



# PACIFIC CITIZEN

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## 75-YEAR ROUND TRIP

**Pilgrims travel to Topaz,  
Utah, on a special journey  
that offers healing and,  
more importantly, hope.**

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WWII baseball relic  
now on display in  
Cooperstown, N.Y.

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Judy K. Sakaki becomes  
president of Sonoma  
State University.

PHOTO: KIYOSHI INA

# JOIN JACL AT THE 48TH ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION

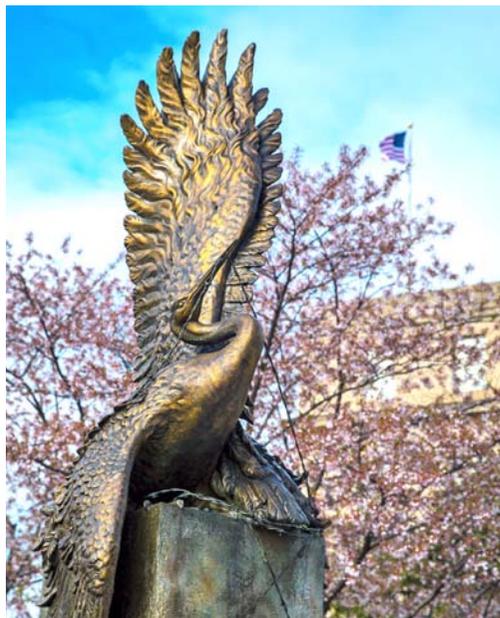
By John Tobe,  
2017 Convention Chair

On behalf of the JACL National Convention Committee, we are excited to welcome you, your family, friends and colleagues to the 48th annual JACL National Convention from July 6-9 in Washington, D.C.

This will be a particularly historic convention, as we will be marking the 75th anniversary of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's signing of Executive Order 9066, which led to the unjust incarceration of 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry during World War II.

This year's convention theme, "Our Story: Resilience, Remembrance, Resolve," encapsulates JACL's efforts to honor the past while also looking toward the future.

One highlight of the convention will be a private reception at the Smithsonian Ameri-



The Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism

can History Museum's acclaimed "Righting a Wrong: Japanese Americans and WWII" exhibit.

This powerful exhibit explores a number of topics, including Japanese immigration, day-to-day life in the internment camps, the contributions of JA soldiers during the war and redress.

Also at the exhibit, one can view the actual Executive Order 9066, historic images and personal items from the camps, including some of which were donated by JACL members and their families.

Another highlight will be an exclusive reception hosted by the Embassy of Japan at Ambassador Kenichiro Sasae's residence. Guests will experience picturesque views of the glass-walled koi pond and tea ceremony room, as well as enjoy traditional Japanese food prepared by the ambassador's personal chefs.

During the convention, there will be a number of compelling workshops and sessions. One workshop will be "AAPI's in the Media and Arts." Rob Buscher from the Philadelphia Asian American Film Festival will partner with Rick Shiomi, founding director of Theater Mu, to moderate participatory discussion involving the significant strides Asian American Pacific Islanders have made in the entertainment business and examine the many areas that still need improvement.

Another workshop topic is "Building Coalitions Across Intersecting Identities and Communities." Sarah Baker and Emi Kamemoto of JACL's National Youth/Student Council will co-facilitate this workshop on self-identification. The NY/SC will also be sponsoring a summit to discuss issues related to the incarceration of Latin Americans of



Ron Mori, co-president of the Washington, D.C., chapter, and the Smithsonian's Noriko Sanefuji (right) with exhibit artifacts from "Righting a Wrong: Japanese Americans and World War II"

Japanese descent during and after WWII.

Visiting the nation's Capital also provides opportunities to explore the many monuments, museums and sights located within walking distance or easily accessed via public transportation. We have planned several special booster activities, including a private docent-led tour of the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism.

One of our favorite things about attending the convention is meeting new people from across the United States, Canada, Japan and internationally. While attendees have widely varied experiences and background, we all come together at the convention to renew our support of civil and human rights, freedom and the promotion of democracy.

Please join us by adding your voice and presence. We look forward to welcoming all of you to Washington, D.C., for a historic and memorable experience.

*Yokoso!*

For more information and to register for the convention, please visit [www.jacl.org/2017convention](http://www.jacl.org/2017convention).

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## NIKKEI VOICE

# A JA'S VIEW OF TRUMP AND JAPAN

By Gil Asakawa

Many Japanese Americans I know don't pay much attention to Japan, which I think is a pity. I believe JAs should keep up with news from Japan, and travel to Japan. A lot.

However, most JAs I know closely follow the news of Donald Trump's presidency and what he's doing in the U.S.

JAs — and others — have been concerned enough about our president that this year's Day of Remembrance events across the U.S. were packed with much larger audiences than in past years. That's because Executive Order 9066 led to the incarceration of 120,000 people of Japanese descent in American concentration camps.

Now with President Donald Trump signing a blizzard of executive orders, including two that are controversial and currently on-hold, one temporarily banning travel to the U.S. from seven Muslim-majority countries and another that threatens to punish "sanctuary cities," also blocked by a federal judge, E.O. 9066 has a much heavier symbolic weight. People are worried that what happened to Japanese Americans could happen again to Muslim Americans.

So, Trump's brief reign as president has already resulted in a lot more awareness of the Japanese American experience. Thanks, prez!

But JAs should also keep an eye on what he does and how he thinks about Asia and, in particular, Japan.

His grasp of foreign relations is by all accounts his weakest point. By intoning "America First" as the tagline for his campaign and now administration, Trump is purposefully turning his back on the rest of the world.

Trump alarmed anyone with an interest in Japan, for instance, by suggesting during the campaign that Japan and South Korea might be better off developing their own nuclear weapons — a suggestion that's anathema to the Japanese.

He repeatedly growled about how Japan wasn't paying its share of the U.S. military's presence in the country. He repeatedly criticized the Trans Pacific Partnership, or TPP, as a terrible trade pact. This opposition to the TPP has already manifested itself — though to be fair, Hillary Clinton also said she'd veto it if she became president — and Trump has backed out of the deal.

Trump symbolically embraced Taiwan's independence by having a friendly phone call with the country's leader, then later seemed to back down and cower in front of China's President Xi Jinping and reaffirm the "One China Policy" that has been part of U.S. foreign policy for decades. He has also said repeatedly that China is a currency manipulator.

Since meeting in person with Xi, he now says that China isn't manipulating its currency after all. He has put a lot of faith into China's ability to keep North Korea's Kim Jong-un from doing anything rash. Trump admitted that after

speaking with Xi for "10 minutes," he now realizes that the relationship between China and the Korean peninsula isn't so simple. But that hasn't stopped him from talking as if China can control North Korea. Or else, he threatened, he'll act unilaterally with American military might.

Yikes. Imagine how this trash-talk is going over in both Japan and South Korea, which would be Kim's first targets if war breaks out.

Japan's Abe was brave enough to be the first foreign leader to visit Trump after he was elected, even before he was sworn in. Abe returned to visit Trump after his inauguration, spending a weekend with the president and being involved in more unexpected controversy.

During a posh dinner at Mar-a-Lago, the news came in that North Korea had fired a test missile that landed in the Sea of Japan. Instead of moving into a private room to discuss the potential world crisis, Trump kept the dinner party at his club's restaurant, allowing gawking members (whose dues to just join the club were doubled from \$100,000-\$200,000 when Trump won the presidency) to look on, peer at national security intelligence photos and briefings and shoot selfies with the soldier who carries the "football," the code to the nuclear trigger.

Donald Trump has turned the most important job in the world into a reality TV show.

>> See JAPAN on page 12



## LEGAL-EASE: AN ATTORNEY'S PERSPECTIVE

# LESSONS LEARNED FROM CARRIE FISHER AND DEBBIE REYNOLDS

By Staci Yamashita-Iida, Esq.

I'm writing this article on May 4, commonly referred to as "Star Wars' Day." On this day, fans declare to one another, "May the Fourth be with you" — a pun on the classic catchphrase, "May the Force be with you." In celebration of this (unofficial) holiday, I'd like to focus on one of "Star Wars'" most iconic stars.

On Dec. 27, 2016, the world mourned the loss of Carrie Fisher, who played Princess Leia in the "Star Wars" series. She succumbed to a heart attack at the young age of 60. Just one day later, her mother, famous actress Debbie Reynolds, passed away after suffering a massive stroke.

According to news reports, Fisher's estate — comprised of real property, financial accounts, ownership interests in companies, jewelry, artwork, publicity rights, film residuals, automobiles, etc. — is valued somewhere between \$5 million and \$25 million. Reynolds' estate was much larger, valued somewhere between \$60 million and \$85 million.

Neither woman was married, but they did have children. Reynolds had two kids, Carrie Fisher and Todd Fisher. Fisher had one daughter, actress Billie Catherine Lourd.

