



# PACIFIC CITIZEN



## ▶ PAGE 7

The MNHS is working to revitalize Minnesota's historic Fort Snelling.

## ▶ PAGE 8

Japan commemorates the fifth anniversary of the March 11 earthquake.





## THE *P.C.*'S SPRING CAMPAIGN IS ALMOST AS IMPORTANT AS THE PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN

By Gil Asakawa

This year's election season is a roller-coaster ride of silliness and serious issues jumbled together, with incredible high stakes in the balance. Who knows what our country will look like by the end of 2016? Everyone's been buffeted by waves of robo-calls, emails and door-to-door volunteers recruiting supporters and raising funds for their campaigns.

Likewise, this is a crucial year for the *Pacific Citizen*, and the newspaper needs your "vote" to reach a new and higher-than-ever budget goal set by the JACL National Board. For more than a decade, the *P.C.* has depended on an annual Spring Campaign for donations from you, our readers — both JACL members and nonmember subscribers — to help fund its needs. The Spring Campaign has made it possible for the *P.C.*'s staff to purchase better-quality cameras and publication-quality computers, and even underwrite additional staff positions.

This year, the Spring Campaign is more critical than ever before — just so the *P.C.* can continue to exist.

The financial crisis that JACL as an organization is facing largely because of relentlessly declining membership is affecting the *P.C.* So is the general state of the newspaper industry and its declining

advertising revenues.

The *P.C.* has covered the National Board's efforts to have the newspaper go "all digital" with some accommodation to JACL members who still want printed copies. But that board plan, which was announced without input from the *P.C.*'s Editorial Board, didn't include specifics about how those individuals' issues would be printed and distributed, or how online advertising would make up for the loss of print newspaper advertising, which though declining is still bringing in much-needed dollars. The fact is, daily newspapers across the country haven't figured out how to transition from dead trees to bits and bytes.

The National Board has backed off its plan for now. The *Pacific Citizen* is going to continue to print its paper edition and update its website. The small but dedicated staff will continue to cover the JACL news and AAPI news that's ignored by mainstream media, and continue to try to find ways to increase revenues. The *P.C.* invites chapters to partner year-round in commission-generating advertising, not just in the annual Holiday Issue.

The need to raise money to keep the *P.C.* is urgent. The newspaper is required to raise \$300,000 in revenue in 2016. The *P.C.*'s membership allocation from JACL National

— an amount that's linked to membership — is dwindling each year. The *P.C.* has to come up with the remaining revenue, the highest amount it's ever had to generate, or face dire consequences.

This year's Spring Campaign isn't raising funds for equipment, or even staff. It's raising money to continue to serve you, the readers, with the dedication, heritage and history that it's served since 1929. Please donate to the *P.C.* and guarantee its future, including its eventual transition to digital.

This is my last letter to you as a member of the *Pacific Citizen* Editorial Board. I hope to continue writing columns in the *P.C.* Meanwhile, I welcome a fellow *P.C.* columnist, and fellow Mile High chapter member Rhianna Taniguchi, as the new Editorial Board member representing the Intermountain District Council. She's someone you already know, and I know with your support, she'll have a great impact on the future of the *P.C.*

*Gil Asakawa is a former P.C. Editorial Board Member and Board Chair. He is AARP's AAPI Marketing Communications Consultant, and he blogs at www.nikkeiview.com. A new revised edition of his book, "Being Japanese American," was published in August 2015 by Stone Bridge Press.*

### HOW TO REACH US

Email: [pc@pacificcitizen.org](mailto:pc@pacificcitizen.org)  
Online: [www.pacificcitizen.org](http://www.pacificcitizen.org)  
Tel: (213) 620-1767  
Fax: (213) 620-1768  
Mail: 123 Ellison S. Onizuka St., Suite 313  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

### STAFF

Executive Editor  
Allison Haramoto

Assistant Editor  
Tiffany Ujiye

Business Manager  
Susan Yokoyama

Production Artist  
Marie Samonte

Circulation  
Eva Ting

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

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# PACIFIC CITIZEN

The P.C.'s mission is to "educate on the past Japanese American experience and preserve, promote and help the current and future AAPI communities."

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March 7, 2016

To: JACL Mile High Chapter Board

The JACL National Board appreciates your Letter to the Editor published in the *Pacific Citizen* on February 4, 2016 (#3269).

In response to the three examples cited in your letter, we believe that we were acting in conformance with Article IX, Section 2 of our National Constitution, which states that the JACL National Board manages "the business and affairs of the corporation." Further, as you know, the National Board members are elected from the membership. As elected members serving on the National Board, we believe that we have adhered to all of our fiduciary duties, including the duty of care.

As an initial matter, we can only express our apologies as we do not have a record of receiving the Mile High letter sent via U.S. Mail to the JACL Washington, D.C., office dated November 5, 2014, on Net Neutrality.

Moreover, during the most recent annual convention in Las Vegas, Emergency Resolution #1 (ER-1) discussed the appropriateness of the Board's actions with regard to several of the issues raised in your letter, including Net Neutrality and the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). Our records indicate that Mile High Chapter was present. ER-1 was debated before the entire National Council and ER-1 was ultimately rejected by a wide margin (21-50-2), which thereby affirmed the National Board's actions. Indeed, even prior to this challenge, we have provided forums for members to learn why we made the choices we did. Specifically, after filing our comments with the FCC regarding Net Neutrality, we hosted an online webinar with MMTC to discuss the nuances of Net Neutrality and provide interested members with an opportunity to ask questions. Notice of this webinar was distributed to all Chapters via District Governors and the D.C. Digest. Regarding the TPP, our letter to the President of the United States on our decision to support the TPP was made based on the understanding that the official text of the TPP had not been released. Nevertheless, in our letter, we stressed the need to protect Asian American businesses and disenfranchised communities, while at the same time, encouraging a strong relationship with Japan. Again, these issues were discussed both at the Board level when the decision was made and during our convention.

Lastly, regarding the *Pacific Citizen* digital decision, we listened to the voices of our membership, reversed our initial determination, and are continuing to provide the print edition of the *Pacific Citizen*. Additionally, when President Lin heard from IDC District Governor Misaka that your Chapter President Budisidharta expressed concerns about the digital transition, he called and spoke with President Budisidharta to explain National Board's rationale and planned action on October 14, 2015. Your Chapter's input was clearly taken into consideration in the Board's final decision.

One final point worth reiterating is that the National Board takes great care in acting on its responsibilities to follow the JACL's mission and manage the organization. We take great pride in the fact that the membership elected us to carry out the powers bestowed to the Board via the JACL National Constitution. And, we attempt to honor that trust by making thoughtful decisions on very difficult and challenging questions based on all of the information that is presented to us. To that end, we appreciate your Chapter's input and encourage your continued participation and comments. Thank you again.

Sincerely,

*David F. Lin*  
 David F. Lin, President

On behalf of the JACL National Board

The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) is the nation's oldest and largest Asian American civil and human rights organization. Visit the JACL website for information or to join the organization: [www.jacl.org](http://www.jacl.org)

## Letter to the Editor

### Objection to JACL's Position on the Supreme Court Vacancy

Dear Editor,

I want to state very, very clearly that I am writing as a member of JACL. Although I am the District Governor of the NCWNP District, and therefore a member of the JACL National Board, my views DO NOT reflect the views of either of those bodies.

The Feb. 25, 2016, edition of the D.C. Digest contained an article about JACL signing on to a letter of complaint to the Senate Judiciary Committee re: the Supreme Court vacancy.

I would like to remind you that JACL is a nonpartisan organization. Since that seems like such a difficult concept to understand, that means that JACL is composed of members from all sides of the political spectrum. We do not represent Republican interests, and we do not represent Democrat interests, or anything else in between.

From JACL's own website, our mission is: "... to secure and maintain the civil rights of Japanese Americans and all others who are victimized by injustice and bigotry." How does our position on the Supreme Court vacancy fit with our mission? I'll answer

that question: It doesn't. I don't care that 81 other organizations signed on to this letter. That doesn't mean JACL needs to hop on the bandwagon.

The letter contains lofty rhetoric such as: "Your proposed course of action would cause a constitutional crisis that would shake the very foundation of our democracy."

