Honouliuli Is Designated as a National Historic Monument.

A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE IN D.C.

JACL convenes in San Francisco for its quarterly board meeting.
Dear Editor,

In reading the letter written by Mr. John Tateishi in the Jan. 23-Feb. 5 edition of the Pacific Citizen, I wish to respond to make sure the factual information is shared with your readers.

In the Sept. 17-23 edition of the JACL Digest, the weekly newsletter that is distributed to 10,000 households, JACL announced the departure of Ms. Karen Yoshitomi. JACL paid tribute to Karen’s many contributions to JACL and the community. In that article was my quote, “JACL’s success in the Pacific Northwest is a direct result of Karen’s dedication and commitment. Her leadership and vision for the community has elevated JACL. The JACL organization stands behind her in all of her future endeavors.”

Weeks earlier, Karen told me that she was accepting a job as executive director of the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Washington. After many years with JACL, Karen made a decision to take a leadership role of the Seattle-based organization. JACL is very proud of its employees, and even more proud when someone of Karen’s caliber assumes an elevated position of prominence within the Japanese American community.

I was asked by Karen to withhold that information to allow JCCC of Washington to announce the appointment. The article would have been a better article with the exciting news, but we respected Karen’s request. On Karen’s last day, I traveled to Seattle to take her out to lunch. Also in attendance were Pacific Northwest District Gov. Sheldon Arakaki and the Seattle Chapter’s Bill Tashima.

I regret that Mr. Tateishi missed that issue of JACL Digest with the announcement on Karen’s departure and recognition of her contributions to the JACL.

Sincerely,

Carol Kawamoto
Pacific Citizen Editorial Board Chair
A MOTHER’S TAKE

WHAT CHANGE ARE YOU CREATING?

By Marsha Aizumi

For the past five years, my son, Aiden, his wife, Mary, and I have been attending a conference called “Creating Change.” It is hosted by the National LGBTQ Task Force, and its purpose is to help individuals and organizations develop the skills to be grassroots organizers in their community. Six years ago, I had never heard of the organization, was just starting to understand what the “T” in LGBTQ meant and grassroots organizing seemed like something you would be talking to your gardener about.

Today, I am an activist who is in this LGBTQ movement with my whole heart, and I AM a grassroots organizer. But that is not where I started. I always feared being an activist. When people called me an activist early on, I would say, “Oh, no, I am just a mother who loves her son and wants to make the world safer for him.” I thought that being an activist meant I was someone who had to be loud, brash, pushy and disrespectful. Those were all things I didn’t want to be. Now, I know that being an activist means I can be myself . . . gently persistent, vulnerable yet strong and a loving human being. The main thing I have to do to create change is to show up. Showing up doesn’t mean that I am not afraid. Brene Brown says you can be scared and brave at the same time. A friend of mine once told me, “When you are scared and do it anyway . . . that IS being brave.”

How many times have you done something that was a risk for you, but you did it anyway? You showed up! In my work in the LGBTQ community, I am showing up because the world still discriminates against my son. But things are changing. Asian Pacific Islanders are rising to the top of LGBTQ organizations, showing our API community that there are visible leaders who are API and LGBTQ. At “Creating Change,” I met with Kris Hayashi, who is the new executive director of the very respected nonprofit Transgender Law Center. He is a compassionate, soft-spoken man who also possesses the passion and determination to bring greater protections and support to those in the transgender community. Like my son, Kris is using who he is to change the world.

Also creating change are all the JACL chapters that are taking up the mantle of advocacy, along with JACL PSW who has created an LGBTQ Initiative to educate and support those in our community. JACL Seattle will be doing a two-day event for API LGBTQ individuals and their families with four to five other API organizations and churches in June. San Diego JACL is working on three to four events in 2015 that will bring greater awareness and support to San Diego LGBTQ individuals and their families. And while at “Creating Change,” I had the chance to talk with Suzuho Shimasaki and Harry Budisidharta from the Mile High JACL, who have created three subcommittees on advocacy that include one on LGBT. They are just getting started, but they are creating change in their Denver community.

And most recently in a video released for a safe schools event in Southern California, Congressman Mike Honda shared the following: “As both an individual, and an educator, I have experienced and witnessed bullying in its many forms. And as the proud jichan, or grandpa, of a transgender grandchild, I hope that my granddaughter can feel safe going to school without fear of being bullied. I refuse to be a bystander while millions of people are dealing with the effects of bullying on a daily basis.”

Here is an educator, legislator, Japanese American, father and grandfather who is creating change in so many communities by unconditionally loving his granddaughter. I couldn’t feel prouder to know this man and his amazing family.

Congressman Mike Honda and his granddaughter

We all have the ability to create change in our communities. We can stand up to bullying of any kind. We can share that we are an ally of the LGBT community and attend LGBT events. We can talk about how our parents were forced as American citizens into internment camps and ensure that this history will not repeat itself. And we can listen to our hearts when an injustice is done to a fellow human being and stand up for fairness, respect and what is right.

