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Financial Stability, Member Recruitment and *P.C.* Media Plan Remain Top Priorities

By David Lin
National President

Welcome to the New Year's issue of the *Pacific Citizen*, and I wish you and your family a happy, healthy and prosperous 2014. It has been a tremendous honor and privilege for me to serve as the JACL National President since July 2012. Leading this amazing organization for the past 18 months has definitely been a very rewarding experience for me, as I have been able to leverage my professional skills to benefit the oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization. Giving back to the community is something that I truly believe in, and I am grateful for having this opportunity to contribute to the success of the JACL. Thank you for placing your trust and confidence in me!

I also want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the outstanding work of our staff and the National Board for the past year. In my opinion, JACL has one of the most-talented, -experienced and -dedicated staff and National Board of any Asian American community-based organization. We work hard, and we continue to strive to improve our processes and operations so we can be an even stronger organization. I think we have accomplished a great deal in 2013, and we have made significant progress toward our mission. With that, my heart-felt thanks to the JACL staff under the leadership of JACL Executive Director Priscilla Ouchida and *Pacific Citizen* Executive Editor Allison Haramoto, as well as all my fellow National Board members!

I am very excited as I look forward into 2014, and I see many great opportunities for the JACL, building upon the successes and momentum that we have achieved in 2013. In 2014, there are three major areas that we will focus on:

1. A continued strong focus on achieving financial stability. We will focus on this effort continuously to ensure that the organization operates on a solid financial foundation. On an on-going basis, we need to manage our expenses prudently and look for new funding sources. In 2013, we instituted a financial forecasting process to provide greater visibility on the organization's financial health, and it has been tremendously helpful in knowing where we stand and what we need to do to stay on track.

Also, we have the opportunity this year to develop the Biennium Budget for 2015-16, which I view as the blueprint for the organization's operations and for our financial success in the next two years. We plan to devote much energy and attention in putting together a realistic budget for review by the National Council at the National Convention in July.

2. A continued relentless effort on membership recruitment and retention. It is also very important to continue the focus on membership, for renewing current members and for recruiting new members. Membership is the lifeblood of the JACL, and we must do well to sustain and grow the organization.

One top priority in the area of attracting new members is to bring youths into the organization to ensure a continuous pipeline of not only members but also future leaders of the organization. We have several excellent programs targeting youths such as the scholarship program, fellowships and Project Community.

I am extremely excited about the new youth exchange program Kakehashi, which we have been working on with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and the Japan Foundation since its announcement by Ambassador Sasae in July 2013. We plan to bring 92 youths in four groups to Japan, with the first group visiting in May. I know that this program will be very well-received by our members. **For more information, please visit <http://www.jacl.org/news/Kakehashi.htm>.**

3. Pacific Citizen Media Plan. Another critical initiative that we will embark on in 2014 is to chart the appropriate course for the *Pacific Citizen*, so it will continue to be our premier communications vehicle, not only for this generation but also for future generations.

There have been much discussion on this topic, but the fact remains that we need to figure out the right approach to take the *P.C.* to the Internet Age. The *Pacific Citizen* Editorial Board has done an excellent job in preparing the *P.C.* Media Plan, which is the blueprint for us to get there, and the *P.C.*'s staff took a further step by developing a detailed plan to support the implementation.

The National Board will be working in concert with the *P.C.* Editorial Board and the *P.C.*'s staff to finalize this plan. I would like to emphasize to all *P.C.* readers that this will be a long and thoughtful process. We will approach this project judiciously, and we will always keep your needs at the top of our minds.

In closing, thank you all for your dedication and commitment to the JACL, and I look forward to an exciting and successful 2014. ■

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2014 — A Year of Vision

By Priscilla Ouchida
National Director

Happy New Year! This year marks the 70th anniversary of the Mitsuye Endo and Fred Korematsu cases, the imposition of the draft on Japanese Americans and indictment of 63 Heart Mountain draft resisters. It is the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the War on Poverty. It is a year of reflection and an opportunity for growth.

JACL was founded by visionary Niseis who decided to challenge the status quo and create a "greater America." Over the past 85 years, JACL has established a legacy that has improved the lives of all Asian and Pacific Islander Americans. Admiral Harry B. Harris Jr., the new commander of the Pacific Fleet and the highest-ranking Japanese American in U.S. Navy history, has often said he could not have attained his position without the work of the JACL. The organization's rich history is a valuable asset, but so are the contemporary programs that continue to evolve to meet the needs of new generations.

The 2010 U.S. Census recorded the changing demographics of the Nikkei community and points the organization toward its future. From 1910-60, Japanese Americans were the largest Asian population in the United States.

Today, Japanese Americans are the sixth-largest

group, and a high percentage of the community is multiracial and multiethnic. In fact, Japanese Americans are the most multicultural population among Asian Americans. Japanese Americans reflect the cutting edge of the future population of the nation. About 32 percent of Japanese Americans over the age of 18 were born outside the United States, and 55 percent of Japanese American newlyweds married non-Asian partners. According to a PEW Study, Japanese Americans are the most supportive of contentious issues such as abortion or LGBT rights of all Asian-American groups. Over three-fourths of Japanese Americans live in California or Hawaii.

Studies of JACL membership reflect the shifting demographic. Maintenance of Japanese American identity is a strong interest among younger Nikkei and Shin Nisei. Polling has also shown high use of social media, interest in professional development and a high percentage of college graduates.

While maintaining JACL's rich history, the organization is moving toward a more contemporary organization that can address the issues of tomorrow. The recently released JACL Annual Report highlights programs that target the new membership demographic, which is increasingly Yonsei and multiracial. There are a number of leadership development programs including the flagship JACL-OCA Washington D.C. Leadership Conference, fellowships and internships and the new Kakehashi Student Invitation Program. To fill a void in ethnic nutritional information, JACL's new nutrition program provides nutritional education that complements the Japanese American diet. In response to an interest in historic and cultural preservation, JACL is sponsoring a current tour of the Art of Gaman and is working with the Smithsonian Museum of American History on a 2017 exhibit. JACL continues to have one of the largest youth memberships among Asian American organizations, and youth leadership is reflected in the National Youth and Student Council, which organizes regional summits.

JACL is continuing its mainstay civil rights programs, including briefs on important cases before the U.S. Supreme Court, participation in coalitions to preserve the integrity of the Voting Rights Act, the Fair Housing Act and affirmative action, and also is weighing in on current issues such as immigration reform.

Last year, JACL embarked on examining how the organization can be restructured to best meet the needs of today's membership. The website is being updated, and there is an increasing emphasis on social media. Nikkeis are high users of social media, and a long-term plan to shift the *Pacific Citizen* from a printed format to an online format is in the works.

Change is difficult but necessary to ensure the sustainability of JACL beyond 2050. These are exciting times, and new voices and young leaders are coming up the pipeline. With an aging staff and membership, these emerging leaders are critical to a healthy JACL. It is important that these young leaders are encouraged and given the authority to take JACL to new heights. The passing of the baton happens every few decades, and now is the time to develop a strong leadership for the future.

A successful transition will not be the work of any one person or group. It will require the commitment of the entire organization from individual members to the National Council to District Councils to the National Board to staff. It will take many hands to construct a sea-worthy ship that will weather the future. But it is a necessary exercise.

We will build this contemporary JACL with its rich history.

Simply stated, there is no other organization like the Japanese American Citizens League in the entire spectrum of civil rights organizations. Not a one.

No organization created today can equal the JACL. Forged in the fires of a nation with more than 100 anti-Asian laws, JACL overcame what no other organization in this nation has survived. Outlawed citizenship and land ownership. An incarceration of an entire American population from the West Coast. The founding of the first civil rights coalition. An apology from the U.S. Government. Redress payments.

And JACL continues to lead. The first civil rights organization to adopt a resolution in support of marriage equality. Support of Muslim Americans immediately after 9/11. Japan disaster relief. Pushing for fair representation of Asian Americans in the media.