Where was this righteous indignation when Sen. Barack Obama spoke about blocking any appointment by President George W. Bush? Where was it when Sen. Hillary Clinton also spoke about blocking any appointment by President George W. Bush? Where was it when Sen. Joe Biden spoke about blocking any appointment by President George H. W. Bush?

I don't understand what kind of hold the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights has over JACL, but it needs to stop.

Sincerely,

David Unruhe, JACL member,  
 Auburn, Calif.



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## REIMAGINE EVERYTHING

### WHAT'S YOUR PLAN FOR SOCIAL SECURITY?

By Ron Mori

I have a feeling that all of us are about to hit or have hit the presidential debate wall. The truth is that we've only started, and in the coming months, the remaining candidates need to provide more than soundbites on major issues facing all of us. And one issue that stands out is Social Security.

Debate after debate, all I hear from *some* of the presidential candidates on how to make Social Security financially sound is "blah, blah, blah." You can find vague proposals on some of their websites, but in public, they basically duck questions or speak those empty soundbites.

Like everyone else, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders pay into Social Security year after year, and with Democratic and Republican presidential primaries and caucuses taking place on an almost weekly basis, we deserve to know now how the candidates would keep it strong for us, our kids and grandkids.

It's very important that our community hear from the candidates on this issue. In 2013, the average annual Social Security income received by AAPI men 65 years and older was \$15,499, and for women it was \$11,748. Among AAPIs receiving Social Security, 31 percent of elderly married couples and 53 percent of unmarried elderly people relied on Social Security for 90 percent or more of their income.

That's a lot of reliance on little income!

What's worse, if our leaders don't act, future retirees could lose 25 percent of their benefits. I fall right in this category of future retirees, and I don't like the fact that I could lose 25 percent of my benefits by the time I'm eligible.

That's why Social Security needs to be updated for the 21st century.

The world has changed a lot in 80 years since Social Security was established. Consider these four changes that Social Security needs to address: First, the average 65 year old today will live seven years longer than when the program started in the 1930s. Second, women are having fewer children, so there are fewer people entering the workforce and paying into Social Security. Third, the role of women has changed dramatically: More women are working, some women never marry and there are more divorces — all things that affect how much they will receive in benefits. Finally, a growing share of earnings is going to those at the top of the pay scale, which means they are exempt from Social Security's payroll tax.

The only way to make progress is for our national leaders to make Social Security a priority and put serious proposals on the table. And it starts with presidential leadership. Anyone who thinks they're ready to be president of the United States

should be able to tell voters how they'll keep Social Security strong.

That's why AARP is pressing every candidate to *Take A Stand* — and lay out his or her plan to update Social Security so it's financially sound with adequate benefits.

So far, the candidates have put a number of proposals on the table. Raise the retirement age. Raise the amount of taxable wages. Change the way the yearly cost of living increase is calculated. Improve benefits. But what will these proposals mean for you and your family?

Throughout the election, AARP will urge the candidates to debate their proposals so you know how they will affect you, your kids and generations to come. But we need your help. Join us in sending a clear message to the candidates: Enough of the blah, blah, blahs.

Every candidate needs to *Take A Stand* and tell the American people, "What's your plan" for Social Security?

To learn where the presidential candidates stand and to send a message to them about Social Security, go to [www.2016takeastand.org](http://www.2016takeastand.org).

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



## A YONSEI TRANSPLANTED

### RACISM FOR THE COMMON COWARD

By Matthew Ormseth

It's a question I've heard tossed around quite a bit in recent weeks as the Trump train has picked up steam, barreling toward the Republican presidential nomination. If seemingly everyone you talk to despises the Trump, if your Facebook feed is inundated with memes comparing Trump to previous fascist leaders, clips of violence at Trump rallies and editorials warning the American public in the direst of tones about the dangers of a Trump presidency, how is he winning? How does he continue to win state after state if everyone hates him?

It's an interesting question, but I think the answer lies in Trump's pandering to a very age-specific kind of bigotry. In our day and age, it's socially repulsive to be racist, misogynistic or xenophobic. That doesn't mean, however, that Americans *aren't* racist, misogynistic or xenophobic. Many Americans still are; they've just been forced into the closet, so to speak. That's not to say there aren't public demonstrations of racism and misogyny — just look at last month's KKK rally in Anaheim, Calif. But I think most 21st-century racists in America know that it's not OK to go public, that they'll be shamed and ridiculed by their peers, family members and neighbors, and *especially* the online community.

Enter Trump. Trump embraces your most extreme, most ludicrously untrue bits of racist nonsense, and tells you, "You're right." There's a clip circulating on the Internet of a Trump supporter at a New Hampshire rally telling Trump, "We have a problem in this country. It's called Muslims. You know our current president is one. You know he's not even an American." Trump nods, understanding as ever.

"Right," he says. "We need this question. This is the first question."

Trump is not an idiot. I sincerely doubt that Trump really believes, in his heart of hearts, that Obama is Muslim or that he's foreign-born. But Trump does understand how illogically racist much of white America can be when their position in society is threatened. The middle class of America is changing; with the exodus of manufacturing industries and the decline of union-protected labor, it's more and more difficult to stay in the middle class without a college education. The bottom half of white America is angry, and anger has a nasty habit of making us throw logic out the window.

Trump tells his supporters things they've suspected all along, but never had the guts to say — things like, Mexicans in the U.S. illegally are stealing your well-paying jobs. Also, the Chinese and the Bangladeshis are stealing those jobs, too. Or, Muslims need to be banned from entering the country because they want to kill you in your own homes.

Trump has become an intermediary of racism; by supporting Trump, you're able to stick up for your racist beliefs and advance your racist agenda, without actually having to appear like a racist yourself. It's an indirect kind of bigotry custom-tailored for the 21st century.

The online community, as fully integrated a space in our daily lives now as the workplace or our own homes, is a space in which appearances are paramount. Condemning Trump is the Facebook trend du jour (as it should be, I might add), and everyone wants to seem like concerned, tolerant citizens. If you support Trump online, you risk being called a neo-Nazi,

brownshirt, etc, and being unfriended en masse. It's for this reason that many of Trump's supporters stay quiet. We never want to appear racist, even if we are, deep down. Trump's boast that he is decidedly nonpolitically correct, backlash against the fact that as a society we've become much more respectful toward each other, speaks on a spiritual level to his hordes of supporters who wish they could speak their minds as unabashedly as their spray-tanned supreme leader.

The masses who silently endorse Trump, a group which, I believe, is different from the more vocal supporters who turn out for his rallies, are able to tacitly support bigotry by supporting Trump. He allows them to be racists, misogynists and nativists in the sanctuary of the polling booth. He says what they wish they could say themselves, tells them that their views aren't extreme or hateful or downright insane, but absolutely correct. Even if Trump miraculously loses the Republican primary or advances to the general election and loses to the Democratic nominee, his popularity is a damning indictment of the true nature of our ostensibly progressive, ostensibly tolerant society. The conspicuous lack of pro-Trump support in the mainstream media and the social media ecosphere does not align with his meteoric rise to the fore of the GOP. It tells us that we are a far less enlightened society than we would care to admit, and reminds us that appearance and reality are rarely one and the same.

*Matthew Ormseth is currently a student at Cornell University majoring in English. He seeks to give an honest portrayal of life as both a university student and member of the Millennial generation.*



# STAKEHOLDERS MEET TO ADDRESS TULE LAKE CONFLICT

REDDING, CALIF.

— JACL Executive Director Priscilla Ouchida joined other stakeholders to establish a process to address conflicts between airport interests and the Japanese American community over a proposal to erect a fence around Tulelake Airport in Modoc County.

The airport is located on the former fire-break that ran through the middle of the Tule Lake segregation site. The airport proposal

has raised national concerns over the impact on the historic site, which many view as sacred ground.

On Feb. 24, representatives from 15 different organizations and government agencies met to establish a collaborative process to attempt to resolve conflicts between the various interests.

Stakeholders included the Tule Lake Committee, the JACL, the California State Office

PHOTO: TULE LAKE COMMITTEE



Stakeholders are trying to resolve the conflict between the Tulelake Airport and the historic camp site.

of Historic Preservation, the Federal Aviation Administration, Modoc County, the National Parks Conservation Assn., the National Park Service, Tulelake Growers Assn., Tulelake Municipal Airport Operator, the California Department of Transportation and the U.S. Forest Service.

