & A session, in which Roosevelt actively answered questions and comments from the audience, who were also then invited to purchase copies of "Allegiance" and have them autographed. ■



Philadelphia JACL's Hiro Nishikawa with Roosevelt

BOOK REVIEW: 'ALLEGIANCE'

Kermit Roosevelt III's second novel, "Allegiance," is a mystery story set in 1942, centered around a young lawyer named Cash Harrison, who gets involved with legal matters related to Japanese Americans being incarcerated as a consequence of Executive Order 9066.

The story is told mostly in first person, such that as a reader, I found myself "experiencing the events" as if I were there in real time in 1942.

As one who grew up in Northern California and having lived now almost 30 years in the Philadelphia Main Line (Haverford), the places visited (including Tule Lake) by Cash Harrison in the story evoked an unexpected "familiarity' in me — as if I were on a time-warp journey.

While the characters, dialogue and story details are fictional, the connections to historical persons and events have been carefully vetted for accuracy. This I found very impressive. I highly recommend reading "Allegiance."

— Hiro Nishikawa

PHOTO: WIKICOMMONS

DOING THE RIGHT THING

Chiune Sugihara's story on saving thousands of Jewish lives is told in the emotional and timely film 'Persona Non Grata.'



Chiune Sugihara worked in Kaunas, Lithuania, in the office pictured above, issuing visas that saved aproximately 6,000 Jews. Many were refugees escaping from Nazi-occupied Poland and Russian-occupied Eastern Europe, as well as Lithuanian citizens.

By Tiffany Ujiiye, Assistant Editor

"Persona Non Grata," the story of Japanese diplomat Chiune Sugihara, made its U.S. premiere at the Atlanta Jewish Film Festival on Jan. 1. The film, directed by Japanese American Cellin Gluck, finally puts Sugihara's story on the big screen.

Sugihara and his wife arrived in Kaunas, Lithuania, in 1929 to open a consulate for Japan. Despite his duties to the Japanese government, he and his family issued 2,139 transit visas to roughly 6,000 Jews who had migrated to Lithuania after the Nazi invasion in Poland. The visas granted Jewish migrants safety in Japan, where they could start a new life away from the Nazi regime.

Later in Sugihara's memoir, survivors that he had granted visas to thanked him and shared how he was a good man for saving thousands of Jews from execution. Sugihara is the only Japanese person to be awarded the "Righteous Among the Nations" honor by Yad Vasham on behalf of Israel and the Jewish people in 1984. Such an honor is given as a title to non-Jews who risked their lives to save Jews during the Holocaust. A bronze statue honoring Sugihara's exploits also sits on a bench in Downtown Los Angeles' Little Tokyo.

In Gluck's emotional biopic, the stories of those survivors along with Sugihara's heroic efforts will finally be told onscreen. Already in Japan, the film has brought in $1.2 million at the boxoffice and is expected to make similar waves here in the U.S.

"Persona Non Grata" stars Japanese actors Toshiaki Karasawa and Koyuki, as well as Polish actors Borys Szyc and Agnieszka Grochowska.

Karasawa appeared in "Oba: The Last Samurai" along with numerous other Japanese films and TV shows.

While this is the first full feature of Sugihara's story, a short film directed by Chris Tashima titled "Visas and Virtue" also made headlines, as well as the 2000 PBS documentary "Sugihara: Conspiracy of Kindness."

However, "Persona Non Grata" hopes to further capture Sugihara's legacy, as it comes at a critical time and enters the debate over immigration in the U.S. and around the globe.

In an interview with NBC News, Gluck said "although we started production before the present refugee crisis came to a boil, the film and the events depicted in it seem strangely poignant in today's world." He went on to add that "both here at home and abroad, I can only feel as though we are headed down an ugly path we have all been down before, to what I would hope would be the dismay of humanity at large."

Gluck has previously worked on mainstream Hollywood hits such as 1997's "Contact," 2000's "Remember the Titans" and 2007s "Transformers." But for Gluck, Sugihara's story moved him, as he is a different kind of hero.

He told Vice News that Sugihara "didn't set out to become or prove himself a hero — he just did all that he could and felt what was right for his fellow man."

Such a path is a classic story about a man doing what is right and making miracles possible in spite of the dire circumstances.

When Sugihara was asked about his defiance to the Japanese government and the visas written, he responded:

"People in Tokyo were not united. I felt it silly to deal with them," he said. "So, I made up my mind not to wait for their reply. I knew that somebody would surely complain about me in the future. But, I myself thought this would be the right thing to do. There is nothing wrong with saving many people's lives."

He continued to say that the human spirit along with philanthropy and neighborly friendship are what carried him to do what he did. Sugihara confronted the most difficult situation "and because of this reason, I went ahead with redoubled courage."

Sugihara was born on Jan. 1, 1900, in Yaotsucho in Gifu Prefecture. As a young man, he purposely failed a medical school entrance exam despite his father's wishes for him to be a doctor.

When he arrived home from the exam, Sugihara's father, Yoshimi Sugihara, read his son the riot act and instructed him to find a job. Instead, Sugihara attended Waseda University in Tokyo to learn English. It was during his time in college that the Japanese Foreign Ministry recruited him.

His first assignment was in Harbin, Manchuria, where he became fluent in Russian and a popular figure within the Ministry. He led negotiations with the Soviet government and was part of the negotiations over the Chinese Eastern Railway that crossed Manchuria.

In 1939, he openly criticized the Japanese military and its brutal behavior against Chinese civilians. He even went so far as to resign his high position in Harbin to protest the Japanese government.

"I had always been critical of (the Imperial Japanese Army's) highhandedness," Sugihara wrote in his memoir, "and was unwilling to be used by professional soldiers."

To much surprise, the Japanese Foreign Ministry didn't remove Sugihara from service entirely. Rather, it hoped to leverage Sugihara's language and negotiating skills, assigning Sugihara to the Japanese Embassy in Moscow.



A 1940 visa issued by Sugihara in Lithuania shows a journey through the Soviet Union, Tsuruga and Curacao.



A bronze statue of Sugihara sits in Little Tokyo on S. Central Avenue and was installed in 2002 by artist Ramon G. Velazco.