It appears that both Reynolds and Fisher had living trusts set up. Because information regarding trusts is private, it's difficult to know exactly who the beneficiaries of each estate are. For the purposes of this article, let's assume that each trust was written in a "standard" manner.

That would mean that the beneficiaries of Reynolds' trust were her children. Since Fisher predeceased her mother, her share of Reynolds' estate would probably go to her daughter, Lourd. Lourd was likely the beneficiary of Fisher's living

trust as well. That means that in a matter of two days, Lourd became the beneficiary of up to \$70 million.

The case of Fisher and Reynolds may not seem relatable; most of us do not have tens of millions of dollars to bequeath to our children. However, it does serve as an important (albeit exaggerated) reminder of the issues that may arise with our estates.

These days, you never know what could happen. A drunk driver could crash into your car, or you could suffer a heart attack at an early age. If you pass away unexpectedly, your children could suddenly come into a small fortune. If they are minors (or even in their 20s), then they may not be in a position to adequately and responsibly manage the wealth they have inherited.

Take Lourd, Fisher's daughter, for example. She likely inherited 100 percent of her mother's estate (\$5 million-\$25 million) as well as Fisher's half of Reynolds' estate (\$30 million-\$42 million). That's a lot of money for a 24-year-old adult to handle.

If you own a home valued at \$500,000, miscellaneous bank accounts totaling \$100,000 and a life insurance policy for \$50,000, then your children could be looking at splitting a \$650,000 estate. What can you do to ensure that your children don't blow the money all at once?

One option is to insert provisions into your living trust that instruct the Trustee to distribute trust funds to a beneficiary at a later (and hopefully more mature and responsible) age. You can state how and when a beneficiary will receive portions of their inheritance. For example, "Beneficiaries will receive 25 percent at age 25, 25 percent at age 30 and the

remaining 50 percent at age 35."

Alternately, you can give the Trustee broad discretion to dispense assets based on the beneficiary's needs, particularly taking into consideration the beneficiary's education, health, maintenance and support. The beneficiary could, for example, use his or her inheritance to pay for college tuition but not to buy a brand-new Ferrari.

Having these types of provisions prevent reckless, "spendthrift" behavior and give you peace of mind knowing that the beneficiary's inheritance can be stretched over time and be put to good use. Of course, each person's individual needs and situations vary, so to determine what type of provisions suit you best, feel free to consult with an attorney.

Fisher and Reynolds left lasting impressions on the world, and their legacies as actresses, businesswomen and mothers have continued even though they are gone. From an Estate Planning perspective, if there is one thing we can learn from their unexpected deaths, it's that your children's inheritance can be safeguarded with the right provisions in place.

Finally, for those of you who are not "Star Wars" fans, feel free to join the "Dark Side" each May 5, which has come to be called "Revenge of the Fifth" — a play on "Star Wars: Episode III — Revenge of the Sith." Happy celebrating!

*Staci Yamashita-Iida, Esq., is an Estate Planning attorney at Elder Law Services of California. She can be contacted at (310) 348-2995. The opinions expressed in this article are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect the view of the Pacific Citizen or JACL. The information presented does not constitute legal advice and should not be treated as such.*

# WOODEN HOME PLATE FROM JAPANESE AMERICAN CONCENTRATION CAMP ON DISPLAY IN BASEBALL HALL OF FAME

The relic preserves an important WWII story and sheds light on a rich and hidden prewar legacy of Japanese American baseball.

The Nisei Baseball Research Project, a nonprofit organization founded to preserve the history of Japanese American baseball, is pleased to announce that the wooden home plate from the World War II Japanese American Concentration Camp at Gila River, Ariz., is now on exhibit at the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y.

In partnership with the NBRP and the Arizona Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League, the National Baseball Hall of Fame added the wartime relic to its second-floor exhibit "The Game." The addition of the wooden home plate coincides with the May observance of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month and 2017's remembrance of the 75th anniversary of Executive Order 9066, which led to the forced removal and incarceration of some 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry during WWII.

According to a recent Hall of Fame article titled "A Field of Dreams in an Arizona Desert," the home plate serves as an important symbol of hope for people of all nationalities.

"This wooden home plate was much more than a corner of a dusty baseball diamond or the shape that helped define a batter's strike zone," said Hall of Fame senior curator Tom Shieber. "It was (and is) a vibrant symbol of hope for those who were denied their freedom and an expression of what it meant to be an American for those who were stripped of their civil rights. It is an important artifact in the history of our country, not just the history of our National Pastime."

According to Hall of Fame officials, as "visitors learn about the home plate, with all of its rusty nails and splintered pieces of wood, so, too, will they understand the legacy of Kenichi Zenimura, the man who created a fountain of hope in the Pima Indian desert of Arizona."



**A wooden home plate from the WWII Japanese American Concentration Camp at Gila River, Ariz., is now on display at the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y.**

Zenimura is recognized by historians as the "father of Japanese American baseball."

"Japanese Americans kept the All-American pastime alive behind barbed wire, despite the fact that their civil liberties were being violated by the country that they loved," said Kerry Yo Nakagawa, NBRP founder and project director. "Long before WWII, Japanese Americans embraced the game of baseball, not only to display their sense of belonging in America, but because of their love for the game itself."

"Japanese Americans played in leagues of their own due to bigotry of the time, and they also competed against barnstorming major league players and teams from the Pacific Coast League, Negro Leagues and Japan," Nakagawa continued. "They not only held their own — in many cases, they were the victors."

Japanese Americans also played a key role as international baseball ambassadors, helping to build a bridge to the Pacific.

"If African-Americans integrated the game of baseball, then Japanese Ameri-

cans internationalized it," said Bill Staples Jr., author of "Kenichi Zenimura, Japanese American Baseball Pioneer."

Between 1900 and 1940, Japanese Americans did more than any other group to help export the American style of play to Asia with numerous goodwill tours to Japan, China and Korea. And when Nikkei teams weren't directly involved in tours, they helped facilitate the tours behind the scenes, as was the case with the Negro League Philadelphia Royal Giants, who toured Asia in 1927, and the major league tours of 1931 and 1934. These American ambassadors planted the seeds so that professional baseball in Japan could begin in 1936.

"Timing is key in the game of baseball," said Staples. "Players like Masanori Murakami, Hideo Nomo, Ichiro, Hideki Matsui and Masahiro Tanaka were born at the right time. They all are indebted to the Japanese American pioneers who helped elevate the level of play in Japan before the war by building baseball's bridge to the Pacific. Hopefully, the wooden home plate will spark a greater appreciation for the prewar impact and legacy of Japanese American baseball pioneers," Staples added.

"Since the inception of the NBRP, our mission has been to have the National Baseball Hall of Fame consider a permanent exhibition for Japanese Americans," said Nakagawa. "All great journeys in the game of baseball begin at home plate. Hopefully, Zenimura's wooden home plate is just the beginning for Cooperstown to recognize, honor and celebrate the important legacy of Asian Americans in our National Pastime, much like the All-American Girls, Latinos and the Negro Leagues."

*For more information about the Nisei Baseball Research Project, visit [www.niseibaseball.com](http://www.niseibaseball.com).*

# FACING HISTORY AND OURSELVES ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF ITS 2017 STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST

Kaitlin Wong of Belmont, Calif., wins a \$1,000 scholarship.

The international nonprofit organization Facing History and Ourselves announced May 1 the 10 student winners of its 2017 Facing History Together Student Essay Contest. Among the finalists was Kaitlin Wong of Belmont, Calif., who was awarded a \$1,000 Upstander Award scholarship for her essay submission, "Choices."

The contest is an annual event that invites students from across the U.S., Canada and United Kingdom to provide their perspectives on a topic that helps shape their world.

This year's contest, "Making Choices in Today's World," asked students to reflect on a powerful quote from the late Elie Wiesel, Holocaust survivor and Nobel laureate, and write an essay on choices they have made thus far and how their future choices will ultimately have a great impact on their lives and those around them.

Wong, a junior at Carlmont High School in Belmont, entered the contest after learning about it through the Making Caring Common Youth Advisory Board, which she has been a member since October.

Her essay submission was personal, as it detailed her grandmother's incarceration in Rohwer, Ark., during World War II and the hardships her family faced in the years following as a result of Executive Order 9066.

"I heard about the essay contest and decided to write about my grandmother's story because I believe that it is important that we learn more about our history in order to improve upon the future," said Wong. "I believe in the importance of sharing the stories from the past because they allow us to reflect and learn from the mistakes, the triumphs and everything in between. Writing has given me the opportunity to do this, and I hope I can continue to represent and learn more about the Japanese American community."

On Feb. 19, 2017, Wong and her sisters, along with their grandmother, attended the 75th Day of Remembrance ceremony in San Jose's Japantown, where they participated in a march into the San Jose Buddhist Church, where the ceremony was held, all while shouting, "Never again!"

