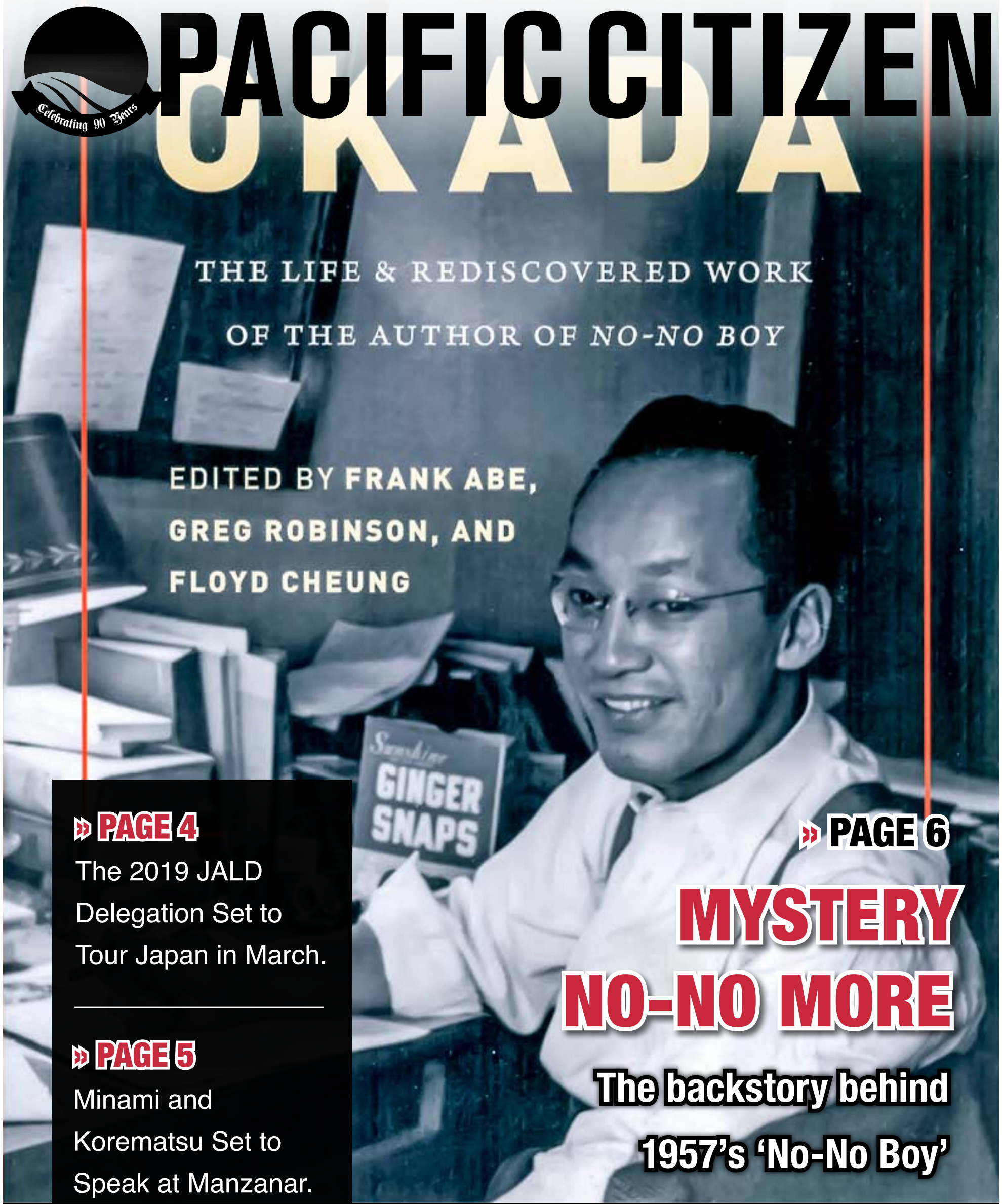
THE NATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF THE JACL

Feb. 22-March 7, 2019

PACIFIC CITIZEN

Celebrating 90 Years



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MYSTERY NO-NO MORE

The backstory behind 1957's 'No-No Boy'

WWW.PACIFICCITIZEN.ORG #3337 / VOL. 168, No. 3 ISSN: 0030-8579

ON THIS DAY OF REMEMBRANCE, JACL CALLS FOR THE NATION TO STOP REPEATING HISTORY



PHOTO: NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS

By JACL National

Feb. 19 is a significant date for the Japanese American community. On this day in 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, which gave the U.S. Army the authority to remove civilians from the military zones established in Washington, Oregon and California during World War II.

This led to the forced removal and incarceration of some 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry living on the West Coast, who had to abandon their jobs, their homes and their lives to be sent to one of 10 concentration camps scattered in desolate, remote regions of the country.

No Japanese Americans were ever charged, much less convicted, of espionage or sabotage against the United States. Yet, they were targeted, rounded up and imprisoned for years, simply for having the "face of the enemy."

Every February, the Japanese American community commemorates Executive Order 9066 as a reminder of the impact the incarceration experience has had on our families, our community and our country. It is an opportunity to educate others on the fragility of civil liberties in times of crisis and the importance of remaining vigilant in protecting the rights and freedoms of all.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — On this 77th anniversary of Executive Order 9066, we do more than just remember the presidential order that enabled the incarceration of nearly 120,000 Japanese and Japanese Americans.

We remember the racism and xenophobia against Japanese and other Asian communities that led up to the issuance of Executive Order 9066.

We remember how our government lied about the national security threat that we imposed, simply because of our Japanese heritage.

We remember how our community leaders were targeted by the FBI because of the groups they were in, members of Buddhist and Shinto churches, martial arts instructors, Japanese language school teachers and many others.

We remember how the census was used against us to identify who was Japanese and needed to be rounded up and imprisoned.

Most of all, we remember the lives impacted: the dreams ended, the families torn apart, the lives destroyed.

We remember that Japanese Americans were forced to prove their allegiance to our Constitution through the dedication of military service for a country that was imprisoning their families with no guarantee of release. We remember others who showed their patriotism by choosing to defy unconstitutional orders in support of Constitutional ideals. These are choices no one should ever have to make.

We remember all these things especially because they are now repeating today.

It is not enough for today to be a Day of Remembrance. It must be a day that we say no more to separating families and imprisoning children, no more spreading lies about immigrants, no more targeting of people because of where they come from or what religion they follow, and no more using the census as a weapon.

Just over 30 years ago, we as a country formally recognized the wrongs we had done and offered an apology to those incarcerated during the war. We should not have to make another apology for what we do now.

We can correct ourselves, we can do better. ■



COME TO THE 2019 NATIONAL JACL CONVENTION IN SALT LAKE CITY, JULY 31-AUG. 4

By S. Floyd Mori

After 13 years of living in Virginia and working in the nation's capital, I (and my wife, Irene) have moved back to our roots in Utah, where I was born and raised.

We relocated to Washington, D.C., in 2005 with the intent to join the staff of the National JACL as the director of public policy (formerly the Washington D.C. rep) for two years. I was replacing Kristine Minami, who had earned a law degree and was moving on to other endeavors. John Tateishi was the national executive director/CEO of the JACL.

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A MOTHER'S TAKE

'OKAGE SAMA DE'

By Marsha Aizumi

February stands out as a month of love for me because of Valentine's Day. Although it is not the only month I think of love, I wanted to share a couple of things that happened recently that highlight this theme.

I received a video from a young gay man named Brandon Ishikata. He gave me permission to share his story and his name. I have never met Brandon in person, but we are Facebook friends, and from his posts, I can see he is passionate and free to be all of who he is. He is currently a ballroom, Latin and swing dance instructor in training at May I Have This Dance studio in Chicago.

In a studio winter showcase, Brandon chose to dance the rumba, which is the dance of love, and he titled his performance "Okage Sama De," which he says translates to "I am what I am because of you." The dance was choreographed by Stephanie Hinterschied, and his dance partner was Anna Jattkowski.

Brandon explained that the dance depicted his coming out process. At first, he said, "I was scared to come out of the closet, but in return, I was showered with the gift of unconditional love and support from BOTH my mom and dad. As a sign of their love, my mom played this famous Jackson 5 song, 'I'll Be There,' as a reminder that they will always love me, no matter what."

You will see an emotional ending, as Brandon takes his bow in the video link I have posted below. He dedicated this performance to his parents, and they were in the audience to support him. What an unforgettable moment that must have been for all of them. Here is the link below . . . . Please consider sharing.

Brandon's performance: ***https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DS1mXDftUt4.***

Also, this month I have been very involved in a launch of a short documentary that my family is a part of. "A Love Letter" is a short film about two Asian American families' journeys to stay together with love and acceptance. Through love letters, we shared our profound love for one another and vulnerably told the story of how having a transgender family member has powerfully transformed our lives.

Here is the link to the video, which, as of this writing, has been viewed close to 30,000 times.

Please consider sharing it: ***https://www.facebook.com/sgvapipflag/videos/372194940241491/.***

The short film is commissioned by the GAPA Foundation *(https://gapafoundation.org)*, produced by PFLAG San Gabriel Valley API *(https://www.sangabrielvalleyapipflag.com)* and directed by filmmaker Barney Cheng.



PHOTO: BARNEY CHENG

"A Love Letter"



PHOTO: ROBIN ISHIKATA

Brandon dancing with his partner.

One of the most extraordinary parts of my family's journey is the opportunity to hear the often-unspoken thoughts of my husband, Stefen and Aiden. How frequently do we actually have those kinds of vulnerable moments, whether spoken to each other in person, on film or at a presentation.

One of my relatives once said, "I knew my parents loved me, but they never really said the words."

Saying the words is important. Saying that I will stand by you no matter what is important.



PHOTO: MAY I HAVE THIS DANCE

Brandon Ishikata with his mom and dad

» See 'OKAGE' on page 7



LEGAL-EASE: AN ATTORNEY'S PERSPECTIVE

HOW TO SURVIVE A HOSPITAL STAY: PART 2

By Judd Matsunaga, Esq.

