



# PACIFIC CITIZEN



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# UNDERSTANDING THE STRONG U.S.-JAPAN BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP

JACL National President David Lin reflects on his participation in the inaugural Asian American Leadership Delegation.

By David Lin, JACL National President

I was truly surprised and honored when I was notified in February that I would be participating in the inaugural class of the Asian American Leadership Delegation (AALD), sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) of Japan in March 2015. The trip is intended to provide an opportunity for Asian Americans to learn more about key initiatives of the Japanese government and deepen their understanding of Japan and the strong U.S.-Japan bilateral relationship.

I have been involved with a number of Asian American community-based organizations for over 10 years. The genesis of my involvement was the community relations assignment I took with my former employer. Over time, my community relations job turned into my passion, and I became personally engaged with several organizations.

It is with this backdrop that I was elected to the position of national president of the Japanese American Citizens League in July 2012, and I continue to serve on the boards of several other Asian American community-based organizations.

JACL has enjoyed an excellent relationship with the Embassy of Japan and the consulate generals in various cities in the United States through the hard work of several JACL past national presidents, including Messrs. Floyd Shimomura, Floyd Mori and Larry Oda. As such, I have had many opportunities work-



Japan State Minister for Foreign Affairs Yasuhide Nakayama (front row, center) met the Asian American Leadership Delegation's (top row, from left) Trevor Ozawa, Hemanth Digumarthi, Daphne Ng, Ajay Malhotra and (front row, from left) Daphne Kwok and David Lin during the inaugural group's six-day trip to Japan.

ing with the Embassy of Japan in Washington, D.C., in my official capacity. Given the fact that I am based in New Jersey, I developed a strong relationship with the consulate general in New York and specifically with Ambassador Sumio Kusaka there, prior to his appointment as Ambassador of Japan to Australia in April 2015. Still, being selected to be a member of this delegation was indeed an honor.

Our delegation consisted of six Asian Americans from different geographies in the United States, with varied backgrounds and vocations. In addition to myself, they are

Hemanth Digumarthi, State Farm Insurance; Daphne Kwok, AARP; Ajay Malhotra, CBRE; Daphne Ng, Southern California Edison; and the Hon. Trevor Ozawa, Honolulu City Councilmember.

With the successful annual Japanese American Leadership Delegation in place for over a decade, it is commendable that MOFA is keen on broadening its outreach efforts in the United States with members of the Asian American community to further develop the relationship between the two countries through a delegation such as this.

Our agenda during the six-day visit, from March 14-21, was broad and varied and included meetings, briefing sessions, official dinners and visits to temples, Meiji Shrine, and the U.S. Naval Base in Yokosuka. In a nutshell, we had a week's worth of immersed learning on many geopolitical issues and the current U.S.-Japan relationship. Equally important, we had many opportunities for exposure to Japanese culture and Japanese people through a number of person-to-person interactions. The following is a summary of my personal learnings:

- During the various sessions, we were briefed on the importance of U.S.-Japan bilateral relations, in terms of the strong economic relations and cultural and people-to-people exchanges between the two countries.

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The **Pacific Citizen** newspaper (ISSN: 0030-8579) is published semi-monthly (except once in December and January) by the Japanese American Citizens League, *Pacific Citizen*, 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.

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## NIKKEI VOICE

# CAMERON CROWE APOLOGIZES — A LITTLE — FOR WHITEWASHING ‘ALOHA’

By Gil Asakawa

I’ve been a fan of Cameron Crowe for a long time. When I was in high school and college, I read every piece he wrote in *Rolling Stone* magazine — especially when I found out he was a teenager, like me. He’s one reason I became a music critic. I thought, “Hell, if HE can do it, so can I!”

In his career since interviewing huge rock stars, Crowe has moved on to making movies. He’s known for huge hits like 1996’s “Jerry Maguire” and smaller hits like 2000’s “Almost Famous,” a fictionalized autobiographical film about a kid in the 1970s who gets to write for *Rolling Stone*.

Crowe has been in the news in recent weeks for his latest movie, “Aloha.” Upon opening, Media Action Network for Asian Americans ([www.manaa.org](http://www.manaa.org)) didn’t mince words and slammed the movie for “whitewashing” in a statement:

“Taking place in the 50th state, the movie features mostly white actors (Bradley Cooper, Emma Stone, Rachel McAdams, Bill Murray, Alec Baldwin, John Krasinski, Danny McBride, Jay Baruchel) and barely any Asian American or Pacific Islanders. ‘60 percent of Hawaii’s population is AAPIs,’ says MANAA Founding President and former Hawaii resident Guy Aoki. ‘Caucasians only make up 30 percent of the population, but from watching this film, you’d think they made up 90 percent. This comes in a long line of films (‘The Descendants,’ ‘50 First Dates,’ ‘Blue Crush,’ ‘Pearl Harbor’) that uses Hawaii for its exotic backdrop but goes out of its way to exclude the very

people who live there. It’s like tourists making a film about their stay in the islands, which is why so many locals hate tourists. It’s an insult to the diverse culture and fabric of Hawaii.”

The movie is about a military contractor (played by Bradley Cooper) who is hired to do some work in Hawaii

*‘I have heard your words and your disappointment, and I offer you a heart-felt apology to all who felt this was an odd or misguided casting choice.’*

— ‘Aloha’ Director Cameron Crowe

and meets a former girlfriend, who is a fighter pilot (played by Emma Stone). And that casting of Stone has started a second tsunami of controversy that is engulfing “Aloha.”

You see, Stone’s character is named “Allison Ng,” and she is supposed to be one-quarter native Hawaiian, one-quarter Chinese and half-Swedish. Of course, Stone looks (and is) 100 percent Caucasian, hence the howls of protest.

After a week of criticism, Crowe posted an apology on

his blog, “The Uncool.” Leading with the meek headline “A Comment on Allison Ng,” Crowe says his film has been misunderstood and that he’s trying to promote and celebrate the multiculturalism that is a part of Hawaii’s attraction. He explains that the Ng character is based on a real woman who (like the Ng character in the script) is frustrated that she’s part Hawaiian, or “hapa-haole” as the natives say, but looks so white that people don’t take her seriously.

This explanation of the casting is appealing, but it leaves a lot of holes for viewers to consider. Like, was it important to add a story line to the narrative that is about a part-native, part-Asian character who is so white she has to spout Hawaiian phrases (and not too convincingly, according to one Hawaii-born hapa-haole critic) to prove her bona fides? Crow did cast one real Hawaiian, native activist Dennis “Bumpy” Kanahale, to play himself. So, that alone would have showed his sensitivity to the issues of ethnicity on the islands.

But Crowe botches his “apology” by only aiming it at the people who were upset. I call that a “nonapology apology,” which is so typical when a prominent person or corporation offends anyone: “Oh, we didn’t mean to be racist; we apologize if you were offended.” That puts the onus on the person who was offended instead of taking responsibility and admitting, “We’re sorry, we did something that was wrong/hurtful/offensive/racist/stupid.”

>> See ‘ALOHA’ on page 12



## MY COUNTRY

# BE PREPARED

By Rhianna Taniguchi

The Girl Scouts’ motto, “Always Be Prepared,” is a good tenet for all Americans to follow, especially with racial turmoil and a big election around the corner. Asian Americans have the lowest voter registration rates compared to any other racial demographic despite the fact that we’re the fastest-growing racial group. The first time I worked at the polls was when I was 16. It is a great opportunity for students; not only did it pay, but it also gave me some work experience and demonstrated to others that I cared about my community. This column shares some helpful ways in which you, too, can be prepared.

### Things You Shouldn’t Procrastinate:

- **Step 1:** Make sure you’re registered to vote, and if you’re a college student or young professional working away from home, make sure your absentee ballot is going to the right address.
- **Step 2:** Make sure others with similar interests or those who may be underrepresented are registered to vote

(host a voter registration drive — make sure you get the proper training and certification to do this).