**>> See CONTEST on page 9**

PHOTO: COURTESY OF KAITLIN WONG



Kaitlin Wong participated in the Feb. 19, 2017, Day of Remembrance march in San Jose's Japantown.

## Okinawa Association of America Receives Recognition



In commemoration of the 45th anniversary of Okinawa's reversion as a Japanese prefecture from American jurisdiction on May 15, 1972, the Okinawa Association of America was presented with a certificate of recognition during an event at the consul general of Japan's residence in Los Angeles on May 12.

Akira Chiba, consul general of Japan in Los Angeles (left) and California Assemblymember Al Muratsuchi (D-Torrance) (right), who was born in Okinawa, presented the anniversary certificate of recognition to Okinawa Association of America President Edward Kamiya.

The small gathering also featured Okinawan cuisine and beverages, as well as dance and song performances. ■

IN REMEMBRANCE OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT'S SIGNING OF  
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The 2017 Convention will be a special and memorable event.

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The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) is the oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization in the United States. The JACL is a national organization whose mission is to secure and maintain the civil rights of Japanese Americans and all others who are victimized by injustice and bigotry. The JACL also works to promote cultural, educational, and social values and preserve the heritage and legacy of the Japanese American community.

# THE POWER TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Judy K. Sakaki is officially sworn in as the president of Sonoma State University, becoming the first female Japanese American to lead a four-year institution.

By *Kristen Taketa,*  
Contributor

The newly invested president of Sonoma State University still remembers the look on her father's face when she told him she knew about the internment camps.

Judy Sakaki, a third-generation Japanese American, or Sansei, was attending middle school in Oakland, Calif., when it happened. She was eating dinner with her parents when she brought up that somebody at school had said that Japanese Americans went to camp once. She had thought that meant they went to summer camp. She had no idea then that "camp" was where her family had been incarcerated with no say.

"It was something my family did not really talk about," Sakaki said.

When Sakaki brought it up, her mother shushed her. A certain look came over her father's face. They all finished dinner without mentioning it again.

Decades have passed since that tense dinner time, and in an investiture ceremony themed "Dance With Change," held April 20 at the Rohnert Park campus, Sakaki was officially sworn in as Sonoma State's president and the U.S.' first Japanese American female president of a four-year university.

When Sakaki learned that she would be the first Japanese American female university president, she said she thought it was a milestone that should've happened years ago. It's one that should've happened for many other communities, not just Japanese Americans, she said.

"That was actually quite surprising to me because it seems like in this day and age, we should be past firsts," Sakaki said.

The university is marking Sakaki's investiture with her own exhibit about her life, an exhibit that will remain open in the university library through the summer.

Entitled "I am because . . . Dr. Judy K. Sakaki's Journey to the SSU Presidency," the exhibit highlights her journey to the presidency, her family history and her identity as a Sansei. The exhibit also includes artifacts from her family history, including a suitcase one of her grandparents carried in their

emigration across the Pacific.

Sakaki's investiture happens to come during the year of the 75th anniversary of Executive Order 9066, which uprooted about 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry from their homes, businesses and neighborhoods and confined them to remote internment camps for the duration of World War II.

The exhibit is meant not just to showcase Sakaki's life but also showcase another success story of a descendant of immigrants during a time of political turmoil, as well as uneasiness about the future for immigrants.

"I think the experience of Japanese Americans is important because it helps educate others, especially in the climate we're in, to value immigrants," Sakaki said. "We are a society of immigrants. We've all come to where we are from different places, and I felt it was important to share my story, particularly in this time.

"I am because of my grandparents' immigration," Sakaki continued. "I am because of my parents' and grandparents' internment. I am because of growing up in Oakland."

Among the many mentors who encouraged Sakaki throughout her career is Patrick Hayashi, associate president emeritus, University of California, Office of the President.

Hayashi's remarks are featured in the exhibit, and they acknowledge Sakaki's efforts to successfully grant honorary degrees from the University of California to Japanese Americans who were interned during World War II.

In 2009, while working as a senior administrator for the University of California, she led a taskforce that issued honorary degrees to 700 Japanese Americans who had been unable to complete their University of California education because they were sent to the internment camps. According to Sonoma State, those honorary degrees were the first the University of California had issued in almost four decades.

## 'Power of One Person'

Sakaki doesn't believe she would've gotten to where she is now if it hadn't been for just one person.

When she was in school, there was no good reason for her, she said, to believe she would become a university president, or an astrophysicist, an engineer or a surgeon. Neither of her parents attended college because they had been sent to the internment camps instead. Her own high school teacher didn't encourage her to aim for college. So, at first, Sakaki didn't.



**Judy K. Sakaki was officially sworn in as the seventh president of Sonoma State University on April 20. She is the first Japanese American female president of a four-year university.**

That all changed when she happened to cross paths with a college outreach counselor, who told Sakaki she should aim higher for a college education. Sakaki believes that one person helped change the trajectory of her life.

"That's what I say is the power of one, the power of one person to make a difference in someone's life," she said.

That's a lesson she said she hopes to impart to others through her presidency, and it's a story that she believes resonates especially with first-generation college students like herself.

"I want everyone to realize that anything is possible," she said. "I didn't grow up thinking I was going to be a university president, but there were others who reached out and helped me, and I want others to know that it's possible."

## Japanese American Heritage

In every city she's lived in throughout her career, Sakaki said she has made sure to renew her membership with the local Japanese American Citizens League chapter. She's been a member for years, just like her parents and her grandparents, who were always members of JACL.

It's just one of the ways Sakaki has clung onto her Japanese American identity, which she says has informed her style of leadership and her priorities as a university administrator. The values of *gaman* and *gambatte*, which mean "perseverance without complaint," learned from her family still guide her leadership today, she said.

When she was younger, Sakaki attended Japanese language school on Saturdays and Sunday school at a Buddhist church, though she doesn't remember as much Japanese nowadays. She also played taiko and made sure that her two children played taiko to learn and practice discipline.

Taiko players performed at Sakaki's investiture ceremony, which also included a Buddhist offering of gratitude, a Miwok Native American blessing and a keynote address, "The Power and Promise of Higher Education," given by one of her mentors, Michael V. Drake, president of Ohio State University.

Ensuring Access for Minority Students

## Ensuring Access for Minority Students

Sakaki was chosen to be Sonoma State's new president in January 2016, continuing an educational career that has been entirely spent within California's public university systems.

At the time of her appointment, Sakaki was working on issues of student access at the University of California, Office of the President. Some of her work there included testifying before state legislature committees about financial aid and gender equity in university athletics and student mental health, according to Sonoma State's website. She has also worked as a university administrator at the University of California, Davis, and at Fresno State.

Some of her goals as Sonoma State's president include ensuring affordable access for first-generation and minority students. Since starting her job on July 1 of last year, Sakaki has helped Sonoma State achieve eligibility status as a Hispanic Serving Institution, according to Sonoma State's website.

She is also working to create support centers for undocumented students and transfer students, according to the university's website.

In addition, Sakaki said she wants to increase Sonoma State's visibility in the community, particularly among minority students. Sonoma State, founded in 1961, has a student body of about 9,400 people.

"I think we're a little bit of a hidden gem, and I don't think as many people know about it as they could," Sakaki said.

During her tenure there, Sakaki aims to use her voice and the "power of one" to truly make a difference at the university. ■



**Judy Sakaki points out family items handcrafted by her mother, Masako Sakaki, during World War II. Many interned often made crafts using items such as peach pits and seeds to create pins, brooches and necklaces. The pieces are on display in the Sakaki exhibit.**

*An exhibit at the University Library titled, "I am because . . . Dr. Judy K. Sakaki's Journey to the SSU Presidency," runs through the summer and details the personal story of how Sakaki was influenced by people and events during her life, as well as personal family artifacts that tell her story.*

*Curated by Dana Ogo Shew, a Sonoma State archeologist and oral historian, the exhibit also includes homemade artifacts from Sakaki's parents, created while they were each interned during World War II following the issuing of Executive Order 9066 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.*

*The exhibit is open daily.*



PHOTO: NANCY UKAI

A panorama of the Topaz museum



PHOTO: KIMIKO MARR

## TOPAZ BUS MAKES A 75-YEAR ROUND TRIP

Pilgrims turn a painful time in history into a trip that brings about a renewed sense of hope and appreciation for a home that fully welcomes them back.

By Nancy Ukai, Contributor

Toru Saito of Berkeley, Calif., has become known for the “Topaz Bus” pilgrimages he started leading in 2002. He charts a bus and escorts Northern California pilgrims back to the Sevier Desert in Utah for a several-day, 1,500-mile round trip to revisit family memories and excavate community history.

But this year’s pilgrimage, which took place April 22-26, was Saito’s sixth, and it was a special journey that even he couldn’t have foreseen.

Perhaps it was the fact that 2017 is the 75th anniversary of Executive Order 9066, with commemorative events being held across the country. Maybe it was because the Topaz Museum has announced its grand opening for July in Delta, Utah. It also could be that he was bringing back to Utah a wooden box that was packed as Topaz was closing in 1945 and hadn’t been opened since.