In my last *Pacific Citizen* article, "How to Survive a Hospital Stay," I stated that I have compiled a list of five Medical Survival Tips that should increase your chances of returning home safely and free from "medical errors." To review, Medical Survival Tip #1 is to Question Your Doctor, and Medical Survival Tip #2 is to Get a Second Opinion.

Medical Survival Tip #3: Keep a Log Book

You've heard the saying, "Doctors make the worst patients." I thought it was because doctors often feel as though they "know better" than anyone else. However, after my research for these articles, I want to propose an alternate theory: Doctors make the worst patients because they know just how many things that can go wrong.

"What do you mean, 'How many things that can go wrong?'" In a nutshell — nurses. Now, I realize there are many wonderful, caring, compassionate nurses who really are trying to make a difference (thank God for them). But if you asked one of them, they would probably tell you about the incompetent nurses they have to work with.

For example, I read about one nurse who was supposed to give a patient one (1) dose of a medication four times a day. Instead, probably because he was lazy, he gave the patient four doses of medication all at once. That patient was given a lethal dose of drugs. But, if a nurse sees you writing down his or her name in your log book, guess what? You're going to get better care.

In fact, the whole hospital staff will notice that you are keeping a log book. All of a sudden, you're going to get better and more accurate attention because they don't want to get sued and have your log book entered as evidence of any incompetence.

Keep a log book. Write down every intervention that they are doing to you, e.g., what time, what day, what dose, what orifice. Write it all down. And then they will start administering medications at the right time in the right dose.

Medical Survival Tip #4: Get an Advocate

If you're the patient, you're going to be busy resting and recovering. It's very difficult to sit there being sick or recovering from surgery and also defend your rights and defend your health against this system that threatens to kill you. You need an advocate.

Before your hospital admission, ask a friend or family member to help monitor your care, since you might be too ill or distracted to do it on your own. Your hospital helper can assert your needs and preferences, ask questions, record the answers, retain copies of key medical documents and advocate for you if problems arise.

Have your advocate help navigate the hospital quagmire and forge a relationship with a medical professional in the hospital who can act as your point person. Be prepared to oversee the medications, double check the dosage and interface with the doctors and nurses. And make sure that advocate, i.e., that family member, has the "backbone" to stand up against medical staff.

Since you (the patient) may not be able to write down everything in your log book, have your advocate write down everything the doctor and nurses say. Ask him or her to write down every intervention that they do — what time, what day, what dose, what orifice. Write it all down. The hospital staff will notice and hopefully will stay at the "top of their game."

Medical Survival Tip #5: Get Out as Quickly as You Can

Hospitals are a high-risk place to be, and you should get out of there as soon as possible. Don't linger in the hospital longer than you need to just because it's covered by the insurance or because you like the automatic bed and daytime television. You're going to do better at home, and it's a more sanitary place to be compared to the hospital.

Where do all the sick people go? They go to the hospital, not to your house. So, as long as you're not compromising your health, get away from the hospital as quickly as you can. Even the doctors, nurses and other hospital staff are carrying germs around, spreading infections from one patient to another. Insist on clean hands. Anyone who touches you, including your visitors, should first wash his or her hands with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

Remember, hospitals are like "Superbug Central." At least 2 million people in the U.S. acquire serious bacterial infections that are resistant to one or more antibiotics. According to the Center for Disease Control, 18 superbugs are identified as "urgent, serious and concerning threats" to humankind. Furthermore, at least 23,000 people die each year as a direct result of these infections.

Judd Matsunaga is the founding attorney of Elder Law Services of California, a law firm that specializes in Medi-Cal Planning, Estate Planning and Probate. He can be contacted at (310) 348-2995 or judd@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.***

CONVENTION »
continued from page 2

While I had been on the National Board of the JACL as vp of general operations some years earlier, we had been instrumental in convincing John to head up the JACL. John had an impressive résumé and had worked previously for the JACL as the redress chair during the time when the JACL and others were seeking redress for those who had been unfairly removed from their West Coast homes and incarcerated in the camps of World War II. John and I were good friends, having worked together closely while I was serving as the national president on the JACL board. We talked about both of us working for the JACL for the next two years and then retiring.

Circumstances caused us to change directions. John had already given his notice of intent to retire after the National JACL Convention in the summer of 2006, but the JACL National Board was reluctant to let him go after his seven years of service. They were slow in finding a replacement. Around Thanksgiving of that year, John became ill at the office and had to be taken to the hospital in an ambulance. His condition was extremely serious, and he was not able to return to work for the JACL. Happily, John has regained his health. He is doing well and now even bicycles around Europe when he gets the opportunity.

I then became the national executive director/CEO for the JACL with the stipulation that I could remain in Washington, D.C. I feel that it is very important for the JACL to have that presence in the nation's capital along with other civil and human rights organizations. Working for the JACL for seven years and then for the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies for another five years in Washington, D.C., provided me with amazing experiences. Visits to the U.S. Capitol and the White House were routine. The people I met there and the things I was able to do with these two nonprofit organizations richly blessed my life.

Now that we have moved back to Utah, we are heavily engaged in local JACL matters, which include planning for the 2019 National JACL Convention, which will be held in Salt Lake City from July 31-Aug. 4. We would like to encourage all JACL members and friends to attend the convention at the Little America Hotel.

Three Utah JACL chapters — Salt Lake City, Mount Olympus and Wasatch Front North — will be hosts for the convention. A Utah committee has been working for several months with the National JACL Staff and National Board on plans for the convention. The convention co-chairs are Lynne Aoyama, Sandra Grant, Sherrie Hayashi and myself.

The JACL National Conventions are always a good opportunity to renew friendships and make new friends as well as experience firsthand the workings of the JACL.

Hope to see you in Salt Lake City this summer. ■

THE 2019 JALD DELEGATION SET TO TOUR JAPAN

The 10-member group will embark on their goodwill visit to Tokyo and Kumamoto from March 1-9.

By the U.S.-Japan Council



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF THE U.S.-JAPAN COUNCIL



2019 JALD delegate Britt Yamamoto takes a selfie with fellow delegates.

The 2019 JALD delegation at JANM with Consul Shigeru Kikuma *(bottom row, left)* and USJC's Irene Hirano Inouye. Pictured *(top row, from left)* are Bryce Suzuki, Kurt Osaki, Andrew Fujimoto, Mark T. Nakagawa, Kyle Nakamoto and Britt Yamamoto and *(front row, from left)* Kelly Yamasaki, Vickie Sakurada Schaepler, Joy Goto and Mariko Silver.

Members of the 2019 Japanese American Leadership Delegation gathered in Los Angeles on Feb. 1 and 2 for an intensive, two-day orientation. The meetings were held at the Japanese American National Museum in Little Tokyo and were facilitated by U.S.-Japan Council President Irene Hirano Inouye, Senior VP Kaz Maniwa and Consul Shigeru Kikuma of the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles. The annual orientation introduces delegates to the program, host organizations and each other; provides an overview of issues important to the U.S.-Japan relationship; and prepares them for their trip to Japan.

Selected as delegates this year were Andrew Fujimoto, CEO of Ameriben; Joy Goto, chair and professor of chemistry at California State University, Fresno, and current JACL CCDC governor; Mark Nakagawa, program manager for the U.S. Department of Defense; Kyle Nakamoto, data scientist for the Ford Motor Co.; Kurt Osaki, president/CEO of the Osaki Creative Group; Vickie Sakurada Schaepler, coordinator, Japanese Hall and History Project at the Legacy of the Plains Museum; Mariko Silver, president of Bennington College; Bryce Suzuki, office managing partner at Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP; Britt Yamamoto, founder and executive director of ILEAP; and Kelly Yamasaki, principal at OZ Architecture.

According to the U.S.-Japan Council, the "Japanese American Leadership Delegation program provides the opportunity for a select group of Japanese American leaders from across the U.S. to travel to Japan to engage with Japanese leaders in the business, government, academic, nonprofit and cultural sectors. The trip also allows Japanese leaders to gain a greater understanding of multicultural America through the experiences of a diverse group of Japanese Americans."

On Feb. 1, Mitch Maki (JALD '02), president and CEO of the Go For Broke National Education Center, led the group on an in-depth tour of JANM's permanent exhibition, "Common Ground, the Heart of Community."

In addition, Hideki Hara, director of the Japan Foundation Los Angeles, welcomed the delegates, and USJC Board Member Yuko Kaifu provided an overview of current social issues and Japanese business etiquette.

During the evening, Consul General of Japan in Los Angeles Akira Chiba and his wife, Yuko, hosted the delegates, along with several local JALD alumni, for a welcome dinner at their residence. The dinner allowed current and former participants to meet and for alumni to share stories and advice with the new class.

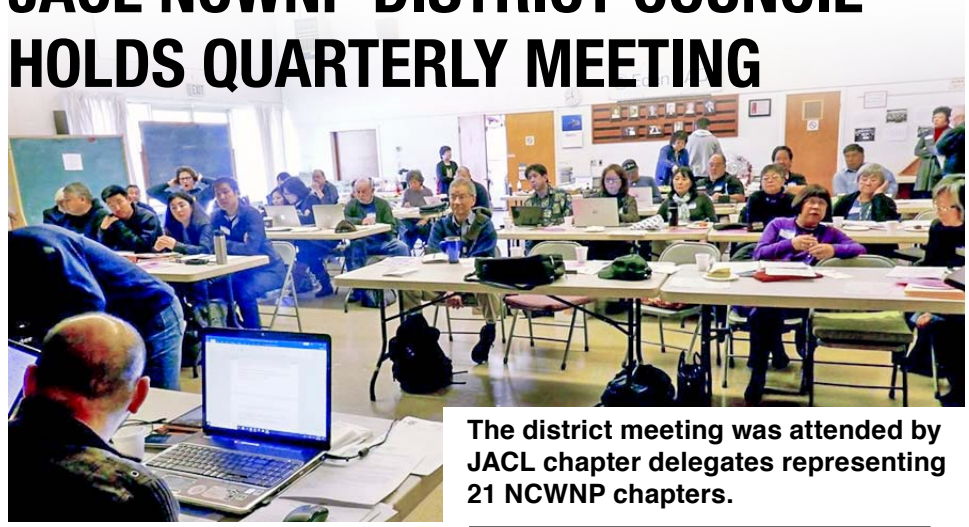
The following day, Chiba presented a briefing on U.S.-Japan relations. USJC Board Member and JALD alumnus David Boone followed with a presentation on security in the Asia Pacific region. Along with Boone, program alumni Sheri Bryant, David Ono, Stan Koyanagi and Debra Nakatomi shared their experiences and advice with the new class.