JACL has a unique story of Americanism. In 2014, many of the advances of the 1950-70 civil rights movement are under attack. There is still significant underrepresentation of Nikkei in corporate boards and high-level management. New community needs are developing.

JACL is an important national voice that is needed to speak on behalf of our children and grandchildren. This is the year to roll up our sleeves and renovate our grand institution. ■



More Helpers From the Pacific Citizen Holiday Issue

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
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| Fresno - Marcia Chung | Mile High - Mrs. Kimiko Side | Selanoco - Evelyn Hanki | |
| Fresno - Randy Asai | | Selanoco - Frank Kawase | |



Happy New Year 2014 from the Salt Lake City Chapter!

Wishing You Peace
and Happiness in the
New Year...
- Jeannette and Tats Misaka

Peace, Joy & Love in 2014!
* * *
Jeff and Linda Itami
Salt Lake City, Utah
e-mail: newhome@sisna.com

Happy New Year
Raymond and Yoshiko Uno

From the Salt Lake
Chapter Board
and Members

JACL Must Capitalize on Continuing Its Financial Momentum in 2014

By Matthew Farrells
Secretary/Treasurer

As we begin 2014, I wish everyone a healthy and prosperous new year. As I look back on 2013, I'm proud of the accomplishments that have continually improved JACL's financial stability. I attribute the improvement to several factors: first, increased effectiveness of our financial forecasting and reporting; second, increased focus on fund development; and lastly, improved financial market performance. Now, as we enter a new year, our focus will be two-fold: one, to continue to execute what we've done well in 2013, and two, to seek out opportunities to improve JACL's relevance and financial stability moving forward, largely through effective budget planning for the next biennium.

As we move into 2014, one of the areas of continued focus is accurately forecasting our operational finances. The Finance Committee has done an outstanding job in identifying the need for monthly forecasts throughout the year, and JACL staff has been instrumental in producing solid reports with accurate program revenue and expenditure forecasts. Despite this newly created and much-valued capability, there is always room for improvement to make these forecasts more accurate, more timely and able to predict more unexpected variability in our revenues and expenditures, at any point in the year. I believe we will capitalize on our momentum generated in 2013 to improve our forecasting

capability moving forward.

Another area that we've made great progress on in 2013 is fund development. During the year, the National Board made the decision to authorize the funding of a development director position, and I am proud to report that this newly staffed function is operational as of December 2013. Staffing this position is critical to improving the JACL's ability to reach out to existing and new corporations and foundations that are vital to the continued success and financial health of our organization. I am encouraged by the support of staff and the board to place additional resources toward fund development in 2013, and I look forward to improved success in this area in 2014. With more staff time focused on maintaining existing and cultivating new relationships with funding organizations who share JACL's commitment to the communities we serve, I am confident JACL will increase fundraising as a source of revenue in 2014.

A new opportunity in the New Year to ensure our financial house is in order is the biennial budget planning process. This process will occur in the first half of 2014, and the final biennial budget will be approved during our National Convention in July. Every two years, the membership, with the guidance of the National Board and, ultimately, the Program for Action, helps mold and develop the future program portfolio the organization manages. The budget



sets the direction of the organization. It's a road map to execute our goals and objectives. During the upcoming budget process, JACL has the opportunity and obligation to effectively determine which programs are funded and by how much. This isn't necessarily an easy task. Despite all the hard work that goes into budget planning, I am confident the programs (and amount allocated to them) within the next biennial budget will well represent the strategic direction of the organization.

In closing, I'd like to thank the members of JACL for their vote of confidence in my ability to serve as Secretary/Treasurer. I also owe a big thank you to the staff and my fellow colleagues on the National Board for their continued and steadfast support during the first year and a half of my tenure in this role. It's been a great pleasure to serve, and I look forward to working with members, staff and fellow board members to continue to improve the financial stability of our organization for years to come. ■



NY/SC Welcomes 2014 With Hope and Opportunities

By Mariko Newton
NY/SC Chair

advance the work and legacy of JACL for years to come.

With the start of the New Year, my hope for the youth council is to carry over its positive momentum from 2013 while creating new strategies around a number of short-term and long-term objectives. Keeping in line with our goal of "Build a national network of leaders based on local interests and interests consistent with the NY/SC," we will continue to leverage our strength and capacity to promote leadership development, coalition building and outreach among the AAPI community.

One approach to attaining this goal is through our signature program, the NY/SC Youth Leadership Summit. This program engages local communities of students and young professionals with an emphasis on API identity, advocacy and social justice — all of which the JACL can serve as a foundation of support. Moreover, the summit allows the youth council to connect with diverse organizations and individuals who hold similar values and visions. We hope to continue this program in the upcoming months while ensuring that its focus is consistent with the priorities and interests of our target audience.

The NY/SC's second goal: "We will educate and empower individuals on how to become advocates for the AAPI community." Advocacy is a relatively new issue that the youth council has taken on but will hopefully propel forward with in 2014. In addition to incorporating activism in the leadership summits, we will harness the power of social media not only to promote our own programs but also to

raise awareness of issues relevant to the broader AAPI community. Furthermore, through our advocacy efforts, we would like to strengthen our relationships with other grassroots organizations in order to create a lasting base for change and bring a more diverse, powerful voice to the decision-making table. Collaboration is key for both JACL and NY/SC to sustain an influential presence in the human and civil rights arena.

Lastly, our third goal: "Develop sufficient resources and effective internal structures to meet our mission" refers to the overall operation of the youth council. The executive board members of NY/SC have compiled together a one-year strategic plan that includes program design, budgeting and fundraising for 2014, which will help us assess the council's progress on a regular basis. Also in our effort to formalize the youth council, we will clarify the roles and responsibilities of each position within NY/SC and provide ongoing training for its members for internal development. All of this will increase the effectiveness and potential of the youth council for the months to come.

Inevitably, 2014 will be a challenging yet productive year for the NY/SC as we embark on a journey across the nation, expanding our capacity and impact in the broader AAPI community. Such challenges will require continued solidarity among all members of this organization and beyond. I invite all of you, as well as your friends and family, to be a part of this process. Thank you for your support, and best wishes to everyone for a prosperous year ahead! ■

Happy New Year! As we say farewell to 2013 and welcome 2014, it is time reflect on the past year and establish goals for the upcoming months. For the National Youth/Student Council, it has seen a year of incredible change, growth and challenges. I have seen the youth council move upward and attain new levels of responsibility and leadership in hopes of cultivating the next generation of JACL leaders.

Broadly looking back at our successes over the past year: developing an operation plan that sets the direction of NY/SC for 2014; revising the council's structure and succession planning process; enhancing the internal development of youth council; increasing awareness and online visibility of the youth council through social media; and reforming the NY/SC Leadership Summit for AAPI students and young professionals.

These achievements would not have been possible without the hard work and dedication of the NY/SC members. I would like to thank those who have contributed to the youth programs and initiatives throughout the year. National Youth Representative Kevin Mori and I are pleased to work with such a dynamic, promising body of leaders who will help

Growing Membership Is Vital to Our Sustainability

By Toshi Abe
VP Membership

Best wishes for a happy new year. As you know, I was appointed vice president of the 1000 Club, Membership and Services this past July to fill out the remaining term of my predecessor, John Moy, who has our deepest thanks for his service. Thus far, I have spent time learning the ins and outs of our membership department and have come to appreciate the hard work and dedication of our membership coordinator, Annie Noguchi, and her assistant, Tomiko Ismail, who keep that department operating smoothly. I also want to thank all of you for your commitment to and support of JACL because without you, we obviously could not carry out our programs and mission.

During these past six months, I have also taken to heart your concerns about keeping JACL relevant to the community. Shortly after the convention, I spoke with John Hayashi (Golden Gate chapter) about the 2013 convention in Washington, D.C., and he stated that the visits to the Hill and meeting and talking with members of Congress truly made a strong, positive impression on his young daughter. I think that many people who participated in the visits to their congressional representatives that day felt similarly. When we can have an effect like this, then we know that we are on the right track. I've also heard from Frank Sakamoto, out in Denver, who gave me some advice to help improve

our 1000 Club membership category. One of his suggestions was to restart the 1000 Club Committee, which I promised to look into.

