



# PACIFIC CITIZEN

## SAWTELLE REUNION IV

Attendees gather to reflect on their former Japanese neighborhood home and its now 'trendy' L.A. existence.

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# MARVEL'S 'DR. STRANGE' FILM TARNISHED BY CASTING OF TILDA SWINTON IN AN IMPORTANT ASIAN ROLE

The Media Action Network for Asian Americans is criticizing the new Marvel Studios motion picture "Dr. Strange" for white-washing "The Ancient One" — an important Asian character in the original 1960's comic book series upon which the movie is based — and casting Tilda Swinton in the role.

In the comic book, there were two prominent Asian characters assisting Dr. Strange: The Ancient One and Wong, his "manservant." Director Scott Derrickson said he was initially not going to use the latter character because he was a stereotype, telling the *L.A. Daily News* that Wong "was an Asian sidekick manservant. What was I supposed to do with that? But once the decision was made to cast Tilda, we brought Wong back because, unlike the Ancient One, he could be completely subverted as a character and reworked into something that didn't fall into any of the stereotypes of the comics."

Founding MANAA President Guy Aoki doesn't buy his rationalization: "You're a writer. You could modify ANY problematic, outdated character and maintain its ethnicity, especially when it's a minority to begin with. So the Ancient One was racist and stereotyped, but letting a white woman play the part erases all that? No, it just erases an Asian character from the screen when there weren't many prominent Asian characters in Marvel films to begin with."

"In fact, I could argue that in his set up for the movie, Derrickson perpetuated another stereotype: a white man making a pilgrimage into the Himalayas to get trained by a white person. That's what happened in 'Batman Begins' where Bruce Wayne is taught not by an Asian — who would naturally live in that area — but by Frenchman Henri Ducard. Now Stephen Strange gets trained by an Irish woman? The film never even explains how she ever got there in the first place. Yet, she lives in an Asian temple surrounded by Asian people. And in Marvel's upcom-

ing Netflix series 'Iron Fist,' it may happen again (despite a petition to make the character Asian American, thereby giving Marvel its first leading onscreen Asian American superhero). Once again, Hollywood's practicing cultural appropriation — taking Asian elements but placing white people at the forefront of it all, not the Asian people who created it."

Said MANAA President Rob Chan: "Given the dearth of Asian roles, there was no reason a monk in Nepal could not be Asian. Had Derrickson cast an Asian as the revered leader who guides the main character to become a better human being and to develop his sorcery powers, it would've given a big boost to that actor's career. While actresses deserve the kinds of bold roles usually reserved for men, white actresses are seen onscreen more than Asians of any gender. And Tilda Swinton can afford to turn down roles."

Referring to 1984's classic film "The Karate Kid," which landed Pat Morita an Oscar nomination, Chan pointed out, "Asians can't

even be the Mr. Miyagi to Daniel-San anymore!"

Said Aoki, who's been collecting comic books since 1972, "Ninety percent of Marvel and DC characters were originally white. So, in order to be more inclusive in their movies, both companies have tried to change these characters to minorities. But they're almost always black: Baron Mordo (Chiwetel Ejiofor in 'Dr. Strange'), Heimdall (Idris Elba in 'Thor'), Gamora (Zoe Saldana in 'Guardians of the Galaxy') and Nick Fury (Samuel L. Jackson in 'The Avengers'). Of the few Asian characters that originated in the comic books, they were changed from Asian to white: the Mandarin (Guy Pearce in 'Iron Man 3'), Talia Al Ghul (Marion Cotillard in 'The Dark Knight Rises') and now, the Ancient One (Jason Momoa's part-Hawaiian ancestry may be reflected in his Aquaman role in DC's upcoming 'Justice League' film).

**>> See 'DR. STRANGE' on page 4**

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I am not a letter writer, nor have I ever written a "Letter to the Editor." However, after receiving my Oct. 21-Nov. 3 *Pacific Citizen* paper, I am compelled to write you.

I have always been proud of JACL's position on social justice and especially LGBT issues. Our voice of support for BLM is important.

Maybe we don't encounter overt racism every day, but some do, and we must acknowledge and support them.

Furthermore, standing against police brutality is not just a BLM issue. History has shown us that, sometimes, the police are used as agents of social suppression, and any violent or fatal actions against citizens should

be everyone's concern.

I am sorry that David Unruhe feels he can no longer stand with JACL on this issue. But I believe, without any doubt, that JACL is standing for what is right, just and honorable.

Thank you for time and commitment to peace and justice.

Sincerely,

Elaine Sasaki

### 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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## A MOTHER'S TAKE

# WE WERE WELCOMED HOME

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF MARSHA AIZUMI



**Representing the Bay Area at Okaeri and pictured with Marsha Aizumi (front center) were (from left) Marie Morohoshi, Erika Kato, Taija, Lisa Fujie Parks and Stan Yogi.**

By Marsha Aizumi

On Oct. 14 and 15, Okaeri 2016 took place at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo. The gathering began with a networking mixer on Friday, which drew many from the Nikkei and API community, both LGBTQ and allies. Representatives from PFLAG, JACL, NCR, Little Tokyo Service Center, Keiro, churches and many other organizations made this event a wonderful way to kick off the weekend that was to continue on Saturday. Thank you, Sean Miura and traci kato-kiriyama.

Saturday began with the planning committee arriving very early, many of us juggling a HUGE cup of coffee to help wake us up. But once we began to set up and saw people arriving to register, the enthusiasm and anticipation was palpable.

We had close to 200 attend Okaeri 2016, many coming from outside the Greater Los Angeles area — San Diego, San Jose, the Bay Area and Fresno. People also arrived from Washington, D.C., New York, Chicago, Phoenix, Honolulu and Seattle.

I talked with a couple of out-of-town guests, who had arrived very late the previous day. I could see they were tired, but when I asked them how they were doing, all they could talk about was how healing and inspiring it was to look around and see so many supportive Nikkei faces. The tiredness at that moment was forgotten, and all I could feel was the excitement they had for all they would

experience throughout the day.

And then the morning began. I was so honored to be asked to give the opening welcome for Okaeri. I was extremely nervous, and I practiced my speech over and over again so that I would not have to read it. Reading takes me out of my heart, and I wanted my heart to fill the room. I had a hard time looking at my family because I was afraid I would burst into tears. It would be tears of gratitude for our journey together, tears of pride for all we had individually overcome, but most of all tears of love for each of them, their support of me and this work that often takes me away from them.

I also got very emotional when I spoke about Linda and Sakaye Aratani's support. When you do LGBTQ work, you can be a target for harsh criticism, but having a respected family in the Nikkei community gives you strength to continue to speak out to help others. The Aratanis were the first family to step up and believe in the work of Okaeri. They gave us courage and confidence to move forward.

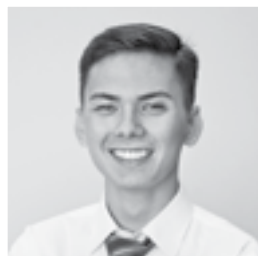
I was also honored to introduce the Honda Family . . . Mike, Michelle and Malisa. Their keynote speech was heartfelt, moving and powerful. Mike and Michelle shared their thoughts, pausing as they spoke when emotion welled up. And Malisa was so adorable as she courageously spoke in front of so many for the very first time.

Following the keynote, there was a powerful plenary called "Transgender Voices" moderated by riKu Matsuda, along with Elliot Fukui and Hoshina Seki. Both had amazing stories and thoughts to share with all of us, Elliot as a trainer, facilitator and community organizer for Transform California and Hoshina as a leader in the Buddhist Churches of America.

One of the people who heard this plenary told me that this was one of the highlights of Okaeri for him. Not only were the stories impactful, but also the information that he gained was so valuable to him as he goes back to his community to support transgender individuals.

During lunch, another plenary took place on "Intergenerational and Intersectional Connections," moderated by Eric Arimoto, a gay, Japanese American psychotherapist who specializes in working with API LGBTQ individuals and families. Arimoto spoke along with panelists Nikiko Masumoto, who received her graduate degree focusing on performance of memory and Japanese American history; AT Furuya, a transgender, nonbinary queer, mixed-race, U.S. historian; and Dean Goishi, a pioneer activist in HIV/AIDS awareness and founding director of the Asian Pacific AIDS Intervention Team (APAIT). "Enlightening, inspiring and knowledgeable" were comments I heard about this panel.

**>> See HOME on page 12**



## A YONSEI TRANSPLANTED

# THE DEBATE ABOUT FELONY DISENFRANCHISEMENT CONTINUES

By Matthew Ormseth

Rap star Pusha T made headlines last week when he went on CBS' "The Late Show With Stephen Colbert" and said felons should have the right to vote. "It's tearing apart our community right now," he told Colbert. "It's like you keep paying forever, we have to change that."

