



# PACIFIC CITIZEN

Feb. 6-19, 2015

**THE NATIONAL  
NEWSPAPER OF  
THE JACL**



## Page 7

**Paul Kitagaki Jr.'s  
photo exhibit goes  
on display at the  
California Museum.**



## Page 8

**Protect Manzanar  
From Large-Scale  
Renewable Energy  
Development.**

## Page 6

# A FLORAL HOLIDAY

**Japanese American flower  
growers remain hopeful despite  
international competition.**

PHOTO: TIFFANY LUJIVE

# JACL's 2015 Legacy Fund Grants Program Now Under Way

**SAN FRANCISCO** — The 2015 Legacy Fund Grants Program is now underway announced the program's co-chairs, Janice Faden and Jane Katsuyama. All chapters in good standing, District Councils and the National Youth/Student Council are invited to submit applications for a Legacy Fund Grant.

Applications and application guidelines are available via the JACL website. Grants shall be awarded for projects and activities that support JACL's 2015-16 Program for Action, with a maximum award for a single grant request of \$3,000.

Completed applications are due April 8. Grant recipients will be announced at the 45th JACL National Convention in Las Vegas, Nev., which will be held July 13-15 at the Monte Carlo Resort & Casino.

Nine grants were awarded in 2014. Projects and activities that received funding included a Japanese Culture Activity Book by the NCWNP District Council, a Youth Delegate Campaign for the 2014 National Convention by the NY/SC, the Development of a Support Group for API LGBTQ Youth and Their Families by the Seattle JACL and "Russell Lee in the Pacific Northwest: Documenting Japanese American Farm Labor Camps" by the Snake River JACL. Those that received grants in 2014 included one District Council, chapters representing five of the seven districts and the NY/SC.

The application form has been developed to encourage innovative

planning and ensure follow-through. Crucial to this is the requirement of progress reports to the Legacy Funds Grants Committee on an ongoing basis, for the purpose of monitoring and publicizing all of the projects funded by a grant.

The Legacy Fund Grants Review Committee might consider the following attributes in evaluating each application: the relationship to the Program for Action, potential impact of the project/activity, capacity of the applicant to implement the project/activity, clarity of the stated goals and objectives, the budget and timeline and the presence of a unique or specialized program.

The Legacy Fund was established by the JACL National Council on June 20, 1990, at the JACL National Convention in San Diego. Monies were first donated to the fund by members who gave a portion of their redress awards to further the legacy of patriotism and hard-won civil rights that is central to the story of the Nikkei in America.

Investment earnings from the fund are used to support general operations, provide a return to chapters and districts in direct proportion to their original contribution to the fund, provide funding for a grants program and reinvest in the fund for future growth.

The goal of the program is to assist chapters, districts and the NY/SC in carrying out projects and activities that are in accordance with the National JACL Program for Action.

*For more information, contact Regional Director Patty Wada at [pwada@jacl.org](mailto:pwada@jacl.org).*

### HOW TO REACH US

Email: [pc@pacificcitizen.org](mailto:pc@pacificcitizen.org)  
Online: [www.pacificcitizen.org](http://www.pacificcitizen.org)  
Tel: (213) 620-1767  
Fax: (213) 620-1768  
Mail: 250 E. First St., Suite 301  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

### STAFF

Executive Editor  
Allison Haramoto

Assistant Editor  
Tiffany Ujiye

Business Manager  
Susan Yokoyama

Production Artist  
Marie Samonte

Circulation  
Eva Ting

The **Pacific Citizen** newspaper (ISSN: 0030-8579) is published semi-monthly (except once in December and January) by the Japanese American Citizens League, *Pacific Citizen*, 250 E. First St., Suite 301, Los Angeles, CA 90012. Periodical postage paid at L.A., CA. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to National JACL, 1765 Sutter St., San Francisco, CA 94115

**JACL President:** David Lin  
**National Director:** Priscilla Ouchida

### P.C. EDITORIAL BOARD

Carol Kawamoto, chairperson; Leona Hiraoka, EDC; Jody Mitori, MDC; Roberta Barton, CCDC; Jim Duff, NCWNPDC; Gabrielle Nomura, PNWDC; Gil Asakawa, IDC; John Saito Jr., PSWDC; Nicole Gaddie and Kota Mizutani, youth reps.

### SUBSCRIBE

Get a one-year subscription of the *Pacific Citizen* newspaper at: [www.pacificcitizen.org](http://www.pacificcitizen.org) or call (800) 966-6157

### ADVERTISE

To advertise in the *Pacific Citizen*, call (800) 966-6157 or e-mail: [pc@pacificcitizen.org](mailto:pc@pacificcitizen.org)

### LEGAL

No part of this publication may be reproduced without the express permission of the *Pacific Citizen*. Editorials, news and the opinions expressed by columnists other than the national JACL president or national director do not necessarily reflect JACL policy. Events and products advertised in the *Pacific Citizen* do not carry the implicit endorsement of the JACL or this publication. We reserve the right to edit articles. © 2015

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

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I howled out loud reading Gil Asakawa's article on "Growing Up With Stinky, Slimy, Altogether Wonderful Japanese Food" (*P.C.*, June 6-19, 2014).

And then I couldn't resist defrosting the *natto*, reheating leftover white rice, slicing a hunk of Japanese cucumber from my brother's garden, making *daikon oroshi* and for extra protein, tofu with grated ginger and shoyu, plus a martini! I tell you, it was a feast fit for a king!

Who else would remember but an old Nisei? BTW, I forgot the ubiquitous smelly *takuwan*.

How did the Japanese come up with all this strange and healthy eating?

How did the nutritious *natto* get invented? Did it happen from a bunch of forgotten beans?

Do you suppose I am upright and 91 because of the food I was fed?

Thank you for passing on this bit of wisdom to our younger generation.

Sincerely,

Kiyo Sato

### Your donations will help build and preserve a cohesive library of the *Pacific Citizen* to educate future generations

JACL member?  Y  N

Name .....

Address .....

City .....

State ..... Zip .....

Phone .....

Email .....

\$50  \$100  \$150  \$200  other \_\_\_\_\_



**Pacific Citizen**  
250 E. First St., Suite # 30  
Los Angeles, CA. 90012

FOR MORE INFORMATION:  
(800) 966-6157  
[www.pacificcitizen.org](http://www.pacificcitizen.org)

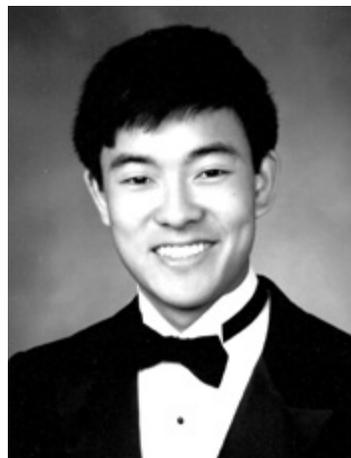


### JACL MEMBERS Change of Address

If you've moved, please send new information to:  
National JACL  
1765 Sutter St.  
San Francisco, CA  
94115  
Allow 6 weeks for address changes.

To avoid interruptions in delivery, please notify your postmaster to include periodicals in your change of address (USPS Form 3575)

## COMMENTARY



## OUTSIDE THE COURTROOM

By Kota Mizutani

*'It is important for us to study the Korematsu case, not only to understand its historical significance, but also to learn a lesson from it so that this sort of injustice will never occur again.'*

I still fondly remember crafting this ground-breaking conclusion to my middle school essay "The Korematsu Case: Lessons for Today." The winner of my local Sonoma County JACL Chapter's Day of Remembrance essay contest, I considered the piece to be profound academic scholarship. Indeed, the story of Fred Korematsu was, in the eyes of my 13-year-old self, a brand-new history.

As a new JACL member with limited background knowledge on the incarceration, researching the Korematsu case was exhilarating. I was absolutely inspired by the legendary group of individuals who, though betrayed by the highest arena of our judicial system, eventually rose again to demand an apology for an injustice committed decades before.

Until high school, even as I further explored my Japanese American identity, I believed I had learned from Fred Korematsu's story everything that there was to learn. As I moved through the rest of my compulsory education, I shared my newfound knowledge in nearly every history class, wrote more "scholarly" essays and speeches and devoured Asian American history literature, museum exhibits and documentaries.

My JACL involvement also increased as a youth representative for the Sonoma County Chapter and regular National Convention attendee. Foolishly, I thought I understood civil rights, but Fred Korematsu had far more than one lesson in store for me. Indeed, I was yet to realize who exactly Fred Korematsu was as a person outside the courtroom.

By the time I left California for Brown University, my understanding of Japanese American history was exponentially more sophisticated than when I wrote "The Korematsu Case: Lessons for Today."

Thus, when I was given the extraordinary opportunity to work for Karen Korematsu as an intern at the Fred T. Korematsu Institute this past summer, a re-examination of Fred's struggle was inevitable.

As I assisted Karen with presentations, research and outreach campaigns, I began to understand a much different side of Fred Korematsu. I realized that, despite deep criticism from inside and outside his own community, Fred Korematsu was never one to aggressively combat those who actively did not support him. This is an extraordinary characteristic.

Indeed, deep-seated tensions arising from World War II, which devastated countless lives in incalculable ways, still influence international and domestic politics. Similarly, the ways in which people have fought for justice since then vary, but in Fred Korematsu's case, this cool-headed personality illustrates his simple desire to do only what he believed was right. In other words, there was one simple, yet steadfast, cause that Fred Korematsu not only strove for but also tried to shield from the opposing voices around him.

Korematsu's imperturbability came to mind especially after my summer internship at the institute.

In November of last year, Emi Kamemoto and I, both serving on the National Youth/Student Council, organized a youth summit in Washington, D.C., titled "A Seat at the Table."