This year’s pilgrimage took 32 Nisei, Sansei and Yonsei family members and friends to the deserted remains of the WRA concentration camp. Recalling when shades had to be pulled down on the trains transporting thousands of innocent people to the permanent camps following the onset of World War II, passengers this time freely lifted and drew the blinds inside their luxury bus.

The pilgrims, some going to Topaz for the first time, ranged in age from 42 years-90 years. They took what they could carry and more — taiko drums, ukuleles, rice cookers, homemade peanut brittle and the unopened wooden mystery box.

Once the group arrived in Utah, the box was finally opened, much to the great delight of those gathered to witness the anticipated

final revelation.

A plush cotton mattress, a luxury in its day, was found to be inside when the box was finally unsealed, its nails pulled out by a Ryobi hand tool.

Saito has lent the mattress for display until July 2 at the MIS Historic Learning Center in San Francisco, which is managed by the National Japanese American Historical Society.

Once in Utah, the pilgrimage group visited the new Topaz Museum and admired the exhibits in the building, which is holding its official grand opening celebration July 7-8 in Delta. Visitors viewed photographs of their family members and found their barrack in a scale model of the camp.

The pilgrims also spent a day and a half at the Topaz site. They walked the sun-hardened grounds and held a Japanese feast in memory of ancestors who, held under government custody, could not enjoy longed-for homemade delicacies.

The “menu of the desert” included kamaboko, teriyaki chicken, fresh pineapple, cold tofu, umeboshi, fine sake, spam musubi and potato chips. Part of the feast was held on the concrete pad of the old Block 4 Mess Hall. It was followed by an impromptu taiko practice with a clear view, unobstructed by barracks, of the Topaz mountains.

In an unplanned stop, the pilgrims spotted through the window a wooden marker created in memory of James Hatsuaki Wakasa, 63, who was shot five feet inside the barbed-wire fence by a military sentry in April 1943. The group asked the bus driver to stop.

All alighted the bus and laid paper flowers, which had been made for an evening event, and ojuzu on the sign that had been built by a local boys’ club. Pilgrims climbed both ways

PHOTO: KIMIKO MARR



Peggy Okabayashi and Nancy Ukai at the James H. Wakasa memorial

### Church Rev. Kevin Omi of Sycamore Congregational Church welcomed the pilgrims back.

the military buses that left the church in 1942: Ruth Ichinaga, who was 7 years old; Kazuko Iwahashi, 12; Richard Takao Furuzawa, five months; and Richard Sekiguchi, 9 years old.

“I do remember standing on the sidewalk with luggage and my parents,” said Sekiguchi to a local TV reporter.

through the barbed wire, which Wakasa was wrongly accused of going through “to escape through the fence,” according to the WRA and U.S. Army wartime news releases that were never corrected. Those who were wearing “Never Again” T-shirts stood at the memorial and raised their fists in remembrance.

For the last leg of the trip, one final event was scheduled or, rather, fell into place, by the grace of several Berkeley religious institutions, the local historical society and the Berkeley chapter of the JACL.

By poetic coincidence, Saito’s bus tour returned to Berkeley on April 26, the very day that 75 years ago the military registration began at the First Congregational Church on Dana Street, where U.S. Army buses prepared to take 1,300 Japanese Americans from Berkeley, devastating a community that had been established for 40 years.

The church is near the University of California’s flagship campus and is still a traumatic address for some who are old enough to remember. One Nisei who was in high school in 1942 confessed that he is still unable to drive down the street, now 75 years later.

The church had offered the use of its grounds in 1942 to the military so that the American Japanese community would not have to register for family numbers and depart for Tanforan from a used car lot on Shattuck Avenue.

The church pastor at the time, Rev. Vere Loper, said goodbye to each departing bus. One church board member voted not to support the U.S. government’s “dirty business” but was overruled by those who felt that offering the use of the church grounds was the humane thing to do.

Four people on the Topaz bus also were on

In remembrance of this city history, the First Church held a commemorative reading and artifact display that evening. The Berkeley Historical Society also announced the unveiling of a metal plaque recording the 1942 exile, and the Berkeley chapter of the JACL co-sponsored with the University of California, Berkeley, and other groups a lecture on campus.

Fifteen members of Northern California JACLs took part in the Topaz pilgrimage: Geri and John Handa (San Francisco), Rose Hironaka (Sacramento), Kazuko Iwahashi and Nancy Ukai (Berkeley), Kimiko Marr (Watsonville-Santa Cruz), Ruth Ichinaga, Alice Ninomiya, Flora Ninomiya, Richard Sekiguchi and Ben Takeshita (Contra Costa) and Satsuki Ina, Marielle Tsukamoto and Christine and Stan Umeda (Florin).

As the dusty bus rolled up to the church sidewalk upon its return home, emotion and tears welled up inside the bus. Through the windows, pilgrims could see the smiling faces of strangers holding signs. All held placards that read, “Welcome Back.”

Rev. Molly Baskette of First Church, Rev. Kevin Omi of Sycamore Church and Rev. Candice Shibata of the Berkeley Buddhist Temple led the group that assembled to greet the pilgrims. Church member Milton Fujii said that it was a moving day.

“It’s an amazing 75-year round trip,” he said.

When Furuzawa got off the bus, he reminded a local reporter for the *East Bay Times* that detention centers are being built to hold undocumented immigrants.

“That could be the start of an internment camp,” he said, adding, “I’m watering it down a bit, by using the term ‘internment.’ If you look at the definition, it’s really a concentration camp.”



All 32 Topaz pilgrimage 2017 participants

# TOPAZ MYSTERY BOX FINALLY REVEALED

**I**t's a mattress!" announced Ken Okabayashi of Elk Grove, Calif., to a curious crowd of 150 in Delta, Utah, as the contents of the Topaz mystery box were finally revealed on April 24 during a Nikkei bus pilgrimage to Topaz.

The weathered wooden box was packed at the Topaz concentration camp more than 70 years ago and had never been opened. Until now. The 50-pound cotton mattress inside the box was once a plush bedding item, which sparked surprise, laughter and reflection by those in attendance.

"This family acquired a real mattress and what they were going to send home was this wonderful piece of comfort that somehow they got," said Satsuki Ina, who moderated the event, which was held in the town's community center.

"At least it's not a hay mattress," said Ben Takeshita of Richmond, Calif. He recalled arriving at the Tanforan Race Track, located south of San Francisco, in April 1942 and being given hay to stuff inside a cotton bag. Ever since that time, Takeshita has had hay fever. "I wonder if my hay fever came from that period . . ."

The box had been entrusted to a fellow camp mate after the war for safekeeping in Berkeley, Calif. But it was never reclaimed, and the box was eventually passed on to Toru Saito, 79, who spent four years of his childhood at Topaz.

After 18 years of storing it, Saito decided it was time for an unsealing.

Suspense built in the town center, located 17 miles from Topaz, as Kiyoshi Ina of Concord, Calif., who was born at Topaz, sawed through the nails with a Ryobi hand tool and lifted the top planks.

Kiyoshi Ina was among 32 camp survivors and family members who were on a five-day bus pilgrimage to Topaz from the San Francisco Bay Area, the sixth such trip led by Saito.

Fifty pounds of cotton makes for a thick, nearly five-inch-deep mattress, and it immediately evoked memories for Topaz survivors.

Saito said that the mattress conjured up for him scenes from John Steinbeck's "Grapes of Wrath," in which trucks and cars headed West during the Dust Bowl with "mattresses on the roofs of the cars because that was the only possession they had."

He said, "Maybe people were expecting all kinds of gold jewelry or whatever . . . but when you really think about it, [a mattress] is what you sleep on. It is what rejuvenates your body for the next day."

Satsuki Ina, a psychotherapist from the Bay Area, told the gathering that she had talked to a man who was drafted out of the camps to fight in Europe. He realized that the body bags used for dead soldiers were what the American Japanese camp inmates had been given to stuff with straw for beds.

This represented "the makeshift temporary life," she said, of not knowing how long those interned were going to be in the camps and the "cruel and unusual" circumstances of their World War II confinement.