That evening, the Japanese Business Association of Southern California hosted a lively networking dinner at the Miyako Hotel in Little Tokyo. The delegates enjoyed meeting JBA members at this event that concluded the orientation.

The 2019 delegation comprises 10 leaders in business, academia, government, nonprofit and legal sectors from Honolulu, Hawaii; Seattle, Wash.; Meridian, Idaho; Fresno, Calif.; Phoenix, Ariz.; Denver, Colo.; Gering, Neb.; Dearborn, Mich.; Bennington, Vt. and Springfield, Va., who are all active in their communities, engaged in U.S.-Japan relations and committed to furthering relationships between Japanese Americans and Japan.

» See JALD on page 12

JACL NCWNP DISTRICT COUNCIL HOLDS QUARTERLY MEETING



The district meeting was attended by JACL chapter delegates representing 21 NCWNP chapters.

The JACL NCWNP District Council held its first quarterly meeting of 2019, hosted by the Eden Township JACL Chapter, on Feb. 10. Twenty-one chapters sent delegates to the meeting, which was held at the Eden Japanese Community Center in San Lorenzo, Calif.

The center has served as a focal point for the surrounding Nikkei community since before World War II, and reflects the dedication and generosity of the Issei and Nisei generations.

In 1931, Minoru and Masa Okada donated an acre of their nursery property to the Japanese American community of Eden Township. The Issei then started a fundraising drive for construction of a building called the Ashland Gakuen. It would be used for a Japanese language school, sports activities, movies, Buddhist Sunday School, social gatherings and the Eden Township JACL.

During the war, Japanese Americans were forcibly removed from the area by Executive Order 9066. Some years later in the 1950s, the building was vandalized and set afire, later to be condemned.

In 1962, JACL leaders and the community decided to keep the property and build a new center. Berkeley architect Arthur Iwata designed and developed the plans. The initial Sumitomo Bank loan to finance construction was made possible because Nisei members of the Eden JACL board of directors put up their nurseries as collateral. A donation drive was conducted during the construction phase, giving birth to the first annual Eden Bazaar in 1964. To this day, the bazaar continues to be an annual event featuring food, auction, games and crafts.

» See NCWNP on page 12

THE 50TH ANNUAL MANZANAR PILGRIMAGE TO FEATURE DALE MINAMI AND KAREN KOREMATSU

As the pilgrimage approaches in April, bus seats are going fast from Downtown Los Angeles.



PHOTO: GANN MATSUDA/ MANZANAR COMMITTEE

Attorney Dale Minami is shown here while speaking at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles, September 2018.



PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE FRED T. KOREMATSU INSTITUTE

Karen Korematsu is the founder and executive director of the Fred T. Korematsu Institute and the daughter of the late Fred T. Korematsu.

LOS ANGELES — The Manzanar Committee announced on Feb. 12 that attorney Dale Minami of Minami and Lew LLP and Karen Korematsu, founder and executive director of the Fred T. Korematsu Institute, will be the featured speakers at the 50th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage, scheduled for 11:30 a.m. on April 27 at the Manzanar National Historic Site.

Manzanar, located approximately 230 miles northeast of Los Angeles on U.S. Highway 395, between the towns of Lone Pine and Independence in California's Owens Valley, was the first of the American concentration camps in which more than 120,000 Japanese Americans and their immigrant parents were unjustly incarcerated during World War II.

Each year, more than 1,000 people from all walks of life attend the Manzanar Pilgrimage, including students, teachers, community members, clergy and former incarcerees.

Planning is underway for the daytime event, as well as for the annual Manzanar at Dusk program, which follows each Pilgrimage that same evening.

The theme of this year's pilgrimage is "50th Manzanar Pilgrimage: An Enduring Legacy for Civil Rights." The program will be emceed by former member of the California State Assembly Warren Furutani, one of the founders of the Manzanar Pilgrimage and the Manzanar Committee, and writer/artist traci-kato kiriyama of the PULLProject and one of the creators and stars of "Tales of Clamor," currently playing at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo.

Minami is best known for being the lead attorney in *Korematsu v. United States* (1983), which vacated the United States Supreme Court's 1944 ruling that upheld Fred T. Korematsu's conviction for violating the forced removal orders in 1942.

Other landmark decisions that Minami has been involved in include *United Pilipinos for Affirmative Action v. California Blue Shield*, the first class-action employment lawsuit brought by Asian Pacific Americans on behalf of Asian Pacific Americans; *Spokane JACL v. Washington State University*, a class action on behalf of Asian Pacific Americans to establish an Asian American Studies program at Washington State University; and *Nakanishi v. UCLA*, a claim for unfair denial of tenure that resulted in the granting of tenure after several hearings and widespread publicity over discrimination in academia.

In addition, Minami is a founder of the Asian Law Caucus and was appointed as chair of the Civil Liberties Public Education Fund by President Bill Clinton in 1996. He is also involved in many other community and legal organizations, along with several governmental agencies.

Korematsu founded the Fred T. Korematsu Institute in 2009, the 25th anniversary of the vacation of her father's 1944 U.S. Supreme Court decision.

Since then, she has worked as a civil rights advocate, public speaker and public educator, sharing her passion for social justice and education at K-12 public and private schools, colleges and universities, law schools, teachers' conferences and organizations across the country.

Continuing her father's legacy, Korematsu has advocated for civil liberties for all communities and has addressed current issues that have drawn lessons from the past.

She has also signed on to amicus briefs in several cases opposing violations of constitutional rights arising after 9/11, including *Odah v. United States, Turkman v. Ashcroft, Hedges v. Obama* and *Hassan v. City of New York*. She also authored the foreword to "Patriot Acts, Narratives of Post-9/11 Injustice" in 2011.

The recipient of numerous awards and honors for her work, Korematsu is also a lead member of the National Advisory Boards of both the Fred T. Korematsu Center for Law and Equality at Seattle University School of Law and the Fred T. Korematsu Professor of Law and Social Justice at the William S. Richardson School of Law, University of Hawai'i at Manoa, among her involvements with several community organizations.

"We're so pleased Dale Minami and Karen Korematsu will be speaking this year," said Manzanar Committee Co-Chair Bruce Embrey. "Dale and Karen have played key roles in the long struggle for redress and reparations, as well as the current efforts to challenge the Trump administration's Muslim ban and xenophobic anti-immigration policies. Their experience, their message, is what our country needs to hear right now.

"Let's remember that 2019 is the 75th anniversary of *Korematsu v. United States*," Embrey continued. "Let's remember that not that long ago, our government, the government of the United States, prosecuted and convicted a young man by withholding, altering and falsifying key evidence and then incarcerated him for no other reason than his ancestry. Fred took a stand against the unconstitutional and illegal incarceration of his family, of his community. But even though the law was on his side, a racist and undemocratic ruling prevailed. Let us not forget what can happen when hysterical, unfounded appeals to national security gain sway in our body politic.

"What we want to project at this year's pilgrimage is that our history, our experience, is a cautionary story that our country must take to heart," Embrey added. "We cannot stand by and allow this administration's undemocratic, racist immigration policies to go unchallenged, and that is exactly what Karen and Dale have been doing by fighting in the courts and in the realm of public opinion. They are two of the most effective leaders linking our community's experience with the struggles against the anti-immigrant hysteria and Islamophobia of the Trump administration, so really, we couldn't ask for better speakers."

For the daytime pilgrimage program, cultural performances will begin at 11:30 a.m., while the main portion of the program begins at noon.

Pilgrimage participants are advised to bring their own lunch, drinks and snacks, as there are no facilities to purchase food at the Manzanar National Historic Site (restaurants and fast-food outlets are located in Lone Pine and Independence, which are nearby). Water will be provided at the site, but participants are asked to bring a refillable water bottle that can be filled at refilling stations on site.

Those who wish to participate in the traditional flower offering during the interfaith service are advised to bring their own flowers.

Pilgrimage participants should also be aware that weather in the Owens Valley can be unpredictable and can change rapidly.

The Manzanar Committee advises participants that they should always wear a hat, use sunscreen (ultraviolet light is not affected by clouds and is more intense at higher elevations) and be prepared for any kind of weather, including high winds, heat, cold and rain.

The Manzanar at Dusk program will follow the Manzanar Pilgrimage at 5 p.m. at Lone Pine High School, located at 538 S. Main St. (U.S. Hwy 395), approximately eight miles south of the Manzanar National Historic Site, across the street from McDonald's.

Through a creative presentation, small group discussions and an open mic session, Manzanar at Dusk participants will have the opportunity to learn about the experiences of those incarcerated in the camps.

Participants will also be able to interact with former incarcerees in attendance to hear their

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Pictured *(from left)* are Frank Abe, Brian Niiya and Greg Robinson.

PHOTOS: GEORGE T. JOHNSTON

MYSTERY NO-NO MORE: NEW BOOK EXPLORES JOHN OKADA'S LIFE, LOST WORKS

Book's editors discuss the backstory behind 1957's 'No-No Boy.'