The summit focused on encouraging solidarity amongst communities of color, especially from the perspective of the Asian American community. In light of the injustices in Ferguson, Mo., we hoped to re-emphasize the importance of supporting other minority communities facing oppression.

The most memorable obstacle to solidarity that we identified during our discussions and panel was that past conflicts and disagreements have discouraged different minority organizations from supporting each other.

>> See **COURTROOM** on page 12

## MY COUNTRY

## RULES OF ENGAGEMENT: BUILD CULTURALLY COMPETENT NETWORKS BY SPEAKING UP

By Rhianna Taniguchi



NO MOTHER SHOULD HAVE TO FEAR FOR HER SON'S LIFE EVERY TIME HE ROBS A STORE," read a sign being held up by a young African American male during the recent Ferguson protests in a photo that quickly gained attention online. This picture, however, was a fake.

The Photoshopped image emerged online and quickly received attention on social media websites and online forums.

The first time I saw the image was when a close family friend posted it along with his frustration as a police officer. Confused, I quickly researched the origin of the image. The original sign read, "No mother should have to fear for her son's life every time he leaves home." And although I informed him that this was an altered image, he remained stuck on a stereotype of African Americans and continued to express his frustration.

Online interactions have become more and more confusing. Facebook allows us to share ideas quickly, but online etiquette is unclear and difficult to navigate. Especially when dealing with people you care about, it is difficult to defend your stance or challenge another's online. Online arguments can become public battles and have lasting consequences.

When volunteering for Planned Parenthood's advocacy team or sharing information about controversial women's health topics, I am constantly aware of how people are perceiving me. I know that not everyone in my social circles will agree with my beliefs, but I feel that I should be able to share my

thoughts regardless.

This year, I have had many debates via social media. These conflicts usually arise from political stances that myself or friends and family in my network have taken publicly through Facebook.

I posted an article about immigration reform in November and was quickly informed by a close family friend that the "illegals" did not belong. This quickly escalated to a heated and public discussion. With empathy and *aloha*, I expressed why I believed that no human is "illegal" and addressed other misconceptions that were brought up. Using the method below, I was able to continue an important relationship with someone I care about.

### How to Respond to Conflict on Social Media:

1. Remain **poised** — Never use curse words, say things you'll regret or damage your own reputation. You are a reflection of your cause, and words are hard to retract.
2. Be **gracious** — If someone does not understand your point of view, that means you may also be seeing only 50 percent of the picture. Recognize that your view is not absolute or perfect, just different.
3. Be **personal** — It's O.K. to use what you know about a person or your relationship with him or her to make a point. Using the other person's religion, culture or even his or her relationship with you is fair game if it helps that person understand where you're coming from in a respectful way.

>> See **RULES** on page 12

### Polaris Tours 2015 Schedule

|                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| Apr. 02 ~ Apr. 11 | Spring Japan: "Hiroshima, Miyajima, Kyoto, Inuyama, Hakone, Tokyo"         |
| Apr. 07 ~ Apr. 21 | Australia & New Zealand: "Carins, Sydney, Christchurch, Queenstown"        |
| Apr. 30 ~ May. 12 | South Korea (East Coast): "Seoul, Jeju, Busan, Gyeongju, Seorak"           |
| May. 06 ~ May. 19 | Bikkuri Finale Tour with Ken: "Off the Beaten Track in Kyushu"             |
| May. 28 ~ Jun. 06 | The Best of Hawaiian Islands: "Oahu, Maui, Big Island"                     |
| Jun. 05 ~ Jun. 14 | Scenic Norway: "Oslo, Lillehammer, Loen, Stalheim, Bergen, Telemark"       |
| Jul. 12 ~ Jul. 21 | Japan By Train: "Hiroshima, Kurashiki, Okayama, Kyoto, Tokyo"              |
| Sep. 17 ~ Sep. 26 | Pacific Coast: "Seattle, Portland, Newport, Gold Beach, San Francisco"     |
| Oct. 04 ~ Oct. 14 | Let's Go Hokkaido: "Sapporo, Sounkyo, Shiretoko, Tomamu, Toyako"           |
| Oct. 08 ~ Oct. 19 | Jewels of Morocco: "Casablanca, Fez, Erfoud, Ouarzazate, Marrakesh"        |
| Oct. 18 ~ Oct. 27 | Autumn Japan: "Hiroshima, Kyoto, Kanazawa, Takayama, Tokyo"                |
| Oct. 19 ~ Nov. 01 | Italy: "Rome, Pisa, Florence, Milan, Venice, Capri, Amalfi Coast, Pompeii" |
| Oct. 22 ~ Nov. 02 | South Korea (West Coast): "Jeonju, Yeosu, Gwangju, Boseong, Jeju"          |
| Nov. 01 ~ Nov. 11 | Islands of Okinawa & Shikoku: "Naha, Takamatsu, Matsuyama, Kochi"          |
| Nov. 30 ~ Dec. 10 | South America Escape: "Rio de Janeiro, Iguassu Falls, Buenos Aires"        |

 PolarisTours

24 Union Square, Suite. 506 Union City, CA  
94587  
Toll Free: (800) 858-2882  
www.tourpolaris.com



(From left) Junji Sarashina, JANM's Greg Kimura, Bob Miyasaki and Tohru Isobe at the donation ceremony at the Japanese American National Museum

## Remaining Korean War MIS Veteran Group Funds Donated to JANM

The Korean War Military Intelligence Security (MIS) Veterans presented its remaining \$510 reunion funds to the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles on Jan. 26. MIS representatives Bob Miyasaki, Tohru Isobe and Junji Sarashina formally handed the MIS Reunion Groups check to JANM President Greg Kimura.

After 16 years of reunions, the MIS Veterans Group decided last November to discontinue its annual luncheons due to a decrease in attendees and voted to donate the remaining funds to JANM.

"It'll be for a good cause," Miyasaki said at the last reunion. "Not many of us are still

around and no one left to continue these reunions. I think it's best."

Like Miyasaki, Sarashina and Isobe, thousands of Japanese American linguists served during the Korean War as interrogators, translators, message interceptors and interpreters throughout the Armed Forces. It was at these reunions like he and others were able to reconnect with old colleagues, fellow veterans and lifetime friends.

Miyasaki believed that Kimura "was very pleased with the donation, and we had a good time discussing various subjects on veteran affairs."

— P.C. Staff

400,000+

Visitors to Delphine Hirasuna's *Art of Gaman* exhibit tour, co-sponsored by JACL

\$67,500

Awarded in scholarships to select undergraduate and graduate students in 2014

435

Members of Congress researched in collaboration with 10 leading civil rights organizations to create the 2014 National Immigration Scorecard

115

Congressional offices visited to advocate for Japanese American Confinement Sites program, voting rights, and repeal of indefinite detention without due process

85

Youth sent to Japan in 2014 on *Kakehashi* program to study Japanese history and culture, meet political leaders, and witness Fukushima recovery efforts

4

Youth summits organized around the nation in 2014 to discuss emerging stereotypes, interact with civil rights leaders, and strategize for social action

1

Exhibit at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History secured for 2017, covering EO9066, Internment, Nisei veterans, and Redress

## WANT MORE?

### GIVE A GIFT TO THE JACL\*

Visit [www.jacl.org/give](http://www.jacl.org/give)

or call 415-921-5225

\* We may have something for you, too. Supporters contributing \$250 or more will receive a "Year of the Sheep" T-shirt. Contributions of \$500 or more will get you an innovative "tip and brew" tea cup and tea leaf blend customized to your generation (*Issei, Nisei, Sansei, Yonsei, or Gosei*). We will honor gifts of \$1,000 or more with a Sakura Bark Cast Iron Teapot. All items will be ordered through the Japanese American National Museum online store. We reserve the right to substitute if the above items are unavailable. All donations to the JACL are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law. *Let's do more.*

**JACL**  
Japanese American Citizens League

## APAs in the News

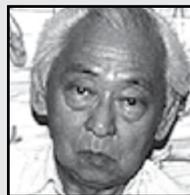


### Roberta Hayashi Appointed to Santa Clara County Superior Court

**SACRAMENTO** — Gov. Jerry Brown announced in December the appointment of Roberta Hayashi to a judgeship in the Santa Clara County Superior Court.

Hayashi, 56, of Los Gatos, has been head of the employment law practice and a litigation partner at Berliner Cohen Attorneys at Law since 2006.

She earned her juris doctor degree from the University of California, Davis, School of Law and a bachelor of arts degree from Stanford University. She fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Rene Navarro.



### Tohru Isobe Tapped to Head Up the Japanese American Korean War Veterans

**LOS ANGELES** — Tohru Isobe has been named president of the Japanese American Korean War Veterans. He previously served as the organization's president from 2007-08.

Isobe, who served in the Korean War in the Military Intelligence Service, succeeds Bacon Sakatani.

The organization was instituted in 1997 and today consists of more than 500 members from all across the U.S. Isobe assumed his position at an installation luncheon and reception in Gardena, Calif., on Jan. 17.



### Director Cary Joji Fukunaga Receives Directors Guild Nomination

**LOS ANGELES** — Cary Joji Fukunaga has been nominated for a Directors Guild of America honor, which will be presented Feb. 7 at the Hyatt Regency Century Plaza in Century City.

Fukunaga is nominated for helming an episode of HBO's "True Detective." In 2014, he won an Emmy and was nominated for a Producers Guild of America award for work in the series.

In addition to "True Detective," Fukunaga has also helmed the 2009 film "Sin Nombre" and 2011's "Jane Eyre."



### Judge Douglas J. Hatchimonji Is Named Judge of the Year in Orange County

**COSTA MESA** — Judge Douglas J. Hatchimonji was named the Honorable James P. Gray Judge of the Year by the Constitutional Rights Foundation of Orange County at its annual benefit in November.