— Nancy Ukai

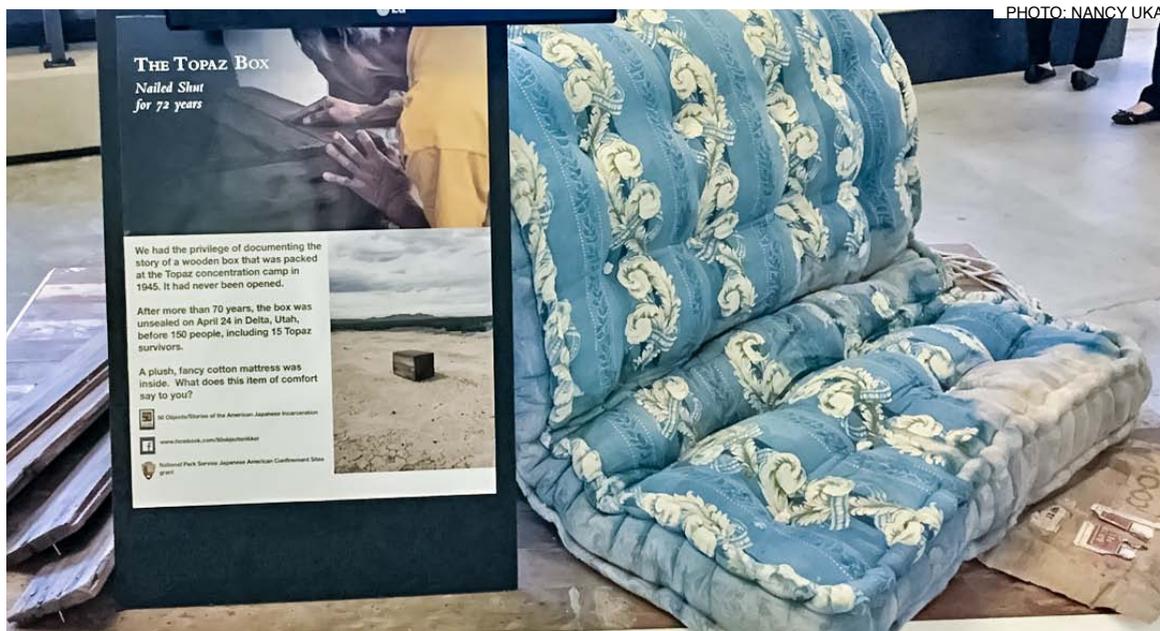
*The Topaz mattress will be on display at the MIS Historic Learning Center in San Francisco until July 2, according to Rosalyn Tonai, executive director of the National Japanese American Historical Society.*



Toru Saito (left) and Max Nihei, collections manager for the NJAHS, prepare to display the Topaz mattress at the Presidio's MIS Historic Learning Center in San Francisco.



(From left) Satsuki Ina, Toru Saito and Kiyoshi Ina open the Topaz mystery box in the Delta Community Center on April 24. Saito was 4 years old when he was taken to Topaz from San Francisco, and Kiyoshi Ina was born there.



The mattress found inside the Topaz mystery box is now on display in San Francisco.



The Topaz mystery box made its return to Utah.

## AMERICAN HOLIDAY TRAVEL

### 2017 TOUR SCHEDULE

- Grandparent-Grandchildren Japan Tour (Ernest Hida) **WAITLIST** Jun 26-Jul 5  
Tokyo, Hakone, Atami, Hiroshima, Kyoto.
- Yellowstone-Tetons National Parks Tour (Elaine Ishida). . . . . Jul 7-14  
Salt Lake City, Jackson Hole, Yellowstone, Grand Tetons, Park City.
- Hokkaido Summer Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida) . . . . . Jul 17-30  
Lake Akan, Furano, Asahikawa, Wakkanai, Sapporo, Lake Toya, Hakodate, Tokyo.
- So. Dakota-Mt. Rushmore Tour (Elaine Ishida). . . . . Aug 25-31  
Rapid City, Mt. Rushmore, Custer State Park, Black Hills, Badlands.
- Eastern Canada Holiday Tour (Carol Hida) . . . . . Sep 6-14  
Montreal, Quebec, Ottawa, Toronto, Niagara Falls.
- Classical Japan Autumn Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida). . . . . Oct 5-16  
Tokyo, Mt. Fuji, Yamanashi, Shizuoka, Nagoya, Gifu, Hiroshima, Kyoto.
- Japan Autumn Countryside Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida). . . . . Oct 19-29  
Tokyo, Sado Island, Kanazawa, Amanohashidate, Tottori, Matsue, Tamatsukuri Onsen, Hiroshima.
- New Orleans & Deep South Holiday Tour (Elaine Ishida). . . . . Nov 5-12  
New Orleans, Natchez, Lafayette.
- So. America Patagonia-Easter Island Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida). . . Nov 7-22  
Buenos Aires, Ushuaia, Calafate(Perito Moreno Glacier), Paine National Park(Grey Glacier), Punta Arenas, Santiago, Easter Island.

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  
Elaine Ishida (Tel: 714-269-4534)

## JACL ARIZONA CELEBRATES SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



Pictured (from left) are Arizona JACL Sara Hutchings Clardy Scholarship Award winners Madison Quan, Trevor Quan and Sara Jay.

The Arizona Chapter of the JACL held its 56th annual Sara Hutchings Clardy Scholarship Awards Graduates' Luncheon on April 30, where Donna Cheung, chapter president, and Judge Brian Ishikawa, master of ceremonies, welcomed more than 100 guests to celebrate the students for their academic excellence and positive impact in the community.

Recognized in the high school award categories were Sara Jay from Cactus Shadows High School and Madison and Trevor Quan from Sandra Day O'Connor High School.

Each student received a \$1,000 scholarship, named in honor of Sara Hutchings Clardy (1894-1962), a distinguished educator and longtime friend of the Japanese American community in Arizona.

Special recognition was also given to the following graduates within the JACL Arizona community: Kelsey Ishimatsu Jacobson, California Polytechnical State University; Lauren Kawashima, elementary school; Bryan Namba, University of Washington; and Brad Okuma, University of Arizona.

In addition to the scholar-

ships and graduate recognition, the 2017 Gold Saguaro Tribute Award was presented posthumously to Dr. Ted Namba (1957-2016) for his many hours and tireless efforts devoted to the JACL and greater Arizona community.

Michael Tang, minister's assistant at Arizona Buddhist Temple, delivered the invocation and benediction, and the luncheon's keynote speaker was Bill Staples Jr., author of "Kenichi Zenimura, Japanese American Baseball Pioneer."

Planning committee members included Doris Asano, Denise Fuse, Karie Matsuishi, Lauren Namba, Michele Namba, Joyce Shiota, Bonnie Sumida and Seiko Watkins.

The Arizona JACL thanks the following sponsors for their support of the event: Toyota Financial Services, Arizona State University, Arizona Public Service, Arizona Asian Chamber of Commerce, Arizona Asian American Bar Association, Jordan and Jennifer Sumida, First Arizona Title, and Movement Mortgage.

For more information, contact the Arizona JACL at [ArizonaJACL@gmail.com](mailto:ArizonaJACL@gmail.com).

# STANDING IN SOLIDARITY WITH NATIVE HAWAIIANS: Japanese Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders

By Rob Buscher, Contributor

In the weeks and months since the current administration took office, I have experienced a constant pendulum of emotion. From outrage at various policies or legislative proposals to surprised relief at the chorus of opposition — judicial, legislative, journalistic and community-based that have largely prevented the worst of this government's policies from being enacted into law.

Coalitions and solidarity building have always been an important part of our progressive movements, but it seems, in particular, that this moment in U.S. history has encouraged large-scale collaboration of the likes we have not seen since the 1960s Civil Rights era.

It has also made me introspective with regards to our own AAPI coalition, especially now in the month of May as we celebrate Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month. In an earlier *Pacific Citizen* article, I wrote that we as AAPIs can be a new model, a model by which society at large can strive to unite through diversity. While I still believe that wholeheartedly, it is important to acknowledge the issues that divide us.

Between socioeconomic class barriers, interethnic tensions and regional cultural differences, there really isn't a whole lot uniting us beyond the shared experience of being historically underrepresented minorities and our similar immigration patterns.

I see a lot of national AAPI organizations whose leadership is almost entirely East Asian American. That should not come as a surprise, given the relative success our communities have held in comparison to impoverished South Asian immigrants or Southeast Asian refugees. But there are always exceptions to the rule, as we also see a large number of low-income Chinatown residents and inversely, fairly well-off South Asian immigrants working in the STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) fields.

There is a great deal of work left to be done in all communities to ensure that our coalitions remain equitable to all those they claim to represent, but perhaps the largest gap between the dominant East Asian American narrative is the lived experience of Pacific Islander Americans.

We say AAPI, but how many of our organizations have Pacific Islander-serving programs? How many non-PI specific organizations have PI board members or staff, and how many of us can even name more than a couple PIs who we regularly engage in the work we do? In Pennsylvania and elsewhere in the East Coast, we barely have a PI population (.1 percent in PA according to the 2010 census), but does that mean we should exclude them from our discourse?

I would be remiss not to mention the fact that many of our JA families (including my own) have roots in the Japanese Hawaiian migration of the late 1800s.

Like many of the early immigrants leaving Japan, my great-great grandparents moved to the Big Island in search of a better life. My great-great grandfather was a ship steward, and his wife worked odd jobs around the area north of Hilo.