As a parent, I hope that I have instilled in my children the ability to create change — not just by what they do, but by who they are. I hope they do not only use laws to tell them what is right, but also listen to the humanity that is within each of them. In the past, I never really understood the power of one, but today I know it is true. Each of us has the ability to make the world better. Perhaps you may challenge yourself to do one thing today to be a force for change. If you do, you will be showing up, speaking out and creating change. And that’s how the world gets better . . .

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

MY COUNTRY

HEROES OF OUR TIME

By Rhianna Taniguchi

There are few people I distinguish as heroic. When I met Daniel Nguyen and the Mary Queen of Vietnam Community Development Corp. (MQVN CDC) team in October 2013, I was humbled by their dedication to community health, economic opportunity and environmental sustainability.

To address food quality, safety, accessibility and environmental impact for the Vietnamese community in New Orleans in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and the Deepwater Horizon (BP) oil spill, the MQVN CDC deployed unique methods to advance community health and cultivate economic rehabilitation.

They carry out their work with an uncommon business structure and immense sincerity to the people they serve. They are true social engineers, and I’m fortunate to share their story and ask for your help in supporting their work.

Daniel Nguyen is a true hero to his community. Daniel works as a project manager with MQVN CDC in New Orleans East. His work encompasses workforce development, environmental justice and incubation of aquaponics and sustainable agriculture. He is currently the project director of the start-up enterprise VEGGI Farmer’s Cooperative. VEGGI Farmer’s Cooperative serves to improve family economic security, promote sustainable agriculture and create local sustainable jobs, as well as provide workforce development in the Vietnamese community of Village de l’Est. Nguyen has also worked extensively in the Gulf region after the 2010 BP oil drilling disaster, providing technical assistance to affected workers, leading community-based participatory research on the environmental impacts of the spill and helping to develop a campaign for Gulf-wide subsistence compensation.

The New Orleans East population faces high levels of poverty, lack of food access, economic loss and lack of language access. Over 60 percent of New Orleans East households reported total income as less $25,000 in 2009. Segments of New Orleans East, including Village de l’Est, are designated USDA food deserts — areas with limited access to major grocery stores. Opportunities for Vietnamese-owned businesses are limited due to lack of language access to business development resources. The Vietnamese community was also devastated by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, as 1 in 3 in the community worked in the seafood industry. Since 2011, the VEGGI Farmer’s Cooperative has leased 3.5 acres and trained 12 farmers. In 2015, the program will increase to 15 farmers, expand the scale of produce production and establish tofu and soymilk production and distribution to regional markets.

In a recent online interview, Daniel spoke to me about his work and what his community needs to thrive.

Rhianna Taniguchi: Why are you personally invested in your work?

Daniel Nguyen: I am personally invested in this organization because I believe that food production is at the crux of human survival, and our society is headed in a direction where food production no longer honors the environment and the people who work the land and who consume the food. I believe that we must imagine a different way to produce food to sustain and nourish our bodies. I also believe that we must imagine a different economic system, and I believe that the cooperative model, which gives power back to the workers, is a viable alternative.

Taniguchi: How does your work relate to health? Why is that important?

Nguyen: We believe that individual health is tied to the health of the community and that an unhealthy community context makes it difficult or impossible for individuals to be healthy. Our community is home to three landfills, over 30 auto junkyards, 13 dumpsites and a major in or impossible for individuals to be healthy. Our community is home to three landfills, over 30 auto junkyards, 13 dumpsites and a major oil spill, as 1 in 3 in the community worked in the seafood industry. Since 2011, the VEGGI Farmer’s Cooperative has leased 3.5 acres and trained 12 farmers. In 2015, the program will increase to 15 farmers, expand the scale of produce production and establish tofu and soymilk production and distribution to regional markets.

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Nguyen: We believe that individual health is tied to the health of the community and that an unhealthy community context makes it difficult or impossible for individuals to be healthy. Our community is home to three landfills, over 30 auto junkyards, 13 dumpsites and a major industrial corridor with industries producing emissions daily. In addition, our community is a food desert and lacks access to healthy, affordable produce and foods to be able to lead a healthy lifestyle. With this context in mind, we believe that by promoting local, sustainable agriculture through a community cooperative model, we can address the food access issue. In addition, we believe that health can’t be solved solely by providing access to more healthy produce, but must also be combined
Honouliuli Internment Camp
Designated as a National Historic Monument

A view of Honouliuli Camp looking into the gulch in Central Oahu. Honouliuli was the largest and longest-used World War II internment camp in Hawaii, housing some 320 internees and 4,000 prisoners of war.