SUGIHARA >> continued

Concurrently during this time as Sugihara was looking to settle in Moscow, the Government of the Soviet Union demanded that ¥625 million (U.S.$5.5 million) be given for its railway. Sugihara was able to shave the number to nearly a quarter of its asking price, and out of bitterness, the Soviet government denied his visa to work in Moscow at the Japanese Embassy. Sugihara was thus regarded as persona non grata over his victory in bargaining the Soviet's down.

Sugihara and his family then found themselves in Kaunas, Lithuania, where "Persona Non Grata" begins.

In his memoir, Sugihara recalled that in August 1929, just days before the Nazi's advanced into Poland, some 100 Jews stood outside the consulate, pushing against the iron railing for a Japanese visa. Afterwards, a number of people crowded the consulate every morning.

With help from Dutch Interim Consul Jan Zwartendijk and Jewish leader Zorach Warhaftig, the visas began saving Jewish lives.

He tried to reach his superiors at the Foreign Ministry in Tokyo, asking for permission to issue the visas. To his disappointment, the office denied the request, but it caught the attention of Foreign Minister Yosuke Matsuoka.

The Japanese Foreign Ministry didn't take immediate disciplinary action, as it needed Sugihara's language and organizational skills, and instead reassigned him at other posts throughout Eastern Europe.

In 1944, Sugihara and his family were captured by Russian soldiers in Bucharest, Romania, and imprisoned in a POW camp for 18 months. Upon their release two years later, the family returned to Japan on the very same route taken by the refugees who received his visas.

Once in Japan, Sugihara's diplomatic career was ruined, and he was unceremoniously dismissed from service. He went on as a disgraced man and held numerous odd jobs as a trading company manager in Moscow.

In 1969, some 28 years after Sugihara's heroic acts in Lithuania, a survivor that he had written a visa for found him. Many survivors came forward afterwards and thanked him for his act of defiance and kindness.

In July 1986, Sugihara passed away near Tokyo, Japan, but today, his story is still being told.

"Persona Non Grata" will open CineMatsuri, the Japanese Film Festival, in Washington, D.C., on March 20. ■

KIMOCHI SAN MATEO COMPLETES CONSTRUCTION

A ribbon-cutting ceremony is held to celebrate the new facility.

By P.C. Staff

After five years of planning, fundraising and construction, Kimochi San Mateo held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the community care center's opening on Feb. 22.

Kimochi Inc., a nationally recognized senior service organization based in San Francisco's Japantown, plans to bring its tradition of care to Peninsula-area seniors and their caregivers in its new location, which is based at 453 N. San Mateo Dr. in San Mateo, Calif.

"Our goal is to be a resource and touchstone for seniors and their families and their caregivers," said Kimochi Associate Director Steve Ishii. "Today's ceremony and open house was very gratifying." While at the ceremony, "the community came out to welcome us and tour their new community home," Ishii added.

Along with Ishii, Kimochi Program Director Anna Sawamura led the San Mateo project from its inception and will continue to oversee its operation and service when its first residents arrive in April.

Congresswoman Jackie Speier, who has had an ongoing close relationship with the San Mateo County Japanese American and Japanese-speaking community, was a key guest at the event. Speier advocated for redress and reparations for the Nisei during the 1970s and supported the Tanforan BART photo display of camp life, raising awareness about the Japanese American camp experience. Today, Speier is supporting the proposed Tanforan Memorial, a tribute recognizing those incarcerated at the Tanforan Race Track in San Bruno during World War II.

Other key guests at the Kimochi ceremony included the Hon. Jun Yamada, Consul General of Japan, who gave a moving speech about the Issei, Nisei and Sansei hardships in San Francisco.

"Kimochi has been honoring their achievements and societal contributions," Yamada said at the ceremony, in addition to thanking Kimochi founder Steve Nakajo. "I offer my sincere congratulations to you all for your tireless efforts in making this reality. None of this would have been possible without the committee members, volunteers and supporters of the Kimochi San Mateo project."

Nakajo founded Kimochi in San Francisco 45 years ago in response to Japantown's overwhelming need for a senior center with culturally-sensitive care.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony was followed by an open house to introduce key donors and supporters to the new facility. In recognition of their contributions, Kimochi San Mateo's lobby features a donor wall, known as the Tomoye and Henri Takahashi Wall of Appreciation, which recognizes the many families, friends, community supporters and corporations who have gifted $2,500 or more.

The San Francisco-based senior service organization was able to raise $2 million for its facilities and reached its construction and furnishing deadline.

Kimochi San Mateo will provide thorough and attentive care for 14 seniors, with future plans including home-delivered meals, transportation services and adult social day care. Eight rooms feature a private patio space with renovated kitchens in some. ■

PHOTO: KIMOCHI INC.



(From left, front row) Jackie Speier, Paul Chin, Lawrence Cappel and Jun Yamada; *(from left, back row)* Jerry Hill and Rich Bonilla

Polaris Tours 2016 Schedule

Apr. 03 – Apr. 12	Spring Japan: "Hiroshima, Miyajima, Himeji, Kyoto, Inuyama, Hakone, Tokyo"
Apr. 15 – Apr. 24	Paris, Champagne & The French Countryside: Paris, Reims, Colmar, Avignon, Marseilles"
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. 16	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"
Nov. 27 – Dec. 14	Icons of India & Dubai: "Dubai, Delhi, Agra, Ranthambore Nat'l Park, Jaipur, Mumbai, Cochin"

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WASHINGTON, D.C., DOR EVENT PAYS HOMAGE TO ARTIST ROGER SHIMOMURA

By JACL National Staff

PHOTO: EMIL TRINIDAD



Masaoka Fellow Alice Lin *(left)* and D.C. JACLer Nikki Yamashiro talk to a young student about D.C. JACL's programs and events at its DOR event.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A Day of Remembrance event sponsored by JACL National and the JACL Washington, D.C., Chapter was held at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History on Feb. 19.

More than 200 people were in attendance at the event, titled "Day of Remembrance: Japanese American Incarceration and the Art of Identity With Roger Shimomura," which marked the 74th anniversary of Executive Order 9066.