- **Step 3:** Become an election judge or official watcher and keep the elections fair. Find out how to do this by visiting your state’s election website. Report issues with voting to the authorities and civil rights organizations immediately.
- **Step 4:** Find out about laws that may keep you from voting. According to an article published by the *Washington Post* in October 2014, “One-fifth of the 40 states will be requiring some form of ID at the polls . . . seven are requiring photo ID” (in regards to the 2014 elections).
- **Step 5:** If you’re on the fence about whom you are voting for or what your beliefs are, then set time aside to figure them out. Research candidates and subscribe to news outlets that are unbiased and trustworthy.
- **Step 6:** Volunteer for a campaign, your party or for is-

sues on the ballot that are important to you. For those of you on the younger side, this can help you gain professional skills and grow your network. If you’re retired, this is a great way to donate your time to a worthy cause.

- **Step 7:** Donate or help with fundraising. If you’re young, this may be difficult, but volunteering at fundraising events will help you gain experience and face time with influential people in your community.
- **Step 8:** Show up! If you’re mailing in your ballot, make sure you read the directions carefully and mail it in on time.

The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, Asian Americans Advancing Justice, APIA Vote and the League of Women Voters are great resources to get you through the steps above.

*Rhianna Taniguchi is an Account Executive at the Denver Post. She was the 2014 JACL Norman Y. Mineta Fellow.*



## PRENSA NIKKEI VISITS GARDENA VALLEY JCI

**P**rensa Nikkei, one of two major Japanese Peruvian newspapers, visited the Gardena Valley Cultural Institute on May 22, hoping to learn about the Japanese American experience.

Prensa Nikkei Director Manuel Tsuneo Higo and Program Leader Enrique Yamashiro coordinated the visit for newspaper subscribers. The group toured the GVJCI campus, the community library and the JCI Gardens Apartments.

The visit also included a ukulele concert held by Chika Nagata, and a hula performance led by teacher Harriet Nagata.



PHOTO: MICHELLE YAMASHIRO

Prensa Nikkei newspaper readers visited the Gardena Valley Cultural Institute to promote international dialogue between Japanese Peruvians and Japanese Americans.

During lunch, a stories exchange occurred, where both Japanese Peruvians and Japanese Americans had an opportunity to share wartime narratives. Stories about incarceration during World War II as well as experiences from Lima were among the few that were shared.

Julio Ishizawa Ohba described

how Japanese families lived in fear of being “blacklisted in Lima, Peru, during WWII. Ohba’s family was forced to leave Lima in fear of being “blacklisted” during this time.

GVJCI and groups like Prensa Nikkei hope to continue relations and exchange stories in future events.

## 2015 JACL NATIONAL CONVENTION



### J. D. HOKOYAMA TO RECEIVE JACL PRESIDENTIAL AWARD AT 2015 NATIONAL CONVENTION

By JACL National Staff

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — In recognition of his careerlong efforts to educate, empower and train leadership within the Asian American and Pacific Islander community, JACL has announced J. D. Hokoyama as a recipient of the 2015 JACL Presidential Award.

For more than 30 years,

Hokoyama served as a founding board member and president and CEO for Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics (LEAP), a national nonprofit, nonpartisan, community-based organization founded in 1982 in Los Angeles to achieve full participation and equality for AAPIs through leadership, empowerment and policy.

Hokoyama also is a former Peace Corps volunteer, educator and longtime JACLer, serving as the associate/acting JACL National Director from 1978-81.

He will receive his award at the Sayonara Banquet in the Monte Carlo Hotel on July 15 at the 2015 JACL National Convention in Las Vegas, Nev.

*For more information about the 2015 JACL National Convention, visit the convention website at <https://www.jacl.org/events/national-convention/>. JACL members who register before July 19 are eligible to save \$50 by taking advantage of Early Bird registration.*

## JACL ISSUES STATEMENT ON DAPA/DACA RULING IN TEXAS ET AL V. UNITED STATES

By JACL National Staff

**J**ACL is disappointed to learn that the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals denied the United States Department of Justice’s request for an emergency stay that would have allowed implementation of the president’s executive actions on immigration.

Lawsuits filed by Texas and 26 other states resulted in an injunction on the executive order.

An emergency stay would have allowed President Obama’s Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA) and an expanded Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program to move forward.

DAPA provided limited protection from deportation for parents of American-born children, and DACA provided work permits and protection from deporta-

tion to undocumented children who arrived in the U.S. before age 16.

The May 26 decision impacts nearly 5 million eligible immigrants, including half a million Asian American and Pacific Islanders.

“JACL and other AAPI organizations have rallied for common-sense solutions to an immigration system that maintains long-term barriers to citizenship,” said JACL Executive Director Priscilla Ouchida. “The system contributes to the creation of a noncriminal population that works and pays taxes but are identified as illegal because they are not given a legal means to obtain citizenship.”

The Obama administration’s appeal of the Texas decision is still pending, and the Fifth Circuit Court has scheduled oral arguments on the administration’s appeal on July 10.

## APAs in the News

### ‘Allegiance’ Broadway Musical Announces Complete Cast



NOMURA



CLARKE



WATANABE

**NEW YORK** — The full cast for the upcoming new Broadway musical “Allegiance,” based on the World War II experiences of actor and civil rights activist George Takei, was announced May 27.

Starring alongside previously announced stars Takei (Sam Kimura/Ojii-san), Lea Salonga (Kei Kimura), Michael K. Lee (Frankie Suzuki) and Telly Leung (Sammy Kimura) — all four of whom were part of the musical’s world-premiere engagement at the Old Globe Theatre in San Diego, Calif., in 2012 — will be Katie Rose Clarke (Hannah Campbell), Christopher Nomura (Tatsuo Kimura) and Greg Watanabe (Mike Masaoka).

Clarke has portrayed Glinda on the first national tour of “Wicked”; Nomura is an award-winning baritone opera singer; and Watanabe’s long list of stage credits includes “Golden Child,” “Extraordinary Chambers” and “The Happy Ones.”

The show, which begins previews on Oct. 6 at the Longacre Theatre, will have its official opening on Nov. 8. General public tickets are on sale now.

### Trial of Former Undersheriff Paul Tanaka Might Be Delayed Until October



**LOS ANGELES** — The federal corruption trial of former Los Angeles Undersheriff Paul Tanaka could possibly be delayed until October, a judge announced May 29.

Tanaka and ex-Sheriff’s Capt. Tom Carey are scheduled for trial in July on obstruction of justice charges. But according to U.S.

District Judge Percy Anderson, lawyers for the two defendants have requested at least until October in order to prepare their cases.

Attorneys for both sides had until June 5 to come up with a trial date; should an agreement not be made, then Anderson would schedule the date himself.

Tanaka, who is currently on leave of absence as the mayor of Gardena, Calif., has denied the charges in a five-count indictment returned May 13 by a federal grand jury.

The indictment reads a string of orders that Tanaka and Carey gave during summer 2011 to sheriff’s deputies working to conceal from FBI agents the location of an inmate the FBI was using as an informant.

If convicted, the charges could send both men to federal prison for years.

### California Seventh-Grader Competes in Scripps National Spelling Bee



**NATIONAL HARBOR, MD.** — Cooper Komatsu, a seventh-grader at Culver City Middle School in Culver City, Calif., competed recently in the 88th Scripps National Spelling Bee at the Gaylord National Resort and Convention Center in National Harbor, Md.

Komatsu missed the championship finals despite having correctly spelled both of his two semifinal words (“inessive” and “Dicynodon”) on May 28. He did not score high enough on two multiple-choice spelling and vocabulary tests to be among the 10 contestants to qualify for the final round.

The Spelling Bee ended in a tie for the fifth time and second consecutive year, naming Gokul Venkatachalam of St. Louis, Mo., and Vanya Shivashankar of Olathe, Kansas, as co-champions.

— P.C. Staff



# CIVIL RIGHTS CHAMPION MINORU YASUI HONORED

The late activist is awarded the inaugural 'Minoru Yasui Voices of Change Award.'

**PORTLAND, ORE.** — The Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO) in its annual Voices of Change Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Celebration announced on May 7 the "Minoru Yasui Voices of Change Award," which recognizes leaders who have promoted civil liberties for all Americans through courageous leadership, activism and advocacy. Yasui, who passed away in 1986, was the inaugural recipient, and his brother, Dr. Homer Yasui, accepted the award on his behalf.

Yasui became a "voice of change" when he was a 25-year-old attorney with a productive legal career and he took a stand that the World War II curfew law imposed on persons of Japanese ancestry was wrong. He was convicted, sentenced and spent months in solitary confinement, followed by imprisonment at Minidoka Internment Camp.

