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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 112 chapters nationwide, two 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



Cover By: Marie Samonte

During our editorial meetings to discuss what this year's Holiday Issue theme would be, the *Pacific Citizen* staff kept coming back to the central theme of "hope" — something we all hold within us to somehow right what's wrong with the world today.

As 2017 comes to a close, it seems more than ever that we're precariously leaning toward the wrong end of the seesaw — on one side is a world filled with the "healing" effects of "harmony," where everyone is able to coexist in peace and safety; on the other, the dangers of nuclear war, racial discrimination, violence and human rights injustices threaten to destroy it all.

What can we do to move us back in the right direction? It all starts with our voices. And there's no better place to make ourselves heard than in the JACL and the *Pacific Citizen*, which have been fighting for our rights and documenting our history since 1929.

Today, the JACL is more relevant than ever — national staff, chapters and districts across the U.S., youth and the *P.C.* are working nonstop to represent our voices and keep us informed so that our story will continue to be told. It's especially important now as other ethnic communities are facing similar issues and threats.

Let's hope the world hears us in 2018. "Hope. Healing. Harmony." We've *all* got to believe in the power of those three words. It's the only way to ensure our future.

— Allison Haramoto, Executive Editor

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from your
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Hiroshi Uyehara and Fuku Yokoyama at Independence Hall



Tadafumi Mikuriya



The Inouye family on the steps of the Philadelphia Hostel



Naomi Nakano

A Philadelphia Story

Following the conclusion of WWII, many Japanese Americans re-established roots in Philadelphia, helping to grow the community into a vibrant and thriving city that continues to celebrate that history today.

By Rob Buscher, Contributor

While much has been written on the events leading to and during the mass incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II and the Redress movement, historians have barely scratched the surface of the resettlement that took place after. While much of what has been written has focused on the West Coast experience as families and individuals endeavored to rebuild their lives, the stories of those who journeyed east is also inspiring. There were many hopeful Issei and Nisei who worked together to establish the new Japanese American community in Philadelphia and its surrounding suburbs.

Favoring the moderate California climate and densely populated Japanese ethnic enclave communities in farm towns and Japantown sections in West Coast cities, few Japanese migrants journeyed east before the Immigration Act of 1924 stemmed the tide of Asian immigrants.

While there was a community of Japanese in Philadelphia before WWII, it was exceptionally small by comparison to most municipalities on the West Coast and amounted to a couple dozen families before the war.

Founding JACL Philadelphia member and chapter historian Hiroshi Uyehara wrote in his brief history of the chapter, "In contrast to the West Coast experience, the Issei who graduated from University of Pennsylvania with degrees in engineering, architecture, medicine and dentistry were able to secure professional employment or establish their own practices or businesses within the community-at-large."

Despite their small numbers, several noteworthy individuals left an impact on the larger society. From the 1890s onward, there were several Issei-owned Japanese import shops located in Philadelphia, the best known being Okamoto Bros., operated by Yosaburo and Tokizo Okamoto. At two locations in center city Philadelphia, they sold Japanese art goods, silks and other items from about 1915 until the attack on Pearl Harbor made their merchandise undesirable.

Another Issei named Yosuke W. Nakano left a major impact on the landscape of Philadelphia through his work as an architect. After graduating from Penn, Nakano was employed as chief engineer at the firm of Wark and Co. There, he worked on many significant projects such as the Sun Oil Building, Presbyterian Hospital, Bell Telephone Building, Lankenau Hospital in Wynnewood and the iconic Jefferson Hospital main building.

Another Issei Penn graduate and contemporary of Nakano's was Tadafumi Mikuriya, who earned his degree in civil engineering and worked for Baldwin Locomotive Works before starting his own business, the Tada Engineering Co. in 1948. Although his company was based in Trenton, Mikuriya remained involved with the Philadelphia community throughout his life, serving on the chapter board of JACL along with Nakano in the 1950s.

As one might expect with the commencement of hostilities between the U.S. and Japan, the lives of Philadelphia Issei changed dramatically. While certainly to a lesser degree than those who were forced to evacuate their homes on the West Coast, the Issei community outside of the Exclusion Zone was subject to a curfew, had their assets frozen and were restricted from traveling more than five miles from their home without express permission from the FBI.

Mary I. Watanabe, a JACL Philadelphia member and founding president of the Friends of the Japanese House & Garden, wrote of the Philadelphia Issei, "Some businessmen who had profitable gift shops selling art objects and novelties from Japan suddenly found themselves without a means of livelihood and were forced to work as bakers' helpers or domestic servants."

Others like Nakano were able to weather the storm due to their technical expertise and deep roots within the community-at-large.

Watanabe continued, "There were demands, increasing after Pearl Harbor, that Nakano be removed from jobs his firm had undertaken or had bid on. Wark executives resisted such demands by countering that without Nakano's services, the firm would have to withdraw."

As the war progressed and it became clear that Japanese Americans posed no military threat to national security, the War Relocation Authority began establishing regional branch offices in cities outside of the Exclusion Zone to aid in the resettlement of citizens and aliens who had proven their loyalty through the questionnaire.

In the 1940s, Philadelphia was the third-largest city in the U.S. after New York and Chicago, so it made sense that a sizeable portion of the resettlers would consider moving there. More important to realizing this, however, was the sustained lobbying efforts by WRA personnel from the Philadelphia branch office, National Japanese American Student Relocation Council and American Friends Service Committee (a Quaker organization that promotes lasting peace with justice, as a practical expression of faith in action) to encourage incarcerated individuals to consider relocating to Philadelphia.

At a time when it was political suicide to be seen as a "Jap sympathizer," the Quakers of Philadelphia went out of their way to support the resettlement of Japanese Americans into their community.

Even before the incarceration began, AFSC had opposed the forced removal of persons of Japanese ancestry from Military Zone 1 as a gross infraction of civil rights. At the behest of AFSC, the WRA agreed to allow the creation of the NJASRC in May 1942, which began working immediately to resettle the more than 2,500 Japanese American students whose college and high school education were interrupted by the incarceration orders.

Unsurprisingly, one of the first East Coast institutions to accept and actively recruit Japanese American university students was Swarthmore College, a small liberal arts school founded by Quakers in the Philadelphia suburbs.

College President John Nason was a Quaker and AFSC member who was appointed national chair of the NJASRC and pledged to lead by example, welcoming the university's first JA students in fall 1942. Overall, about a dozen or so students of Japanese descent attended Swarthmore as a direct result of this program, including three Nisei siblings: William, George and Miyoko Inouye, whose parents would later be instrumental in assisting with the resettlement of the larger community in Philadelphia.

Not all Philadelphia schools would be as welcoming, as Nakano's daughter would find out in the spring of 1944. Despite already being enrolled as an undergraduate student of philosophy at the University of Pennsylvania, Naomi Nakano would be excluded from graduate studies at her father's alma mater due to a racially restrictive policy that forbid new enrollments from Japanese students, regardless of their citizenship.

In a June 1944 edition of the *Topaz Times*, Naomi Nakano is quoted as experiencing "great disappointment at not being allowed to continue graduate study at the university where I spent four very pleasant years. The principle of discrimination upset me very much. This is the first time – the only time it has touched me."

In the wake of Penn's decision, Bryn Mawr College (another Quaker institution) offered her a graduate fellowship in sociology.

The Philadelphia WRA office opened in July 1943 after the U.S. Military cleared the East Coast for resettlement of Japanese Americans. It was operated under the direction of Henry Patterson, a Quaker from Swarthmore who had already shown himself to be a vocal civil rights advocate for both the African-American and Japanese American communities.

This connection between the Quakers and Philadelphia WRA office would prove instrumental in relocating the community in a more integrated manner than many of the other areas selected for resettlement.



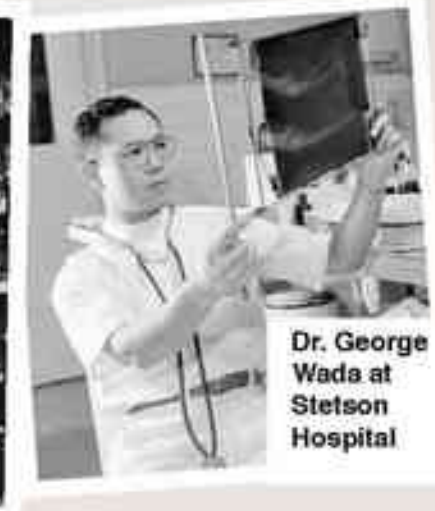
Mack Tsujimoto at Philadelphia Women's Hospital



Harold Arase at Lankenau Hospital



Rose Utsunomiya at Jefferson Hospital



Dr. George Wada at Stetson Hospital



Percy Fukushima at the James G. Biddle Co.

Reporting the early successes of WRA resettlement in Philadelphia, Tad Tomita wrote in the September 1943 edition of the *Tulean Dispatch*, "More than 200 Japanese Americans have found a haven in Philadelphia during the last two months. And all, without exception, agreed they had received a friendly welcome and fair treatment from Philadelphians."

In the same article, WRA Philadelphia Director Henry Patterson is quoted, "As far as Philadelphia is concerned, the Japanese Americans need have no fears, for we have yet to hear of a single case in which one was mistreated here, and all are still in the jobs in which we placed them."

Another major factor in the resettlement effort was the Philadelphia Hostel, a dormitory-style facility that welcomed individuals and families seeking permanent housing and employment in the city or surrounding areas.

Funded by a coalition of faith-based organizations and private citizens, the hostel was initially operated by a Quaker psychologist named Victor E. Goertzel, who had previously served as a high school and junior high school guidance counselor in the Topaz Relocation Center. After a few months, the responsibility of managing the hostel was turned over to an Issei couple — Saburo and Michiyo Inouye, who had previously worked at the Cincinnati Friends Hostel.

The Philadelphia Hostel entry in the Densho Archive explains, "A trained dietician, Michiyo handled the shopping and cooking (of both 'American and Oriental' meals, according to hostel publicity), while Saburo took care of building maintenance and gardening and also met new arrivals at the railroad station."

The Philadelphia Hostel was both one of the longest-running and most populous of the Japanese American hostels, thanks largely to the family-like hospitality afforded to new arrivals.

A 1944 *Pacific Citizen* article described the couple thusly, "Mr. and Mrs. Inouye are anxious that all the resettlers in the city should feel that the hostel is a home for them." The article continued, "'I like to feed them when they come,' said Mrs. Inouye, who prepares the hostel's sukiyaki dinners. 'It is important that they enjoy this place from the first time they visit here.'"

Nisei Herb Horikawa reflects on his experience during this period: "We arrived in Philadelphia on or about Jan. 6, 1944. I was 11 years old and had only a vague idea of the changes about to take place in our lives. We were fortunate to have friends in Philadelphia who encouraged us to make this move. The person who was most instrumental was Mrs. Abiko, who arranged a scholarship for my older brother at the Westtown School. As you may have guessed, she was a Quaker. There were very few JAs when we arrived. We met and became friends of virtually all members of the JA community here. Most notable were the Inouye (Hostel), Nakano (Wark) and Higuchi families."

By December 1944, it became clear that a U.S. victory over Japan would come in a matter of time, and the incarceration camps were scheduled to close by end of the following year. As resettlement in Philadelphia and elsewhere became more normalized, the Nikkei gained further acceptance within the larger community of Philadelphia, opening businesses and finding employment opportunities in a variety of fields.

The April 1945 edition of the *Manzanar Free Press* wrote, "To Mrs. Miyo Tachihara Ota goes the credit for starting the first evacuee-owned business in this city. The beauty shop, which she opened early in January, has been keeping her so busy that she has not had enough free time to accept an offer to teach beauty culture at one of Philadelphia's biggest beauty schools." Another entrepreneur was Issei Jimmy Kikushima, whose Oriental Restaurant was one of the first Japanese eating establishments in Philadelphia and a favorite gathering place for many Nisei college students.

Several of the resettlers found employment in the medical industry amongst Philadelphia's many research hospitals. Dr. George Wada became a resident physician at Stetson Hospital in North Philadelphia, Harold Arase a lab technician at Lankenau Hospital (designed by architect Nakano), Rose Utsunomiya a pharmacologist at Jefferson Hospital and Mack Tsujimoto an orderly at Philadelphia Women's Hospital.

There were also many Issei and Nisei who found work in Philadelphia's manufacturing industry such as Percy Fukushima, who worked at the James G. Biddle Co., or Shojiro Horikawa, who found work as a printer at the Message Publishing Co.

"Dad had his own printing shop in downtown San Francisco, so this would be different for him," Herb Horikawa, Shojiro's son, remembers. "My mother became a dressmaker working at home. Her clients were largely women referred by her Quaker friends."

Another influential family among the resettlers was the Kaneda's, whose daughter, Grayce, would become instrumental in founding the Philadelphia JACL chapter along with her future husband, Hiroshi Uyehara.

Grayce's father, Tsunayoshi "George" Kaneda, provided for his family of eight by working as second chef in the busy kitchen of Quaker-owned Hotel Whittier.

Others like prolific woodworker and architect George Nakashima found solace in the quieter surroundings of the Philadelphia suburbs, building his workshop on the grounds of a small farm in New Hope, where he would live and work for the next 40 years.

By November 1945, about a thousand Japanese Americans had chosen Philadelphia as their new home in addition to many others who resided there temporarily before accepting employment opportunities in Southern New Jersey or elsewhere in the surrounding suburbs. The *Newell Star* reported, "The WRA opened its Philadelphia District Office in July 1943, and since then, 3,704 resettlers have passed through its doors. Approximately 1,700 resettlers now are living at Seabrook Farms in New Jersey, and most of the remainder in the district have taken up residence in metropolitan Philadelphia. Philadelphia, with more than 75 percent of its resettlers in complete family groups, has been the city with the highest family relocation in the nation."

Farming would continue to be a major source of employment for many of the community members, particularly at Seabrook Farms — one of the largest producers of canned, frozen and dehydrated vegetables; the company also provided troop rations for the U.S. military throughout WWII.

Reflecting on her father's role in establishing the relationship with Seabrook, Nisei Miiko Horikawa wrote, "In 1943, a committee of three, including my father, Fuju Sasaki, also known as 'Mayor,' volunteered from the Jerome Concentration Camp to explore the possibilities of working for Seabrook Farms. Workers were sorely needed, and housing was to be subsidized by the Federal Housing Authority. The committee's report was made available to other camps, and consequently, 2,500 detainees moved to Seabrook."

The majority of farm workers established positive relationships with their employers and local community, particularly at Seabrook and the smaller farms closer to Philadelphia. In November 1945, *Rocky Shimpo* announced, "Takashi Moriuchi has just purchased a 100-acre vegetable farm in Moorestown, N.J., 10 miles from the center of Philadelphia."



George Nakashima and family



Shojiro Horikawa at the Message Publishing Co.

Having relocated to Philadelphia in February 1944, Moriuchi had worked as a foreman on the farm of Lewis Barton in Haddonfield, N.J., alongside other Nisei resettlers, some of whom he would later employ on his own farm. Moriuchi was also among the Nisei leaders who organized the Philadelphia Nisei Council along with Grayce Kaneda (later Uyehara) and several others to acquaint local resettlers with community services and promote better integration into the existing community.

By the end of WWII, the community of Japanese Americans in the Greater Philadelphia area had expanded from a mere handful of families to encompass a sizeable minority population that extended across all industries and age groups. The community members came from disparate socioeconomic classes and regions across the U.S., each coming to Philadelphia under very different circumstances. Perhaps the only commonality was that the Quakers had, in some way, touched each of their lives and would continue to pave the way for their peaceful coexistence in the postwar years.

"The extent to which Quakers lent a helping hand to Nisei and Issei is pretty deep," said Russ Endo, editor of the JACL Philadelphia newsletter. "For instance, a volunteer Quaker at AFSC, Harriet Russell, saw my mom and sister's living situation, and she hired my mom to be a nurse for her ailing father as an additional job. Out of gratitude, my mother both converted to Quakerism from Buddhism and also named me, her first-born son, after Harriet's last name."

Eventually, about half of the Japanese Americans who were resettled in the Philadelphia area decided to return home to the West Coast, but those who stayed became deeply entrenched in their local communities and also began interacting with the community that had predated WWII.

As the resettlement community began increasing their engagement with prewar community leaders like Nakano and Mikuriya, the Philadelphia Nisei Council was looking to establish a more permanent organization in which to continue its work — this led to the formation of the Philadelphia chapter of the JACL.

Hiroshi Uyehara wrote, "On March 25, 1947, the chapter was chartered with the help of Mas Satow and Mike Masaoka. Tetsuo Iwasaki was elected to be the chapter's first president and Hiroshi Uyehara became the chapter's official delegate to JACL's National Convention. Iwasaki would eventually be succeeded by Jack Ozawa in 1948 and '49, who is the namesake of our local scholarship fund. The impact of the Philadelphia Chapter on the national organization is much greater than might be expected from its relatively small numbers."

During his 2013 Day of Remembrance address to the Philadelphia Chapter, Grant Ujifusa called Philadelphia "a city that I think was the epicenter of Japanese American redress. Why? Because Grayce Uyehara once lived here, and Grayce Uyehara was the heart and soul of redress."

The Philadelphia chapter was also one of the top fundraisers for the redress effort, which helped pay for Uyehara's modest salary as executive director of the Legislative Education Committee, a separate lobbying group established in 1985 by members of the JACL to advocate for the enactment of HR 442, better known as the "Redress bill."

Another JACL Philadelphia member who had a profound impact on redress was Judge William Marutani, who was the only Japanese American appointed to serve on the Congressional Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians.

Marutani settled in Philadelphia after graduating from law school when he accepted a position with the firm of MacCoy, Evans and Lewis in 1953. He also served as JACL National's legal counsel from 1962-70 and became highly engaged with his local Philadelphia chapter. As JACL counsel, Marutani was the first person of Japanese ancestry to speak before the Supreme Court when he presented an amicus brief in support of interracial marriages in 1967 during the landmark *Loving v. Virginia* case, which struck down anti-miscegenation laws. He also spent time working as a pro bono voting rights attorney in the Jim Crow South, where his office was destroyed by a pipe bomb.

Marutani would eventually become senior partner at the law firm before being appointed by Pennsylvania Gov. Milton Shapp as a judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia in 1975. Two years later, he successfully ran for re-election and was appointed for an additional 10-year term.

Past JACL Philadelphia President Teresa Maebori wrote about the Marutani campaign, "Bill was the first Asian American to serve on the bench in Philadelphia, and first Japanese American judge east of California. When he was running, the Philadelphia JACL was mobilized to work on his campaign, and they did with gusto."

Marutani recounted his experience as a CWRIC committee member: "For me, it's a mixture of anger and grief, of rage and frustration. Having the Issei testify how the uprooting affected them, how their dignity was destroyed. Several times when I was sitting on the commission, I wished I didn't know what they were telling me was true because it wouldn't hit me in the gut as hard as it did. I was also outraged at some of the steps the politicians took, the way they toyed with our people."

Marutani further expanded his point by suggesting that despite overwhelming evidence that Japanese Americans posed no threat to national security, the government delayed the closing of the camps until after President Roosevelt had won his fourth-term re-election.

Suffice it to say, Marutani was a powerful voice amongst the CWRIC commissioners and one of the lead authors of "Personal Justice Denied," the 1983 committee report that officially recommended a formal apology and monetary compensation in the amount of $25,000 to each living person directly impacted by Executive Order 9066. In making the recommendation, Marutani recused himself from receiving any reparations payment.

It would still be another five years before the Redress bill was finally signed into law by President Ronald Reagan, a final victory that is widely attributed to Uyehara. Referring to her genuine approach, Maebori wrote, "Grayce framed the Redress movement as not a Japanese American issue but as an American issue. She impressed people for her dedication to right the wrong of the incarceration. Once Grayce identified you as one who could help, you could not say no to her."

Past Chapter President Ed Nakawatase offers the following praise, "I can attest to her ability to focus on the work at hand and not worry about who got credit." JACL Philadelphia Treasurer Jamie Kawano adds, "Grayce's achievements should also be viewed as pivotal for the promotion of women to leadership positions in JACL."

Endo fondly recalls Uyehara: "I remember seeing Grayce arriving from usually D.C. dressed up carrying her briefcase, a ball of fire with energy. The usually quiet Nisei were very proud of Grayce for her savvy, persistence and energy in doing this big thing, which had a deep meaning of rightness — that's probably why the Philadelphia chapter was one of the biggest donors to the Reparations Movement. Grayce could not have made it without husband Hiro, who fully supported her in a way quite unusual for the time, I think."

Their son, Paul Uyehara, confirms his father's supportive attitude. "Dad would drive her to Wilmington, where she caught the Amtrak, and she'd work in D.C. three days a week, staying at a hotel at night. She commuted weekly for about three years," he said.

In addition to establishing relationships with hundreds of legislators on Capitol Hill, Uyehara also distributed sample form letters, lobbying advice and "action alerts" scoring the position on redress of every member of Congress to JACL members in each of their respective districts. By 1987, more than 200 organizations, including veterans groups and state legislators, had endorsed monetary redress.

» See STORY on page 13



The Uyehara family



Moriuchi family dinner

PHOTO: DENSHO



Judge William Marutani at a CWRIC hearing

PHOTO: MARUTANI FAMILY



Judge Marutani, with his family looking on, receives his judicial robe.

We miss you both and are thinking of you this holiday season.



...Love,
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~Tomo no Kai

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Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
Eddie Jonokuchi

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JACL
Pacific Southwest District

STORY » continued from page 10

Endo offers his opinion on how things transpired. "Given the history of the Redress Movement — first, Relocation findings, then, Reparations Movement — I wouldn't put it beyond Bill Marutani to have helped mastermind it all," he said. "Bill thought like a lawyer as well as a politician; first find and correct the facts, then leverage them using the new Asian American politicians, some of whom came out of camps."

However, Endo also recognizes that Marutani was far too humble to take credit for something that was hard fought by his entire generation.

"It was the coming of age of the Nisei in self-awareness, conviction and also politically," Endo concluded.

Given the political will of the Nisei generation, redress was bound to occur at some point. The manner in which it did, and the extent to which it accomplished the goals of the movement, are directly attributable to the incredible foresight and political clout of Marutani, the tireless organizational work of Grayce Uyehara and support — both monetary and emotional — from the Philadelphia JACL chapter.

Alas, no generation is immune to the passage of time, and as the Nisei generation fades, very little record of their great accomplishments outside of our local community histories remains.

Marutani passed away in 2004, followed by Grayce Uyehara in 2014. There are now fewer than two dozen of the Nisei left in our local community.

Yet, even in their twilight years, the Nisei remain a solid bedrock of this community, congregated around Medford Leas, a retirement community established by Tak Moriuchi after his farm grew into one of the most profitable apple farms in the region.

He, too, is gone now, but his daughter, Chiyo — currently a board member at the retirement home and lifelong Quaker — keeps his memory alive through her work. It is there that JACL Philadelphia celebrates the annual New Year's Party with the last of our greatest generation, celebrating its storied past with a hopeful eye toward the future.

PHOTO: MARY YEE



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

The 2018 JACL National Convention will be held in Philadelphia in July. More details regarding the event will be available in the coming months.

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MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER BEFORE



JACL
Japanese American Citizens League

By David Inoue,
JACL Executive Director

As the year comes to a close, we often reflect back on the past year and all that has happened. I would like to take this opportunity to share with our JACL membership and our supporters through the *Pacific Citizen* some of the issues we have focused on and how they relate to JACL's core mission of education.

Our interaction with Major League Baseball during the World Series in November drew perhaps the most attention and touched the widest range of our membership.

It was clear that the actions of Houston Astros baseball player Yuli Gurriel touched something deep within our experiences interacting with others who have made clear that they do not see us as fully American.

It is perhaps universal that all of us have experienced this gesture at some point in our lives. We are now engaged in dialogue with the corporate offices of Major League Baseball and intend to continue to share how deeply this incident cut through our community.

Much of what we have been doing publicly is in response to our president and his administration. It is unfortunate any time relations reach an almost adversarial tone. However, many of our positions are directly related to the impact of the World Series slight on our community, which did receive widespread support from all our membership.

Our history of discrimination extends back beyond the incarceration experience, to one of blatant discrimination through immigration policies that barred Japanese Americans from naturalizing as citizens.

It is because of these racist views of us as "other" that World War II incarceration did happen. The view of Asian Americans as outsiders is a longtime-held view and continues today as demonstrated by Gurriel, who, ironically, is an immigrant himself.

It is also a shared experience for every other Asian immigrant community. My mother's family immigrated from China in the early 20th century. At the time, Chinese immigration was banned through the Chinese Exclusion Act, so my grandfather came over as what is now known as a "paper son."

I often hear third- and fourth-generation Asian Americans who support the Muslim travel ban or oppose the DREAM Act claim that their ancestors immigrated legally.

I often wonder if that really was the case, it certainly wasn't for my own family, and likely wasn't for many of those who may think otherwise.

We have taken positions in support of DREAMer immigrants and opposing the Muslim travel ban. As we see the same discrimination we received in the past applied to new communities, it is imperative that we use our voice to speak out for those other communities.

When we talk of JACL's mission being one of education, the education of others on the connection between past discrimination to current is a core part of that lesson.