Guests were able to view tables showcasing artifacts from the museum's Japanese American history collection — among them an opportunity to try on a reproduction of a 442nd Regimental Combat Unit Army jacket.

Los Angeles News Anchor and filmmaker David Ono also showed his documentary on Shimomura, a painter, printmaker, performance artist, professor and collector who spent several years in the Minidoka Camp in Idaho with his grandmother, Toku Machida Shimomura. The experiences recorded in her diaries, which began when she arrived in the U.S. in 1912 from Tokyo to her account of the World War II incarceration experience, strongly influence his work.

Following the documentary screening, which specifically recounted Shimomura's experience in incarceration camps and how it impacted his life and art, Shimomura joined the audience via satellite video, during which he delved deeper about his work and took questions from the audience.

In addition to his grandmother's diary, the Smithsonian also recently collected the artist's "Memories of Childhood," a series of small acrylic paintings illustrating his grandmother's journal entries. Shimomura also donated the rest of his extensive collection of camp materials: scrapbooks, identification cards and objects made in camp.

The event concluded with a spoken-word performance by Regie Cabico. In his poems, he covered race identity and performed a piece on the incarceration experience. ■

ALASKA JACL COMMEMORATES DOR WITH 'THE EMPTY CHAIR' FILM



Alaska's DOR program featured *(from left)* Alice Tanaka Hikido, Mary Tanaka Abo and filmmaker Greg Chaney.

By Susan Churchill, President, Alaska JACL Chapter

JUNEAU — Alaska JACL's Day of Remembrance program played to a standing-room only crowd on Feb. 21, where the event featured the documentary film "The Empty Chair," a story of Japanese, Japanese Americans and Tlingit Japanese living in Southeast Alaska prior to World War II, their removal during the war and their return to Alaska.

"The Empty Chair" also featured archival photographs and interviews of internees who were sent to Lordsburg, N.M., and Minidoka, Idaho, as well as interviews with friends who welcomed them back.

The title of the film refers to John Tanaka, Juneau High School's designated valedictorian whose absence at graduation was marked by an empty chair.

A discussion followed the film that included Alice Tanaka Hikido and Mary Tanaka Abo, John Tanaka's sisters, as well as the film's director, Greg Chaney.

The audience was able to join in on the discussion, where participants asked questions and voiced comments of appreciation to Hikido and Abo for sharing their story and Chaney for his excellent documentary. ■

REFLECTION

PEOPLE WITH COURAGE

Former Assemblymember George Nakano reflects on the bravery of lawmakers Ralph Dills and John Shelley.

By George Nakano, Assemblymember (Ret.)

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF GEORGE NAKANO



State Sen. Ralph Dills accepts a commendation award from George Nakano in 2001.



Assemblymember Kevin Shelley accepts his father's commendation award from Assemblymember George Nakano in 2001.

The two people who come to mind that stood up against all odds in 1942 and put their political careers in jeopardy are Ralph Dills and John Shelley. Very little is known about what they did because they were never publicly recognized by the Japanese American community. It is shameful that they were never honored for their heroic deeds.

In 1942, when the California State Legislature had a resolution in support of Executive Order 9066, then-State Sen. Shelley and Assemblymember Dills voted against the resolution. They were the only two to do so.

Assemblymember Dills was threatened with expulsion from the State Assembly, but he knew the order was unjust and always remembered the generosity and kindness that were extended to him by Joe Kobata, owner of a nursery in Gardena, Calif.

Kobata loaned Dills money so he could attend college and provided him with a part-time job during spring break, Christmas holidays and during the summer break.

In 1945, near the end of World War II when some Japanese Americans were being released from the camps, California State Sen. George Hatfield from Modesto introduced a resolution that stated that Japanese Americans were not welcome to return to California.

It was then that State Sen. Shelley decided to bring several wounded Nisei WWII soldiers, some without limbs, from DeWitt General Hospital in Auburn, Calif., and introduced them inside the Senate Chamber, where the resolution was being heard. He explained that these were American soldiers who defended our country with tremendous sacrifice and accomplishments. At that moment, the entire membership of the Senate rose and gave a standing ovation — the resolution died and never resurfaced.

On Feb. 20, 2001, on the Day of Remembrance observance, I had the honor to recognize Sen. Dills and Sen. Shelley.

Sen. Dills had already termed out of office and had to be picked up by the Sergeant of Arms at Dills' ranch. When Sen. Dills was brought in to the rear of the Assembly Chamber, the sergeant came up to tell me that Sen. Dills had momentarily forgotten why he was picked up and asked me to please let him know why he was there.

As I walked to the rear of the chamber, the senator had his hand resting on top of the railing. I put my hand on top of his hand and said, "Senator, we brought you here so we could honor and recognize you for the stand you took against Executive Order 9066 in 1942." Then I saw tears in his eyes — he understood.

Sadly, Sen. Dills passed away the following year.

On the same Day of Remembrance, Assemblymember Kevin Shelley, the majority leader, was there to receive an Assembly resolution on behalf of his father. John Shelley passed away in 1974, the same year another icon from San Francisco, attorney Wayne Collins, passed away. Kevin's mother, the wife of John Shelley, was present in the chamber but wanted to stay in the gallery during the ceremonies.

Indeed, these two men stood up when no one else would. Both Ralph Dills and John Shelley were men with courage. Both had long careers in public office. Dills went on to serve in the Senate for many years, and Shelley went on to serve in Congress and eventually as mayor of San Francisco.

We shall never forget their strong sense of justice and unyielding fortitude.

George Nakano served on the Torrance City Council for 15 years and in the California State Assembly for six years (1998-2004).

UNCOVERING THE HOLES OF OUR PAST

By Riki Eijima, Contributor

In 2008, the University of Denver held the first field study at Amache. Scholarly work has been conducted there every two years. Besides archaeology students, a number of former Amache residents and their descendants have participated in the monthlong digs. This summer, another crew of researchers will return to the former camp.

Eijima participated in the 2014 dig in Colorado, as a descendant of the camp. Last year, a program on Amache was held at Sonoma State University, where she served as a panelist. This summer, members of her family will be participating once again at the Amache field study.