Hatchimonji currently serves as supervising judge of the Harbor Justice Center of the Superior Court of California, County of Orange. Prior to his appointment to this position, he served in the Orange County Juvenile Court for five years.

The CRFOC is a nonprofit, nonpartisan education organization dedicated to empowering Orange County youth to be active, responsible citizens. It has been operating since 1981.



NASA held its annual Day of Remembrance during a wreath-laying ceremony on Jan. 28 at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va. The event paid tribute to members of the NASA family who lost their lives while furthering the cause of exploration and discovery. Pictured is the Space Shuttle Challenger Memorial. The Challenger exploded shortly after liftoff on Jan. 28, 1986, killing Astronaut Ellison S. Onizuka and six crewmates.

# JACL Urges Supreme Court to Uphold Disparate Impact Claims Under Fair Housing Act

WASHINGTON — The JACL is urging the U.S. Supreme Court to uphold a key anti-discrimination standard within the Fair Housing Act.

The Supreme Court heard arguments Jan. 21 in *Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs v. The Inclusive Communities Project Inc.* in order to decide whether disparate impact claims are allowable under the Fair Housing Act.

A cornerstone of U.S. civil rights legislation, the Fair Housing Act of 1968 prohibits discrimination in the sale and rental of housing and in mortgage lending on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status or handicap. The disparate impact theory prohibits laws or policies that may not be openly discriminatory in wording or intent but that have an unjustified adverse impact on members of the previously listed protected classes.

JACL Executive Director Priscilla Ouchida issued the following statement: "The loss of the disparate impact standard in the Fair Housing Act would be a huge blow to the civil rights of all Americans seeking equal housing opportunities. In contrast to the more overt offenses of the past, discrimination is now largely the result of neutral-sounding rules and policies. The disparate impact standard is a critically important and widely accepted safeguard that protects Americans against these instances of de-

facto discrimination.

"By finding that individuals cannot bring disparate impact claims under the Fair Housing Act, the Supreme Court is effectively opening the door to the kind of racist, sexist and prejudiced housing policies that this act intended to eliminate."

In the Supreme Court case, the Inclusive Communities Project is alleging that the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs disproportionately approved federal housing tax credits in minority-concentrated neighborhoods and disapproved them in predominately Caucasian areas, thereby causing a concentration of low-cost housing in minority areas and perpetuating segregated housing patterns in Dallas.

Specifically, ICP argued that this discriminatory effect constituted a violation of the Fair Housing Act under the disparate impact theory. Amicus curiae briefs in support of ICP and the applicability of the disparate impact theory under the Fair Housing Act have also been filed by the U.S. Solicitor General, current and former members of Congress and organizations including the ACLU and NAACP Legal Defense Fund.

JACL has a long history of supporting civil rights initiatives in the court system, fighting to desegregate public schools in *Brown v. Board of Education* and working to end laws prohibiting interracial marriage in *Loving v. Virginia*. ■

## 'CONFINEMENT IN THE LAND OF ENCHANTMENT'

JACL's New Mexico Chapter Works to Educate the Public on the History of Japanese Americans in the State During WWII.

The New Mexico chapter of the JACL, in conjunction with Colorado State University's Public Lands History Center, is undertaking a project to help share the history of Japanese Americans in New Mexico during World War II. The project is funded in part through a \$189,864 grant from the National Park Service's Japanese American Confinement Sites program.

The education and outreach project, titled "Confinement in the Land of Enchantment: Japanese Americans in New Mexico during WWII," aims to reach a wide audience of New Mexicans to provide information about Japanese American confinement sites in the state and inspire thought and conversation about issues of citizenship,

identity and civil liberty.

The project will focus on the stories of the confinement sites that were located at Santa Fe, Ft. Stanton, Old Raton Ranch and Camp Lordsburg.

In addition to telling the histories of detainees held at each of these facilities, the project will examine how the surrounding communities interacted with these camps. Stories of how various communities across New Mexico treated their Japanese and Japanese American community members will also be explored.

The project will produce historic markers at Ft. Stanton, Old Raton Ranch and Camp Lordsburg, as well as an outreach publication to be distributed to libraries and schools in New Mexico, as well as web pages hosted by the New Mexico Office of the State Historian.

To ensure that the project is as complete as possible, the New Mexico chapter is asking for the help of anyone who might be able to contribute to the project through sharing research materials/oral histories related to the New Mexican confinement sites, financial support or additional ways of publicizing the project.

The JACS grant requires matching funds in the amount of \$94,932.

*For additional information or to find out how to assist in this project, please contact Sarah Payne at sarah.payne@colostate.edu or call (970) 491-6840.*

## Taiko Concert to Benefit Pilgrimage to Minidoka Incarceration Camp in Idaho

SEATTLE — The Minidoka Pilgrimage and Seattle University are proud to present the Day of Remembrance 2015 Taiko Concert on Feb. 15.

The concert will feature performances by several renowned taiko groups from the Seattle area. Taiko refers to a traditional Japanese form of percussion using large barrel-shaped drums, dynamic playing styles and choreographed movements.

A free exhibit in the Paccar Atrium, located directly outside the auditorium, will include displays about the Minidoka Pilgrimage, Seattle University, National Park Service and Minidoka National Historic Site, as well as the Seattle Nisei Veterans Committee/NVC Foundation.

Raffle ticket sales and a general store will also be in the atrium to help support the work of the Minidoka Pilgrimage.

The concert will benefit the 13th annual Minidoka Pilgrimage from Seattle, Portland and across the nation to the Minidoka Incarceration Camp in southern Idaho. Minidoka was one of 10 camps where Japanese Ameri-



cans were imprisoned during World War II. Today, it is a unit of the National Park System and is developing into an educational site about civil liberties.

The pilgrimage brings together former incarcerated, their families and friends and those interested in learning more about the mass incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II. It also offers attendees the unique opportunity to hear and learn directly from those who experienced it firsthand.

The Day of Remembrance Marks the 73rd anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, which led to the mass incarceration. The day commemorates the injustices, race prejudice and hardships of the 120,000 Japanese Americans who were imprisoned in the American concentration camps during WWII.

*For more details on the exhibit and to purchase concert tickets, visit <http://dayoffremembrancetaiko2015.bpt.me/>. For questions, visit [minidokapilgrimage@gmail.com](mailto:minidokapilgrimage@gmail.com) or call (206) 296-6260.*

## Double Your Tax Return

Rates are as low as 6.5%\*

Pay off bills!

Take that well deserved vacation!

Pay off higher rate loans!

Consolidate debt!

## Double Your Tax Return

Deposit your tax return and we will give you a loan for twice the amount\*\*. You can pay off bills, consolidate debt, or buy that new item you've been looking at.

After you pay off your loan, you still have money from your tax return in your savings account!

\*On approved credit. Offer ends 7/31/14

\*\*Up to \$5,000 maximum on loan

Call today to get your loan or for more information.



801-424-5225 800-544-8828  
www.jaclcu.com



National JACL  
Credit Union

# AN URBAN JUNGLE ON VALENTINE'S DAY

The Los Angeles Flower Market faces international flower imports and a decrease in Japanese Americans but remains positive in market success.

By Tiffany Ujiye  
Assistant Editor

During the 1960s in Downtown Los Angeles, crowds of florists, restaurant and hotel businessmen and women along with the discreet faces of the general public huddled on Wall Street at the entrance of the Southern California Flower Market, an establishment founded by Japanese immigrants in 1912. They waited for the ropes to drop, and by 6 a.m., the buildings were empty jungles, with moving carts of peonies, ferns and chrysanthemums rolling out the doors. Every year during Valentine's Day, wholesalers and growers inside would anticipate the hustle and flurry that came during this time. Today, Valentine's Day will come with a hush compared to the past rose-themed days of yesteryear.

"It's unfortunate," described Scott Yamabe, current Flower Market executive vice president. "We used to have the largest population of Japanese American rose growers, and as time goes on, we lose them."

The Los Angeles Flower Market, now 103 years old, was and still is the center of flower sales in Southern California.

"This is the hub," Yamabe explains. "It's the only game in town for flowers. We're not going anywhere."

Flower growers then and now travel with their crop before dawn to Downtown Los Angeles each day, sometimes leaving their homes from cities like Santa Barbara as early as midnight to reach Wall Street by 2 a.m.

"Valentine's Day is busy no doubt," current Flower Market President Greg Endow explains about the floral holiday. Four generations of the Endow family hail from Carpinteria, Calif., with decades of floral holidays behind them, but, added Endow, "We actually don't sell roses anymore. I don't think that there are any Japanese Ameri-



(Above) Los Angeles Flower Market President Greg Endow is a fourth-generation grower and distributor from Carpinteria, Calif., traveling 90 miles for his commute to Downtown Los Angeles. While Endow no longer grows roses, Valentine's Day is still a busy holiday for him and other nurseries.

can nurseries growing roses — at least in Southern California. There aren't that many of us to begin with." Endow estimates that there are no more than seven Japanese American families at the Flower Market doing business today.

Over the past several years, roses and other floral shipments from Mexico, South America and Thailand, as well as other parts of the world, have made their way onto store shelves in big-name retailers such as Costco, Sam's Club and Walmart, in addition to supermarket chains and floral shops thanks to free trade, making a dozen roses affordable at around \$20 or less.

According to the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service, places like Colombia grew 20,000 acres of flowers and exported \$1.34 billion worth of flowers in 2014, with roses coming in as the top seller at \$365 million. In a January article by the *Oregonian*, during times like Valentine's Day, close to 30-35 fully loaded cargo planes take off from Colombia and land in Miami with flowers each day. Once in Miami, the shipment is distributed throughout the United States.

"They're an expensive crop," Endow says. "Unfortunately, it makes sense for wholesaler to purchase from off-shore growers, but we still have our usual sales during this time of year, too."