We often talk about the challenges that JACL faces today. One clear take away from these current issues is that JACL has an increasingly important relevance in today's environment.

In an ideal world, we would learn from the mistakes of our history. Unfortunately, today, many of these discriminations are not even seen as mistakes. Some have openly praised these policies of mass incarceration.

It is our role as a civil rights advocacy organization to take a stand against these policies that re-create the same divisions of nearly the last century. Perhaps they never went away, but they are clearly here today.

JACL remains as well, and we will continue our role in representing the Japanese American experience as a warning for where such hatred and discrimination can lead our country.

Some might argue that JACL was most important for its role in securing redress. That was an important time for our community. But now, it is time for us to serve a more important role for our nation. ■

SAN FRANCISCO JACL MOURNS THE LOSS OF MAYOR ED LEE



JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE
SAN FRANCISCO CHAPTER

The San Francisco Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League mourns the passing of San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee, who passed away on Dec. 12 at the age of 65.

The JACL expresses its deepest condolences to his family – his wife, Anita, and his two daughters, Brianna and Tania.

Lee was a dedicated and compassionate public servant for over 40 years, caring for his beloved City of San Francisco. A social justice advocate, his early years were spent as a civil rights attorney at the Asian Law Caucus, fighting for low-cost housing, tenants' rights and other social justice issues.

He would later head various city departments, among which were director of the Human Rights Commission, director of Public Works and then as city administrator from 2005.

He was tapped in 2011 to become the mayor upon the departure of then-Mayor Gavin Newsom, who was elected the state's Lieutenant Governor. Later that same year, Lee was elected to a full term as the 43rd mayor of San Francisco, becoming the city's first elected Asian American to hold that position. The citizens of San Francisco re-elected him again in 2015.

"The San Francisco JACL greatly admired Mayor Lee for the integrity and values by which he lived his life and guided the City of San Francisco," said SF JACL President Judy Hamaguchi. "Despite the huge and endless responsibilities and challenges he bore in carrying forth a vision for the city and the stature he commanded, he never forgot his roots, the everyday people, the powerless. He was very humble and approachable, yet was wise, determined and resolute in leading our city."

The son of Chinese immigrants, Lee will be remembered for his advocacy on numerous issues, including homelessness, affordable housing, climate change and immigrant rights. Very early on, he declared San Francisco a sanctuary city to protect immigrants, and stated, "San Francisco is and always will be a sanctuary city. We want everybody to feel safe and utilize the services they deserve, including education and health care. … It is my obligation to keep our city united, keep it strong … crime doesn't know documentation. Disease doesn't know documentation."

Lee was also a champion of inclusion and diversity, saying, "Everybody knows they can belong here in San Francisco."

"We are heartbroken," stated Hamaguchi. "Mayor Lee has been a supporter and a presence in our community. He nurtured relationships and furthered many important projects to preserve and enhance Japantown. We owe him much gratitude, and his life shall inspire us to carry on his vision of a better society for all." ■

Hope, Boundless: The Universe of Yayoi Kusama

'YAYOI KUSAMA: INFINITY MIRRORS' IS A TRAVELING EXHIBITION OF THE ACCLAIMED ARTIST'S WORKS.

By Alissa Hiraga, Contributor

PHOTO: TOMOAKI IMAHORI, COURTESY OF THE ARTIST © YAYOI KUSAMA

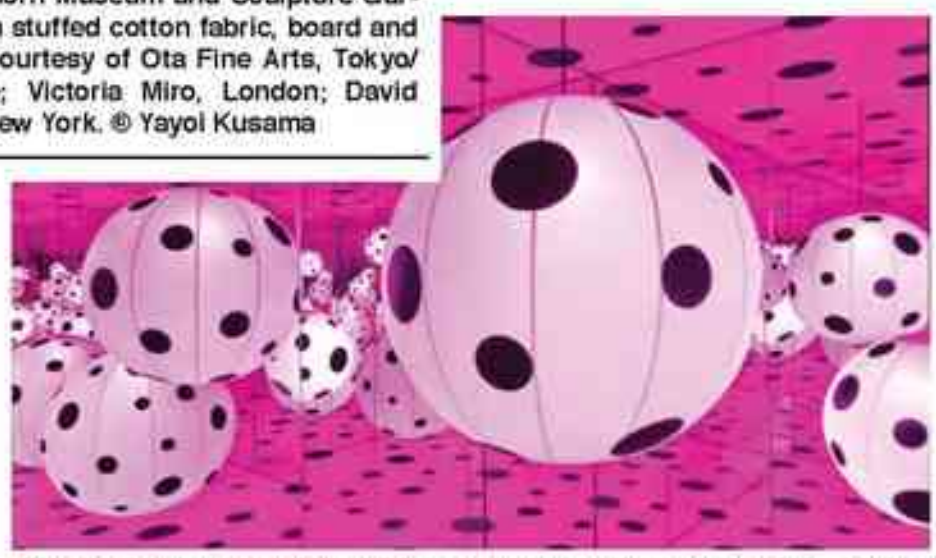


Yayoi Kusama with recent works in Tokyo, 2016

PHOTO: CATHY CARVER



Yayoi Kusama, Installation view of Infinity Mirror Room — Phalli's Field, 1965/2017, at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden. Sewn stuffed cotton fabric, board and mirrors. Courtesy of Ota Fine Arts, Tokyo/Singapore; Victoria Miro, London; David Zwirner, New York. © Yayoi Kusama



Yayoi Kusama, Dots Obsession — Love Transformed Into Dots, 2007, at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden. Mixed media installation. Courtesy of Ota Fine Arts, Tokyo/Singapore; Victoria Miro, London; David Zwirner, New York. © Yayoi Kusama



Yayoi Kusama, Infinity Mirrored Room — All the Eternal Love I Have for the Pumpkins, 2016 Wood, mirror, plastic, black glass, LED Collection of the artist.

Humankind discovered that the universe, with its brilliant starry expanses and galaxies, also holds dark matter and elements often invisible and unpredictable. Amid fiery, violent cycles, black holes and impossible conditions, the universe has astonishingly maintained harmony, even if temporary, for life to be possible. Some have likened human beings as its envoys — styled with a complex psyche as mysterious as the universe itself and as delicate as stardust — on an often painful quest, haunted by the fundamental question — the eternal riddle — of what it means to be human. We've long danced with the belief that to be human certainly means to suffer.

One of the most prolific artists living today is Yayoi Kusama, 88, whose wondrous works are the result of an imagination that never rests. A study of her works reveals the artist's dedication to her artistic process, which serves as healing and renewal from suffering.

Her creations are essentially manifestations of her focus on impermanence, life and death, as well as the desire for time to exist beyond the natural cycle bestowed to us. There is childlike charisma in her obsessive collection of dots and patterns, but also wisdom behind the sheer ferocity of details.

Kusama's ability to render disruptive elements into a singular piece, where these elements become harmonized, is a feature of her genius.

"Kusama has a tremendous capacity to access her body memory. With her lack of premeditation and her practice of letting her hand lead the way, she has trained her body to acquire its own sense of memory, which is cumulative and gradual in character and thus thrives on repetition. Thus, painting becomes a form of healing in this way," said Mika Yoshitake, associate curator of the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Smithsonian Institution.

With works spanning more than 60 years, Kusama is a luminary in the art world. As the first woman to represent Japan at the Venice Biennale, her story is one of constant breakthroughs. She has become more familiar over time to people across the world. Her iconic presence is felt even in those who may not necessarily connect her name with her works. Her art adorned luxury fashion house Louis Vuitton's storefronts and products in a 2012 collaboration. Last year, *TIME* magazine named Kusama among 100 of the world's most influential people. Her likeness and art have also been adoringly replicated in the form of Kokeshi dolls and giant plush pumpkins.

Born in Matsumoto, Nagano, in 1929, Kusama's early childhood was marked by tormenting hallucinations. She began capturing the experiences in the form of drawings. Kusama would suffer from crushing emotional abuse.

As a young child, her mother prohibited her from practicing art, and her youth was darkened by the brutal Second-Sino Japanese War and World War II. As a teenager, Kusama and her classmates worked in a military factory sewing parachutes.

In "Yayoi Kusama: Infinity Mirrors," she recalled, "My adolescence was spent in the closed darkness; especially because of the war, many dreams I had rarely, if at all, saw the light of day."

Kusama held her first solo exhibitions in Tokyo during the 1950s. Rebelling against a Japanese society that was suffocating in its social conformity and patriarchy, she journeyed to the U.S. and held her first solo exhibition in Seattle, Wash.

One imagines the steely determination Kusama had to traverse the post-war West as a Japanese female artist. With aspirations to be a part of the avant-garde art scene, Kusama moved to New York.

It was in New York where she created the "Net" paintings and her works started to capture attention in other countries.

During this time, Kusama began creating soft sculptures and phalliclike fabric tubes in a series called "Accumulations." These works served as an expression of Kusama's fear of sex.

"By continuously reproducing the forms of things that terrify me, I am able to suppress the fear . . . and lie down among them. That turns the frightening into something funny," she said in "Yayoi Kusama: Infinity Mirrors."

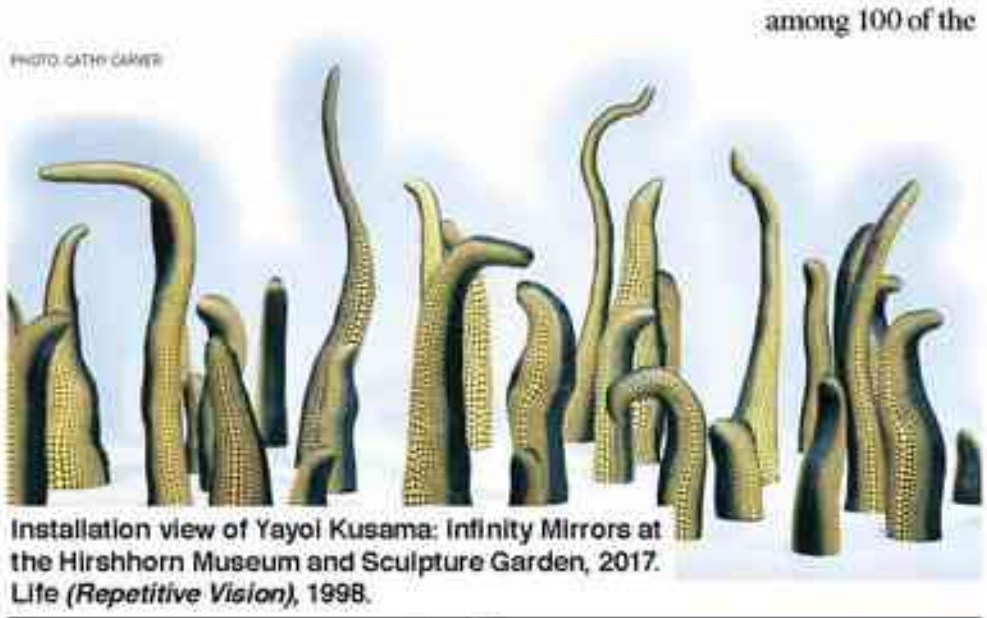
Kusama started incorporating mirrors and electric lights in the mid-1960s. In the late '60s, Kusama's works reflected her support of gay rights and social/political change.

She returned to Japan in the 1970s and began creating poetic collages and ceramic works. Grappling with health issues, Kusama voluntarily admitted herself to a hospital and continued to work.

She would hold five solo exhibitions a few years later and was featured in major exhibitions in Japan, Europe and the U.S. The subject of major retrospectives, Kusama was selected by the commissioner of the Japanese Pavilion at the Venice Biennale.

As documented in the "Yayoi Kusama: Infinity Mirrors" chronology, this was "the first time a single artist had been chosen."

PHOTO: CATHY CARVER



Installation view of Yayoi Kusama: Infinity Mirrors at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, 2017. Life *(Repetitive Vision)*, 1998.

PHOTO: CATHY CARVER



Yayoi Kusama, Infinity Mirrored Room — Love Forever, 1966/1994, at the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden. Wood, mirrors, metal, and lightbulbs



The Obliteration Room, 2002 to present Furniture, white paint and dot stickers Dimensions variable Collaboration between Yayoi Kusama and Queensland Art Gallery. Commissioned Queensland Art Gallery, Australia. Gift of the artist through the Queensland Art Gallery Foundation 2012. Collection: Queensland Art Gallery, Brisbane, Australia

PHOTO: COURTESY OF OTA FINE ARTS, TOKYO/SINGAPORE; VICTORIA MIRO, LONDON; DAVID ZWIRNER, NEW YORK; © YAYOI KUSAMA



Yayoi Kusama,Infinity Mirrored Room—Aftermath of Obliteration of Eternity, 2009 Wood, mirror, plastic, acrylic, LED, black glass and aluminum. Collection of the artist

Today, Kusama continues to work in her Tokyo studio, unabated in her love for art and life.

In the current special traveling exhibition, visitors are able to enter the artist's imagination and universe through interactive installations. The exhibition, organized by the Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Smithsonian Institution, and curated by Yoshitake, also marks the North American debut of new works.

The accompanying exhibition catalog, "Yayoi Kusama: Infinity Mirrors," which Yoshitake also edited, includes thoughtful essays on Kusama and her work by Melissa Chiu, Alexander Dumbadze, Gloria Sutton and Yoshitake. In addition to vibrant photos, the catalogue features a detailed chronology compiled by Miwako Tezuka and an annotated bibliography by Alex Jones.

The Broad in Los Angeles is the only California museum to host the traveling exhibition. Sarah Loyer, assistant curator at the Broad, says visitors are enthusiastic about the exhibition. Kusama's works bring to mind the intrinsic connections we have to the world and others.

"Kusama's artwork has great appeal worldwide, appealing to art historians, while also engaging a general audience and even attracting young children," she said. "It is rare that an artist has such reach. Kusama's consistent interest in repetition and in the concept of infinity are compelling, relatable themes in our contemporary world. The Infinity Mirror Rooms give visitors the experience of being both the most important thing in the room and simultaneously dispersed and not important at all. This feeling is evoked in many of Kusama's other works, such as the 'Accumulation' sculptures, 'Infinity Net' paintings and performances. Visitors can relate to this feeling of being both significant and small at the same time; it is a common feeling in today's world."

The exhibition features six of Kusama's Infinity Mirror Rooms and a collection of large-scale installations and paintings, sculptures and works on paper dating from the 1950s to the present. There is also archival material and photographs of Kusama's public performances.

For Yoshitake, the exhibition is unique in the impact it has to the viewing public because visitors interact with the installations.

"The artist transfers the decentered visual effects of her paintings and sculptures into immersive, phenomenological spaces in which visitors become active participants," she said.

In "The Souls of Millions of Light Years Away," an installation that has been at the Broad since the museum opened two years ago, one imagines being surrounded by celestial bodies in the array of dotted lights and mirrors. The installation may also conjure images of stars dying and being reborn or the Milky Way.

Visitors are instantly aware of their existence with respect to the confined space. Like the glass mirrors and light effects, the idea of infinity may be an illusion, bound by time and space. But the imagination can take viewers anywhere.

"A key theme within Kusama's artwork is the celebration of life and its aftermath, made clear in works of diverse media including painting, sculpture, works on paper and the artist's Infinity Mirror Rooms. This embracing of lifecycles is clearly tied to the idea of resilience and is exemplified in the organic forms the artist uses from the 1950s to the present, as well as in the concepts of infinity, boundlessness and repetition that are a through line of her practice," said Loyer.

In the "Before Entering the Dots Obsession — Love Transformed" installation, visitors are greeted by a video projection of Kusama reciting her poetry and a giant balloon to peep into. Giant vinyl, polka-dotted balloons fill the installation room, bathed in pinkish-red light. "Phalli's Field," which feature the phallicIike fabric tubes that appeared in "Accumulations," is described in the exhibition as the most important breakthrough during the 1960s.

"Love Forever" has a psychedelic, kaleidoscopic feel. With a hexagonal shape and mirrored on all sides, the installation features two peepholes for visitors to look through and see themselves and another participant in endless reflections. As detailed in the exhibition, Kusama relates the concept of "Love Forever" to stand for civil rights, sexual liberation, antiwar movements and various activist groups of the 1960s. The installation represents the connection and impact people have to one another.

In "Aftermath of Obliteration of Eternity," the visitor is enveloped in a warm glow of lights reminiscent of Japanese lanterns and the ceremony of *toro nagashi*. Kusama's installation is a study in contrasts — the comforting glow implies the afterlife, while the surrounding darkness signals impermanence and the unknowable.

The paintings and sculptures are tantamount in significance to the installations and represent the challenges Kusama faced throughout her life and artistry. Among these important works are Kusama's oil on canvas "Infinity Net" paintings, which are described in the exhibition as works she created "without composition — without beginning or center." Kusama created the paintings during her first years in New York, a time she was under extreme hardship.

Sculptures such as the slightly unnerving "Life (Repetitive Vision)" sprout, curl and peer like tentacles or trunks that could be from the land, sea or on a distant planet. An installation of numerous sculptures including "My Adolescence in Bloom," "Welcoming the Joyful Season," "Unfolding Buds" and "Story After Death" sets off an uplifting vibe without being escapist, where Kusama's focus on the expansion of self, not the oppression of the self, is made clear. There is also a playful edginess in the sculptures, a trait that characterizes many of her works.

The exhibition ends at Kusama's "Obliteration Room." According to Loyer, "self-obliteration" is a term Kusama used beginning in the 1960s to describe losing the boundaries between the self and the surrounding environment. "'Self-obliteration' is an action toward radically connecting with others, and this is part of what is so compelling about the artwork. It calls on people to simultaneously lose themselves and find themselves, and in doing so find connections."

Visitors are given colorful dot stickers to place anywhere in the "Obliteration Room." Among the scatter of seemingly random dots, there are also heavily saturated areas where dots come together like magnetized candy. People who were seconds ago strangers sat together at the dotted table locked in a collective mission to imprint every space. The installation is an example of why people from across the world are drawn to Kusama's art.

"Her work is driven by a utopian desire for radical connectivity," Yoshitake said.

Kusama, in an interview with Hirshhorn director Melissa Chiu that is featured in "Yayoi Kusama: Infinity Mirrors," said, "Early in my life, I remember the sacrifices during the war. This was the hardest time of my life. I don't want to ever see this happen again. People being killed and the sacrifices people made. After I die, I hope that people see that my paintings are about love and peace and spirituality. This is why I am painting. I keep on painting. Whenever I finish a painting, it is like the perfect thought and reflects my thinking. I don't ever want to stop painting."

Suffering may be an ever-present aspect of what it means to be human; we may not be able to release all our suffering, but Kusama's works affirm how an artist's process to create courageously from even the darkest depths and the most impossible conditions will bring to the light something meaningful for others.

Yayoi Kusama: Infinity Mirrors, organized by Mika Yoshitake, curator, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden, Smithsonian Institution, is currently showing at the Broad in Los Angeles until Jan. 1, 2018. Standby tickets information for the Broad is available at *www.thebroad.org/art/special-exhibitions/yayoi-kusama-infinity-mirrors*. The exhibition will next travel to the Art Gallery of Ontario (March 3-May 27, 2018), Cleveland Museum of Art (July 9-Sept. 30, 2018) and the High Museum, Atlanta (Nov. 18, 2018-Feb. 17, 2019). The accompanying exhibition catalogue is "Yayoi Kusama: Infinity Mirrors," edited by Mika Yoshitake, Prestel Publishing.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MICHAEL PAULO



Michael Paulo performs in June 2017.



Michael Paulo's goal is to make his audience feel good with his music.

MUSIC TO SOOTHE THE SOUL

Acclaimed musician Michael Paulo's melodies have always involved the audience, who play a vital part in every performance.



Paulo was awarded Hawaii's Global Contemporary Music Lifetime Achievement Award in November.

By Kristen Taketa, Contributor

Saxophone man Michael Paulo had two paths to choose from after finishing high school.

He could've chosen to take a North Texas State University scholarship he was offered and go to college, as many would expect a young adult to do. Or, he could've chosen to join Kalapana, a popular Hawaiian pop-and-rock band, as their saxophonist, and hit the road. He chose the road — to learn from real experiences.

"My education, to be honest with you, was live learning, and it wasn't so much being in college," said Paulo, now 61. "I learned from experience."

That road has taken Paulo far, from his hometown on Oahu, Hawaii, to places all over the world that have wanted to hear him breathe melodies into a piece of brass.

Paulo, who is considered to be one of the country's leading Asian American jazz musicians, was awarded Hawaii's Global Contemporary Music Lifetime Achievement Award in November and has played with jazz greats such as singer Al Jarreau and pianist David Benoit. Paulo also has 10 solo records to his name, and he has either played in or produced several music festivals, including numerous years as an artist-in-residence at the world-renowned Java Jazz Festival in Jakarta, Indonesia. He has also produced the Temecula Valley Balloon and Wine Festival and the first-ever Asian American Music Festival, which was held in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo in May.

Part of his drive, Paulo says, is to break stereotypes that Asian Americans don't, or can't, do jazz.

For Paulo, the audience is a necessary part of every performance.

"It's all about communicating with the audience — communicating with them and making them feel happy and good," Paulo said. "At the end of the night, it doesn't matter how professional I was or if I made mistakes. What matters is if people enjoyed themselves."

To Paulo, music is not about giving a perfect performance or being technically or musically correct. It's about what he can make the audience feel.

"The essence of what I do is to try to enrich people's lives," Paulo said. "When I play in concerts, the reaction you get — it's uplifting for people. That's very rewarding for not only myself but also for most entertainers."

» See MUSIC on page 23





Michael Paulo with his musician father, Rene



Michael Paulo performs with his father at the Temecula Wine Festival.





Rene and Akemi Paulo are also well-known musicians in Hawaii.

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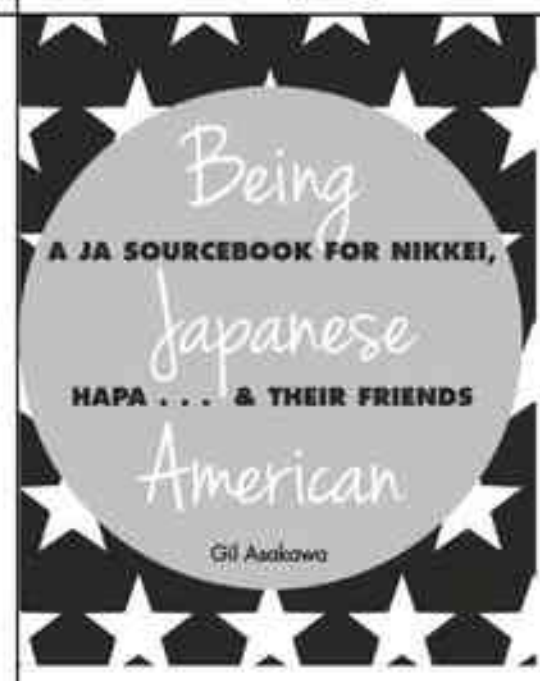
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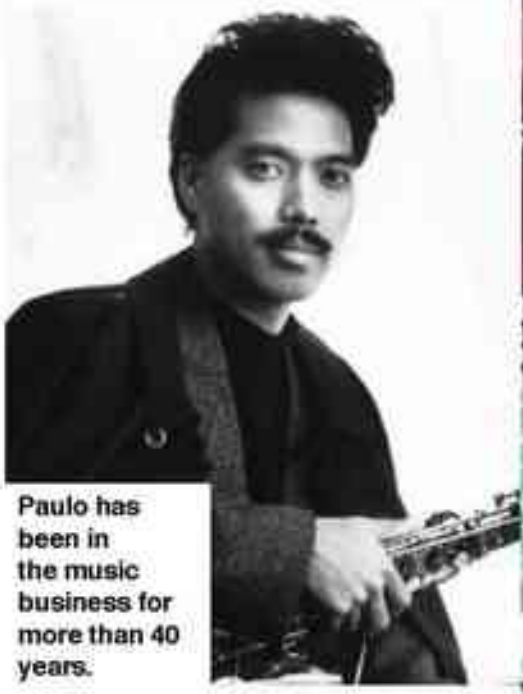
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MUSIC » continued from page 18

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF MICHAEL PAULO



Paulo has been in the music business for more than 40 years.



As a young musician, Michael Paulo played saxophone with Kalapana, regarded as one of Hawaii's greatest musical groups.



He describes music as a break in people's daily working lives that reminds them that they are human, and thus have emotional needs.

"We're all emotional beings. Human beings are emotional people. We need that in our lives," Paulo said. "It's very important. Everybody works, everybody has things that they do. But when they come out and they hear entertainment, they hear music — it kind of heals them."

A Rising Career

Paulo's path to a four-decades-long career began when he was 15 years old in high school. He didn't feel like taking a PE class, so instead, he joined the high school band and picked up a saxophone.

"I just enjoyed it," he said of the sax. "It felt great."

Music was already woven into his life. He was born into a family of entertainers: Paulo's mother was a singer, his father an acclaimed pianist and all of his other siblings played instruments as well. It used to be that when his family performed together at parties, Paulo would dance while his family sang.

Starting an instrument at 15 years old could be considered late compared to other performing musicians. But Paulo proved it didn't take him long in his rise to musical success.