Following is her first-hand recollection of her experience there.



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF RIKI EIJIMA

June (Suzuki) Mochizuki *(center)* and Riki Eijima *(far right)* with Suzuki descendants standing on the family's barracks foundation, 9H7B, at Amache in July 2014



Excavation progress on an ofuro made by internees, July 2014

My University of Denver Amache Field School experience was a first for several things: an unaccompanied plane ride, college class, archaeological dig and visit to an internment camp. Backed by the generosity of the University of Denver, I became a DU Pioneer in the summer of 2014, eager to take on this task and uncover the holes of my past.

During World War II, my maternal grandfather, Frank Suzuki, was incarcerated at the Granada Relocation Center, along with his family and many other Japanese Americans from Los Angeles, Sebastopol and Central California. Since I was a child, I had heard my grandparents tell me stories of life in the Tanforan and Merced Assembly Centers and Granada and Topaz Relocation Centers. However, until going to Amache, I was unaware that many third-, fourth- and fifth-generation JAs have never learned of their ancestors' internment and discrimination. Because this is a dark part of our country's history, it is imperative that we know about this injustice in order to recognize our wrongs and move forward.

One of my favorite things during field school was the scintillating conversations we had in the evenings. One discussion particularly spurred my interest. We talked about the term "internment" and its euphemistic use. Words like "relocation center" are not accurate representations of the Japanese/Japanese American experience. Whenever we talk about Nazi Germany and Japanese American internment in high school, I take exception when classmates argue that the Jews experienced greater hardship than did the JAs. Both confinements were great injustices, and the two cannot be equated. No matter the degree of racism or oppression, both exploits were racist and oppressive.

According to "Webster's New World Fourth College Edition," a concentration camp is "a prison camp in which political dissidents, members of minority ethnic groups, etc., are confined." Meanwhile, "internment camp" is not in this dictionary. In our post-workday discussion, I concluded that even though "concentration camp" is associated specifically with the German death camps, the definition clearly applies to that of the Japanese American wartime imprisonment, and it should not detract from the hardships experienced by the Issei and Nisei.

In addition to 6 a.m.-to-noon workdays in the field under a warm sun, we spent our afternoons in the local museum, which is run by the Amache Preservation Society, a group comprised mainly of Granada High School students. This is part of my journey also stood out as I had never before seen so many heirlooms related to my family's history. I was moved by how the Granada community, as well as my fellow field school classmates, marveled over the artifacts and treated them with such care.

The highlight of the museum work was creating my own exhibit, "What Is Your Story?" assisted by former Granada resident and DU Amache volunteer Carlene Tanigoshi-Tinker. This participatory exhibit was a space dedicated to descendants' and internees' stories relating to Amache, for visitors to get a better sense of the life lived there. At the open house, guests added their recollections and comments. I contributed, "Fear can be dangerous. No people should be scapegoated. No one should be jailed without due process."

Recently, I discovered that the nurse's cape I had cleaned and documented in the museum was worn by Fran Kirihara, one of the few Japanese American women to serve during the war. I also learned that she was a good friend of my grandparents. I felt the fullness of community, the commitment to service in the face of discrimination, the connection between generations, the ties that bind. What an honor to have worked with such an important American artifact. Through these experiences, my distant history was no longer so distant.

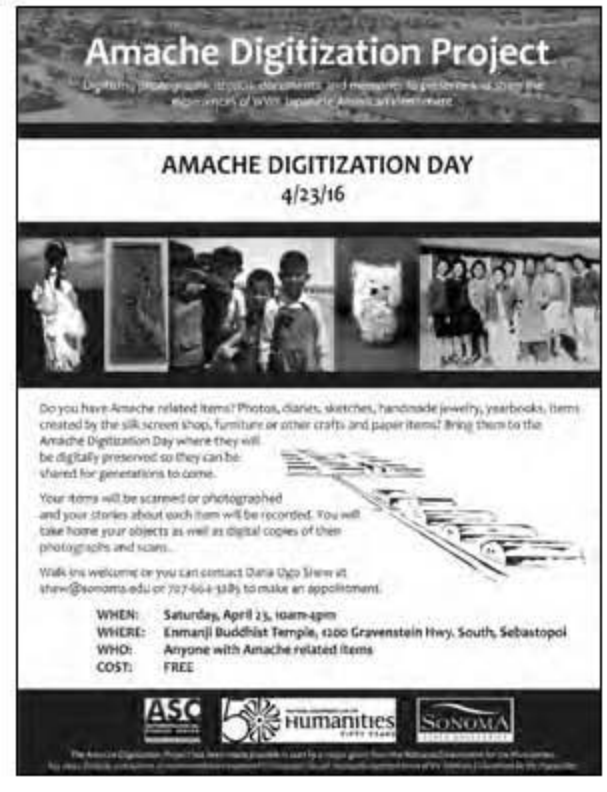
Last spring, I spoke on a panel sponsored in part by the Sonoma County Chapter Japanese American Citizens League and held at Sonoma State University, regarding my DU Amache experience. Among the panelists were former internees who recounted their camp experiences. They shared the significance of scholarly study and how it allowed them to effectively reclaim their lives. The audience was varied in both age and race, and I was happy to educate others on what happened to the Issei and Nisei during WWII. This research and education is most relevant to counter expressions of hate and acts of violence committed today against groups including Muslim, South Asian, Sikh, Hindu, Middle Eastern and Arab communities.

Like my grandparents and many other former internees, I feel obligated to fight injustice and uphold the Constitution. I must channel frustration into action — to advocate for the voiceless and against racial injustice. Before we closed our excavation areas, I stepped onto the foundation of the Suzuki family's long-gone barracks with Aunt June Suzuki Mochizuki and my family. Telephoning Grandpa Frank from Block 9H7B was an emotional and memorable moment. I encourage any descendant to visit their family's camp(s). But perhaps even more important is my hope for all Americans to visit Amache and the other internment camps in order to understand the true American experience and hopefully work toward a more just United States of America.