I also congratulate our many chapters who are helping their young members to grow by providing resources to help them pursue projects that aid their communities. For example, I like what the Portland Chapter has accomplished with its youth and their own Unite People group. I also commend NY/SC chairs Mariko Newton and Kevin Mori and the members of the council for their initiative and leadership. They represent our future and have increased the visibility and contributions of our youth members at local and national events.

This coming year, I also hope to support JACL's efforts to continue to educate those people who are unfamiliar with or have never heard about our community's forced incarceration during WWII. For example, this past year, the city of Philadelphia's Free Library approached our president, Scott Nakamura, and the chapter's board, for their assistance to help promote and to take an active role in its annual One Book, One Philadelphia program. The book that the library selected was Julie Otsuka's "Buddha in the Attic," her award-winning book about Japanese picture brides. Over the course of eight weeks, our chapter (along with several



other local organizations) helped pull together a number of book discussion groups, book readings and lectures, film showings, panel discussions, theater and musical performances and several arts and crafts events. We were encouraged by the large numbers of people who participated and attended these events. A representative from the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia also contacted us as a result of attending one of the OBOP events, and the center is now planning its own version of a Day of Remembrance program. With help from funders, we hope to help them plan and produce a program in the near future.

In 2014, Annie Noguchi and I plan to hold regular webinars with our chapters to highlight ways to both maintain and increase membership. We held our first webinar late last year, and we were pleased with the number of chapters that participated and told us what they needed. Please feel free to contact me with your ideas and also your complaints. My email address is tabe@jacl.org. ■



Raising Visibility and Awareness Remains a Top Priority for 2014

By Craig Tomiyoshi
VP Public Affairs

Kakehashi Project: The Bridge for Tomorrow, a youth exchange program that will give JACL undergraduate and graduate students a chance to visit and learn about Japan, has recently kicked-off. And applications are already rolling in for the successful JACL/OCA Leadership Summit, set for March.

Despite entering the year with lots of positive energy and innovative programs, it's no secret that JACL will continue to face significant challenges in the coming year, including fundraising and membership. In a recovering economy, JACL certainly isn't the only nonprofit facing similar issues. However, I firmly believe that JACL has the right leadership, staff and support from its members and partners to find solutions and remain a strong and vibrant organization.

While it's clear that fixing these issues won't happen overnight, in 2014, you'll continue to see progress and positive momentum toward this end.

One of the first things that you will notice is a completely revamped JACL website. The new website will feature a clean and contemporary design that will be easy for our existing and potential members and supporters to navigate. The new site will not only serve as a landing page for JACL news and announcements but also a meaningful online resource for anyone interested in civil and human rights and Japanese American history and culture. The website will also house many additional resources to support and expand our key programs and initiatives, such as a section for teacher training curriculum and supplemental materials.

As social media and other digital platforms for communication continue to become a primary source of news and information — especially among younger members — it's important for the new site to be able to support these trends and serve as a conduit to reaching new and existing members and supporters. The revamped website will also include features that will help deliver information about key JACL issues, empower visitors to share what they find and seed, support and facilitate online conversations. Exciting stuff!

In addition to the website, I'll be working closely with JACL staff, national board members, chapter leaders and members to develop a set of marketing and communications recommendations. The goal of this effort will be to help raise visibility and awareness of JACL nationally, find efficiencies to help get news out and respond to critical issues quickly and most importantly help support the programs, initiatives and great work that is happening at the district and chapter levels. Keep an eye out throughout the year for updates on this new initiative.

Before I close, I want to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude to the JACL and *Pacific Citizen* leadership, staff, interns and volunteers for all of their hard work and successes in 2013. Most importantly, I'd like to thank our members and partners for their support throughout the year as well, especially on issues and programs for which I am responsible.

Here's to a happy and prosperous 2014! I look forward to seeing you all in San Jose at the National Convention! ■

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a restful and enjoyable holiday season.

JACL certainly had an exciting year in 2013, including an unforgettable National Convention and fantastic Gala Awards Dinner in Washington, D.C. JACL staff and volunteers effectively executed our core programs and successfully rolled out a handful of new ones. And throughout the year, JACL leadership and staff members have been involved with and, in some cases, been at the forefront of many critical civil and human rights issues.

Unfortunately, 2013 also gave us several reminders about the importance of and need for organizations like JACL and its partners. Instances like Katy Perry's culturally insensitive performance at the American Music Awards and cases of hate crimes against Sikh, Hindu and Arab Americans were reminders about the need to stay ever-vigilant and proactive in educating people about and advocating for the Japanese American and Asian American community.

But on a more positive note, 2014 is already shaping up to be another busy year, with many established programs set to launch, along with several new initiatives well under way. For example, the application period for the



Thank You to the JACL

By Chip Larouche
VP Planning & Development

Being a third-generation French-Canadian American living amongst the Japanese American community, I'm often asked if I know how to speak Japanese. I usually answer with, "I know lots of 'food' words and a few 'bad' words, but I also know how to say 'thank you,'" and the start of the new

year is always a great time to be thankful to those who have been so helpful to me and, in particular, the JACL.

I'm going to start with thanking Priscilla Ouchida, who finished her first full year as JACL's executive director. As many of you might appreciate, there's a lot to learn when you come in as the executive director of such a prestigious organization, and you have to "learn" while you "do" the job. Priscilla has done a wonderful job getting up to speed quickly, as is evidenced by the significant programs that JACL is now tackling, like the Kakehashi Project, the Confinement Sites Grant Program and everything else you need to manage when you're the director.

Priscilla's regional directors also deserve special mention. Stephanie Nitahara, Patty Wada, Bill Yoshino and Karen Yoshitomi work tirelessly for JACL on all our programs, taking care of regional issues and making sure that events are properly administered.

Rounding out our senior staff is our newly selected executive editor of the *Pacific Citizen*, Allison Haramoto, who just recently finished the Holiday Issue with her staff. Putting out this edition is an incredible feat, and I'm sure all of you enjoyed receiving it and seeing the well wishes from JACL members from all over the country. Allison has a talented staff that also includes Susan Yokohama, Nalea J. Ko, Eva Lau-Ting and Marie Samonte, who all have been doing a great job producing and distributing the *P.C.* to the membership twice a month, don't you think?

And I'd be remiss if I didn't mention the great support staff that we have in JACL, which includes Business Manager Clyde Izumi, whose institutional knowledge on all things program and financially oriented is awesome; the membership team of Annie Noguchi and Tomiko Ismail, who keep JACL's lifeblood straight; and our new Assistant Program Director Christine Munteanu, who is doing tremendous work with funding and grants for JACL.

It would be impossible to get our work done without our fellows, and we're very fortunate to have two stellar ones in Rhianna Taniguchi, who is our current Norman Y. Mineta Fellow, and Tara Ohtman, who is our Daniel K. Inouye Fellow. Over the years, the interaction of these fellows with members of the House and Senate have been crucial in getting key legislation passed, including my favorite legislation that resulted in the presentation of the Congressional Gold Medal to our Nisei soldiers.

As I look back at the great work that has happened in JACL, I would like to express a special thank you to Floyd Mori and his committee for putting on the best convention that I've ever attended. The highlights for me certainly included the reception at the National Archives where the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 (HR 442) and Executive Order 9066 were displayed side by side, poignantly symbolizing the difficult American story that impacted the Issei and Nisei generations and changed their lives forever. Capping off the convention with a reception at the residence of the Japanese Ambassador in Washington, D.C., was a real treat.

As a member of the JACL board, I certainly need to thank David Lin for his leadership and thank all of my fellow board members who contribute their expertise and time and resources to make JACL a world-class organization. With the next convention coming up soon in San Jose, this is an opportunity for many of you reading this to consider running for one of the many board positions that will be seeking candidates this summer. San Jose is doing a wonderful job of planning for another great convention, and I understand that it will allow conventioners to participate in the world-renowned Obon Festival that follows the convention dates of July 9-12. I'm looking forward to seeing you all there! Have a happy and healthy 2014. *Domo arigato gozaimashita.*

'DO YOU KNOW THE WAY TO SAN JOSE'?