After about a year of playing the saxophone in high school, he was already playing professionally, he said. By the time he graduated high school, he was performing across Waikiki and Honolulu and was already one of Hawaii's most-noted young saxophonists.

His first big break came when he was asked to tour with Kalapana after high school, a pop-and-rock group that, to Paulo, was Hawaii's No. 1 band. He turned down the North Texas State scholarship and spent four years with the group.

"They were already doing what I was going to go to school for, to study how to play and then try to go get a job and go make records. I got an opportunity to do it right there," Paulo said.

But perhaps no other opportunity shaped Paulo as much as when he was hired to play with Jarreau, the seven-time, Grammy Award-winning musician. Jarreau showed Paulo how to put emotion into every performance, Paulo said.

"Every single performance — he put his heart and soul into it," Paulo said of Jarreau. "He was never insecure about himself, so he was always able to highlight and showcase his band, so on stage, we all played, we all got featured. There are a lot of artists out there who don't do that, and they feel insecure, like somebody's stealing the spotlight."

He says Jarreau is one of the biggest influences on his own work, and his time with Jarreau became a major launching pad for his career by connecting him to other big players in the music business.

Throughout his career, Paulo has traveled the world many times over. He's performed in Japan, Russia, South Africa, Thailand and more. But he says performing in one country wasn't any different than performing in another. To Paulo, music is a universal joy that traverses the boundaries of nations.

"Music is universal. People appreciate music everywhere," Paulo said. "The biggest kick I get is, if I fly 6,000 miles and play for somebody in Asia, it's like 'Wow, these people flew me all the way to their country and paid me to come and play for them.' That's like a gift. I never take that for granted."

At the heart of Paulo's music is a joy that spills over even into his conversations. When he talks with somebody, he laughs in a big way in almost every other sentence.

"I guess I would call it Hawaiian soul," he said while describing his playing style. "It's just being happy and being upbeat and positive, 'cause you know, growing up in Hawaii, it's such a beautiful place. Whenever you go to Hawaii, everyone seems to be happy all the time. That's where I came from. That's part of my nature."

Breaking Stereotypes

Born of Filipino and Japanese parents, Paulo has worked to break the assumptions of many who don't think Asian Americans play jazz music.

Both now and in the early days of his career, Paulo says people have given him odd looks at seeing a single Asian American man up onstage, playing with jazz musicians who are overwhelmingly African-American or Caucasian.

"I'd get these looks like, 'Where'd this guy come from?'" Paulo said. "When I was on the road with Al back then, I was basically the only Asian musician onstage. When I travel around the world, people look at me and say, 'What's that guy doing up there?'"

Most people don't exactly peg Hawaii as a hotbed of jazz either, Paulo said, but he's proud to tell people that's where he's from.

"People are like, 'Wow, you're from Hawaii?' And I'm always proud of that," he said.

Paulo laughs when he talks about these stares and stereotypes. He responds to such gestures with a powerful greeting.

"Anytime somebody looks at me funny, I just say aloooha!" Paulo said loudly and with joy.

Once, Paulo was asked to perform at an event in Nebraska. He walked into the venue, which was filled with many people who hadn't seen a jazz performance before. The venue was playing country music before him. Paulo hollered, "Aloooha!" to the audience, and "they loved me," he said. By the end of the night, people were asking him to perform for their weddings.

"It kind of shows you that music can bridge the gap with anybody," Paulo said.

Paulo's experiences confronting these looks and preconceived notions are the motivation behind one music festival he has produced, the Asian American Music Festival.

He started the festival — which was originally called the Asian American Jazz Festival — because, as Asian American musicians, "we don't get recognized too much because we're not too much in the mainstream in America," he said.

Paulo said he wanted to highlight talent of fellow Asian American musicians he knew, but who seemed to be overlooked or underestimated by the larger American public. He started the festival because he knows, for example, female Asian American musician colleagues who were asked, "Where's your violin?" or, "Where's your flute?"

Paulo also uses the festival as a way to cultivate young talent and encourage more Asian Americans to pursue dreams of performing music.

Recording Again

For the past two decades, much of Paulo's time has swiveled to the business side of music, such as producing and promoting festivals. It's been about seven years since his last recording.

But he said he wishes he could spend more time performing music for the sake of playing music and making audiences happy. He's wary when a career starts to become more about money and business than about joy and love for music.

"The hardest part is trying to stay creative. When you're dealing with business things every day and setting things up, that's a challenge trying to make a record," he said. "When I was younger, I could stay up all night until the sun comes up. Now that I'm 61, I can't do that anymore."

Now, he's trying to get back into performing, the thing he enjoys the most. Paulo is currently working on a new record, a project he's undertaking largely on his own. It's a project and an idea he's been wanting to complete for 10 years.

But, he says, it's not an easy dream to chase, even for someone with as long a résumé as him. Record companies, he says, pay less and less for musicians to record their songs, which pressures musicians to raise money on their own, especially through crowdfunding. He's currently working to raise $18,000 for his recording project.

But despite the pressures of the music business, Paulo said he's been happy with his career.

"In retrospect, I wouldn't change anything," he said. "I learned a lot, and I've had a great career." ■

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DEATH VALLEY'S DAYS *Of Incarceration*

Uncovering a little-known chapter in the region's history leads to the discovery of an even greater American narrative.



T. R. Goodwin, superintendent of Death Valley National Park during World War II

By David Woodruff, Contributor

Death Valley National Park, well known for offering one of the most scenic desert landscapes on the planet, has been a destination for travelers and visitors the world over for nearly a hundred years.

The park's human history is as rich and deep as its natural wonders. Native Americans inhabited the area for thousands of years before the arrival of European settlers. The spellbinding story of the Argonauts, who nearly lost their lives while attempting a shortcut to the California goldfields, is a subject that has been studied in California grade schools for more than a hundred years. And what 20th century washerwoman couldn't repeat the story of how their favorite laundry detergent was brought to them from the banks of hell thanks to the efforts of the Twenty Mule Team?

But there is a little-known chapter in Death Valley's history that is part of a greater narrative of an American tragedy that occurred in the United States during World War II.

At 2 a.m. on the morning of Dec. 10, 1942, T. R. Goodwin, superintendent of Death Valley National Monument, and his wife, Neva, were woken from a sound sleep by a sharp knocking on the door of their residence at Monument headquarters. At their entry stood Robert Brown, an assistant to Ralph Merritt, director of the Manzanar WRA Center, located 110 miles away.

Brown told Goodwin that there had been a riot at Manzanar, and the military police there had shot some of the internees. Brown stated that Merritt had sent him to see if Goodwin would be able to provide temporary housing for a large group of internees that needed to be evacuated from Manzanar for their own safety.

Prior to WWII, Death Valley had been home to as many as 600 young men who were part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC). The CCC boys left Death Valley at the outbreak of the war, and the housing for them was now vacant. Goodwin told Brown he and his limited staff would get the former CCC camp in shape so that Merritt could bring the group of internees to Death Valley later that day.

As soon as Brown left, Goodwin rounded up his staff, and they immediately went to work cleaning up the CCC barracks and mess hall.

Brown returned to Manzanar and told Merritt the good news — living space for the threatened evacuees was available in Death Valley. That afternoon, a military convoy of Jeeps, a weapons carrier and motorcycles left for Death Valley.

The group included 10 staff members, 12 soldiers and 65 Japanese internees. They brought a few personal belongings, hay, furniture and food. The group included men, women, children and single people. The few motorists they encountered along their route were stunned by the surprising sight.



Ned Morioka and his cousin, Harry, give their two friends a ride in front of the infirmary at the temporary Death Valley camp.

It was a long and slow trip, with the group not arriving in Death Valley until 9:30 p.m. Once fed, women and children were housed in one area of the 16 buildings at the camp, and men were housed in another section. Death Valley had one of its coldest evenings that night, and blankets for warmth were in popular demand.

The next morning, everyone pitched in to improve living conditions. The ticking was filled with hay, walls and floors were washed and a mess hall was set up and equipped. One of the better-equipped buildings at the camp actually had toilets, showers and running water. This became the infirmary, managed by Josephine Hawes, a registered nurse from the Manzanar Hospital. Hawes was not only the nurse but also the health officer and doctor to the group. Her first order of business was to care for the men who were badly beaten during the riots at Manzanar.

Over the next few days as everyone settled in, barracks space was assigned to families, bachelor quarters were set up and kitchen K.P. and other work groups were designated as well.

Why was it necessary to remove the 65 internees from Manzanar? Some of the internees there had taken a "pro-American" stance, even petitioning President Franklin D. Roosevelt to allow Japanese American men to enlist in the military. Many other internees were strongly opposed.



Those CCC barracks in Death Valley were once used to house relocated Nikkei incarcerees from Manzanar in December 1942.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE RALPH MERRITT COLLECTION, EASTERN CALIFORNIA MUSEUM



Ralph Merritt, director of the Manzanar WRA Center



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE RALPH MERRITT COLLECTION, EASTERN CALIFORNIA MUSEUM

« Incarcerees from Manzanar at the temporary camp at Death Valley National Park.

The CCC Camp at Death Valley housed relocated Japanese Americans for two-and-a-half months during World War II.

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE EASTERN CALIFORNIA MUSEUM

Quarrels and arguing turned into physical violence. On Dec. 6, a group moved toward the police station/jail, demanding the release of a suspect charged with a murderous attack on a leader of the pro-American group. A demonstrator started an unoccupied truck rolling downhill toward the soldiers. Several shots were fired, and when the crowd broke up, two internees were dead and 11 more injured.

During the night, gangs armed with knives and weapons roamed the camp looking for individuals on a publicized death list. All of their intended victims were gathered together by the camp administrators and military police and placed in protective custody. Three days later, the group was moved to Death Valley.

Superintendent Goodwin and his staff worked hard to make conditions as livable and comfortable as possible for the relocated internees. Goodwin had dinner with the group on their second night in Death Valley. He even shared with them that park naturalists would like to show them slides and enlighten them on Death Valley's natural history. Goodwin's outreach apparently worked.

Tad Uyeno, a prewar columnist for the *Los Angeles Japanese Daily News* and now an internee, wrote in a postwar press article, "Superintendent Goodwin's talk to us impressed us. He created in our minds a very favorable impression. He was, we believed, a man we could trust and depend on for help."

Away from the stress and difficulties of confining 10,000 people at Manzanar, relationships between the soldiers and the internees were greatly improved. Friendships lasting over the years were formed between the guards and the guarded at Death Valley.

Shortly after their arrival, many internees from the group presented themselves to Superintendent Goodwin and his staff, and they assisted them with any work needed in Death Valley. Experiencing a severe lack of manpower created by the war, Goodwin and his staff readily accepted their offer. Over the next few weeks, springs were cleaned out, ditches dug, cement poured, radio antennas erected and other odd jobs were accomplished by the hard-working internees.

When the soldiers would make trips to Beatty, Nev., or Death Valley Junction to pick up mail or get supplies, they often took a group of internees with them. One day, soldiers with two U.S. Army trucks took the women to Dante's View for a sightseeing trip. A Christmas Eve party was also held, which included all of the internees, staff, soldiers, local Native Americans, as well as park personnel.

Immediately following the internees' removal from Manzanar, the government commenced efforts to find homes and jobs outside the Western Defense Command area for them. As openings and opportunities became available, departing internees were escorted east to Las Vegas for travel to the East and Midwest.

The American Friends Service Committee (the Quakers) also played a major role in helping the internees find jobs and homes in other parts of the country. Within two and a half months of their arrival in Death Valley, the last of the 65 internees had moved on to a life outside of the military camp.

At least some of the Japanese Americans who lived at Death Valley remember it in a positive note.

Togo Tanaka wrote in 1986, "What Ralph Merritt did, with speed and dispatch, in getting his friend, Superintendent Goodwin, to respond after the violence and bloodshed at Manzanar showed us the light at the end of the tunnel. Merritt saved lives and sent us on our way to rebuild our faith in our native land. What greater legacy could any American leave? I think those of us who tried to lead exemplary lives as good citizens have felt, in our own way, an obligation to repay the trust freely bestowed by Ralph Merritt."

David Woodruff has lived in Eastern California for 24 years, working as a local journalist and community service volunteer. He has also written several books on the history of Death Valley. This article appears courtesy of Woodruff and the Inyo Valley Register (Sept. 30).

PHOTO: BURTON FRASHER COURTESY OF THE EASTERN CALIFORNIA MUSEUM



Another picture of the Cow Creek Camp in Death Valley where Manzanar internees were taken.

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Building a Better World for Everyone

National Youth/Student Council members reflect on their hopes and dreams for their country and community.

By Kenji Kuramitsu, NY/SC Representative

As the holiday season approaches, members of the JACL's National Youth/Student Council have shared meditations on this year's *Pacific Citizen* Holiday Issue theme: "Hope. Harmony. Healing." I spoke with seven members of the NY/SC about their work within the JACL, their frustrations and joys, and how these relate to their hopes and dreams for our country and community.

Intermountain District Council Youth Representative Eric Tokita sees his work as having to do with primarily thoughtful advocacy for his district's young people. Tokita has been active in the JACL since grade school, and he initially became involved through local fundraisers and cultural events.

Tokita sees his identity as an Asian American as helping him to foment awareness around injustice and identify meaningfully with other groups who are experiencing oppression. Tokita's current work is focused on bringing district youth together across geographical distance in order to create shared experiences and a greater sense of common belonging.

"I am a member of the NY/SC and JACL because I identify areas in my life that could benefit from a greater JA presence in my life," he said. "I believe that others share similar sympathies, and I want to create a space for this community to flourish."

Tokita believes that while ideas like harmony are important components of defeating "the growing hate actions across the globe . . . today's hyperconnected world has desensitized most people to such words, and more drastic actions must be taken."

For Tokita, these actions must go beyond words in order to help us center our present activism in the testimony and tapestry of our community history.

In talking about what might be done in order to reconnect disaffected youth with today's Nikkei community, Tokita said, "Remembering the past is crucial to legitimizing many claims and worries about the direction our society might be heading."

Midwest District Council Youth Representative Mieko Kuramoto first became involved in the NY/SC to deepen a sense of community with other Asian American youth. Meeting other multiracial Nikkei who were politically active also helped to foment Kuramoto's sense of participation in this community as one that celebrates Nikkei who are mixed, queer, as well as those from diverse family backgrounds.

Kuramoto shares that her Nikkei identity reminds her of the importance of caring for others in difficult times. She consciously goes about "grounding myself in my own Japanese Americanness and the history that comes with it" as a clarifying action that increases her solidarity to those experiencing violence and exclusion. This commitment emerges when hearing rhetoric about undocumented immigration from Latin America and the supposed economic and social dangers they carry.

"It strikes me that some decades earlier, that kind of conversation was about my family and people who look like me," Kuramoto said. "Who am I, then, to say that it's not my problem because I'm not LatinX?"

Kuramoto has been meditating on the place of hope in light of the pressing political context that faces us today. Kuramoto recalls the events of the 2016 Pulse nightclub shooting in Orlando, Fla., and the overwhelming despair that many LGBTQ+ community members experienced after this attack.

"I remember being devastated and scared after that happened," Kuramoto shared. "I felt pretty hopeless, and in the moment, 'hoping' that things would get better seemed kind of useless."



PHOTO COURTESY OF MIEKO KURAMOTO

Mieko Kuramoto during her travels to Japan as a Kakehashi Project participant.

At the same time, Kuramoto recognizes how hope came to play a crucial part in the community's reconstitution.

"It was hope that drove the healing," she says, as through remembrance and resilience the community slowly remembered itself "to facilitate recovery, love and support, as well as to promote activism and strength."

However, she warned, "*Only* hoping is not a strategy . . . but at the same time, I believe that hope is an essential part of any activism." This is central to building what Kuramoto calls "love relationships" — friends, family, significant others and acquaintances who help make the world feel a warmer and more kind place.



NY/SC Youth members, including Kota Mizutani, Mieko Kuramoto and Eric Langowski *(back row, center right)*, at a recent EDC youth summit and conversation.

The mission of the NY/SC is to "raise awareness of AAPI issues and engage and develop young leaders who create positive change in our community."

Pacific Northwest Council Youth Representative Tammy Le joined JACL in March 2017. Le is a Vietnamese American member of the NY/SC, and outside of her role on the council, she is involved with voting rights, union organizing and other social justice work in the Pacific Northwest.

Le highlights the importance of coalition-building and working alongside and within diverse communities to push for social change.

"Some challenges I face is taking care of myself and being transparent with my own struggles," she said. "Doing meaningful work keeps me motivated and brings me a lot of joy."

Like Tokita, Le believes that suffering must drive us to house the stories of our ancestors in the present: "We need to remember the past but also relate it to the present." To Le, the legacies of history may remind us of what we are fighting for today and "that acts of discrimination, hate and bigotry [are] not new." Ideals such as harmony and hope are what lead Le toward working in a world filled with more altruism and kindness.

Kota Mizutani is the National Youth/Student Council chair, a role that sees him overseeing relevant programming, youth membership recruitment and representing the voice of young Nikkei and AAPIs at the national level. Mizutani joined the JACL in 2009 at the age of 13, and he began to learn about the organization's structure through participation in the NY/SC Chicago convention mentorship program.

As a Shin-Nikkei, Mizutani is aware that individuals with his identity are not always explicitly included as members of the Japanese American community. A dual citizen, Mizutani occupies a liminal space that drives him toward his own long-term ambitions for change. "Beyond [ending] oppression," he said, "I hope to see a day in which borders and geopolitics don't prevent active and healthy relationships between diasporic peoples and the countries of their heritage." In that middle space, Mizutani feels called to enhance authentic "relationship between Japan and Japanese America that highlights and engages identity."

Mizutani recognizes that his involvement in the JACL, like his call to engage internationally between Japan and the United States, is bound with his own meaningful past experiences.

"The JACL was the first organization to invest in my interest in civil rights and political advocacy," he said. "I would not have the opportunities I have today without the JACL's undying support."

While Mizutani expresses frustration with the sometimes petty politics and intergenerational challenges faced by the JACL, he emphasizes his ongoing inspiration and sharpening by the work of many NY/SC and JACL leaders who challenge him toward more holistic and transformative applications of social justice.

To Mizutani, the Japanese American story has wider resonances not only for ourselves "but also Nikkei around the world, AAPIs and the greater public." When it comes to the crucial task of deploying these legacies within a contemporary context, Mizutani argues that "Nikkei youth have always been on the forefront of expanding how we apply and interpret the incarceration experience to the present time." He sees one of the strengths of his work in the NY/SC lies in the council's ability to bring together a diverse array of intersections and experiences.

Kelly Aoki, a fifth-generation Japanese American, serves as the Central California District Council Youth Representative, where she works with district youth; she is currently planning a summit alongside NCWNP and PSW partners.

Aoki's grandparents, longtime JACLers, introduced her to the organization at a young age through picnics and holiday parties, and she officially became a member in high school.

After participating in the Kakehashi Project and the recent National Convention in Washington, D.C., Aoki joined the NY/SC this past fall. It was her Kakehashi experience that sparked an interest in an exploration of her ancestors and identity, as well as cemented Aoki's involvement in the organization.

"I've always known that I was Japanese American, but I didn't always know what that meant to me," she said. "Honestly, until recently, I never gave it much thought. I figured, 'We're all Americans, right?' Maybe that's how our grandparents felt before they were incarcerated during WWII."

Aoki spoke of the importance of the NY/SC's October visit to Chicago's "Then They Came for Me" exhibit, which documented the incarceration.

"Numerous times, I saw visitors baffled, asking things like, 'How could this happen?' or, 'How did I not know about this?' and it shocked me. People still don't know about the Japanese American experience, and until they do, we're in danger of history repeating itself.

"Being part of the NY/SC has opened my eyes to issues on a broader, national scale," Aoki continued. "Our group is very diverse with a range of youth across the country. It is very easy to become accustomed to one way of thinking, so being exposed to different viewpoints is beneficial to individual growth."

Amidst the divisive and violent context that we find ourselves in today, Aoki believes that we should move from exclusion to embracing and celebrating America as a cultural mosaic, which in turn celebrates human diversity.

Juli Yoshinaga is the Pacific Southwest District Youth Representative and a representative on the *Pacific Citizen* Editorial Board. She additionally leads the NY/SC's communications campaign, which is responsible for the triannual NY/SC newsletter Nikkei-Mashou. Yoshinaga joined the JACL after meeting her predecessor in the PSW at a Japan American Society event, attending district events and national conventions.

Yoshinaga is a Shin-Nikkei and a fourth-generation Japanese American who says she struggled to find her sense of identity as an adolescent.

"I struggled with my identity growing up because I didn't know where I fit in," she said. "I spoke fluent Japanese, so I was either too Japanese for the fourth generations in L.A., or I was too 'whitewashed' for Shin-Nikkeis."

» See EVERYONE on page 39

PHOTO: STEPHANIE NITAHARA



PHOTO COURTESY OF STEPHANIE NITAHARA

Members of the JACL's NY/SC at the 2017 National Convention. Pictured *(from left)* are Kenji Kuramitsu Kota Mizutani, Michelle Huey, Mieko Kuramoto, Tammy Le, Juli Yoshinaga, Erik Tokita and Eric Langowski. Also pictured are former members Emi Kamemoto *(back row, fourth from right)* and Sarah Baker *(second from right)*.



***(From left)* Michelle Huey, Juli Yoshinaga and Stephanie Nitahara at the 2017 Manzanar Pilgrimage**

PHOTO: STEPHANIE NITAHARA



Chair Kota Mizutani gives an NY/SC update to the JACL National Board at the October National Board meeting.



Pictured *(from left)* are Colber Prosper, Kenji Kuramitsu and Kota Mizutani attend the VIP reception at the 2016 JACL National Convention in Las Vegas, Nev.

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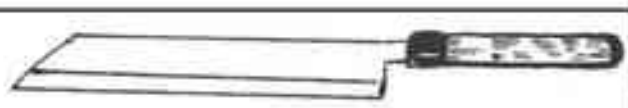
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Helped: Kiku Gardens' home care agency, Genki HomeCare, has helped over 160 seniors since opening in 2012 and provides over 15,000 hours of care annually.
Nourished: Volunteers from 8 San Diego Nikkei organizations and churches prepared nutritious meals for the Tuesday and Friday senior lunch program.
Build: In 2017 Kiku Gardens purchased land in Bonita, CA to build a new 26 unit senior housing project.
Gratitude: Kiku Gardens is grateful for the community's support through the years.

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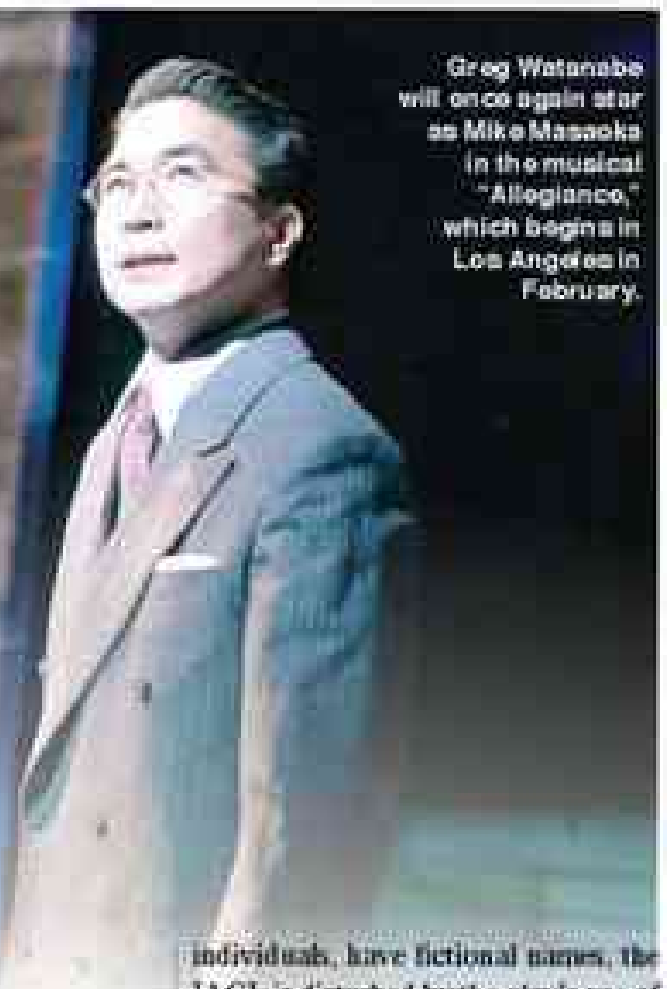
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Greg Watanabe will once again star as Mike Masaoka in the musical "Allegiance," which begins in Los Angeles in February.

pledging 'Allegiance'

Greg Watanabe is back as Mike Masaoka as the Broadway musical 'Allegiance' prepares its run in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo.

By George Toshio Johnston, Senior Editor, Digital & Social Media

Almost two years after ending its Broadway run at the Longacre Theatre in New York, the musical drama "Allegiance" returns to its Southern California roots in February when it comes to Little Tokyo's Aratani Theatre as a joint production of East West Players and the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center.