“The process will provide all parties an opportunity to get a clear picture of legitimate claims,”

Ouchida said.

The Udall Foundation conducted the meeting following initial interviews with stakeholders and the development of process recommendations. Stakeholders agreed to a four-phase process with the intent to reach a final agreement.

Stakeholders will meet over five meetings in an effort to reach a consensus.

— JACL National Staff

## APAs in the News/News Bytes

### Judge Lucy Koh Receives Nomination From President Obama to Serve on U.S. Court of Appeals



WASHINGTON, D.C. — President Barack Obama nominated Judge Lucy Haeran Koh to serve on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit on Feb. 24. If confirmed, Koh would become the first Korean American woman and the second AAPI woman in history to serve on a federal appeals court.

“Judge Lucy Haeran Koh has distinguished herself as a first-rate jurist with unflagging integrity and evenhandedness,” Obama said.

“I am grateful for her service to the state of California and look forward to adding her considerable wisdom and experience to the Ninth Circuit Court.”

Koh, who was born in Washington, D.C., received her B.A. from Harvard University and her J.D. from Harvard Law School. She has served as a U.S. District Judge for the Northern District of California since 2010 and previously served as a California Superior Court Judge for Santa Clara County from 2008-10.

In addition, Koh has served on a number of bar and professional organizations throughout her legal career, including the American Law Institute, the Association of Business Trial Lawyers and the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Silicon Valley.

### Japanese Fashion Designer Issey Miyake Awarded Legion of Honor

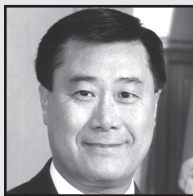


TOKYO — Veteran Japanese fashion designer Issey Miyake was awarded the Legion of Honor by the French government on March 15 during a ceremony at Tokyo’s National Art Center.

The designer, 77, known for his cutting-edge silhouettes and heavily pleated fabrics, was bestowed the rank of Commander by former French culture minister Jack Lang, a longtime friend.

The National Art Center is currently featuring an exhibition of Miyake’s work through June 13.

### Former State Sen. Leland Yee Sentenced to Prison Term Over Numerous Racketeering Charges



SAN FRANCISCO — Former State Sen. Leland Yee (D-San Francisco), 67, was sentenced on Feb. 24 to a five-year prison term after he pleaded guilty to racketeering charges after he was caught in an FBI sting that recorded him promising votes and guns to an undercover agent.

Yee admitted to receiving thousands of dollars in campaign contributions in exchange for favors and that he knew his participation in the activity was illegal. Yee was raising funds for his campaign to become secretary of state.

Before being elected to the Senate, Yee served in the State Assembly, on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and on the San Francisco Board of Education. He was defeated in a race for mayor of San Francisco.

He has 30 days to report to prison, and he was ordered to pay a \$20,000 fine.

### Hula Competitors Avoid Iconic Flower Due to Threatening Fungus



HONOLULU — At this year’s upcoming Merrie Monarch Festival, traditional red and yellow ohia blossoms that usually adorn hula dancers will be missing due to a fungus that is killing the trees that grow them.

Scientists have asked competitors to void the flowers because rapid ohia death could wipe out Hawaii’s native forests and watersheds. The flowers, which do not grow anywhere else in the world, could become endangered should the fungus continue to spread.

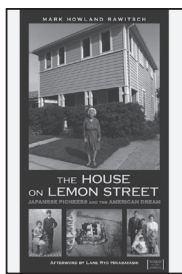
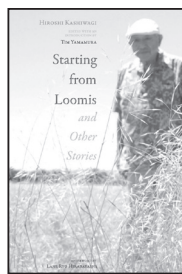
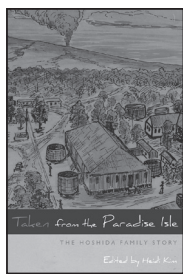
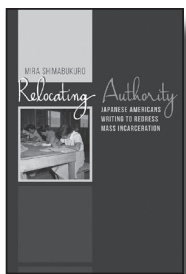
So far, the disease is only on the Big Island. But as thousands of visitors gather in Hilo for the annual festival that starts March 27, some fear the fungus could unintentionally spread to other islands.

Historically, the ohia flowers are said to be the resemblance of the goddess of hula, Laka, and are an important symbol of the traditional dance.

However, competitors are heeding scientists’ warnings, an unprecedented move in the festival’s 53-year history, as the safety and longevity of the islands’ biggest resources comes first and foremost. ■

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# WITNESSING AN APA LEGACY: ASIAN AMERICAN JUDGES

If nominated, Sri Srinivasan could become the first Asian American Supreme Court justice.

By Tiffany Ujiye,  
Assistant Editor

Judges appear in everyday life. They can change our lives as umpires and referees or attend science fairs and the Olympics. Some judges can even change history and fundamentally reshape a nation's law.

Earlier this month, Sri Srinivasan became a leading candidate in President Barack Obama's search to fill the vacancy on the U.S. Supreme Court. The 49-year-old member of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia's Circuit could change American history by becoming the first Asian American to be nominated to the High Court.

Born in India and raised in Kansas, Srinivasan's strong candidacy is groundbreaking, according to sources from the *Washington Post*.

Just days after Justice Antonin Scalia's passing, President Obama made a vow on Feb. 13 to fulfill his constitutional responsibility to nominate a successor. He went on to challenge Congress to recognize his choices despite the backlash from Senate Republicans.

Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) said that he would not meet the latest nominee, Merrick Garland, to replace the late Justice Scalia. McConnell and other Senate Republicans would meet with no nominee until a newly elected president is in office.

Said Rep. Judy Chu (CA-27) in a statement on Garland's nomination, "Now it is time for the Senate to fulfill theirs. Refusing to even meet with a nominee, as Senate Republicans are doing, is an unprecedented level of partisan dysfunction."

Other potential judge nominees include African American Judge Paul Watford on the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals,

*'When we became citizens, we took an oath to support and defend the Constitution and laws and bear faith and allegiance to the same.'*

—Sri Srinivasan

Iowa Appellate Judge Jane L. Kelly and Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Jacqueline Nguyen.

Perhaps this year's nomination will also bring attention to Asian American judges and further highlight their part in the U.S. judicial system.

Almost 45 years ago, Judge Herbert Young Cho Choy was nominated by President Richard Nixon to the Ninth U.S. Court of Appeals, becoming the first Asian American judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals.

But it would take 30 years after Judge Choy's nomination for the first Japanese American to be nominated to the U.S. Court of Appeals. In 1996, President Bill Clinton appointed Judge Wallace Tashima to the Ninth U.S. Court of Appeals.

Tashima, like thousands of other Japanese Americans during World War II, was incarcerated. He and his family were forcibly removed and uprooted from their homes to Poston War Relocation Center in Arizona. He went on to serve in the U.S. Marine Corps and attend Harvard Law, whereupon graduation he became deputy state attorney general for the state of California.

Today, Tashima still serves as a senior judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

JACL's past National President Judge Raymond Uno was also an integral figure in Asian American judicial history. Incarcerated at Heart Mountain during World War II, Judge Uno volunteered and joined the 441st Counterintelligence Corps. His

work not only included fighting for freedom in court and on the battlefield but also as a social worker, deputy attorney and working member of the Utah Citizens Committee for Civil Rights.

However, the stories of Asian American judges are far from just breaking headlines but also making history. In 1953, Judge John Aiso joined the Los Angeles Superior Court and was the first Japanese American to enter the California State Judiciary. Although he was never nominated as far as Judge Tashima and Judge Choy, he made history through his work and service.

Aiso's honors include the Legion of Merit, which was awarded to him in 1965 by President Lyndon B. Johnson, and the 3rd Class Order of the Rising Sun award from the Emperor of Japan in 1984. Judge Aiso's legacy remains even throughout Little Tokyo in Los Angeles, where a city block, located between San Pedro Street and Temple Boulevard that leads into the Little Tokyo community, was renamed Judge John F. Aiso Street in his honor.

"In the courts, he was remembered for his solid opinions and his ability to listen. He was quiet but firm, the type of judge you would model yourself after," told Justice Lester W. Roth to the *Los Angeles Times* in an article published in 1987.