Despite these experiences, his belief in the American system of law was not diminished. Yasui dedicated his entire life to building communities and furthering human and civil rights.

He helped found the Urban League of Denver; the Latin American Research and Service Agency, now called Colorado Latino Leadership and Research Organization; Denver Native Americans United, now called Denver Indian Center; among many



Dr. Homer Yasui (center) accepted the inaugural "Minoru Yasui Voices of Change Award" on behalf of his late brother. He is pictured with APANO leaders and Minoru Yasui Tribute Committee members including (from left) Jessie Domingo, Mary Li, June Arima Schumann, Dr. Phyllis Lee, Dr. Connie Masuoka, Miki Yasui, Rev. Joseph Santos-Lyons, Setsy Larouche, David Fidanque and Gauri Rajbaidya.

other organizations and programs.

Today, Yasui remains a role model for activism to promote equity for all communities across this country.

In naming Yasui as the recipient for the Voices of Change Award, Dr. Phyllis Lee said, "There is no question that he has been,

and continues to exemplify, a great leader, civil rights advocate and most importantly a great American hero . . . to honor the man undeterred in his life's mission to create the changes that improved the life opportunities for our communities and our nation."

Earlier this year, the Minoru Yasui Tribute

Committee worked with U.S. Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii) to nominate Yasui for the 2015 Presidential Medal of Freedom. The submission to President Barack Obama included more than 115 elected officials, national, state and regional organizations, as well as notable individuals — including two cabinet officials; nine U.S. Senators and 26 House of Representatives from 11 states; governors, attorneys general, mayors and state legislators; leading national civil rights organizations, including the National Urban League, ACLU, NAACP, National Council of La Raza, JACL, American Friends Service Committee, the Leadership Conference for Civil and Human Rights and American Jewish Committee; and 46 regional and state organizations and individuals.

The Presidential Medal of Freedom is generally awarded in the fall of each year. If awarded, the president would complete the recognition of all three plaintiffs in the Japanese American Internment Cases, which also include medal recipients Fred Korematsu and Gordon Hirabayashi.

These three landmark cases were reopened when it was determined that the government knowingly represented false information to the U.S. Supreme Court and their *Coram Nobis* victory was a critical component in the Japanese American Redress movement. ■

## THE SMITHSONIAN BEGINS PLANNING FOR THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF E.O. 9066

A museum representative will be at July's JACL National Convention to take a look at photos of objects that could potentially be included in the special exhibition.

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — Feb. 19, 2017, marks the 75th anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066, a three-page document signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt that adversely affected the lives of Americans of Japanese ancestry forever.

To commemorate this important historical event, the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History will feature a special exhibition that will open on the Day of Remembrance in February 2017 and remain accessible until November 2017. It is projected to reach more than 3 million visitors in the museum and millions more online.

The Smithsonian will show how this document shaped the lives of Japanese Americans during World War II and continues to resonate throughout the community today. The display will feature images and objects from the museum's actively growing Japanese American history collection.

Curators are looking forward to working

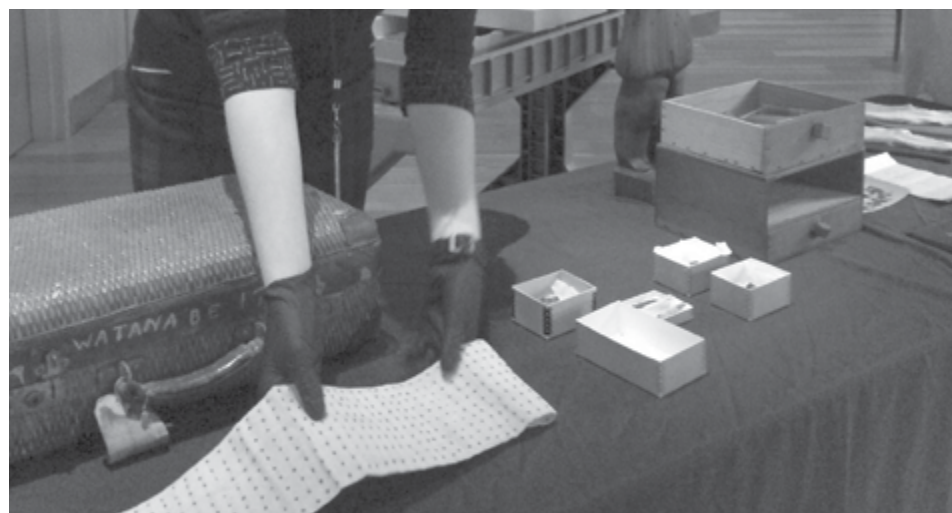
with the Japanese American community in the search for new collection acquisitions to contribute to the museum's longstanding effort to document their history.

In doing so, it is seeking artifacts and documents that capture the Japanese American camp experience — objects made and used in camp, documents and photos. Please help the Smithsonian tell this story by sharing your stories and voices behind the camp walls.

A Smithsonian representative will be attending the JACL National Convention in Las Vegas in July. Attendees are encouraged to voice their stories and bring a photo of an object that might be donated to the museum.

Together, we can ensure that Japanese American history and perspectives are documented, shared and appreciated as part of the American Experience.

*For more information, please contact [americanhistoryapacollections@si.edu](mailto:americanhistoryapacollections@si.edu).*



An artifact display related to the Japanese American experience during World War II at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History Day of Remembrance event on Feb. 19



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# Historic



The National Trust for Historic Preservation designates the Seattle landmark as a 'National Treasure.'

By Tiffany Ujiiye,  
Assistant Editor

In August 1910, Japanese American architect Sabro Ozasa built and designed the Panama Hotel, a five-story brick building with 100 guest rooms above and small businesses on the ground floor. Today, it still stands on the southeast corner of Sixth Avenue South and S. Main Street in Seattle's Nihonmachi and was recently declared Seattle's first "National Treasure."

The National Trust for Historic Preservation designated the hotel as a National Treasure on April 9 before a crowd of more than 160 people at the Nisei Veterans Committee building in Seattle, Wash. At the special event, speakers included NVC President Bruce Inaba, National Trust President Stephanie Meeks, Congressman Jim McDermott (D-Wash.), Deputy Mayor Hyeok Kim, Eugenia Woo of Historic Seattle and hotel owner Jan Johnson.

"The Panama Hotel possesses an exceptional degree of integrity, conveying a powerful sense of time and place," said the National Trust for Historic Preservation in a statement. "It continues to evoke the pre-World War II life of Japanese Americans, to testify to the betrayal of the forcible relocation effort of 1942 and to bear witness to post-war reconciliations."

The NTHP, an organization dedicated to preserving important historical sites in American history with more than 60 years of expertise and resources to protect a growing portfolio of more than 55 National Treasures, will focus on maintaining the building. The program promotes and advocates the history of threatened buildings, neighborhoods, communities and landscapes that stand at risk across the country.

Today, the hotel is still in operation, offering guests an opportunity to stay in one of its 100 rooms and a chance to experience a bygone era in white lace sheets and wooden boudoirs.

Former hotel owner Takashi Hori and Asian Lifestyle Design writer Jenny Nakao Hones inside the Panama Hotel in 2012.



Johnson and the NHTP are now drafting conservation efforts and plans for the building and the exhibit collections within it. As Johnson retires her title as owner, both parties are in the process of finding a new steward for the property while honoring the legacy of the hotel.

"I believe that historic places provide a tangible connection between the past and present. They offer an important, living lesson in what our ancestors experienced and how they fundamentally lived," said Sheri Freemuth, senior field officer with the NTHP and project manager for the Panama Hotel National Treasure. "The Panama Hotel is an amazing example of this because it has changed so little from its original use and intent, even while some of the surrounding blocks have seen dramatic change. For the Japanese American community, there is an even deeper resonance in the space that is truly inspiring."



The late Takashi Hori kept ownership of the hotel during his incarceration and continued to operate the building after wartime.



PHOTO: THE PANAMA HOTEL

Jan Johnson purchased the Panama Hotel from Takashi Hori in 1985, beginning her stewardship and dedication to protecting the hotel's long-standing legacy.



The Panama Hotel is more than 105 years old and remains relatively unchanged.