While there will be new cast members in the Los Angeles production that tells the story of a fictional Japanese American family's incarceration at the hands of the U.S. government during World War II, returning will be George Takei, who plays two roles in the production and was instrumental to the musical's genesis more than a decade ago. (Jay Kuo is "Allegiance's" composer-lyricist and co-librettist, and Marc Acito and Lorenzo Thione are the co-librettists.)

Also returning will be actor Greg Watanabe, and of all the roles he has played — YouTube videos as a member of comedy troupe 18 Mighty Mountain Warriors, various TV bit parts, a GI in the celebrated 100th Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team in "Only the Brave" and *coram nobis* case litigant Gordon Hirabayashi in the stage play "Hold These Truths" — none has been more potentially incendiary than that of JACL legend, lightning rod and human Rorschach test Mike Masaoka in the 2015-16 Broadway production of "Allegiance."

The versatile Watanabe will again walk through a minefield of history as he reprises the role of the face and voice of the JACL when racism, war hysteria and failed political leadership resulted in U.S. citizen Nisei and legal permanent resident alien Issei (who were barred from becoming naturalized U.S. citizens) getting uprooted from their West Coast homes, farms and businesses and incarcerated in U.S. government-run concentration camps during WWII.

For Broadway, such subject matter was a revelation. But Los Angeles is home to the continental United States' largest population of Japanese Americans. If Watanabe, who just turned 50, is worried about how those who were directly — or indirectly affected — by President Franklin D. Roosevelt's infamous Executive Order 9066 will respond to "Allegiance" and the musical's take on Masaoka, he doesn't show it.

"I love that it's going to be in L.A., and I love that it's going to be co-produced by East West Players and the JACCC," said Watanabe, who expressed relief that by the time he "came on board the whole 'Allegiance' train," gone were parts of the musical in an earlier iteration that included a singing and dancing Masaoka.

For Watanabe, that worked out just fine.

"That's the only reason I could have done it because I neither sing nor dance," he chuckled, noting that his was the only principal role to not require those skills. "It happened to be that it worked out so great for me that they had changed the Masaoka part so much to the point that if they were going to have a character who was named after a historical figure, it should be more grounded in reality."

Also unique among all the roles in "Allegiance": only the part of Mike Masaoka uses the real name of an actual person. While the fictional role of Frank Suzuki may be based upon the real-life Frank Emi, a leader of the Heart Mountain Fair Play Committee, "Allegiance's" Masaoka is based on a real person and uses that person's name and actual words.

"There are a couple of speeches that he gives," said Watanabe of his portrayal of Masaoka, and "one of them was directly taken out of War Relocation Authority propaganda films. Other stuff was taken from a speech he gave to the JACL that he gave at some point later on in his life, mainly talking about, sort of his own legacy, in some ways defending his own sort of position that he had taken and decisions he had made during wartime."

Watanabe feels that Masaoka was not alone among Japanese Americans in espousing particular views.

"One of the things that I think was important about what I was trying to do with that part was also imagine that there were a lot of people that felt that way," Watanabe said. "In a time of uncertainty and given a lot of bad choices, it wasn't just Mike Masaoka. There were a number of people who felt like, 'Yeah, we grin and bear this, you (referring to resisters and litigants) shouldn't be making noise.'"

Casting a Long Shadow

So significant a shadow does Masaoka cast that to this day, the effects upon Japanese Americans of the actions and words credited to him during his stint as the executive secretary of JACL during and after WWII are still debated by his supporters and detractors.

For instance, in 2015, the National JACL issued the following statement: "It is important to keep in mind that this musical is an artistic interpretation of events that provide a backdrop for a love story. Although most of the characters, which are loosely based on individuals, have fictional names, 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."

Seattle-based documentarian ("Conscience and the Constitution") Frank Abe had this to say about the artistic choice of singling out one actual person among a cast of fictional characters when he penned a tough 2015 critique *(tinyurl.com/y9ctprs5)* of the Broadway production of "Allegiance": "By using Mike's real name, 'Allegiance' establishes the terms by which it invites itself to be measured. So why use his name, despite community complaints and formal objections? One reason may be that in a city with the living memory of the Twin Towers attack of 9/11 and threats to round up and remove all persons of Iranian descent, making a Japanese American the villain of the piece avoids grim realities and helps secure the feel-good nature of the evening.

"Make no mistake, the real Mike Masaoka bears plenty of responsibility for waiving Japanese American rights at the height of war and racial



Mike Masaoka was the first national secretary and later Washington, D.C., representative of the JACL.

hysteria, and for acting as a confidential informant for the FBI," Abe continued. "But setting him up as the villain has the emotional effect, intended or not, of letting the government off the hook. It's as if to say, 'Look at Mike, he was the culprit,' not the general who lied about military necessity, the major who was the architect of mass eviction and incarceration, the president who signed the order or the machinery of government that carried out the order."

Watanabe, who as an actor has to walk the fine line between the hubris and humanity of a real person, seemed to concur with Abe's take that Masaoka should not be construed as the villain, noting how the role has evolved from "Allegiance's" early days to now.

"He was definitely viewed as a figure who was a conduit of the government and so was viewed pretty negatively," Watanabe said. "I think from a number of people who I spoke to, their opinion was, 'Well, he's such an antagonist, he's so nonsympathetic,' that a viewer might mistake him as being the cause of the internment and concentration camps instead of the government."

Masaoka, who died in 1991, was nevertheless a polarizing figure to some within the Japanese American community.

"He felt very passionately that he was right," Watanabe said. "There were probably other people who felt like he was vindicated, especially when you talk about the 442." (Note: Masaoka was a strong proponent of allowing draft-age Nisei to be able to serve in the armed forces as combatants after the U.S. had reclassified Japanese Americans as 4-C or enemy aliens ineligible to serve in the military. Masaoka was famously the first to volunteer to serve in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.)

Playing the Part

Before landing the role in "Allegiance," Watanabe said what he knew of the actual Mike Masaoka was limited.

"I knew some of the basics, that he was the wartime leader of the JACL and that he was a big proponent of the formation of the 442," he said, adding that his understanding was that when Executive Order 9066 was issued, Masaoka "was key to having National JACL come out strongly in favor of having JACL members cooperate with the government."

Unlike a well-known historical figure such as Winston Churchill, who is being portrayed by Gary Oldman in the new movie "Darkest Hour," there is a dearth of archival material of a young Mike Masaoka that an actor can use to emulate and capture. Asked how he prepared to portray things like Masaoka's mannerisms and speech patterns, Watanabe said it was tough.

"The thing was, I couldn't find a whole lot of first source, primary stuff," Watanabe said. "There is some. If you do a YouTube search of him, you can see some video," noting that finding actual filmed footage or recorded audio from the years of WWII was something that probably didn't exist.

"It had to be an imagined thing," said Watanabe. "He was 26 years old when the war broke out, so he's a young man. But everything that I had heard was that he was very charismatic, and that yes, he was an excellent speaker, really smart. I tried to keep that in mind and try to approach the role with the kind of energy and vigor that I thought a young, caring, driven man would have."

Abe had praise for Watanabe's portrayal of the young Masaoka.

"Greg Watanabe captures Masaoka's earnest surrender of civil rights with a seriousness of purpose and flashes of stubborn defiance. Watanabe did his homework, reading Masaoka's memoir and studying his interview and video on our two-disc DVD ('Conscience and the Constitution'). It shows in Watanabe's performance; a nonsinger, his portrayal has gravity."

"I derived most of it from what I would have done in that situation," Watanabe said, "to allow the words that were written to carry the character."



"Allegiance" will begin its run in Los Angeles with returning cast members Greg Watanabe *(far left)* and George Takei.

Breakthrough Role?

Hollywood (the actual place and the business) and Little Tokyo (where the musical will be staged) are just miles apart in the city of Los Angeles — but they might as well be in different galaxies based on how little Little Tokyo figures in Hollywood as a real setting with real people and actual stories.

But with "Allegiance" bringing attention to itself and Little Tokyo, could it possibly also help Hollywood "discover" Watanabe? It's definitely crossed Watanabe's mind.

"I moved to L.A. from Northern California, where I cut my teeth doing Asian American theater, to make it in TV or film, or at least avail myself to that possibility," Watanabe said. "I've never been able to find that traction. I tried to move when I was still young enough — the whole industry is centered around youth — I was slow, I think, to adapt to what the realities are, of how you have to claw your way in."

Since "Allegiance," however, Watanabe has been able to get roles in regional theater in places such as New Jersey, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania and Portland, Ore. One of those roles was another well-known Japanese American, Gordon Hirabayashi, in Jeanne Sakata's play "Hold These Truths."

"It's such a brutal industry . . . I couldn't do the Gordon Hirabayashi story on film because I'm too old, if you wanted to tell it when he was in his 20s," Watanabe said. "Maybe now that I'm in town with 'Allegiance,' maybe something will happen."

But with the high-profile "Allegiance" arriving in the same town where Little Tokyo and Hollywood coexist, could a major movie studio finally tell in a big-budget way the story of how the U.S. government, in a time of crisis, abrogated its constitutional protections, vis-à-vis Japanese Americans? Or, in the case of Watanabe, give him a lead role?

"I'd love to see that happen," Watanabe said. "Sure, I could be the lead in a detective procedural or something like that, or just a regular guy."

While Watanabe could indeed play the part of a "regular guy," he is in actuality a bit of a social media activist who regularly posts links to stories of injustice and racism, without regard to whether doing so might make him appear to be to be a do-gooder or troublemaker and possibly scare off a producer looking to hire an actor for an Asian role.

"If there are examples of egregious acts of racism against Asian Americans, I think it's important for everyone to note that," Watanabe said, "as well as positive things."

He added that since Hollywood hasn't paid him much notice anyway: "Honestly, it hadn't even occurred to me, probably because I've had so little traction in movies and television that it's like I don't really care."

Working with Takei

In the months leading up to the Aratani Theater's staging of "Allegiance," one of the big, continuing stories was how acts — as well as allegations — of sexual misconduct by men in politics, the news media and the entertainment industry caused direct and collateral damage to careers and reputations. The name of Watanabe's fellow "Allegiance" thespian, George Takei, came up among those so accused. Takei denied those accusations.

"When he says, 'I don't remember ever meeting this guy, I don't remember this ever happening, I don't even remember this fellow,' I believe him," Watanabe said. "I stand with him. I don't know anything about this guy, who this guy was, what his motivations might be, but I trust George to the point where I take him at his word, unless something comes around otherwise.

"I may not be a close personal friend, but I feel like I know him to the point where he's a person of integrity, to the point where if something like this had occurred, that he would admit to it.

"I think it's unfortunate regardless of what the truth is, that is to say, if this guy is telling the truth, then this person I look up to and admire has done this thing, regardless of it being 40 years ago," Watanabe continued. "It's unfortunate if George is telling the truth and this fellow, whatever his motivations . . . that kind of accusation holds a lot of weight and has consequences."

Watanabe notes that unlike other men who have been accused, no other accusers have since emerged.

Regarding "Allegiance," Watanabe says that the story is as relevant as it ever was.

"This is such a timely story, to talk about the incarceration experience of Japanese Americans because of what is happening in Muslim communities because of the kind of Muslim ban that the present administration is talking about imposing," he said.

He also wanted to emphasize what "Allegiance" is not.

"A mistaken notion about 'Allegiance' is that it is going to be a trip down Misery Lane. It's simply going to be a tragic, difficult to endure thing," Watanabe said. "But,in fact, while it has its elements of community suffering and tragedy, it's about triumph of spirit, it's about enduring and continuing on and building family and community.

"So, I think the final notes of the play are about reconciliation and recognizing years-long rifts that exist between, say resisters of conscience and vets and coming to a grudging understanding of respect and appreciation of what each side did." ■

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CALIFORNIA YONSEI LEAD 'Memory Work'

The Yonsei Memory Project strives for intergenerational healing through arts, storytelling, digital mapping and cross-cultural collaboration



A YMP fundraiser performance called "Hold This Space" in Fresno, Calif.

In this feature, co-writers Bryan Saito and Nikiko Masumoto report on their work called the "Yonsei Memory Project." The following is based upon their own work in drawing upon their personal experiences with and commentary from the project's participants.

By Bryan Saito and Nikiko Masumoto, Co-Founders, Yonsei Memory Project

Nikiko Masumoto and Bryan Saito — Yonsei artists from Fresno, Calif. — reunited in February at the Fresno JACL's annual Day of Remembrance event, which took place in collaboration with California State University, Fresno, to mark the 75th anniversary of Executive Order 9066. Masumoto and Saito observed that the gathering stood apart from other programs. A stark reality was present. There were few Nisei left in the program's audience.

In conversations following the event, Saito and Masumoto realized that they shared an urgency to do "memory work." They asked questions of themselves: How could we, as Yonsei, utilize our particular backgrounds as artists, poets, writers and organizers to awaken the archives of memory? How could we draw connections between the experience of the Japanese American community and communities currently targeted by racist anti-determining policies? As Yonsei of the millennial generation carrying multicultural histories, how do we honor our unique role? What does this moment ask of us?

Born from such inquiries, Masumoto and Saito founded the Yonsei Memory Project, a unique interdisciplinary initiative exploring Japanese American experiences — in particular the incarceration experience during World War II — through familial and community connections, in addition to using the modalities of storytelling, visual arts, poetry and creative facilitation.

In August, YMP launched its innovative programming and community work, supported by grant funds from the California Civil Liberties Public Education Program via the California State Library and through fiscal sponsorship by the Fresno Arts Council. Combined with independent fundraising and many in-kind community donations, YMP is making space to surface and discuss Japanese American history while drawing connections to the struggles of today, all in an effort to create avenues of healing.



Bryan Saito



Nikiko Masumoto

The project's focus is both intimate and public. YMP facilitates small groups to explore deep questions, while simultaneously building a collective digital memory map of important memorial sites for the Japanese American community in the Central Valley and preparing for a public Day of Remembrance program.

YMP's inaugural gathering took place in August in California's Central Valley. The first occasion exemplified the kind of transformative experiences at the project's core. Fifteen people gathered in the early morning and boarded a small bus to experience a memory journey in and around Fresno County led by Saito and Masumoto.

Named "Intergenerations," the gathering was intentionally curated to bring together diverse people with different generational connections to the Japanese American community. Passengers included Nisei, Sansei, Yonsei and to-be-parents of a Gosei. The group included people from many races and family structures, some adopted, some hapa, some queer. Participants engaged in lively conversation, while the shuttle rumbled by Fresno streets named for soil and trees — Cedar, Chestnut, Willow, Maple — signatures of a thriving Central Valley.

The bus stopped at two particular memory sites in Fresno. Participants disbanded at the first, the Pinedale Assembly Center Memorial. The memorial was developed by the Central California District Council of JACL in the Central Valley with the support of many community members and organizations. Several panels with dense text and historic photos tell a familiar story of Japanese American unfurled removal, detention at "assembly centers" such as the Pinedale location, incarceration in concentration camps, resettlement and redress. But, this morning's visit was unlike a typical visit.

Participants were given notebooks and invited to engage with the site through heightened awareness of their senses, recording — like citizen journalists, documentary poets — what they saw, heard, felt and touched.

The point of the activity was not only to re-educate and refamiliarize the group with a shared community history but also to ask: What are the mechanisms through which histories are remembered? What are the specific choices made in how we memorialize the past, and whose past is remembered? Once back on the bus, participants reflected on what stood out in their observations and what questions remained.

At the next stop, the group visited a private historic Sinoussian Farm. Several years earlier, the owner, an Armenian American farmer, Dennis Bozoian, constructed a memorial "bird crossing tower" out of reclaimed wood from barracks at the Fresno incarceration camp.

Here, each participant paired up with another to take a moment of silence while standing inside the narrow room at the base of the tower. Each pair held hands for about a minute. This simple movement exercise invited people of different generations to literally connect through touch and be present, while surrounded by a structure built from the camps.

▶ See MEMORY WORK on page 38



Participants and members of the Islamic Cultural Center of Fresno engage in an meeting at a YMP gathering.



YMP participants met to build cross-cultural understanding and awareness through dialogue, creative writing and visual arts exercises centered around the themes of "Myths, Heroes and Folktales of the Future."

DRS. SANKEY AND SANKEY POINT THE WAY TO *Physical, Spiritual Health*

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PHOTOS BEFORE TORKELSONVISION



Jillian Kathy Sankey at the Ohr Dorp Zendo of Los Angeles, where seated meditation sessions take place

The cover for the novel "My Name Is Mahatma," written by Jillian Kathy Sankey

By George Toshio Johnson, Senior Editor, Digital & Social Media

It was just another routine Los Angeles day. A young woman was driving to her administrative desk job when a thought came into her mind that would forever alter the course of her life.

"I was going to work at UCLA. I came to a stop sign, and it popped into my head that I would be an acupuncturist. I had never had treatment before, I didn't really know what that was. It was such a solid, clear knowing that that was what I was going to do with my life. I went home, and I was just elated because I knew, suddenly, that I was going to be an acupuncturist," recalled Dr. Jillian Kathy Sankey, nee Kathleen Ozlaris.

Acupuncture, known as *hari* in Japanese, originated in China centuries ago and spread throughout Asia, but it became widely known to Westerners after President Richard Nixon famously opened the doors to diplomatic recognition for the People's Republic of China in 1972.

The ancient approach to healing uses special needles to pierce specific points on the body to stimulate and unblock the flow of energy (*chi* in Chinese, *ki* in Japanese) to help the body heal itself.

Although she didn't know how to go about becoming an acupuncturist, Sankey's feeling was so strong it could not be denied.

"I had goosebumps from head to toe," she recalled. "I thought, 'It's genetic, it's in the DNA, it's really real,' because I had not planned on being a healer in my life. It's just this thing that hooked me on the head."

Looking back, however, Sankey doesn't recall from her childhood having any foreshadowing that healing would be part of her life's path, although she does remember growing up in Okinawa, where her maternal grandmother "used moxibustion on the back of my grandfather." She also watched her grandmother, whose name was Mahatma, prepare a bitter herbal soup that used an octopus tentacle.

Natural light colors the Ohr Dorp Zendo of Los Angeles, which opened its doors in 1997.



Dr. Mikio Sankey and Dr. Jikun Kathy Sankey have treated thousands of patients over the past four decades.

"So, I had some exposure to ancient medicine from the medicine women of Okinawa," she said. "But those are the only two things I can pluck from my conscious mind."

A Calling to Heal

One thing Sankey did know — she had to heed this epiphany. In her ancestral homeland of Okinawa, she was told that "when a woman, usually late in life, had some kind of bizarre occurrence where they would know their calling and if they didn't follow that calling, something terrible would happen to them."

As luck — or destiny, perhaps — would have it, a fellow *tai chi chuan* student she asked for leads on a local acupuncture teacher with whom to study or a school to attend suggested she talk with a mutual acquaintance who, coincidentally, was about to begin studying acupuncture in Los Angeles. They chatted, and Sankey had a path, enrolling immediately at L.A.'s California Acupuncture College.

That was in 1981. Fast-forwarding from when she had her "stop sign epiphany," Kathy and husband Dr. Mikio Sankey, also a practicing, licensed acupuncturist, have over the subsequent decades treated in her estimation "thousands" of patients from their base of operations in Los Angeles County. "We've never advertised. It's all word of mouth," she said.

Drs. Sankey and Sankey treat patients in this clinic using techniques from traditional Chinese medicine.

Drs. Sankey and Sankey have treated their patients using methods derived from traditional Chinese medicine, but also by incorporating other alternative approaches, including nutritional regimens like utilizing a diet of fresh, raw, organic foods.

Acupuncture, Tai Chi, Zazen and Music

Acupuncture is just one of Kathy Sankey's pillars for a healthful life. As mentioned, she has practiced *tai chi chuan* since 1978.

"The other part of my path has been the Rinzai Zen training. Again, all of this has been kind of an intuitive thing for me. It pops into my head, and I just do it. I don't question it because it's so strong and it's so powerful, this pull I have in these directions."

Having studied *zazen*, or seated meditation, for more than 20 years with Japan's Shodo Harada Rōshi, Sankey — who goes by her dharma name Jikun in her Zen circles — also has operated since 1997 the Los Angeles One Drop Zendō.

"I think meditation is critical," she says. "You could sit in a chair, you could be lying in bed, because it's about clarifying the mind. Mind precedes everything."

Mikio Sankey, in the meantime, has developed an advanced energy healing system he calls esoteric acupuncture. According to the website esotericacupuncture.net, esoteric acupuncture uses "various means other than acupuncture needles including — but not limited to — crystal, tuning forks, magnets, Therapeutic Grade Essential Oils (especially the oils by Energy Tools), selenite tools by Tom Ledder of Colorado, gemstones, sound, toning voice and other means."

He has also authored a series books on the topic of esoteric acupuncture — but warns that "these are not for the general public" but, rather, aimed at "people who are in the more spiritual endeavors."

Having had a lifelong interest in music, Mikio Sankey has returned recently to focus on making music in a genre that he calls American journey — "a little Asian, a little Latin, a little jazz, a little R&B, a little rock "— and it's part of healing, as he defines it. "Both are related, in a bigger sense," he said.

"Healing in my definition is moving from a state of consciousness to a more desirable state of consciousness. It's not just concerned with 'I want to feel better,' 'I want to get rid of my pain,' 'I want to get rid of my depression.' That's within the scope, but healing, in my definition, is wanting to move to a more desirable state — not a better state, a more desirable state," Mikio Sankey continued. "And that's a spirit journey, not just a soul journey. It's a little different than a soul journey."

The addition of the music he calls American journey, then, appears to be a meaningful fit.

Not that it's a competition, but with her husband having authored seven books on esoteric acupuncture, Kathy Sankey has also authored a novel, titled "My Name Is Mahataa," inspired by her maternal grandmother, and she is working on a prequel — when she's not treating patients and conducting meditation sessions in the One Drop Zendō.

But having been on the path of healing for so long, is retirement something that is in the cards for Drs. Sankey and Sankey?

Says Mikio: "Retirement. I don't like that word."

Drs. Sankey and Sankey can be reached via email at DrsSankeyandSankey@yahoo.com or by calling (310) 673-8225. For more information, visit onedropzen.org/community/usa/odz_los_angeles and esotericacupuncture.com/.



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MEMORY WORK »
continued from page 35



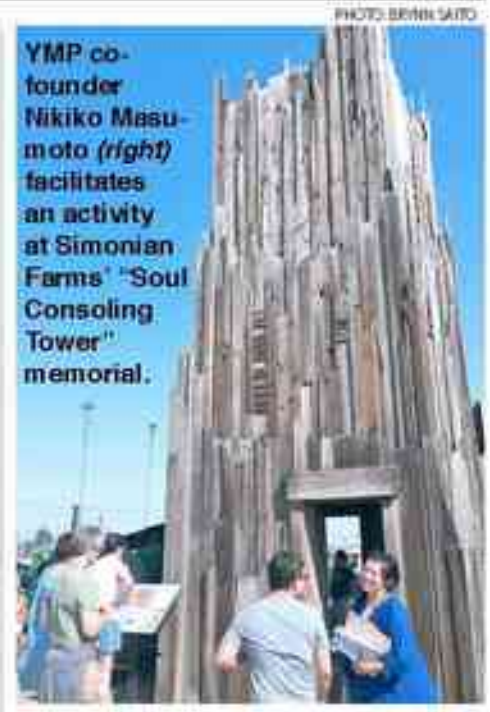
Fusako (Faye) Ishimaru *(left)* and Melanie Hirahara take a moment to reflect in Simonian Farms' "Soul Consoling Tower" memorial, built from barrack wood from the Poston incarceration camp.

PHOTO: JANELLE SAITO



Yonsei Memory Project's "Intergenerations" gathering in Fresno, Calif.

PHOTO: BRYNN SAITO



YMP co-founder Nikiko Masumoto *(right)* facilitates an activity at Simonian Farms' "Soul Consoling Tower" memorial.

A few participants began to weep at the immensity of the experience.

"I appreciated the impact the day's experiences were making on [my partner] and on me as I held her hands and looked into her eyes. It made the experience personal to me," said Saburo Masada, a Nisei leader and educator.

Marion Masada, another Nisei participant and community leader, reflected, "I have been to the two memorial sites many times, but there were still things I had missed to my surprise! Having focal points to be aware of — seeing and being more observant of the memorial sites was wonderful!"

The day concluded with more sharing of family stories, memories and feelings, as well as the creation of a first draft of a "Collective Memory Map," which noted sites of community significance.

"I love history. I knew our stories because we have told them to schools, universities and clubs. Instead of feeling sad about our JA history being forgotten or not being carried on by our own future generations, I was so filled with hope and appreciation for what [the Yonsei Memory Project is] doing to preserve our stories!" said Marion Masada following the program.

Marion Masada's reflection highlights a crucial notion: There is a need for the Yonsei generation to make its mark in carrying community histories. The question that drives the Yonsei Memory Project is: How do we (want to) remember Japanese American experiences?

While there have been many successful efforts both within the Japanese American community and in the larger American public to document, archive and understand what happened preceding, during and after World War II, YMP builds upon this work through a slightly different approach.

Rather than viewing history as something that is completed, YMP uses the lens of "living memory": Memory is alive and requires constant nourishment or else it falls prey to misunderstanding and erasure.