Japanese Hawaiians have a unique perspective on the events of World War II. About 40 percent of the population had at least some Japanese blood in 1942, and it would have been impossible to incarcerate them in the way our mainland families were. Certainly, there were exceptions, as we've seen with the recent rediscovery of the Honouliuli incarceration camp, and there are parallels between veterans of the 442nd and the thousands of Hawaiian Nisei men who chose to serve in the 100th Infantry Battalion. But for the most part, Japanese Hawaiians did not experience the war from behind barbed-wire fences.

Fast-forward to today, and all but two of my great-great grandparents' eight children have passed on. Although they did not live to see it, the sacrifices of our immigrant elders allowed this family to prosper.

In total, I would estimate about 50 relatives of mine live between Oahu and the Big Island — though I've met fewer than 10. Some of them are doctors, lawyers and engineers. One branch of our family went into farming in the 1960s and now owns a small orchid farm called Carmela on the Big Island. Whatever their profession, everyone seems to be doing alright.

Hawaii sent the first JA congressman to Washington — Sen. Daniel K. Inouye. We've since had luminaries such as Spark Matsunaga, Daniel Akaka, Mazie Hirono, Patsy Mink, Mark Takai and Colleen Hanabusa. The Governor of Hawaii is David Ige, and a third of Honolulu's City Council has Japanese ancestry. If you go down to the Waikiki strip, Japanese language is as common as Spanish is in East Los Angeles. From humble origins in the cane fields, we have risen to become the mainstream in Hawaii.

However, when we talk about the Japanese Hawaiian experience, we rarely consider the fact that despite being subordinate to whites in the colonial racial hierarchy, our people essentially functioned as members of the settler colonial state.

In 1850, there were over 250,000 pure Native Hawaiians. By 1990, that number had shrunk to fewer than 10,000 (comparable in size to the current membership of JACL). While this doesn't take into account the incredible amount of intermarriage between various Pacific Islander ethnicities and other communities, it is a sobering reminder of the systematic annihilation of Native Hawaiian culture, traditions and way of life.

While blame for the overthrow of the sovereign kingdom of Hawaii rests solely with the business interests and missionaries who acted under the blessing of the U.S. government, our community must acknowledge the role we have played in its subsequent history as Asian settlers.

>> See NATIVE HAWAIIANS on page 12

## CONTEST >> continued from page 4



"With so many worthy participants, I was definitely surprised and humbled. Because it was my grandmother's story, I feel honored to be able to share it with so many people," said Wong, who is donating a portion of her scholarship to her high school. "This has been such an amazing experience, one I'll never forget. I hope that people feel that the next generation of leaders is ready to take on any challenge and make the world a better place."

To read Kaitlin Wong's essay, visit [contest.facinghistory.org/choices](http://contest.facinghistory.org/choices).

Nearly 5,200 students submitted essays for this year's contest, and with the help of more than 100 judges and more than 10,000 online voters, the organization selected the 10 essays that best encapsulated this year's theme.



Early Japanese Hawaiian pineapple workers

A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

# CALENDAR

## National

### 2017 JACL National Convention Washington, D.C.

**July 6-9**  
Omni Shoreham Hotel  
2500 Calvert St. N.W.  
Come join JACL as it hosts its 48th annual National Convention, "Our Story: Resilience, Remembrance, Resolve." The convention's opening reception will feature an exclusive viewing of the Smithsonian's "Righting a Wrong" exhibit, commemorating the 75th anniversary of Executive Order 9066."  
**Info: Visit <https://jacl.org/2017convention/>.**

## NCWNP

### Howard Ikemoto — The Last Show Aptos, CA

**June 2-4; Fri., Noon-2 p.m.;  
Sat. and Sun., Noon-5 p.m.**  
Cabrillo College Gallery  
Library Building  
6500 Soquel Dr.  
Paintings and drawings spanning 30-40 years by artist Howard Ikemoto will be viewed and sold for the very last time. Ikemoto, a former decades-long art instructor at Cabrillo College, was recently moved to a memory care facility in Southern California. Proceeds from the sale will go toward Ikemoto's care. The family wishes to find permanent homes for all of his artwork.  
**Info: Visit [www.howardikemoto.com](http://www.howardikemoto.com).**

### Eden Bazaar 2017 San Lorenzo, CA

**June 10 and 11; 3-8 p.m. Sat. and  
11 a.m.-7 p.m. Sun.**  
Eden Japanese Community Center  
710 Elgin St.

Come and support this year's Eden Bazaar, as the weekend will be filled with delicious food such as chicken and rib dinners, udon, sushi, curry, shave ice, corn, chicken salad and spam musubi, as well as raffle drawings, Bingo and games. It promises to be a weekend of fun for the whole family.  
**Info: Contact Pam Honda at (510) 676-3820 or Ed Oda at (510) 538-6380.**

### Contra Costa JACL Oakland A's Game Oakland, CA

**July 17; 1:05 p.m.**  
Oakland Coliseum (Oracle Arena)  
7000 Coliseum Way  
**Price: Tickets \$10; optional bento box \$15 (seniors/kids \$10)**

Come enjoy the Oakland A's take on the Cleveland Indians at the chapter's annual trip to the ballpark. Seats are located in the shade, and this year the chapter is offering optional bento box lunches. There is a limit of 50 tickets this year, so sign up early. Deadline is June 20.  
**Info: Call Judy at (510) 528-6564 or email [catniplady@sbcglobal.net](mailto:catniplady@sbcglobal.net).**

## PSW

### 'Looking Back, Seeing Ahead' With Special Guest Steve Cavallo Independence, CA

**May 27; opening reception  
11 a.m.-1 p.m.**  
Manzanar National Historic Site  
5001 Hwy. 395  
This exhibit will be featured at Manzanar through October in recognition of the 75th anniversary of the MNHS. Artist Steve Cavallo will be at this event reception, which highlights his watercolor portraits of Japanese Americans who were incarcerated during World War II. Light refreshments will be served. All are welcome.  
**Info: Visit [www.nps.gov/manz](http://www.nps.gov/manz).**

### 'Garage Door Opener' Reading and Discussion Oxnard, CA

**June 17; 1:30 p.m.**  
Oxnard Buddhist Temple  
250 S. H St.  
**Price: Donation \$15**  
Come see Soji Kashiwagi's reading and discussion of "Garage Door Opener," a story of two adult siblings who open the garage door to their deceased parents' home and discover items from their past that helps them understand their parents and themselves. Following the reading, Satsuki Ina will take audience questions.  
**Info: Visit [www.vcjacl.org](http://www.vcjacl.org).**

### West Covina Buddhist Temple Obon West Covina, CA

**June 24; 1-9 p.m.**  
East San Gabriel Japanese  
Community Center  
1203 W. Puente Ave.

This year's Obon promises to be a day filled with food, games, raffles, Bon Odori dancing and cultural exhibits. Come and taste delicious chicken teriyaki, sushi, somen, gyoza, chow mein, Asian chicken salad, tamales and more. Plus, a Farmer's Market of fresh produce will be available, in addition to children's games and bonsai exhibits and entertainment performances.  
**Info: Visit [japanese-city.com](http://japanese-city.com) or [www.facebook.com/westcovinabuddhisttemple](http://www.facebook.com/westcovinabuddhisttemple).**

### Annual Community Picnic Redlands, CA

**June 25**  
Sylvan Park  
601 N. University St.  
Come and join the Riverside JACL at its annual community picnic featuring an afternoon of fun, games and dear friends.  
**Info: Visit [www.riversidejacl.org](http://www.riversidejacl.org).**

## PNW

### Gambatte Be Strong: Stories of Japanese American Displacement and Resilience in Portland Portland, OR

**May 27 and 28; 2 p.m. Sat. and  
7 p.m. Sun.**  
The Interstate Firehouse Cultural  
Center

### 5340 N. Interstate Ave. **Price: General admission \$10; stu- dents/seniors \$5 (limited seating; reservations encouraged)**

The immigrant journey of the Japanese in Oregon is paved with stories of perseverance and courage. This one-hour performance features original readings of little-known stories of the return of Japanese Americans to Oregon after their incarceration during World War II. The "Surge of Social Change" exhibit coincides with this performance, which is part of the 2017 Vanport Mosaic Festival.  
**Info: Visit [www.vanportmosaic.org](http://www.vanportmosaic.org).**

## MDC

### Twin Cities JACL Afternoon at '365 Days/365 Plays'

**June 11; 2-4 p.m. (Show runs from  
May 26-June 11)**  
St. Paul, MN  
Penumbra Theater  
270 N. Kent St.  
**Price: \$10 each (regular price \$25;  
seniors/students \$10)**

Full Circle Theater artistic co-directors and JACL members Rick Shiomi and Martha B. Johnson invite JACL members to enjoy a matinee performance of "365 Days/365 Plays," which intertwines 46 short plays selected from Suzan-Lori Parks' original play as viewed through a 2017 lens. The play addresses past and current issues using a racially mixed cast playing multiple roles. Postplay discussions follow every performance.  
**Info: Visit [www.fullcircletheatermn.org](http://www.fullcircletheatermn.org) or call (800) 838-3006. To reserve tickets, use "JACL" code for online reservations at [www.365days365plays.bpt.me](http://www.365days365plays.bpt.me) or contact Cheryl Hirata-Dulas at (952) 925-2429 or [dulas001@msn.com](mailto:dulas001@msn.com) by June 6. JACL discount applies to all shows.**