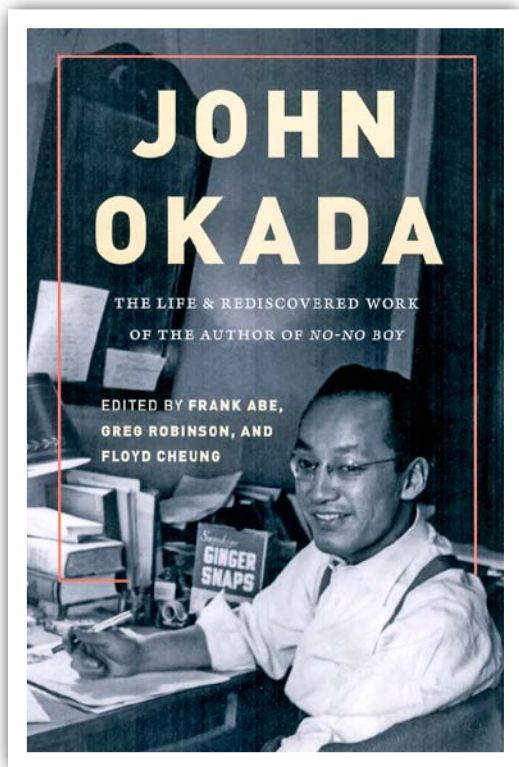
By P.C. Staff

In "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid," the titular on-the-run-from-the-law characters ask over and over again about their dogged pursuers the question, "Who *are* those guys?"

For a generation of Asian American writers, scholars, historians and fans of literature wowed by "No-No Boy" and its elusive Nisei author John Okada, it was those pursuers who asked, "Who *was* this guy?"

Answers about who Okada was, his "lost" writings and the continuing impact and import of his one and only novel were presented on a recent, rainy Saturday in Little Tokyo at a Japanese American National Museum-sponsored event on Feb. 2 featuring Frank Abe and Greg Robinson, who along with Floyd Cheung, edited the recently published "John Okada: The Life & Rediscovered Work of the Author of 'No-No Boy.'"

Also present were many University of California, Los Angeles, students and Okada's two offspring, Dorothea and Matthew, and discussion moderator Brian Niiya, content director at Denshō.



The Okada book cover

For years, little was known about the author of 1957's "No-No Boy," published originally by the Charles E. Tuttle Co. — and that only fueled the mystique surrounding him. While not a flop, the Seattle-set novel about a Japanese American draft resister named Ichiro in the resettlement years following World War II failed to, according to Robinson, a history professor at the Université du Québec à Montréal, connect in a big way with its intended audience: Japanese Americans.

While some cooked up conspiracy theories to explain the novel's initial muted response, others came to later believe, more plausibly, that it was a matter of timing, with the painful memories of forced evacuation and incarceration still too raw to be explored in literature.

Within about a decade and a half, however, "No-No Boy" was rediscovered by a younger generation of Asian Americans writers in search of role models from the previous generation who didn't write sanitized, bowdlerized and committee-approved model-minority stories.

Those Asian American writers who came of age in the late 1960s and early 1970s — among them Jeffery Chan, Frank Chin, Lawson Inada and Shawn Wong — who had rediscovered Okada's "No-No Boy" wanted more. But there was "no-no" more. Okada's one novel, it seemed, was it.

Had Okada been silenced by a conservative Japanese American establishment that didn't like his writing style or his sympathetic take on those who chose not to serve their country? Was he an embittered expat in exile who wanted nothing more to do with America? Was he buried in a pauper's grave after having committed suicide, thwarted by his lack of success?

Who was this guy, indeed.

Those then-young writers who had rediscovered Okada started digging, only to learn that their hero had died already in 1971 at 47 — and then were shocked to learn that his widow, Dorothy Okada, who they tracked down and interviewed, had incinerated, along with photos and letters, the manuscript for the second novel her late husband had been writing!

But thanks to their rediscovery of John Okada, they were able to reprint and reintroduce "No-No Boy" to subsequent generations — and the reverberations from that continue to this day, with the novel, in all its different iterations, having sold more than 200,000 copies since 1957, such that "No-No Boy" has "spawned a cottage industry in graduate-student theses and dissertations," said Abe, visiting Los Angeles from Seattle.

It also led to the new book, published in July 2018 by the University of Washington Press, that would take more than 10 years to complete, from the time Abe and Robinson met in early 2007 at dinner party in Seattle, hosted by mutual friend Chizu Omori, sparked by a mutual interest in Okada.

One of the outcomes of that continuing fascination with Okada was Robinson's discovery in different Nikkei community English-language newspapers more writings by none other than Okada.

According to Robinson, his discovery in microfilmed editions of the *Northwest Times* of a one-act play and several short stories by Okada left Abe in a state of amazement. He recalled Abe saying, "Okada scholars are going to go nuts when they hear this!"

Robinson also found in a Toronto Japanese Canadian newspaper called the *Continental Times* the full 1957 "No-No Boy" review, the long-missing source for an excerpt that was used in the CARP (Combined Asian American Resources Project) reprint. Citing the "wonders of for-pay databases," Robinson also found other unknown works, such as Okada's piece on wasteful spending by a defense contractor that appeared in *Armed Forces Management* in 1961.

It was, it seemed, time to compile the new writings found by Robinson, the biographical material compiled by Abe and combine that into a new book along with literary analysis by Cheung, an English-language professor at Smith College who was also a fan of Okada.

It took years, but "John Okada: The Life & Rediscovered Work of the Author of 'No-No Boy'" finally became a reality in 2018.

The new book would print everything "new" written by Okada, but also serve to disabuse urban legends that a certain Japanese American civil rights organization had tried to supress "No-No Boy" or even boycott the book.

"The evidence shows that Bill Hosokawa,

who was the voice of JACL in the *Pacific Citizen* . . . wrote a review of 'No-No Boy,'" Abe said, and in it praised Okada as a writer of promise who might someday write the great Nisei novel. "I maintain he did," said Abe.

So — who was John Okada? It turns out he was neither a so-called No-No Boy or a resister of conscience, but, in fact, an Army veteran who served as a linguist during WWII for the Military Intelligence Service and went to Guam and post-war Japan's occupation period.

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According to Robinson, Okada was an empathetic writer in many disciplines: poetry, short stories, satirical essays, parodies, plays and technical writing. What was most surprising to Abe, however, was learning that later in life Okada had worked in advertising.

Said Abe: "John Okada was a chain-smoking, 1960s Nisei 'Mad Man,' who may have written ad copy for products like Tide detergent and Gleem toothpaste." Or, as he later put it, Okada was a "Nisei Everyman," who followed the "study hard, work hard, raise a family" ethos — a typical Nisei father who died too young.

How an Army vet like Okada came to write a book with a draft resister protagonist was also fascinating.

According to Abe, following Japan's Dec. 7, 1941, attack on Pearl Harbor, Okada's father, Yoshito, was among the group of Seattle's many Issei men rounded up by the FBI for suspicion of possibly being disloyal to the U.S. and therefore separated from their families. Soon, like other Japanese American families from the area, the remaining members of the Okada family were sent to Camp Harmony, aka the Puyallup Assembly Center.

There, in what may have been up to that time his most important writing assignment, Okada wrote a letter to William Collins, a boarder at the hotel operated by Okada's parents. In that letter, he asked Collins to write a letter to Attorney General Francis Biddle vouching for his father's good character, in the hope of having him released early. Collins did so, and six other hotel residents signed it. It worked. Okada's father was released.

Okada's family would be sent to a concentration camp, but he only spent three weeks at Idaho's Minidoka WRA Center — he was among of group of young Japanese Americans released to attend Scottsbluff Junior College in Nebraska. From there, he and some friends enlisted to serve in the MIS, to be trained at Camp Savage, Minn.

After the war, Okada used the GI Bill and enrolled at the University of Washington to pursue his interest in writing. What he needed, though, was a story that mattered for him to write about.

"That changes when a guy he knew from Broadway High School, Hajime 'Jim' Akutsu, is released from federal prison," said Abe. "Jim Akutsu had resisted the draft at Minidoka. He was convicted of draft evasion and like Ichiro (the protagonist in 'No-No Boy') had spent two years in federal penitentiary on McNeil Island."

They reconnected, and though their wartime experiences were different, they became friends and drinking buddies, along with some other Nisei draft resisters.

Okada learned that Akutsu's father had also been arrested the same night as his father had been and separated from his family. Unlike Okada's father, who was released relatively quickly, Akutsu's father was held at a Justice Department camp much longer.

"He's finally released back to Minidoka after two years, and both father and son had changed so much that neither recognized the other," Abe said.

During those nights at places like the Wah Mee Club, Okada learned about what Akutsu and other Nisei draft resisters had endured. He asked questions and took notes.

For the empathetic Okada, the seed of what would become "No-No Boy" was planted.

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During the event's Q & A, an audience member said she loved "No-No Boy" but questioned why the book had that title, which she called misleading and probably led to misunderstandings about who the no-no boys were and who the draft resisters were — and she wondered why Okada gave such an incorrect title for his novel.

Abe responded, "John Okada did a little bit of a disservice to the Nisei draft resisters because the conflation of the no-no boys and the draft resisters is something that started with the publication of 'No-No Boy.' No-no boys and draft resisters are two distinct groups."

He went on to give context to the 1943 loyalty oath administered by camp officials that included Questions 27 — which asked whether one would serve in the military — and 28 — which asked for full allegiance to the United States and to forswear allegiance to Japan's emperor.

"Those who answered 'no' to both of those questions, whether because they believed it or were protesting, were segregated from the others and sent to the Tule Lake segregation center," Abe said, explaining further that the draft resisters were those who a year later in 1944 protested by refusing the military draft so as to get a court case to contest the legality of eviction and incarceration.