By David Unruhe
Governor, Northern California Western Nevada Pacific

With apologies to Dionne Warwick, I invite all JACL members and friends to attend the National Convention in San Jose, Calif., on July 9-12.

San Jose is the undisputed high-tech capital of the world, and it is the home of one of the only three surviving *Nihonmachi* in the United States (fact). San Jose Japantown is also the most authentic *Nihonmachi* in America (opinion). Wherever you grew up or wherever you live now, Japantown will remind you of the *Nihonmachi* of the Issei and Nisei generations. The convention will conclude on Saturday morning so that everyone can attend the San Jose Betsuin Obon Festival and Bazaar. On Saturday and Sunday nights, all will be welcome to participate in North America's largest Bon Odori (fact). Who knows, maybe JACL can help the 2014 Bon Odori set another record for the most number of dancers.

Bring your friends, family, supporters, boosters — you name it — to attend the convention, and stay on to enjoy all that Northern California has to offer.

We look forward to seeing you all in San Jose this July. ■

Reflections

By Colleen F. Morimoto
Governor, Midwest District Council

This year was my first year serving as governor of the Midwest District. I am heartened that National JACL has a strong staff to help its volunteer district representatives and leaders. My thanks go out to Bill Yoshino, our regional director, and Christine Munteanu, JACL's program coordinator, for their tireless work. I also have great admiration for all the chapter representatives I work with and am very much looking forward to each of our shared meetings. We had two great participatory workshops during our MDC meeting last spring!

One of my first official (and the most pleasant) invitations was to help celebrate the Cincinnati and Dayton Chapters' commemoration of the 75th anniversary of Japanese Americans arriving in their area. Longtime JACL Cincinnati member Gordon Yoshikawa was my host. At the dinner, I had the great fortune of sitting next to Santa Ono, president of the University of Cincinnati. Dr. Ono and his wife, Wendy Yip, showed a sincere interest in JACL, as they signed up for chapter membership on the spot!

Working in the Office of the Provost at Rice University, I know how many ceremonial/welcoming talks university presidents and provosts are asked to give, and I was given insight into his talent for quickly studying situations and genuinely

connecting with people. I am thrilled to know that he has been recently named as honorary consul to Japan. For those of you who have not heard him speak, you will have a treat when the opportunity arises.

One of the unpleasant surprises I received in my role: We continue to receive reports of unbelievably insensitive stereotypes that hurt reputations and bring bodily harm, even death. (I am thinking of what happened to the innocent Sikhs in Wisconsin here.) Some people think we are being overly sensitive to the word "Jap" and that we should forget the past; I am shocked every time I hear this. That the Asian face is still stereotyped as sneaky and dishonest is disheartening and scary. We must continue to connect with all kinds of people to help dispel these negative stereotypes.

For those who feel or are disempowered, it is really wonderful that JACL serves the community as the advocate for their right to be heard and treated fairly. I experienced this first-hand when I attended this year's JACL National Convention. The speakers and issues they handled were enlightening, but communicating with my non-so-receptive representative's staff person on the Hill about the importance of comprehensive immigration reform and knowing that there were so many of us doing the same thing during JACL's "lobby day" was meaningful and powerful. Being with everyone with the same mission was wonderful.

This position has its seemingly unsolvable issues. Despite our individual and collective efforts, we are losing members. How can we make it easy to re-enroll? How can we get more participation by letting more people know what we do? How can we appeal to a broad constituency?

I'm hoping our membership stabilizes and we gain new members because our causes and programs are important.

I look forward to the work we have yet to do in 2014 and ask for continued support and guidance from my colleagues on the board, staff and regional levels. I will also serve National JACL as the chair of the audit committee, so I ask for your help for that role, too.

Selected MDC Chapter Highlights:

All of our chapters reported activities that served their membership as well as the community. The Hoosier (Indianapolis, IL) chapter's community service project involved the Indiana Council for the Social Studies Conference, a professional organization for Indiana social studies teachers. For their good efforts, the ICSS honored the Hoosier Chapter with the Stan Harris Citizen's Award, which exemplifies, celebrates and disseminates the social studies principles of community, cultural pride and active citizenship. Go Hoosiers!

The Chicago chapter hosted many free programs that focused on children and young adults, including the Kansha Project. The Chicago Chapter as well as the Houston Chapter sponsored Day of Remembrance events. In Houston, the DOR dinner also featured a special screening of Tad Nakamura's award-winning film "Pilgrimage," which was followed by a discussion with the filmmaker.

Chicago and Houston chapter members also helped support Congressional Gold Medal events in their respective areas.

We all expect another great year of activities to build upon each of our chapter's strengths and to encourage outreach into and sharing with our communities. ■

CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TRAVELING EXHIBIT MAKES FINAL STOP IN TEXAS

By P.C. Staff

The Smithsonian's Congressional Gold Medal traveling exhibit made its final stop in Houston, Texas, after a year of crisscrossing the United States.

The seven-city traveling exhibit "American Heroes: Japanese American World War II Nisei Soldiers and the Congressional Gold Medal" was organized by the Smithsonian and the National Veterans Network to honor Japanese Americans who served heroically in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, the 100th Battalion and the Military Intelligence Service.

The creation of the exhibit — which highlights Japanese cultural values of courage, respect, humility, perseverance, compassion and citizenship — came after Nisei WWII veterans were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal in late 2011. The exhibit includes the medal and educational materials such as an iPad application and curriculum.

"The legacy of the men — living and deceased — whom we honor here today is a heritage of patriotism as old as the American Revolution and as new as the frontlines of freedom in Afghanistan. Their accom-

plishments are a uniquely American story that, thanks to the Smithsonian Institution, will be told and retold for generations to come," said Gen. Eric K. Shinseki, secretary of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, at the Dec. 19 opening ceremony.

"American Heroes" leaves the Holocaust Museum on Jan. 26 and will be featured on permanent display at the National Museum of American History in Washington, D.C.

"We look forward to the opening of the Congressional Gold Medal exhibit at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History on Feb. 19 and our partnership with the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center to develop a digital exhibit that will interpret and bring to life the stories of the Japanese American WWII veterans," said NVN Chairwoman Christine Sato-Yamazaki in a press release.

The national tour was made possible thanks to Cole Chemical, AARP, Comcast/NBC Universal, the Japanese American Veterans Association, Pritzker Military Library, the Shiratsuki Family, Southwest Airlines and the Spirit Mountain Community Fund. ■

U.S. Secretary of Veterans Affairs Gen. Eric Shinseki, left, with WWII veterans of the 100th, 442nd and 36th Division in front of the "American Heroes: Japanese American World War II Nisei Soldiers and the Congressional Gold Medal" exhibit at Holocaust Museum. Veterans, from left to right, are George Fujimoto (442), Nelson Akagi (442), Susumu Ito (442), Lawson Sakai (442), Tommie Okabayashi (442), Robert Pieser (36th Division).



PHOTO: KRIS IKEJIRI



PHOTO: TOM SHEA

World War II veterans Tommie Okabayashi of Houston, left, and Texas 36th serviceman Robert Pieser of Harlingen, Texas, reunited during the opening ceremony of the Congressional Gold Medal Exhibit at Holocaust Museum Houston in honor of Japanese Americans who served in the U.S. Army amidst anti-Japanese hysteria.