The debate over felony disenfranchisement is rooted in an ambiguously phrased clause of the 14th Amendment that says states have the right to disenfranchise anyone convicted of participating "in rebellion, or other crime." It's a debate that's proved bitterly divisive, one that's unresolved to this day.

As it stands today, Maine and Vermont are the only two states with unrestricted voting rights for felons — if you're serving time in a Maine or Vermont prison, you still cast your vote via absentee ballot. In 14 other states and the District of Columbia, your voting rights are restored once you've left prison. In the remaining 34, felons are barred from voting until they've completed parole, and 11 states require a petition filed to the state's attorney general.

Those in favor of felony disenfranchisement often argue that those who break the law shouldn't have a say in how new laws are made. In committing a crime, they voided that privilege and demonstrated that they're unfit to vote with the good of the nation in mind.

This logic seems sound on the surface. But when you

realize that felons' lives are being controlled by a law-making process that they have no say in — and even, in many states, long after they've re-entered society — that logic falls apart. Shouldn't felons have a say in the law, given that their lives are impacted by the laws far more than any other group in society? The law determines how long they'll stay in prison, how long their parole will last, what crimes could send them back to prison in the future. To deny them a say in the law-making process excludes from the body politic the portion of society most directly affected by that process.

Furthermore, we don't strip people of their citizenship when they receive a prison sentence. They're still Americans, and they still live within the geographical borders of the country. The legal grounds for felony disenfranchisement are maddeningly vague and ambiguous at best, but they're enough to cast felons as second-class citizens.

Some argue that felons would only vote in their own interest — they'd vote for reduced prison sentences, decriminalization of narcotics, more funding to federal and state prisons. And that's absolutely true — felons may well vote only in self-interest, much like billionaires who vote in favor of corporate tax breaks and stoners who vote for the legalization of marijuana. That's how a democracy works. You don't get to tell people who to vote for or what to vote for. So long as each person has an equal say, the self-interest balances out.

You also have to take into account the societal costs of excluding a segment of the population from the body

politic. A felon might feel less inclined to obey laws he or she has had no say in. A democracy functions because it places responsibility upon the individual citizen. If you don't like a law, too bad — you had a say in its creation. You were a part of the political process that wrote the laws and approved them.

But this line of thinking falls apart when you look at the disenfranchisement of felons in the United States. A felon has no say in the law-making process; he or she has no say in the election of officials who represent him or her, and who write the laws he or she must abide by. Felons have someone other than themselves to blame. The responsibility shifts — and rightly shifts — off of them.

By welcoming the segment of the population with criminal backgrounds back into the body politic, we would shift that sense of responsibility back onto the individual. And while no one is claiming that restoring voting rights to felons will wipe out crime overnight, it's a start. By involving felons in the law-making process that has dictated much of their lives, we'll reinvest a part of the population currently languishing under the label of a second-class citizenry — one that must abide by the law, but has no say in it.

*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.*





## BAY AREA STUDENT SELECTED FOR YOUTH ADVISORY BOARD AT HARVARD

**M**aking Caring Common, a project at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, announced the members of its second Youth Advisory Board on Oct. 24.

Kaitlin (Katie) Keiko Wong from Carlmont High School in Belmont, Calif., was selected from nearly 200 nominees to serve on the board, which represents a diverse group of young people who will work with Making Caring Common over the next year to make schools and communities more just, caring and respectful places.

The 2016-17 Youth Advisory Board includes 26 members who represent 15 states across the nation and come from diverse

backgrounds and identities. All board members demonstrate a strong commitment to MCC's overall mission.

"We are incredibly excited to work with such a passionate group of young people who are committed to cultivating a culture of kindness in their schools and communities," said MCC's Research Director Luba Falk Feigenberg.

Added Wong: "I'm so honored to represent the Japanese American and Asian communities in the Bay Area through this unique opportunity. I'm looking forward to working with the 25 other students from across the country to create positive change." ■

## MANZANAR BEGINS WINTER HOURS OF OPERATION

**W**inter hours of operation are now in effect at the Manzanar National Historic Site Visitor Center and its surrounding structures, the National Park Service announced recently.

The Visitor Center and its outbuildings will now be open from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. daily. The exhibits inside a World War II-era mess hall and two reconstructed barracks will also be open during the same time period.

The Manzanar National Historic Site remains open from dawn to dusk, and visitors are welcome to walk or drive the square-mile site to see Japanese rock gardens, the cemetery, a fire shed and other features.

The Manzanar Visitor Center features 8,000 square feet of exhibits, a 22-min-

ute award-winning introductory film and a bookstore operated by the nonprofit Manzanar History Assn.

Award-winning exhibits are also featured in the reconstructed barracks, each highlighting the personal experiences of individuals, families and communities incarcerated at Manzanar more than 70 years ago.

Those exhibits feature extensive photos, documents and quotes illustrating the challenges and changes people faced at Manzanar. Six audio stations and one video station also feature a total of 42 oral history clips.

**For more information, visit the Manzanar National Historic Site website at [www.nps.gov/manz](http://www.nps.gov/manz).**

## 'DR. STRANGE' >> continued from page 2

"In answer to critics, Marvel Studios previously said they were proud of their record of diversity," Aoki continued. "Name one memorable Asian character in any of the movies they've produced. Just one!"

In April, Robert Cargill, co-writer of the film, revealed the probable real reason for the casting decision: Fear of offending China, the second-biggest movie market in the world. "[The Ancient One] originates from Tibet, so if you acknowledge that Tibet is a place and that he's Tibetan, you risk alienating one billion people . . . and risk the Chinese government going, 'Hey, you know one of the biggest film-watching countries in the world? We're not going to show your movie because you decided to get political.'"

Cargill argued that if they'd cast a Chinese actor as a Tibetan, it would've angered Tibetans (as it would be a member of the oppressed group playing the underdog). They

felt it was a no-win situation, so they opted to cast a white person.

"That makes no sense," said Chan. "Marvel could've created a fictitious Asian country then cast any kind of Asian they wanted without any political fallout. In fact, they changed the setting from Tibet to Nepal. So, the rest of Cargill's argument falls apart. It's just a continuation of the whitewashing legacy illustrated recently by movies like 'Aloha,' 'The Martian' and the upcoming 'Ghost in the Shell.'"

MANAA, the only organization solely dedicated to advocating balanced, sensitive, and positive depiction and coverage of Asian Americans, was founded in 1992. It led nationwide protests against the film "Rising Sun" in 1993 and challenged Sarah Silverman's use of "Chinks" in her joke on "Late Night With Conan O'Brien" and Bill Maher's "Politically Incorrect" in 2001. ■

## NewsBytes

### Dave Roberts Named 2016 Sporting News NL Manager of the Year



**LOS ANGELES** — Dodgers Manager Dave Roberts, in his first season as the team's skipper, was named 2016 Sporting News National League Manager of the Year on Oct. 24.

Roberts, 44, received seven of 14 votes from NL managers to win the award, the first Dodgers manager to be honored by the *Sporting News* since Walter Alston in 1963. He officially joined the club last December. Cubs Manager Joe Maddon and Nationals Manager

Dusty Baker finished tied for second.

As manager, Roberts led the Dodgers to the team's fourth consecutive division title in 2016 and a spot in the National League Championship Series, where they were ultimately defeated by the Chicago Cubs.

Roberts' honor is being viewed as possible foreshadowing to the Baseball Writers Association of America title of "Manager of the Year," which will be announced Nov. 14-17.

### Sony Music Apologizes for Japanese Band's Nazi-Like Outfits

**TOKYO** — Sony Music Japan apologized Nov. 1 after a popular Japanese all-girls band came under fire for performing in outfits resembling Nazi-era German military uniforms.

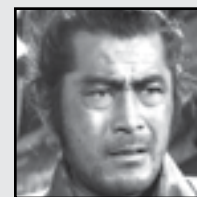
The mostly teenage members of Keyakizaka46 appeared at an Oct. 22 concert in black knee-length dresses that look like military overcoats and black capes and officer caps with a Nazi-like eagle emblem. Sony Music is the group's label.

"We express our heartfelt apology for causing offense . . . because of our lack of understanding," Sony Music Entertainment (Japan) said in a statement posted on its website. "We take the incident seriously and will make efforts to prevent a recurrence of a similar incident in the future."

Sony Music spokesperson Yasuyuki Oshio said there had been no intention to link the performance to Nazism.