## IDC

### Architecture of Japanese Internment: Oregon Exhibit Ontario, OR

**June 2-July 27**  
Harano Gallery  
Four Rivers Cultural Center  
676 S.W. Fifth Ave.  
**Price: Free**

This traveling exhibit explores how Oregonians participated in the decision to incarcerate Japanese Americans and Japanese immigrants during World War II. This inaugural exhibit shows the opinions leading up to the incarceration, 1941-42, with letters, resolutions, blueprints, photos and archival documents from across Oregon. Malheur County was the site of the first Japanese American farm labor camp. A number of documents from Ontario can also be seen in the exhibit.  
**Info: Call (541) 889-8191.**

## CCDC

Lantern Making Workshop  
Fresno, CA  
**June 23 and 24; 1:30-4 p.m. Fri.  
and 9:30 a.m.-Noon Sat.**  
California State University, Fresno

### Henry Madden Library

**5200 Barton Ave.  
**Price: \$28; registration limited to  
12 each class, sign up by June 16****  
Shining a light on remembrance, join artist Judy Shintani as she guides participants in this lantern workshop focused around celebration and the remembrance of loved ones. It is open to adults and children (10+ with parental supervision), and no prior art experience is necessary. Participants can also bring photos (not larger than 3.5x3") to place on the lanterns.  
**Info: Visit [www.judyshintani.com](http://www.judyshintani.com) or email [judyshintani@yahoo.com](mailto:judyshintani@yahoo.com).**

## EDC

### FDR Library's Images of Internment Exhibition Hyde Park, NY

**Thru Dec. 31**  
FDR Presidential Library &  
Museum  
4079 Albany Post Road  
**Price: Regular hours and  
admission apply.**

This special exhibit provides a

visual record of the forced removal of Japanese Americans during World War II and displays more than 200 photographs by WRA photographers Dorothea Lange, Clem Albers, Francis Stewart and Hikaru Iwasaki from the National Archives. The exhibition also features photographs taken by Ansel Adams at Manzanar and a selection of photos from the WSU George and Frank C. Hirahara photo collection of Heart Mountain.  
**Info: Visit <https://fdrlibrary.org/exhibitions> or call (800) FDR-VISIT.**

## ADVERTISE HERE

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

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



## Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California

### JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

Development Manager  
Membership Manager  
Sr. Bookkeeper/Accountant

*Come and join the JCCNC, where you're not just an employee...but an important part of our team!*

*Creative, Committed, Dependable, Team-Player, Positive and Outgoing* - if these are some of the words that describe your work values and you want to help make a difference in people's lives while contributing toward the future of the Japanese American (JA) community, maybe a career at the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California (JCCNC) is for you.

How would you like to wake up every day knowing that your hard work makes a difference and people appreciate your dedication? That's what it's like to work at the JCCNC!

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If you're interested in helping to preserve and promote culture and community, please email or forward a cover letter and resume to [jobs@jccnc.org](mailto:jobs@jccnc.org). Job descriptions available on our website: [jccnc.org](http://jccnc.org). No phone calls, please.

# IN MEMORIAM

**Aoyagi, Daniel H., 94**, Kailua, HI, April 11; he is survived by his wife, Chiyoko; sons, Bryan (Denise) and Nathan (Carolyn); sister, Ethel McKillop; gc: 4; ggc: 6.

**Asato, Jean, 84**, San Jose, CA, April 15; during WWII, her family and she were interned at the Rohwer WRA Center in Ark.; she returned to California in 1967 with her husband, Yoshinori Asato, son, Steven, and daughter, Tami "Yosh" Asato. She is survived by her daughter and siblings, Betty Kanapilly, Bob Yamate and Junichi Yamate.

**Chow, Wan Yee, 97**, San Francisco, April 26; she was predeceased by her husband, Harry; she is survived by her children, Emory (Janice) Chow, Carol (Marvin) Sakamoto, Emily (Manny) Mahon, Helen (Gerald)

Chan and Eugene (Nancy) Chow; she is also survived by nieces and nephews; gc: 6; ggc: 2.

**Hashioka, Henry K., 98**, Los Angeles, April 3; he is survived by his wife, May; sons, David and Stanley Hashioka; daughter, Barbara Hashioka; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

**Hirata, Eugene Ray, 61**, Weiser, ID, April 30; he is survived by his parents, Charlotte and Eichi Hirata; brothers, Edward (Doreen) and Harvey (Rhonda) Hirata; half-siblings, Eichi (Ginger) Hirata Jr., Todd (Jacqueline) Galindo and Terri (Tyler) Strickland; he is also survived by many nephews, nieces and cousins.

**Hironaka, Carol Michiko, 92**, Sacramento, CA, April 4; during

WWII, her family and she were incarcerated at the Manzanar WRA Center in Calif.; she was predeceased by her husband, Isamu; she is survived by her children, Marion Cowee (John), Audrey Toy (William), Bruce (Valerie) and John (Daphne Rhoe); gc: 6; and ggc: 1.

**Imamoto, Nobuko June, 91**, North Hollywood, CA, April 4; she is survived by her sons, Mark Masanobu, Craig Junji, Keith Katsumi and Jay Kanji Imamoto; daughters-in-law, Normelita and Maria Isabel; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 4.

**Kanemoto, Michiko, 91**, Monterey Park, CA, April 17; she was predeceased by her husband, George; she is survived by her children, Jeri (Michael) Miller, Craig Kanemoto and Karen (Warren) Arata; gc: 2.

**Katayama, June Cecilia, 91**, San Diego, April 18; she was predeceased by her husband, Hideo; she is survived by her children, Frederick, Andrew, Stephen and Patricia Mari; gc: 4.

**Kina, Richard Shoichi, 89**,

Honolulu, March 31; he is survived by his wife, Hatsue; sons, Carl Nishihira, Kenn (Iris) Nishihira and Jason (Sheri) Kina; gc: 6; ggc: 2.

**Kurose, Frank, 84**, San Jose, CA, April 5; he was predeceased by his wife, Gayle; he is survived by his children, Lori (Devin) Ishida, Sandi (Craig) Rosner and Scott (Janeth) Kurose; gc: 3.

**Kumao, Matsumoto, 83**, Torrance, CA, April 22; he is survived by his wife, Amy; children, Mark (Cindy) Matsumoto, Mavis (Robert) Bruder and Lori Tanioka; siblings, Matsue Moore and George (Jane) Matsumoto; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and cousins; gc: 4.

**Miyake, Mitsue, 79**, Gardena, CA, April 7; she is survived by her sons, Shayne Yoshihisa (Margaret) Ikeda and Robert Masao (Aki) Ikeda; daughter-in-law, Junko Ikeda; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 4; ggc: 1.

**Muramoto, William M., 82**, Garden Grove, CA, April 2; he is survived by his siblings, Philip and Barbara Okabayashi.

**Nishizu, Trudes Tsuyako (Osajima), 95**, Monterey Park, CA, April 27; she is survived by her husband, John; children, Steven (Mariko), Norman (Tracy) Nishizu, Gay (Mark) Rutherford and Joyce (David) Tanimoto; sister, Sumiko Abe; she is also survived by many nephews, nieces and other relatives; gc: 9.

**Tsuha, Judy Hisako, 89**, Gardena, CA, March 21; she was predeceased by her husband, Ralph, and daughter, Irene Takamine; she is survived by her daughters, Evelyn Tsuha and Millie (Jeff) Reith; gc: 2; ggc: 2.

**Wakiji, George M., 88**, Arleta, CA, May 7; he is survived by his wife, Betty; daughter, Dana (Tom); sister, Takeko; he is also survived by nieces and a nephew.

**Yanari, Eunice Kotoye, 94**, Palo Alto, CA, March 15; during WWII, her family and she were incarcerated at the Heart Mountain WRA Center in Wyo.; she is survived by her husband, Yoshio; children, Yoko and Carl (Doris); gc: 2.

**Yasaki, Edward K., 87**, Cupertino, CA, Jan. 29; during WWII, his family and he were incarcerated at the Granada WRA Center (Camp Amache) in Colo.; he is survived by his wife, Michi Ruth; sister, Grace Harada; he is also survived by many nephews and nieces. ■

TRIBUTE



GEORGE WAKIJI

George Wakiji passed away peacefully Sunday, May 7, in his apartment at Nikkei Senior Gardens in Arleta, Calif.