YMP takes to heart the reality that for many families and for the Japanese American community as a whole, the Yonsei, in many cases, are the last generation to know survivors of the camps firsthand.

"It occurred to me as I was sharing the [August] experience with friends and family that I was probably the youngest person there," noted Yonsei participant and local journalist Laura Tsutsui. "I was struck by the fact that I can still talk to people who lived through such an integral part of my ancestors' cultural history."

Tsutsui's reflection translated into a somber and urgent responsibility for the co-founders of the YMP.

Additionally, the current political climate in the history of race and racism in the United States adds urgency. The August memory journey took place just two weeks after the white supremacist rally in Charlottesville, Va., when supremacists rallied with claims of defending the Confederate statues in that city. There is no question: Memory work is political, memory is alive and the country has not reconciled its racist legacies with the need for healing.

Such urgency led YMP to explore contemporary struggles for justice and civil liberties by coordinating events in partnership with the Muslim community in Fresno.

In October, a group of Japanese, Pakistani, Egyptian and Iranian Americans met at the Islamic Cultural Center of Fresno. The group built cross-cultural understanding and awareness through dialogue, creative writing and visual arts exercises centered around the theme of "Myths, Heroes and Folktales of the Future."

The gathering closed with the creation of superhero characters, prompted by questions such as: "What does courage in your community look like?" and "What kind of superhero/heroine does your community need now?"

From a feminist samurai heroine to the "Magnificent Muslimah," participants allowed themselves to be playful and brave, calling forth the imaginative energy that fuels hope, healing and a deeper awareness of the struggles affecting fellow citizens.

"We all want the same things," noted participant Jameela Khan, in reflecting on the experience of the day. "Peace and justice and equality."

"When will we begin to understand that our liberation must be bound to the liberation of all communities?" added organizer Sukaina Hussain.

This question speaks to the essential work of breaking down boundaries between communities and resonates with the core beliefs of YMP.

Although the YMP is primarily focused on memory work in Fresno County, the project has also collaborated with Japanese American writers, artists and organizers in the Bay Area and Los Angeles. These gatherings continue to bring together multiple generations and use arts practice as a springboard for observing and imagining a future of memory in the Japanese American community.

Looking ahead, YMP hopes to call many Yonsei back to the Central Valley, as well as activate Yonsei who live there now, for a "Yonsei Homecoming" on Day of Remembrance weekend, set for Feb. 17-20, 2018.

A variety of activities will span the three-day program, including memory journeys on Feb. 17, led by Yonsei Ambassadors, and a service project on Feb. 18. On Feb. 19, Saito and Masumoto are planning a public community healing ritual at the Fresno Assembly Center Memorial, located at the Fresno Fairgrounds.

While the program on Feb. 19 will honor experiences of the Japanese American community in the Central Valley, the event also strives to make important connections with other communities' current struggles for rights and justice.

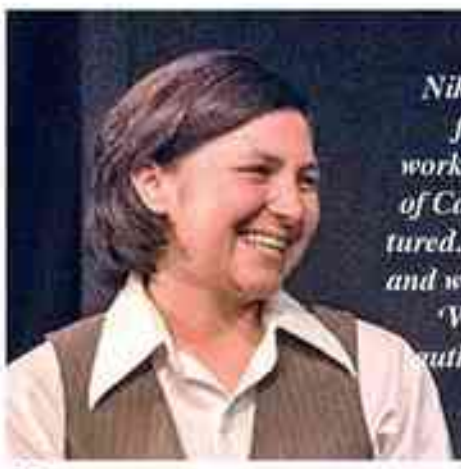
The Yonsei generation is uniquely multiracial and multicultural; working between and with solidarity amongst multiple identities is, for many Yonsei, part of daily life.

"At this point, our community is tied together as much by our shared Japanese American experience as by our multicultural experience," noted Mia Ayumi Malhotra, a poet and one of YMP's Bay Area Yonsei collaborators.

In this regard, the Yonsei generation is uniquely positioned to lead the next phase of memory work.

The YMP's founders are building a vision of Day of Remembrance to include many community voices.

"If Japanese Americans are the only one showing up to YMP's Day of Remembrance events, then we haven't fulfilled the aims of our project," said Masumoto. "We know that separate was never equal, so then separate is also never healing."



Nikiko Masumoto is a hapa-Yonsei, organic farmer, community leader and artist. She works with the same soil in the Central Valley of California that her Issei grandparents nurtured. Her creative work includes performance and writing: a one-woman show about redress, 'What We Could Carry,' and two books co-authored with family members, "The Perfect Peach" and "Changing Season."

Brynn Saito is a Korean and Japanese American poet and educator. Born in Fresno, Calif., she is currently based in the San Francisco Bay Area. She is the author of two books of poetry, "Power Made Us Swoon" (2016) and "The Palace of Contemplating Departure" (2013), published by Red Hen Press.



MEMORY WORK » continued from page 38



An August Intergenerations activity at the Pinedale Assembly Center

Ultimately, YMP's memory work has the potential to be healing work, fueled by a renewed sense of hope — a clear-seeing, creative hope that dares to gather and act in the face of confusing and distressing times.

"There's so much healing, a lifelong process, that is fueled by such gatherings," said Bay Area Nisei participant and writer Toru Saito. "We all benefit by just being there and sharing our collective stories and experiences . . . [the Yonsei Memory Project] created a place to process those emotions and guarded feelings and wounds still under wraps after all these years. I say, good work to you who have given of their talents to facilitate this work."

To follow more of the Yonsei Memory Project, follow its Facebook page or email yonseimemory project@gmail.com.

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EVERYONE » continued from page 29

Yoshinaga has "learned to appreciate both Nikkei identities as I grew older," and she sees finding the NY/SC as a part of fomenting her identity. On joining the JACL, social justice and civil rights were not initial concerns for Yoshinaga, who simply wanted to become a part of a community that accepted, respected and understood the fabric of her ethnic identity. Yet, from challenging peers and their hopes and passions, she has learned about a plethora of issues "along the way."

Experiences of bullying and oppression have helped to enflesh this critical awareness in Yoshinaga, and it has produced within her an empathy for others who are suffering.

"My identity has shaped me to want to be an ally, to provide a voice and stand up for people that are misrepresented," she said. Yoshinaga disagrees with those who believe that Japanese Americans focus "too much" on the story of the incarceration, arguing that Nikkei youth must be steeped in these stories to become truly cognizant of what is happening today.

According to Yoshinaga, "Knowing why Japanese Americans were so keen on assimilating to white America and why we lost our language" is an important lesson to herald. She suspects the divides between Shin-Nikkei and third-, fourth- and fifth-generation Nikkei stem from incarceration histories, which encouraged many diasporic families to erase their Japanese identity in shame. There is still internal healing needed here. Yoshinaga is laboring for hope, harmony and healing because these are life-and-death affairs.

"I hope for white nationalism to one day understand it's not all about them — there are other people in this country, too, that are just as human as them. . . . I hope we can all coexist in harmony without feeling fear or embarrassment with the skin or soul we've been given," she said.

Eric Langowski serves as the Midwest District Council Youth Representative. Initially, he entered the JACL through Hoosier chapter events, which he viewed as "family picnic"-type gatherings. Langowski is passionate about sharing the community he has found within the NY/SC with wider circles of Japanese American youth, traveling frequently and running young adult programming throughout the Midwest.

With a mathematics background, Langowski works with civic engagement and studies hate crimes.

"My career goal is to become a data-expert and work to quantify injustice in a way that furthers the struggle for equality and equity," he said. "I always say that 'never again' happens everyday."

This urge to reveal the quotidian sufferings that surround us is related to Langowski's hope for Japanese Americans to "move beyond the incarceration experience in a way that acknowledges our community's trauma and diaspora in the context of our privilege today." Langowski also argues that while "we have our history and story, and we've told it a million different ways across the country, we must be compassionate and sympathetic of those who do not have the luxury to take a moment to heal."

Langowski does not see this call to "move beyond" history as a way to sever himself from his ancestors and their past resistance but rather as a way of deepening and broadening those legacies. Langowski says he is a JACL member in order to continue his grandmother's "fight against injustice," while acknowledging that his advocacy differs from her own in focusing on issues "like mass incarceration, black lives matters or socioeconomic issues/capitalism that perpetuate injustice today." Above all, he treasures the support of his grandmother and is working for the JACL's survival to the next generation by uplifting the voices of youth membership.

He also believes that the wider organization "is extremely critical of the youth voice," a point Langowski finds evidenced by actions taken at the recent July National Convention. Langowski points to how a proposed resolution regarding divestment from the Dakota Access Pipeline, which caused consternation, had to have its teeth filed down in order to pass.

"I was so moved by the youth and members who wrote that resolution," Langowski recalled. "Yet, their vision — which was fresh and new, and the young people spoke so eloquently — was not effectively heard by JACL the institution."

Where are these liberative textures like harmony, hope and healing to be created but in the stickiness of daily institutional life? It is on the floors of convention halls and in board rooms, in chapter gatherings and district council meetings, at "family-style picnics" and cultural events to the political and social arena that we make our political commitments real and expend our lives.

The various professional spheres represented by NY/SC members include artists, activists, data researchers, clergy, political, community organizers, business students and leaders, as well as far more. Members express how the diverse and sometimes conflicting views of fellow council members have only strengthened their commitments to civil and human rights.

Forums such as the *Pacific Citizen* are also important venues for our community to foster sharp and necessary conversations around social justice. ■

PHOTO COURTESY OF KELLY AOKI



Photographed in Chicago at their fall retreat in October are *(from left)* Kelly Aoki, Mieko Kuramoto, Kenji Kuramitsu, Michelle Huey, Eric Langowski, Juli Yoshinaga, Kota Mizutani, Tammy Le and Erik Tokita.

Philadelphia

Best Wishes this Holiday Season
Peace & Prosperity to All in 2018

Philadelphia JACL

Livingston-Merced

Happy Holidays from the Livingston-Merced Chapter

Save the Date:
Come join us at our Day of Remembrance Banquet, Saturday, February 17, 2018
Merced County Fairgrounds

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



The Merced Assembly Center Memorial

Arizona

Peace. Love. Unity.

JACL Arizona Chapter

New York

Happy Holidays from the JACL New York Chapter!

Congratulations to our scholarship winners this year:

Rei Yamada

Kako Annika Yamada

Lisa Matsue

Visit us at: www.jacl-ny.org

NEW YORK CHAPTER JACL

Pocatello-Blackfoot

Seasons Greetings!

from the IDC
Pocatello-Blackfoot Chapter

Santa Barbara

Happy New Year!

from the members of
Santa Barbara JACL

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Sonoma County JACL

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Season's Greetings!

ABE, Kokichi & Esther ..... Sonoma
CHERNIN, Joshua & Sarah ..... Cotati
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DAVLIN, Nancy ..... Petaluma
FURUSHO, Ralph & Keiko ..... Sebastopol
HAYASHI, Mark & Cynthia ..... Petaluma
HEART, Joya ..... Santa Rosa
HOTTEL, Jodi ..... Santa Rosa
ISHIZU, Curly & Marian ..... Petaluma
ISHIZU, Ken & Ryan ..... Petaluma
KASHIWAGI, George & Alice ..... Sebastopol
KAWAOKA, Shiz ..... Petaluma
KISHI, Cynthia ..... Sebastopol
KNAPPMAN, Michael & Sachiko ..... Rohnert Park
MASADA, Greg ..... Petaluma
MIYANO, Steve & Janice ..... Petaluma
MORIKI, Donna ..... Santa Rosa
MURAKAMI, Alan & Family ..... Sebastopol
MURAKAMI, Margarette ..... Santa Rosa
PETROVIC, Beverly ..... Petaluma
SHIMIZU, Gordon & Michi ..... Sebastopol
SHIMIZU, Martin ..... Cotati
SUGIYAMA, Alyce ..... Petaluma
SUGIYAMA, Marie ..... Santa Rosa
SUGIYAMA, Matsumi, Gary & Becky ..... Santa Rosa
SUGIYAMA, Norma ..... Santa Rosa
SUGIYAMA, Rod & Family ..... Santa Rosa
TANIGUCHI, Mrs. Tsutomu ..... Sebastopol
THOW, George & Family ..... Santa Rosa
YAMASAKI, Ray & Carolyn ..... Petaluma
YOSHIOKA, Nancy ..... Petaluma

St. Louis

Happy Holidays

From
The
St. Louis JACL





Snake River

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

from members & friends of
SNAKE RIVER CHAPTER
Ontario, Oregon

President: Cathy Yasuda
Vice President: Ted Takatori
Secretary: Todd Uriu
Treasurer: Mike Iseri
Membership: Janet Komoto
Scholarship: Howard Matsumura
Newletter: Erica Oxnam

Seabrook

On behalf of the Seabrook JACL, we extend our sincere best wishes & holiday greetings to the Pacific Citizen and fellow JACL members.

Seabrook JACL

May 2018 be a year filled with peace and prosperity. Happy New Year.

EDC

Happy Holidays from the Eastern District Council and a Happy and Prosperous New Year

New England, New York, Seabrook, Philadelphia, DC, and Southeast

Washington, D. C.

JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE
JACL
DC CHAPTER

WISHING EVERYONE A HEALTHY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!

Year in Review: 2017



Smithsonian Honors the Legacy of Japanese Americans in New Exhibit

The National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C., opened "Fighting a Wrong: Japanese Americans and World War II" on Feb. 17. The yearlong exhibition showcases over 1,000 archival objects, photographs and historical artifacts from one of the darkest periods in American history. It will run for a year until Feb. 18, 2018.

Feb. 19 marked the 75th anniversary of E.O. 9066, which President Roosevelt signed just two months after Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor. A special viewing of the exhibit was held during the JACL National Convention in July — the JACL and several of its chapters were among the exhibit's donors.

"At the National Museum of American History, we hope that visitors to the museum, including the younger generations, will think about the past and make connections to the stories of people who were affected the same age as they are, and to engage in the dialogue about what it would be like if this happened to them," said Project Director Jacqueline Jones. "Connecting with youth through objects and stories of individuals who were youth when they were incarcerated gives the museum a way to reach broad and diverse audiences about the history of the Japanese American community during World War II."





California Governor Signs Bill to Give $9 Million in Education Grants on WWII Incarceration

Gov. Edmund G. Brown Jr. signed Assembly Bill 499 on Sept. 28, which will provide $9 million in education grants over the next three years on the incarceration of more than 120,000 Japanese Americans during World War II.

"I proposed to deliver $9 million in education grants on the World War II Japanese American incarceration," stated Brown [illegible]. "[illegible]. This year, President Donald Trump has issued executive orders [illegible] in a Muslim travel ban. Now, more than ever, we need to ensure that Americans [illegible] the lessons of the Japanese American [illegible] to [illegible] group in [illegible] is [illegible]."



Northern California Wildfires Cause Millions in Damage and Claim Sonoma State University President's Home

The home belonging to Sonoma State University President Judy K. Sakaki and her husband, Patrick Mitchell, was just one of 1,375 homes destroyed in the Northern California wildfires that ravaged parts of Napa and Sonoma counties in October.

Sakaki, who became the first female Japanese American to lead a four-year university when she was officially named in Jan. 2016, [illegible] the fires on Oct. 9.

In a Facebook post to the SSU community on Oct. 11, Sakaki wrote, "I'm still not ready to assess the damage to our community, but we know it is [illegible] that [illegible] a huge $ in damage."

The fires that burned throughout Northern California claimed the lives of 42 people.



President Trump Signs Proclamation for Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

President Donald Trump signed a proclamation on the White House on Dec. 7, officially declaring the attacks done Japanese Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.

"Today, our nation stands poised to remember those heroes and the [illegible] in a way that day should be and [illegible]," Trump said.

Trump [illegible] paid a visit to [illegible] Pearl Harbor and [illegible] the USS Arizona [illegible] to pay [illegible] to [illegible]. The surprise attack by Japan on Dec. 7, 1941, killed [illegible] and plunged the U.S. into World War II.



JACL Executive Director Gets Well-Deserved Holiday at Conference

JACL National President Tony Yamada posed a [illegible] of community [illegible] at a press conference on Nov. 1 to explain their vacation to Major League Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred's decision to delay the [illegible] of modern Athletics' player Tsutomo Ohtani by one year. [illegible] Ohtani is [illegible] in the World Baseball Classic.

On Oct. 26, Manfred announced that Ohtani would have to undergo [illegible] before [illegible] without play for two games beginning in the 2018 season.

The incident caused a social media uproar among Asian American community organizations and fans. Asian [illegible] at the press conference were JANM's Nick Yamada, NAMM's Tsuyo Arai, Rev. Tom Nakashima's Mark Nakashima.

Since the incident, JACL National has been actively engaged in conversations with the [illegible] Ohtani's [illegible].



JACL Featured on 'Asian Pacific America With Robert Handa'

"Asian Pacific American With Robert Handa," the only Asian cultural affairs show [illegible] in the greater San Francisco Bay Area, featured an [illegible] of the JACL during its Aug. 19 program.

In featuring the JACL, host Handa noted "people will not only understand the history of the JACL [illegible] in helping the [illegible], but also how its advocacy in our world today. These lessons learned are [illegible] valuable as other ethnic communities face [illegible] issues and struggles alike."

Featured on the program were JACL National President Tony Yamada, members of the Sonoma County JACL, Berkeley JACL, Florin JACL Board Member Nancy Ukai and Yuki Hanada, [illegible] to the Pacific Citizen and member of the Greater Los Angeles JACL.

KELLY MARIE TRAN STEPS INTO 'STAR WARS' STARDOM IN 'THE LAST JEDI'

The actress never gave up hope in breaking through in Hollywood.

By Associated Press



LOS ANGELES — Kelly Marie Tran still can't quite believe she's in a "Star Wars" movie.

The 28-year-old was about to give up on her dreams of becoming an actress when she landed a breakthrough role in "The Last Jedi," which opened in theaters Dec. 15.

So, after years of toiling and hoping and working disposable jobs, Tran is now a movie star, the kind of person who holds hands with Laura Dern at media events and considers Gwendoline Christie a good friend.

"I know, right? Let me pinch myself real quick," Tran said, her effervescent excitement bright and obvious. "I am just trying to stay present and really trying to experience every moment of this. It still feels very impossible and very much like it's all a big dream or something."

Tran was plucked from obscurity to play Rose Tico, a Resistance mechanic in "The Last Jedi." Rose idolizes Resistance fighters like pilot Poe Dameron (Oscar Isaac) and former Stormtrooper Finn (John Boyega), but does her work behind the scenes.

"She's never been someone who has been in the limelight," Tran said of her character. "And then we get to see her get pulled into the forefront of the action, and you see how she deals with it."

Sounds like art imitating life for a certain actress.

"Totally, 100 percent," Tran said with a beaming grin.

Director Rian Johnson found her after "a huge, exhaustive casting search" that included well-known actresses and newcomers.

"And Kelly just, I don't know, she really jumped out at me as someone who I was looking for in the character," he said. "I wanted someone who — thinking back to me as a kid being a genuine nerd you could relate to — someone who didn't feel like they belong; someone you wouldn't necessarily imagine as a big 'Star Wars' hero. Let's throw them in the mix and see the world through their eyes."

The film's John Boyega said he could tell during the audition process that Tran had something special.

"We would do chemistry reads, and it was so blatant from the beginning that she was the right girl for the part," he said.

Both Boyega and Daisy Ridley (Rey) were also relative unknowns when they joined the "Star Wars" universe for 2015's "The Force Awakens," and Tran said they've been like spirit guides as she navigates a new world of international appearances and near-religious fandom.

"It is such a strange experience," she said. "You know, it's not like taking your driver's test or breaking up with your boyfriend, where you can call whoever you want to be like, 'Hey, remember when that happened?' This is truly like you have two other people you could talk to about it."

Tran's family is also keeping her grounded. She said her Vietnamese immigrant parents were raised far from "Star Wars" and Hollywood.

"I think that my family not being from this industry at all has really helped," she said. "Just because I go home and my mom is like, 'Wash the dishes,' you know, and it's just great."

Tran, however, is a Southern Californian who grew up on pop culture, even though she didn't see many reflections of herself in it. Tran said she relishes the chance to portray a "Star Wars" hero as an Asian American woman.

"I remember when I was really young, and I felt like I needed to see someone that looked like me do something impossible," she said. "I wanted to look like everyone else in movies and books and TV shows, and because no one looked like me, I wanted to change. And I think about that a lot. I think about the idea of all these young kids and what would the world be if we all were so confident that we never spent any time wanting to be anyone else. So, it means a lot to me."

Take that from a newly minted movie star.

"The Last Jedi" is in theaters now. ■

JAPANESE PITCHER-HITTER SHOHEI OHTANI CHOOSES THE LOS ANGELES ANGELS

By Associated Press

ANAHEIM, CALIF. — Shohei Ohtani has decided he's on the side of the Angels.

The Japanese two-way star announced Dec. 9 that he will sign with the Los Angeles Angels, ending the sweepstakes surrounding his move to Major League Baseball in a surprising destination.

Ohtani, who intends to be both a starting pitcher and an everyday power hitter, turned down interest from every other big-league club to join two-time MVP Mike Trout and slugger Albert Pujols with the Angels, who are coming off their second-consecutive losing season and haven't won a playoff game since 2009.

The Angels' combination of a promising core and a beautiful West Coast location clearly appealed to the 23-year-old Ohtani, who has confounded baseball experts at almost every step of his move to North America as one of the most-coveted free agents in years.

Ohtani and his agent, Nez Balelo, issued a statement Dec. 9 announcing the decision after meeting with several finalists for his services earlier in the week.

Balelo said the 2016 Japanese MVP "felt a true bond with the Angels. He sees this as the best environment to develop and reach the next level and attain his career goals."

After his unusual courtship, Ohtani will attempt to chart a unique career path as the majors' first regular two-way player in several decades. Ohtani already has drawn numerous comparisons to Babe Ruth, who excelled as a hitter and a pitcher early in his Hall of Fame career.

Ohtani is expected to be both a right-handed starting pitcher and a left-handed designated hitter for the Angels, who are expecting to give him ample playing time in both roles.

Angels General Manager Billy Eppler is very serious about winning, and he has spent several years scouting Ohtani, ever since his previous job with the New York Yankees.

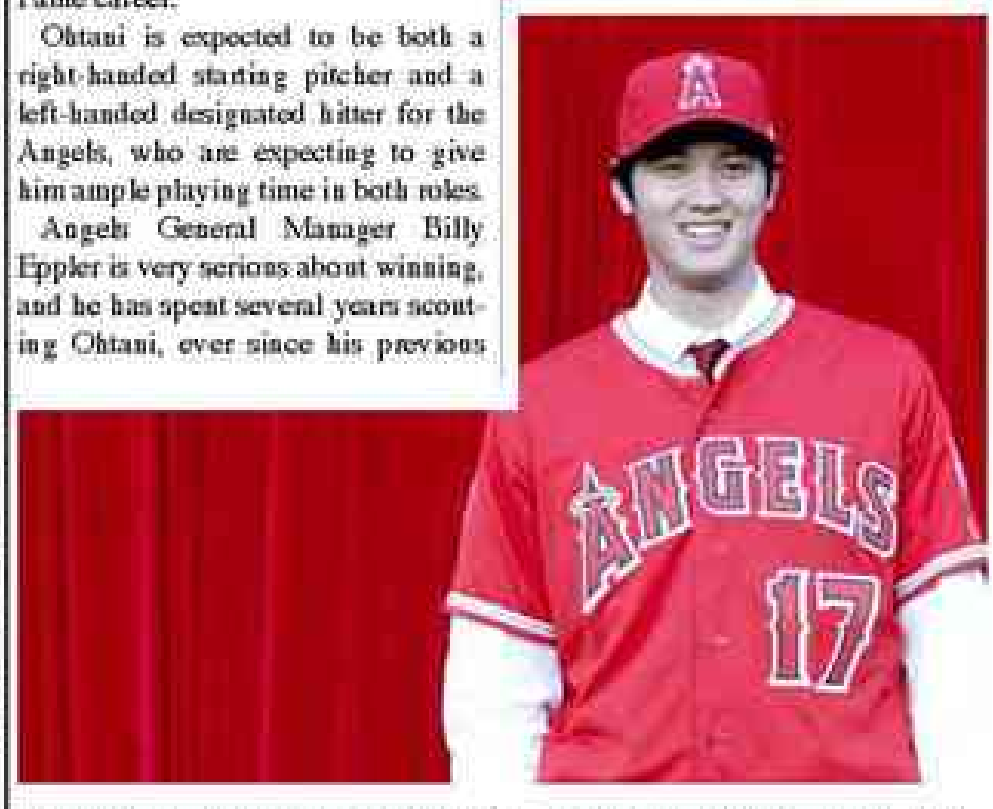
"We are honored Shohei Ohtani has decided to join the Angels organization," the franchise said in a brief statement. "We felt a unique connectivity with him throughout the process and are excited he will become an Angel. This is a special time for Angels fans."

Ohtani has ample opportunity to fulfill his biggest ambitions with the Angels, who are in need of a top starting pitcher. They should be able to fit him into their lineup when he isn't pitching: Pujols has largely been a designated hitter for the past two seasons, but the three-time NL MVP is expected to be healthy enough to play first base more frequently in 2018.