In 1964, the U.S. had roughly 22,000 retail florists and handled \$1 billion in sales with the Los Angeles Floral Market, the center for West Coast growers. It was in those days Japanese American growers remember the crowds huddled behind the ropes outside the Flower Market, making floral holidays like Valentine's Day especially busy in both volumes of crops prepared and man hours needed.

The Flower Market's success made it one of the most-capitalized Japanese American industries after World War II, attracting Nisei leaders in the JACL. In 1951, a \$1,000 loan was made to the JACL from the Flower Market,



Inside the Kitayama Brother's Gerbera Daisy greenhouse is grower Jimmy Zheng. Once a year, Kitayama Brothers hosts an Open House, allowing the public to walk through its greenhouses and property grounds.



Most of the roses found at the Los Angeles Flower Market come from international growers in South America, Mexico and overseas. Despite such a competitive market, Japanese American growers and nurseries continue to experience an increase in business during Valentine's Day and Mother's Day.



PHOTO: COURTESY OF KITAYAMA BROTHERS

(From left) Scott, Stuart, David, Dennis, Robert and Ted Kitayama continue the family floral business in Watsonville, Calif.

allowing the organization to move its headquarters from Salt Lake City, Utah, to San Francisco, where it still is today. While the loan from the Flower Market covered only one-sixth of the total relocation costs, more dollars were donated to support various JACL causes throughout the years, according to author Naomi

Hirahara's "A Scent of Flowers: The History of the Southern California Flower Market 1912-2004."

To say those were the glory days wouldn't be entirely true either.

"The floral industry is still alive — don't get me wrong," said Robert Kitayama of Kitayama Brothers, located in

Watsonville, Calif. "It's not as if people aren't buying flowers anymore. We continue to ship to Chicago and even New York."

Kitayama Brothers has already sold out of Gerberas, Lisianthus, Starfighters, Pink Orientals and Snapdragons, with a dwindling stock of tulips this year thanks to Valentine's Day. The nursery experiences anywhere from 1.5-2 times its usual business during this floral holiday, but not a single rose. In the late 1970s, Kitayama Brothers was the largest grower in the U.S., sitting on 5 million square feet of land, producing roses of all things.

"Hindsight is 20/20," Kitayama admitted on the company's blog in the weeks before Valentine's Day. "We probably should've grown a bit more."

However, Kitayama, like Endow and Yamabe, recognizes the dwindling number of Japanese American growers. "With almost 90 percent of flowers coming in from overseas, South America and Mexico, it makes business competitive," Kitayama said. "But what's more unfortunate is that there aren't many of us left. I love what I do — growing flowers in the most beautiful place, but for how much longer? It's hard to say."

*The dates and times listed are for Valentine's Day 2015. Flower Market doors open to the general public at 6 a.m. on Monday, Feb. 9; Wednesday, Feb. 11; Friday, Feb. 13; Saturday, Feb. 14; and 8 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 10, and Thursday, Feb. 12. Admission is \$2. The Flower Market is located at 754 Wall St. in Los Angeles. Visit [www.originallflowermarket.com](http://www.originallflowermarket.com) or call (213) 627-3696 for more information.*

## 'GAMBATTE! LEGACY OF AN ENDURING SPIRIT' Opens in Sacramento

A new exhibit featuring historic photographs by Dorothea Lange and contemporary images by photojournalist Paul Kitagaki Jr. reveals a generation's triumph over their incarceration during World War II.



A historic photograph of Helene Nakamoto (left) and Mary Ann Yahiro reciting the Pledge of Allegiance at their San Francisco elementary school before their relocation to the Topaz Internment Camp. The photo was taken in 1942 by Dorothea Lange, National Archives and Records Administration.

**G**ambatte! Legacy of an Enduring Spirit," which features historic images by U.S. War Relocation Authority staff photographers including Dorothea Lange and contemporary images by photojournalist Paul Kitagaki Jr., runs through May 3 at the California Museum in Sacramento, Calif.

A visual exploration of the Japanese concept of *gambatte* or "to triumph over adversity," the exhibit — sponsored by the Japanese American Citizens League's Northern California Time of Remembrance Committee, the *Sacramento Bee* and Tanforan Assembly Center Memorial Committee — chronicles the legacy of Japanese Americans during World War II through a display of past and present images from an often overlooked chapter of U.S. history.

"It's important to bring light to this experience in American history," explained Brenna Hamilton, communications and marketing director for the California Museum. "The internment story is powerful and extremely loving, showing the strength, resilience and perseverance of Japanese Americans during this awful event."

Since 2000, the California Museum has made an effort to educate the public and inform visitors about the internment of Japanese Americans with the "Uprooted! Japanese

Americans During World War II" exhibit and the "Time of Remembrance" annual learning program.

Following the bombing of Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, more than 120,000 Japanese Americans residing on the West Coast, two-thirds of whom were American by birth, were forced to leave their homes and incarcerated at one of 10 War Relocation Centers located in isolated areas under Executive Order 9066. Issued by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on Feb. 19, 1942, the order deemed California, Oregon, Washington and Arizona a military zone and gave the U.S. War Relocation Authority jurisdiction over people of Japanese ancestry living in these states.

During the WRA's existence from 1942-46, the agency maintained records of its work through reports and photographs taken by Lange, Tom Parker and other professional photographers commissioned to document the daily life and treatment of Japanese Americans during their incarceration through images.

Lange found herself at odds with her employer due to issues of racism and civil rights raised by the assignment. Her work juxtaposed signs of courage and determination with evidence of the indignities of incarceration, and as a result, many of her photographs were censored by

the federal government. It was not until 1972, when the Whitney Museum of American Art first displayed 27 of her images in an exhibit on Japanese American internment titled "Executive Order 9066," that her work became widely known and began to serve as a public record of Japanese Americans' internment during WWII.

In the late 1970s, Kitagaki was beginning his career as a photojournalist in San Francisco when he learned that Lange had photographed his family in 1942 while they awaited a relocation bus in Oakland, Calif. While researching Lange's work to locate images of his relatives, his interest in the effects of Executive Order 9066 led him to begin researching other individuals captured in WRA photographs and how their incarceration during WWII changed their lives.

"I wanted to put a name to the impersonal ID tags that were given to them. It dehumanized them," said Kitagaki. "Many still don't know about the forced removal of Japanese and Japanese Americans and I wanted to know what happened to those nameless people and investigate how Executive Order 9066 changed their lives and the generations that followed."

**>> See GAMBATTE on page 12**

# PROTECTING THE VIEWSHED OF MANZANAR

The Manzanar Committee renews its call on Inyo County to protect Manzanar and the Owens Valley from large-scale renewable energy development.

**LOS ANGELES** — The Manzanar Committee on Feb. 3 reiterated its opposition to any large-scale industrial renewable energy development in the Owens Valley, especially that which would intrude upon the viewshed of the Manzanar National Historic Site. Further, the committee renewed its call on the Inyo County Board of Supervisors to protect Manzanar and the Owens Valley from such development in perpetuity in their final Programmatic Environmental Impact Report for the county's Renewable Energy General Plan Amendment.

The REGPA, which is in the hands of the county's Board of Supervisors for final approval of its PEIR, defines Solar Energy Development Areas where large-scale renewable energy generating facilities could be built in Inyo County.

With Manzanar and the Owens Valley already facing a serious threat from the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's proposed Southern Owens Valley Solar Ranch, a 1,200-acre solar energy generating facility that would be built adjacent to Manzanar, Inyo County appears to be favoring opening the door to additional industrial solar energy development in the vicinity.

It should be noted that because LADWP is a governmental agency, Inyo County has no authority over them regarding the SOVSR. That would allow LADWP to build the SOVSR without the county having a say in the matter.

As such, the county's plan could, conceivably, open the door to additional industrial solar energy facilities in the Owens Valley, completely destroying Manzanar's viewshed.

Although county officials noted the impact that the Manzanar National Historic Site has on Inyo County in the draft PEIR, the document includes a glaring contradiction.

"Manzanar attracts tens of thousands of visitors each year," said Manzanar Committee Co-Chair Bruce Embrey. "Manzanar stands out. Its buildings and reconstructed guard tower are fully visible from U.S. Highway 395, unobstructed by any natural or artificial barriers.

"This, as we have noted previously, and the authors of the draft PEIR reference, provides visitors a '... sense of isolation that was part of the psychological warfare perpetuated by the U.S. Government,'" Embrey continued. "While this is indisputable, the report effectively contradicts itself by stating '... [the] focus of visitors of the national historic site is generally inward and on the facilities within the site rather than on the surrounding areas and visual landscape.'"

Embrey expressed the Manzanar Committee's outrage.

"Not only does this opinion or assertion bear no resemblance to reality, but it also doesn't reflect, in any way, the oral or written comments received by Inyo County during the REGPA process," Embrey stated. "No one from the Manzanar Committee, the Manzanar NHS or the general public stated that at any point in this process.

"Given that," he continued, "and with no source provided, we can only assume this is the opinion of the county officials/staff who authored the document or of those who may have instructed staff to include it in the draft PEIR."

Embrey reiterated that the issue is the location, not renewable energy.