The U.S.-based Simon Wiesenthal Center, a human rights group focused on anti-Semitism and hate speech, issued a statement Monday saying it was disgusted by the uniforms and called on Sony Music and the group's producer to apologize.

### Toshiro Mifune to Receive Posthumous Star on Hollywood Walk of Fame



**LOS ANGELES** — Legendary Japanese movie star Toshiro Mifune will receive a posthumous star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on Nov. 14, the Hollywood Chamber of Commerce announced.

Toshiro's star, number 2,594, will be located at 6912 Hollywood Blvd., and Mifune's grandson, Rikiya Mifune, will be present at the ceremony to accept his grandfather's star along with

Hollywood Chamber President/CEO Leron Gubler. Also in attendance will be Academy Award-winning filmmaker Steven Okazaki, whose new documentary, "Mifune: The Last Samurai," is set to open theatrically in Los Angeles on Dec. 2, followed by a nationwide release.

Mifune starred in more than 150 films during his career, most notably 16 films with director Akira Kurosawa, including "Rashomon," the epic "Seven Samurai," "Yojimbo" and "Red Beard." Mifune passed away in 1997 at the age of 77 in Tokyo.

### Younger Brother of Former Emperor Hirohito Dies at Age 100



**TOKYO** — The younger brother of former Japanese Emperor Hirohito died Oct. 26 at the age of 100. The Imperial Household Agency announced that Prince Mikasa had died in the morning at a hospital in Tokyo.

Japanese media reports say he had been hospitalized since May, initially because of pneumonia. Citing unnamed sources, they say his condition took a sudden turn for the worse on Oct. 26.

Prince Mikasa was born on Dec. 2, 1915. He is the uncle of current Emperor Akihito and was fifth in line to the throne. His brother, Hirohito, reigned for more than 60 years, during World War II and until his death in 1989.

### Junko Tabei, First Woman to Climb Everest, Passes Away at Age 77



**TOKYO** — Japanese mountaineer Junko Tabei, who devoted her entire life to scaling peaks, including her feat to become the first woman to ever climb Mount Everest, died of cancer at a hospital outside Tokyo on Oct. 20 at the age of 77.

Tabei's philosophy was to live life to the fullest, and she did so while battling stereotypes in a country that thought a woman's place was in the home. Tabei reached the summit of Everest on May 16, 1975 as the leader of an all-female climbing party.

In 1992, she became the first woman to complete the "Seven Summits," reaching the highest peaks of the seven continents.

— P.C. Staff and Associated Press



# HONOULIULI NATIONAL MONUMENT — JCCH EDUCATION CENTER OPENS TO THE PUBLIC

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF JCCH

The new education center features photos and artifacts from the Hawaii internment site.

**HONOLULU** — The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii officially opened the new Honouliuli National Monument — JCCH Education Center on Oct. 22, complete with Shinto and Buddhist blessings and congratulatory remarks from some of Hawaii's elected officials. Families of former Honouliuli internees were also in attendance to witness the blessing and dedication ceremony.

The new center, located in the JCCH Community Gallery in Moiliili, adjoins the permanent exhibition on the history of the Japanese people in Hawaii and features photos of the Honouliuli Internment Camp, artifacts from the internees, oral history videos and virtual tours of the Honouliuli National Monument.

The center also provides students, teachers and the community an opportunity to learn more about the new national monument, its history and lessons for the future.

"The Honouliuli Education Center at the JCCH will be a gathering place for students, teachers, the local community and visitors to learn about the unique war-time experience of Japanese Americans in Hawaii," said Carole Hayashino, president and executive director of the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii. "It will be a place for us to reflect upon the lessons of war, civil liberties, peace and



**JCCH staff, National Park Service rangers, representatives from the Freeman Foundation, Monsanto Hawaii and JTB Hawaii, as well as elected Hawaiian government officials participated in the official ribbon-cutting ceremony to open the doors to the new education center.**



**The new education center provides students, teachers and the community an opportunity to learn all about the Honouliuli National Monument.**

reconciliation."

Since rediscovering the site in 2002, the JCCH has worked to preserve the historical site as a national monument. In addition to successfully preserving the site, the JCCH produced the documentary film on Hawaii's internment, "The Untold Story: Internment of Japanese Americans in Hawaii," translated and published two memoirs written by former internees, produced a curriculum guide for high school social studies teachers and distributed the curriculum resources to high schools throughout the state.

The Honouliuli National Monument —

JCCH Education Center is the result of a partnership between the JCCH and the Freeman Foundation, Monsanto Hawaii and JTB Hawaii.

"It has been an honor to partner with JCCH on this initiative, and we're very proud to see the Honouliuli Education Center come to fruition," said Alan Take-moto, community affairs manager at Monsanto Hawaii. "Monsanto's commitment to preserving the Honouliuli Internment Camp site began nearly seven years ago when we first purchased the land in Kuna, and we look forward to continuing the momentum of raising awareness about this important piece of history through JCCH's many education initiatives."

Admission to the education center is free and open to the public. Regular business hours for the new education center will be Monday-Friday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

The Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, a nonprofit organization, strives to strengthen Hawaii's diverse community by educating present and future generations in the evolving Japanese American experience in the state.

Founded on May 28, 1987, the center has more than 5,000 members and annually connects to more than 50,000 residents and visitors throughout its programs and events.

The Cultural Center also features a historical museum, the Honouliuli National Monument — JCCH Education Center, the Tokioka Heritage Resource Center, the Kenshikan martial arts dojo, the Seikoan Japanese teahouse and a gift shop.

*For more information, call (808) 945-7633, email [info@jcch.com](mailto:info@jcch.com) or visit the website at [www.jcch.com](http://www.jcch.com).*

## JANL Program Highlights 'Echoes of Nikkei Dispersal'

By Rita Takahashi

Author Diana Morita Cole addressed experiences of Japanese Americans, Japanese Canadians and Japanese Latin Americans during an evening program entitled "Echoes of Nikkei Dispersal" in San Francisco's Japantown on Oct. 26.

The hour-and-a-half-long program, held in Union Bank's Hospitality Room, was organized, sponsored and made available by the Japanese American National Library. Additional support was provided by professors from San Francisco State University.

In her program, Cole brought many elements together, including international, global and domestic agendas. Audience members also learned many lessons pertaining to global ethnic and cultural diversity.

Specifically, Cole revealed her own life journey, beginning from her birth in Minidoka, a U.S. concentration camp located in Southern Idaho during World War II. She identified the struggles and challenges one faces with dual (and multi) cultures.

In addition, the author read portions from her 2015 book "Sideways: Memoir of a Misfit," which revealed aspects of her life experiences from the perceptual lens of her childhood.

During the discussion, Cole also connected the exclusion and concentration camp experiences (at Lemon Creek, Canada) of Canadian author Joy Kogawa, as well as read a poem by Kogawa.

The discussion conveyed what happened to Japanese Canadians, Japanese Americans and Japanese Latin Americans when governments passed policies targeting persons of Japanese ancestry and removed them from their homes, excluding them from communities/large areas and negating liberty, justice and freedom.

Cole also expressed the impacts such discriminatory policies had on such individuals. Japanese Canadians, for example, were excluded from returning to their original West Coastal residences until 1949, four years after the conflicts of World War II came to an end.

Following her presentation, Cole screened and discussed the short film "Hidden Internment," which reveals the plight of kidnapped and incarcerated Japanese Latin Americans, including her brother-in-law, Art Shibayama.

Cole is a member of the Nelson Storytelling Guild and the Uphill Writing Group in Canada. She is also on the steering committee of the Kaslo Japanese Canadian Museum and a contributing member of "Nikkei Images." She currently resides in Nelson, British Columbia, Canada.

**Author Diana Morita Cole's program "Echoes of Nikkei Dispersal" offered attendees the opportunity to learn lessons pertaining to global ethnic and cultural diversity.**



PHOTO: CHRISTEN SASAKI



**Shinto and Buddhist blessings were part of the official dedication ceremony of the Honouliuli National Monument — JCCH Education Center.**



PHOTOS: GEORGE T. JOHNSTON



# COMMUNITY, CONTINUITY LIVE AT SAWTELLE REUNION IV

Attendees of all ages gather to reflect on the historic neighborhood's memories, good times and future outlook.



**Ben Toshiyuki with his granddaughter, Michelle Imamura**



**Rose Honda (left) and Sadie Hifumi (Inatomi)**

*By George Toshio Johnston, Contributor*

**T**he commercial strip of Sawtelle Boulevard near the 405 Freeway in West Los Angeles bounded by Olympic and Santa Monica boulevards (and outposts to either side of those streets) — especially the part nearest Olympic — has, in recent years, become a destination for hipsters, Asian cuisine foodies, college students and Japanese expatriates looking for a bit of home away from home.