Even still, the visibility of Asian Americans in the judicial system has only risen within the last decade.

Today, there are 25 APA federal judges, and only four sit on the court of appeals.

President Obama thus far has appointed the most APA federal judges than any president in history combined. During his presidency, he has pushed for a government that reflects the nation's demographic and diversity.

Within the Supreme Court, the nation's highest court, Justice Sonia Sotomayor was confirmed in 2009 as the first Hispanic Supreme Court Justice; in the following year, Justice Elena Kagan was also confirmed.

Each candidate appointed carries with him or her a qualified artillery of experience and integrity. President Obama has also chosen judges from a wide variety of backgrounds, including those who have represented lower-income clients and the poor.

For Srinivasan, his background is different from most other judges but speaks to thousands of others. Born in India, his immigrant story of his family's life in Kansas and his path to citizenship is eye opening.

"When we became citizens, we took an oath to support and defend the Constitution and laws and bear faith and allegiance to the same," he said in his award speech at the India Abroad Person of the Year in 2013. "Rather amazingly, I'm now in the position to administer that oath to others who themselves are becoming citizens . . . What a profound statement about the opportunity in this country. What a profound privilege to go from one who took the oath from a judge to one who now is in the position to administer the oath as a judge."

Srinivasan's nomination comes at a critical time in American history. Because while APA judges and leaders begin to rise and become more visible on the main stage of American discourse, the work is far from over.

With only 25 APA federal judges out of 870, a reflective government is far from being a reality. ■



JUDGE RAYMOND UNO

JUDGE JOHN AISO

JUDGE SRI SRINIVASAN

JUDGE WALLACE TASHIMA

JUDGE HERBERT CHOY



# HELP REVITALIZE MINNESOTA'S HISTORIC FORT SNELLING

Looking ahead to its 2020 bicentennial, the Minnesota Historical Society is working to revitalize the historic landmark and ensure that its stories are forever remembered.

Since 2014, the Twin Cities JACL Education Committee has been involved in giving input into a major initiative to revitalize the Fort Snelling area, significant to the Japanese American community because the Military Intelligence Service Language School was located there during World War II.

To commemorate Fort Snelling's bicentennial in 2020, the Minnesota Historical Society (MNHS) has been meeting with various communities to ensure that the site's many stories — true tales of American history told nowhere else — will be preserved and experienced.

The MNHS is currently working with the Minnesota legislature and private donors to fund renovation of an original cavalry barracks to create a new visitor center and develop new exhibits in the visitor center to tell the many stories of those who were impacted by the fort, as well as make various improvements to the existing site.

The MNHS is asking the state legislature for \$34 million to revitalize Historic Fort Snelling in time for its 2020 bicentennial.

"It is vitally important that (Minnesota) Governor (Mark Dayton) and our legislators hear from communities and individuals about the importance of this revitalization



The master plan vision for Historic Fort Snelling

project so that all the fort's stories and history are told," stated Tom Pfannenstiel, site manager of Historic Fort Snelling.

Built in the early 1820s, Historic Fort Snelling is located at the junction of the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers. When the U.S. entered WWII in December 1941, Fort Snelling became "the induction point for more than 300,000 men and women who joined the armed forces. At its height in 1942, the Reception Center was capable of processing approximately 800 recruits each day."

After 1944, the fort was the location of the MISLS, where "Nisei Japanese Americans learned Japanese, Korean and Chinese language and culture in preparation for overseas service as interpreters, interrogators and intelligence workers. These soldiers played an

important role after the end of the war during the occupation of Japan."

Following the end of the war, Fort Snelling was officially decommissioned as an active military post in 1946.

Today, Historic Fort Snelling's buildings and grounds are in need of repair. The current visitor center is dilapidated, and its views of the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers are hidden.

The MNHS is asking the public to help it create a new and improved Fort Snelling, where the community can gather and learn about the fort's significance in U.S. history.

"Our vision is of a site that engages diverse communities in Minnesota and beyond. Many stories of the area's history will be told in preserved historic buildings. People

will draw inspiration from the natural beauty of the bluffs and rivers. Community groups will gather to share their histories," said the MNHS on its website.

**The MNHS requests that messages be submitted before May 23 and directed to the following:**

1. Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton to thank him for including Historic Fort Snelling in his 2016 Capital Budget recommendations (<http://mn.gov/governor/contact-us/form/>).
2. State legislators asking for their support ([www.mnhs.org/hfs2020](http://www.mnhs.org/hfs2020)) (*pertains only to Minnesota residents*).

**Other ways to take action and help preserve this National Historic Landmark for future generations:**

1. Attend "History Matters Day" at the Minnesota State Capitol on March 22 ([www.mnhs.org/hfs2020](http://www.mnhs.org/hfs2020)).
2. Attend a community listening session or share ideas and stories ([www.mnhs.org/hfs2020/share](http://www.mnhs.org/hfs2020/share)).
3. Make a donation to the project ([sites.mnhs.org/support/make-gift](http://sites.mnhs.org/support/make-gift)).
4. Share personal Fort Snelling experiences on social media using #HFS2020.
5. Sign up for e-mail updates ([www.mnhs.org/hfs2020/updates](http://www.mnhs.org/hfs2020/updates)).

*For questions or more information, contact Tom Pfannenstiel at [tom.pfannenstiel@mnhs.org](mailto:tom.pfannenstiel@mnhs.org) or visit [www.mnhs.org/hfs2020](http://www.mnhs.org/hfs2020).*

## 'What Fort Snelling Means to Me'

To commemorate the bicentennial of Historic Fort Snelling in 2020, the Minnesota Historical Society is embarking on a major initiative to reintroduce this dramatic area to Minnesotans and history lovers worldwide. It has created a series of videos to tell the stories of individuals who were impacted by Fort Snelling in order to promote the preservation of the history of Fort Snelling and the need to support funding of the major initiative to revitalize the site.

Twin Cities JACL members Sally Sudo and Edwin (Bud) Nakasone, who both relocated to Minnesota after World War II, are featured in videos on "What Fort Snelling Means to Me."

Sudo, incarcerated at age six, had a brother who was allowed to leave Minidoka to volunteer in the U.S. Army. Joe Ohno attended the Military Intelligence Service Language School (MISLS) at Fort Snelling, and he served in the Pacific Theater.

When World War II ended, Sudo's family, having lost everything they owned in Seattle, decided to resettle in Minne-



Sally Sudo  
(Retired Teacher)



Edwin  
'Bud'  
Nakasone  
(Veteran)

sota because Joe had fond memories of the friendly and accepting people he met during training.

Of Fort Snelling, Sudo stated, "I feel that it's a place for Minnesotans to take pride in. In a way, it really helped to gain acceptance for us in the general population and helped us assimilate into American society."

Nakasone, a native of Hawaii, recounted his experiences as a soldier in the MISLS, arriving in Minnesota on Christmas Day 1945 to minus-5 degree temperatures. He gave credit to then-Gov. Harold Stassen for being the only governor who would allow the MISLS to relocate from the West Coast to his state, and to Minnesotans for welcoming the Japanese American linguists.

"It's Fort Snelling that brought me here. . . People looked upon you as being a U.S. Army soldier and American citizen," Nakasone asserted. "This is what has kept me here for all these years, despite the cold."

To view the videos, visit: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=DulAyhcuu9c](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DulAyhcuu9c) and [www.youtube.com/watch?v=VdGf82utrIA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VdGf82utrIA). For more information about the project, visit [www.mnhs.org/hfs2020](http://www.mnhs.org/hfs2020).



## NCWNP District Awards Banquet & Celebration

Pleasanton DoubleTree by Hilton  
Saturday, April 23, 2016  
11:00 am – 3:00pm



### About our event:

- ❖ Celebrating JACL's past – continuing our work... **ONWARD!**
- ❖ Honoring our past treasurers:  
John Yamada, Fred Okimoto and Emily Teruya
- ❖ Honoring each chapter's unsung hero
- ❖ Special guest, Delphine Hirasuna, author of "The Art of Gaman"
- ❖ Delicious lunch
- ❖ Silent auction with many fabulous items
- ❖ Net proceeds to support the 2017 Smithsonian exhibition commemorating the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Executive Order 9066

For more information, contact  
NCWNP District Office at (415) 345-1075 or [pwada@jacl.org](mailto:pwada@jacl.org)



# TEARS, PRAYERS AS JAPAN MARKS FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF TSUNAMI

Japan remembers the victims of the 2011 earthquake and tsunami that ravaged the country's northeastern region and triggered the world's worst nuclear accident since the 1986 Chernobyl disaster.