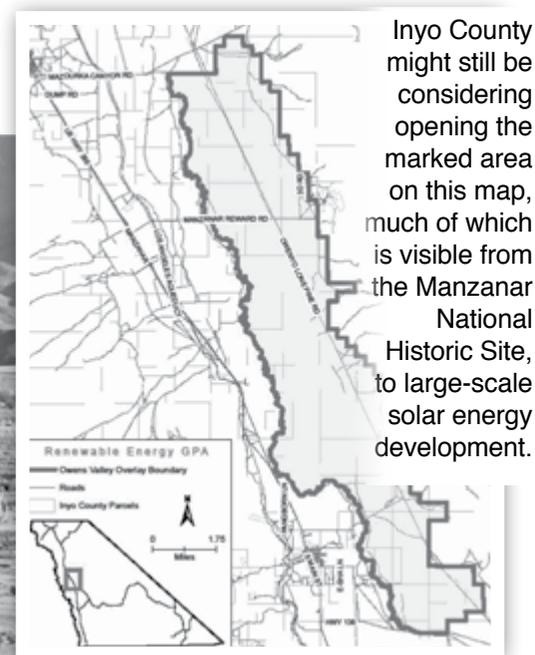
"We've stated many times that we are not opposed to solar energy or other renewable energy sources," he said. "But the Owens Valley is the wrong place for such development, especially when other options exist. Centralized industrial solar facilities are not a wise use of resources.

"Centralized solar farms are less efficient and more expensive than distributed, rooftop solar systems," Embrey added. "As we've stated in the past, we stand with the Big Pine Palute Tribe, the Bishop Palute Tribe, the Fort Independence Indian Community of Palute Indians, the Lone Pine Palute-Shoshone Tribe, the Owens Valley Committee and others in Inyo County in their demand that the Inyo County Board of Supervisors truly represent their constituents when they consider the REGPA. That includes protecting the Manzanar National Historic Site from intrusions into its viewshed."

*For reference, the Manzanar Committee's full comments on the draft PEIR that were submitted to Inyo County are available at <http://blog.manzanarcommittee.org/2015/02/03/inyopeircomments>.*



A view looking east from the visitor's center at Manzanar National Historic Site. The floor of the Owens Valley, along with the Inyo Mountains in the background, are visible. But this view could be destroyed by a massive solar energy generating station, proposed by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.



Inyo County might still be considering opening the marked area on this map, much of which is visible from the Manzanar National Historic Site, to large-scale solar energy development.

PHOTO: NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## AMERICAN HOLIDAY TRAVEL

312 E. 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Suite 330 \* Los Angeles, CA 90012 \* TEL: (213)625-2232 \* E-MAIL: americanholiday@att.net

### 2015 TOUR SCHEDULE

- Discover Dubai Holiday Tour (Carol Hida) . . . . . Feb 17-25  
Fort Al Fahidi & Museum, Gold & Spice Market, Burj Khalifa-world's tallest building, Grand Mosque, Sharjah & Desert Safari  
Experience, Bedouin Campsite.
- Northern Lights Holiday Tour (**Postponed to 2016**). . . . . March  
Anchorage, Fairbanks, Chena Onsen-Hot Springs, Aurora Borealis.
- Japan Spring Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida). . . . . April 9-19  
Tokyo, Sado Island, Kanazawa, Amanohashidate, Tottori, Matsue, Tamatsukuri Onsen, Hiroshima. Option to Kyoto.
- Italy Holiday Tour (Elaine Ishida) . . . . . April 22-May 1  
Rome, Assisi, Perugia, Siena, Florence, Venice, Lake District, Lugano, Milan.
- South America Japanese Heritage Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida). . . . . May 7-17  
Argentina – Buenos Aires; Brazil – Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo, Iguassu Falls. Meet with local Japanese for dinner.  
Option: Peru – Lima, Cuzco, Machu Picchu.
- East Coast Island Getaway Tour (Carol Hida) . . . . . May 11-16  
Mohegan Sun Resort & Casino, Mystic Seaport Village, Rhode Island, New York City, Hamptons, Long Island.
- Alaska Holiday Cruise (Carol Hida) . . . . . Jun 6-13  
Seattle, Juneau, Glacier Bay, Sitka, Ketchikan, Victoria. HAL Westerdam Ship.
- Grandparents-Grandchildren Japan Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida). . . . . June 22-July 1  
Tokyo, Hakone, Atami, Hiroshima, Kyoto.
- Islands of New England Holiday Tour (Elaine Ishida). . . . . Aug 7-15  
Providence, Newport, Boston, Cape Cod, Martha's Vineyard, Nantucket, Hyannis.
- Europe Holiday Tour (Carol Hida). . . . . Sep 21- Oct 2  
London, Paris, Brugges, Amsterdam.
- Classical Japan Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida). . . . . Oct 1-11  
Tokyo, Hakone, Atami, Gifu-Cormorant Fishing, Hiroshima, Kyoto.
- Special Danube River Holiday Cruise (Carol Hida). . . . . Oct 11-21  
Prague, Danube River Cruising, Vienna, Bratislava, Budapest, Durnstein, Melk. MS Amadeus Royal River Cruise Ship.
- Korea Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida). . . . . Oct 19-Nov 1  
Seoul, Nami Island, Sokcho, Daegu, Gyeongju, Busan, Cheju Island, Gwangju, Daejeon, Suwon, KBS Drama Center, DMZ Tour.
- Kenya Safari Holiday Tour (Carol Hida) . . . . . Oct 29-Nov 10  
Nairobi, Amboseli National Park, Mt. Kenya Safari Club, Sweetwaters Tented Camp, Jane Goodall Chimpanzee Sanctuary,  
Samburu Game Reserve, Game Drives.
- Okinawa Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida). . . . . Nov 12-21  
Naha, Onnason, Ishigaki Island, Iriomote Island, Taketomi Island.

We can assist you with:

Low-cost airfares to Japan, Japan individual or group travel arrangements, Japan Railpass, Tokyo Air/Hotel Special Packages, Cruises, Hotels, Cars, Hawaii arrangements, Individual Tour Packages, Organization/Clubs/Family group tours and cruises arrangements.

**For more information and reservations, please contact:**

AMERICAN HOLIDAY TRAVEL  
312 E. 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Suite 330  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

TEL: (213)625-2232  
E-MAIL: americanholiday@att.net

Ernest or Carol Hida  
Elaine Ishida (Tel: 714-269-4534)

(CST #200326-10)

# Japan Prime Minister Abe Defends Handling of Hostage Crisis

By Associated Press

**TOKYO** — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe defended his policy toward terrorism, as the flag at his official residence flew at half-staff Feb. 2 in a mark of mourning for two hostages killed by the Islamic State group.

During a long day of parliamentary debate, Abe parried numerous questions about his handling of the hostage crisis, which came to a grisly end with news early Feb. 1 that journalist Kenji Goto had been beheaded by the extremists.

Abe said his announcement of \$200 million in nonmilitary aid for the fight against the Islamic State group, made during a visit to the Middle East just days before the militants demanded \$200 million ransom for the two hostages, was meant to convey Japan's strong commitment to battling terrorism and fostering peace and stability in the region.

Some have questioned that decision, saying Abe should have been more cautious and not mentioned the Islamic State group by name.

Responding to a question by an opposition lawmaker, Abe confirmed that he was aware of the hostage situation when he made his announcement.

Abe said he wished to publicize Japan's contribution to the fight against extremism, and rejected the idea of a more cautious approach.

"As international society seeks to restore peace and stability in the Middle East . . . I thought it would be the most appropriate destination to visit, and that I should broadcast my message to the world from there," Abe said. "I thought announcing Japan's contribution to fulfill its responsibility would contribute to the international community's effort to fight against terrorism and prevent its expansion."

Abe said he did not see an increased terrorist risk following threats in a purported Islamic State group video that vowed to target Japanese and make the knife Goto's killer was wielding Japan's "nightmare."

"The terrorists are criminals," Abe said. "We are determined to pursue them and hold them accountable."

Still, Japan has ordered heightened security precautions for airports and other public transport and at Japanese facilities overseas, such as embassies and schools.

The government also has called on journalists and others in areas near the conflict to withdraw, given the risk of further kidnappings and other threats.

The flag outside Abe's official residence was lowered to half-staff to mourn Goto and the other hostage, gun aficionado and adventurer Haruna Yukawa, who reportedly was killed earlier.

Goto's wife, Rinko Jogo, said in a statement released Feb. 2 that she was devastated but proud of her husband.

Jogo requested privacy for her family as they deal with their loss, and thanked those who had supported them.

"I remain extremely proud of my husband, who reported the plight of people in conflict areas like Iraq, Somalia and Syria," she said in the statement, issued through the British-based journalist group Rory Peck Trust.

"It was his passion to highlight the effects on ordinary people, especially through the eyes of children, and to inform the rest of us of the tragedies of war," she said.

Goto left for Syria in late October, just a few weeks after the birth of the couple's youngest daughter, apparently hoping to rescue Yukawa, who had been seized by the militants last summer. Soon after, he was captured by the extremists. ■



## REVIEW

### 'FRESH OFF THE BOAT'

The ABC series finds its novelty in reversing the dominant, top-down narrative surrounding Asian America.

By Ryan Kuramitsu

On Feb. 4, ABC premiered "Fresh Off the Boat," a sitcom inspired by restaurateur and food personality Eddie Huang's 2013 memoir of the same name. The show, the first to feature an Asian American family since Margaret Cho's "All-American Girl" (which ran from only 1994-95), has been widely heralded by viewers and cultural critics alike for its wry casting, intuitive satire and unique take on the Asian American and Pacific Islander immigrant experience.

The series follows a fictionalized version of a young Eddie (played by Hudson Yang), whose Taiwanese-born parents depart from D.C.'s Chinatown and supplant themselves in Orlando suburbia after the family patriarch (Randall Park) decides to open a Cattleman's Ranch Steakhouse — what mama Huang (Constance Wu) grumblingly refers to as "a cowboy restaurant."

Eddie navigates his new social environment with equal parts confusion and unflinching confidence: He gawks at his classmates' reactions to a pungent home-prepared lunch, begs his mother to buy him "white people food"; he centers basketball and hip-hop music, an "anthem" for "outsiders" like him and his affinity for black culture marks him as even

more outstanding — and odd — amongst the Caucasian students at his private Christian school.