The area also has seen new — and pricey — luxury condos pop up as the neighborhood continues to evolve.

Decades before the area was “discovered” by the trendy tribe, however, it was a mostly Japanese American community with services, storefronts, a tofu maker, restaurants, a Japanese language school, a judo dojo, plant nurseries, churches and more that catered to a population that came into existence at a time when L.A.’s many ethnic groups were clumped into enclaves dictated by race-based housing covenants.

For longtime residents of Japanese ancestry, memories of those bygone days before one could live anywhere a well-

stocked bank account would allow (and when finding a parking spot wasn’t so tough) are, actually, pleasant.

“It was sort of a paradise for us,” recalled Ben Toshiyuki, who grew up in the area and now resides in Washington, Utah.

Toshiyuki shared his recollections at the Sawtelle Japantown Reunion IV, which was held on Oct. 23 at the West Los Angeles Buddhist Temple’s Sangha Hall. The event, which began in 2010 and takes place every two years, drew 120 participants.

Toshiyuki, who says he’s missed only one of the four reunions held thus far, also noted, however, that he suspects many of the Japanese men from the area who found work as gardeners were college educated but could not find jobs in other lines of work during a time when not all professions were open to Japanese people.

Toshiyuki’s father, John, for example, told his son he had aspirations of becoming an architect. He was instead steered by his father to a different line of work.

“My grandfather made him into a pharmacist,” Toshiyuki said. But his father was able to be in the University of Southern California’s first Bachelor of Science graduating class in the field. Toshiyuki said his grandfather had “maybe three drugstores,” including Tensho Do Drugs

in Little Tokyo at First and San Pedro streets.

The Sawtelle reunions are credited as having been started by Dr. Jack Fujimoto, according to Hank Iwamoto, whose family moved to the area in 1946 and opened a small grocery store. “It was all Japanese at that time.”

Iwamoto recalls how Sawtelle was distinctive due to its small-town atmosphere. “Everybody knew each other,” he said. Iwamoto said the Sawtelle area, where Japanese were allowed to buy property, was bounded by Pico and Santa Monica boulevards and to where the 405 Freeway is now and Barrington Avenue.

In later years, Iwamoto, 79, said many Japanese Americans moved from the Sawtelle area to Orange County or Torrance because of the high property values. Nevertheless, “Jack thought it would be a good idea to get together and rekindle old friendships,” he said. He added, however, that the reunion committee is also trying to attract more of the younger generations. “It’s like pulling teeth. They’ve got other things to do.”

Carrie Yotsukura represents that younger age group to which Iwamoto referred. The third-generation alumna of nearby University High School and fourth-gen resident of West Los Angeles became involved with the committee — and was tapped to be the reunion chairperson — after attending the third reunion, which took place before the area got the official “Sawtelle Japantown” designation from the city of Los Angeles in 2015.





Photos  
by Randy  
Sakamoto  
on display



Carrie  
Yotsukura  
addresses  
the crowd.



(From left) Yasuko Ayamame Ideishi, Bob Tateoka, June Fujioka Yahata, Ted Tanaka, Ayako Masada Shirasawa, Fujio Nakagawa, Jeannie Yoshimura, Hank Iwamoto, Carrie Yotsukura, Randy Sakamoto, Beverly Yahata, Jack Fujimoto, June Tomita and Grace Fujimoto

"One of the reasons why I was asked [to become involved] was because I am younger — I'm probably the age of their children — and so they were asking me if I would come in and hopefully stimulate more of a younger crowd. It's just hard because a lot of the people I know, I'm no longer in touch with. A lot of people have moved away," Yotsukura said. "I just so happen to live in the area. So, it was a challenge that way, but I'm hoping that some of the old-timers who do come spread the word to their children and grandchildren."

On that topic, Yotsukura said she would "love to see more of a dialogue between younger people and the older generation to keep alive the people who built this area."

A pair of women who have stories of bygone days are Rose Honda, 89, and Sadie Hifumi, 81, who participated in Japanese American women's social clubs.

After the war, during which her family was incarcerated at the Manzanar camp for Japanese Americans, Honda was in an organization for working women and those going on to college called the "Windsors." She and her friend, Mary Ishizuka, became co-advisers for a group of teenage girls who called themselves the "Atomettes," of which Hifumi was a member; the group was sponsored by Sawtelle's West L.A. United Methodist Church.

"Sadie and several of us, through the church, have sponsored trips to Manzanar for about eight years now," Honda said. She graduated from the camp's high school in 1945. "We mainly did it so that families and young people can learn about what happened."

Honda continued: "Before the war, this community had Japanese families because we weren't able to live east of Sepulveda [Boulevard]. We were only able to stay in this community." Still, she has "wonderful" memories from that era.

"Besides Japanese families, we had Latino families, Caucasian families living here, Afro Americans — but predominantly, it was Japanese," Honda said. "Sawtelle

Boulevard had the markets and the stores, a barbershop and a beauty shop."

Honda also recalled the many activities, like Japanese language movies for the Issei, that were shown at the Japanese language school and helped keep the community together.

Interestingly, Fujimoto helped get the Sawtelle Reunion committee started, but he called himself an "outsider" who married into the community. Perhaps that's why he saw the need to recognize what was unique about the community and pass that knowledge on to newer generations.

"It goes back to my way of thinking of *furusato*," Fujimoto said, referring to the Japanese word for "hometown." "What is *furusato*? Where is home? Do you ever go back to your home? Or is your new home wherever you are now? Is Sawtelle your home?"

"I don't think a lot of people who grew up and became professionals think of Sawtelle as their home," Fujimoto continued. "But a reunion is an opportunity for them to come and say, 'Hey, I remember you, you lived over there' — that's why it was fascinating just getting together today to talk to a couple of people."

Then there are those like Ted Tanaka, a biotech joint-venture developer, who grew up in Sawtelle and is putting together a fundraising drive to pay for a couple of wall murals to depict for posterity some of the area's history. It'll take several thousand dollars to make his dream a reality, but he's confident it will happen.

It's important for Sawtelle denizens like Honda, who want that legacy remembered. "I think the other thing about these reunions, we're seeing young people and how important it is to remember our Isseis, who really built this community," she said. "It's nice to meet old friends and just kind of reminisce when we grew up in this community."

For Fujimoto, he enjoys the feeling of satisfaction he's received from the four Sawtelle reunions. Toshiyuki concurs. "It's all been fun," he said. ■

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# REPORT ON THE MINIDOKA CIVIL LIBERTIES SYMPOSIUM

PHOTOS: DIANA MORITA COLE

By Diana Morita Cole,  
Contributor

**M**ass Incarceration in the Land of the Free” was the theme of the 11th annual Minidoka Civil Liberties Symposium, which was held at the Student Union building at Boise State University in Idaho on Oct. 15-16.

Organized under the auspices of the Boise State University School for Public Policy, the two-day event featured speakers who addressed the theme of mass incarceration from many perspectives: historical, law enforcement, constitutional law, activism, jurisprudence, political science, mental health, prison reform and human rights.

During the symposium’s opening, Judy Geniac, superintendent of the Minidoka National Historical Site, reported on the current development of U.S. National Park Service sites under her mandate. These include Bainbridge Island as well as the Minidoka site.

The priorities Geniac currently manages are the National Registry to determine properties that were part of the Minidoka internment site, the Landmark Project, the development of a trail at Minidoka and construction of the Visitor Center, as well as the securement of community grants.

“We ponder our roles for the future as we manage these sites of conscience, where we incarcerated our own citizens,” Geniac reflected. “The impact of the incarceration continues — just as the impact of slavery continues.”

Tom Ikeda, the symposium’s first speaker and founder/executive director of Densho: Japanese American Legacy Project, stressed the importance of understanding the story of the Japanese American internment. “It is as relevant now as it was during World War II,” he asserted. “The current climate of division, fear and hate is reminiscent of what happened during World War II.”

The next speaker, David Adler, president of the Alturas



**A panel discussion featuring (from left) Gary Raney, Kevin Kempf, moderator Paul Y. Watanabe and Amber Beierle discussed recent improvements in the Idaho state correctional system.**

Institute, quoted Cicero, who said that in times of crises, laws buckle. Adler went on to enumerate the many acts of injustice committed by U.S. presidents, congress and government officials that violated the U.S. Constitution.

All too often, especially in wartime, Adler told participants, governments choose to follow the Machiavellian dictum that the ends justify the means — and take actions that are not lawful or democratic.