By Associated Press

**RIKUZENTAKATA, JAPAN** — Japanese gathered in Tokyo and along the county's ravaged northeast coast to observe a moment of silence at 2:46 p.m. March 11, exactly five years after a magnitude-9.0 earthquake struck offshore, triggering a devastating tsunami that killed more than 18,000 people and sent reactors at the Fukushima nuclear plant into meltdown.

Some teared up as they held hands or bowed their heads in prayer as sirens sounded on a chilly afternoon in northern Japan. Japanese Emperor Akihito, Empress Michiko and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, all in formal wear, led a ceremony in Tokyo attended by officials and survivors.

"Many of the people affected by the disaster are aging, and I worry that some of them may be suffering alone in places where our eyes and attention don't reach," Akihito said. "It is important that all the

people keep their hearts together so that not a single person still in difficulty is overlooked and they can return to normal life as soon as possible."

Five years on, the most heavily damaged communities have yet to be rebuilt. About 180,000 people are still displaced, including those reluctant to return to homes in Fukushima. Much of the disaster-hit Tohoku coast remains empty except for huge mounds of dirt that are raising the ground to minimize the risk of future tsunami before any rebuilding.

Abe acknowledged that many people are still struggling, but said "reconstruction is steadily making progress, step by step, with housing being rebuilt and jobs regained."

His Cabinet approved on March 11 a new 6.5 trillion yen (U.S.\$57 billion) five-year reconstruction plan through 2020 to speed up construction of public housing for evacuees and for medical care,

PHOTO: DARRELL MIHO



infrastructure, tourism promotion and other projects.

At a Buddhist temple in the tsunami-ravaged city of Rikuzentakata, memorial prayers were offered for the more than 1,700 residents who perished, including about 200 whose bodies were never recovered.

"The best thing would be for things to go back as they were, but of course that's not how the world works," said 37-year-old Tadayuki

Kumagai, who lost his parents. He considers himself fortunate because their bodies were never found.

"Even if it's impossible to go back to the way things were before the disaster, everyone hopes that living standards will at least come closer to what they were," he said. "I think that's what rebuilding means."

Housing is an acute problem, with some still in temporary quar-

ters, said Zuishu Sugawara, the temple's chief monk. Forty-seven members of the temple are among the missing.

"In form, perhaps reconstruction might happen, but in terms of recovering from the scars of the heart . . . I think there are some who might never heal," said Sugawara.

Early in the day, a handful of people paid respects in the town of Minamisanriku at the skeletal remains of the former disaster prevention center, where 43 workers died as tsunami waves engulfed the three-story building.

Masaki Kamei, a doctor from Tokyo who has been visiting the disaster areas every year, said he senses a change.

"What's different this year compared to last year is fishermen have already gone out fishing by dawn . . . and towns are already bustling about going on with their business," he said. "There is an expression: the hammering sound of reconstruction. That's how I feel, I sense the emphasis has shifted."

Still, it seems a long road ahead before the streets of coastal communities will be lined with homes and shops again. ■

## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE REVISES BLOOM DATES FOR D.C. CHERRY BLOSSOMS

Changing weather patterns have once again altered the predicted dates when Washington, D.C.'s, cherry blossom trees will bloom along the Tidal Basin in the nation's capital, the National Park Service announced March 15.

According to NPS officials, the peak time to see the blossoms in full bloom is on March 23 and 24, shorter than the March 18-23 timeframe given previously.

According to NPS spokesman Mike Litterst, colder temperatures are the reason for the shorter bloom window.

"It's really like nothing else we do, trying to predict something that

so many people are counting on," Litterst said earlier in the month.

Peak bloom is when 70 percent of the trees around the Tidal Basin are blossoming. Once in bloom, the flowers can last up to 10 days, depending on weather conditions, as springtime weather usually is unpredictable.

The earliest the trees have blossomed was on March 15, 1990, according to Litterst.

This year's National Cherry Blossom Festival, which celebrates the anniversary of Japan's gift of 3,000 cherry trees to the U.S. in 1912 as an act of friendship between the two nations, signals Washington's beginning of spring.

The festival will run through April 17 and is one of the capitol's biggest tourism events of the year.

The revised blossom date is also causing the NPS to open the Tidal Basin Welcome Area a few weeks earlier than planned. The area, located near the paddleboats, will now be open until April 3 (it was previously scheduled from April 2-17).

At their peak, more than 1.5 million people visit Washington, D.C., to enjoy the beauty of the cherry trees each year. ■

### AMERICAN HOLIDAY TRAVEL 2016 TOUR SCHEDULE

Japan Spring Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida) . . . . .	Mar 27-Apr 8
Tokyo, Scenic Train to Shimoda, Lake Yamanaka, Matsumoto, Takayama, Kanazawa, Kyoto.	
Washington DC Holiday Tour (Elaine Ishida) . . . . .	May 12-17
Mount Vernon, Arlington National Cemetery, Annapolis, World War II Memorial, Smithsonian Institution.	
Grandparents-Grandchildren Japan Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida). . . . .	Jun 26-Jul 5
Tokyo, Hakone-Atami, Hiroshima, Kyoto.	
Nova Scotia Holiday Tour (Carol Hida) . . . . .	Aug 10-18
Halifax, Baddeck, Cabot Trail, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Grand Pre, Lunenburg.	
China Silk Road Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida). . . . .	Sep 12-23
Beijing, Urumqi, Turpan, Dunhuang.	
British Landscapes Holiday Tour (Elaine Ishida) . . . . .	Sep 12-21
England, Scotland, Wales.	
Korea Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida) . . . . .	Oct 4-17
Seoul, Nami Island, Sokcho, Daegu, Gyeongju, Busan, Cheju Island, Gwangju, Daejeon, Suwon, KBS Drama Center, DMZ Tour.	
New England Autumn Holiday Tour (Elaine Ishida) . . . . .	Oct 11-18
Boston, Woodstock, Stowe-Vermont, North Conway-New Hampshire, Boothbay Harbor, Kennebunkport-Maine.	
Kyushu-Shikoku Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida) . . . . .	Oct 27-Nov 9
Fukuoka, Nagasaki, Kumamoto, Ibusuki, Kagoshima, Miyazaki, Beppu, Matsuyama, Kochi, Takamatsu, Shodo Island, Tokushima, Osaka.	
New Orleans Get-Away Tour (Carol Hida) . . . . .	Dec 12-16
One hotel, City Tour, New Orleans Cooking School-Dinner, Cajun Swamp Tour.	

For more information and reservations, please contact:

AMERICAN HOLIDAY TRAVEL

312 E. 1st Street, Suite 330 \* Los Angeles, CA 90012

Tel: (213)625-2232 \* Email: americanholiday@att.net

(CST #200326-10)

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





# EDUCATOR-AUTHOR CATHY IRWIN TO KEYNOTE 47TH ANNUAL MANZANAR PILGRIMAGE

The Manzanar Committee also announces that bus transportation to the pilgrimage will be available from Los Angeles' Little Tokyo.

**LOS ANGELES** — Cathy Irwin, author of "Twice Orphaned: Voices From the Children's Village of Manzanar," will be the keynote speaker at the 47th annual Manzanar Pilgrimage, which will be held on April 30 at the Manzanar National Historic Site in California's Owens Valley.

Sponsored by the Manzanar Committee, each year more than 1,000 people from diverse backgrounds, including students, teachers, community members, clergy and former incarcerated, attend the pilgrimage, which commemorates the unjust incarceration of more than 110,000 Americans of Japanese Ancestry in 10 American concentration camps and other confinement sites, located in the most desolate, isolated regions of the U.S. during World War II. Manzanar was the first of the American concentration camps to be established.

A nonprofit organization, the Manzanar Committee has sponsored the annual pilgrimage since 1969 and has played a key role in the establishment and continued development of the Manzanar National Historic Site.

The theme for this year's pilgrimage is "Kodomo No Tame Ni: For the Sake of the Children — Liberty and Justice for All."