PHOTO: THE PANAMA HOTEL



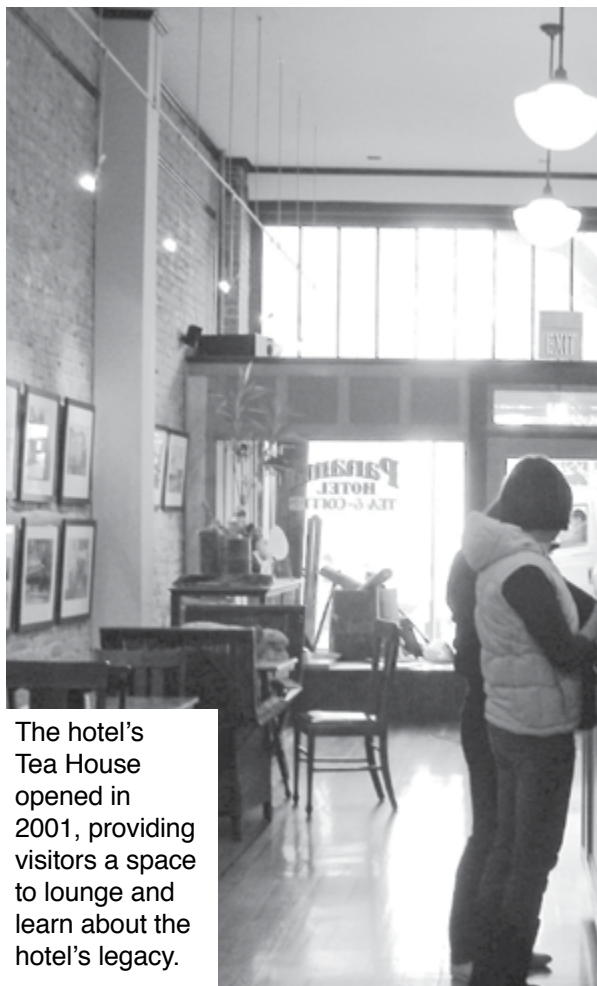
PHOTO: ASIANLIFESTYLEDESIGN.COM

Items left behind in the Hashidate Yu are on display in the hotel's exhibit.



The hotel's sento was once the site where families kept their belongings during their WWII incarceration.

PHOTO: THE PANAMA HOTEL



The hotel's Tea House opened in 2001, providing visitors a space to lounge and learn about the hotel's legacy.

PHOTO: ASIANLIFESTYLEDESIGN.COM



PHOTO: THE PANAMA HOTEL

In this undated photo, Seattle community members unpack items found in the sento's basement.

Within its walls contains a time capsule of both pre- and post-World War II Seattle. Over the years, the hotel has seen generations of Japanese immigrants along with Alaskan fisherman and international travelers. For Japanese immigrants before the war, this was the place to stay in between and during jobs.

Below its guest rooms and businesses is the basement, which houses one of America's oldest Japanese-style public bathhouses or "sentos." In Japan, sentos were used as purification rites in Buddhism but lost religious implications in the United States. Rather than operate like a religious institution, the sentos in places like Seattle's Nihonmachi were social gathering spots.

The Panama Hotel's sento, which is named "Hashidate Yu," was one of only two such bathhouses in the United States at the time of its opening and is currently the only sento intact in its original condition.

During the years leading up to WWII, the Panama Hotel served a trifecta of services for the growing Japanese community. The building was a combination of homes, businesses and a bathhouse. It was a cultural hub.

Facilities like Hashidate Yu also allowed Japanese immigrants to share their cultural traditions.

Then in 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066, forcibly removing 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry from their homes into incarceration camps. Like Seattle's Nihonmachi, many Japanese and Japanese American communities disappeared along with the sentos. It was during that time when Seattle's Nihonmachi residents packed their belongings and stored them for safekeeping in the hotel's basement.

Hashidate Yu went from sento to safe house for Japanese and Japanese Americans during their incarceration throughout World War II.

Takashi Hori, owned and operated the Panama Hotel from 1938-85. Hori's father, Sanjiro Hori, originally purchased the property for \$20,000, intending that his son would operate and manage the hotel.

As E.O. 9066 came into effect, people began asking Hori if they could store their belongings in the hotel's basement. Gradually, as word spread, the sento became filled to the ceiling with trunks and suitcases of personal belongings. Other locations like Nichiren Church and the Seattle Buddhist Church also offered storage space for families during this time.

"It was all based on trust, as everyone was just doing their best under the circumstances," wrote Jenny Nakao Hones. Hones wrote an eight-part feature of Hori on her blog "Asian Lifestyle Design" in 2012.

When the families returned from the incarceration camps, Hori told Hones that "some families never came back to pick up their items. This puzzled me. But, he said it was probably because they just wanted to move on with life and leave the past and those memories behind."

Hones interviewed Hori before his passing in

May 2013.

Hori, like his fellow community members, was incarcerated. He and his family were sent to Minidoka, leaving the hotel in the hands of entrusted individuals. Upon Hori's return to Seattle's Nihonmachi, Hori considered himself lucky in his discussion with Hones. The hotel kept its integrity, and the basement with its treasures was left untouched.

The Panama Hotel's basement is a painful reminder of what happened to a community thrown into chaos. While many of the suitcases and trunks were reclaimed, some were never reunited with their owners.

Today, many of the original items are on display in the coffee shop on the first floor of the Panama Hotel. Visitors can view photographs, clothes and pieces of everyday life while touring the exhibit, which allows them to step back into the American past. As the years passed, Hori as well as Johnson have made efforts to contact families and individuals in the hopes of returning the possessions.

After the war, Hashidate Yu was reopened and operated by Fukuo and Shigeko Sano until the mid-1950s. Over time, the sentos grew less popular, and modern homes better accommodated Japanese American families looking to move away from Japanese traditions.

In 1985, Johnson bought the Panama Hotel from the Hori family and renovated the property. Johnson took the belongings found in the basement and created a small museum in the sento.

The Panama Hotel Tea House was installed in 2001, providing a means for visitors to experience a slice of Japanese culture in Seattle and learn about the hotel's history. Since its opening, many Niseis have visited the hotel, adding personal narratives and memories.

Author Jamie Ford used the hotel in her best-selling fiction novel "Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet," a love story set in the community surrounding the Panama Hotel during WWII.

"The Panama Hotel Legacy," a short film about the hotel, was featured at the declaration event in April. Historians like professor Michael Sullivan from the University of Washington Tacoma spoke about the hotel's significance as well as other community members and activists.

Johnson and the NTHP continue their search for a new steward. For individuals interested in learning about future stewardship of the hotel, please email [panamahotel@savingplaces.org](mailto:panamahotel@savingplaces.org).

"Assisting the process of transferring the property from one steward to the next is a key moment in the preservation of the Panama Hotel," said Freemuth.

**To reserve a room or schedule a tour at the Panama Hotel, visit [www.panamahotel.net](http://www.panamahotel.net) or call (206) 223-9242 or email [reservations@panamahotelseattle.com](mailto:reservations@panamahotelseattle.com). To read Hones' full-feature, visit [www.asianlifestyledesign.com](http://www.asianlifestyledesign.com).**



# SANSEI STORIES: BRUNCH AT POST & BEAM

By Janet Mitsui Brown

*The following story was generously contributed by the Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute's Sansei Stories weekly workshop and Janet Mitsui Brown. The Sansei Stories workshop encourages writers and storytellers to share their personal narratives about JA experiences.*

It's Mother's Day 2015, and our family wants to take my 92-year-old mother to brunch — someplace different. I suggested Post & Beam, a new restaurant I heard about, located in our old Crenshaw 'hood. In 2015, we live in different parts of Los Angeles — Mar Vista, Chino Hills and Torrance.

It's been years since we've been to Crenshaw to gather and eat, so why not?

We grew up in Crenshaw and moved into the neighborhood in the mid-1950s. My mother and father met in Manzanar, married in Salt Lake City and relocated to the Westside of Los Angeles. When the move was made, we were one of the first nonwhite families to move into Crenshaw. I remember when we first moved into our home, I could see Caucasian neighbors peeking through the windows at us. Yikes, Japanese are moving into the neighborhood!

But because there were no restrictions, Japanese families familiar to my parents moved in steadily. My parents seemed to know everyone, from camp days, or someone was always related to someone else who knew somebody somewhere.