He discussed Gen. John DeWitt’s use of gossip, rumor-mongering and racism to justify the creation of a detention program for incarcerating Japanese Americans during World War II. Ironically, Adler said, “DeWitt believed the absence of any evidence was proof Japanese Americans were plotting sabotage.”

During WWII, as it has many times before and since, Adler explained, the Supreme Court deferred to the military.

The symposium also featured speaker Michael Santos, a former felon and author of “Inside: Life Behind Bars in America.” Santos, a well-known prison consultant and academic, told participants that even after having served 26 years in prison for drug-related crimes, he is still on parole. He believes America is clinging to the belief that it is impossible to change behavior through rehabilitation. Santos also said that it will take years to change America’s flawed prison system, one that has no release mechanisms in place to re-evaluate sentences.

Judge Mark W. Bennett of the U.S. District Court in Iowa then criticized mandatory minimum sentencing for drug use, echoing Santos’ observations and stressing the need for prison reform. “Drug addiction is a medical problem, but we are criminalizing it,” Bennett said. “You can be a first-time offender and still get 360 days in prison. Judges hide behind the guidelines and fail to use their discretion.”

Satsuki Ina, who was born at Tule Lake, opened the second day of the symposium, where she told participants about her work in 2015 to assess the trauma suffered by Costa Rican refugee children by their imprisonment in Texas.

Incarcerated in privately owned prisons, the migrant children she examined were confined to living in “ice boxes,” windowless cells with concrete floors, maintained at 52-degree temperatures. These imprisoned children, along with their mothers, had been guided to Texas by “coyotes,”

human traffickers who misrepresented how refugees would be received in the United States.

Ina also reported that the detained refugee children exhibited symptoms of powerlessness — insomnia, eating disorders and disobedience. Once released into the general prison-camp population, these children would cry for hours whenever their friends were taken away.

Outside the Texas private prison where she interviewed the refugee children, Ina observed that the detention site was surrounded by fracking machines, which poisoned the water table. Water from this contaminated source was the only water the migrants were given to drink.

According to Ina, private prisons receiving federal government funds have typically bypassed proper bidding procedures to procure government contracts. These prisons receive funding based on the number of refugees they detain.

On July 25, 2015, Judge Dolly M. Gee of the Federal District Court for the Central District of California ruled that the two Texas detention centers failed to meet the minimum legal requirements of the 1997 court settlement for facilities housing children.

Since Gee’s ruling and as a result of the hunger strikes undertaken by their refugee mothers, migrant children have been placed in foster care. Currently, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is monitoring refugee mothers by making them wear electronic ankle bracelets to ensure they appear in court, while safe houses run by religious organizations have been established to shelter refugees fleeing persecution and violence in Central America.

Ina explained that when refugees are finally released from prison, they are routinely given a Greyhound ticket to a bus station where it is hoped that a relative will pick them up. “Economic profit for private companies should not supersede our laws, nor determine the fate of these refugees coming to the U.S.,” Ina concluded.

Next, Rajini Srikanth, professor of English and dean of the Honors College at the University of Massachusetts, spoke on the importance of developing empathy in society as she focused on the Guantanamo Bay prison as a site of living death — a place of incarceration that purportedly exists outside the jurisdiction of the U.S. Constitution because it is located in Cuba.



**Densho’s Tom Ikeda told participants that the Japanese American internment is as relevant now as it was during World War II.**





**Featured speakers included (from left) Rajini Srikanth, Karen Korematsu and Satsuki Ina.**

Srikanth told symposium participants that almost all of the prisoners held at Guantanamo were Muslim men, turned in by bounty hunters in Afghanistan and Pakistan for suspected terrorist activity. The \$5,000 bounty promised by American policy was advertised in leaflets dropped from airplanes. She explained that the American bounty program eroded the life of Muslim communities in both Afghanistan and Pakistan by empowering informants within these two societies.

Srikanth also explained that after *Rasul v. Bush* in 2004, the Supreme Court ruled the writ of habeas corpus applied in Guantanamo Bay prison. This landmark ruling allowed prisoners to challenge their detention. While the majority of prisoners held in Guantanamo have been released, they are unable to return home. Instead, they are being sent to places like Bosnia, where they have no family or community connections.

In addition, Srikanth reported that Guantanamo Bay prison is the result of the fierce exercise of an affronted power: a country that has suffered an attack and subsequently outsources torture, as the United States government has done in the extraordinary rendition of Maher Arar, a Syrian Canadian who was kidnapped by American authorities and tortured in Syria.

Srikanth concluded her talk by quoting the famed, Jewish political theorist Hannah Arendt. Arendt believed that the refugee is the example where human rights should begin.

Karen Korematsu, executive director of the Fred Korematsu Institute, then spoke about the importance of the legal challenge undertaken by her father, Fred Korematsu, who was arrested and sentenced for his refusal to comply with Executive Order 9066 in 1942.

A federal district court in San Francisco found Korematsu guilty of refusing to comply with military orders, and the U.S. Supreme Court upheld his conviction in 1944 on the grounds of military necessity. In 1983, Korematsu appealed his conviction.

According to Karen Korematsu, her father never gave up hope that his case would be reopened. Karen screened the documentary "Of Civil Wrongs and Rights: The Fred Korematsu Story," which she has shown during her educational speaking engagements across the country. She



**Former felon, author and prison consultant Michael Santos spoke in length about America's flawed prison system.**

said that the reparation check given to each Japanese American wasn't the important thing. What made it significant, according to Karen Korematsu, was that "it was the apology and recognition that a wrong was done."

And a panel discussion featuring Kevin Kempf, director of the Idaho Department of Correction; Amber Beierle, education specialist; and Gary Raney, former Sheriff from Ada County, took place, where the three speakers commented on recent improvements that have taken place in the Idaho state correctional system.

The symposium's final speaker was Holly Yasui, director of the Minoru Yasui Tribute Project. She is the youngest daughter of civil rights activist Min Yasui, who was granted the Presidential Medal of Freedom posthumously in 2015.

Holly Yasui previewed the documentary she is co-directing entitled "Never Give Up! Minoru Yasui and the Fight for Justice," which is narrated by actor George Takei. Holly Yasui also cited the work being done by Sarah Segal, a teacher at Hood River Middle School in Oregon, who is developing a living history curriculum based on the life of Min Yasui. He was, Holly Yasui explained, an American citizen who refused to obey the unconstitutional curfew orders implemented by Executive Order 9066.

The event's moderator, Paul Y. Watanabe, professor of political science at the University of Massachusetts, offered concluding remarks, reflecting on his own background as the son of a "No-No" girl. He urged the symposium's participants to stand up in memory of those who have stood up in the past to keep hope alive.

The 11th annual Minidoka Civil Liberties Symposium, sponsored by the Boise Art Museum, *Idaho Statesman* and the Japanese American Citizens League, was organized by the Friends of Minidoka, the American Civil Liberties Union of Idaho, Boise State University, Osher Institute for Lifelong Learning and the U.S. National Park Service.



**Friends of Minidoka served as an event organizer. Pictured are FOM Chair Alan Momohara and member Hanako Wakatsuki.**

## Polaris Tours 2017 Schedule

Mar. 22 ~ Mar. 31	Cuba's Charming Colonial Cities & Havana: "Highlights Tour of Cuba"
Apr. 02 ~ Apr. 11	Spring Japan: "Tokyo, Hakone, Inuyama, Kyoto, Hiroshima, Miyajima"
May. 21 ~ Jun. 01	Bikkuri Tour with Moto & Ken: "The Journey of Miyamoto Musashi"
May. 14 ~ May. 28	The Scandinavian: "Copenhagen, Arhus, Stockholm, Bergen, Oslo"
Jun. 18 ~ Jun. 30	England & Wales & Scotland: "London, Cardiff, Glasgow, Edinburgh"
Jul. 02 ~ Jul. 11	Japan By Train: "Hiroshima, Kurashiki, Okayama, Kyoto, Tokyo"
Jul. 10 ~ Jul. 21	Newfoundland & Labrador: "Corner Brook, Rocky Harbour, St. John's"
Sep. 03 ~ Sep. 14	Let's Go Hokkaido: "Sapporo, Sounkyo, Shiretoko, Tomamu, Toyako"
Sep. 17 ~ Sep. 24	Iceland Adventure: "Reykjavik, Borgarnes, Hofn, Lake Jokulsarlon, Vik,"
Sep. 20 ~ Oct. 03	South Korea (East Coast): "Seoul, Jeju, Busan, Gyeongju, Seorak"
Sep. 25 ~ Oct. 09	Western Explorer: "Scottsdale, Grand Canyon, Las Vegas, Yosemite"
Oct. 03 ~ Oct. 16	Eastern US & Canada Discovery: "Boston, Quebec City, Toronto, NYC"
Oct. 15 ~ Oct. 24	Autumn Japan: "Tokyo, Takayama, Kanazawa, Kyoto, Hiroshima"
Oct. 29 ~ Nov. 08	Islands of Okinawa & Shikoku: "Naha, Takamatsu, Matsuyama, Kochi"



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A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

# CALENDAR

## NCWNP

**JAMsj Winter Boutique**  
**San Jose, CA**  
**Nov. 12; JAMsj members (early entry): 9 a.m.; general public: 10 a.m.-3 p.m.**  
**San Jose Buddhist Church**  
**640 N. 5th St.**

This annual fundraiser for the Japanese American Museum of San Jose will feature a popular lineup of Bay Area artists, crafts people and a special guest author. Items include a wide variety of Asian-inspired jewelry, clothing, home goods, wall art and much more. Proceeds will support the volunteer-run nonprofit museum.