Irwin is an associate professor of writing in English department at the University of La Verne in La Verne, Calif. Born and raised in Los Angeles, she received her B.A. in English at the University of California, Berkeley, and her Ph.D. in English at the University of Southern California. Irwin is the former editor of the literary magazine *Prism Review* and has published poems and several essays in addition to her book "Twice Orphaned," including "Asian American Literature: Discourses and Pedagogies," "Mixing It Up: Multiracial Subjects," "Embodying Asian American Sexualities," "Mixed Heritage Asian North American Writing and Art" and "Completely Mixed Up: Mixed Heritage Asian North American Writing and Art."

"We're honored to have Dr. Irwin as our keynote speaker at this year's pilgrimage," said Manzanar Committee Co-Chair Bruce Embrey. "The fact that young children were incarcerated in the Japanese American concentration camps shines an even brighter light on the unjust nature of the camps. Compounding that injustice, even orphans, 101 of them, were incarcerated, all of them in Children's Village at Manzanar."

"Dr. Irwin's 2008 book tells the moving and inspiring story of the orphans of Children's Village, young children, including toddlers, who their country chose to lock up behind barbed wire," Embrey continued. "Today, too few know about the unjust incarceration of Japanese Americans during WWII, but even fewer know that orphans were also incarcerated. Their story is one that everyone should learn about as well."

In addition to the afternoon event, the Manzanar at Dusk program follows that same evening from 5-8 p.m. at the Lone Pine High School auditorium in Lone Pine, which is approximately nine miles south of the Manzanar National Historic Site.

Manzanar at Dusk is co-sponsored by the Nikkei Student Unions at California State University, Long Beach; California State Polytechnic University, Pomona; the University of California, Los Angeles; and the University of California, San Diego.

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, as well as 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.

Bus transportation to the pilgrimage from Los Angeles' Little Tokyo will also be available.

The bus will depart at 7 a.m. and will take participants to the Visitor's Center at the Manzanar National Historic Site following the afternoon program. The bus will 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 and \$30 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 WWII.

Anyone wishing to attend the Manzanar at Dusk program 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. Both the Manzanar Pilgrimage and the Manzanar at Dusk programs are free and open to the public.

For more information, or to reserve a seat on the bus, call (323) 662-5102 or email [47thpilgrimage@manzanarcommittee.org](mailto:47thpilgrimage@manzanarcommittee.org).

## VOLUNTEERS INVITED TO JOIN PUBLIC ARCHEOLOGY PROJECT AT MANZANAR



**INDEPENDENCE, CALIF.** — Manzanar's award-winning public archeology program provides exceptional opportunities to learn about the past and help preserve the site and its stories for the future.

From March 25-30, volunteers will have the unique opportunity to assist the National Park Service in uncovering and stabilizing Manzanar's historic administration and staff housing area.

Participants will learn about both the common and contrasting experiences of camp staff and incarcerated as well as the differences between Japanese landscaping aesthetics and "Western" military-style landscaping.

Volunteer positions are available to anyone age 15 and over who is physically able to work outdoors in moderately strenuous activities. Volunteers will be digging with shovels and small hand tools, cutting and loading brush, using wheelbarrows, collecting rocks to reconstruct landscape features, painting rock alignments and occasionally screening sediments to retrieve artifacts.

Previous archeological experience is helpful but not necessary. Volunteers just need to have an interest in history and a willingness to get dirty.

The work will be conducted outdoors, regardless of weather, from 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. daily, including weekends.

Volunteers may work any number of days or hours, but a full day or multiple days are preferred.

Volunteers are also asked to bring water, lunch and work gloves, as well as wear sunscreen, a hat and sturdy boots.

Advance sign-up is required.

Manzanar National Historic Site is located at 5001 Hwy. 395, six miles south of Independence, Calif.

For more information, contact Cultural Resources Manager Jeff Burton at (760) 878-2194, ext. 3305 or email [jeff\\_burton@nps.gov](mailto:jeff_burton@nps.gov).



**Cathy Irwin,**  
author of "Twice Orphaned: Voices From the Children's Village of Manzanar," will be the keynote speaker at this year's Manzanar Pilgrimage.



A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

# CALENDAR

## NCWNP

**Tadaima: A Japanese American Gathering of LGBTQQ and Allies**  
**San Jose, CA**  
**April 2; 8:30 a.m.**  
**San Jose State University Student Wellness Center**  
**1 Washington Square**  
 "Tadaima" is part of a collection of events hosted across the Northern California Bay Area for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning individuals, families and allies. The program looks to explore the intersections of the Japanese American LGBTQQ experience.  
**Info: Visit [www.tadaimabayarea.org](http://www.tadaimabayarea.org).**

**APIQ Homecoming: A Conference for LGBTQ+, API and their Allies**  
**Sacramento, CA**  
**April 16; 9 a.m.-6 p.m.**  
**Sacramento State University, University Union**  
**6000 J St.**  
 The API Queer Sacramento Coalition welcomes all to register and attend a first-of-its-kind API LGBTQ+ convening in the Sacramento area. Speakers will include Amita Swadhin, Cris P. Youssef, Joseph Allen Ruanto-Ramirez, Kuma Hina and Marsha Aizumi.  
**Info: Email [apiqsc@gmail.com](mailto:apiqsc@gmail.com).**

**Kodomo No Hi**  
**San Jose, CA**  
**May 1; 10 a.m.-4 p.m.**  
**JAMsj Community Room**  
**535 N. Fifth St.**  
**Price: Free with museum admission**  
 Join the Japanese American Museum San Jose for Children's Day. The museum will host family friendly

activities and crafts for all ages.  
**Info: [www.jamsj.org](http://www.jamsj.org) or call (408) 294-3138 or email [publicprograms@jamsj.org](mailto:publicprograms@jamsj.org).**

**Japanese American Discussion Group**  
**Oakland, CA**  
**July 23; 6:30-7:30 p.m.**  
**California Genealogical Society and Library**  
**2201 Broadway, Suite LL2**  
**Price: Nonmembers \$5**  
 Join the California Genealogical Society as President Linda Harms Okazaki opens an informal discussion about Japanese emigrants.  
**Info: Call (510) 663-1358.**

## PSW

**AAPIP-LA Professional Development Session: Breaking the Bamboo Ceiling**  
**April 6; 10 a.m.**  
**LA84 Foundation**  
**2141 W. Adams Blvd.**  
**Price: Free**  
 The Asian American Pacific Islander in Philanthropy Los Angeles will open a discussion on the bamboo ceiling. Those looking to advance their careers or pursue leadership positions are encouraged to attend and join the conversation with panelists Garrett Gin and Debra Nakatomi, along with moderator Wendy Chang.  
**Info: Visit [www.aapip.org](http://www.aapip.org).**

## MDC

**Nashville Cherry Blossom Festival**  
**Nashville, TN**  
**April 9; 9 a.m.-5 p.m.**  
**Public Square Park**  
**1 Public Square**  
**Price: Free**  
 The Japan America Society presents the Nashville Cherry Blossom Festival for a day of family-friendly celebration on the front lawn of the Metro Courthouse at Nashville Public Square. Enjoy Japanese music, dance, arts, performance demonstrations, anime merchandise and children's activities.  
**Info: Call (615) 663-6060.**

**'Off the Menu: Asian America' Film Screening**

**Lafayette, IN**  
**April 20; 6 p.m.**  
**Purdue Memorial Union**  
**101 N. Grant St.**  
 Join the Asian American and Asian Resource and Cultural Center for a screening of "Off the Menu: Asian America," followed by a special Q & A session with director Grace Lee. The film explores the foods that reflect the culture of Asian Pacific Americans. Attendees will also enjoy foods inspired by those in the film.  
**Info: Visit [www.union.purdue.edu](http://www.union.purdue.edu) or call (765) 494-8900.**

**Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans Leadership Awards Dinner**  
**Maplewood, MN**  
**May 20; 5-8 p.m.**  
**Maplewood Community Center**  
**2100 White Bear Ave.**  
**Price: Varies \$30-\$125**  
 Please join the Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans for its 2016 Leadership Awards Dinner. The evening will commemorate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, honoring the accomplishments and contributions Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have made to the state of Minnesota and across the nation.  
**Info: Visit [www.mn.gov/capm](http://www.mn.gov/capm) or call (651) 757-1740.**