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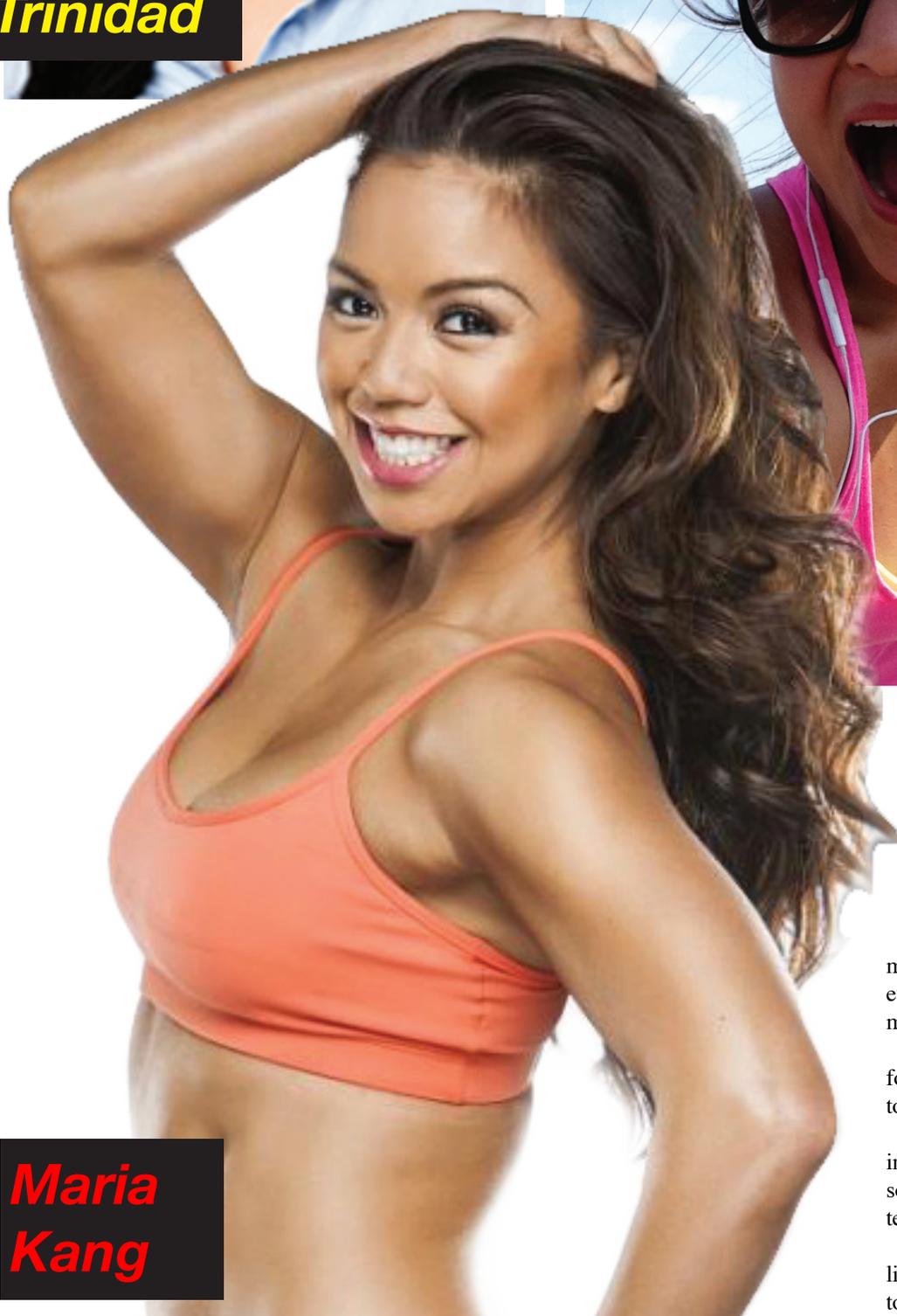
THE RIGHT START

Experts weigh in on the best ways to make — and maintain — healthy and successful New Year's resolutions.

By *Connie K. Ho*
Contributor



**Angelia
Trinidad**



**Christina
Torres**

**Maria
Kang**

With 2014 here, the new year is not only a time for celebration but also an opportunity to reflect on work accomplished in the past year. Many set out resolutions for themselves, goals that they want to accomplish during the new year. The *Pacific Citizen* recently spoke to a panel of experts who all pointed out that goals should not only be set during the beginning of the year but also throughout the year to ensure success in attaining them. Following is additional advice on accomplishing goals in order to make 2014 your best yet.

Make your professional goals based on your passions.

Angelia Trinidad is a San Diego-based entrepreneur who is on a mission to help others achieve their wildest dreams. Last December, the University of California, Los Angeles, graduate raised \$28,000 on crowd-funding website Kickstarter for Passion Planner and surpassed her goal of \$19,000. Passion Planner features focus sections, inspirational quotes, a written notebook, an appointment calendar, to-do lists, among other features; it's Trinidad's way of helping others set their goals and find what they love to do.

"It was really epic — I have always had big dreams for this planner," said Trinidad, a 23-year-old who majored in art.

The planner includes a goal-setting guide where individuals can sit down, map short-term and long-term goals and list steps to accomplishing those goals.

"It makes you think, 'What do I really want in my life? What do I want to accomplish? What are my actual goals? What would make me happy?' When you do that, when you decide, 'What would I do every day that I would love' and then you actually do that every day, that's when you start to feel happy; that's when

you start to feel fulfilled," Trinidad said.

An important step in helping Trinidad reach her goal was momentum.

"This whole planner came about last February, and my perfectionism really, really paralyzed me in moving forward — I couldn't make decisions," Trinidad said.

About three months ago, she returned from a family vacation in Hawaii and began talking to a friend about her idea for Passion Planner. Through their discussion, she realized that she was still passionate about the Passion Planner concept and needed to move forward with her idea. For the next two months, she worked on Passion Planner every single day. During that time, she went from working on a prototype and finding a manufacturer to completing the Kickstarter fundraiser.

Setting deadlines was also another helpful tool for Trinidad, and the impending deadline for her was to get Passion Planner shipped out by Christmas for those who were planning to buy it as gifts for friends.

"When you don't have a deadline, you wait until the last possible minute, so it's really important to have deadlines — one that's realistic but also challenging. If you can do something in three minutes, make the deadline three minutes," Trinidad said. "It was a testament to see what is essential."

Trinidad, a first-generation Filipino American, cites her parents as a big influence in her life; she saw how they worked hard and continuously helped others, something she strives to do herself.

"I grew up not rich at all; that was a blessing in disguise because it pushed me to follow my passion in drawing and art," Trinidad said. "My No. 1 tip is to realize that fear can paralyze you, so make your goals based on love. If you make your goals based on love and make your love motivate your action, out of love, out of care, out of something positive, then every single step that you make is going to be the right decision even if you fail."

Focus on the big picture for a healthy lifestyle.

For those who want to boost their health this year, personal trainer and certified yoga instructor Christina Torres emphasizes the need to look at everything with a wider lens.

"I think it's important to be happy in anyone's [fitness] goal, not to just think, 'I want to be skinny, I want to have six-pack abs' — you have to look at the big picture," said Torres, a 25-year-old kinesiology grad who is based in Arcadia, Calif.

Torres, who is half-Filipina, half-Mexican, has learned this from personal experience. Growing up, she was an active kid but had bad eating habits.

"I ate a lot of everything, I loved to eat — I still love to eat," said Torres, a personal trainer since 2009. "For me, I have to find a healthy alternative. So, instead of ice cream, get a healthier yogurt. It's always about healthy alternatives for me."

In December 2006, her father suffered a heart attack, and Torres' family was taken aback, as he had always participated in regular physical activity. They found out that it was his diet that had affected his health and his heart.

"After my dad's heart attack, that's when we, as a family, cut out anything creamy, buttery, cheesy — anything that had saturated fat and a lot of animal fat. We cut all of that out and switched to chicken, fish, and we cut down on the beef. Definitely, more vegetables," Torres said. "It definitely helped that we did it as a family — you have support and [we found foods that we could] still all enjoy."

Her advice for others who want to eat healthier this year is to consume "real fruit, real vegetables, real whole grains."

"Of course, everybody has different priorities with their lifestyle as well, so what might be healthy for you might not be healthy for me, and that's why it's important to listen to your body," Torres continued.

In addition, she recommends that individuals look at the ingredients in their meals.

"When you make your own food, you can control what's in it," Torres said. "The key thing is looking at your ingredients when you find something — you could find something really healthy, but you have to look at your ingredients. Don't be fooled by where you're buying it."