**Info: Visit [jamsj.org/japanese-american-history-museum-san-jose/2016-jamsj-winter-boutique](http://jamsj.org/japanese-american-history-museum-san-jose/2016-jamsj-winter-boutique), call (408) 294-3138 or Email [mail@jamsj.org](mailto:mail@jamsj.org).**

**'Where It All Began: 75th Anniversary of the Military Intelligence Service,' Honoring MIS and Nikkei Veterans and Families'**  
**San Francisco, CA**  
**Nov. 12; 10 a.m., opening ceremony (free)**  
**Presidio of San Francisco**  
**640 Old Mason St.**  
**Nov. 12; Noon, luncheon (RSVP and prepayment required)**  
**Presidio Golf Course Clubhouse**  
**300 Finley Road at Arguello Gate**

The National Japanese American Historical Society invites guests to share in remembering those who served in the MIS. The opening ceremony will feature keynote speaker James McNaughton of the U.S. Army Center for Military History, and the luncheon program will feature special guest John Tagami, former aide to Sen. Daniel Akaka. The museum will also be open to the public.  
**Info: Call (415) 921-5007 or visit [njahs.org/events/75th-anniversary-military-intelligence-service/](http://njahs.org/events/75th-anniversary-military-intelligence-service/).**

**Ninth Annual Asian Women's Shelter Dance Benefit**  
**San Francisco, CA**  
**Nov. 12; 7-11:30 p.m.**  
**The Event Center at St. Mary's Cathedral**  
**1111 Gough St., just outside of San Francisco's Japantown**  
**Price: \$40 per person or \$45 at the door**

Come and support the Asian Women's Shelter, which provides comprehensive services to survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking. Featured event performers include Rendezvous, Five Point 0 and Fusion. A Korean fusion food truck will also be on site, as well as a photo booth, a raffle drawing and bar.  
**Info: Call (415) 751-7110 or visit [sfaws.org](http://sfaws.org).**

**San Mateo Japanese American Community Center Annual Holiday Faire and Bake Sale**  
**San Mateo, CA**  
**Nov. 12; 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m.**  
**503 E. Fifth Ave.**  
 Gently used Japanese goods and homemade baked confections will be among the items available for purchase.  
**Info: Call (650) 343-2793.**

**Nihonmachi Little Friends 41st Anniversary Celebration Sushi Social**  
**San Francisco, CA**  
**Nov. 18; 6 p.m.**  
**Tateuchi Auditorium**  
**1830 Sutter St.**  
**Price: Suggested donation is \$100 per person.**  
 The NLF will celebrate its 41st anniversary with this sushi social that will feature special recognition of longtime NLF supporters June-ko Nakagawa and Benh Nakajo. The event also includes a musical performance by Anthony Brown, Mark Izu and Mas Koga, as well as a performance by NLF children.  
**Info: Call (415) 922-8898 or Email [nlfchildcare@gmail.com](mailto:nlfchildcare@gmail.com).**

## PSW

**'Japan: A Reverence for Beauty' Exhibition of Photographs by Gil Garcetti**  
**Los Angeles, CA**  
**Through Dec. 11**  
**George J. Doizaki Gallery**  
**Japanese American Cultural and Community Center**  
**244 S. San Pedro St.**  
**Price: Free**  
 Former Los Angeles district attorney and father of Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti explores, via his photographs, his observation that the Japanese people are unique in their reverence, respect and need for beauty. The question he raises is, "Why?"  
**Info: Call (213) 628-2725 or visit [jaccc.org](http://jaccc.org).**

**'Misora Hibari: A Tribute to a Legend'**  
**Pacoima, CA**  
**Nov. 13; 2 p.m.**  
**San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center**  
**12953 Branford St.**  
**Price: Tickets: \$35; bento: \$10**  
 The Grateful Crane Ensemble will pay tribute to the life and career of legendary singer, actress and entertainer Misora Hibari, featuring her greatest hits. The event is a benefit for the Japanese American Citizens League's Pacific Southwest District.  
**Info: Call (310) 995-5841.**

**Venice Pioneer Project Holiday Party**  
**Venice, CA**  
**Dec. 4; 12:30 p.m.**  
**Venice Japanese Community Center**  
**12448 Braddock Drive**  
 The Pioneer Project provides senior community members with opportunities to develop new friendships. Come out and support this year's holiday party. Invitations will be mailed.  
**Info: Call (310) 822-8885.**

## MDC

**2016 JACL Chicago Annual Meeting and Dinner**  
**Chicago, IL**  
**Nov. 16; 7-9 p.m.**  
**Midwest Buddhist Temple**  
**435 W. Menomonee St.**  
 JACL Chicago invites members to share a meal with friends, learn about the chapter's successful 2016 programs and find out about new projects and events for the coming year. Free parking is available, and RSVP is encouraged.  
**Info: Visit [www.jaclchicago.org/event/2016-annual-meeting/](http://www.jaclchicago.org/event/2016-annual-meeting/).**

**Helen Sung: The Music of Thelonious Monk**  
**Albuquerque NM**  
**Sat., Nov. 19; 7 p.m.**  
**Outpost Performance Space**  
**210 Yale S.E.**  
**Price: \$15-\$20**  
 A benefit concert for KSFR-FM featuring the pianist-composer.  
**Info: Visit <https://holdmyticket.com/tickets/257607>.**

## PNW

**'Who's Got Game?' Exhibit**  
**Seattle, WA**  
**Opens Dec. 9**

**Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience**  
**719 S. King St.**  
**Price: Museum admission**  
 "Who's Got Game?" is an exhibit that honors the accomplishments of Asian Pacific Americans in sports as well as explores the role of sports in APA identities and communities. Personal athlete journeys representing a wide range of sports, genders, ethnic and cultural identities and generations will come alive through photographs, oral histories and memorabilia.  
**Info: Visit [www.wingluke.org](http://www.wingluke.org).**

**Kodo Taiko Concert**  
**Portland, OR**  
**Feb. 1, 2017**  
**Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall**  
**1037 S.W. Broadway**  
**Price: From \$20**  
 Kodo, widely regarded as the premier taiko group in the world, brings its power, precision, creativity and athleticism to Portland in a debut concert performance. A preconcert taiko recital will take place prior to the performance from 6:55-7:15 p.m.  
**Info: Call (503) 248-4335 or visit [orsymphony.org/concerts/waystoorder.aspx](http://orsymphony.org/concerts/waystoorder.aspx).**

## EDC

**Foldable Fashion: Japanese Fan Painting Workshop**  
**New York, NY**  
**Nov. 17; 6:30 p.m.**  
**Japan Society**  
**333 E. 47th St.**  
**Price: Tickets: \$45 nonmembers; \$40 Japan Society members, seniors and students**  
 Participants are invited to paint an elegant sensu fan with Japanese calligraphy artist Seiren Aoi. Included in the event workshop is a brush, sensu fan, sumi ink and washi practice paper.  
**Info: Visit <http://www.japansociety.org/event/foldable-fashion-japanese-fan-painting>.**

**New England National Lion Dance Competition**  
**Boston**  
**Nov. 19 and 20; Sat.: 10 a.m.-6 p.m./Sun.: 5-9 p.m.**  
**Josiah Quincy School Gymnasium**  
**885 Washington St.**  
**Empire Garden Restaurant**  
**690 Washington St.**  
**Price: Day 1 is free; \$50 tickets required for final rounds at the restaurant.**

Enjoy two days of Lion Dance competition as electrifying acrobatic feats by swift lion dancers create a show-stopping spectacle of beauty, grace and pure dance form.  
**Info: Visit [www.chinatownmainstreet.org](http://www.chinatownmainstreet.org).**