When we first moved in, there was a Safeway market two blocks from us, and a few blocks away there was a "tinker town" with all kinds of kiddie rides, a hot dog stand and games. I went on my first Ferris

wheel ride there and hated it, but the hot dogs seemed special.

Soon, there was a big uproar because "tinker town" was going to be torn down, and a bowling alley was coming up in its place. Nobody knew what that meant, but it soon became apparent that it was a Japanese thing because the owners were JAs. There were Nisei Bowling Leagues that were organized after it was built, and I remember as a young girl, eating French fries with my cousin and seeing Japanese rowdy older girls with special hair-dos, smoking cigarettes and hanging out.

But the best part of this new bowling alley, called Holiday Bowl, was the food it served. It was the first time on the Westside you could get Japanese/Hawaiian-flavored breakfast, lunch and dinner — meals served with rice, some tsukemono or noodles.

Developer Yo Takagaki lived across the street from us, and there was talk that he was going to build a new Japanese center where there were once automobile lots on Crenshaw Boulevard between Coliseum and 39th Street, a few blocks from where we lived.

Within months, he built Crenshaw Square, and in my high school years, it was a popular hangout for Nisei and Sansei. There was the hang-out coffee shop, the beauty and barber shops, dress shops with dresses that fit smaller ladies called Harume, a Tai Ping Singapore lounge that served Chinese food and cocktails, a liquor store named Tags, Jewels by George and various other Japanese stores that specialized in giftware and even wigs, for everyone in those days owned a wiglet. During summers, we were always at the festive carnival, working booths and watching beauty contests, a specialty of Yo Takagaki.

It was in the late-'60s that we started to go to Parkview Women's Club for dances.

In those days, it was right across the parking lot from Post & Beam restaurant, and as I ate brunch with my family, my mind wandered to those evenings when young college-aged Asians from different parts of L.A. would meet at the club to dance to '60s music by local JA musicians.

We heard music originating from the ELA band Thee Midnighters, and we loved to dance to anything



PHOTO: COURTESY OF JANET MITSUI BROWN

Janet Mitsui Brown is a Sansei Stories workshop member living in Los Angeles with her husband, Roger Aaron Brown. She is also the author of the "Obaachan" trilogy.

from the Temptations. We had Parkview and music, reinterpreted by local JA bands, beckoning us to the dance floor. I met my first boyfriend there, and also experienced my first heartbreak with him a few years later.

In the 1970s, I was on my way to San Francisco, Berkeley and Oakland to join the Asian American Third-World Movement that was gathering momentum. I was visiting my parents, and they asked me to pick up fried chicken from Golden Bird for dinner.

Golden Bird was a new fabulously delicious fried chicken restaurant on Santa Rosalia, the present site of Post & Beam. As I waited for the chicken order, two men entered the restaurant with bandanas on their faces. With a gun pointing at several others, and me, they told us to shut up and demanded money from the cash register. Holy sxxx. I slowly slid down to a sitting position just in case the guy went crazy, and the next thing I knew, people were screaming, and the two men fled with money from the restaurant.

I don't remember if I ever got that chicken, but it was the last time I went to Golden Bird. Crenshaw had definitely changed.

But in the next 20 years, Magic Johnson worked his investments in the 1990s, and 20 years after that, here we are in 2015, enjoying Mother's Day brunch in Post & Beam, a restaurant described by a young, stylish Caucasian waiter as soul food with a twist. We gaze at Debbie Allen's Dance Academy across the way.

My, my, my, how the neighborhood has changed once again.

We all shared memories that afternoon with our mother and realized you can never give up hope here in Los Angeles.

*Bon appetite!*

Register for the workshop at [www.jci-gardena.org](http://www.jci-gardena.org) or call (310) 324-6611. Contact Michelle Yamashiro at [myamashiro@jci-gardena.org](mailto:myamashiro@jci-gardena.org) for more information. Workshops are held at 1964 W. 162nd St. in Gardena on a weekly basis.



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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, Iguazu Falls, Buenos Aires"

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# BRINGING A SILENT VOICE TO LIFE

How the National Archives in Washington, D.C., is helping families discover first-hand personal WRA information

By Patti Hirahara

If you could go back over 70 years ago to read what your family's descendants wrote on their camp individual WRA profiles as well as see actual documents and carbon copies of documentation that was filed from 1942-45, it would seem like a miracle. And that is exactly what the National Archives in Washington, D.C., is doing: allowing family descendants this opportunity.

Many families have commented, over the years, that their parents never talked about camp. But having the ability to actually see personal handwritten documents of history, ID cards, references of Caucasian friends from back home and other pertinent information while in camp — it becomes a fascinating experience.

To those that are interested in making the trip, here are some helpful hints of what you will encounter.

The National Archives is located at 700 Pennsylvania Ave. N.W. in Washington, D.C., and is open Monday-Saturday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. This is the only location where the WRA Japanese American relocation files are stored. (For more information about visiting the NARA, go to <http://www.archives.gov/dc-metro/washington/>.)

Upon entering, once you have your belongings screened by security, you will then need to register for a temporary visitor's pass. Archives staff will allow you to go in before the 9 a.m. opening time to pass through security and get your badge, and you can wait in the lobby once this is completed.

Each person planning to research his/her family records will need to register for a National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) research card. This card will serve two purposes: one, as your ID into the National Archives to do research, and second, it will act as a debit card to pay for copy or duplication services. You will also need to bring with you a photo ID, fill out the registration paperwork and read through a PowerPoint presentation on how to do research at the NARA. The research card is free and is good for one year.

Once you receive your card, you'll be directed to the locker area, where you will need to store all of your personal belongings. Remember to bring a quarter for the locker as well as a clear zip-lock sandwich bag, in which you'll put your research card, locker key and credit card or cash to add funds to your NARA "debit" card. You must leave everything else in your locker. In addition, you can bring a camera without a flash or laptop computer without its case up to the second floor research room. Xerox copies are 25 cents each.

The next step is to go to the center information desk to swipe your NARA research card to acknowledge you have entered the facility. From that point, you will go to the right of the information desk to the Consultation Room, where you will fill out separate pull slips for your family (Evacuee Case Files: Entry

22, Record Group 210, Records of War Relocation Authority). Please ask for assistance in filling out these forms. You can pull only four records at a time, and you must have the person's name and birth date. In accessing information, it is preferred that you bring the individual's death certificate to prove you are a family descendant for privacy reasons; if the person is still alive, a signed letter authorizing you access of their WRA records is advised.

Pull times for these records are from Monday-Friday from 10 a.m.-11 a.m., 1 p.m.-2 p.m. and 3 p.m. If you want to take full advantage of this opportunity, apply for your research card at 9 a.m. and then make your request before the 10 a.m. pull time so that you will be able to have the whole day to look over the records. There are no pull times on Saturday, but consultation services are available, and the research room is open for you to look at files that you have already requested.

Once you have made your request, you will need to go to the second floor to Research Room 203, where you will be able to view the records. Once inside, you will need to show your research card to the security guard and then find a desk area to do your research.

While you are waiting, you can get a pencil and some paper, located in front of the security guard, that is provided by the NARA for note taking. Information will be coming in to the center information desk from time to time, so it's helpful that staff knows your name and the information requested so they can let you know when your documents arrive.

Once you receive your documents, you may only view one folder of information at a time. It is best to ask how you should view the records and how you can make copies of the documents. These documents can be viewed for a total of three days before they are returned to the archives.

Before you make copies, you must bring the folder

to the center information desk to have one of the information assistants look through the folder. At that time, take out all the staples so that you can make your copies. Make sure that all documents have been checked or you may have to go to the desk to have the staples removed while you are making copies. (For more information about making copies, visit <http://www.archives.gov/dc-metro/self-service-copying.html>.)

NARA recommends that you should not put a lot of funds on your "debit" card since the money cannot be refunded.