George was a man of many interests and talents, including his love of jazz music. After being drafted in November of 1950, he served in the U.S. Army in the Korean War, receiving his honorable discharge in September of 1952. He then attended UCLA and California State University, Los Angeles, getting bachelor's degrees in pre-social welfare and journalism. During his time at UCLA, George participated in Project India, which sparked a lifelong love of travel. George visited many countries,

including Japan, China, Korea, Hong Kong, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Australia, New Zealand, Tonga, Samoa, Fiji, Jordan, Israel, England, France, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, India, Morocco, Tunisia, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Guatemala, Mexico, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Haiti, plus other places such as Bermuda, Puerto Rico and Hawaii.

George started his career at TWA (Trans World Airlines) in Los Angeles as a cargo handler, reservations sales agent and international sales agent, then transferred to New York City, where he was an international sales agent, supervisor and sales trainer. George moved to Chicago to work as a public relations executive, then as principal for Suzuki, Wakiji & Associates, an advertising, public relations and marketing firm. Between jobs he worked as a bartender at Kamehachi restaurant. In 1972, George began his government career, first as regional public information officer for ACTION, a federal volunteer agency, for the Midwest region. He was promoted to press officer for ACTION in Washington, D.C. in October of 1975. In October of 1986, George joined the U.S. Peace Corps as a country director for the Kingdom of Tonga in the South Pacific. He returned to the United States in 1990 and completed his term with the Peace Corps as a minority recruitment specialist in Washington, D.C. George later served as public information officer with the U.S. Department of Labor in the Employment and Training Administration. He retired from government service in March of 1995 to become executive director of the newly formed National Japanese American Memorial Foundation. After retirement from JAMF, George worked part-time for FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and went on assignments to Maine, Oklahoma, Florida and Texas during disasters. He also worked at Kohl's and Crate & Barrel in Alexandria, Virginia. In his free time, George spent time speaking to elementary, high school and college students in Virginia and Maryland about the internment of Japanese-Americans during World War II. Since 2000, George served as a part-time proctor for final exams at Pepperdine University School of Law.

George is survived by his wife, Betty; daughter, Dana (Tom); sister, Takeko; nieces Hisae, Misako, Kathleen, Vivian, Eileen and Geraldine; nephew Ken.

Friends and family members celebrated George's life on May 15 at Fukui Mortuary, 707 East Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

TRIBUTE



SUMAKO "SUE" NISHINAKA

Sumako "Sue" Nishinaka or Auntie Sue to her many nieces and nephews, 92, passed away on April 11, 2017, as she listened to Diane and Toni singing "Jesus Loves the Little Children". She raised her hand that last time and passed into God's caring hands. She was the widow of Masami "John" Nishinaka. They shared 36 years of marriage together here in San Pedro. She was born in Los Angeles, CA where she was the oldest child and daughter of Goro and Kane Inouye. Sue was a trained pianist and could also play by ear. She probably knew 100s of gospel songs and classical pieces by heart.

Although Auntie Sue attended Roosevelt High School she actually graduated from the Poston, Arizona Internment Camp A. Her family had been incarcerated there during World War II. During the war Sue drove an ambulance between the 3 camps and eventually moved to Chicago to work in the Baby Ruth factory as a way to earn extra money for her family. Sue loved learning and eventually completed her AA work at LA Harbor College. Following the war Sue returned with her husband Masami from Murray Utah to the family's San Pedro home. She completed a master tailoring course in Los Angeles and applied that skill in sewing her clothes as well as her daughter's outfits. Sue worked at various jobs including selling Christmas cards to friends and family alike, assisting in Toyo Imanaka's tailoring shop and then eventually retired from the U.S. Customs Service as an Import Specialist in 1990.

Sue accepted Jesus Christ in her youth. Following the war she looked for a church, driving all the way to Los Angeles to Evergreen Baptist, Gardena Baptist and then became a founding member of Ocean View Baptist Church in San Pedro. She brought her children up in that initial store front church and filled her car with local Japanese children to go to Sunday School. She enjoyed working with children and youth, both while her children were growing up and well into retirement. She played the piano and organ at Ocean View Baptist Church for almost 50 years.

Her hobbies included knitting, crocheting, Bunka, origami, pottery, gardening and traveling the world. Sue enjoyed cooking all kinds of food. Her special treat was preparing all kinds of Japanese specialties for New Year's Day. The Japanese families held open house feasts and those who weren't cooking traveled from home to home feasting on the goodies. The house was cleaned from top to bottom, all of the special China was washed and various foods that could be made ahead were prepped and stored in the refrigerator. Then she cooked all day long with a smile on her face.

Sue is survived by her children Jennie (and Art) Duggan and Dave (and Brenda) Nishinaka. She is survived by her younger brother Roy (and Jo Ann) Inouye and is preceded in death by her brother Eugene Inouye and sisters Mary Kawabata and Eunice Miyatake.

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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**JAPAN >> continued from page 3**



PHOTO: GIL ASAKAWA

**Author-educator Lane Hirabayashi was the keynote speaker at Mile High JACL's Day of Remembrance event, which drew a standing-room-only crowd.**

Abe's outreach to Trump, and the nudge from Kim Jong-un's missile threat, seems to have helped seal the cracking relationship between our two countries. Trump has affirmed the close relationship with Japan and has pledged to protect Japan, as has been the case since the end of World War II.

He still isn't inclined to sign on to the TPP (leaving China to become the dominant economic force in Asia), but the U.S. is negotiating on trade deals directly with Japan. We'll see if products from Japan end up more expensive because of tariffs charged to import them in the U.S.

If consumers shun these pro-

ducts — like food, toys, machines and cars — the ripple effects will be felt not just in the U.S. economy but around the world.

It remains to be seen how this closest of relationships between the U.S. and Japan evolves during the Trump presidency. But we should all be watching closely because if it doesn't affect us personally (and probably will, in our wallets), it might affect our relatives across the Pacific.

*Gil Asakawa is chair of the Editorial Board of the Pacific Citizen and the author of "Being Japanese American" (second edition Stone Bridge Press, 2015). He blogs at www.nikkeiview.com.*

**NATIVE HAWAIIANS >> continued from page 9**

Let me clarify my intentions in stating this as such. I do not suggest that Japanese Americans be burdened by historical wrongs and circumstances beyond our control. That responsibility lies with the U.S. government. No one chooses where he or she is born. We should, however, acknowledge that our community is far better represented economically, socially and politically than Native Hawaiians in their own islands.

Those of us who are Japanese Hawaiian or have roots in that experience should acknowledge our relative privilege and actively seek to support the Native Hawaiian community as its allies. We should be intentional in creating a space for PI narratives and voices to take a more significant role in our movement, and while we may have differing opinions on the controversial question of indigenous sovereignty, let's be careful not to project our own experiences onto someone else's.

The struggles of Pacific Islanders and especially Native Hawaiians are incredibly different from our own, yet I have found a good deal of similarities at least regarding our quest for cultural reclamation.

Native Hawaiians faced an intentional erasure of their cultural identity for much of their history under the dominion of the U.S. — first as a territory and now as a state. From the beginning of U.S. colonization, Hawaiian language and customs were forbidden, and the linear succession of indigenous oral tradition was broken.

Their language was on the brink of extinction, but since the cultural reclamation movements of the 1960s and '70s, Hawaiian language and culture has begun returning to public and

charter schools.

We are still a long way from seeing Hawaiian language back in popular usage, but Native Hawaiian customs and traditions such as music, dance, art and food are being reintegrated into society that was unthinkable even a couple decades ago.

Although the future of an ethnically Native Hawaiian people remains bleak, Hawaiian culture will live on in future generations who inhabit their islands. I'd like to end this piece with a Hawaiian proverb: "A'ohe pau ka 'ike i ka halau ho'okahi" — All knowledge is not taught in one school.

As we ask others to learn about the legacy of Japanese Americans, let's do a better job of educating ourselves. We could learn a lot from our Hawaiian cousins.

*Rob Buscher is a member of the JACL Philadelphia Board of Directors.*



**Early Japanese Hawaiian sugarcane workers**

**BRUYÈRES - THE NISEI'S FIELD OF HONOR**



In 1947, the grateful but still ravaged City of Bruyères France built near Hill 555 a simple stone monument in honor of the Americans of Japanese descent who in October 1944 liberated their city from the German invaders. This historically important monument is now showing the effects of its age, exposure to the weather and occasional vandalism. Friends and family of the 100th/442nd RCT seek to renew the monument and add a new memorial element in memory of all those who fought and sacrificed in this heroic effort -- the 100th/442nd RCT, the 522 FAB and the 232 ENG.

The new element is based on the shoulder patch of the 100/442nd RCT. Please see the "Torch" element depicted in the background. With the final design and placement approved by the Mayor and City Council, work will be completed for the rededication ceremony on October 15, 2017. You are invited to attend.

Every penny collected will be used to reimburse the City of Bruyères on a progress basis. None of the contributions will be used for any personal purpose. We are a third of the way to our goal of \$35,000.

Please go to [hill555.org](http://hill555.org) and help push us over the finish line.

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