**Manzanar: Photographs by Ansel Adams**  
**Andover, MA**  
**Through Mid-January 2017**  
**Addison Gallery of American Art, Phillips Academy**  
**180 Main St.**  
**Price: Free**  
 This exhibit features 50 photographs by Ansel Adams documenting the lives of Japanese Americans incarcerated at Manzanar. Commented Adams on his pictures, "The purpose of my work was to show how these people, suffering under a great injustice, and loss of property, businesses and professions, had overcome the sense of defeat and despair by building for themselves a vital community in an arid (but magnificent) environment."  
**Info: Visit <http://www.andover.edu/Museums/Addison/Exhibitions/Manzanar/Pages/default.aspx>.**

## IDC

**Tomodachi Fest**  
**Boise, ID**  
**Nov. 25-27**  
**Wyndham Garden Boise Airport**  
**3300 S. Vista Ave.**  
**Price: \$17 daily or \$30 all three days**  
 Tomodachi Fest is back for its ninth year. This anime festival will feature guests including voice actress Danielle McRae, Griffin Puatu, Idaho Smash and Red Zone Fandom. The convention will also feature panels, meet and greets and more.  
**Info: Visit [www.tomodachifest.com](http://www.tomodachifest.com).**

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# IN MEMORIAM

**Chun, Janet Masunaga, 86**, Santa Ana, CA, Oct. 4; she was predeceased by her husband, George Masami Chun; she is survived by her sons, Eric, Ross and Curt Chun; their spouses; and grandchildren.

**Eccel (née Uyemori), Tazume Sylvia, 74**, Elk Grove, CA, Oct. 17; she is survived by her husband, Charley; children, Charley III, Cameron and Stephanie (Robinson); siblings, Ronald Uyemori and Marilyn Uyemori; gc: 3.

**Fukuhara, Francis Masateru, 91**, Seattle, Oct. 9; he and his family were incarcerated at the WRA Minidoka Relocation Center in Hunt, ID. Fukuhara served in the Army's MIS from 1944-46. He is survived by his wife, Patricia Toshiko (née Tamiyasu); children, Catherine Takisaki (Mark), David Fukuhara (Sandra), Teresa Mori (Victor) and Marci Shimizu (Eric); brother, Curtis Yoshihiro Fukuhara; gc: 11.

**Fujii, Frank S., 86**, Seattle, Oct. 3; he was predeceased by his wife, Michiko (née Inouye); he is survived by his children, Ann Fujii-Lindwall (Alan) and Susan Yamamoto (Gary); sister, Kinko Nomura; gc: 1.

**Fujimoto, Harry K., 87**, Chino, CA, Oct. 29; he is survived by his children, Sharon, Clyde, Michelle, Wendi and Stephen.

**Granucci, Vicki Sekiguchi, 67**, Gardena, CA, Oct. 25; she is survived by her husband, Tom; son, Ryan; mother, Peggy; brother, Jon; sister-in-law, Jessica; and future daughter-in-law, Saki.

**Hobgood, Sue 'Masayo,' 95**, Avondale, AZ, Oct. 26; she was predeceased by her husband, Richard Hobgood.

**Ito, Ross Mitsuo, 50**, Huntington Beach, CA, Oct. 12; he is survived by his wife, Natalie; parents, Hank and Margo Ito; siblings, Ryan and Remy Eclarinal.

**Kitasako, Sue Shizuko, 96**, Seattle, Oct. 16; she was predeceased by her husband, John; she is survived by her children, Karen, Jane Cho (Paul) and Clark; gc: 2.

**Kono, Hitoshi, 86**, Pacific Grove, CA, Oct. 22; during WWII, he and his family were incarcerated at the Poston WRA camp in AZ; he

was predeceased by his wife, Jean Kono; he is survived by three children; gc: 2.

**Masuoka, U.S. Army Capt. (Ret.) Frank Y., 93**, San Francisco; he is survived by his wife, Virginia "Ginger" (née Matsuyama); children, Frank Arnold (Beverly), Peter Edward (Susie), Dwight Owen (Hedi), Virginia Carol (Paul), Mary Ann (Dale), Makiko (Nestor); sister, Margarette Murakami; gc: 22; ggc: 21; gggc: 4.

**Matsumoto, Takeshi 'Take,' 87**, Keauhou Mauka, HI, Oct. 8; he is survived by his wife, Thelma (née Matsumoto); children, Michael, Dale and Jayne Omori; siblings, Kumio Matsumoto, Nancy Kurihara and Lily Saito; gc: 9; ggc: 7.

**Nakagaki, Yoshiko, 94**, Gardena, CA, Oct. 18; she was predeceased by her son, Wayne Nakagaki; she is survived by her children, Etsuko Tani and Kenneth (Ann) Nakagaki; sisters, Tsuyuko Iwamoto and Toshiko Mizuno; sister-in-law, Eiko Dotemoto; she is also survived by other relatives here and in Japan; gc: 4.

**Nakamoto, Takako, 89**, Glendora, CA, Oct. 2; she is survived by her children, John (Kelly),

Mitsuko (Ernest) Pierre and Tamiko (Rod Bradley) Nakamoto; brother, Takashi (Tsuruko) Nakamura; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives here and in Japan; gc: 5.

**Nishikawa, Ted, 79**, Indian Wells, CA, Oct. 2; he is survived by his wife, Nobuko; children, Wendy Nishikawa Jaffa (Mike) and John Nishikawa (Maria); gc: 4.

**Ochiai, Alice, 94**, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA, Oct. 5; she is survived by her sister, Mary K. Ochiai; a niece, nephew, two grand-nieces and two grand-nephews.

**Ogata, Minoru Roy, 95**, Barrington, IL, Oct. 28; he served in the U.S. Army and was incarcerated in the Jerome and Rohwer WRA camps in Arkansas during WWII; he is survived by his wife, Amy; sons, Craig (Linda) and Tom (Annie); gc: 3.

**Omoto, Arthur Yoichi, 69**, Gardena, CA, Oct. 1; he is survived by his wife, Patricia; children, Daniel (Veronica), David (Jackie), Alex and Robert; he is also survived by several nieces, nephews and other relatives here and in Japan; gc: 4.

**Sakaguchi, Franklyn M., 77**, Kailua, HI, Oct. 17; he is survived by his wife, Jane; sons, Harry (Carolyn) and Craig; sisters, Ethel

(Dan) Motohiro and Ann (Larry) Abe; gc: 2.

**Sakurai, Kaworu 'George,' 92**, Sacramento, CA, Oct. 20; he is survived by his wife, Grace; son, Yasuto Suzuki (Yuko) in Japan; step-daughter, Barb Haddeman (Patrick); step-son, Stephen Ingold; he is also survived by many nieces and nephews; gc: 3; ggc: 2.

**Stark (née Shimabuku), June H., 81**, Cleveland, OH, Oct. 19; she is survived by her husband, Richard E.; children, Richard L. and Russell; sister, Yoshiko Oyafuso.

**Tabata, Harry Shigeyuki, 74**, Hilo, HI, Oct. 1; he is survived by his daughter, Lisa Turner; siblings, Charles and Betty Castro; gc: 1.

**Tokimoto, Lorraine T., 92**, Santa Clara, CA, Oct. 11; she and her family were incarcerated at the Tule Lake Segregation Center during WWII; she was predeceased by husbands, Tadao Tokimoto and Fumio Higashi-hara, daughter, Lynn Allen and one granddaughter; she is survived by her children, Janice Yamaguchi (Jim) and Shielah Ishizaki (Gordon); gc: 6, ggc: 13. ■

## TRIBUTE

### JOHN N. FUYUUME



John N. Fuyume, 91, of Shannondell in Audubon, PA, and formerly of Upper Deerfield Twp., NJ, died Friday evening, Sept. 30, 2016, suddenly and unexpectedly.

John was born in Los Angeles, CA, on April 24, 1925, and was the son of the late Junji and Chise (née Takaoki) Fuyume. At the age of 16, John and his family were incarcerated in the Gila River War Relocation Authority in Gila, AZ, until his family was given the

opportunity to relocate to Seabrook, NJ, to work for Charles F. Seabrook and Seabrook Farms.

John went on to earn a Bachelor's Degree in Music from the Eastman School of Music and a Master's Degree in Music from the University of Rochester, NY. He graduated with highest honors. He also studied industrial engineering, accounting and computers.

On April 24, 1965, he married Setsuko "Sets" Hada at the Deerfield Presbyterian Church in Deerfield Street, NJ.

For several years John worked for International Utilities at various locations as their controller. His job duties then took him to Hamilton, Bermuda where he was Vice President of Gotaas-Larsen Shipping Corp.