HONOLULU — U.S. Sen. Brian Schatz (D-Hawaii) on Feb. 18 praised President Barack Obama’s announcement that he intends to designate the Honouliuli Internment Camp as a National Historic Monument. This designation will put Honouliuli under the management of the National Park Service and help preserve the history of the site where hundreds of Japanese Americans were wrongly interned during World War II.

“Honouliuli represents a dark period in our history when thousands of Japanese Americans in Hawaii and across the country were forced into internment camps during World War II,” said Sen. Schatz. “This historic site will memorialize the strength and bravery of the many Japanese Americans who faced discrimination and served as a reminder to ourselves and future generations that we cannot repeat the mistakes of the past. Our deep gratitude goes to the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, the Japanese American Citizens League and others who worked tirelessly for this achievement. It is meaningful and right that Honouliuli has finally received the historic recognition it deserves.

Sen. Schatz worked to help facilitate Honouliuli’s historic designation. In 2013, he met with NPS Director Jonathan B. Jarvis to discuss the need to complete the special resource study, which was authorized by Congress in 2009 to review the site for potential inclusion in the National Park System. Following the meeting, Sen. Schatz sent Jarvis a letter to reiterate his support for the Honouliuli Internment Camp’s inclusion in the National Park System.

In December 2014, Sen. Schatz joined Carole Hayashino, president and executive director of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, and Jacce Mikulanec, president of the Honolulu JACL, to present Interior Department Sec. Sally Jewell with petitions from more than 6,000 Americans requesting the historic designation of Honouliuli.

In 1943, the Honouliuli Internment Camp was constructed on Oahu to intern citizens, resident aliens and prisoners of war. The camp held approximately 320 internees and 4,000 prisoners of war. Honouliuli was the largest and longest-used World War II internment camp in Hawaii.

JACL Disappointed With Ruling on DAPA/DACA in Texas, et al v. United States

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The JACL, the largest and oldest Asian American civil right organization in the nation, expresses disappointment with the recent ruling in Texas, et al v. United States.

On Feb. 16, a federal district court in Texas ruled to temporarily block President Barack Obama’s executive actions on immigration nationwide in Texas, et al v. United States, the 26-state lawsuit challenging the immigration initiatives announced by President Obama in November 2014.

The lawsuit alleged that the president overstepped his constitutional authority and that states would be burdened by the expansion of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) initiative and the creation of the Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA) program.

JACL Executive Director Priscilla Ouchida said, “I am disappointed by the decision of the Court to enjoin the DACA and DAPA initiatives. This decision has a chilling effect on the dreams of hard-working families and students and is a step backwards from the progress made in November to provide reforms to our immigration system. JACL supports efforts to move past this suspension that will interrupt the implementation of much-needed policies to ensure family stability and economic growth.”

In the Asian American Pacific Islander community, an estimated 1.3 million people are undocumented. Half a million of that number are now temporarily blocked from expanded deportation relief: the DACA youth who were brought to the United States as children, often called DREAMers, and undocumented immigrant parents of citizen-children or legal residents who could defer deportation under the DAPA program.

The U.S. Department of Justice will appeal the decision, and the Obama administration has argued that states lack the legal standing to challenge the immigration order in court. A temporary request to stay the injunction is likely to be filed by the Department of Justice pending a full appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. If the stay is granted, the DACA and DAPA programs will be able to resume nationwide.

APAs in the News

Technology Entrepreneur Guy Kawasaki Partners With AARP on a New Web Series

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Technology entrepreneur-writer Guy Kawasaki has teamed up with AARP for a new web series about how people who are 50-pluses can embrace technology.

“Technology: It’s Not Just a Guy Thing” takes a look at how technology can empower people of all ages and change their lives. The series, hosted by Gil Asakawa, AARP/Asian American Journalists Assn. Social Media Fellow and P.C. editorial board member, will focus on the art of innovation, social media, graphic design and how digital media is changing the way people consume information.

New episodes will premiere every three weeks until the end of March.

Asian Hall of Fame Announces 2015 Honorees

SEATTLE — The Asian Hall of Fame, which “honors distinguished individuals of Asian Pacific descent whose personal achievements have contributed to the American experience,” has announced its 2015 honorees.

The Class of 2015 includes Benson Henderson (Mixed Martial Arts fighter and former UFC and WEC Lightweight Champion), Carrie Ann Inaba (TV host, choreographer and “Dancing With the Stars” judge), Jeanette Lee (world-class billiards player) and Betty Nguyen (NBC News/MSNBC anchor).

The honorees will receive their awards on June 6 at the organization’s gala, which will take place at the Fairmont Olympic Hotel in Seattle. The Asian Hall of Fame is the initiative of the Robert Chinn Foundation and was founded in 2004.

Emily Murase Elected President of the San Francisco Board of Education

SAN FRANCISCO — Emily Murase was unanimously elected president of the San Francisco Board of Education on Jan. 13.