Riki Eijima is a youth member of the San Francisco JACL Chapter. Her mother and grandparents are members of the Livingston-Merced Chapter. The DU Amache field school will commence this summer. Please visit https://portfolio.du.edu/amache for more information.



Eijima's museum exhibit for internees and descendants



A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

CALENDAR

NCWNP

Never Forget
San Francisco, CA
March 11; 6 p.m.
JCCCNC SF
1840 Sutter St.
Join the JCCCNC and Northern Japan Earthquake Relief Fund for an evening dedicated to the fifth anniversary of the Tohoku disaster. NCWNP District and the SF JACL are among the organizations supporting the event and the rebuilding efforts. There will be speakers discussing the relief efforts, a prayer ceremony, remarks from the Consulate General of Japan in San Francisco, an art exhibition and light refreshments.
Info: RSVP at www.jcccnc.org or call (415) 567-5505.

JBBP Matsuri 2016
San Francisco, CA
March 19; 5-10 p.m.
Pomeroy Recreation and Rehabilitation Center
207 Skyline Blvd.
Price: Advanced general admission price $35
The Japanese Bilingual Bicultural Program JBBP of Rosa Parks Elementary will celebrate 43 years of unique cultural programming and daily language curriculum, touching the lives of over 240 students per year.
Info: Email info@jbbpsf.org.

Tadaima: A Japanese American Gathering of LGBTQQ and Allies
San Jose, CA
April 2; 8:30 a.m.
San Jose State University Student Wellness Center
1 Washington Square
"Tadaima" is part of a collection of events hosted across the Northern California Bay Area for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning individuals, families and allies. The program looks to explore the intersections of the Japanese American LGBTQQ experience.
Info: Visit www.tadaima bayarea.org.

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

PSW

2016 JANM Gala, Silent Auction and After Party
March 19
The Westin Bonaventure Hotel and Suites
404 S. Figueroa St.
The JANM's annual gala will celebrate the museum's collection of moving images, recognizing how first-person resources have portrayed the Japanese American story. Honorees include Karen L. Ishizuka and Robert A. Nakamura, founders of the museum's Frank H. Watase Media Arts Center. Award-winning filmmaker Ken Burns will also be recognized.
Info: RSVP by emailing rsvp@janm.org or call (213) 625-0414.

2016 Advancing Justice Conference: Empowering Asian American and Pacific Islander Communities 2016 and Beyond
Los Angeles, CA
March 30-31; 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m.
The Westin Bonaventure Hotel and Suites
404 S. Figueroa St.
The Asian American Advancing Justice Conference will address issues facing the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities. Members will learn from community experts and leaders as well as discuss common issues and opportunities.
Info: Email conference@advancingjustice.org.

USC APISWC Paul Chikahisa Memorial Lecture 2016 and 18th Annual Scholarship Reception
USC Ronald Tutor Campus Center Ballroom
3607 Trousdale Pkwy.
Price: Free
USC's Asian Pacific Islander Social Work Caucus will host its annual lecture series and scholarship reception. The event looks to honor Paul Chikahisa, a respected community advocate and social worker. Sponsorship opportunities are available.
Info: Visit www.sowkweb.usc.edu or email apisowk@usc.edu.

AAPIP-LA Professional Development Session: Breaking the Bamboo Ceiling
April 6; 10 a.m.
LA84 Foundation
2141 W. Adams Blvd.
Price: Free
The Asian American Pacific Islander in Philanthropy Los Angeles will open a discussion on the bamboo ceiling. Those looking to advance their careers or pursue leadership positions are encouraged to attend and join the conversation with panelists Garrett Gin and Debra Nakatomi, along with moderator Wendy Chang.
Info: Visit www.aapip.org.

MDC

The Fukushima Nuclear Disaster, Five Years Later — Film Screening
Chicago, IL
March 12; 8:30 a.m.
Logan Center for the Arts
915 E. 60th St.
Price: Free
The Center for East Asian Studies at the University of Chicago will host a film screening of the documentaries "Nuclear Japan" and "Little Voices From Fukushima," followed by a panel discussion that will include Kennette Benedict, Judy Hoffman, Kazu Haga and Noritsugu Fujimoto. Seating is limited, and reservations are encouraged.
Info: Visit www.ceas.uchicago.edu or call (773) 702-8647.

2016 JACL Chicago Inaugural
Chicago, IL
March 19; 6 p.m.
Midwest Buddhist Temple
435 W. Menomonee St.
Price: Tickets $30; Student $20
Join JACL Chicago as it celebrates its chapter. Enjoy dinner and drinks with modern Asian street food by Piko Street Kitchen food truck. Other activities include a line dance with Ms. Kaura. The evening is set to conclude with a dance party with DJ Nico Gibson.
Info: Email chicago@jacl.org or call (773) 728-7171.

Nashville Cherry Blossom Festival
Nashville, TN
April 9; 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
Public Square Park
1 Public Square
Price: Free
The Japan America Society presents the Nashville Cherry Blossom Festival for a day of family-friendly celebration on the front lawn of the Metro Courthouse at Nashville Public Square. Enjoy Japanese music, dance, arts, performance demonstrations, anime merchandise and children's activities. Food trucks will also be open.
Info: Visit www.nashville cherryblossomfestival.org.

'Off the Menu: Asian America' Film Screening
Lafayette, IN
April 20; 6 p.m.
Purdue Memorial Union
101 N. Grant St.
Join the Asian American and Asian Resource and Cultural Center for a screening of "Off the Menu: Asian America," followed by a special Q & A session with director Grace Lee. The film explores the foods that reflect the culture of Asian Pacific Americans. Attendees will also enjoy foods inspired by those in the film.
Info: Visit www.union.purdue.edu or call (765) 494-8900.

PNW

Cherry Blossom Day
Salem, OR
March 19; 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Oregon State Capitol
900 Court St. N.E.
The Oregon State Capitol Foundation welcomes all for an afternoon of fun activities for children and adults alike. Watch martial arts demonstrations and liston to taiko drummers as well as learn about bonsai. There will also be a Japanese tea ceremony and a chance to sample cherry products and so much more.
Info: Visit www.oregon legislature.gov or call (503) 986-1555.