Many of my AAPI friends have expressed admiration at the way a mainstream TV show has finally embraced the task of telling the story of a delightfully *unexceptional* nonwhite family. As one Chinese American viewer tweeted, "I've already seen more of my life in the first 10 mins. of #FreshOffTheBoat than I have in my entire relationship [with] TV."

The Huangs (in real life and on the show), as immigrants, have had to traverse the foreign language of work visas and trans-Pacific expatriation, all while acclimating to a new land. According to a 2013 report by the Pew Research Center, 74 percent of all Asian Americans are foreign born, many more the direct children of immigrants. Meanwhile, a minority of Asian American families have been in this country for significantly longer; as a recent Department of Labor publication reveals, only 40 percent of Japanese Americans were born outside of U.S.

Families like mine have been here for five generations, which means that the typical immigrant narrative is completely alien to our experience here

>> See REVIEW on page 12



## Shopping for Long-Term Care Insurance?

### Don't know whom to trust?



With so many places to shop for long-term care coverage, how do you decide what's best for you?

Start shopping from the source you can trust.

Call toll-free  
**1-800-358-3795** today.  
Or visit  
[www.jaclinsurance.com](http://www.jaclinsurance.com)

As a JACL member, you don't have to worry. That's because JACL has partnered with Mercer Consumer, a service of Mercer Health & Benefits Administration LLC, to bring you affordable and customizable Long-Term Care coverage. It's available to you, your spouse, your parents and your parents-in-law.

When you call the Long-Term Care Call Center at **1-800-358-3795**, you'll get the first-rate service you deserve from a licensed LTC planning specialist.

Your LTC Specialist will ...

- ✓ Provide personalized one-on-one service
- ✓ Offer needs-based analysis based on your personal situation and budget
- ✓ Help guide you through the long-term care buying process
- ✓ Custom-tailor a plan for you

What's more, you'll never be pressured to buy and you're never under any obligation.



Administered by:  
Mercer Consumer, a service of  
Mercer Health & Benefits  
Administration LLC

CA Ins. Lic. #0G39709  
AR Ins. Lic. #303439

In CA d/b/a Mercer Health & Benefits Insurance Services LLC

69524/69213 (2/15) Copyright 2015 Mercer LLC. All rights reserved.

A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

# CALENDAR

## >>EDC

**'The Legacy of Heart Mountain' Screening**  
Washington, D.C.  
Feb. 19; 6:30-8 p.m.  
National Museum of American History, Warner Bros. Theater  
14th Street and Constitution Avenue

The screening of David Ono's Emmy Award-winning documentary will include a panel discussion with University of Massachusetts Prof. Franklin Odo, Secretary Norman Mineta; Paul Takemoto and Shirley Higuchi.

**Info: Visit [www.americanhistory.si.edu/](http://www.americanhistory.si.edu/).**

**Genki Spark**  
Medford, MA  
Feb. 19; 7:30 p.m.  
Tufts University; Sophia Gordon Multipurpose Room  
15 Talbot Ave.

Tufts Asian American Center, Tufts Japanese Culture Club and the New England JACL sponsor this year's Day of Remembrance program, featuring the Genki Spark, a multigenerational, pan-Asian woman's arts and advocacy organization.

**Info: Visit [www.nejacl.org](http://www.nejacl.org).**

**ECAASU Conference 2015**  
Cambridge, MA  
Feb. 20-22

**Harvard University**

The East Coast Asian American Student Union conference will discuss what it means to be a new Asian American.

**Info: Visit [www.ecaasu2015.org](http://www.ecaasu2015.org).**

**'Pink Globalization: Hello Kitty's Trek Across the Pacific'**  
Boston, MA  
Feb. 24

**Gesmar Updegrove, 2nd floor**  
40 Broad St.

**Price: General admission \$10**

Christine Yano, curator of JANM's Hello Kitty Exhibit, will explore the creation and rise of Hello Kitty.

**Info: Reserve seats at [www.bostoninternational.org](http://www.bostoninternational.org).**

## >>MDC

**Women Warriors: From**

**Incarceration to Redress and Beyond**

Chicago, IL  
Feb. 15; 2-4 p.m.  
Chicago History Museum  
1601 N. Clark St.

**Cost: Free**

Guest speaker Peggy Nagae will talk about Japanese American women's leadership and lessons learned from WWII to Coram Nobis to today.

**Info: Visit [www.chicagohistory.org](http://www.chicagohistory.org) or call (312) 642-4600.**

## >>PNW

**Day of Remembrance and Nisei Appreciation Luncheon**  
Portland, OR

Feb. 22

Multnomah Athletic Club  
1849 S.W. Salmon St.

**Cost: Adult ticket \$40, free for Nisei age 75+**

Please join community members and the Portland JACL for their annual Day of Remembrance and Nisei Appreciation Luncheon. The event's keynote speaker will be Prof. Linda Tamura.

**Info: Email [larouche@msn.org](mailto:larouche@msn.org) or call (503) 698-4656.**

**Empowering Women in the U.S. and Japan Round Table Discussion**

Seattle, WA

March 10; 5-7 p.m.

University of Washington, Kane Hall, Room 210  
4069 Spokane Lane

A discussion on the current state of gender equality in business, comparing the approaches both cultures have taken toward creating a more fair and equal workplace.

**Info: Visit [www.jassw.info](http://www.jassw.info).**

**68th Annual Japanese American Community Graduation Banquet**  
Portland, OR

May 3

Multnomah Athletic Club  
1849 S.W. Salmon St.

**Cost: Adult \$35; free for graduating high school students**

This year's annual banquet is sponsored by 11 Nikkei organizations from the Portland area. Scholarships will also be awarded at the luncheon.

**Info: RSVP at [larouche@msn.com](mailto:larouche@msn.com) or call (503) 698-4656.**

## >>NCWNP

**'Gambatte! Legacy of an Enduring Spirit'**  
Sacramento, CA

Feb. 14; 3-5 p.m.

The California Museum  
1020 O St.

**Cost: Adults \$15**

Sacramento Bee photojournalist Paul Kitagaki Jr. will present photos of Japanese immigrants and Japanese Americans.

**Info: Visit [www.nctor.org](http://www.nctor.org).**

**35th Annual Day of Remembrance**

San Jose, CA

Feb. 15; 5:30-7:30 p.m.

San Jose Buddhist Church  
Betsuin

640 N. Fifth St.

**Cost: Free**

Join the community to honor the memory of the internees at the 35th annual Day of Remembrance and the 73rd anniversary of Executive Order 9066.

**Info: Visit [www.sjnoc.org](http://www.sjnoc.org).**

**'The Printer's Eye: Ukiyo-e From the Grabhorn Collection'**

San Francisco, CA

Feb. 20

Asian Art Museum  
200 Larkin St.

**Cost: Adults \$15**

Art collector Edwin Grabhorn's collection of 88 superb prints acquired by the museum will be on exhibit.

**Info: Visit [www.asianart.org](http://www.asianart.org) or call (415) 581-3500.**

**Opera at the Asian Art Museum**  
San Francisco, CA

Feb. 26; 7-9 p.m.

Asian Art Museum  
200 Larkin St.

**Cost: General public \$30, members \$20**

Enjoy a special night of traditional Asian folk songs and Western arias sung by Adler Fellows from the Merola Opera program.

**Info: Visit [www.asianart.org](http://www.asianart.org).**

**Golden State Warriors With Berkeley JACL**

Oakland, CA

March 19; 7 p.m.

Oracle Arena

**7000 Coliseum Way**

**Cost: Tickets \$45**

The game is scheduled against the Atlanta Hawks, with seats above center court. Game time is 7 p.m.

**Info: Contact Mark Fujikawa at (510) 232-0724 or [fujikawa@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fujikawa@sbcglobal.net) for tickets and more information.**

**Haapyo Kai**

El Cerrito, CA

March 21; 2-4 p.m.

Fairmont School Auditorium  
6500 Stockton Ave.

**Cost: Free**

Sakura Kai presents this year's Happyo Kai, a biennial student recital. Programming includes taiko, karaoke, hula, ukulele, line dance, flute duet and shigin solo performance with a Obon Dance. Intermission sales of sushi and wagashi will be available for purchase.

**Info: Visit [www.sakurakaiec.org](http://www.sakurakaiec.org) or call (510) 778-3406.**

## >>PSW

**Hillcrest Festival of Fine Arts**  
La Habra Heights, CA

Feb. 20-22

Hillcrest Congregational Church  
200 W. Road

**Admission: Free**

The Hillcrest Festival of Fine Arts is celebrating its 55th anniversary. This year's featured artists are Yoshio Nakamura, award-winning media artist, and Armando Baeza, noted sculpture.

**Info: Visit [www.hillcrestfestivaloffinearts.com](http://www.hillcrestfestivaloffinearts.com) or call (562) 947-3755.**

**Community Day of Remembrance**

Los Angeles, CA

Feb. 21

Japanese American National Museum  
100 N. Central Ave.

In partnership with the JACL PSW, Nikkei for Civil Rights and Redress and the Manzanar Committee, JANM presents a day of remembrance to remember.

**Info: Visit [www.janm.org](http://www.janm.org) or call (213) 625-0414.**

**Riverside JACL Installation Luncheon Hi**

Riverside, CA

**March 7; Noon**  
Riverside Marriott  
3400 Market St.

**Cost: \$40**

Welcome the new year with an afternoon of music, dance and fun with the Riverside JACL chapter.

**Info: Contact Michiko Yoshimura at (951) 784-7057 or email her at [my141@sbcglobal.net](mailto:my141@sbcglobal.net).**

**'Shadows for Peace: For the Sake of the Children'**  
Orange County, CA

March 18-19; Noon

Chapman University  
1 University Dr.

**Cost: Free**

In remembrance of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the Orange Coast Optimist Club will present the program's exhibit and forum.