**JACL Chicago Scholarship Luncheon**  
**Skokie, IL**  
**May 22; Noon**  
**Maggiano's Little Italy**  
**4999 Old Orchard Center**  
 Celebrate this year's scholarship recipients with the JACL Chicago chapter. Students will be recognized and awarded for their academic achievements as they enter the next educational steps.  
**Info: Visit [www.jaclchicago.org](http://www.jaclchicago.org).**

**Kakehashi Project Culmination**  
**Skokie, IL**  
**June 18; 1 p.m.**  
**Skokie Banquet and Conference Center**  
**5300 W. Touhy Ave.**  
**Price: General tickets \$30; youth and students \$20**

Save the date for a Kakehashi Project gathering in an event hosted the Chicago JACL Chapter. The Kakehashi program is a cultural exchange between students from Japan and the United States.  
**Info: Visit [www.jaclchicago.org](http://www.jaclchicago.org).**

## PNW

**Bainbridge Island 74th Anniversary**  
**Bainbridge, WA**  
**March 30; 9 a.m.-1 p.m.**  
**Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial**  
**4195 Eagle Harbor Dr.**  
**Price: Free**  
 Inspired by the urban legacy of a community that welcomed its Japanese American friends home after World War II, volunteers will gather at the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial to remember those incarcerated. The ceremony and reception will remember the first ferry that took Japanese Americans away to prison camps 74 years ago. Guided tours of the memorial site by living survivors will also be offered.  
**Info: Email [Clarence Moriwaki](mailto:clarence.moriwaki@gmail.com) at [clancemoriwaki@gmail.com](mailto:clancemoriwaki@gmail.com).**

**Heritage Talk**  
**Salem, OR**  
**April 26; 3-5 p.m.**  
**Deepwood**  
**1116 Mission St. E.**  
**Price: General admission \$6**  
 Join the Oregon Nikkei Endowment for its fourth Heritage Talks Series presented by Russell Yamada.  
**Info: Visit [www.oregonnikkei.org](http://www.oregonnikkei.org).**

**Community Reception**  
**Portland, OR**  
**June 26; 5-7:30 p.m.**  
**Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center**  
**121 N.W. Second Ave.**  
**Price: Free, but RSVP encouraged**  
 The Center for Asian Pacific American Women invites all to a Community Reception. Register now as space is limited. Participants will be able to learn about the National Leadership Summit and APAWI Network, as well as build leadership capabilities among other APA women. The Center for APA Women is a nonprofit

organization dedicated to addressing the challenges facing APA women and their communities.  
**Info: [www.apawomen.org](http://www.apawomen.org) or call (415) 310-6978.**

## EDC

**Saving Face: The Emotional Cost of the Asian Immigrant Myth**  
**New York, NY**  
**April 1; 6-8 p.m.**  
**City University of New York Graduate Center**  
**365 Fifth Ave., 6th Floor, Room 6112**  
**Price: Free**  
 From the Tiger Mom to the model-minority children myth, author Angie Chung will shatter these one-dimensional concepts in a discussion held at the CUNY Graduate Center. In her latest book "Saving Face," Chung explores how the family roles American-born children assume have informed the way they view ethnicity and practice culture as adults.  
**Info: Visit [www.cuny.edu](http://www.cuny.edu) or call (212) 997-2869.**

**Tamagawa Taiko and Dance**  
**Wellesley, MA**  
**April 9; 6 p.m.**  
**Wellesley College Alumnae Hall**  
**106 Central St.**  
 Experience an exciting evening of taiko drumming and Japanese folk dancing with the Tamagawa Taiko and Dance Group. The group has toured the world since 1961 and performs annually at the Philadelphia Cherry Blossom Festival.  
**Info: Visit [www.wellesley.edu](http://www.wellesley.edu) or call (781) 281-1000.**

## IDC

**Nihon Matsuri**  
**Salt Lake City, UT**  
**April 30; 10 a.m.-5 p.m.**  
**Courtyard Salt Lake City**  
**100 S. 300 W.**  
**Price: Free**  
 Salt Lake City will celebrate its 11th annual Nihon Matsuri or Japanese Festival this year. All are welcome to celebrate and enjoy a performance by Taikoza. Highlights will include numerous food booths, crafting stations, a fashion show, mochitsuki, exhibits, tea ceremonies, Ikebana viewings and karate demonstrations.  
**Info: Visit [www.nihonmatsuri.com](http://www.nihonmatsuri.com).**

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 (213) 620-1767



# IN MEMORIAM

**Gill, Corinne Nora, 59**, Palos Verdes Estates, CA; Feb. 1; she is survived by her sons, James C. (Monique) and Spencer Andrew (Marishanna) Gill; brother, Lawrence (Queen) Lai; sisters, Irene (Benkin) John, Arlene (Dennis) Lowe, Kathleen (Matthew) Lih and Pauline (Kenny) Yau; gc: 5.

**Ishigame, Matsumi, 79**, Monterey Park, CA; March 17; he is survived by his wife, Yoshie; daughter, Alice Miki (Alan Tao); son, Henry Toshiro Ishigame; brother, Seiji (Sachiko); sisters, Shizuka Tsuruda, Hisako (Setsuyoshi) Nakashima and Yaeko (Shoji) Miyasako; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives here and in Japan; gc: 1.

**Ito, Masaye, 96**, Ontario, OR; Jan. 13; she was incarcerated at Minidoka during WWII; she was predeceased by her husband, Thomas Takeo Ito; she is survived by her sons, Francis (Cindy), Leslie (Tonya) and Chris (Linda); brother, George (Kim); sister, Aki.

**Kawai, Miye, 98**, Vista, CA; Feb. 29; she was predeceased by her husband, Nobu Tsugu Kawai; she is survived by her sons, Glen (Geri), Reid (Cathy), Ernie (Sandi), Ted (Linda) and Bill (Martha); she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 5; ggc: 6.

**Kimura, Kyoko, 87**, Los Angeles, CA; March 1; she was predeceased by her husband, Tadao Kimura; son, William "Bill" Katsumi Kimura; she is survived by her daughters, Mari Lorraine Kimura, Yumi Violet Kimura and Ruri Margaret (Michael) Heymann; daughter-in-law, Wendy; sisters, Fumi Kawai and Toshiko (Kazuo) Eto; brother Nobuo (Masako) Kimura; nephews and nieces, Takeshi Kurt (Emilyn) Eto,

Atsushi Eric (Kiyoko) Eto, Yuki Michelle Eto, Michiko Lauren (Michael Bishop) Kumura; she is also survived by many grandnephews and grandnieces.

**Kubota, Mary Michiye, 93**, Los Angeles, CA; March 12; she was predeceased by her husband, Shizuma; she is survived by her children, Steve (Arlene) and Diane Kubota and Carol (Geoff) Kawabata; brother, Hideo Kubota; she is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 5.

**Miyamoto, Hideaki, 92**, Torrance, CA; March 15; he is survived by his wife, Haruko; children, Joseph (Yuriko), Craig (Stacey) and Karen (Glenn) Mayeda; brother, Soho Yamanaka; gc: 5; ggc: 2; gggc: 1.

**Nishihara, Masayoshi 'Masa,' 98**, Nyssa, OR; March 14; he was predeceased by

his wife, Michiye Nishihara; brothers, Dewey, Hisashi, Daizo and Tomoso; sister, Marie Sakota; he is survived by his daughter, Marilyn (Vincent) Cangelo; son, Ross (Barbara) Nishihara; brother, Sagie (Tomie) Nishihara; sister-in-laws, Suzie Nishihara and Mabel Sakota.

**Saiki, Ayaji, 84**, Torrance, CA; March 1; she is survived by her son, Dexter Saiki; daughter, Lynda (David) Eguchi; brother, Kay Numata; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2.

**Sugimoto, Ruri, 90**, Pasadena, CA; Feb. 24; she is survived by her husband, George K. Sugimoto; daughter, Lisa Sugimoto; son, Nathan (Christine) Sugimoto; brother, Katz (Jeanne) Hirano; gc: 3.