In 1990, they retired and returned to the Bridgeton, NJ, area where John worked tirelessly to establish the Seabrook Educational and Cultural Center (SECC). The Fuyumes created the Setsuko and John Fuyume Piano Endowment Fund for the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, NY, where he served on their Board of Managers. He also served on Board of Governors of the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles, CA, the Cumberland County Tourism Advisory Council and the Upper Deerfield Township Historical Commission. He was also served as president of the Bay Atlantic Symphony in Bridgeton and was a past president and former treasurer of the Seabrook Chapter — Japanese American Citizens.

His final years were spent with his wife of nearly 50 years at Shannondell in Audubon, PA.

This past spring, John received two special honors: He was recognized in March by the Bridgeton Main Street Assn. as "Legend" in the greater Bridgeton community and in April was chosen to throw out the ceremonial first pitch at a Phillies game honoring Asian Pacific Celebration Night at Citizens Bank Park.

John is survived by two sisters-in-law, Eiko Ikeda (Bunji) and Chiz Sakata and, all of Shannondell, one brother-in-law, Kazuaki Hada (Jackie) of AZ and several nieces and nephews. In addition to his parents, he was predeceased by his wife, Setsuko, in 2015, a brother, Robert S. Fuyume, in 1978 and a sister-in-law, Miyoko Wong in 2015.

The funeral service was held at the Deerfield Presbyterian Church, Old Deerfield Pike in Upper Deerfield Township on Friday afternoon, Oct. 14, 2016. The burial immediately followed in the church cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are requested to Seabrook Educational and Cultural Center, 1325 Highway 77, Seabrook, NJ 08302, to the Deerfield Presbyterian Church, P.O. Box 69, Deerfield Street, NJ 08313 or to the Seabrook Chapter JACL, c/o Sharon Yoshida, 4 Mallard Dr., Bridgeton, NJ 08302.

Written condolences and tributes may be shared with the Fuyume family at [freitagfuneralhome.com](http://freitagfuneralhome.com).

Funeral arrangements are under the direction of Freitag Funeral Home, Bridgeton, NJ.

## TRIBUTE

### YOSHIYE KAWABATA



Yoshiye "Yo" Kawabata was born on July 10, 1927, in San Francisco, CA, to Hikoichi and Haruno Yoshioka. She was preceded in death by her loving husband, Harry; beloved son, Wes; and dear brother, Togo. She is survived by brothers, Toshihiko and Kunio; sister, Yukie Ohara; her children, Gary (Nancy), Robbin (Carl), Curt (Joan), Bruce (Kathy); 15 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren. Her family was a huge part of her life.

Yo was active in her community and volunteered with several organizations — Eden Township JACL, Eden Japanese Community Center, Eden Senior Center, the Cypress House, Kotobuki Services Inc., Ashland Howakai and Buddhist Church of Oakland. She enjoyed golf, taiko, obon, line and tap dancing, card games, trips to casinos, and exercising.

Yo passed away peacefully at home on Oct. 21, surrounded by her loving family. She will be dearly missed, but her work and memories will endure. Her memorial service will be held at the Buddhist Church of Oakland, 825 Jackson St., Oakland, CA 94607 on Saturday, Nov. 19 at 11 a.m.

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## PLACE A TRIBUTE

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# REIMAGINE EVERYTHING

## DISRUPT EVERYTHING:

## PREPARE TO CARE!

By Ron Mori

In our Japanese American community, caring for loved ones who need help with everyday living, particularly our older family members, is nothing extraordinary. It's part of who we are. Nearly every one of us is now a caregiver, has been a caregiver, will be a caregiver or will someday need a caregiver ourselves.

In my case, I fall into the "will be a caregiver" category. My mother is 89, and she is very independent now and still drives. On my last visit to see her in Chicago, she was willing to discuss moving to Virginia, where I live. Small win: The door was open for more conversation on her desire to be independent, yet much closer to our family.

We are not alone. Most American families carry out the tasks of caregiving for loved ones on their own. Two out of three older people who receive long-term services and support at home get *all* of their care from their family caregivers. It's the family caregiver who is chiefly responsible for allowing millions of older Americans to remain in their own homes as they wish, and avoid much more costly nursing homes.

In our community — as in many others — family members undertake caregiving as a matter of course, and most find it a

source of deep satisfaction and meaning. But it's not an easy task, and it's getting harder. The role of family caregivers has, by necessity, expanded dramatically in recent years.

Family caregivers traditionally have provided a broad array of care including bathing, dressing, feeding, managing personal finances, providing transportation and assisting with other household tasks.

But a national study conducted by the AARP Public Policy Institute and the United Hospital Fund — called the "Home Alone" study — found that the role of many family caregivers has expanded to include performing tasks of the kind and complexity once provided only by professionals in hospitals and nursing homes, including administering IV fluids, giving injections and administering five to nine prescription medications a day.

And, from numerous other studies, we also know there is widespread lack of understanding about the new realities of caregiving, the need to prepare for them in advance and how and where to turn for help in doing so.

Already, as the American Psychological Assn. has noted, those who serve as family caregivers to aging relatives report higher levels of stress and poorer health than the population at large. Attempting to take on today's caregiving demands

with no advance preparation can exact an even heavier emotional and physical toll — a toll that can put family caregivers, themselves, at risk.

"Prepare to Care: A Planning Guide for Families" includes extensive information, resources and tools AARP provides family caregivers on our website ([www.aarp.org/caregiving](http://www.aarp.org/caregiving)).

This guide offers tips on how to approach the subject with a loved one and provides a solid framework to help prepare both prospective caregivers and their loved ones for the day when caregiving will be needed.

**Here are some of the most important steps to take:**

**Start the Conversation Now:** Don't wait until a crisis occurs before talking with your loved one about his or her values, preferences and wishes for a caregiving situation.

**Find Support and Form a Planning Team:** No one should approach the responsibilities of caregiving alone. In addition to other family members, don't hesitate to reach out to organizations and professionals with experience in helping family caregivers.

**Develop a Plan:** Today, it's virtually essential to have a clear, agreed upon family caregiving plan in place when the need arises.

And one of the most overlooked, but vital aspects of caregiving is having a plan to **care for the caregiver**. Keeping up your energy and maintaining your health are critical in order to care for others. It's just as important to make a plan to take care of yourself as it is to create a caregiving plan for others. Attention to both today could save you untold stress and heartache tomorrow.

I look forward to the day when my mom calls our home her home, and we can watch her favorite television shows together!

*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.*

## HOME >> continued from page 3

The Okaeri Planning team of (from left) Alex H. Fukui, Carrie Morita and Eric Arimoto

In the morning and afternoon, individuals could select a workshop breakout session. The topics were varied from family acceptance to organizing and activism to religion, spirituality and inclusion, intergenerational trauma and healing and so much more.

An afternoon walking tour of Little Tokyo, led by Alan Nishio and Kristin Fukushima, gave people a chance to learn about our 130-year-old community, get some fresh air and exercise.

The closing for the gathering was a special piece written and performed by Ryka Aoki. Her passion and her heart were so evident as she artistically performed her spoken word piece. This performance was followed by four individuals who shared their thoughts about Okaeri.

The share that struck me the most was a young man who stood up and said that he was not out to his family, but he had talked to a couple of moms, and getting their perspective made him feel like he could now consider coming out. I hope that his family will accept him and turn to those in the Nikkei LGBTQ community for support if they need it.

An exercise in gratitude was the final activity before Sean Miura's closing remarks. Then, to the music of Jackie Wilson's "Higher and Higher," all the LGBTQ individuals crowded the stage for one final photo op.

That evening, traci kato-kiriyama and Sean Miura hosted a celebration of Okaeri with a DJ spinning tunes both old and



new. Even though I was tired from the day, I wanted to attend and was so glad I did. The dancing was fun, but even more fun was to witness the joy and happiness of the people who got on the dance floor, with or without a partner, to be part of the celebration, all sharing their feelings of accomplishment.

Okaeri 2016 was a huge success, and I thank everyone who worked so hard to make this a safe and welcoming space for all, especially my co-chairs, Alex H. Fukui, traci ishigo and Stephanie Nitahara. As well as our planning team — Eric Arimoto, Ray Fernandez, Dana Furuyama, Harold Kameya, traci kk, Deanna Kitamura, Sean Miura, Carrie Morita (who did an amazing job with all the food!!), Rev. Mark Nakagawa, Phil Shigekuni, Lori Song, Marian Sunabe, Janet Uradomo and Stan Yogi.

Arigato, Arigato, Arigato!

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

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