Ohtani represents an extraordinary bargain due to baseball's rules around international players.

The Angels will have to pay the $20 million posting fee to Ohtani's previous club, the Nippon Ham Fighters, but Ohtani will not be paid a huge salary for the next three seasons. Ohtani, who will be under the Angels' contractual control for six years, will sign a minor league contract and can receive up to $2,315,000 in international bonus money from the Angels. He likely could of received a deal worth more than $100 million if he had waited two years to move stateside, but Ohtani wasn't interested in delaying his progress for money.

Ohtani was 3-2 with a 3.20 ERA this year while slowed by thigh and ankle injuries. He also hit .332 in 65 games with eight homers and 31 RBIs last season. In 2016, Ohtani hit .322 with 22 home runs and 67 RBIs in 104 games. He also was 10-4 with a 1.86 ERA. ■



Japanese baseball sensation Shohei Ohtani officially announced his intent to sign with the Los Angeles Angels during a press conference on Dec. 9.

PNWDC

Have the Merriest of Holidays and a Safe and Prosperous New Year

from the

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Boise Valley

~ Happy Holidays ~

Boise Valley JACL

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Happy Holidays
Gordon, Rei, and Jennifer Okabayashi

Seasons Greetings
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Happy Holidays !
Doug Urata and Alice Roe
djurata@aol.com

Happy Holidays
William and Nancy Takano

Peace and Joy
Richard and Ann Mikami, Meiko Inaba, Doug and Rosa Inaba, Gary and Laurie Oshiro

Happy Holiday Wishes
Tim and Aki Caszatt

Happy Holidays
The Kamoto Family

Happy Holidays!
Nikkei Student Union at UC Riverside

Happy Holidays
Akio and Helen Yoshikawa

HAPPY NEW YEAR
TO ALL IN 2018

CLYDE and KATHERINE WILSON

May your days be merry and bright!
Dolly & Irene Ogata

Merry Christmas
Michiko Yoshimura, James and Yoshie Butler



Season's Greetings

FROM CONGRESSMAN MARK TAKANO

Thank you for all that you do. Let's make 2018 a great year!

PAID FOR BY MARK TAKANO FOR CONGRESS

New England

Happy Holidays
from your friends in New England

JACL
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Check out our web site: www.nejacl.org
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CCDC

Season's Greetings!

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Idaho Falls

Seasons Greetings



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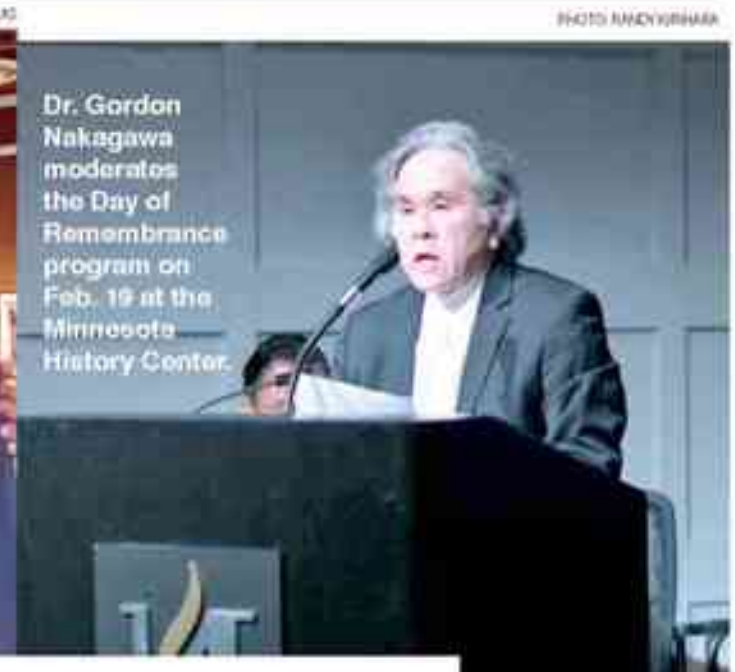
Birthplace of 1000 Club

PHOTO: CHERYL HIRATA DULAS



Pictured *(from left)* are photographer Paul Kitagaki Jr. with Yuichiro Onishi, Sophia Kim and Romare Onishi *(front)* at the opening reception of "Gambatte! Legacy of an Enduring Spirit: Japanese American WWII Incarceration, Then & Now" at Historic Fort Snelling Visitors Center on May 23.

PHOTO: KAREN KIRIHARA



Dr. Gordon Nakagawa moderates the Day of Remembrance program on Feb. 19 at the Minnesota History Center.

A New Beginning for Japanese American Activism in Minnesota

The Twin Cities chapter of the JACL hopes to bring equal treatment for all not just in the Land of 10,000 Lakes but throughout the U.S.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF CHERYL HIRATA-DULAS



The TC-JACL Education Committee with CAIR-MN in St. Cloud. Pictured *(from left)* are Gordon Nakagawa, Ben Hartman, Karen Tanaka Lucas, Yuichiro Onishi, John Matsunaga, Jaylani Hussein, Sally Sudo, Teresa Hartman and Cheryl Hirata-Dulas.

By Yuichiro Onishi, Contributor

The Twin Cities chapter of the JACL marked the 75th anniversary of Executive Order 9066 in its activities throughout 2017. This year gave us an opportunity to reflect on our stance as an organization for justice and civil rights. The collective sentiment is that the chapter is on the cusp of ushering in a new beginning.

On Nov. 18, a half dozen members drove northwest, an hour from Minneapolis/St. Paul, to take part in educational outreach in St. Cloud, another Mississippi River city located in central Minnesota. The chapter members set out to engage the people of St. Cloud on why the wartime experience of the Japanese American incarceration matters more than ever today.

The Education Committee of TC JACL has been doing this type of outreach activity for several years. The committee's work typically involves issuing a reminder to the public that the Japanese American incarceration was a tragedy of democracy that was far-reaching, and that it ought to not happen again to other vulnerable and marginalized people.

Sally Sudo, a steadfast local Nisei activist-leader, has been the cornerstone in the committee, doing much of the speaking engagements to all ages and constituents. Sudo shares with her audience her first-hand accounts of being imprisoned for three and half years, first in the Puyallup detention facility, and later in Minidoka as a little girl with her family.

She and her Issei parents and Nisei brothers and sisters were forcibly uprooted and removed from Seattle when President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066. Her story is archived in the Densho Digital Repository and a myriad of other projects, including the St. Olaf College's digital humanities project called "Beyond the Barbed Wire: Japanese Americans in Minnesota."

The Education Committee has also taken some key initiatives in the past to lead TC JACL to become an advocacy group. Particularly noteworthy was its work with the Minnesota Department of Education. In 2003, Sudo and her colleagues, Cheryl Hirata-Dulas and Lucy Kirihara, as well as other Asian American leaders and educators, tackled head on the Minnesota K-12 History and Social Studies Standards, which in its initial version did not include a single standard related to the Japanese American World War II incarceration experience.

PHOTO: CHERYL HIRATA-DULAS



Sally Sudo shares her World War II experiences with 150 Advanced Placement U.S. History students at Lakeville North High School in March 2003.

The committee successfully lobbied to update the draft. Because the Military Intelligence Service Language School that was located first in Camp Savage and later Fort Snelling in Minnesota from 1942–46 was included under Minnesota History, the committee created a curriculum guide for teachers to highlight the Japanese American military service as one of the key contributions that Minnesota and its people made during WWII.

Most recently, the TC JACL Education Committee, co-chaired by Janet Carlson and Carolyn Nayematsu, spearheaded planning for a yearlong commemoration of the 75th anniversary of Executive Order 9066.

The committee showcased Roger Shimomura's iconic prints at Macalester College in St. Paul, as well as brought Paul Kitagaki Jr.'s photo exhibit "Gambatte! Legacy of of an Enduring Spirit" to Historic Fort Snelling.

Members also worked toward the Day of Remembrance, which was held on Feb. 19 at the Minnesota History Center. A sense of urgency surely abounded in the aftermath of the 2016 presidential campaign. Against the backdrop of Trump's triptych to build a wall, deport immigrants and bar refugees and Muslims from entering the United States, Gordon Nakagawa, a local Sansei activist and educator, stepped up.

Nakagawa is of the generation of Japanese American activists that honed political consciousness in the milieu created out of Japanese American struggles for redress in the 1980s, specifically the work of the National Coalition for Redress/Reparations. He drafted a statement of solidarity in collaboration with Executive Director Jaylani Hussein of the Council on American-Islamic Relations of Minnesota (CAIR-MN) to articulate a shared commitment to push back the rising temper of racial nationalism.

While the chapter did break new ground politically at the Day of Remembrance ceremony, there is much work to be done to begin carving out the shape of cross-racial solidarity to resist current heightened xenophobia and vulgar racism.



PHOTO: CHERYL HIRATA-OLLIS

Panelists at the TC-JACL/CAIR-MN Forum "Japanese American Incarceration: Could It Happen Again?" which was held at the St. Cloud Public Library on Nov. 18. Pictured *(from left)* are Yuichiro Onishi, Sally Sudo, John Matsunaga and Executive Director of CAIR-MN Jaylani Hussein.

The chapter has inserted itself in the nerve center of white resistance regarding the integration of Somali American and Muslim American people. St. Cloud, a small white majority city with a population of 67,000 residents, is such a place. Somali Americans are often targeted, and their small yet growing community is perceived as a threat to the existing racial status quo.

Racist and bias incidents have been persistent in the last several years, while statewide and nationally, the number of such cases has gone up noticeably. To further heighten the alarm, when a stabbing incident that wounded 10 people occurred at a local mall in St. Cloud in September 2016 and the assailant was identified as a young Somali American man, it fueled the already potent xenophobia and racism.

Even as a group of local residents, #UniteCloud, stood together with Somali neighbors to prevent this incident carried out by a single individual from being wrongfully cast as a collective one, white backlash ensued. Unfounded claims and misleading assertions proliferated.

Just a month prior to the chapter's co-sponsored event, for instance, a local councilman introduced a resolution calling for a moratorium on refugee resettlement in St. Cloud. It was decidedly anti-Muslim and racist. Although it was rejected on a 1-6 vote, it revealed the coordinated exercise of power buoying the campaign of Islamophobia at the grassroots level.

Cognizant of this political climate, the chapter chose the path of moral suasion, all the while amplifying the power of Sudo's storytelling. Members also drew a parallel between Asian exclusion enacted through racist fears and violences commonly known as "Yellow Peril" in the past, which were buttressed by laws and policies, as well as the current demonization of Muslim people in America.

Both John Matsunaga, a Sansei visual artist/photographer, educator and activist whose parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles were all incarcerated during World War II, and CAIR-MN's Hussein sharply presented just how the tragedy of the past is playing itself out today. Together, TC JACL has made known the cultural, legal and political forces, then and now, that make racial and religious minority groups to be treated as perpetual foreigners, if not criminals, terrorists and enemies.

A handful of people at the forum refused to link the past to the present. In one exchange, a Muslim American man stood up to convey his loyalty to this country by emphasizing his contribution to the local economy as a businessman and successful assimilation through educational attainment. But an elderly white woman snapped, shouting, "Show me your tax forms!"



Sally Sudo engages the audience at the TC-JACL/CAIR-MN Forum "Japanese American Incarceration: Could It Happen Again?"

In another exchange, a white woman lamented, "I don't want them (Muslims) to take away from Christianity." The most recalcitrant and abrasive reaction came from two white women sitting in the front row. Presenting a trumped-charge against CAIR and speaking directly to Hussein, they demanded, "Are you tied to Hamas and the Muslim Brotherhood? I am asking a yes or no question!" The majority of the audience was thoroughly cognizant of the irony of it all.

After the event, Sudo reflected, "I have spoken about my experiences during WWII countless times to schools and community groups, but rarely have I had an opportunity to see first-hand the fears and concerns of people who have Muslims living in their community. It is so reminiscent of my experiences facing racial hatred and misunderstanding growing up as a Japanese American. In my experience, so much of the hatred toward me and my community was based on rumors, misinformation and outright lies. It took many years of people getting to know us on a personal basis for us to gain the acceptance we have today.

"The vast majority of the population agrees that what happened to us in World War II was a tragic mistake made by our government," Sudo continued. "And yet, many of the same people cannot see the parallels to what is happening to the Muslim American community today. When will people learn that looking like the enemy does not make you the enemy? Looking like a terrorist does not make you a terrorist."

Yet, strikingly, these same people that exhibited enormous contempt toward local Somali Americans would turn to Japanese Americans on the panel and offer an apology for harms done. They would not speak ill of Japanese Americans. In fact, in their eyes, Japanese Americans are the rehabilitated, the embodiment of the model minority, and the antithesis of Somali and Muslim Americans.

Sudo also said searchingly, "I hope the day will soon come when [everyone] among us can gain the same acceptance that we as Japanese Americans enjoy today."

This hope, at its core, is a matter of human liberation — what it is to be human. While its fulfillment is a challenge, all Americans play an important role. ■

SACRAMENTO SPAGHETTI AND CRAB FEED SET FOR JANUARY

The Sacramento JACL, in conjunction with the Sacramento Senator Lions Club, is set to hold its 2018 All-You-Can-Eat Spaghetti and Crab Feed on Jan. 27 at the Sacramento Buddhist Church in Sacramento, Calif.

From its beginnings in 1981, the chapter has held this event to raise money for scholarships, support for the Japanese American Community and civil rights education. This event, drawing between 200-250 people yearly, serves as the chapter's primary fundraiser.

The dinner, which begins at 5p.m., will also feature a performance by Bakuhatsu Taiko Dan from the University of California, Davis, a raffle, dessert silent auction and the popular paper airplane contest. Participants — which in the past have ranged in age from 2 to 100 — are invited to fold a paper plane to see whose plane travels the farthest in the church gym. Trophies will be awarded by age bracket.

Dinner tickets are $50 for adults and $10 for children ages 6-10.

For more information or to purchase tickets, please contact Janice Luszczak at (916) 903-6645 or email Janice.luszczak@gmail.com.



PHOTO: JANICE LUSZCZAK

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NIKKEI VOICE

Hoping for the Best for Our World in 2018

PHOTOS: GIL ASAKAWA





The Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum "conveys to the world the horrors and the inhumane nature of nuclear weapons and spreads the message of 'No More Hiroshimas.'"









By Gil Asakawa

We live in tumultuous — and, possibly, perilous — times. Our government and society at large is more divided than I can remember, even during my childhood in the 1960s. Race and gender issues fill the headlines every day, and that's just looking at domestic headlines. It's not "fake news" to say that our country is struggling today, on a variety of levels on a variety of topics.

The United States' international standing is diminished, too, because our government has made some moves that have been very unpopular worldwide, such as officially naming Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and planning to move our embassy there, and blocking travel (and immigration) from a handful of Muslim-majority countries.

The U.S. has also turned its back on a handful of treaties and positions we've led for decades, including pulling out of the Climate Accords, renegotiating NAFTA, the Iranian nuclear agreement and dropping out of the Trans-Pacific Partnership, which would have made us a part of a multicountry Asian trade pact. Now, those Asian countries are creating their own open trading deals, and China has established itself as the most powerful force in the region.

Most alarmingly, there's a new nuclear threat in the world: North Korea.

North Korea's unpredictable, immature ruler, Kim Jong-un, claims to have the ability to fire nuclear armed missiles that can strike the U.S. — not just U.S. territories like Guam, but the mainland states. We'll see if his claims are true, but the fact is that Americans are living under the threat of mushroom-cloud destruction for the first time in a generation, since the Cold War ended in the 1980s.

President Donald Trump has used inflammatory language that pushed Kim into conducting a series of missile tests and underground nuclear tests. Some of the test missiles fell into the sea between Korea and Japan, and a couple of ballistic missiles flew over Japan into the Pacific. One flew over southern Hokkaido, Japan's northernmost island, and I thought about my mom's hometown, Nemuro, which is located at the southeastern-most tip of Hokkaido.

Even if a nuclear war doesn't break out with North Korea, a conventional war of ground troops and short-range missiles would be devastating to the entire region. Japan is within easy reach, and Seoul, South Korea's capital, is a mere 35 miles from the border with the North, and only 120 miles from Pyongyang, the North's capital. Many thousands of Americans — both military and their families, as well as civilians — live and work in Seoul and throughout South Korea. Ditto the presence of many Americans, from military and businesspeople to students and tourists, in Japan.

Japan is now buying missiles that can strike North Korea if it's attacked. The U.S. and its allies have stepped up military drills in the region.

With our president and North Korea's "Dear Leader" waging a war of words, tensions are high that fighting could become a reality. A United Nations envoy who visited North Korea said that "time is of the essence" to calm down the rhetoric and potential for war. Even China, Kim's staunchest ally and economic lifeline, is now preparing refugee camps within its border for North Koreans who may be fleeing the possible coming conflagration.

The possibility of nuclear war is a clear and present danger in the world, in a way that is much more vivid than in decades. Like Americans were taught to "duck and cover" and families built nuclear fallout shelters during the Cold War era, Japanese citizens today are living through drills on what to do if a nuclear attack is imminent. What? This is like a nightmare scene from a "Terminator" movie.

The Japanese are very aware — the most aware of anyone in the world — of the horrors of nuclear war. It remains the only country ever to suffer the effects of nuclear bombs. The Atomic Bomb helped end World War II, but it came at a terrible cost, vaporizing much of two cities, Hiroshima and Nagasaki, in August 1945.

And though the Japanese may be living in fear now, I'm hopeful that the worst will not happen.

There are reports that North Korea may be negotiating via Russian back channels to avoid this disaster, which certainly gives me hope.

I visited Hiroshima's Peace Memorial Park as a child, when my family lived in Japan. As an adult, I've visited the park and its powerful museum with my mom and my wife and in-laws.

It's a solemn, yet hopeful place. The arch of the cenotaph monument that covers the name of every victim of the bomb that exploded over Hiroshima is set so that when a visitor pays respect to the dead, the view through the arch centers on the dramatic skeletal dome of the one building that remains from that day, which was left as a memorial at ground zero.

The museum shows in stark displays various photos, artifacts and re-creations of the fiery destruction that Japan's civilian citizens (and many Americans, including POWs, by the way) suffered. Odd pieces of humanity survived — a bento box, a tricycle, scraps of clothing with the bodies they covered long gone.

There's also a statue of Sadako Sasaki, a girl who lived a little over a mile from ground zero when the A-bomb exploded; at the time, she was 2 years old. Even though she survived the bombing, Sadako died when she was 12, due to radiation-linked Leukemia. As she fell ill, she made origami cranes, trying to fold 1,000 of the birds, which in Japanese folklore means "long life." Her story was memorialized in the book "Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes." Children throughout the world now make strings of 1,000 cranes and send them to the Peace Park, where they're stored in display cases surrounding a bell and statue of Sadako.

» See WORLD on page 58







Children's Peace Monument in Hiroshima honors the brief life of Sadako Sasaki and her dream of making 1,000 cranes before her death from Leukemia.

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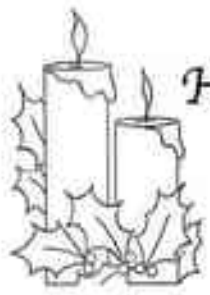
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A MOTHER'S TAKE

A Dream Is a Wish Your Heart Makes



2017 Akumi Disneyland Day

By Marsha Aizumi

Every year for the past few years, our family has entered the holiday season looking forward to a day together at Disneyland. It all started because Aiden and Mary love the "Magic Kingdom" so much, and it's a place Stefen didn't mind taking a friend to. I wanted to share something that everyone could enjoy, and I loved having both of my sons present with their wife, girlfriend or roommates. It was a time to tell stories, laugh and be together in a place of childhood wonder.

This year, since I knew the theme for this issue is all about hope, healing and harmony, I thought I would use the backdrop of our Disneyland trip to find inspiration in my writing. Here are the thoughts that flowed through me as we wandered through our "Annual Disney Family Day."

HARMONY

When Aiden was assigned female at birth, the name I gave him meant peace and harmony. This was the life that I hoped that he would have. Little did I realize that 12 years later, the peace and harmony that I wanted for him would not be the life we were living.

Seventeen years later, as we strolled around Disneyland, among the hustle and bustle of the park and its visitors, all I could feel was peace, harmony and joy for another year together. But these things did not come to us easily. We had to choose to risk talking about and doing things that made us uncomfortable. We had to love with our whole hearts, even though there was no guarantee that we wouldn't be hurt. And we had to risk for the positive, when often risk is seen as negative.

Harmony has come to us by intention. It took my husband, Aiden, Stefen, Mary and me time and patience to come to an understanding of who we are as a family. In times of discord, we had to listen to each other and decide how we would move forward. It was often very awkward and humbling, but I wouldn't change a thing, realizing that greater harmony, deeper connection and honest relationships were the result. This holiday season, I will be grateful for the gift of harmony we have created and all who have helped us to get here.

HEALING

It has been a difficult year for healing when there is so much chaos and uncertainty going on in the world. But I can't let what I have no control over, overwhelm me with despair. That would be giving up on the life I dream for my children. Instead, I have become more determined to bring greater healing and hope to the work that I do. Two of the areas I have chosen to put my attention on are faith and the Nikkei community.

I dream that churches and temples can become a place of greater connection and healing for families, just as Disneyland can be a place of magical experiences. Aiden and my work in the faith community have shown me that they can be a healing place. When Aiden was asked to leave the Lutheran Church until he found himself (in other words not be lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer) and one of our friends tried to tell Aiden that what he was choosing to be was not right in God's eyes, those were two very painful events. When you think that you are not worthy of God's love because of who you are, and who you are is not a choice, that is a place of great conflict. Do you choose to be your true self and leave the church, or do you stay in the church and hide who you truly are? We left the church so Aiden could be his true self.

Today, speaking at churches and temples and seeing clergy, faith leaders, congregations and sanghas openly embrace us with warmth and genuine acceptance has healed some of the wounds that being rejected caused. Thank you to all the churches and temples that are creating spaces where our hearts can be comforted, and we can walk away feeling cleansed, whole and loved.

Being Nikkei was also difficult because I felt that I was bringing shame and dishonor to our family. However, being a part of Okaeri 2014 and 2016 events where we welcomed home those Nikkei in the LGBTQ community and welcomed their family, friends and allies to join us in this homecoming has also brought deep healing to our family. I look forward to Okaeri 2018, which is being planned for the fall of next year.

» See DREAM on page 58



The Okaeri 2016 planning team



Aizumi at Okaeri 2016 with Seattle JACL President Sarah Baker and former presidents Bill Tashima



Marsha and Aiden in 2017 at the Pasadena Buddhist Temple

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Happy New Year!

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Puyallup Valley



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PERFECT PRESENTS

Frazzled because Christmas is nearly here and you still don't have that ideal gift to give to that someone on your list? Bring harmony back into your life by trying these new unique gift subscriptions, which give back to others in return.



A Love With Food Giftbox

By Connie K. Ho, Contributor

It's hard to believe that the holidays are just around the corner and 2018 is just a few weeks away. It's that time of year again for gift giving galore! Which means . . . Are you tired of heading out to the mall only to find the same items on shelves that you saw the last time you were there? Is searching for that perfect gift only making your stress levels rise? If you're finding that harmony in your life is being interrupted because of the craziness that is the holiday gift-buying season, then look no further. If you want to treat family and friends to something new in 2018 — as well as do some good for society as well — consider ordering a gift subscription box. We've got a few recommended ideas here that are sure to cross everyone — from family, friends to even beloved pets — off your list. Happy shopping!

Meowbox

A Meowbox is full of trinkets and surprises for beloved pets. The box, addressed to feline friends, has a variety of goodies. A recent delivery featured the theme of a Barpurr Shop and included a handmade organic catnip toy from Furry and Fancy, a whimsical Meowbox Exclusive Whiskers Catnip Shave Cream adorned with a shaving cream blob play toy and various treats for kitties including the Pinot Meow, the Original Cat Wine and freeze-dried chicken with no additives, no by-products and no preservatives.

"Every box has an adorable theme," said Meowbox CEO and Founder Olivia Canlas. "Most of our toys are designed exclusively for Meowbox customers, some locally handmade, while all edible goodies are always made in Canada or the U.S. It's tough choosing what goes in each box because we have so many fun ideas, but the main goal is to make sure our kitty customers get toys that are stimulating and unique."

The company also supports other kitties — with every Meowbox bought, the organization gives a can of food (or monetary equivalent) to a shelter cat on the customer's behalf. Customers can also track which shelter benefits from the donation with a unique can code that is relayed when the Meowbox is shipped.



Say It With a Sock Holiday 2017 Bonus Pair

A few of the organizations in the U.S. and Canada that have received charitable contributions from Meowbox include the Kentucky Humane Society in Louisville, Ky.; the Alaska Cat Adoption Team in Chugiak, Alaska; and the North Shore Animal League America in Port Washington, N.Y.

"Shelters across the country are in need, and we want to help as many as possible," Canlas said. "The goal is to donate to shelters in every state and province."

Meowbox is based out of Vancouver, British Columbia, and Portland, Ore.; the first Meowbox shipped in February 2014.

"Why should dogs have all the fun? That's one of the questions we asked when, in 2013, there was no such thing as a subscription box for cats," Canlas said.