Heritage Talk
Salem, OR
April 26; 3-5 p.m.
Deepwood
1116 Mission St. S.E.
Price: General admission $6
Join the Oregon Nikkei Endowment for its fourth Heritage Talks Series presented by Russell Yamada.
Info: Visit www.oregon nikkei.org.

Community Reception
Portland, OR
June 26; 5-7:30 p.m.
Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center
121 N.W. Second Ave.
Price: Free, but RSVP is encouraged
The Center for Asian Pacific American Women invites all to a Community Reception. Register now as space is limited. Here, participants will be able to learn about the National Leadership Summit and APAWLI Network, as well as build leadership capabilities among other APA women. The Center for APA Women is a nonprofit organization dedicated to addressing the challenges facing APA women and their communities.
Info: Visit www.apa women.org or call (415) 310-6978.

EDC

Listening to Stone: The Art and Life of Isamu Noguchi Lecture
Washington, D.C.
March 24; 7-8:30 p.m.
Montpellier Room
101 Independence Ave, S.E., 6th Floor of the James Madison Bldg.
Price: Free
Isamu Noguchi biographer and author of "Listening to Stone: The Art and Life of Isamu Noguchi" Hayden Herrera will speak about her book. Noguchi was an acclaimed Japanese American artist and designer.
Info: Visit www.loc.gov or call (202) 707-5502.

New York Day of Remembrance
New York, NY
March 26; 1-4 p.m.
Japanese American United Church
255 Seventh Ave., between 24th and 25th Streets
JACL NY will be co-sponsoring this year's community Day of Remembrance event. All are welcome to join in the NYC Japanese Community Oral History Project, watch film excerpts from "Right of Passage" and learn about the Rago Auction.
Info: Email Mike Ishii at mikeishii@gmail.com.

Theatre Nohgaku at Boston University
Boston, MA
March 26; 2 p.m.
College of Fine Arts, Boston University
855 Commonwealth Ave.
Price: Free
The Boston University and Greater Boston communities invite all to the Theatre Nohgaku, an international performance group dedicated to sharing the beauty and power of noh, a classical Japanese drama performance.
Info: Visit www.bu.edu/arts/theatre-nohgaku.

Tamagawa Taiko and Dance
Wellesley, MA
April 9; 6 p.m.
Wellesley College Alumnae Hall
106 Central St.
Experience an exciting evening of taiko drumming and Japanese folk dancing with the Tamagawa Taiko and Dance Group. The group has toured the world since 1961 and performs annually at the Philadelphia Cherry Blossom Festival.
Info: Visit www.wellesley.edu or call (781) 283-1000. ■

IN MEMORIAM

Asaoka, Misaki, 88, Los Angeles, CA; Feb. 6; he is survived by his sisters, Toshiko Komatsu and Tamiko Shiji; sister-in-law, Ayako Nunotani; brother-in-law, Masato Yoshihara; nieces and nephews, Mariko Taniguchi, Yukiko Mishina, Yasunori Komatsu, Yoshihiro Shiji and Nobuyo Hasegawa.

Higashiyama, Lillian Yuriko, 92, Torrance, CA; Feb. 17; she is survived by her children, Patricia (Glenn) Nakamura and Robert (Gail) Higashiyama; gc: 4.

Ito, Masaye, 96, Ontario, OR; Jan. 13; she was incarcerated at Minidoka; she is survived by her brother, George (Kim); sons, Francis (Cindy), Leslie (Tonya) and Chris (Linda); sister, Aki;

Ito, Rick Chiukichi, 55, Arcadia, CA; Feb. 2; he was predeceased by his brothers, Richard, Eugene and Jack Ito; he is survived by his sisters, Helen (Sam) Sunada, Ruth (Hitoshi) Miya and Sherry (Michael) Curwick; sister-in-law, Cheryl Ito.

Kobata, Yone, 103, Gardena, CA; Feb. 1; she was predeceased by her daughter, Bette; son-in-law, Yoshio Iwamasa; son, J. (Mariko) Kobata; sister-in-law, Asayo Hiraizumi; she is also survived by many other relatives; gc: 3; ggc: 3.

Miyaji, Ellen Fujiko, 102, Los Angeles, CA; she is survived by her children, Harry (Brook) Miyaji, Joyce Miyaji and Roger (Gail) Miyaji; gc: 5.

Ota, Kazumi, 87, Marina Del Rey, CA; Feb. 3; he is survived by his wife, Mitsuko Ota; daughters, Imogene (Brian) Imada, Vivian Wilhelm, Patricia (David) Muramoto and Mabel (Michael) Ota-Anderson; gc: 3.

Otani, Norio, 81, Los Angeles, CA; Feb. 10; he is survived by his wife, Kumiko Otani; son, Allen Noriaki (Carrie) Otani; daughter, Joyce Misa (Tim) Jones; brothers, Yoshinobu (Junko) Otani and Tetsuo (Yaeko) Otani; sister-in-law, Keiko Masato; brother-in-law, Yoshiyuki Masato; gc: 2.

Sawada, Nellie Hisako, 80, Los Angeles, CA; Feb. 7; she is survived by her husband, Harry Sawada; children, Shirley (Howard) Chan, Nanci (Curtis) Ishitani and Keith Sawada; sisters-in-law, Masako Oshita and Nancy Miyagishima; niece and nephew, Jackie (Bruce) Baird and Robert Oshita; aunt, Yaeko Tanamachi; gc: 4; ggc: 2.

Tanaka, Teruko 'Teddy,' 93, Ontario, OR; Feb. 23; she was predeceased by her husband, Gus; parents, Nobue and Kango; siblings, Tsuruyo Nishi, Akiko Sako, Shingo Wada and Mutsuye Furuya; she is survived by her children, Maja (Cordell) Berge, John (Ann) Tanaka and Susie (Larry) Nielson; siblings, Sumi (Paul) Saito, Jim (Sharon) Wada and Dorothy (Henry) Nishioka; gc: 5; ggc: 1.

Watanabe, Alma Kazuyo, 105, Feb. 11; Redondo Beach, CA; she is survived by her daughter, Ann (Ron) Matsuda; sister, Yoshiko Kishi; sister-in-law, Kay Kaoru Matsumoto; gc: 2; ggc: 1.