**Info: Contact Richard Fukuhara at [richard@shadowsforpeace.com](mailto:richard@shadowsforpeace.com).**

**L.A. Ukulele Expo 2015**  
Los Angeles, CA

April 18; 11:30 a.m.

JACCC

244 S. San Pedro St.

Grab your ukulele and join JACCC at this year's expo. This year's world-record attempt will use the song "Pua I Ka Ua."

**Info: Visit [www.jaccc.org](http://www.jaccc.org) or call (213) 628-2725.**

**Fiesta Matsuri**  
Los Angeles, CA

May 3; 11 a.m.-4 p.m.

JACCC

244 S. San Pedro St.

Fiesta Matsuri combines the Children's Day celebration of two communities — the Japanese Kodomo no Hi and Dia de los Ninos from Mexico.

**Info: Visit [www.jaccc.org](http://www.jaccc.org) or call (213) 628-2725.** ■

## ADVERTISE HERE

Events in the calendar section are listed based on space availability. Place a 'Spotlight' ad with photos of your event for maximum exposure.

**FOR MORE INFO:**  
[tiffany@pacificcitizen.org](mailto:tiffany@pacificcitizen.org)  
(213) 620-1767



# Memoriam

**Doi, James Kiyota, 79,**



El Segundo, CA; Jan. 10; he is survived by his sister, Eileen (Norman) Chibana; nephews, Gary (Martha) Nakagawa and Joey (Phyllis) Nakagawa; he is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives.

**Doi, Wesley Sumio, 80,**

Torrance, CA; Jan. 14; he is survived by his daughter, Christine Takahashi; brother, Walter; sisters, Jane (Okemura) and Helen (Nakakura); he is also survived by many nieces and nephews; gc: 2.

**Fujimoto, Michi, 95,** Torrance, CA; Jan. 14; she is survived by her daughters, Susan Walter and Anne Fujimoto; she is also survived by many other relatives.

**Hanamoto, Ben Tsutomu, 93,** Los Angeles, CA; Jan. 16; he was predeceased by his wife, Michiko "Ginger" Hanamoto; he is survived by his children, Jane (Doug) Topper and Nancy Hanamoto; gc: 2.

**Hama, Mitsuomi, 91,** Long Beach, CA; Jan. 10; he is survived by his loving wife, Fujiko Hama; children, Linda Uyehara and Gary (Jessica) Hama; brother, Yoshio Hama; sisters, Kazumi Wada and Chiyoko (Kiyoshi) Kubota; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 5.

**Hamada, Tadashi Joshua, 80,** Los Angeles, CA; Jan. 22; he is survived by his wife, Susan Sanae Hamada; he is also survived by many relatives here and in Japan.

**Kaneshina, Kazuko, 91,**



Gardena, CA; Jan. 16; she was

predeceased by her husband, Chiyoto "Hoppy"; she is survived by her daughters, Jocelyn (Ron) Kawasaki and Nina (Lester) Tanaka; brothers; Shintoku (Harue) Kise and Shinso (Sally) Kise; sisters, Kikue (Mike) Takaki and Tomie (Dee Jay) Brady; sister-in-law, Ruth (Shinko) Kise; brothers-in-law, Roy (Irene) Kaneshina, Asato (Ruth) Kaneshina and Takeo (Jane) Kaneshina; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2.

**Kiyomura, Kazuo, 94,**

Torrance, CA; Jan. 11; he was predeceased by his wife, Mae Kiyomura; he is survived by his daughters, Pearl (Melvin) Iizuka, Patty (Kelley) Eastham and Sho (Craig) Masumiya; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 6; ggc: 4.

**Koyama, Reiko, 71,** Hacienda Heights, CA; Jan. 8; she was predeceased by her husband, Tamotsu Tom Koyama; she is survived by her children, Miki (Lee) Shapiro and Brian Koyama; brother, Hisashi (Diana) Takiguchi; sisters, Nobuko (Ivan) Taoyama and Haruyo (Koichi) Nishimura; she is also survived by nephews; gc: 4.

**Misawa, Thomas Tadashi, 58,** Los Angeles, CA; Dec. 30; he is survived by his mother, Mitsuye "Mitzie"; brothers, Larry and Ralph (Glenda); sister, Ellen (Randy); niece, Mindy (WeiKuo).

**Miya, Kaname, 90,** Cerritos, CA; Jan. 23; he is survived by his wife, Kimiko Miya; sisters-in-law, Harue (Yoshio) Endo and Suzuko and Noriko Fujinami; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

**Murakami, Arthur Ichiro, 85,** Whittier, CA; Jan. 14; he is survived by his wife, Lena; children, Timothy (Norma) and Julia Marukami; mother, Yomiko Marukami; siblings, Richard (Masako), Eugene (Elaine); Daniel Marukai, Bernice (Roy) Shiraga and Katherine Otamura; gc: 3; ggc: 4.

**Nagaki, Yoshio, 94,** Portland, OR; Jan. 26; he was a former internee at sugar beet farm during WWII; he was predeceased by his daughter, Karen Sheedy; brothers, Aye, Masayoshi, Joe, Tokuichi and Hideo; he is survived by his wife, Amy; children, Carole (Chris) Scheck, Gail (David Lanham) Nagaki, Gary Nagaki, Dick (Leah Patterson) Nagaki and Tom (Diane Perkins) Nagaki; son-in-law, Mike Sheedy; sisters, Sakae

Tsuda and Chiyoko Watanabe; gc: 7

**Narimatsu, Ralph Sadao, 87,** Torrance, CA; Jan. 13; he is survived by his sons, Darly and Derek (Tracy) Narimatsu; gc: 2.

**Nishida, Minoru, 90,** Mission Hills, CA; Dec. 31; he is survived by his wife, Sayoko Nishida; son, Gary (Pam); sister, Atsuko Ota; nephew, Gene Ota; sisters, Misao Ueda, Emiko Dezaki, Sumie Koyangi and Setsuko Tanaka; brothers-in-law, Henrey (Helen) Yasuda; Bill (Kaz) Yasuda, James (Margaret) Yasuda; sisters-in-law, Kaz Yasuda, Betty (Ken) Murata; gc: 2.

**Nishimura, Joe, 92,** Arleta, CA; Jan. 9; he was a former internee at Manzanar camp during WWII; he was predeceased by his wife, June; he is survived by his children, Steven Joe (Evelyn) Nishimura, Norine Kiku (Gregory Priestly) Nishimura and Chris Hitoshi (Charlene) Nishimura; sister, Shizue Sugimoto; brother-in-law, Kazuko Yoshigai; he is also survived by many other family members; gc: 4.

**Obatake, Chizu, 89,** Honolulu, HI; Jan. 9; she is survived by her daughter, Fern (Dennis) Obatake-Chang; sisters, Alice Fujita and Florence (Richard) Furushima; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and relatives; gc: 2.

**Oda, Sajiko, 89,** Rancho Palos Verdes, CA; Jan. 1; she is survived by her daughters, Tami (Eddie) Hayashida and Lisa (Brian) Frumm; sister, Kay Arima; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2.

**Okinaka, Fumiko, 99,** Los Angeles, CA; Jan. 7; she is survived by her son, Dean Akinori Okinaka; daughter-in-law, Ruby Kayoko Okinaka; gc: 2.

**Shimogaki, Yoshio, 99,** Los Angeles, CA; Jan. 3; he is survived by his children, Roy (Anne) and Miyo Shimogaki;

brother, Riki (Kimie) Shimogaki; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

**Shirasago, Sally, 91,**



Gardena, CA; Jan. 28; she was predeceased by her husband, George Masao Shirasago; son, Glenn; she is survived by her sons, Gary (Paula) and Dale (Susan); sister, Kimiko Okita; sisters-in-law, Katie Shirasago and Marion Kimura; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2.

**Suzuki, Akira, 95,** Los Angeles, CA; Jan. 21; he was a former internee at Heart Mountain camp during WWII; he was predeceased by his wife, Martha; brothers, Takashi "Tak" Suzuki and Satoshi "Sugar" Suzuki; he is survived by his daughters, Gail (Cliff) Suzuki-Francis and Beverly (Adrian) Suzuki-Lopez; sisters-in-law, Kaoru Suzuki, Ellen Suzuki Taye Hashiguchi, Yuri Fukuda and Katherine (Nelson) Graburn; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

**Suzuki, Yoshiko, 84,** Monterey Park, CA; Jan. 11; she is survived by her husband, Joseph; daughters, Koshiro and Haruko; brother, Koichi Kenneth; sons, Kenneth (Christiane), Gary (Tamara) and Russel (Sandy); gc: 4.

**Takahashi, Joe Hiroki, 35,** Torrance, CA; Jan. 20; he is survived by his parents, Kikuo and Kasumi Takahashi; sisters, Iris (Taku) Yoshida and Evelyn

(Mark) Sasabuchi; nephews, Jake and Kaisen Sasabuchi and Yuuki Yoshida; he is also survived by many other relatives.

**Takeda, Jimmie Masamitsu, 93,** Rowland Heights, CA; Jan. 11; he is survived by his daughter, Janice (Ray) Iwamoto; sisters-in-law, Midori Baishiki and Yayeko Shimizu; brother-in-law, Keiki (Cecelia) Yokoi; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2.

**Yonemitsu, Akitaka, 74,**



Los Angeles, CA; Jan. 14; he is survived by his wife, Miyoko; children, Mike, Ken (Satoko) and Junichi (Julie) Yonemitsu; siblings, Hidetaka Yonemitsu, Takako (Shigeru) Kamimura and Kazuyo (Haruo) Ito; brothers-in-law, Yukito Tsurudome and Masatake (Leah) Kawamoto; sisters-in-law, Kazue Okamoto and Ryoko (Takuya) Suzuki; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 3.