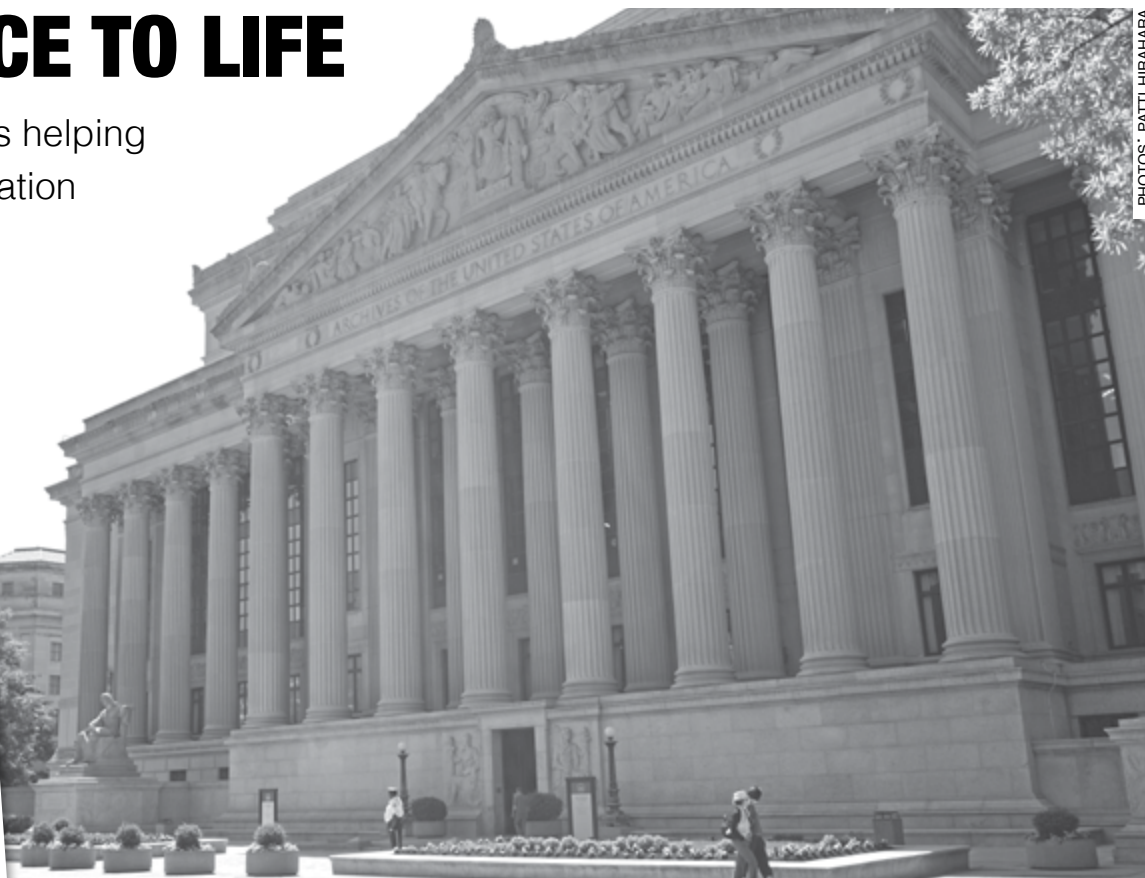
You may leave your information folders in the box on your desk and take a break, from time to time, but you cannot remove the documents from the research room. Each time you go in and out, you must have your research card scanned.

Once you have completed your research, you will need to have all of your documents checked by a research room assistant before you leave and go through the proper protocol.

For those that are unable to travel to Washington, D.C., you can find information online at <http://www.archives.gov/research/japanese-americans/internment-intro.html>. If you would like to have your files copied and mailed, visit <http://www.archives.gov/research/japanese-americans/order.html>.

These records can provide information to a family's Japanese incarceration history and, for many, becomes an unknown resource that is yet to be discovered.

Family members can have access to personal WRA information at the National Archives in Washington, D.C.



PHOTOS: PATTI HIRAHARA

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A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

# CALENDAR

## National

**2015 National Convention**  
**Las Vegas, NV**  
**July 13-15**  
**Monte Carlo Resort and Casino**  
**3770 Vegas Blvd. South**  
**Price: Varies**

Join JACL for the 2015 National Convention in Las Vegas and receive a special discount on tickets to the Blue Man Group. For each person registered, \$25 will go toward funding the National Student Youth Council. Also, reserve your room early for a special convention room rate.  
**Info: [www.jacl.org/2015convention/](http://www.jacl.org/2015convention/).**

## NCWNP

**Community Picnic**  
**Watsonville, CA**  
**June 27; 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m.**  
**Aptos Village Park**  
**100 Aptos Creed Road**  
**Price: Free**

Celebrate with the Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL for a community picnic. Scholarship presentations will take place along with a day of fun-filled games, races, senior bingo and a performance by Watsonville Taiko. Don't miss the raffle for a chance to win great prizes and make sure to join in on the ice cream social. Lunches will include a choice of BBQ chicken, hot dogs, chili rice, salad, bread and beverages.

**Info: Email [wsc.jacl@gmail.com](mailto:wsc.jacl@gmail.com) or visit [www.watsonville.santacruzjacl.org](http://www.watsonville.santacruzjacl.org).**

**2015 Nikkoland Festival**  
**Oakland, CA**  
**July 20-21**  
**Buddhist Church of Oakland**  
**825 Jackson St.**  
**Price: Free**

The Buddhist Church of Oakland invites all to its annual bazaar and festival, featuring fun games, bingo, a silent auction and a raffle. Resident minister Rev. Harry Gyoko Bridge will lead tours of the historic Oakland landmark on both days.  
**Info: Contact Jon Takaguchi at [officebco@gmail.com](mailto:officebco@gmail.com) or call (510) 832-5988.**

**OCA 2015 National Convention**

**San Francisco, CA**  
**July 2-5**  
**Hilton Union Square**  
**333 O'Farrell St.**  
**Price: Ticket prices vary**  
 This year's theme, "Unifying Asian Pacific Islander America," will feature thought-provoking workshops, plenaries that address important issues and events that honor those who empower the community of change. OCA is an advocacy organization that is committed to evolving and expanding within the dynamic APA communities and beyond.  
**Info: Visit [www.ocanational.org](http://www.ocanational.org).**

## PSW

**V3 Digital Media Conference**  
**Los Angeles, CA**  
**June 26; 6-9 p.m.**  
**Japanese American National Museum**  
**100 N. Central Ave.**  
**Price: Registration costs vary**  
 This year's digital conference will highlight and expand multiplatform Asian American and Pacific Islander communications by gathering thought-provoking AAPI online journalists, creative social media communicators, seasoned bloggers and those interested in engaging on digital platforms.  
**Info: Visit [www.v3con.com](http://www.v3con.com).**

**2015 San Fernando Valley Hongwanji Buddhist Temple Obon**  
**Arleta, CA**  
**June 27-28**  
**San Fernando Valley Hongwanji Buddhist Temple**  
**9450 Remick Ave.**  
 Celebrate with community members, family and friends at the annual Obon Festival at the San Fernando Valley Hongwanji Buddhist Temple. Enjoy tasty treats and activities over the weekend at the temple. Stay tuned for more details.  
**Info: Visit [www.sfvhbt.org](http://www.sfvhbt.org) or call (818) 899-4030 or email [sfvhbt@sfvhbt.org](mailto:sfvhbt@sfvhbt.org).**

**2015 GVJCI Carnival Matsuri**  
**Gardena, CA**  
**June 27-28; Noon-9 p.m.**  
**Gardena Valley Japanese**

**Cultural Institute**  
**1964 W. 162nd St.**  
 Come out and support Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute's most popular fundraising event. Activities include jingle board, pachinko, basketball, bingo, a raffle, martial arts demonstrations and a photo booth. Also, don't miss out on delicious foods such as udon, cold somen, teriyaki, yakisoba, imagawayaki, chili hot dogs and rice, tamales, chashu bao, spam musubi, Okinawa adangi, lau lau and shave ice.  
**Info: Call (310) 324-6611 or email [s\\_sawai@jci-gardena.org](mailto:s_sawai@jci-gardena.org).**

**Camp Musubi**  
**Los Angeles, CA**  
**July 13-17**  
**Japanese American Cultural and Community Center**  
**244 S. San Pedro St.**  
**Price: \$275**  
 Camp Musubi is a weeklong day camp that teaches middle school-aged youth about Japanese American heritage through fun activities. The program aims to spark interest in the Japanese American culture and community, while participants learn from community and college-aged leaders. JACCC members can also save \$25 for registration fees. Space is limited.  
**Info: Visit [www.campmusubi.org](http://www.campmusubi.org) or email at [campmusubi@gmail.com](mailto:campmusubi@gmail.com).**