PLACE A TRIBUTE

'IN MEMORIAM' is a free listing that appears on a limited, space-available basis. Tributes honor your loved ones with text and photos and appear in a timely manner at the rate of $20/column inch.

Contact: tiffany@pacificcitizen.org or call (213) 620-1767

TRIBUTE

DR. SETSUO ERNEST (ERNIE) TORIGOE



Dr. Setsuo Ernest (Ernie) Torigoe of San Jose, Calif., passed away peacefully on Feb. 10, 2016, at the age of 97. He was a prominent dentist and beloved husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather.

Son of the late Bunkichi and Yuki Torigoe, he was born and raised in Watsonville, Calif. After graduating from Hartnell College (formerly Salinas Junior College) in 1939, he entered the School of Dentistry at the University of California, San Francisco. Unable to complete his studies there due to the wartime relocation of Japanese Americans, he transferred to Washington University and was granted his D.D.S. degree in 1944. He initially practiced dentistry in Fort Lupton, Colo., where he met his wife-to-be, Yuriko Lily Date. They married in 1945 and shortly thereafter settled in San Jose, Calif. Ernie proudly served in the United States Air Force from 1951-53. He was stationed at March Air Force Base in Riverside, Calif., with the rank of Captain. He then returned to San Jose, where he resided until his passing. He retired from his dental practice in 2008 at the age of 90.

Ernie was best known for his devotion to his family and his dedication to his dental practice. His involvement in family activities was boundless. At the same time, he relished his work, both seeing patients in his office and working in his dental lab. He related to his patients on a highly personal level and was one of the best with regards to his dental skills. His activities outside of work and family included jewelry-making, arts and crafts, gardening, reading, watching samurai and family television programs from Japan and recording the family's genealogy. He and his wife enjoyed playing bridge with friends, attending concerts and traveling throughout the United States and other parts of the world.

He is survived by Yuri, his cherished wife of 70 years; their children, Wayne Torigoe (wife, Karen Ho), Kathy Ichinaga Torigoe, Eric Torigoe (wife, Gayle) and Marilyn Katz (husband, Neil); grandchildren, Sharon Torigoe, Keith Ichinaga, Kendra Chen (husband, Enoch), Melanie Torigoe, Jeff Katz and Bryan Katz; and great-grandchildren, Kayla Chen and Evan Chen. He also is survived by his sister, Yoshino Matano, of Watsonville, and many other members of his extended family.

His memorial service was held at Wesley United Methodist Church, 566 N. Fifth St., San Jose, Calif., on Feb. 27. Donations in memory of Dr. S. Ernest Torigoe may be made to Wesley United Methodist Church or the charity of your choice.

TRIBUTES

HIROTO AARON ARAI

Hiroto Aaron Arai passed away on Dec. 5, 2015, near his home in Richmond, Calif., at the age of 92. He was born in Sacramento to the late Juhei and Tatsu Arai, where he grew up with four brothers and a sister. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II. After the war, he attended the University of California at Berkeley and graduated with a degree in architecture.

ITSUKO 'IDDY' ASADA

June 6, 1928-Feb. 26, 2016

Itsuko "Iddy" Asada was born on June 6, 1928, in Salinas, Calif., and passed away on Friday, Feb. 26, 2016, in Cherry Hill, N.J., at the age of 87. She had been an active member of the Seabrook Buddhist Temple and the local Japanese American community since arriving in Upper Deerfield Township in 1945.

She attended Santa Rita Grammar School (Principal: Mr. Frye) and one year at Alisal Union Grammar School (Principal: Mr. Lowe) in Salinas, Calif. She remembered Mr. Lowe insisting that a picture of the Japanese American kids be taken for the 1942 year book, as he worried that they might not be allowed to stay after Japan's bombing of Pearl Harbor. She and her family, along with 120,000 other Japanese Americans, were interned during World War II per Executive Order 9066. From August 1942-August 1945, she was incarcerated in Poston, Arizona (Camp II). (Her future husband, Mark Asada, was interned in Poston Camp III.) During this time, her brother, Kazuto Taniguchi, volunteered and served with the U.S. Army in the all-Japanese 442nd Regimental Combat Team, which collectively was presented with the Congressional Gold Medal in 2011.

Upon release from the internment camp, her family resettled to Seabrook, N.J., where she completed her final year of high school, graduating in 1946 from Bridgeton High School. (She had gone to three years of high school at Poston Relocation Center and could not wait until she got into a REAL high school!) She completed a certificate course from the School of D'Balez/Fleishman, School of Fashion Design in Philadelphia in 1947. She worked at Seabrook Farms Company and later transferred to Seabrook Brother's and Sons, from which she retired as a payroll clerk after 44 years of combined employment.

She enjoyed sports and as a young adult was a member of the Suburban Women's Bowling League; and softball and baseball teams of Seabrook Farms Company. She was a life-long member of the Seabrook Buddhist Temple, serving as a board member and treasurer for many years, as well as on the board of the Seabrook Buddhist Women's Assn. She was recognized as one of its "Outstanding Sunday School Teachers" and helped establish the Temple's traditional Minyo dance group and Hoh Daiko drumming ensemble. She was a member of the Seabrook Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) and the Edgar Joyce Senior Center. She volunteered with the Bridgeton Hospital and along with her late sister, Suzie, was one of the first full-time volunteers at the Seabrook Educational and Cultural Center (SECC), established to tell the story of the region's Japanese American and other diverse communities.

She is survived by her siblings, Hatsumi Ogata, Kazuto Taniguchi (Gardena, Calif.), Natsuko "Nattie" Ciferri (San Clemente, Calif.) and Yasuye "Babe" Kato; husband, Mark Asada; son, Michael Asada and his wife, Kim Asada; and grandchildren, Matthew and Mikki. She was preceded in death by her sister, Tsutako "Suzie" Takata, and brother, Torao "Jim" Taniguchi.