Torres also believes in the power of positivity.

"If you're thinking positive thoughts, if you're excited to treat your body nicely, then there's a whole lot more to be excited about," Torres said. "If you get excited about a healthy



A view of the cover of the Passion Planner from entrepreneur Angelia Trinidad



Fitness instructor/personal trainer Christina Torres takes a break while hiking.



Angelia Trinidad works on her business, Passion Planner, in her garage.



Fitness instructor/personal trainer Christina Torres holds the dancer pose while hiking.



Maria Kang stays active with her three young sons.

meal or you make it yourself, there's definitely a lot of positivity, love and happiness and that will uplift you."

Create a plan and environment that supports your goals.

Maria Kang, a 33-year-old social entrepreneur and mother of three boys in Elk Grove, Calif., found herself in a viral moment this past December when a photo of her with the slogan, "What's your excuse?" was circled around on social

media. Kang, dubbed "Fit Mom" by many, has taken that media attention and spearheaded a movement to change the perspective of moms and healthy living. She's the co-founder of the "No Excuse Mom" online support group, where members share recipes, exercise tips and success stories, among other things.

"I believe that if we want to make change, change is going to have to start at home. It starts with parents, and then it obviously extends to the community and then the nation," said Kang, who also manages fitness nonprofit "Fitness Without Borders." "I believe so sternly in the power of one — and the power of one being the parent, especially the mother. If we want to change the course of the nation, we have to change each mother one by one in this country to start taking care of her health because she is the role model, she's the one taking care of the meals."

Kang's own passion for fitness stems from her experience with her mother, a Filipina who has been plagued by a number of health issues.

"She's very sick. She's had diabetes in her 20s, strokes in her 30s, heart attacks in her 40s and a kidney transplant," Kang said. "She doesn't exercise, she doesn't eat correctly and she uses prescription pills to alleviate a lot of the symptoms. It really drove me nuts and made me passionate about my own personal health."

Under the "No Excuse Mom" group, Kang recently released a "No Excuse Fit Mom Calendar" that includes advice on exercise, nutrition and time management, along with information on home workouts. She cites the calendar as both a fitness challenge and motivation for the moms in her group to get in great shape, and proceeds of the calendar will support "Fitness Without Borders" and "No Excuse Mom" initiatives.

"This is an example of what makes people successful. I'm a firm believer that, yeah, there's a lot of weight-loss programs and diets out there, but the key to success is motivation, and motivation requires you to have a goal, a deadline and a plan," Kang said. "The current calendar has mom stories — many who are working, many who are struggling with postpartum depression, all of their bodies manifest in different ways, too. Some of them look sort of like mine, and some of them

look completely different. I think that's what's great about this calendar. It really shows the variety of sizes and shapes and how it manifests in the health benefits because we don't often see that variety in mainstream media."

For those who have their own fitness goals, Kang notes the importance of measuring progress.

"Measure yourself by blood pressure, how fast you can run a mile, how long you can hold a plank, how many push ups you can perform, look at your dress size, do measurements around your waist — these are better ways to measure your progress. And I believe that you should measure your progress because progress is made, progress is measured," Kang said. "Whatever you do, you have to start slow — change begets change."

She also stresses the need to create a plan and an environment that supports that plan. Three key people in this environment include a mentor, a supporter who's aiding the journey as well a follower who is a little behind you on the journey and needs some guidance.

"The environment isn't just the food that you intake or cleaning out the cupboards, it's also the people in your environment," Kang said. "These three people are going to keep you accountable and give you positive energy in moving forward in your fitness goals." ■

PHOTOS: ANGELIA TRINIDAD

PHOTOS: CHRISTINA TORRES

PHOTO: MARIA KANG AT MARIKANG.COM

La Tuna Canyon Detention Station Commemorates 72nd Anniversary



(Left) Rev. Alfred Tsuyuki performs a purification ceremony at the Tuna Canyon Detention Station site on what is now the Verdugo Hills Golf Course; (right) coalition member and historian Lloyd Hitt.

By P.C. Staff

Rev. Alfred Tsuyuki stood before a wooden altar on Dec. 16 and scattered salt and rice-paper confetti to purify and bless a small portion of a designated historical site of La Tuna Canyon Detention Station on what is now the Verdugo Hills Golf Course in Tujunga, Calif.

The ceremony was held on the 72nd anniversary of the internment camp receiving its first prisoners, people of Japanese, German, Italian and Japanese-Peruvian descent who were rounded up by the FBI following the start of World War II.

For months now, the Tuna Canyon Detention Station Coalition has worked to persuade the L.A. City Council to recognize the site as a Historical Cultural Landmark, which prompted a lawsuit filing from developer Snowball West, which has purchased the land to develop a residential complex.

The developer's architect, Yanek Dombrova, noted that the plan is to now preserve an oak grove on the historic site. The coalition continues to hope for a "dynamic, emotionally engaging, living memorial" on the site.



PHOTO: WADE NOMURA

Rotary Intl. Float Focuses on Polio Eradication Efforts

For the 35th consecutive year, Rotary International featured a float in the 125th annual New Year's Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade on Jan. 1. The float's theme, "Dreams Come True," highlighted Rotary's commitment to eradicating polio worldwide.

Led by Rotary Parade Committee Chair Wade Nomura, Rotary's float also featured Rotary International President Ron Burton, as well as Dr. Peter Salk (the oldest son of Dr. Jonas Salk) and Debbe Sabin (the oldest daughter of Dr. Albert Sabin), who represented their fathers, pioneers of the polio vaccine.

Said Nomura: "As a Polio survivor . . . I wanted to send our Rotary message out to the world of our efforts. Being friends with President Ron Burton, Dr. Peter Salk and now Debbe Sabin gave me the opportunity . . . to convey our message."

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A MOTHER'S TAKE: Looking Back With Gratitude, Looking Forward With Hope

By Marsha Aizumi

As I sit down to write my hopes and dreams for 2014, I want to take a few moments to share some highlights of 2013 that have stayed in my heart. Last year was one of my most memorable years in my life and here is why:

In early 2013, I met some wonderful JACL members and community leaders in Seattle. I connected them to PFLAG Bellevue/Seattle, a local chapter of a national organization that supports, educates and advocates for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals and their families. A few months later, the two organizations marched together in the Seattle LGBT Pride parade, showing their support of Asian Pacific Islander LGBT families in Seattle.

Then, in May, the first API chapter in the 40-year history of PFLAG was approved. Quite a milestone! PFLAG has over 350 chapters and 200,000 members worldwide. The San Gabriel Valley API LGBT community now has a place for support and a place to share their stories.

During the summer of 2013, a dedicated group of leaders had their first meeting to discuss having an LGBT conference in Los Angeles, starting with the Nikkei community and in the future expanding to all API LGBT families. Once again, JACL and PFLAG are working together, in addition to a number of local LGBT, API and social justice organizations. Look for more details in the future.

In September, I had the honor of going to China to speak to Chinese LGBT individuals and their parents. I will always remember the strength in their hearts, the hope that

rang out through their words and the dreams of equality for their children. Finally and most memorably in November, my son, Aiden, took his longtime partner, Mary, as his wife. He vowed to love what he knows of her and trust what he is yet to learn.

Watching my son find the person he wants to spend the rest of his life with was an unforgettable day. To our family, this



PHOTOS: WILLIAM WEDEL



PHOTOS: GRACE HASEGAWA

wedding also symbolized never giving up hope, never losing our belief in love and, most importantly, we never stopped believing in each other. Tears flowed freely during the ceremony. No words can describe the pride, gratitude and joy I felt that day. My son could live in truth and still find love.

But as exciting as 2013 was, 2014 shows all indications of holding even more possibilities. Seattle JACL continues to look for ways to send the message of love and acceptance to the API LGBT families in their area. We will be meeting once again in 2014 to formulate more plans.