**Tachiki, Miyoko, 95, Feb. 25**; Los Angeles, CA;

she is survived by her children, Randall (Sera), Dennis (Satoko), Martin (Karen) Tachiki and Janice (Jonathan) Steele; sister, Chiyoko lawamoto Kobayashi; gc: 9; ggc: 4.

**Tamashiro, Loretta, 77**, Gardena, CA; Feb. 27; she is survived by her children, Blake (Stephanie), Arleen Tamashiro,

JoAnn Tamashiro and Noreen (Dennis) Crane; gc: 1.

**Tamura, Thomas Tadashi, 95**, Gardena, CA; March 12; he is survived by his wife, Fusako Tamura; children, Betty (Carl) Hashimoto, Arlene (Scott) Yuen, Alvin Jr. (Jenny) Tamura, Bryn (Kascy) Tamura and Brandi (Ryan) Tamura Burke; gc: 13.

## FRANK YONEZO IKENAGA

Ikenaga, Frank Yonezo passed away peacefully on Feb. 20, 2016, at the age of 94.

He was born in Suisun, Calif., received his education in Japan and returned to the U.S. in 1937. He was interned at the Gila River Butte Internment Camp in Arizona during the war. He lived in San Francisco since 1947.

Frank is survived by his sister, Mary, and many nephews and nieces. He was predeceased by his wife, Kiyoko.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, April 9, at 2:30 p.m. at Ashley & McMullen Mortuary, 4200 Geary Blvd., San Francisco.

## FUSAYE HONDA



Fusaye Honda passed quietly away on Feb. 21, 2016, at the age of 95, surrounded by loving family at her bedside. Born Fusaye Hatanaka in San Francisco, she was raised in Kumamoto, Japan, until the age of 14, when she returned to the San Francisco area. She was the eldest of three sisters.

She married William Takeo Ishii in 1939 and raised four children. In 1942, the Ishii family was forcibly sent to a wartime assembly center in Santa Anita, Calif., transferred to the Topaz concentration camp in Utah, then to the Tule Lake concentration camp in Northern California near Klamath Falls, Ore. During the majority of her confinement, she was separated from her husband, who was moved around to other camps, including Crystal Springs, Texas and Leupp, Ariz. Fusaye and her children were subsequently released in 1946, her husband sometime afterward.

She again settled in San Francisco, where she supported her family working as a cateress. At the same time, she continued her love of playing the Chikuzen biwa, a traditional five-stringed instrument that came to Japan in the 7th century and accompanied the singing of legends and historical events written in sophisticated poetic styles. Her passion and dedication helped her achieve the rank of Shihan, the second-highest rank in this ancient art (the highest rank virtually never awarded), and she was bestowed the biwa name of Kyokuen by her teacher, the late Kyokuso Yamamoto Sensei.

She also wrote Tanka poetry for many years and was published in newspapers and other publications. She gave private lessons on Tanka, as well as biwa, and was co-founder and president of a Friendship Circle.

She remarried in 1969 to Masaru Honda, and retired to Kumamoto, Japan. After his passing, Honda moved to Fort Collins, Colo., in 1989 to settle near her son, Douglas Ishii, where she remained until her death.

A person of strength, determination, character, grace and great musical talent, Fusaye Honda is survived by her children, Daniel Ikua Ishii of South Lake Tahoe, Calif.; Douglas Nobuo Ishii of Greeley, Colo.; Rosemary Mutsuye Ishii MacConnell of Mill Valley, Calif.; Willitte Hisami Herman of Talent, Ore.; grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-great-grandchildren and other relatives in the U.S. and Japan.

A memorial service celebrating her life will be announced at a future date to be held in Fort Collins, CO. To receive information concerning the memorial service, please remit your name, address and email to Willitte Herman at fusaye.honda@aol.com or P.O. Box 1358, Ashland, OR 97520.

## MITSUKO 'MITZI' IKEDA



Mitsuko "Mitzi" Ikeda, 94, of Arroyo Grande, Calif., passed away on Feb. 20, 2016. Mitzi was born in Calexico, Calif., on May 24, 1921, the daughter of Yoshimatsu and Takeno Ban. She lived in Westmoreland and Brawley, Calif., where she attended Mt. Signal Elementary and Calexico H.S. She was evacuated to Poston, Arizona, internment camp during WWII, where she worked in the motor pool and later moved to Chicago.

On Sept. 23, 1950, Mitzi married the love of her life, Kazuo "Kaz" Ikeda. They raised four children and lived in Arroyo Grande for 66 years. She and Kaz were longtime members of JACL and were honored as Champions for Children in 2009 in San Luis Obispo County and proudly served as Grand Marshals of the Arroyo Grande Harvest Festival in 2011.

She is survived by her sister, Yoneko Sato; sister-in-law, Marion Ikeda; children, Julie (Forrest) Nishioka, Stan (Terri Ann), Patricia (Patrick) Kawaguchi and Vard (Terri Lea); grandchildren, Caroline, Traci, Grant and Kent Kawaguchi, Misha (David) Lindsey, Garrett, Brycen (Marian), Shelby and Carly Ikeda and Robyn Nishioka; and great-granddaughter, Quinn Ikeda.

Mitzi was always concerned and wanted to give to others, so if you are so inclined, please donate to the Arroyo Grande Dignity Health Hospital Legacy Campaign or to the charity of your choice.

## 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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# THANK YOU, JERRY ENOMOTO

By Jeff vonKaenel

**V**eteran civil rights advocate Jerry Enomoto, the first AAPI to serve as head of the State Department of Corrections, passed away in Fontana, Calif., on Jan. 17 due to natural causes at age 89. A public celebration of life was held in Sacramento in his honor on March 5. Following is a reprint, with permission, from the Sacramento News & Review.

Jerry Enomoto came into the world January 24, 1926. He left the world on January 16, 2016. That gave him nearly 90 years to make the world a better place. Which he did.

At the celebration of Jerry Enomoto's life on March 5 at a hall donated by local Muslim leader Moe Mohanna, numerous community leaders — including U.S. Rep. Doris Matsui, U.S. Marshal Albert Najera, U.S. Attorney Benjamin Wagner, former California Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg, former Sacramento District Attorney Jan Scully and former colleagues from the Japanese American Citizens League — all told stories about how Jerry and his wife, Dorothy, had changed their lives.

Born in San Francisco, Enomoto was attending Lowell College Preparatory School when his family was shipped out to internment camps, along with 120,000 other Japanese Americans.

In 1943, he graduated as high school valedictorian at Tule Lake War Relocation



Jerry Enomoto and his wife, Dorothy Stevens

Center. This high school was noted more for its armed guards, prison walls and barbed wire than for more traditional high school features.

After serving in the United States Army, Enomoto earned his bachelor's and master's degrees at UC Berkeley. He then began his career as a counselor at San Quentin Prison. He became the first Asian Pacific Islander to serve as prison warden, the first to serve as head of the State Department of Corrections and the first to serve as U.S. Marshal.

Like Nelson Mandela, who was able to turn his mistreatment into a desire for universal justice instead of revenge, Enomoto worked tirelessly for better treatment for prisoners and for civil rights for all. He served two terms as head of the Japanese American Citizens League, where he was instrumental in spearheading the successful 1987 legislation requiring redress for the internment of Japanese Americans.

In 1982, he married Dorothy Stevens, an African-American classmate of Martin

Luther King Jr. They were both active in numerous civil-rights issues, and they co-founded Sacramento's annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Dinner.

At Saturday's celebration of life, a woman read a different quote from Jerry after each speaker. These quotes demonstrated the scope of his life and the importance of his work. Here are two:

"Having been born and raised in California and having experienced the internment of 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry without charges or trial, I can personally testify to what can happen when we are judged by the color of our skin, and the land of our ancestors."

"Those who take equality for granted can learn a lesson from our experience, which demonstrated how fragile our Constitution can be when there is a failure in public leadership. This is timely today, when we find once again political leaders eager to scapegoat immigrants, legal or illegal, for all the ills of our society."

After September 11, Enomoto connected the experience of Japanese Americans in 1942 with the current experiences of Muslim Americans. Enomoto brought his political stature to the task of working to ensure we do not ever have a repeat of the 1942 internments.

Enomoto represented America at its finest. Speaking on behalf of the planet, thank you, Jerry. Thank you. Not only for what you accomplished. But also for showing all of us how to live a life with love and justice at its core. ■






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