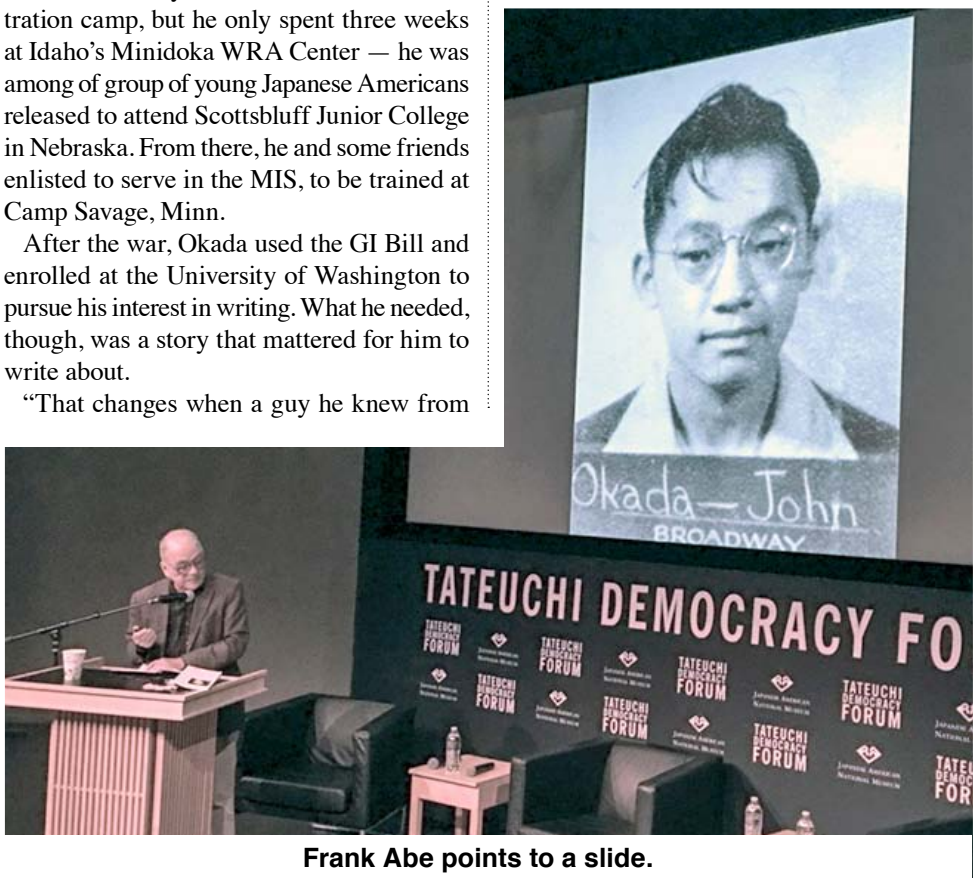
"Jim Akutsu was a draft resister, and Ichiro Yamada in the novel . . . was a draft resister," Abe added. The title character in "No-No Boy," in other words, was not a no-no boy. Then, Robinson put forward a theory that Okada had nothing to do with naming the book.

"Very often, the publisher decides on the title, and since John Okada did not propose a title for the novel in his pitch letter to Tuttle, it's very probable — not certain — that it was Tuttle's initiative to call it 'No-No Boy,'" said Robinson.

As the event wrapped up, Abe told the audience he was working with Cheung on collecting and translating the Japanese-language writings of Issei who were incarcerated during the war.

With the publication of "John Okada: The Life & Rediscovered Work of the Author of 'No-No Boy,'" someone asked what would happen if more writings of Okada's works should turn up. While the odds of that happening are slim, Abe said he'd be happy to publish any additional writing by Okada on his blog, resisters.com.

For now, however, the saga of John Okada is a closed book. ■



Frank Abe points to a slide.

OKAGE » continued from page 3

Saying that I love you no matter who you love or how you identify is important. And saying that you are loved for all of who you are has brought validation to the hearts of those who feel marginalized and judged.

I applaud Brandon's parents, who have said the words in more than one way. I applaud my husband, who was willing to go on camera and share his most personal thoughts in the most vulnerable of ways.

It is unrehearsed, unscripted and wholehearted moments like these that are the precious gifts of our journeys.

Brandon shared with me that on the day he gets married and has that special dance with his mom, he already knows the song they will be dancing to . . . "I'll Be There."

Just imagining that moment makes me emotional, hopeful and oh so grateful.

I'll be there with a love so strong,
I'll be your strength,
You know I'll keep holdin' on.
Let me fill your heart with joy and laughter,
Togetherness, well it's all I'm after,
Just call my name, and I'll be there.

— The Jackson 5

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



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF ALLISON MARYOUNG

The group at Nachi Falls in Wakayama





A photo of Shibuya. A group of Kakehashi participants went to explore Tokyo and had to learn how to work the subway.



Allison Maryoung in front of a pagoda at the Asakusa Temple



A view of Wakayama Castle from Maryoung's hotel room

A FAMILY HISTORY REDISCOVERED

College student Allison Maryoung connects with long-lost relatives in Japan, made possible through her participation in the Kakehashi Project.

By Allison Maryoung

As a half-Japanese American who was raised in a predominately Caucasian neighborhood, I had very little knowledge about Japanese culture or even my Japanese ancestry. I was unable to learn about my Japanese ancestry and speak with my grandparents because they only spoke Japanese. As a result, I had only heard small parts of their history when my mother was there to translate.

I was told that I had relatives living in Wakayama, Japan, and that my grandfather's relatives, whom we have not spoken to or seen in more than 30 years, lived on a plum farm. Being unable to have a full conversation with my grandparents made me feel an extreme disconnect from them and my culture.

So, when I learned about the Kakehashi Project, I jumped at the chance to experience Japanese culture, history and cuisine.



Maryoung with *(from left)* Tokumi Shota, who helped Maryoung find her relatives; Chiyoko Wong; Mrs. Shota's student; Kiana Shibata; and Kellie Goya. "I was very fortunate to have Chiyoko, Kiana and Kellie come with me to visit my relatives because they could translate for me since I don't speak Japanese," said Maryoung.



All 100 participants at the Japanese American Migration Museum

However, I did not realize that this trip would give me one of the most emotional and memorable experiences of my life.

On the fifth day of the Kakehashi Project, we traveled to a small town called Inami in the Wakayama Prefecture. There, we were fortunate enough to experience Japanese life first-hand through a homestay with a family in the area.

A group of three girls and myself met our host mother, Tokumi Shota.



(From left) Atsuko Okino (daughter-in-law), Okino-san (Maryoung's grandfather's older brother) and Okino-san's wife



Allison Maryoung



Allison Maryoung and Megan Yabumoto near the Rainbow Bridge. Maryoung is grateful to Yabumoto for encouraging her to apply to the Kakehashi Project.

On the way to her farm, she asked us if we had family in Wakayama. I told her that I had relatives in Wakayama, but I did not know which town or city because my family had lost contact with them over 30 years ago. Mrs. Shota asked for their last names, and she immediately recognized my grandfather's last name.

Halfway through dinner, Mrs. Shota was on the phone with people who we thought could be my relatives, and she began asking me questions. After a lot of questions, it turned out that Mrs. Shota had found my great-uncle and his son and that they wanted to meet me!

The next morning, Mrs. Shota, the three girls, and I drove to my great-uncle's house, which happened to be six minutes away from my host mom's house. I was very nervous yet excited to meet my relatives because I had never seen a picture of them and rarely heard about them.

As we entered the house, I was greeted by my great-uncle's wife and his daughter-in-law, who were both very kind.

However, when I saw my great-uncle, I immediately started to cry because he looked and acted exactly like my grandfather, who passed away two years ago. Through all of the tears, I was able to show my relatives pictures of my grandfather, my brother and my mother. They were shocked by my grandfather's resemblance to my great-uncle and asked if their personalities were the same. My great-uncle was very interested in the pictures of my younger brother and thought that he was the older sibling because he was taller and bigger.

My relatives were very shocked that I was able to find them because they said that my mother and grandfather had visited them over 30 years ago, but had been unable to get in contact with them.

After all of the laughter, my relatives showed me to the family shrine, where I was able to pray to my ancestors and to my grandfather. Unfortunately, we had to leave my relatives and meet up with the rest of the Kakehashi group, but I promised that I would bring the rest of my family back to Japan to visit.

Whether or not this experience was due to chance or fate, without the hard work and dedication of the JACL, JICE and Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, who all worked to make the Kakehashi Project possible, I would not have been able to meet my great-uncle or seen the area my grandfather grew up in. I am also very thankful for everyone in Group D and my supervisors, David Inoue, Sharon Uyeda and Midori Koga, for being so supportive and wonderful!

As a Sansei, I was able to discover some family history that I thought was lost forever and form a bridge that connected me to my ancestry and Japan.

Allison Maryoung traveled to Japan as part of the Winter Kakehashi Project from Dec. 12-19, 2018. She is 22 years old and is currently in her fourth year at the University of California, Los Angeles. Next year, she will be attending UC Berkeley Optometry School.

CELEBRATING 90 YEARS

Historical Headlines

This year marks the 90th anniversaries of the JACL and the *Pacific Citizen.* Through these many years, the organization and its national newspaper have been fighting for the civil liberties of all and reporting on the most important news events in our history. In the months leading up to October's monumental anniversary, the *P.C.* will be including "Historical Headlines" that were featured in the newspaper to reflect, never forget and always remember . . . .

VOL. 16; NO. 4. SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH, THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 1943. Price: Five Cents

Army Announces Japanese American Unit for Combat Service Overseas

Riot Leaders Segregated at Camp in Utah

Complete, Impartial Hearings Assured to Manzanar Group

A "segregation" camp for a small group of evacuees suspected of having been responsible for the rioting at the Manzanar, Calif., relocation center on Dec. 5 and 6 has been established at a CCC camp near Moab in southeastern Utah, it was disclosed last week in a story carried by the Manzanar Free Press.

The Free Press disclosed that Ralph P. Merritt, project director at Manzanar, has given assurance that all of the small group taken into custody would be given fair hearings.

Merritt stated that all would be given a hearing by an impartial board of review of selected men from Washington.

The Manzanar director revealed that 16 men had been moved from Manzanar to the Moab camp. He stated that the removal of these men from the Lone Pine and Independence jails was made because the hearings may take up quite a bit of time and the quarters at the jails were too cramped for a long stay.

Disposition of the persons taken out of the center since the rioting was cleared by Merrit.

"Some were taken out for their own protection," Merrit said. "Some because they were habitual trouble-makers. There were many taken out who had no connection with the incident. All the cases have been thoroughly reviewed and those who were immediately shown to be innocent have been returned to the center or sent to other relocation areas."