The family requests that in lieu of any flowers, donations be made to the Seabrook Buddhist Temple, Inc., 9 Northville Road, Bridgeton, N.J. 08302; or the Seabrook JACL chapter, c/o Sharon Yoshida, 4 Mallard Lane, Bridgeton, N.J. 08302.

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REIMAGINE EVERYTHING

LIFE IS A SANDWICH, NOT A BOX OF CHOCOLATES

By Ron Mori

Please, hold the pickles and double the deli mustard on my sandwich.

What am I writing about? Well, it's both a happy time and stressful time in my life as I have one daughter in college and my youngest daughter just three years from college.

Add in being a remote caregiver for my 88-year-young mother, and like many of you, I'm part of the growing sandwich generation. I'm sandwiched between two generations that require diligent attention. For now, my mother is fairly independent, but there will be a time when more caregiving decisions will need to be made with my older brother and sister.

For now, the college side of my life sandwich demands attention. Sending kids to school is an expensive proposition!

I started saving for my daughter's education when she was 8 years old. Some people would say why so late, and others would say why so early. At the time, my perspective was that I would have plenty of time to save. Guess what: Take my hard-earned advice that time flies by way too fast. I'm sure many of us have had similar experiences when your kids or grandchildren are in high school and the reality of starting college and tuition costs become a reality.

In my case, the decisions around higher education were focused on public in-state schools. I must admit that over the years, I was not that disciplined and consistent in putting money into her "529" college savings plan, so my options were somewhat limited. Don't let that happen to you.

You see, 529 savings plans are available in just about every state, and they allow parents to set aside funds for a child's college education and, in certain states, receive tax benefits. Thanks to the Internet, there's plenty of information available online, so that you can make an informed decision about your child's college years.

For instance, a great source you can turn to is the AARP College Savings Solutions from TIAA-CREF. This is an informational program designed especially for anyone to learn about saving for college and 529 college savings plans. The program provides education on 529 plans, including what they are and how they differ from other ways to save for college, the tax advantages, who manages the investment options and how to choose a 529 college savings plan.

AARP's College Savings Solutions from TIAA-CREF will walk you through various states' plans so you can decide what's best for you — and you don't need to live in the state whose plan best fits your needs. These savings plans aren't exclusively for tuition, either. Your 529 plan can cover school supplies, books. You can save with an automatic monthly deposit or an annual deposit on the future student's birthday. Note: You still have to get the "fun" present or better yet, presents, and not just give a card that says you gave money toward your child's college costs. But, you knew that.

We all know that college tuitions will continue to increase, so making an informed decision based on trusted information is key. When I started working at AARP, I was pleased to see that the 529 College Savings Solutions from TIAA-CREF website was so easy to understand.

As an AARP member, you can talk to a representative to obtain other information, but anyone can read the helpful information by visiting www.aarpcollegesavings.com.

That at least helps me to stop worrying so much about one side of my life. Next, we can look at the other side, and we should be able to serve up the tastiest sandwich possible.

Ron Mori is a board member for the Washington, D.C., JACL chapter, and manager of community, states and national affairs — multicultural leadership for AARP.

DEMOCRACY >> continued from page 3

Israel finds itself in an even more critical version of this predicament. About 6.2 million Palestinians live within the state of Israel; with the exception of the 200,000 living in East Jerusalem, the other 6 million Palestinians living within the Israeli-occupied regions of the West Bank and the Gaza strip are not Israeli citizens, and thus have no voting powers.

Israel's Jewish population stands at a little over 6.3 million. Were the 6.2 million Palestinians living within Israel's borders given full voting rights, Israel's status as a "Jewish State," as stated in the Israeli Declaration of Independence and later enshrined in the Knesset's passing of the Basic Law of 1985, would be in jeopardy.

Palestinian politicians could be elected; legislature inimical to Jewish culture and heritage could be enacted. The Jewish character of Israel would be threatened, if not transformed all together.

France, the U.S. and Israel can choose to preserve their national character and bar those who would threaten the established order and identities of their states from entering or continue to deny them any political weight or recognition. But if they should choose to do so, they would no longer be able to call themselves democracies.

At its most fundamental level, a democracy operates on the cognizance of one's small place among many. At its most fundamental level, a democracy operates on the precept of humility — recognizing that a government for the people and by the people is not for *you* and by *you*, that your wants and needs do not take precedent over all else.

It's the recognition that there are other people than yourself in your country and throughout the world, and they are each the keepers of desires and dreams as urgent and precious as your own.

In a democracy, you don't get to choose who gets a say and who doesn't. A true democracy ensures the best possible solution for the largest number of people, and if you can no longer count yourself among the largest number, if you find that now *you* are the one in the minority — well, tough luck.

The national characters of any democracy are fluid by nature because a democracy has to adapt and shift in order to respond to the needs of its citizenry. If that frightens you — if you wish to cement your position in the majority for all eternity, or if you want a certain privileged minority to rule over the rest because you best represent your country's "character" — go ahead. Just don't call yourself a democracy.

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.

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For Membership information, please contact Mariko Fujimoto at JACL Headquarters (415) 921-5225, ext. 25, or mfujimoto@jacl.org. Online: *https://jacl.org/member/*

Donations to the **PACIFIC CITIZEN** of $150 or more are entered in a monthly drawing for a box of "Fugetsu-Do" Japanese manju delivered to the winner's door. Please write checks to **PACIFIC CITIZEN:** 123 S. Onizuka St., Suite #313, Los Angeles, CA 90012 or online at *www.pacificcitizen.org*.

Seeking Birth Mother

Baby girl born on June 16, 1959 in Portland Oregon. Pre adoptive birth certificate shows baby Suzuki. Birth mother Tamae Suzuki.
Adoption file shows birth mother Tamae Matsumoto also Suzuki name shown and born October 30, 1937. 5'2" 120lbs in Tokyo,Japan. Completed high school in Tokyo in a Japanese school. She has two brothers and four sisters. The information in the file is as of January 1961 when adoption was completed. Birth mother turned baby to care of Waverly Home in Portland Oregon after birth.
No name for birth father but is shown as being in the Army , an only child, completed high school in California.
Baby girl is alive. All inquiries to: David Holroyd 785-331-5712, email: Satyr_4now@yahoo.com