To learn more about purchasing a Meowbox gift subscription, visit *meowbox.com/gift*.



Each Meowbox is filled with themed items.

Say It With a Sock

Want to keep friends and families warm during the winter? Say It With a Sock is a one-of-a-kind gift that does just that — it curates a colorful package of socks for customers.

Say It With a Sock was launched in 2015 by Daniel and Lauren Seeff, co-founders/husband-and-wife team. Daniel was at Google, devoting part of his time to Google For Entrepreneurs, which helped start-ups leverage Google tools to get their businesses off the ground. Lauren worked in marketing at Airbnb. Both have always loved fun socks.

"We learned that it is easier to start a sock subscription company than it is to create a new product line of high-quality socks," Daniel said. "It is very important that every sock that we send out is of the highest-quality sock that our subscribers will love and wear them for years."

Gift subscription plans include a six- or 12-month subscription, socks for all shoe sizes and a variety of sock styles such as patterns or graphics.

"Say It With a Sock's socksologists take into account each user's preferences (classic patterns vs. bold patterns) and feedback, to ensure that no member ever receives the same pair of socks twice," Daniel said.

Happy Socks, Sock It to Me and Bokkie are just a few of the brands that Say It With a Sock works with.

"A lot of the brands are small and not very well known, so we love getting to share new brands and new brand stories with their subscribers," Daniel said. "We seek out the brands that care about material, quality and unique designs as much as we do."

Say It With a Sock also has a social good component. According to the company, socks are the most-requested items for those experiencing homelessness. The organization has partnered with Lava Mae, a nonprofit in San Francisco, to offer mobile showers and socks to those in need. Thousands of socks are donated each month with the help of Say It With a Sock subscribers.

Visit *sayitwithasock.com* to learn more about purchasing a gift subscription.

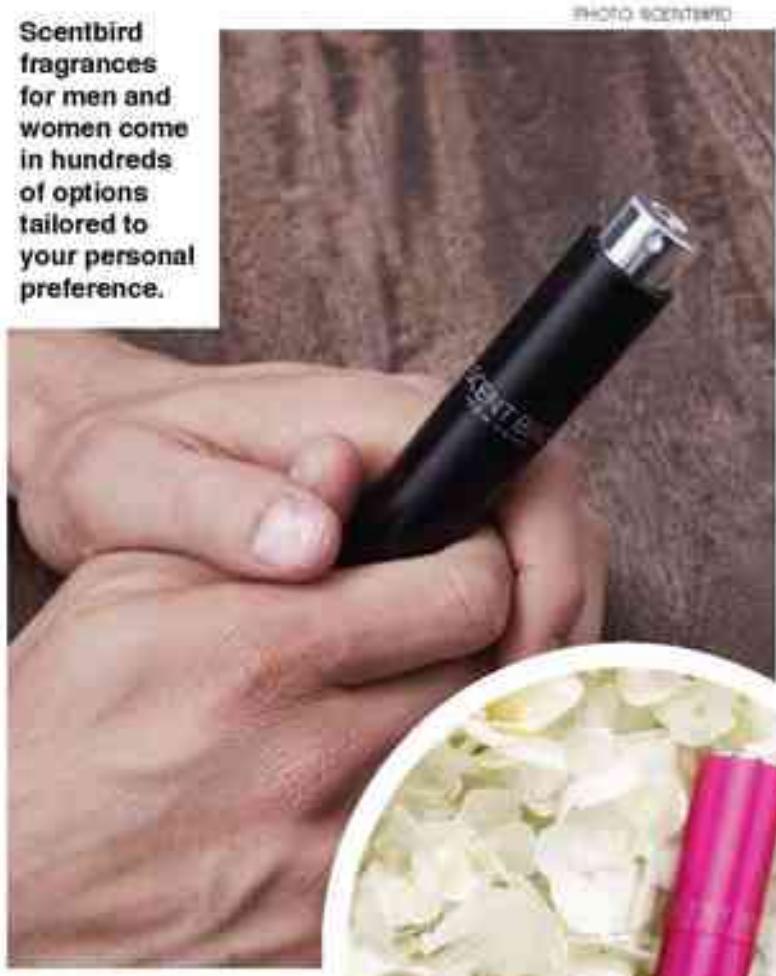
Love With Food

Vanilla bean organic coconut cookies and sweet potato chips are just a few of the goodies from Love With Food. The curation team aims to highlight unique items that are organic or all natural. The snacks are delivered on a monthly basis to help customers discover their favorite junk-free snacks.

"We want each box to have an inspiring theme, and we create these themes a year ahead," said Love With Food Founder and CEO Aihui Ong.

Some of the boxes are curated by special guests. This past December, celebrity chef Christine Ha, a past competitor on FOX's "MasterChef," worked on selecting items for the boxes. RXBAR Kids, with flavors such as apple cinnamon raisin and berry blast, and Bakery on Main granola with a taste of cranberry and

PHOTO: SCENTBIRD



Scentbird fragrances for men and women come in hundreds of options tailored to your personal preference.

maple were a few of the items that she specifically chose.

"We love all the curators we work with because they all believe in our mission," said Ong.

Gift subscriptions come as three-month, six-month or annual plans; be sure to take a bite of the treats earlier than later to retain freshness.

Ong created Love with Food to connect food producers with consumers while also helping underprivileged children. For every snack box sold, the company donates one to two meals to a food bank to help fight childhood hunger. Some of the proceeds from the December boxes will go to the Houston Food Bank to help with Hurricane Harvey recovery.

"We've donated more than 1 million meals, and we hope that made an impact," Ong said.

Check out *lovewithfood.com* to learn more about this delicious gifting option.

KiwiCo

KiwiCo crates are perfect for kids who love to do arts and crafts. The crates work to inspire kids to see themselves as scientists, artists, creators and makers. They also make science, engineering, technology and math accessible, engaging and fun.

The company focuses on fostering creative confidence and the belief in possibilities rather than limitations.

"We've defined our vision as generations of innovators armed with the creative confidence and tools to change the world," said KiwiCo CEO and founder Sandra Oh Lin.

There are different boxes depending on the child's age. The Cricket Box, for those between 24 and 36 months, focuses on developing skills of exploration and discovery and includes items like a cricket board book to promote early language and literacy skills.

The Koala Box, highlighting play and learning, is for ages 3-14, and the Kiwi Box, featuring science and art projects, is geared to kids ages 5-8. For ages 9-16, the Doodle (art and design) or the Tinker (science and engineering) are good fits.

The crates offer many different projects. A recent Doodle crate featured a complete art set for an ink wash painting including red mounting paper, a bamboo brush, rice paper, sumi-e ink, bamboo dowels, an ink well and a red stamp pad.

A recent Tinker crate included the tools and materials for kids to make their own wooden crane and build a pulley system. The Tinker crate included a blueprint of colorful illustrations and video instructions along with a pamphlet, the Tinker Zine, which detailed the history of cranes.

All of the projects have been designed to encourage children's healthy development and learning. The company has also worked with an advisory board of developmental experts to outline the areas of development that the projects address for children between the ages of 4 and 8. Projects focus on developmental areas such as creating, discovering, moving, exploring, communicating and caring.

"We hold several testing sessions each week, and the kids are our toughest critics and our biggest sources of inspiration," said Oh Lin. "We have a diverse and talented product design team that takes these ideas and runs with them."

Oh Lin noted that her family helped inspire the company.

"When my oldest two children were 2-1/2 and 4-1/2 years old, I was looking for fun, enriching hands-on activities. I thought it'd be a good way for them to exercise their creativity and build their problem-solving skills," Oh Lin said. "As I started to come up with ideas for activities and pull the various materials together, I decided to share them with my friends and then a much broader community! As it turns out, there are a lot of busy, well-intentioned parents who are looking for these types of experiences and activities for their kids."

Gift subscriptions come in a variety of packages — you can choose from one-month, three-month, six-month or 12-month options. Find out more at *kiwico.com*.

Scentbird

Discover a new fragrance without buying the whole bottle with a monthly subscription of a fragrance of your choice from Scentbird. This subscription service allows you to try perfumes and colognes that fit your taste. Select from a collection of more than 450 designer and niche fragrances such as Anna Sui, Burberry and Calvin Klein.

Customers can rate scents and Scentbird also helps them personalize scent recommendations. The TruScent Recommender utilizes a database of thousands of scent profiles and perfume reviews. Gift subscriptions come in three-month, six-month or nine-month packages.

Kim-Davy Hoeu, director of product innovation, has seen the growth of the company rise.

"Working directly with the CEO on developing the namesake brand's tone of voice, strategy and product positioning — and leading the product development from concept to launch — has been such an exciting journey," Hoeu said.

Scentbird also recently launched its own namesake line of products, including a hand cream and shower cream collection. The hand cream collection features six cruelty-free hand creams made with fruit extracts, vitamins and essential oils. The shower collection is formulated with natural exfoliants and vitamins. Customers can choose from combinations like rose and prosecco, earl grey and blackberry, among others.

"Since we're a small start-up, we have a small team, which makes the process in developing new products a lot simpler. Furthermore, because we're not as well known as the other brands out there, we know that quality reigns supreme," said Hoeu. "We are also lucky to have an existing growing base of subscribers (we have now over 200K!) thanks to our initial fragrance subscription model — which enables the brand to have insights from our customers and conduct market research with them."

Hoeu has a wide array of experience to pull from.

She's worked with niche brands, think Rodial and Fornasetti Profumi, to larger international brands, including the likes of Elizabeth Arden and Crabtree & Evelyn. She cites the company culture as one of the elements that helps Scentbird stand out.

"With the need to offer frequent new launches for our subscribers and à-la-carte customers also gives me the opportunity to really get creative with all the possible products we can launch," Hoeu said. "I also love the entrepreneurial spirit of the company, the fact that we make decisions quickly — this enables the brand to be ahead of the game in terms of trends."

More details on gift subscriptions and the company's new product line can be found at *scentbird.com*. ■

PHOTO: KIWI CO



KiwiCo crates are perfect for kids who love to do arts and crafts. Each crate encourages kids to see themselves as scientists, artiss, creators and makers.



Celebrating family caregivers.

The question wasn't whether or not I would do this—it's whether I was prepared enough or not. You have always been there for me—and now I will be there for you. The values you taught me inspired me for this important moment. And with the right guidance, support, and preparation, I know that I am not in this alone. Though our roles may have changed, one thing remains the same—we are stronger, together. And whatever it takes, I will be ready.

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WORLD » continued from page 48

Sadako's spirit of hope helps me be hopeful for the future today.

This year, Denver's new Consul General of Japan, Hiroto Hirakoba, attended a ceremony at the former Wendover Air Force Base in Utah, once home to the Enola Gay bomber that dropped the A-bomb over Hiroshima. There he gave a crane that was folded by Sadako, and donated by her nephew, to be displayed in the Wendover museum. The Consulate also planned to donate a crane to the Los Alamos Laboratory in New Mexico, where the A-bomb was developed.

I also have hope because of a touching documentary film I saw last year, "Paper Lanterns," which is still making the rounds at festivals and private screenings. The movie's director, Barry Frechette, films a Japanese man, Shigeaki Mori, who was a kid when Hiroshima was bombed, on his journey to find the fate of a group of American POWs who were killed in Hiroshima that day. When President Barack Obama made his landmark visit to Hiroshima in 2016, he hugged Mori during the ceremony, a powerful scene that brings closure to the film and its subjects.

And finally, I'm hopeful because most of the world is united against the use of nuclear weapons. The Nobel Peace Prize this year was awarded to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN), an organization working to get the international community to ban nuclear weapons entirely.

The Nobel Peace Prize announced its award to ICAN was "for its work to draw attention to the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons and for its groundbreaking efforts to achieve a treaty-based prohibition of such weapons."

I hope people are listening, both in Washington, D.C., and Pyongyang.

So, in spite of the worrisome news, I'm hopeful that our country — and the world — will survive and be safer than in the past.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Gil Asakawa is chair of the Editorial Board of the Pacific Citizen and author of "Being Japanese American" (second edition Stone Bridge Press, 2015). He blogs at www.nikkeiview.com.

DREAM » continued from page 52

Thank you to both the Nikkei and faith communities that are lifting up their voices and visibly speaking up for the Nikkei LGBTQ community and families like ours. You never know who in our community is watching and seeing signs of acceptance, which is giving them permission to be accepting of their children or family members. This holiday, I celebrate and give thanks for those who are bringing so much healing to so many.

HOPE

I have said it many times before, but hope is everything to me. When we were going through some of our most challenging times, I thought we might lose Aiden. It was hope that got me through those darkest days.

I think about the present time and how much fear and hurt is in the world. I think about the leadership of our country and how leaders are so afraid to speak up for what is right in order to retain power. And I think about all the tragedies that have been happening, and I wonder how can we stop these things from continuing to be.

I looked for an answer to my questions as I walked around Disneyland. To my surprise, I finally heard the answer when I was riding the Storybook Land canal boat, and it came from my husband. The canal boat took us to see the different lands from Disney stories: Aladdin, Frozen, Cinderella and more. It was actually hard to hear the tour guide narrate our ride because of the sound system and her fast speech. As we left Storybook Land, Tad said to me, "I really couldn't understand a word the tour guide was saying, except when she said . . . the power of love." A light went off when I heard those words.

And so it reaffirmed to me that the answer on how to change the world is love . . . not a passive love, but a fearless love combined with a commitment to see things change.

Today, I know that anything I have overcome has been the result of the power of love to make me courageous and committed in order to fight for a safer more just world for my children. Hope is always within my reach when fueled by my love and my committed heart.

Walt Disney dreamed of a place where families could be together and have fun. And as he dreamed, so did he create. I, too, dream of a world where people are valued and respected for their differences and those differences are seen as bringing greater richness to society. And as I dream, hopefully we can all create.

From my family to yours, I wish you greater harmony, healing and hope. May 2018 be filled with magic, creativity and dreams come true . . . .

"It's a world of laughter, a world of tears, it's a world of hopes and a world of fears. There's so much that we share that it's time we're aware, it's a small world after all . . . "



Marsha, Tad and Aiden at Centenary Methodist Church with *(from left)* Judy Asazawa, Pastor Karen Faye, Rev. Mark Nakagawa, Pastor Ken Fong and Carole Sasaki.

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."



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DISRUPT EVERYTHING

Home for the Holidays



By Scott Tanaka,
AARP Project Coordinator and Guest Columnist

I am very fortunate to work with so many talented AARP employees with amazing work and professional histories. I first met Scott over the summer, just weeks after he graduated from the University of Southern California with a master of social work degree, focusing on gerontology and mental health. During his time at USC, Scott interned at Providence TrinityCare Hospice and the USC Memory and Aging Center at the USC Keck School of Medicine. Over the past six months, Scott has helped me understand the role of a social worker as we age and the important role he or she plays as a part of the health care team.

— Ron Mori

I am grateful to be able to share with you all a little bit about my background and passion for supporting our older adults. As Ron shared, I recently started working at AARP as a project coordinator in our multicultural leadership department. Prior to AARP and grad school, I worked in the accounting field. This would seem like a typical path for a fourth-generation Japanese American, but it wasn't for me. So, you can imagine that it was a bit of a shock for my parents when I told them that I was leaving accounting to pursue social work. My parents, like many others, were not very familiar with what social workers actually do.

The National Association of Social Workers states, "The primary mission of the social work profession is to enhance human well-being and help meet the basic human needs of all people, with particular attention to the needs and empowerment of people who are vulnerable, oppressed and living in poverty."

Social workers work with children, families, older adults, those with mental illness and those with chronic illnesses in a variety of settings including hospitals, schools, social service agencies, community centers, nursing homes, nonprofit organizations, government agencies and more.

Some of the most vulnerable in our society are our older adult population. People have often asked me why I chose to work with older adults because they think it's unusual for a young person to want to do so. But I have always been very close with my grandparents, so it was only natural for me to do this work.

Getting back to the title of this article, with the holiday season well underway, many have plans to spend time with friends and family. For me, I will be heading back to Los Angeles for Christmas and New Year's. I live in the Washington, D.C., area now, so it will be nice to be home for the holidays. I'm also looking forward to all the good Japanese/Hawaiian food in Torrance and Gardena!

Though the holidays are often when families get together, we have to remember those who do not have loved ones to spend time with or who have lost a loved one recently. Chronic isolation and loneliness especially applies to older adults.

Isolation Is More Than Being Alone

- It's the result of being disconnected from support groups of family, friends and community.
- A number of factors may contribute to isolation: reduced mobility, hearing or vision loss, lack of access to affordable transportation, death of a spouse and more.
- When setbacks hit, individually or in combination, vulnerable older adults can easily become homebound, detached, depressed . . . isolated.
- Isolation has been shown to have a detrimental effect on health, especially for adults ages 50 and older. The health risks of prolonged isolation are equivalent to smoking 15 cigarettes a day.
- Many of the normal processes and transitions that happen as we grow older — hearing loss, the deaths of spouses, partners and peers, impaired mobility — put us at increased risk for loneliness and isolation.
- Although there are no visible "symptoms" of isolation, signals may include pronounced boredom, disinterest and withdrawal, declining personal hygiene, indications of poor eating and nutrition and notable home disrepair, clutter or hoarding.

During my internships, I saw the effects of loneliness and social isolation as described above. As a social worker, I would help my clients identify ways to increase their social activities by learning about their interests.

For example, one of my clients often wore a necklace that had a cross on it. I asked her about it, and she shared that church was an important part of her life, but she had not attended for a while because she, herself, was caring for a loved one. We discussed a few options, like working with our nursing agency to provide respite services on Sunday mornings so that she could attend church.

Respite is a service that brings in a nurse or another caregiver to provide a break to the primary caregiver, which is so important for those who are often providing care for a loved one 24/7. A social worker can help assess if you are eligible for respite services and help you access them.

There are other ways to increase social activity for older adults, such as checking out the local senior center or community center. Back home, we have the Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute, which provides activities for seniors such as bingo, arts and crafts, dancing, exercise classes and computer classes. Seniors can even buy bento lunches. Identifying these types of centers is something a social worker can help do for you.

Social workers can be found at senior centers, local social service agencies, hospitals and health clinics. You can give them a call and ask to speak to a social worker. If they are not able to assist you, they should be able to connect you with someone who can help.

What Can You Do?

Find a local senior center or community center to volunteer at. They are always looking for volunteers!

Prior to starting grad school, I visited older adults, who were often isolated, once a week just to provide a listening ear. Sometimes that is all they need — visit or call your older relative or friend if you haven't talked to him or her for a while. Since I'm on the East Coast, I use FaceTime with my grandma, and that's been a lot of fun.

The holiday season is a great time to do it, but consider connecting throughout the year as well. I bet you will find that you benefit from it, too!

Because the issue of social isolation is so complex, the AARP Foundation has spearheaded Connect2Affect, a platform to help end isolation and build the social connections older adults need in order to thrive. It is a collaborative effort, featuring tools and resources to help evaluate isolation risk and reach out to others who might be feeling lonely and disengaged.

Visit www.connect2affect.org for more details.

Happy holidays from everyone at AARP!

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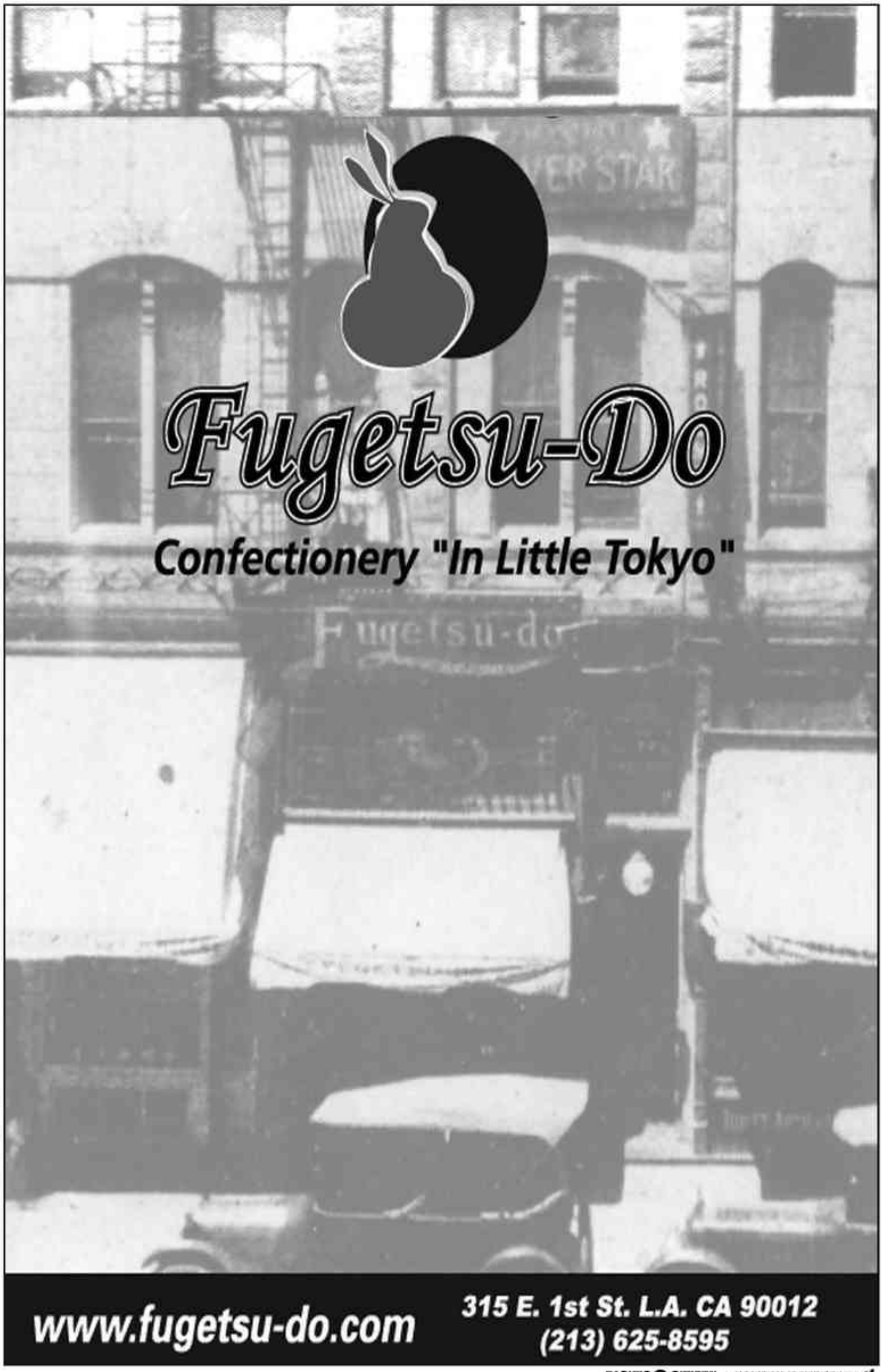
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LEGAL-EASE: AN ATTORNEY'S PERSPECTIVE



The Important Health Care Documents You May Need

By Staci Yamashita-Iida

In early December, doctors at a Florida hospital faced an interesting ethical dilemma when an unconscious man was wheeled into the emergency room with the words "Do Not Resuscitate" tattooed on his chest.

The 70-year-old patient arrived at the hospital without family, friends or any type of identification. The only clue the doctors had regarding his end-of-life wishes were the three words permanently inked below his collarbone.

Despite the seemingly clear message, doctors were still conflicted about how to proceed. Should they really make such a critical decision based off of a tattoo? What if the patient had gotten it 10 years ago and had since changed his mind? Without any type of DNR, Advance Healthcare Directive, living will or other indicative document, the doctors were unsure of the patient's true and current wishes.

This unusual situation has led doctors around the country to encourage their patients to create advance care planning documents with clear-cut directions on how to approach end-of-life decisions.

Most people are familiar with the standard Advance Healthcare Directive, but there are other documents that can be utilized as well. This article will briefly touch upon some of the most commonly used medical forms and documents used in emergency and end-of-life scenarios.

Advance Healthcare Directive

An Advance Healthcare Directive (AHCD) is a legal document that specifies who will carry out your wishes regarding medical treatment in the event that you are unable to do so yourself.

A Healthcare Power of Attorney is a type of AHCD that allows you to appoint an individual, called an agent or health care proxy, to make decisions about your medical care in the event of your incapacity (for example, if you are in a coma).

A living will is another type of AHCD that lays out instructions for your medical care so that your agent has a clear understanding of what your wishes are. For example, you can state that, upon your passing, you wish to be cremated and have your ashes spread at sea.

Do Not Resuscitate

A DNR ("Do Not Resuscitate") order instructs medical personnel to withhold resuscitative measures in the event that you stop breathing or your heart stops beating. Such measures include cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), assisted and/or artificial breathing procedures, endotracheal intubation, defibrillation and other invasive actions. Without a DNR, emergency and health care care providers will attempt to resuscitate a patient.

DNR clauses can be incorporated into a living will or AHCD, but can be stand-alone forms as well. Both types allow you to express your resuscitative preferences if you are not able to communicate your wishes if and when the time comes.