Suspect Pleads Guilty to Stabbing

HEART MOUNTAIN, Wyo. — Gyotoku Tokita, 67, pleaded guilty to a charge of aggravated assault before Chris Fezenbeck, justice of peace in Powell, last week for the New Year's day stabbing of a fellow evacuee, Taro Suenaga. Tokita faces a year in prison and $1000 fine as maximum penalty.

The case was bound over to the district court in Cody, where Tokita will be tried.

Suenaga is recovering at the

Selective Service Board Urges Industries to Employ Nisei

Fair Play for U. S.-Born Japanese Asked by Draft Board in Utah City

OGDEN, Utah—An appeal to industrial and business leaders of Ogden, as well as to employes of all kinds, to make room for and accept in war and private industry and business American-born Japanese who have been passed by proper investigating authorities as worthy of their American citizenship was made last week by selective service board No. 4 of Ogden.

"These men and women have the same right to serve their country, if they have been proven honestly patriotic Americans, as have other groups of nationals, and they have the same right to participate in war work and production," the board members declared.

And not only would these citizens be given an opportunity to give of their patriotic services, it was added, but the nation and the local areas would benefit from adding much needed labor to the vitally essential production of war requirements on the home front.

The board explained that these recommendations were based on daily contact with problems of selective service and the demands of farms, industry and business, as well as with military and naval installations constantly in need of additional labor, and at the same time with the problem of American-born Japanese desiring to render patriotic service to the land of their birth.

The board, consisting of F. M. Abbott as chairman, with Lawrence M. Malan and E. J. Fjeldsted as members, directed the appeal to both employers and employees.

Farming Equipment Destroyed in Fire On Pocatello Farm

POCATELLO, Idaho — Three tractors, a new automobile and $5000 worth of potato sacks were destroyed by a fire Jan. 15 which leveled a large barn on a farm

Masaoka Volunteers For Service With New Nisei Battalion

Mike Masaoka, national secretary of the Japanese American Citizens League, today volunteered his services to the United States Army in a wire to Henry L. Stimson, Secretary of War.

Masaoka entered the JACL as national secretary in September, 1941. He graduated from the University of Utah in 1937, where he was valedictorian of his graduating class and received the Beehive Award for outstanding scholarship and school activity.

He was awarded the Chicago Young People's Society award as "Nisei of the Year" in 1940.

Robert O'Brien Resigns from Student Group

Relocation Chairman Is Called Back to Post at University of Washington

NEW YORK CITY—The resignation of Robert W. O'Brien, who for the past three months has been director of the National Japanese Student Relocation Council, was announced by Dr. John Nason, chairman, at the National Executive Committee meeting held here last week.

Mr. O'Brien, who has been on a leave of absence from the University of Washington, was called back to his post as assistant dean of the College of Art and Sciences by President Sieg because of the illness of the dean of the college. He is to resume his duties February 15.

While regretfully accepting his resignation, the committee expressed its appreciation for the excellent work Mr. O'Brien had done during the past critical months. Chairman Nason announced that a letter of appreciation had already been dispatched to President Sieg for the latter's cooperation

Voluntary Induction Procedure To Be Set Up to Enlist Nisei In Wartime Relocation Centers

No Effort Will Be Spared to Make It Efficient, Hard-Hitting, Well Rounded Outfit, Declares Secretary Stimson; Tells Nisei Requests

WASHINGTON—The War Department announced Thursday the organization of a special Japanese American battalion in the Army of the United States for combat service in an active theater of war.

Plans have been completed, the War Department announcement said, for nation-wide voluntary induction of American-born Japanese now in the ten relocation centers and elsewhere in the United States and the Hawaiian Islands.

The War Department announced:

"Loyal Americans of Japanese ancestry will compose a special unit in the United States Army. The War Department announced today that plans have been completed for admission of a substantial number of American citizens of Japanese ancestry to the Army of the United States. This action was taken following study by the War Department of many earnest requests by loyal American citizens of Japanese extraction for the organization of a special unit of the Army in which they could have their share in the fight against the nation's enemies."

The War Department's action, it was announced, is part of a larger program which will enable all loyal American citizens of Japanese ancestry to make their proper contribution toward winning the war through employment in war production as well as military service.

The following statement was issued Thursday by Henry L. Stimson, secretary of war:

"It is the inherent right of every faithful citizen, regardless of ancestry, to bear arms in the nation's battle. When obstacles to the free expression of that right are imposed by emergency considerations, those barriers should be removed as soon as humanly possible. Loyalty to country is a voice that must be heard, and I am glad that I am now able to give active proof that this basic American belief is not a casualty of war."

The War Department announced that the initial procedure in the formation of the unit authorized by Secretary Stimson will be voluntary induction. Facilities for this would be nation-wide, it was stated, and would include the Hawaiian Islands and the war relocation centers in this country.

No individual will be inducted, it was stated, if doubt exists as to his loyalty. Upon induction, the American-born citizens of Japanese parentage will begin training as a combat team for service in an active theater.

"This combat team will include the customary elements of infantry, artillery, engineer and medical personnel. No effort will be spared in developing it into an efficient, well-rounded, hard-hitting outfit," it was declared.

The War Department said that the new unit will be trained separately from the battalion of Americans of Japanese extraction, originally a Hawaiian national guard organization, which is already a component of the army.

A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

CALENDAR

National

The 2019 JACL National Convention
Salt Lake City, UT
July 31-Aug. 4
Little America Hotel
500 Main St.
Save the date: Join JACL at its annual National Convention in Salt Lake City! Details regarding registration information will be forthcoming. Don't miss this opportunity to connect with JACLers from across the country as the organization continues its civil rights advocacy mission.
Info: Visit www.jacl.org.

NCWNP

'Then They Came for Me: Incarceration of Japanese Americans During WWII and the Demise of Civil Liberties' Exhibit
San Francisco, CA
Thru May 27; Wed.-Sun., 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
The Presidio
100 Montgomery St.
Presented by the Jonathan Logan Family Foundation, this exhibit offers an expanded focus on the experiences of those returning to Northern California following the closing of the incarceration camps following the end of World War II. It also features imagery by American photographers Dorothea Lange and Ansel Adams, alongside works by incarcerated Japanese American artists Toyo Miyatake and Mine Okubo. Combined with additional artifacts made by camp survivors, historical documents, videos and a wide array of cultural, curatorial and political programs, this exhibit illuminates this historical event from several vantage points.
Info: Visit www.ThenTheyCame.org or email info@thentheycame.org.

Spring Kaiseki Workshop
San Francisco, CA
March 16; Noon-3 p.m.
JCCCNC
1840 Sutter St.
Price: $45 Member; $55 Nonmember
The popular seasonal Kaiseki workshop continues with a spring menu featuring an elegant multicourse meal in the Kaiseki tradition using fresh ingredients to reflect the flavors and colors of the season. This workshop will feature four dishes including chirashi sushi, Kaiseki-style miso soup, wild sea scallops with fish roe and dashi soup stock made with kelp and dried bonito.
Info: Visit www.jcccnc.org.

WakamatsuFest150: The Sesquicentennial Wakamatsu Farm Festival
Placerville, CA
June 6-9; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. daily
Price: Ticket prices vary, packages available; $5 parking (includes free shuttle); enter coupon code goldhillsamurai2019 for $5 discount on multiday festival passes until June 5 only.
Don't miss the world's one and only celebration of 150 years of Japanese American heritage, arts and cuisine at the site of the first Japanese colony in the U.S. This four-day festival will celebrate the arrival at Wakamatsu Farm of the first Japanese colonists on June 8, 1869 and will feature Japanese American performances, music, speakers, demonstrations, vendors, food, crafts, kids activities and much more!
Info: Visit www.ARConservancy.org/wakafest150.

Medaka No Gakko Japanese Culture Summer Day Camp
Palo Alto, CA
June 24-July 12; 8:45 a.m.-1 p.m.; 1-4 p.m. Extended Care
2751 Louis Road
Price: $450 per child by Jan. 31; $500 after Feb. 1; $400 per child for extended care
The mission of Medaka is to convey the customs, values and aesthetics of Japanese culture. This three-week day camp, open to K-6th grade students, has been in operation since 1982, featuring a dedicated team of teachers that provide lessons in art, music, cooking, Japanese language and history. Parent participation is required: half-day in class, activity team and Obon shift.
Info: For more information, email MedakanoGakkoPaloAlto@gmail.com and for additional parent information, email naoko.fujii@gmail.com.

PSW

Tsuruya Kokei: Modern Kabuki Prints Revised & Revisited
Pasadena, CA
Thru July 14
USC Pacific Asia Museum
46 N. Los Robles Ave.
Price: Admission free for members; $10 General Admission; $7 Students and Seniors; Free for Children Under 12
This new exhibition celebrates the 30th anniversary of the contemporary artist's first solo show and features the complete collection of his actor prints from 1984-93. The exhibition also showcases actor prints by Sharaku as well as two-dozen prints by contemporary Japanese and western artists.
Info: Visit pacificasiamuseum.usc.edu or call (626) 449-2742.

JACL and the Campaign for Redress
Torrance, CA
March 10; 1 p.m.
Faith United Methodist Church
2115 W. 182nd St.
Price: Free
This program, featuring a panel of former JACL officials, is co-sponsored by the Greater L.A. JACL and Faith UMC's Social Action Committee. Panelists include Ron Ikejiri, Frank Sato, Floyd Shimomura, John Tateishi and Ron Wakabayashi, who will discuss JACL's national legislative effort to seek redress for the incarceration of Japanese Americans during WWII. They will also discuss how Senators Daniel Inouye, Spark Matsunaga, S. I. Hayakawa and Representatives Norman Mineta and Robert Matsui laid the foundation for the creation of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians, which led to the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.
Info: For more information, email LSakamoto@sbcglobal.net.