Murase was first elected in 2010 to serve on the board, becoming the first Japanese American to do so. In a Facebook post, she said, “Tonight’s school board meeting was momentous. One of the first orders of business was to elect officers. I am very pleased to be your new school board president!”

In addition to her new position, Murase also serves as executive director of the San Francisco Department on the Status of Women.

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SAN FRANCISCO — An optimistic 2015 is the picture painted by the National JACL at its recent board meeting at national headquarters in San Francisco on Feb. 7.

“We have great news on the table, but we have challenges ahead of us,” said National President David Lin. “That requires collaboration between all of us … I want to leave you with a great sense of accomplishment, but I don’t want to sugarcoat anything. It’s going to be a tough year, and we have to get everyone excited, engaged and motivated to deliver.”

Among National JACL highlights in the coming months are a JACL contingency along with original Selma marcher Todd Endo and sister organizations to participate in next month’s 50th anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery March, which was led by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., as well as a completely redesigned JACL website that will be fully updated and cohesive with the organization’s media outlet the Pacific Citizen.

In addition, JACL Executive Director Priscilla Ouchida has been selected as a member of the 2015 Japanese American Leadership Delegation, sponsored by the U.S.-Japan Council. She is among 10 delegates who will travel to Japan from March 6-14. The JALD provides “Japanese American leaders with the opportunity to become acquainted or re-engaged with Japan and participate in discussions related to the role that Japanese Americans can play in addressing key issues that face both countries, now and in the future.”

In Ouchida’s absence, NCWNP Regional Director Patty Wada will serve as executive director.

Regarding its current financial status, Secretary/Treasurer Matthew Farrells reported that total revenue for 2014 (based on unaudited financial statements) was $2.56 million. Although the total was down 17.3 percent from the previous year, the amount was attributable to a lower gain on investments. On a positive side, public support increased from 2013’s $396,928 to $645,373 in 2014. Regarding net income, JACL beat its plan by $45,000 or 23.5 percent in 2014.

“There was a strong overall market performance in 2014, which was one of the drivers of a larger increase in net assets,” said Farrells.

Farrells also reported that the National Council voted on Jan. 19 to lift the hiring freeze of the business manager position, as longtime business manager Clyde Izumi will be retiring at the end of February.

JACL ended 2014 ahead of budget overall, according to Farrells, and aims to improve on a balanced budget over the next biennium and improve the P.C.’s revenue, as well as general operations expenses organization wide.

JACL National was also pleased to announce the hiring of Toshiko Hasegawa as its new fund development manager. Hasegawa, who will be based in Seattle, Wash., will work with Ouchida to secure co-sponsors and finalize convention partnerships.

This year’s National Convention is set to take place in Las Vegas, Nev., at the Monte Carlo Resort and Casino in July.

And on the membership home front, Membership VP Toshi Abe stressed the importance of building membership numbers. EOY numbers for 2014 indicate 8,318 total memberships (10,042 total members, down from 10,693 in 2013).

Abe reported that JACL is trying to provide more benefits to its members and is holding membership webinars to share feedback with the chapters on what might spur an increase in numbers.

“We have significant risk in the membership numbers,” said Lin. “We need to work hard.”

— P.C. Staff

**Proposed Escorted Tours & Cruises Scheduled for 2015**

<table>
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Tour Escorts</th>
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<td>April 1-13</td>
<td>Yamato Enchanting Rhine River Cruise with Amawaterways – 5 days/4 nights Pre-cruise land program includes 2 nights in Zurich and 2 nights in Lucerne before boarding the Amawaterways 4-star river cruise from Basel to Amsterdam with port visits in Bern, Strasbourg, Spaarne/Heidelberg, Rhine Gorge/Rudesheim, Colmar and Rhine/Amsterdam.</td>
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<td>June 27-July 3</td>
<td>Yamato Alaska Inside Passage Cruise – 7 days aboard the Crown Princess: Seattle, cruising the Pacific Ocean, Juneau, Skagway, cruising St. Michael Bay National Park, Ketchikan, Victoria, B.C. (Canada), Seattle.</td>
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<td>Yamato Fall Colors Mississippi River Cruise on the American Queen Steamboat – 9 days/Triogio vuesage &amp; 1 night hotel in Minneapolis/St. Paul prior to boarding the boat to St. Louis, MO visiting St. Louis, LA. Crossing, Duck Creek, Quad Cities, Buttering, &amp; Hannibal.</td>
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<td>Sept. 21-24</td>
<td>Yamato West Coast Gateway to Santa Barbara – 4 days/3 night cruise aboard the Ruby Princess visiting Santa Barbara and Ensenada, plus enjoying the many onboard activities while cruising.</td>
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Smithsonian and JACL Celebrate Day of Remembrance in Washington, D.C., kick-starting the 2017 museum exhibit and the 75th anniversary of E.O. 9066.