POLST

A Physician Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST) is a medical form, usually printed on bright pink paper, which details the specific medical treatment that you want (or don't want) during a medical emergency. The purpose of a POLST is "to prevent unwanted or ineffective treatments, reduce patient and family suffering and ensure that the individual's wishes are honored." *(www.capolst.org.)*

It's important to note that a POLST does not replace an AHCD — rather, they work in tandem. While it is recommended that all individuals create an AHCD, only those with a serious illness (i.e., someone who may pass away within the next year) need to complete a POLST.

Five Wishes

Five Wishes is a specific type of living will and AHCD hybrid created by the nonprofit organization Aging With Dignity. Proponents of Five Wishes appreciate this type of document because of its incorporation of personal, emotional and spiritual elements.

The Five Wishes refer to: 1) Who you want to appoint to make medical decisions on your behalf if you are unable to do so yourself; 2) The type of medical and life-support treatment you wish (or don't wish) to receive; 3) How comfortable you'd like to be, taking into account pain management, quality of life, etc.; 4) How you'd like to be treated by others during your last days; and 5) What you want your loved ones to know.

Before creating an AHCD, DNR, POLST, Five Wishes or other type of advance care planning document, it would be helpful to speak with a doctor, attorney, health care professional and even your family members so that you can make a decision about how you'd like to be treated in an emergency medical situation. End-of-life planning can be a difficult process, but in the long run, it ensures that your dignity, comfort and well-being are respected and preserved.

Staci Yamashita-Iida, Esq., is an Estate Planning attorney at Elder Law Services of California. She can be contacted at (310) 348-2995 or staci@elderlawcalifornia.com.
The opinions expressed in this article are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect the view of the Pacific Citizen or JACL. The information presented does not constitute legal or tax advice and should not be treated as such.

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The Yatabe Family

HOLIDAY GREETINGS

Tsune Nakagawa

Chicago

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Happy Holidays
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&
Elaine Ogawa

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Happy Holidays

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HOLIDAY GREETINGS

Ron & Joyce Yoshino

yosh44@aol.com and jyoshino@sbcglobal.net

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Livermore, CA

In Memory of
HIRAO "SMOKY" SAKURADA

Greetings from Livermore, CA

Ryan and Lynn Harada Murashige

In memory of these and other friends and neighbors who raised their families, contributed to their community, served their country, and enriched our lives.

John Takashi Arima • Anne Asato • David Mineo Fujii • Masae Fujii • Benjamin Fujimoto
Mike Fujimoto • Betty M. Fukuda • Kazuo Fukuya • James Funamura • Yurie Funamura
Michael Furuta • George Hamada • Tomiko Iijima • Yoshi Inouye • Lester Ishida • Paul Joichi
In Cha Kabumoto • Yoshio Frank Kawaguchi • Morris Kawamoto • Mitsue Kimura
Mieko Kotake • Stanley Kurokawa • Helen Kuwashima • Kenneth Maeshiba
Ernest Michio Matsunaga • Kiyo Kay Minaga • Tsutomu Miura • Helen Miyake
Barbara Kyoko Mizushima • Edith Sadami Morimoto • Sakaye Morinaka • Jessie Morisato
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Tributes * In Memoriam * Notables

SAM S. ISHIDA



Sam S. Ishida, 89, died peacefully at home in Gahanna, Ohio, on Nov. 27, 2017. He was born in Fresno, Calif., on Oct. 27, 1928. Sam was drafted into the Army in 1947 and served with the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in World War II. He earned a Purple Heart in Italy and earned numerous campaign medals before being honorably discharged at the end of the Korean campaign.

Sam and Mabel Nishimoto were married in 1949 and enjoyed 68 years of marriage before her passing in 2017. Sam founded Gahanna Trailer, which he owned and operated for 50 years.

Sam is survived by his daughters, Cheryl Bennett (Howard), son Rick Ishida (Sue), grandchildren Jordonna Pulop (Steve), Evan Ishida, and Eric Ishida (Brianna). He was a special uncle to Mace, Dean, Larry and Rick Ishida, Sharon Logan, and Mary Stockdale.

Sam loved family and friends, fishing, gardening, traveling, and the Buckeyes. Sam will be inurned at Arlington National Cemetery at a date to be determined.

In lieu of flowers the family requests donations be made to Mt. Carmel Hospice or charity of your choice.

JOHN AND ROZ ENOMOTO





John Takeo Enomoto passed away Aug 10, 2017, and Roz Eiseki Uyeda Enomoto passed away Oct. 15, 2017, in Rockville, Md., both at the age of 99, after 67 years of marriage. John and Roz were longtime residents of Woodside, Calif.

Roz was born in Watsonville, Calif., in 1909. During World War II, the Uyeda family was relocated from San Francisco to Topaz, the U.S. wartime concentration camp in the Utah desert. Her personal experience of xenophobia shaped Roz as much as her formal education at UC Berkeley and later at the College of Notre Dame, where she earned her bachelor's degree at age 50. Known for her sharp wit and elegant style, Roz was an engaging conversationalist who loved to make people laugh. One of 10 children, she was proud to be an "Uyeda Sister" and often told stories of their youthful adventures together. Committed to positive social change, she served on San Mateo's Commission on Aging and Civil Grand Jury, and volunteered for candidates she supported for public office. For 25 years, she was director of the San Mateo Japanese American Community Center, where she developed outreach programs and community activities with special attention to the needs of senior citizens.

John was born in San Francisco in 1926. In 1942, his father was imprisoned by the FBI (no charges were ever filed) and John's mother and brother moved the family to Denver, Colo. When the war ended, Roz and John became high school sweethearts at Lowell High School in San Francisco and married in 1948. After attending UC Berkeley, John joined the family business, Enomoto & Co., to develop the horticultural supplies division. John had a passion for Asian art, culture, and history, relishing his time at the de Young Museum in San Francisco, where, for many years, he served as a docent. John was active in the Japanese American Citizens League and enjoyed skiing, jazz, wine, action movies, sports cars and, in his later years, weekly bridge games. With a passion for travel and world cultures, his favorite job was working for the U.S. Information Agency where he accompanied journalists, scientists, and teachers from all over the world, to experience life and culture in the U.S.

John appreciated Roz's honesty, humor, and intellect. Roz appreciated John's sophistication, kindness, and handsome looks (she said this frequently). It was a blessing to witness the true admiration and dedication they shared until the very end of their lives. They were loved and are survived by six children, 12 grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. John is survived by his sister, Ellie Watanabe. Roz is survived by her sisters Doris Tono, Daisy Shibata, Hanalee Inman, Elsie Chung and Junelle Hughens. Donations in their honor may be made to the Japanese Benevolent Society of California (Jikishai, 1765 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94115, (415) 771-2446).



Saburo Akiyama
Sept. 7

Saburo "Sab" Akiyama, 93, Hood River, OR. At 14, his family and he were forced to leave the family home as a result of Executive Order 9066. He graduated from the high school at the Tule Lake WRA Center in Calif., later his family and he were relocated to the Minidoka WRA Center in Idaho. He enlisted in the U.S. Army at 20 and taught Japanese language to the Counter Intelligence Service. He was honorably discharged in 1946, having received a Good Conduct Medal, American Theater Ribbon and a World War II Victory Ribbon. He married Betty Dykstenhuis in 1956 and he continued working as an optometrist. He was active in the Japanese American Citizens League, the Lions Club, the Hood River bowling league and the Chamber of Commerce. He was predeceased by his wife, Betty and siblings Henry, George and Kiyo. He is survived by his daughters, Kathy Diane (Michael Jackson), Patricia (David Lawyer) and Jenae Ito (Patrick Tiburg), brother Noboru (Florence); sister-in-law Ruth Akiyama; gr. 3.



Roy Doi
Nov. 3

Roy H. Doi, 84, Los Angeles, CA. A distinguished professor emeritus of molecular biology at the University of California, Davis, where he was a faculty member for more than 40 years. Doi was born in Sacramento, Calif., and grew up in Loomis, Calif. From 1942–45, his family and he were incarcerated at the Tule Lake WRA Center in Calif., and the Heart Mountain WRA Center in Wyo. He married Joyce Nao Takahashi in 1958, and they had two children, Kathryn (James Gold) and Douglas (Amelia Rankin) Doi. After their divorce in 1991, Roy married Ivan Fotcher, whom he had first met at Heart Mountain. In 2004, the Asian American Studies Program at UC Davis recognized him for outstanding commitment, generosity and service to the Asian American Studies Program and Community. In 2006, he was elected into the National Academy of Sciences, considered one of the highest honors a scientist can receive. He was also inducted into the Placer High School Hall of Fame in 2009. He is survived by his wife, Ivan; brother, Steven (Charlotte) Doi; sister, Karen Doi; and many grandchildren, step-children, step-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Bruce Kaji



Oct. 26

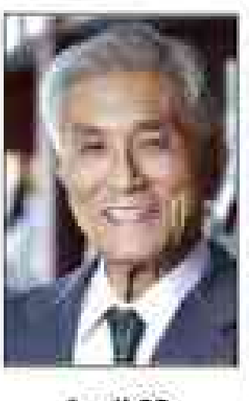
Bruce Teruo Kaji, 91, Torrance, CA. A Los Angeles native, his family and he were incarcerated at the Manzanar WRA Center in Calif. After graduating from Manzanar High School, he was drafted into the U.S. Army and served in the MIS, where he would be an interpreter at the War Crimes Tribunal. In 1954, he married Frances Tadano. In 1962, Kaji and a group of Nisei investors organized Mert Savings & Loan, one of the first Japanese American owned and managed banks. He also served as the founding president of the Japanese American National Museum. Following the sale of Mert Savings, he joined his son, Jonathan, at Kaji & Associates, a real estate brokerage and development firm, founded in 1984. In 2011, he was awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, along with his fellow Nisei World War II veterans who served in the MIS and the 100th Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team. In 1997, he received the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Rays, from the government of Japan. He was predeceased by his wife, Frances; he is survived by his son, Jonathan (Lisa); daughter, Miki Hamill (Brad); and son, Dr. Troy (Margarita); gr. 5.

Ed Lee
Dec. 12



Edwin Mok Lee, 65, San Francisco, CA. The first Asian American mayor of San Francisco, he collapsed from a heart attack and later died at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital while serving his second term. He became mayor in January 2011 after the board of supervisors chose him to fill out the term of Gavin Newsom, who resigned to become lieutenant governor of California. He was elected to office in November 2011 and re-elected in 2015. During his terms, San Francisco exploded as a technology center, leading to a housing shortage. He also was a vocal advocate to have San Francisco remain a sanctuary city. He is survived by his wife, Anita, and daughters, Tania and Brianna.

Noritoshi Kanai



April 22

Noritoshi Kanai, 94, Los Angeles, CA. The Tokyo-born chairman of Los Angeles-based Mutual Trading Co., which in 2017 marked its 90th anniversary since it was founded, was with MTC for 65 years, during which time the company grew to become one of the leading distributors of Japanese foods, alcoholic beverages and goods for Japanese restaurants. During his tenure, the popularity of Japanese food skyrocketed, with MTC launching the Sake School of America and the Ichiyoku Sushi & Wabuku School (with restaurateur Kazuya Ueda), both in Los Angeles. The government of Japan in 1998 awarded him the Order of the Rising Sun, Kunsho, Gold and Silver Rays, and in 2009 again recognized him with the Order of the Rising Sun Kunsho, Gold Rays with Rosette, for his efforts in popularizing Japanese cuisine worldwide. In 2011, he received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Japanese American National Museum. He is survived by his wife, Pauline Kanai; and his children, Scott (Parlin) and Arinder Kanai; gr. 3.

Terry Yamada
Sept. 11

Terrance James Yamada, 67, Portland, OR. He was



born in Ontario, Ore., and grew up on his family's farm in Parma, Idaho. There, he played judo, wrestling, football and drumming. He graduated from the University of Oregon in 1972 and from Lewis & Clark Law School in 1975. He was a respected member of the Oregon, Idaho and Washington State Bars, practicing for more than 40 years, primarily at Anderson and Yamada. He served with the Japanese American Citizens League and was instrumental in the redress for families who were interned during WWII. He also served as legal counsel to the Japanese Ancestral Society, assisting with the Hidden Community Project and Rose City Cemetery. In addition, he founded the holiday assistance program at Epworth United Methodist Church and served with its Worship Council and as road leader. He is survived by his adult children, mother and siblings.

Tributes

YONEKAZU SATODA



Yone Satoda, 96, passed away peacefully at his home in San Francisco on Dec. 6. He is survived by his wife, Daisy Uyeda Satoda; children Caroline (Al Suen), Nancy and David (Allie); grandsons Christopher, Nicholas and Timothy Suen and David Jr. and Tyler Satoda; sister Fumiye Yebisu and many other relatives.

Yone was born in Hanford, Calif., and graduated from UC Berkeley with a B.S. in Business Administration and from Golden Gate University with a B.A. in Accounting. During World War II, he and his family were relocated to a wartime concentration camp in Jerome, Ark. Yone served in the U.S. Army and was stationed with the Military Intelligence Service in Japan following WWII. He retired with the rank of major. Yone was active in the community and was a strong supporter of Japanese American causes, serving as the national treasurer of the Japanese American Citizens League and as president of the board of directors of both Asian Inc. and the Buddhist Church of San Francisco.

Yone loved vacationing in Hawaii, watching local sports teams and tracking the stock market. He was grateful to have lived long enough to see his grandsons go to college. He told anyone who would listen that he was "the luckiest man alive" and that he had "no regrets."

We will miss his kind heart and generous spirit. A private service will be held.

KIMIKO EVELYN FUKUHARA

Kimiyo Evelyn Fukuhara, 93, of Monterey, Calif., passed away peacefully on Monday, Oct. 30, 2017, in Belmont, Calif. Born in Pu'unene, Maui, she was predeceased by her husband, James C. Fukuhara, who was an attorney in Monterey, after retiring as Lt. Colonel in the U.S. Army. She received her B.A. degree from San Jose State University.

She is survived by her daughters and sons-in-law, Carole and Mark Louie of Menlo Park, Dr. Rene Dahl and Roger Dahl of Montara and Elaine and Spencer Schilling of Moraga; her grandchildren, James, Nicholas and Amanda; sister, Masayo Matsui of Wailuku, Maui; and many nieces and nephews.

At Evelyn's request, no service will be held. Interment will be next to her husband, James, at Golden Gate National Cemetery, San Bruno, Calif.

In Memoriam

Akaba, Chico, 72, Folsom, CA, Nov. 26; during WWII, her family was incarcerated at the Tule Lake WRA Center in Tule Lake, CA, where she was born; she was predeceased by her husband, Neil; she is survived by her children, Jason, Ricky and Nicole; siblings, Ken, Jimmy, Mary and Keiko; gc: 3.

Chibana, Eileen, 83, Gardena, CA, Nov. 8; she was predeceased by her son, Curtis Nakagawa; she is survived by her husband, Norman; sons, Gary (Martha) Nakagawa and Joey (Phyllis) Nakagawa; gc: 8; ggc: 2.

Fujimoto, Denise Reiko, 49, Aiea, HI, Sept. 14; she is survived by her son, Tyler Fujimoto; parents, Dennis and Linda Makinodan; sister, Shari Makinodan; and a nephew.

Fujimoto, Marion M., 88, San Diego, CA, Nov. 24; during WWII, her family and she were incarcerated at the Poston WRA Center in AZ; she is survived by her sister-in-law, Chio Fujimoto; she is also survived by a niece, nephews and other relatives.

Fujita, Frank Shoji, 90, San Jose, CA, Oct. 25; he was predeceased by two sisters; he is survived by his wife, Satsuki; siblings, Miyeko Yuki, Shizuko Kawamoto and Yutaka (Tomie) Fujita; he is also survived by numerous nieces and nephews and other relatives.

Hamasaki, Noburu, 96, Sacramento, CA, Oct. 20; during WWII, he and his family were interned at the Tule Lake WRA Center; he was a graduate of Placer High School; he was preceded in death by his wife, Tetsuko (Sue); he is survived by three children; a brother; two sisters; he is also survived by many other relatives; gc: 6; ggc: 2.

Hamataka, Robert H., 90, West Covina, CA, Nov. 24; he is survived by many cousins and other relatives.

Hayashi, Kazuo, 94, Burbank, CA, Oct. 27; he is survived by his daughter, Kathryn Hayashi; sister, Miyoko Yamadera; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Ishii, Poston Nobuo, Los Angeles, CA, Nov. 28; he is survived by his children, Janell Ishii Hata (Andy), Lynn Ishii and Kristen Ishii; he is also survived by other relatives and friends; gc: 4.

Iwamoto, Edward Toshio, 85, Bellevue, WA, Nov. 27; he is survived by his wife, Betty; children, Rachel (Gary) Hall, Jonathan Iwamoto, Nathan (Yorika) Iwamoto and Mieko Beth Iwamoto; brothers, Henry (Joy) Iwamoto and Milton Iwamoto; sisters, June Tomita and Judy Okita; he is also survived by nieces and nephews and many other relatives; gc: 3.

Kanemoto, Fusako, 102, Westminster, CA, Dec. 1; she is survived by her children, Mitsuaki (Keiko), Akira, Thomas, Edward (Gemarie), Glen (Marian) Kanemoto, Tomiko (James) Montgomery and Suziko Kimball; sister-in-law, Masae Yoshida; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 15.

Kawata, Joe Shiro, 95, Whittier, CA, Nov. 17; he was predeceased by his wife, May Sachiko Kawata; brothers, Jim Hajime (Takane) Kawata, Jiro Leo (Dolores) Kawata and Sam Saburo (Edna) Kawata; he is survived by his children, Steven K.(Dulcie), Donald Y.(Janyce), Pam (Jerry) Amimoto and Jan (Scott) Kajiya; sister-in-laws, Shizue Tsuno and Asako Nishimura; brother-in-law, Yoneo Maruyama; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and their families; gc: 11; ggc: 2.

Kiguchi, Mark, 95, Los Angeles, CA, Nov. 12; he is survived by his wife, Margaret; daughter, Lisa (Jody) Shin; step-sons, Alan and Curtis (Junko) Oba; siblings, Masako Miyake and Fumiko Nakamura; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2.

Komaki, Mitsuye, 95, Anaheim, CA, Oct. 28; she is survived by her children, Keith (Chris), Karen T. Masigla, Ellen T. Komaki and Kaye Komae; daughter-in-law, Margie Yzquierdo; brother, Kiyo (Youko) Araki; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 7; ggc: 6.

Koyanagi, Yutaka Ray, 73, Garden Grove, CA, Oct. 16; he is survived by his wife, Griselda; daughters, Laura Howard (Phil) and Tina Rosener (Chris); sisters, Diane Shigekawa and Joyce Nakazono; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews, cousins, in-laws and extended family; gc: 5.

Kubosumi, Sachi, 90, Moses Lake, WA, Dec. 7; she was predeceased by her husband, Jim; son, Gordon; sister, Mary Kawaguchi; she is survived by her sons, Kenneth and Marcus (Debbie); brothers, Kenji Fujikawa, Youzo Fujikawa, Nobe Fujikawa, Kane (Sachi) Fujikawa and Shig (Frieda) Fujikawa; gc: 3.

Matsuoka, George Yoji, 74, Campbell, CA, Nov. 13; he is survived by his wife, Judy; son, Jason Yoji Matsuoka; brother, Gary Matsuoka; gc: 1.

Matsumoto, Glenn 'Mats,' 62, Elverta, CA, Nov. 26; he is survived by his wife, Laura; mother, Mae Tsutsumi; fathers, Ken Matsumoto and John Tsutsumi; siblings, Debbie (Daryl) and Kirk (Jan); three step-brothers and a step-sister and half-brother; he is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

Matsushita, Yoshiko, 94, Gardena, CA, Nov. 20; she is survived by her sons, Victor and James (Patsy); siblings, Yuzuru Hamasaki and Sumiko Nakamura; sister-in-law, Ryuko Hamasaki; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 5.

Mikawa, Francis Tatsumi, 69, Los Angeles, CA, Nov. 23; he was predeceased by his sister, Gladys Miki Tanimitsu; siblings, Florence, Daniel (Chang) and Douglas Mikawa; brother-in-law, Wilfred Tanimitsu; he is also survived by nephews, a niece and other relatives.

Mitsuoka, Hiroshi, 81, Rowland Heights, CA, Nov. 10; he is survived by his children, Kaori (Michael) Morrisseau, Takeshi (Yumiko), Noriaki and Daizo (Junri); sister, Ryoko (Masami) Otani; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 9.

Mizufuka, Terry Teruo, 91, Los Angeles, CA, Nov. 19; she is survived by her husband, Joe; sons, Ron (Linda), Curtis (Janice) and Clayton (Joey) Mizufuka; siblings, Shinobu Wada, Hajime (Judy) Hamaguchi, Reiko (Richard) Truman, Yuriko (Mike) Ishikawa and Doug (Margie) Hamaguchi; she is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 6; ggc: 5.

Mochizuki, Bruce, 86, Irvine, CA, Nov. 5; during WWII, he was incarcerated at the Jerome WRA Center in AR and the Heart Mountain WRA Center in WY; he is survived by his wife, Chieko; daughters, Leslie Otsuka, Christine (Robert) Chang and Karen (Chester) Kano; sisters-in-law, Kathy (Tom) Mochizuki and Fumi (Tsutomu) Mochizuki; he is also survived by nephews, nieces and their children; gc: 6.

Mochizuki, June Suzuki, 92, Denver, CO, Oct. 29; during WWII, she was incarcerated at the Granada WRA Center (Camp Amache) in CO; she is survived by her husband, Minoru Mochizuki; children, Judy (Buck), Nancy (Lou), Janet, Carol (Preston) and Ron (Shelley); gc: 10; ggc: 2.

Nakagawa, Hisako, 84, Culver City, CA, Nov. 6; she is survived by her husband, Jim; sons, Stan (Jane Aiko Yamano) and Doug (Aimee); gc: 3.Oune, Anita Josephine, 77, Fullerton, CA, Nov. 28; she is survived by her husband, Allan; sons, Michael and Chris; daughter-in-law, Noreen Oune; mother, Rita Arias Holmes; siblings, Joseph Saldivar Jr. and Frances (Chulie) Navarro; gc: 7.

Oshita, Robyn Anne, 66, Chicago, IL, Oct. 23.Ozaki, Roy Akira, 87, Sunnyvale, CA, Oct. 25; during WWII, his family and he were incarcerated by the Heart Mountain WRA Center in WY; after WWII, he served in the U.S. Army and was stationed in Japan as a translator/interpreter for the Civil Affairs Team and the Military Intelligence Service; he is survived by his daughters, Lisa (Bob) Konigsberg, Julie (Rick) Holly and Vicki Ozaki (Duncan McNeill), gc: 6; ggc: 2.

Ozawa, Shigeko Elizabeth, 103, Pasadena, CA, Nov. 20; she was predeceased by her husband, Harris; son, Michael; son-in-law LeRoy Lindsey; and sisters, Mary Doi and Yoshiko Niisato; she is survived by her children, Patricia and Kenneth (Charlene); sister, Frances Kuramoto; gc: 6.

Sakurai, Lily Ukishima, 92, Honolulu, HI, Oct. 24; she is survived by her daughters, Kathleen "Kathy" Sakurai and Laureen "Laurie" (Dennis) Hara; gc: 2.

Sasaki, Kay, 93, Foster City, CA, Nov. 10; during WWII, his family and he were incarcerated at the Amache WRA Center (Camp Granada) in CO, after which he enlisted in the U.S. Army; he was predeceased by his wife, Taye Grace (Ebina); siblings, James Ito, Sue Tokuno, Ann Sasaki and Tom Sasaki; he is survived by his daughter, Yuri (Lambert) Woo; gc: 1.

Tamanaha, Masamitsu 'Frank,' 86, Fullerton, CA, Nov. 11; he was predeceased by his wife, Nancy; he is survived by his children, Tommie, Tammy (Russell) Kido and Lisa (Ryan) Uchida; sister, Roberta Takara; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2.Tanaka, Paula Sakaye, 77, Daly City, CA, Dec. 3.

Tani, Joji, 94, San Diego, CA, Nov. 24; during WWII, his family and he were incarcerated at a WRA Center; he was predeceased by his wife, Marian Kimiyo; daughter, Merri Jo; he is survived by his wife, Hideko; daughters, Miki (Jim) Aeling, Patti Tani (Ron Bowditch), Nancy (Tom) Cochran and Joyce (Neal) Waner; gc: 9.

Tsuda, Kiyoko 'Ki,' 96, Los Angeles, CA, Oct. 17; she was predeceased by her husband, Mas Tsuda; daughter, Karen Tsuda; she is survived by her son, Wayne (Ann) Tsuda; sister, Tomiko Yano; sisters-in-law, Mary and Sumi Yonemoto; gc: 1.

Uchizono, Estella Hoshiyama, 95, Los Angeles, CA, Oct. 21; during WWII, her siblings and she were separated from their parents and taken to the Santa Anita Assembly Center, then to the Amache WRA Center (Camp Granada) in CO; she was predeceased by her husband, Taro; siblings, Dave Hoshimiya and Ruth H Deguchi; she is survived her three step-sons, Stanley (Sharon), Rodger and Craig (Karen). ■

Happy Holidays

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