## EDC

**Book Signing: Joanne Chang**  
**Boston, MA**  
**June 20; 12:30-2 p.m.**  
**Boston Chinatown Neighborhood Center**  
**38 Ash St.**  
**Price: Free**  
 Joanne Chang, owner of Flour Bakery, will be talking about her new book "Baking With Less Sugar." The book contains more than 60 recipes that have less sugar and more flavor. Copies of the book will be available for purchase. A reservation is required by June 15.  
**Info: Register at (617) 635-5129 or email [info@bcnc.net](mailto:info@bcnc.net).**

**'Fifty Years of Showa Japan'**

**Amherst, MA**  
**June 28**  
**Amherst College**  
**41 Quandrangle Dr.**  
**Price: Free**  
 Photographs by Kageyama Koyo (1907-81) documenting the changing urban landscape of Tokyo during the Showa imperial periods (1916-89) will be on display. Another exhibit, "Nature, Pleasure, Myth: Animals in the Art of Japan," is part of the show.  
**Info: Visit [www.amherst.edu/museums/mead/exhibitions](http://www.amherst.edu/museums/mead/exhibitions).**

**AARW Summer Grill-Off BBQ**  
**Watertown, MA**  
**July 18; 3-6 p.m.**  
**Arsenal Park**  
**485 Arsenal St.**  
**Price: Free**  
 Join members of the Asian American Resource Workshop community in celebrating summer with its annual grill-off. Community groups will be competing with their grilling skills. Application deadline is June 12. Teams are encouraged to register.  
**Info: Email Carolyn at [carolyn@aarw.org](mailto:carolyn@aarw.org) or visit [www.aarw.org](http://www.aarw.org).**

**Lowell Folk Festival**  
**Lowell, MA**  
**July 24-26**  
**Downtown Lowell**  
**Gorham St.**  
 The Lowell Folk Festival is the oldest folk festival in the country. Enjoy a weekend of music, art, food and fun. Performances will include Ann Yao Trio, a Chinese string ensemble. Other entertainment will include street performers and family activities throughout the street. Parking is \$15 for the day.  
**Info: Email Carolyn at [carolyn@aarw.org](mailto:carolyn@aarw.org) or visit [www.aarw.org](http://www.aarw.org).**

## MDC

**JACL Project: Community! Day Camp**  
**Chicago, IL**  
**July 20-22, 27-29; 10 a.m.-Noon**  
**JACL Chicago Office**  
**5415 N. Clark St.**  
**Price: Free**  
 JACL's free summer camp program for children ages 7-9 is back! More than six half-day sessions over two

weeks will give campers an opportunity to learn about Japanese American culture and history. The program will use different cultural activities and crafts to encourage participants to learn about the importance of tolerance and diversity. Please register in advance.  
**Info: [www.jaclchicago.org](http://www.jaclchicago.org) or email Christine Munteanu at [cmunteanu@jacl.org](mailto:cmunteanu@jacl.org) or call (773) 728-7171.**

**Chicago JACL Golf Tournament**  
**Glencoe, IL**  
**July 23; 9:30 a.m.**  
**Glencoe Golf Club**  
**621 Westley Rd.**  
**Price: \$85 per golfer**  
 Join the Chicago chapter of the JACL at its annual golf tournament. Costs include a round of golf with a cart and meal following the tournament. Please RSVP by July 15.  
**Info: [www.jaclchicago.org](http://www.jaclchicago.org) or call (773) 728-7171.**

**Nikkei Community Picnic**  
**Chicago, IL**  
**August 1; Noon**  
**Bunker Hill Forest Preserve, Grove 3**  
**W. Harts Road**  
**Price: Free**  
 Come share a day of games, food, sports and sunshine with the Chicago chapter of the JACL. The picnic is potluck style, and dishes brought should be enough for your family. The picnic will supply a roast pig, hotdogs and hamburgers. Grills, charcoal and limited beverages will also be provided. Don't miss karaoke, horseback riding, a volleyball tournament and the dunk tank this year.  
**Info: [www.jaclchicago.org](http://www.jaclchicago.org) or email Bob Takagi at [rtalltree@gmail.com](mailto:rtalltree@gmail.com).**

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# In Memoriam

**Harrington, Toyomi Lorraine, 70**, Bellflower, CA; May 17; she is survived by her husband, Ronald Harrington; daughters, Akemi (Ralph) Lai and Mieko Harrington; gc: 1.

**Higashi, Mitsuko, 94**, Gardena, CA; May 26; she is survived by her daughter, Ayako Kathy Kubota; grandson, Brian Seiji (Lisa) Kubota; great-grandson, Brysen Kubota.

**Hinatsu, Kalvyn Hugh, 59**,



Tukwila, WA; May; he was predeceased by his parents, Kazuo and Mariko; he is survived by his siblings, June (Vincent) Rhinehart, Roger (Kelli) Hinatsu, Verl Hinatsu and Karen (Gary) Sturdy; nieces and nephews, Anne, Andrea and Andrew; he is also survived by other friends and family.

**Kawada, Martha M., 91**,



Gardena, CA; May 9; she was predeceased by her husband, Koo K. Kawada; son, Kenny K. Kawada; siblings, Ken Nakoka, Gladys Tanamachi and Sue Matsushima; she is survived by her children, Arlene K. Ikemoto and Thomas K. (Nancy) Kawada; she is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 7; ggc: 10.

**Kiyohiro, Marshall Ken, 68**, West Covina, CA; May 7; he is survived by his wife, Elinor Kiyohiro; children, Shannon (Kirk) Moe, Justin (Nicole) and Tiffany Kiyohiro; mother, Shizue Kiyohiro; siblings, Tracy Kiyohiro and Bonnie (Bob) Inai; gc: 2.

**Kobata, Aiko, 84**, Culver City, CA; May 14; she is survived by her loving children, Kathy Wolchick, Hitomi (Adel) Omar, Hayato (Yasuyo) Kobata, Miho (Gene) Noda, Tami (Paul) Cueva, Kaoru (Tony) Mulvhill and Chizuru (Mike) Colvin; brother, Mitsugi Yamashita; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 21; ggc: 1.

**Kumai, Yuri, 92**, Los Angeles, CA; April 25; she is survived by her daughters, Claudia and Emily; son-in-law, Robert Scott; gc: 3.

**Miya, Hisa, 88**, Culver City, CA; May 8; he was predeceased by his wife, Nancy Miya; siblings, Hanako Ito, Kiku Takeda, Masa, Kazu and Tomio Miya; he is survived by his children, Vickie (Ron) Nakagawa and Kirk (Kathy) Miya; sister, Fumiko Matsumoto; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 4.

**Nakagawa, Hiroshi, 95**,



San Gabriel, CA; May 9; he is survived by his wife, Kayoko Nakagawa; children, Ken, Raymond (Audrey) Nakagawa and Joyce (Susumu) Ogushi; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 4; ggc: 2.

**Nishisaka, Chiyoko, 83**,



San Pedro, CA; May 19; she is survived by her children, Lori (Russell) Nishida; Vince Nishida and Kelli (Dan) McFarlain; sister-in-law, Yuri Nishisaka and Reiko Aino; brother-in-law, Mas Mizushima; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and

other relatives; gc: 3.

**Sakamoto, Haruye, 90**, Gardena, CA; May 17; she is survived by her daughters, Elaine Sakamoto and May (Byron) Nishiyama; son, Dave (Jeannie) Sakamoto; sister, Harumi Yamashita; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 1.

**Saito, Kiyoe 'Kae,' 93**, Nyssa,



OR; May 18; she was incarcerated at Heart Mountain; she was predeceased by her husband, Kayno; grandson, Randy Saito; son-in-law, Daniel Shishido; she is survived by her daughters, Karen Shishido, Ellen (David) Inada and Jan (Bob) Saito-Beckman; son, Reid (Kaylene) Saito.