By Tiffany Ujiyê, Assistant Editor

Yesterday, December 7th, 1941 — a date which will live in infamy," President Franklin D. Roosevelt said before Congress, a day after the attack on Pearl Harbor. It was indeed a dark moment in American history, but for 120,000 persons of Japanese descent, it was arguably much more.

At the Smithsonian National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C., the Japanese American Citizens League and the Smithsonian Institution joined together for its annual Day of Remembrance on Feb. 19 at 6 p.m. The evening commemorated President Roosevelt’s signing of Executive Order 9066, removing families from their homes into relocation camps during World War II — an infamous day in civil rights.

The evening’s program included a screening of the Emmy Award-winning documentary “The Legacy of Heart Mountain” and gave guests an opportunity to view the Smithsonian’s newly acquired acquisitions. After six months of planning and organization, audience members and guests had a chance to preview artifacts for the 2017 E.O. 9066 exhibit.

Associate Director of Curatorial Affairs David K. Allison felt that “this evening had given [audience members] a new perspective on a story that continues to resonate through American society today.” For the past 15 years, the Smithsonian has offered Day of Remembrance programming.

The exhibition and event was the Smithsonian’s first commemoration of Executive Order 9066’s 75th anniversary. In conjunction with the JACL, the museum is now preparing an exhibit set to premiere in 2017. Artifacts and documents will aim to capture the Japanese American camp experience and share the stories and voices behind the camp walls.

“With the stroke of a man, this three-page document reshaped the history of Americans of Japanese descent and upset the delicate balance between the rights of the citizen and the power of the state,” historian in the Office of Curatorial Affairs Noriko Sanefuji said about Executive Order 9066. For more than 10 years, Sanefuji has worked at the Smithsonian to preserve and organize programs to educate the public on APA history and culture. Her projects include “Sweet and Sour: The Americanization of the Chinese Restaurant,” “Creating Hawai’i,” and “Barriers to Bridges: Asian American Immigration.”

“JACL’s partnership with the Smithsonian is important, as it enables the American story of the Japanese American experience to be shared with a broad national and international audience. The Day of Remembrance program at the Smithsonian drew a capacity audience, many of whom were new to the story,” JACL Executive Director Driscilla Ouchida said. “The program, like many held across the nation, opened the door to educating a new generation about what Americanism means even at a time when the rights of citizens were sorely tested. The prominence of the Smithsonian elevates the message — a message that is key to protecting the rights of future generations.”

Details on the collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution and the JACL for the 2017 museum exhibit include “Sweet and Sour: The Americanization of the Chinese Restaurant,” “Creating Hawai’i,” and “Barriers to Bridges: Asian American Immigration.”

“I am honored to be able to show our film here at the Smithsonian and to have the opportunity to keep these important stories alive,” Ono told the Pacific Citizen. “Over 70 years later, they are still so relevant and represent not only Heart Mountain but the overall camp experience with unique and personal stories.”

Other artifacts included a hand-carved wooden ashtray in the shape of a cat made by actor Sab Shimono’s father. Shimono is an accomplished stage actor, appearing on Broadway and numerous movies and TV shows. His father was interned at the Tule Lake War Relocation Center and the Granada War Relocation Center.

Guests also had the opportunity to view a baseball uniform worn by Tetsuo Furukawa from the Gila River War Relocation Center. Furukawa was a teenager when he entered the relocation camp, but the first baseman hoped to express his American identity and citizenship through baseball.

Following the film screening, University of Massachusetts Prof. Franklin Odo led a panel discussion on Executive Order 9066, exploring why it had taken so long for internees to share their stories with family and friends. Participants included former Department of Transportation Secretary and former Heart Mountain internee Norman Y. Mineta; “The Legacy of Heart Mountain” co-producer Ono; former Jerome War Authority Center internee Alice Takemoto; “Nisei Memories: My Parents Talk about the War Years” author Paul Takemoto; and Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation chairperson Shirley Higuchi.

In closing, a live spoken-word performance was presented by 2014 National Poetry Slam Champion G. Yamazawa. As a Japanese American born to parents in North Carolina, Yamazawa discovered spoken-word within the hip-hop culture in Durham. His performance reflected on his experiences about life and his heritage, resonating the messages of American identity and his take on youth in today’s cultural landscape. A standing ovation was given to Yamazawa after sharing a verse about his Japanese grandmother’s life story.

This year’s annual Day of Remembrance event was sponsored by the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation, the JACL, Japanese American Veterans Assn., Patti Hirahara, Terry K. Takeda and the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation.

For further information about the Smithsonian Executive Order 9066 75th Anniversary exhibit artifact acquisition, please contact the coordinators at americahistoryapacollections@si.edu.
A Smithsonian representative explains the museum’s exhibition pieces to guests, educating the public about the Japanese American experience during World War II.

Audience members had the opportunity to watch “The Legacy of Heart Mountain.”