Kollaboration EMPOWER Conference
Los Angeles, CA
March 23-24; 9 a.m.-6 p.m.
JANM
100 N. Central Ave.
Price: Registration opens in February.
This two-day event is for aspiring Asian Americans of all ages and professions to gather and learn directly from some of the community's most inspirational professionals. Attendees will be able to explore a variety of creative career paths, industries and practices to make their dreams a reality. This unique experience will bridge communities, generations, industries and innovative minds.
Info: Visit https://empower.kollaboration.org.

Keiro Caregiver Conference
Pasadena, CA
March 30; 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Pasadena Buddhist Temple
1993 Glen Ave.
Price: Free, but registration is required.
This free one-day conference continues Keiro's work to support and equip informal caregivers with practical knowledge to enhance the quality of care that our community's older seniors receive. This year will feature two keynote speakers: Patty Watson-Swan, RN, BSN, from Huntington Hospital Senior Care Network and a moderated panel will be held to discuss the challenges of caregiving resulting from complex family dynamics.
Info: To register, visit www.keiro.org/caregiver-conference or call (213) 873-5708.

PNW

Structural Racism in Oregon: A History From 1492-2018
Ontario, OR
Thru March 25
Four Rivers Cultural Center
676 S.W. Fifth Ave.
In this exhibit, presented by the Four Rivers Cultural Center, curator Quinn Susuki, a student at both Ontario High School and Treasure Valley Community College, takes a look at the topic of racism and how it along with discrimination has played a role in Oregon's history.
Info: Call (541) 889-8191 or visit 4rcc.com.

IDC

Holly Yasui and Peggy Nagae Present 'Never Give Up! Minoru Yasui and the Right for Justice' and Reception
Boise, ID
March 30; 4:30-8:30 p.m.
Zions Bank Building, 17th Floor
800 W. Main St. #100
Price: $25 Single seats for reception and dinner (4:30-6 p.m.) and free film screening following
Don't miss the opportunity to attend this event that will feature a screening of the documentary film portraying the life and times of civil rights activist Minoru Yasui, who initiated a legal case during WWII, challenging military orders that led to the incarceration of more than 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry.
Info: Visit https://www.tickettailor.com/events/boisevalleyjacl/232081.

MDC

AAPI Youth Summit: Rooting Our Stories, Rooting Ourselves
Minneapolis, MN
March 2; 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
University of Minnesota
(Building TBA: Check website for details)
Price: Free and open to all students; lunch will be provided.
During this third-annual event, students will have the opportunities to discuss how to bring their histories, communities and identities into their work as AAPI students, professionals and community members. Topics include exploring how these aspects of life can shape new imaginations for the future. The summit will also include a keynote, workshop sessions and time for networking.
Info: Visit https://www.facebook.com/events/197889637825812/.

'Caught'
Minneapolis, MN
May 17-June 2
Dowling Studio of the Guthrie Theater
818 S. Second St.
Price: Ticket prices vary.
Full Circle Theater presents "Caught" by Christopher Chen and directed by Rick Shiomi. This play begins with a visual art exhibition by a Chinese artist and then Lin Bo, the artist himself, appears to give an extended talk about his experience in China as a dissident artist. This play delves into issues of appropriation, racism and white privilege within the American intellectual elite.
Info: For tickets and further information, visit fullcircletheatermn.org.

EDC

Screening of 'The Ito Sisters'
Somerville, MA
March 1; 5:30-8 p.m.
Tufts Alumnae Lounge
40 Talbot Ave.
Price: Free; dinner will be provided.
This event will feature a screening of the film "The Ito Sisters," followed by a panel discussion featuring Antonia Grace Glenn, the filmmaker, and her mother, Evelyn Nakano Glenn, professor of the Graduate School of Asian American and Asian Disaspora Studies at UC Berkeley. This film focuses on the experiences of Issei and Nisei women whose voices have largely been excluded from American history. This event is sponsored by the Tufts Japanese Culture Club.

Eaglemania: Collecting Japanese Art in Gilded Age America
Boston, MA
Thru June 2
McMullan Museum of Art, Daley Family Gallery
Boston University
2101 Commonwealth Ave.
This exhibit features bronze, silver and ivory sculptures of birds of prey in folding screens, scroll paintings, netsuke, lacquerware, ceramics and textiles to bring to life the history of the Boston College eagle. Boston College's monumental bronze eagle was found to be a Japanese masterpiece from the Meiji period (1868-1912), which was donated to the college in the 1950s.
Info: Visit https://www.bc.edu/sites/artmuseum/exhibitions/eaglemania/. ■

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In MEMORIAM

Harada, Henry, 98, Dec. 21, Gardena, CA; he is survived by his son, Scott (Dr. Meigan M. Everts); gc: 2.

Kimura, Diane Kiyomi, 65, Miliani, HI, Dec. 9.

Kimura, Hanaye, 95, Van Nuys, CA, Dec. 9; she is survived by her children, Stanley (Ann), Ronald, James (Sue) Kimura, Frances Hori and Marian (Jim) Mason; sister, Setsuko Kadonaga; gc: 9; ggc: 1.

Matsuda, Tanya, 61, Columbus, OH, Dec. 14; she is survived by her husband, Kenichiro Matsuda; daughters, Lilian Matsuda (Nick Gehlfuss) and Emi Matsuda; siblings, Scott Atkinson, Steve (Gail) Atkinson, Randy (Susan) Atkinson and Lori (Rocky) Palombo; mother-in-law, Seiko Matsuda; brother-in-law, Kiyoshi Matsuda; sisters-in-law, Yuki Ishida and Kumi (Takamitsu) Yagi.

Morohoshi, Hikaru, 103, Torrance, CA, Dec. 7; he was predeceased by his son, Bob "Bobby" Osamu Morohoshi; he is survived by his wife, Yoshiko; children, Marie Kyoko Morohoshi and Makoto Tad Morohoshi; sisters-in-law, Chisato Morohoshi, Akiko (Sadao) Iwashita, Teruko Aoki, Tomiko Kubota, Emiko (Hisakazu) Sugiyama and Eiko Asakura; he is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Nakata, Miyoko, 83, Riverside, CA, Jan. 7; she is survived by her sons, Dean (Cristina) Nakata and David Nakata; sisters, Mary Nishi and Kikuko Kawamoto; gc: 2.

Okada, Sandie Sumie, 92, Gardena, CA, Dec. 12; she is survived by her children, Paige, JoDee and Gregg (Sandra); sister, Jeanie Shimozono; gc: 3.

Sakaki, Donald Katsumi, Torrance, CA, Dec. 10; he is survived by his wife, Helen; children, Douglas (Kathy) Sakaki, Lynne (Don) Lee and Lori (Charles) Kettler; gc: 3; ggc: 2.

Seki, Shinji, 75, Los Angeles, Dec. 31; he is survived by his children, Kevin (Terri) and Stephanie Seki; sisters, Kim (Harry) Masatani and Mickey (Kiyo) Kumamoto; he is also survived by cousins, nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2.

Takase, Hayahiko, 88, Los Angeles, CA, Dec. 27; he is survived by his wife, Sumiko Takase; daughter, Maya (Robert) Kay; sister-in-law, Yoriko Noma; gc: 2.

Watanabe, Donna Doreen, 69, Lincolnwood, Illinois, Jan. 15; she is survived by her husband, Ernest; children, Tom (Trish) and Lauren; sisters, Linda, Tina, Vickie and Gail; gc: 2.

Yagi, Earl, 67, Santa Clara, CA, Dec. 20; he is survived by his wife, Evangeline (Gylen) Yagi; daughters, Lea and Lira; sister, Joyce Yagi and five nieces.

Yamaguchi, Violet Hiroko, 84, Lakewood, CA, Dec. 25; she is survived by her children, Teri (Mo) Esparza, Jodie (Brett) Latzsch, Lori Nishimura and Scott (Jennifer) Yamaguchi; siblings, Verna (Norma) Shimabukuro and Walter (Iris) Ikemi; she is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 8.

Yamashiro, Lillian Miyeko, 90, Los Angeles, CA, Dec. 27; she is survived by her husband, Richard; children, Dennis, Claire, Karen, Darrell and Sandra; gc: 4.

Yanagisawa, Michiko, 71, Long Beach, CA, Nov. 23; she was predeceased by her husband, Seiji; and grandson, Aaron; she is survived by her daughter, Grace Yanagisawa Carney; stepchildren, Albert (Sherry), Will (Miki), Steve (Regina).

TRIBUTE

VICTOR SATO



Victor Sato, 93, passed away peacefully in his home in The Dalles, Ore., on Feb. 5. Victor was born in Dee, Ore., and is survived by his wife of 49 years, Fumiko, and daughters Suzy and Lynne Sato. During WWII, Victor served in the Army's 442nd Regimental Combat Team and went on to become a mechanical engineer. He was a calm, dignified man and will be missed.

TRIBUTE

LILY AONO



Lily Aono, 86, of Mission Viejo, Calif., passed peacefully on Feb. 2. Lily Reiko Takagi was born April 12, 1932, in Fresno, Calif., to Shumpo and Haruko (Akaike) Takagi. During WWII, Lily, her parents and her sisters, Aiko and Sachi (Suzuki), were incarcerated in the Jerome and Rohwer Camps in Arkansas. The family resettled in Chicago, where Lily was a member of the Philos and a clerk for the IRS. In 1956, Lily married Tom Aono (Portland, Ore., and Minidoka), and together they raised five children. Lily will be fondly remembered for her quiet, sweet nature, everlasting patience and always putting the needs of others ahead of her own.

Lily is survived by her devoted husband of 63 years, Tom; sister, Sachi Suzuki; and five children: Fred Aono (Jenny Kiyomura), Caryn Aono, Joanne Aono (Brian Leber), Kristine Aono (Val Giddings) and Roberta Jeannette (Jeff). She was the proud "Gram" of Marissa (Aono) Rudisill (Daniel), Alexandra Aono (Jack Custer), Colin Aono, Naomi and Calvin Giddings and Griffin and Carter Jeannette, and "Great-Gram" to Kaleb Custer and Benjamin Rudisill.

A memorial in celebration of her life will be held March 16 at the Norman P. Murray Center, 24932 Veterans Way, Mission Viejo, Calif., from 6-9 p.m. Please RSVP to LilyAonoMemorial@gmail.com.