**Yoshikawa, Steve Senkichi, 81,** Rancho Palos Verdes, CA; Jan. 6; he is survived by his loving son, Tak (Kerry) Yoshikawa; sister, Emie (Hitoshi) Okita; gc: 2.

**Yoshimi, Janet Morishita, 62,** Montebello, CA; Dec. 5; she is survived by her beloved husband, Ted Yoshimi; step-sisters, Christine Okinaga and Dorleen (Dean) Ayers; step-brother, Jay Okinaga; she is also survived by many other relatives. ■

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

**福井 FUKUI MORTUARY**  
 Five Generations of Experience  
 FD #808  
 707 East Temple Street  
 Los Angeles, CA 90012  
 Ph. 213/626-0441  
 Fax 213/617-2781  
 Gerald Fukui  
 President

**KUBOTA NIKKEI MORTUARY**  
 久保田日系葬儀社  
 Reliable, personalized care  
 日本語でも親切にお世話させていただきます。  
 T (213)749-1449  
 F (213)749-0265  
 911 VENICE BLVD LOS ANGELES, CA 90015  
 www.kubotanikkeimortuary.com

**GAMBATTE >> continued from page 7**

To date, Kitagaki has documented more than 25 of the individuals originally shot by the WRA staff with his own contemporary photographs. Utilizing a 4x5 format camera, similar to equipment used by photographers in the 1940s, as well as black-and-white film, his work is designed to mirror his predecessors while revealing the strength and legacy of perseverance of his subjects.

“Paul Kitagaki’s visual resurrection of a tragic and intergenerational trauma of the WWII incarceration of innocent people is a stirring reminder to all citizens of the world of inhumane injustices perpetrated in the name of war,” said Dr. Satsuki Ina, a subject featured in the exhibit and filmmaker of the documentaries “Children of the Camp” (2003) and “From a Silk Cocoon” (2005). “Kitagaki’s inspired work has a profound message that brings the past into today’s perspective.”

Added Dori Moorehead, executive director of the California Museum: “The California Museum is proud to exhibit these powerful images from the past and present documenting Japanese Americans’ internment during WWII. They serve as not only a visual record of this chapter

of history but also as an inspiration as examples of mankind’s ability to triumph over adversity.”

A photojournalist for more than 35 years, Kitagaki has worked for the *Sacramento Bee* since 2003 and been featured in lectures, books exhibits and national publications.

— *Additional reporting by  
The Pacific Citizen*



Paul Kitagaki Jr.

**COURTROOM >> continued from page 3**

I immediately thought of the moving photograph that I first saw at the Korematsu Institute displaying a smiling Rosa Parks and Fred Korematsu sharing stories together. Echoing the efforts of Fred Korematsu, the main take away from the summit was that social justice work today increasingly calls for compassion and solidarity amongst peoples facing common injustices.

All jokes aside, if I had to redo my Day of Remembrance essay, I would probably write roughly the same words 13-year-old Kota wrote. Understanding Fred Korematsu’s story to prevent future injustices is a message that, then and now, I strongly affirm. Yet, even during my short seven years being involved with social justice work, my understanding of what exactly that message embodies has evolved considerably.

Thanks to countless opportunities, mentors and experiences, I have come to appreciate and honor Fred Korematsu as not only

a hero who fought injustice in the courts but also a leader who compassionately shared his vision of social justice with others, no matter who they were or how they viewed him.

Certainly, I am now better prepared to fulfill the closing sentence of my middle school essay:

*“I will therefore insure that my generation as well as future generations will know that they can protect their freedom with the courage to never give up.”*

*Kota Mizutani is a sophomore studying political science and ethnic studies at Brown University. He currently serves as the EDC Youth Representative and Treasurer for the National Youth/Student Council. In the past, Kota served as the Sonoma County JACL Board Youth Representative as well as the NCWNP Youth Representative.*

**RULES >> continued from page 3**

4. Do your **research** — You don’t want to be caught without the right facts to back up your claims.
5. Don’t **believe** everything you see — Photoshop and negligent reporting practices have become a part of the Internet; even mainstream news has bias and errors.
6. Know and use your **experiences** — Knowing and sharing the story of incarcerated Japanese Americans during WWII has helped me convince a close friend that the easy way out of a bad situation isn’t always just or fair.
7. **Articulate** why you support the position in a way that resonates with your audience — When trying to inform or influence someone, start by approaching the problem from a new angle. Identify what your audience cares about and then tell tailor your message to what the issue has to offer them.
8. End on a **good note** — A Facebook quarrel isn’t worth a relationship. Although your ideas differ, people are what bring the world together. You can’t continue trying to share your perspective if you’re on bad terms.

As a member of the U.S. Army, I have many friends who have a distorted image of America in their minds. It is no secret that the military has a history of racism and cultural

**BOAT >> continued from page 9**

(unless you count adjusting from Hawaiian to mainland culture).

While I can’t identify with all the traditional staples of first-generation Asian American life as depicted on the show (parents speaking in accented English, a teacher calling me by my “real name”), other scenes can’t help but resonate.

Fretting over stinky snacks at school, hearing my unassuming grandmother throw out incisive phrases in an unfamiliar tongue — these have been amusing to relive. At the same time, remembering the biting glances and insensitive slurs I witnessed growing up also strikes too close to home. I’m reminded that, as an Asian American of Japanese ancestry, my home country is a world that will always see me as an uninvited guest, a perpetual foreigner who frustrates our culture’s black/white racial binary.

One function of modern racism is that whenever Asian Americans are considered by dominant groups, our cultures are filtered through the lens of orientalism — East Asians are *othered* and exoticized for mysterious cuisine, demure personages, quirky customs and ancient secrets.

Yet, “Fresh Off the Boat” finds its novelty in reversing the dominant, top-down narrative surrounding Asian America, instead placing the audience in the shoes of the Huang family.

In this telling, it’s not Chinese culture and

values that are foreign, but suburban ’90s *Americana* — it is not the Huang’s strangeness that presents the laughs, the stumbling block to viewers, but white America’s bizarre fascination with uninspired celebrity (“Melrose Place,” Eric Clapton), Henry Ford-esque sameness and consumerism (Lunchables, perms), and bohemian politics (rainbow sticker-clad report cards).

Part of me knows that keeping up with the Huang family week after week will probably never bear out the kind of critical racial conversations that mainstream America remains so loathe to acknowledge. Part of me worries that, as “Fresh Off the Boat” reaches greater cultural penetration, Eddie’s brood will be seen as emblematic of all Asian Americans, a starchy model for us to imitate.

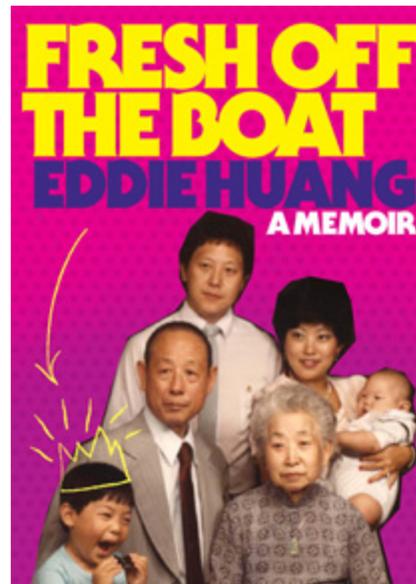
“Fresh Off the Boat” is simply great entertainment, the Huangs excellent and charming houseguests. As Cho quipped about family in the pilot of “All-American Girl”: “It’s sick, and yet there’s something almost beautiful in the dysfunction of it all.”

After a more than 20-year dry spell, Asian Americans are jumping at the chance to see our stories splayed across the small screen, sans rice hats, rickshaws and other familiar racial tropes.

Jenji Kohan, creator of the Netflix series “Orange Is the New Black,” has confessed that her show’s central character (a white, well-to-do young woman named Piper) is a “Trojan horse” of sorts. By pitching the show as if it were about Piper’s experiences as an inmate, Kohan claims she is able to smuggle in the “fascinating tales” of black and Latina women, poor folks, the elderly, convicted criminals — stories, in other words, that give the show its splash — and that otherwise would never get this kind of play in television.

“Fresh Off the Boat” is far from perfect. But if the Huang’s financially embattled, quaint and sometimes stereotypical household must serve as a noncontroversial foil on the path toward airing the more complicated, real-to-life stories of our families, we could honestly be a lot worse off.

*Ryan Kuramitsu is the JACL MDC Youth Representative.*



ABC’s “Fresh Off the Boat” is based on Eddie Huang’s 2013 memoir.

intolerance. Because of the work of champions before me, I have not had to endure direct prejudice in my workplace. However, the war within our ranks is not won yet; racism and discrimination persists throughout the military.

In 2014, the Sikh American Legal Defense & Education Fund (SALDEF) made great progress with military leaders on uniform rules for religious accommodation. Having had the opportunity to work with the staff of SALDEF as the Norman Y. Mineta Fellow, I knew firsthand the vital work that they do.

I was shocked that my friends and comrades from the Army were posting the article about SALDEF’s efforts along with ignorant comments. These were good friends expressing their hate and bigotry for Sikh Americans, and I didn’t quite know how to respond.

I was compelled to act, and by doing so, I put a stop to their words and hopefully broadened their views. By saying, “This is not O.K.,” and explaining why, I believe we can change conversations and, more importantly, the hearts of others.

By no means am I saying that this is your duty, but rather a choice of what you want to contribute to the world around you. I will respond to racist, sexist or ignorant comments made by friends and family, not because it’s my obligation, but rather because it’s my choice.

*Rhianna Taniguchi is an aspiring social engineer from Hawaii. She currently works for Girl Scouts in Washington, D.C., and was the 2014 JACL Norman Y. Mineta Fellow.*