Sab Shimono’s father handcrafted a wooden ashtray in the shape of a cat during his time at the Tule Lake War Relocation Center.

2014 National Poetry Slam champion G. Yamazawa concluded the evening with a live performance.

The Smithsonian Museum of American History has celebrated and hosted a Day of Remembrance for the past 15 years.

(From left) Patti Hirahara, Priscilla Ouchida and Noriko Sanefuji.
The 46th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage Set for April 25

Los Angeles — “Watashi wa Manzanar: Continuing Our Civil Rights Legacy” is the theme for the 46th annual Manzanar Pilgrimage, sponsored by the Manzanar Committee, which is set to take place on April 25 at the Manzanar National Historic Site.

Each year, more than 1,000 people from all walks of life attend the pilgrimage, including students, teachers, community members, clergy and former incarcerated. Planning is underway for the afternoon event as well as for the Manzanar at Dusk program – co-sponsored by the Nikkei Student Unions at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona: California State University, Fullerton; California State University, Long Beach; the University of California, Los Angeles; and the University of California, San Diego — which is scheduled that same evening at Lone Pine High School.

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

The Manzanar Committee also has announced that bus transportation to the pilgrimage from Downtown Los Angeles will be available.

The bus will depart at 7 a.m. and arrive at the pilgrimage at approximately 11:30 a.m. It will also take participants to the Interpretive 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 will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis. The nonrefundable fare is $40 per seat, $20 for students and seniors. 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.

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.

The Manzanar Committee is dedicated to educating and raising public awareness about the incarceration and violation of civil rights of persons of Japanese ancestry during World War II and to the continuing struggle of all peoples when constitutional rights are in danger. A nonprofit organization, it has sponsored the annual Manzanar Pilgrimage since 1969, along with other educational programs. It also has played a key role in the establishment and continued development of the Manzanar National Historic Site.

Further details about the Manzanar Pilgrimage and the Manzanar at Dusk program will be announced at a later date. Both are free and open to the public.

The Manzanar National Historic Site is located on U.S. Highway 395 in California’s Owens Valley, between the towns of Lone Pine and Independence, approximately 230 miles north of Los Angeles. Lone Pine High School is located at 538 S. Main St. in Lone Pine, nine miles south of the Manzanar National Historic Site, across the street from McDonald’s.

For more information about the pilgrimage or to reserve a seat on the bus, call (323) 662-5102 or email 46thpilgrimage@manzanarcommittee.org.

Upcoming JCCNC Program Focuses on Tule Lake Block 42 Protest

The event also will share insight on the Suyama Endowment, which strives to preserve the history of Japanese American dissident during World War II.
A teacher training workshop in Santa Fe, N.M., took place on Jan. 30, thanks to the efforts of Jennifer Yazawa and support from Esther Churchwell and Victor Yamada, members of the New Mexico Chapter of the JACL.

The workshop, which was held at Santa Fe Community College, was also facilitated by Sharon Ishii-Jordan and Greg Marutani. Teachers who attended the presentation learned about the history of the Japanese American experience in the United States.

Workshop participants also heard from Nikki Nojima Louis and Herbert Tsuchiya, who were both children when they spent time in Minidoka, along with their families and nearly 9,000 others who were imprisoned there during World War II. Their recollection of their time spent in the camp with their families was among the highlights for the participants.

In addition, Churchwell and Yamada updated everyone about the “Confinement in the Land of Enchantment,” a project funded by the National Park Service through the Japanese American Confinement Sites program and the teacher training workshops. Although the confinement sites in New Mexico (Pt. Stanton, Santa Fe, Camp Lordsburg) were smaller in size when compared to the War Relocation Authority camps, the stories that have been gathered from those who were imprisoned there or from their families make the imprisonment much more real and no less tragic, as all were victims of racism.

The workshop concluded earlier than scheduled, as more snow was forecast for the afternoon and schools were closing due to the inclement weather.

Fortunately for the facilitators and the New Mexico Chapter volunteers — of which Yazawa, Churchwell and Yamada helped coordinate the chapter’s 2014 workshop in Albuquerque — the drive back to Albuquerque was a safe, though a bit wet one.

Another teacher training workshop took place in Houston, Texas, on Feb. 13, at the Holocaust Museum of Houston, where the “Art of Gaman” exhibit is currently on display through September.

New Mexico workshop participants included (from left) Greg Marutani, Esther Churchwell, Victor Yamada, Jennifer Yazawa, Sharon Ishii-Jordan, Nikki Nojima Louis and Herbert Tsuchiya.

Kikkoman Shoyu Bottle Designer Kenji Ekuan Passes Away

By Associated Press

TOKYO — Japanese industrial designer Kenji Ekuan, whose works ranged from a bullet train to a red-capped Kikkoman soy sauce dispenser as familiar as the classic Coca-Cola bottle, has died, his company said. He was 85.