**Saito, Takeo 'Fred,' 86**, Nyssa,



OR; May 17; he was incarcerated at Tule Lake and Heart Mountain; he was predeceased by his parents, Kuichi and Mitsuno Saito; brothers, Shigeru, James, Frank and Henry; he is survived by his children, Steve

(Lisa) Saito, Mauri (Tim Takehara) Saito and Tiffany Saito; sister, Rose Kasahara; sisters-in-law, Virginia Saito and Shiz Saito; he is also survived by many nieces and nephews; gc: 6; ggc: 2.

**Tanakatsubo, Betty K., 89**, Chicago, IL; May 11; she is survived by her husband, Fred; children, Niles (Myriam), Ramsey (Delight) and Steward (Roberta) Tanakatsubo; sister, Dorothy (Tod) Okita; Kaz Rusty (Clara) Kaihara, Fred (Mary) Kaihara, Henry (Elsie) Kaihara, Yuriko (Karon) Sanda, Sumi (Frank) Hirahara and Tom (Lynn) Kaihara; gc: 9; ggc: 2.

**Shibata, Bruce Satoshi, 64**, Los Angeles, CA; May 5; he was a Vietnam War veteran; he is survived by his sons, Jacob and Brent Shibata; step-daughter, Brenda Mobley; mother, Reiko Shibata; siblings, Bob (Clarissa), Bart and Debra Shibata; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 5.

**Shibata, Miyoko, 83**, Los Angeles, CA; April 30; she is survived by her husband, Toshio

George Shibata; sons, Robert (Pat) Hiroshi, Raymond (Sharon) Fumio and Royce (Terry) Shibata; daughter, Lynn Harumi (Rich) Tambara; gc: 2; brother, Masami (Kyoko) Miyagishima; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

**Tanaka, Blair, 54**, Chicago, IL; May 5; he is survived by his parents, Sabura and Michiko Tanaka; brother, Kevin.

**Watanabe, Jennie, 93**, Chicago, IL; April 14; she was predeceased by her husband, Tom; siblings, Ben (Margie) Yoshimizu and Jiro (Shigeko) Nishime; she is survived by her children, Lynn (Richard) Osato, Earnest (Donna) Watanabe and Gwen (Alan) Kato; gc: 6; ggc: 2.

**Yasuda, Hisako, 86**, Caldwell, ID; May 18; she was predeceased by her husband, Pete; brothers, Mas and Hiro; she is survived by her siblings, Nori Kondo and Bob (Yae) Kido; sister-in-law, Emi Kido; children, Robert (Sally) Yasuda, Mardi (John Hine) Wilburn, David (Katy Shanafelt) Yasuda, Christi (Dan) Jackson and Mark (Cheri Ruch) Yasuda; gc: 8.

## TRIBUTE

### YUKIKO YUGE

YUGE, YUKIKO (94) passed away on May 8, 2015, in Gardena. She was predeceased by her husband, Kanji Yuge, and son, Steven Yuge; she is survived by her son, Kenneth (Dora) Yuge; grandson, Keith Yuge; sister, Midori (Roy) Sakamoto; brother-in-law, Masakazu Sameshima; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

A private funeral service was held on Thursday, May 21, 2015, at L.A. Hompa Hongwanji Buddhist Temple. (213) 749-1449 [www.kubotanikkeimortuary.com](http://www.kubotanikkeimortuary.com).

### PHYLLIS TAKETA

Phyllis Taketa, 90 years, died on May 15. Beloved wife of the late Jun. Loving mother of Beverly (Kenneth) Sakauye, Mari (Jeff) Johansen, Ford Taketa and Brian Taketa.

Devoted grandmother of Ryan and Mark Sakauye, Laura and Connor Taketa and Brian and Eric Johansen.

Memorial visitation 1 p.m. until memorial service following at 2 p.m. Saturday, May 23, at Midwest Buddhist Temple, 435 W. Menomonee St., Chicago, IL, 60614. For information, visit Lakeview Funeral Home, (773) 472-6300 or [www.lakeviewfuneralhome.com](http://www.lakeviewfuneralhome.com).

## PLACE A TRIBUTE

'In Memoriam' is a free listing that appears on a limited, space-available basis.

**Tributes** honor your loved ones with text and photos and appear in a timely manner at the rate of \$20/column inch.

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## DELEGATION >> continued from page 2

- We learned about Japan's many contributions to global peace and prosperity through its involvement and activities with the United Nations. Of note was Japan's contributions to the UN's peacekeeping operations and its significant financial support.
- We were briefed on Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's initiatives to create "A Society Where Women Shine." It is abundantly clear that Prime Minister Abe recognizes Japan's low ranking in the World Economic Forum's Gender Gap Index and is taking concrete actions to address the issue with specific and measureable targets.
- We were encouraged by the significant progress made by the Reconstruction Agency regarding the Japanese government's response to the Great East Japan Earthquake on March 11, 2011, even though issues and challenges remain toward a full recovery.
- We had a visit to the U.S. Fleet Activities in Yokosuka to receive a briefing on the roles of U.S. Naval Forces in Japan and their missions.
- We also had good dialogue with the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan. Since I work with several business organizations in the States, this visit has already paid dividends, as I was able to help make a connection for one such organization with the ACCJ during its recent trade mission to Japan.

As I reflect on this trip, one thing that I appreciate the most is having the access to many high-level government officials during the visit and the open and candid discussions that we were able to conduct

on a number of sensitive subjects, such as the current territorial disputes in East Asia, the comfort women issue, attitudes toward war-time history and others. These are issues being discussed within the Asian American community, specifically for Chinese, Japanese and Korean Americans. While we are all part of the larger Asian American community, these topics are just as difficult for us to approach among ourselves as we all look at these issues through our personal lens.

As an Asian American, I believe that we have a strong affinity and interest to what happens in Asia, and we take pride in the economic growth and prosperity in Asia. I also believe that peace and cooperation amongst Asian nations is the will of the people, and it is the best for all. As the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II approaches, I sincerely hope that Japan and its neighbors will somehow find a way, through diplomatic means, to put all historical issues behind us and move forward cooperatively to achieve even greater economic growth and prosperity.

In summary, I consider the AALD program achieved its stated goals, and it was a success with its inaugural class. I am honored and grateful for this great opportunity to be a member of this delegation. When I look back, I can clearly see that my perspective about Japan was broadened through this exchange. As I continue my position with the JACL and my volunteer work in the community, I look forward to engaging in dialogues on issues related to Japan and on the U.S.-Japan relationship in a much more informed and objective manner. ■

## 'ALOHA' >> continued from page 3

Crowe goes on to continue, "I have heard your words and your disappointment, and I offer you a heart-felt apology to all who felt this was an odd or misguided casting choice." There's no possibility that he

thinks he made the wrong choice casting her, and if you don't get the backstory, that's your problem, not his.

Well, he has enough other problems of his own, because this film will not be a "Jerry Maguire"-level hit.

But it's worth thinking why we are shown a version of Hawaii — the most Asian-diverse place in the U.S. — that is so blindingly white. And it's worth continuing the discussion — as some bloggers have already started — of why along with the yucky practice of "yellowface," where white actors are cast as Asian with prosthetic eyes and phony accents, the somewhat more nuanced practice of "whitewashing" of Asian roles continues.

Let's face it, at least when John Wayne, Katharine Hepburn, Mickey Rooney and Marlon Brando were cast in yellowface roles with their eyes taped back, it was gross and disgusting, but obvious. Having a famous white woman like Emma Stone play a hapa-haole role isn't quite half-yellowface, it's plain 100 percent whitewash.

*Gil Asakawa is a P.C. Editorial Board member and former Board Chair. He is AARP's AAPI Marketing Communications Consultant, and blogs at [www.nikkeiview.com](http://www.nikkeiview.com). A new revised edition of his book, "Being Japanese American," will be published in August by Stone Bridge Press.*



PHOTO: SONY PICTURES ENTERTAINMENT

Criticism has been raised regarding the casting of "Aloha" actress Emma Stone (right), who portrays "Allison Ng," a one-quarter native Hawaiian, one-quarter Chinese and half-Swedish fighter pilot.

Apaulo Music Productions Presents  
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Danny Jung (Korean)

Boy Katindig (Filipino)

Jeff Kashiwa (Japanese)

June Kuramoto (Japanese)

Pauline Wilson (Filipino/Chinese)

Rene Paulo (Filipino)

Also appearing: Keyboards—Kimo Cornwell and Derek Nakamoto,  
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