TRIBUTE

GRAYCE & HIRO UYEHARA: IN MEMORIAM AFTER FIVE YEARS



September 20, 2014
Medford, New Jersey

It was a great privilege for me – among the greatest in my life -- to have known and worked with Grayce and Hiro Uyehara.

In our time together, I would sometimes say, "Hiro, to me you are a hero." And Grayce would say, "Oh, Grant, you are so clever with words. A real wit. Hiro, you say, is a hero." But the fact was — and the fact is — that Hiro and Grayce were heroes to me.

Hiro Uyehara was a precise, learned man, having mastered some of the most difficult and obscure Kanji characters in the Japanese written language. And as we all know, he had the smile of a complete gentleman and scholar.

As husband and wife, Hiro and Grayce were at least 50 years ahead of their time. Grayce was a national Japanese American leader, and as she traveled the country, Hiro was often with her, playing a gracious supporting role. Both were only a generation removed from the cultural norms of traditional Japan.



Grayce on canvas in D.C.

Remarkable, really, because as they worked together, no one sensed any kind of role reversal — all seemed perfectly ordinary. We know, of course, that Grayce was among the most consequential Japanese Americans in Japanese American history. She was, in fact, the moral and political epicenter of Japanese American redress. Wherever she was — Washington, Los Angeles or Boise — that's where redress was.

Grayce was a charismatic leader — always upbeat, even cheerful — but she spoke in plain words. Thanks to Grayce in Washington's JACL office, all the redress trains ran on time.

She made sure that everyone — including Nikkei members of Congress — did what they were supposed to do when they were supposed to do it.

There absolutely would have been no redress without her and the trust that our community had in her. All of us knew that Grayce was totally *issho kenmai* — Japanese for "all in, full throttle and nonstop."

Two stories about Grayce. It was the summer of 1985, and I was a month late producing a 700-word strategy paper for LEC, the lobbying arm of JACL. Grayce called me in New York and said, "Why not come down to Philadelphia for a day? Maybe a change of scene will help."

The Uyeharas picked me up at the train station about 3 o'clock in the afternoon. When we got to their house around 4, Grayce showed me the guest room that had a desk, a typewriter and some paper. Before she shut the door, she said, "If you expect to have dinner, don't come out until you're finished." I emerged at 7:30 and had a nice dinner.

As for Grayce, our moral leader. We needed one because what we had was not just the politics of exclusion and imprisonment, but an innocent people against an immoral government. I think Grayce's sense of the moral — how we should live — drew much from her Japanese heritage.

In 1985, at the JACL National Convention in Chicago, I was 43 years, and felt that I had no more to learn about how to live life. I was wrong.

After the fierce mud-wrestling at the Convention, all of the so-called Redress faction candidates were elected over all of the so-called Japan Trade faction candidates, except one.

The Sansei man who lost was utterly humiliated. He, Grayce and I were standing by a hotel elevator after the votes were counted. The Sansei said he was not going to the Sayonara closing event, but was going to his room and staying there. Grayce said, "Yes, go up to your room. Then shower, shave, put on a suit and tie and come back down here. You're going to the dinner. I will sit with you. And then you will stay for the dance."

The Sansei came back down, and we went to the dinner. Two hours later, he was dancing and laughing like everybody else in the ballroom.

Grayce taught both of us middle-aged men how to live when you are defeated. I learned from her in Chicago, but have yet to live up to the standards that ordered her life.

I will miss you Grayce and Hiro. Thank you for everything.

— Grant Ujifusa

PLACE A TRIBUTE
'In Memoriam' is a free listing that appears on a limited, space-available basis. **Tributes** honor your loved ones with text and photos and appear in a timely manner at the rate of $20/column inch.
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REIMAGINE EVERYTHING

AARP FOUNDATION TAX-AIDE AVAILABLE NOW THROUGH APRIL 15

By Ron Mori

The 2018 tax season is upon us, and all of us are in store for some surprises based on the new tax code changes that were passed last year. In the case of my mother, she's fairly stress-free after making her free appointment to meet with an AARP Foundation Tax-Aide program volunteer next week.

From now through April 15, AARP Foundation is providing free tax assistance and preparation through its Tax-Aide program *(https://www.aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp_taxaide/)*. AARP Foundation Tax-Aide is the nation's largest free tax assistance and preparation service. Since its inception, the program has served more than 68 million taxpayers.

Tax-Aide started in 1968 with just four volunteers working at one site. Today, nearly 35,000 volunteers serve low- to moderate-income taxpayers at almost 5,000 locations in neighborhood libraries, malls, banks, community centers and senior centers nationwide. There's no fee, and AARP membership is not required.

"AARP Foundation Tax-Aide provides free tax assistance to those who need it most," said AARP Foundation VP of Tax-Aide Lynnette Lee-Villanueva. "For over 50 years, Tax-Aide has provided help to millions of low- and moderate-income taxpayers. This worthwhile program helps older adults by building economic opportunity and enables them to preserve as much of their income as possible."

Tax-Aide volunteers are trained and IRS-certified each year to ensure they know about and understand the latest changes to the U.S. Tax Code. In 2018, the program's volunteers helped 2.5 million people navigate complicated tax codes, ensure proper credits and deductions, and file their federal and state tax returns.

Taxpayers who used Tax-Aide received $1.3 billion in income tax refunds and more than $212 million in Earned Income Tax Credits (EITCs). They also avoided tax preparation fees and pitches for high-interest tax credit or refund loans.

To find an AARP Foundation Tax-Aide site or more information, including which documents to bring to the tax site, visit or call (888) AARPNOW (227-7669). AARP Foundation Tax-Aide is offered in conjunction with the IRS. You can also visit the website at *https://www.aarp.org/money/taxes/aarp_taxaide/*.

Be Alert for Tax Scams

While we're on the topic of taxes: As a reminder to all *Pacific Citizen* readers, the IRS will not call and threaten arrest for taxes owed, and it certainly won't ask for a gift card as a form of payment. But scammers will to try and get your personal information. In a survey, AARP found that many consumers are woefully at risk for the onslaught of Internal Revenue Service scammers. Key findings include:

- IRS scammers keep calling until they land victims, with one in four respondents (25 percent) receiving a phony call from someone impersonating an IRS agent over the last year.
- Nearly four out of five respondents (79 percent) haven't ordered a free copy of their credit report in the past 12 months.
- The IRS does not email or text for your information, but more than a quarter of respondents (26 percent) incorrectly believe or are uncertain about whether the IRS can text or email requests for personal or financial information.

Criminals impersonating the IRS often make aggressive threats — of arrest, court action, confiscation of property or even deportation — unless they make immediate payment.

The AARP campaign advises consumers that legitimate IRS representatives do not:

- Call you to demand immediate payment.
- Call you about taxes owed ***without first having contacted you by mail.***
- Require you to use a specific payment method for your taxes, such as a gift card, prepaid debit card or ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone.
- Threaten to bring in local police or other law-enforcement groups to have you arrested for not paying.

For more information about the IRS scam and other tax-related frauds, visit *www.aarp.org/FraudWatchNetwork*. Consumers who think that they are being targeted by a scammer may call the AARP Fraud Helpline at (877) 908-3360 and speak with a volunteer trained in fraud counseling.

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

JALD » continued from page 4



PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE U.S.-JAPAN COUNCIL

JALD delegates look on as David Boone (JALD '17) gives a presentation.

The group will travel to Tokyo and Kumamoto from March 1-9, where they will meet with top business and government officials and participate in a symposium in Kumamoto City, co-sponsored by the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership, "Three Sectors, Three Approaches: Cities That Attract Youth."

Now in its 19th year, the trip provides an opportunity for Japanese American leaders to deepen their understanding of Japan and promotes the value of sustained people-to-people relationships as a critical factor in assuring the long-term success of U.S.-Japan relations.

According to the U.S.-Japan Council, delegations of Japanese American leaders from throughout the U.S. have visited Japan every year since 2002.

The Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, represented in the U.S. by the Embassy of Japan in Washington, D.C., and 17 consulate general offices, sponsors the program. The U.S.-Japan Council provides administration and support for the program.

Complete information on the JALD program as well as the biographies of this year's participants can be found online at http://www.usjapancouncil.org.

NCWNP » continued from page 4

Among JACL business covered at the meeting was the adoption of the District's 2019 budget, an update on the District Gala slated for April 6, the National Convention scheduled in July, JACL membership numbers and recruitment, the idea of creating a District Youth Council, the $1 Million Fundraising Campaign by National JACL and Memorial Day services, which the district co-sponsors each year with Nisei VFW Post #9879.

A special guest that afternoon was former Congressman Mike Honda, who addressed the District Council about a possible convention resolution to repeal the Alien Enemies Act of 1798. ■



Former Congressman Mike Honda *(left)* is pictured with French Camp delegate Bob Asano.

MANZANAR » continued from page 5

personal stories, share their own experiences and discuss the relevance of the concentration camp experience to present-day events and issues.

Further details about the pilgrimage and the Manzanar at Dusk program will be announced at a later date.

The Manzanar Committee has also announced that seats are already going fast for bus transportation to the Pilgrimage from Los Angeles' Little Tokyo.

The bus will depart at 7 a.m., arriving at the pilgrimage at approximately 11:30 a.m. It will also take participants to the Visitor Center at the Manzanar National Historic Site following the afternoon program. The bus should arrive back in Los Angeles at approximately 8:30 p.m.

Reservations for the Little Tokyo bus will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. The nonrefundable fare is $45 per seat, $30 for youth (17 years of age and younger). Complimentary fares are available for those who were incarcerated at any of the former American concentration camps or other confinement sites during World War II.

Anyone wishing to attend the Manzanar at Dusk program that evening should make other transportation arrangements.

Both the Manzanar Pilgrimage and the Manzanar at Dusk programs are free and open to the public. For more information, or to reserve a seat on the bus, call (323) 662-5102 or send an e-mail to *50thpilgrimage@manzanarcommittee.org*. ■