A former monk, Ekuan crafted a tabletop bottle for Kikkoman Corp. in 1961, winning international popularity for the handy, flask-shaped dispenser and, of course, for the salty brown condiment flavorful many Asian cuisines.

He has said he wanted to design a small bottle because of his childhood memory of his mother pouring soy sauce from a big half-gallon bottle to a tabletop dispenser.

Other of his renowned works include the Yamaha VMAS motorcycle, the Komachi bullet train connecting Tokyo and northern Japan, the Narita Express airport liner as well as audio equipment and company logos.

His designs originate from the sights of Hiroshima’s devastation after the U.S. atomic bombing of the city 70 years ago. He heard voices of street cars, bicycles and other objects mangled and abandoned, saying they had wished to have been utilized more, he is quoted as saying in a company pamphlet for his Hiroshima exhibit last year.

His design principle was a “democratization” of goods and beauty, to make them accessible for everyone.

Ekuan became a monk at a Hiroshima temple to succeed his father, who died due to radiation from the atomic bombing. But he eventually pursued his career in design. He graduated from the prestigious Tokyo National University of Fine Arts and Music in 1955 and founded his design studio two years later.

His office, GK Industrial Design Group, said Feb. 9 that Ekuan died of a heart problem at a Tokyo hospital early Feb. 7.

Last year, Ekuan received a prestigious Italian industrial design prize, the Golden Compass Award, after winning several other international awards.
17th Annual Cherry Blossom Freedom Walk
Washington, D.C.
March 28; 9 a.m.
National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism
New Jersey Avenue and Louisiana Avenue
Cost: Free
Rain or shine, come remember and honor the Japanese American experience during WWII and EO 9066 for a day of remembrance. The event’s keynote speaker will be Catherine Mitrano, and check-ins began at 9 a.m. Please register ahead of time for the Freedom Walk.
Info: Visit www.njamt.com

‘American: Exclusion/Inclusion’
New York, NY
April 19
New York Historical Society
Museum and Library
107 Central Park West
Visit the exhibit to explore the century-old history of trade and immigration between China and the United States. This narrative begins from the late-18th century to the present, illustrating how the Chinese American experience is part of American history.
Info: Visit www.nyhistory.org or call (212) 873-3400.

‘Children of Hangzhou: Connecting With China’
Boston, MA
April 26
Boston Children’s Museum
308 Congress St.
Cost: Free
Engage with community members and learn about China through its children. The program is designed to nourish understanding, knowledge and appreciation for contemporary China in Boston’s Sister City, Hangzhou.
Info: Visit www.bostonchildrenmuseum.org or call (617) 426-6500.

Spring Shake!
Niles, IL
March 14; 8 p.m.-12:30 a.m.
Yuri Kimura; sisters, Setsuko (Miwa) Kimura; daughter, Elaine Saeko Kimura; son, Bryan survived by his loving wife, Cerritos, CA; Feb. 8; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 6.

Ellen (Alan) Tomota and Kent (Gloria) Shimizu; she is also survived by brothers, Thomas Kobayashi; brother, Thomas (Gloria) Shimizu; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 6.

Kuwada, Teruko, 94, Gardena, CA; Jan. 16; she is survived by her children, Karen (Tom) Akashi, Tracy (Ron) Okubo, Kinda (Marty) Bedwell, Greg Kubo and Kevin (Mary) Kubo; gc: 7.

Kawari, Barbara Shizuye, 102, Los Angeles, CA; Feb. 8; she is survived by her loving sons, Harvey Y. (Jane Kikue) and Ronald T. (Chong S.) Kawari; gc: 1.

Kobata, Rose, 92, Gardena, CA; Jan. 31; she is survived by her children, Dennis (Jan Tokumaru) Kobata and Frances (Dave) Fuji; step-children, JoAnn Kin and Margaret (George) Peterson; siblings, Reiko (Harold) Kobata, John Hagio, Joyce (Chisato) Kubo, Frank (Lolita) Hagio and Kathleen (Tak) Ishii; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 3; ggc: 10.

Kubo, Yuriko Lilly, 84, Cerritos, CA; Jan. 16; she is survived by her children, Karen (Tom) Akashi, Tracey (Ron) Okubo, Kinda (Marty) Bedwell, Greg Kubo and Kevin (Mary) Kubo; gc: 7.

Kawahara; she is also survived by many other friends and relatives.

Matsumura, Isamu, 95, Los Angeles, CA; Feb. 11; he is survived by his children, Harry Matsumura and Joyce (Bill) Brewer; brother, Kazuharu (Takeno) Tsubaki; sister-in-law, Toshiko Matsumura and Dorothy Yoshidate; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Matsumita, Miyoko, 103, Arleta, CA; Jan. 23; she is survived by her children, Betty (Joe) Messina, Virginia (William) Babiste, James (Patricia) Nomura and Kenneth (Ruby) Maya; sister, Namiko Ni and Yoshiko See; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 7; ggc: 9; ggc: 1.

Mikae, Mike Michihoshi, 99, Costa Mesa, CA; Feb. 1; he is survived by her children, Hisako Misty and Mikio Mukaé; gc: 3; ggc: 3.

Miyake, Perry Yoshiro, 90, Mar Vista, CA; Jan. 28; he was a U.S. Army veteran; he is also a former internee at Rohwer and Mount Clemens camp; he is survived by his wife, Aiko Alice; sons, Perry Jr. (Jan) and Rev. Ron (Carol); sisters, Shiz Okura and Yuri Amamoto; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2.

Nagakiri, Masaru Robert, 87, Los Angeles, CA; Feb. 14; he is survived by his children, Susan and Kirk Nakagiri; siblings, Shigemi (Donna) Nakagiri, Minako Jane Shintani and June

Nishimura, Harumi, 72, Lomita, CA; Feb. 7; she is survived by her children, Richard Masa and Cheryl Kako; she is also survived by many other friends and relatives.

Nishimura, Maruoka, Romi Kathleen, 47, Gardena, CA; Feb. 16; she is survived by her father, Richard Ichiro “Rosy” Maruoka; a U.S. Army veteran; he is also a former internee at Rohwer and Mount Clemens camp; he is survived by his children, Perry Jr. (Jan) and Rev. Ron (Carol); sisters, Shiz Okura and Yuri Amamoto; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2.

Nakagiri, Masaru Robert, 87, Los Angeles, CA; Feb. 14; he is survived by his children, Susan and Kirk Nakagiri; siblings, Shigemi (Donna) Nakagiri, Minako Jane Shintani and June
We need access to more land and
Nguyen: these goals?
Taniguchi: What do you need to achieve community programs, specifically Food grocery chains. We also want to expand our operation to begin to supply to national to expand our tofu- and soymilk-making creation potential. In addition, we want capacity and thus begin to increase our job
Nguyen: We intend to expand our growing forward as an organization?
Taniguchi: What goals do you have moving farming benefits and rights.
These farmers are often left out of the national discussion in regards to farming benefits and rights.
Taniguchi: Why should JACL be invested in your work and success?
Nguyen: We are constantly advocating for the rights and benefits of AAPI farmers nationally. These farmers are often left out of the national discussion in regards to
Access to capital — specifically,
Nguyen: What are some of the challenges you've faced as an organization?
Taniguchi: Who are some of the partners you've worked with or that you are working with now?
Nguyen: We have partnerships with other entities such as Kids Rethink New Orleans Schools, Oxfam America, Asian Pacific Islander American Health Forum, USDA, etc.
Taniguchi: How are you engaging youth?
Nguyen: The Food Justice Collective is a partnership between Kids Rethink New Orleans (Rethink) and VEGGI Farmer's Cooperative that aims to build a multiracial youth organizer cohort to deepen understanding and intersect histories of oppression in relationship to land and ownership of food systems. VEGGI and Rethink aim to develop bonds of solidarity and shared understanding of past experiences that influence our present situation in relation to access to food. This cohort will build both knowledge and skills in horticulture, money management and cooperative economics and other alternative forms of economies as they manage farm plots, participate in marketing and distribution and revive other forms of connection to land (i.e., medicinal remedies). Through this collective effort, youth will engage in intergenerational organizing with growers, community members and other prominent educators in order to unpack concealed histories and build up long-term practices of self-determination. This proposed project contributes to VEGGI’s work by connecting young people from New Orleans and New Orleans East toward increasing local food access, job creation and promoting sustainable agriculture through intergenerational organizing.
Taniguchi: What informal education techniques do you use?
Nguyen: We engage in consensus and democratic decision making and therefore engage in a lot of education around cooperative dynamics and organizational dynamics.
Taniguchi: What is something you're proud of personally?
Nguyen: We have grown from one staff member to five and from engaging four young people per summer to over 14 multilingual young people for an entire year. We started from backyard scale agriculture to now farming over two acres with commercial tofu and soymilk production.
Taniguchi: How are you engaging the Asian American community?
Nguyen: We are based in one of the most-concentrated Vietnamese communities in Louisiana and thus engage this community by recruiting Vietnamese member growers into the cooperative and recruiting Vietnamese young people to participate in our Food Justice Collective.
Taniguchi: How is this a social justice issue?
Nguyen: This is a social justice issue because especially for Southeast Asians, we do not fit the model minority myth and face many racial and economic injustices. Therefore, it is crucial to build programs and opportunities that support genuine community self-determination.
MQVN Community Development Corporation is currently seeking pro-bono tax specialists, lawyers, public health specialists and a website designer. Submit your resume and a brief description of how you can contribute to MQVN by emailing r.taniguchi@outlook.com by April 30.
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.