Work is being done all around the country to bring greater awareness and understanding to API LGBT families and individuals, including API parents doing public service announcements and organizations translating LGBT docu-

ments into multiple Asian languages. The Rainbow Mothers from China are waiting to see firsthand the work we are doing in Los Angeles and New York City for the API LGBT community. We hope to see their courageous faces in the U.S. very soon.

The momentum for marriage equality continues to gather speed. Who would have thought a few years ago that so many states would stand on the side of love?

The Nikkei LGBT conference in Los Angeles will be held in late 2014 or early 2015. We have secured two generous donations — one monetary and one for donated space — to begin our planning. Thank

you to Linda Aratani and the Japanese American National Museum.

Who knows what new dreams will be coming true for Aiden and Mary. All I know for sure is this: If you have a strong passion and unwavering belief, anything is possible.

And so that is my wish for all of you in 2014. May you find a passion that is unstoppable and a belief that fills your soul, so at the end of the year, you can look back and say, "This has been my greatest year!"

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."



FOR THE RECORD: Growing Up in Sawtelle

By John Tateishi

I was born in Los Angeles, spent my formative years from ages 3-6 in Manzanar and, after the war, returned with my family to West Los Angeles.

Sawtelle to the locals.

The Sawtelle Japanese American community was a small, close-knit community contained within about a square mile, bordered by Sepulveda and Bundy on the east and west, respectively, and Santa Monica and Olympic, north and south.

It was the kind of community in the 1940s and '50s where everyone knew each other. No one ever went unnoticed, a place where just about everything and anything you did was known eventually by everyone.

At the heart of the Sawtelle community was a four-block stretch of Sawtelle Boulevard anchored at the north end by T & T Service gas station and Olympic Lawnmower Shop, and Tensho Drugs and Yamaguchi's at the south. Most of anything you needed could be found within that four-block stretch of Sawtelle: a couple of Nisei-owned grocery stores, a barber shop, a few mom-and-pop restaurants, a dry cleaners, Ikeda's Auto Repair (everyone knew Ikeda's), three gas stations, a TV repair shop and more. What you

couldn't find on Sawtelle, you could find on Santa Monica Boulevard, what I used to think of as the *hakujin* street. I don't remember a single Japanese American-owned business on Santa Monica in those days.

There wasn't much that distinguished us there. Guys from West L.A. were considered "nice guys" and the girls "sweet," and I guess we were those things. No tough guys, no duck-tail hair styles, no *yogores*, just a bunch of innocent kids growing up in post-war America.

Perhaps the thing that most distinguished us from each other in Sawtelle was our religious affiliations. The Buddhist kids were more attuned to cultural traditions than those of us who grew up Methodist or Baptist. They spoke more Japanese than we did and maintained cultural arts and traditions, like *O-bon*, tea ceremony (called *chanoyu*, as I recall), and they seemed to understand better the seasonal ceremonies (like *sakura*). Me? What I liked were the different kinds of foods for different occasions during the year, like (and especially) *o-sho-gatsu*.

Most of our fathers were gardeners who had routes in Beverly Hills, Westwood, Bel Air, Brentwood and what we used to call "the canyon," i.e., Santa Monica canyon,

the areas in which some of Los Angeles' most wealthy lived in large, expensive properties, some sprawling estates so large it would take an entire day twice or three times a week to maintain the property.

By the time we reached junior high school age, my friends and I spent our summers helping our dads on their gardening routes. Up at the crack of dawn and trying to get the last minutes of sleep in the cold discomfort of pickup trucks (trucks in those days didn't have heaters), we'd head out to the beginning of long days of work.

I don't think any of us liked having to go gardening, but it was good work and our fathers made a comfortable living at it. Japanese gardeners in those days were premium because they were the best and in high demand. The notion



>> Continued on page 12

>> Continued from page 11

of “stealing” a Japanese gardener wasn’t uncommon in those days. I saw my father more than once parlay an offer from a potential customer into a negotiation for higher pay with his current customer. In retrospect, what’s interesting to me is the fact that my father’s customers, like those others with Japanese gardeners, saw past the racism and bigotry that was so pervasive after the war and hired our fathers because they were good at what they did and were worthy of the trust placed in them.

In many ways, those were lessons for us as we watched our fathers interact with some of L.A.’s wealthiest individuals, some of them moguls of business, others big-name celebrities (Marilyn Monroe was one of my father’s customers). In my father’s case, these wealthy customers got no greater respect or attention than did the little old lady in Santa Monica whose small property my father also attended for years. If anything, he did more for her outside of his gardening work than he ever did for the others, like working on her plumbing or doing some carpentry work around her house. It always meant longer days, but I didn’t mind. Some people you just help because they need it.

That was part of growing up in Sawtelle in those years marked by our innocence. It wasn’t as if the ugliness of post-war America didn’t touch our lives, because it did, sometimes in lasting and hurtful ways, but within the enclave of the Sawtelle community, we had each other and sometimes that was enough.

Sawtelle is still there, transformed by progress, but some of the stores and businesses have survived the passage of time. Friends I knew are still there, and many of the homes they grew up in are still there as well. Walk through some parts of the neighborhood and it’s like walking into the past.

Things change, they always do. But it’s nice that a place like Sawtelle has preserved so much of what made it such a great place to grow up.

John Tateishi is a former JACL national director.

COMMENTARY: The J-Word and Other Indignities

By Bill Yoshino

Last year at this time, the editor of the *Chicago Shimpō* told me about an exhibit on World War II at the Chicago History Museum. The exhibit contained a blaring headline from the *Chicago Tribune*, “Atom Bombs Doom Japs.” The use of racial or ethnic slurs is unsettling in any context, even if it’s part of a headline from another era.

I contacted the museum’s curator and explained that even though the racial slur was in a headline from decades ago, we were concerned because people who view the display, especially the young, may think its use is acceptable. Education about intolerance is a continuing challenge for each new generation. The museum acted quickly to alter its interpretation to indicate the J-word is a racial slur.

This was the first in a number of incidents we responded to during 2013. In January, we contacted executives at Google regarding an app called “Make Me Asian,” which purported to be a fun way to appear to be Asian. It used overlays such as a “coolie” hat and “Fu Manchu” mustache that could be placed on photos. Needless to say, it was a convenient way to mock Asian Americans, and Google removed it.

There were other incidents in 2013 where we responded to the use of racial slurs at KLFY television in Louisiana and KNPR, Nevada Public Radio, and even alleged hate crimes at Columbia University in New York and at Southern Methodist University in Texas, and where an Asian American man was menaced in Kissimmee, Fla., by a knife-wielding individual who

uttered racial remarks.

The point of all of this is that racism, defamation and the use of racial stereotypes continue to occur and even

proliferate with the ease of Internet access. There is a need to respond whenever incidents occur. Unlike the N-word, the use of the J-word and other Asian slurs remain because people think they can get away with it or because they just don’t know any better. Ignorance may be bliss, but not when it has the power to cause harm.

In its book “Hate Hurts: How Children Learn and Unlearn Prejudice,” the Anti-Defamation League guides parents to “name the behavior when you see it: What you did was name-calling. Then, declare it unacceptable: We don’t call people names.” This is a good lesson for all because certain expectations are nonnegotiable.

The role for the JACL is first to challenge the use of slurs and then to educate so that shallow behavior can be turned into a more nuanced understanding about the harm inherent whenever slurs are used. But to make a difference, it takes a chorus to respond. Be sure to add your voice whenever you hear or see acts of racial defamation.

Bill Yoshino is the JACL Midwest Director.



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Annual Pilgrimage: August 22–23, 2014 Honoring Selfless Service

SAVE THE DATE: Aug. 22–23, 2014

We will honor the service of veterans to our country, with recognition of soldiers from Heart Mountain. Events include an Honor Roll Memorial dedication, distinguished speakers, film screenings and banquet.

WE NEED YOUR HELP:

We are reaching out to veterans who may be able to attend our pilgrimage. If you are a Japanese American veteran and former internee or if you know someone who is, please contact us via the information below.

Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation
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307.754.8000
info@heartmountain.org
heartmountain.org/pilgrimage.html

Dedicated to memorializing the site of the Heart Mountain Relocation Camp, and educating the public about the illegal imprisonment of Japanese Americans during World War II.

This ad published in cooperation with the Park County, WY, Travel Council

A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS



CALENDAR

>>NATIONAL

**The JACL National Convention
SAN JOSE, CA
July 9-12**
DoubleTree by Hilton
2050 Gateway Place
The 2014 JACL National Convention's theme is "We Are America." More details will be available soon.
Info: Email dc@jacl.org or visit www.jacl.org.

>>EDC

**Film Screening of 'Winning the War on Suicide in Japan'
CAMBRIDGE, MA
Jan. 23, 5:30-7:30 p.m.**
MIT, Tang Center
Building E51-345
70 Memorial Drive
The film "Saving 10,000: Winning the War on Suicide in Japan," tells the story of an Irishman's pursuit to find the cause of Japan's high suicide rates. A panel discussion will follow featuring Dr. Daisuke Fujisawa of Keio University School of Medicine and other faculty from the MIT Department of Mental Health and Counseling Services. The event is sponsored in part by New England JACL.
Info: Visit www.nejacl.org.

**Japanese New Year Celebration
BOSTON, MA
Jan. 19, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.**
Boston Children's Museum
300 Congress St.
The Boston Children's Museum is holding an Oshogatsu celebration for the whole family. Odaiko New England will perform live taiko drumming. There will also be a lion dance, kite making, a

tea ceremony, origami, mochi pounding and games.
Info: Visit www.bostonchildrensmuseum.org or call (617) 426-6500.

**The Basics of Sushi Making
DELRAY BEACH, FL
Feb. 23, 10 a.m.-Noon**
Morikami Museum and Japanese Garden
4000 Morikami Park Rd.
Cost: \$70

Japanese sushi chef Mitsutoshi Sekita will lead this workshop on the basics to sushi making. Advanced registration is required.
Info: Visit www.morikami.org or call (561) 495-0233.

>>NCWNP

**CCDC JACL Installation Luncheon
FRESNO, CA
Feb. 16, Noon-3 p.m.**
Pardini's Café
2257 W. Shaw Ave.
Cost: \$35/General admission
The JACL Central California District Council is holding a joint officer installation luncheon and Day of Remembrance. The social hour is from noon-1 p.m. The program and lunch will be held from 1-3 p.m. The event includes a screening of "Hidden Internment: The Art Shibayama Story," a film about Japanese Latin American World War II detainees.
Info: Visit www.fresnojacl.org.

**The 'Ai Love Japan' Earthquake and Tsunami Forum
SAN JOSE, CA
Feb. 22, 5-8 p.m.**
Japanese American Museum of

**San Jose
535 N. Fifth St.**
"Ai Love Japan Tohoku Update 2014" is an informational forum on the postearthquake and tsunami recovery efforts in Northeastern Japan. Sansei journalist Darrell Miho will show a video update. There will also be live Skype conversations with Tohoku residents.
Info: Call (408) 294-3138 or visit www.jamsj.org.

**Watsonville Taiko's 'Flowers of Sarasouju'
APTOS, CA
Feb. 15, 7:30 p.m. and Feb. 16, 2 p.m.**
Cabrillo College Crocker Theater
6500 Soquel Dr.
Cost: \$24/General admission; \$19/Seniors; \$16/Youth
Join Watsonville Taiko for its 22nd Anniversary Concert Flower of Sarasouju.
Info: Call (831) 479-6154 or visit www.cabrillo.edu.

>>PSW

**Kimono: Tradition, Pattern & Symbolism Exhibit
SANTA YNEZ, CA
Thru April**
Santa Ynez Valley Historical Museum
3596 Sagunto St.
Cost: \$4/General admission; Free/Children under 16
This exhibit features over 30 handmade kimonos from private collections. Also featured is the art of *shibori* and *yuzen*, Japanese fabric-dyeing techniques.
Info: Visit www.santaynezmuseum.org or call (805) 688-7889.

**The 33rd Asian American Expo
POMONA, CA
Jan. 18-19, 10 a.m.-7 p.m.**
Fairplex
1101 W. McKinley Ave.
Cost: \$9/General admission; \$7/Seniors and kids
The Asian American Expo will feature over 800 financial, insurance, medical, health, telecommunications, banking and food booths. The event also features live performances on six separate stages throughout the show.
Info: Visit www.asianamericanexpo.com.

**Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Training
LOS ANGELES, CA
Jan. 24, 25/Feb. 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28**
Center for the Pacific Asian Family Community Center
543 N. Fairfax Ave. #108
The Center for Pacific Asian Family is holding a 65-hour domestic violence and sexual assault training seminar. Participants can earn a state certified training in counseling survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Enrollment is limited. Applicants must submit an internship/volunteer application and be interviewed.
Info: Call Kimiko Kelly at (323) 653-4045, ext. 321, or email kimikok@cpaf.info.

**JANM Member Private Tours of Collections
LOS ANGELES, CA
Feb. 1**
Japanese American National Museum
100 N. Central Ave.

**Asian Pacific Lunar New Year
RIVERSIDE, CA
Jan. 25, 10 a.m.**
Mission Inn Avenue and Lemon Street
The Asian Pacific Cultural Assn. will kick off the festival with the Parade of Nations, followed by an opening ceremony, featuring taiko and dance performances. There will also be art displays, anime cosplay, martial arts demonstrations, food and a health expo. The event will close with a fireworks display.
Info: Visit <http://lunarfestriverside.com>.

Members of the JANM Upper Level President's and Chairman's Circle are invited to get a behind-the-scenes tour of the largest collection of Japanese American artifacts.
Info: Contact Charlien Church at church@janm.org or call (213) 830-5676.

>>MDC

**JACL Teacher Training Workshop
ALBUQUERQUE, NM
Jan. 30, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.**
New Mexico Educators Federal Credit Union Training Center
4100 Pan American Fwy N.E.
This teacher-training workshop covers the Japanese American incarceration during World War II. The workshop, sponsored by JACL, was made possible thanks to a NPS grant. A continental breakfast and lunch will be provided. Interested applicants must complete a registration form. The school district will reimburse teachers up to \$85 for the workshop.
Info: Contact Jennifer Yazawa at (505) 328-0104 or visit www.nmjacl.org.

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:
nalea@pacificcitizen.org
(800) 966-6157

TRIBUTE

GEORGE ICHIRO AZUMANO



George Ichiro Azumano, a stoic, dignified and dedicated community leader, passed away on Dec. 9, 2013, at the age of 95. George was the eldest child of Hatsutarō and Satsuki Azumano, who emigrated from Tokushima, Japan, to find new beginnings in Portland. George did well in school, graduating from Jefferson High School, attending Multnomah College where he played on the basketball team and earning his B.A. in business from the University of Oregon.

From an early age, George took on many responsibilities at the family's Fujii Grocery on North Russell and Williams because of his father's health issues. That became the overall theme of his life — one of responsibility for family, his church, civic duty, equality and justice for all.

After being forcibly interned at the Portland Assembly Center (now Expo Center) and in Minidoka, Idaho, during World War II, he married his college sweetheart, Ise Inuzuka. Together, they raised a family of four — Loen, Jim, Jane and Bette. Jane passed away in 1968 and Ise followed in 1974. In 1976, he married Nobuko "Nobi" Tsuboi, who had three children — Cliff, Robbie and Annie.

George was always busy, always serious. After all, he had grown up during the Depression and served a short time in the military before being discharged because of his race. He built a life for his family amid the post-war atmosphere in Portland, committed to being American and an upstanding and trustworthy example of his community.

He was successful in his businesses, Azumano Insurance and Azumano Travel, because he worked so hard at it. As his success grew, he became acquainted with Gov. Mark Hatfield, who asked him to be part of the first Oregon trade mission to Japan in 1962. Mayor Terry Shrunck sought him out to help form the Sapporo Sister City Assn. Gov. Victor Atiyeh appointed him to the Oregon Tourism Commission. He treated his employees like family, hosting them along with family and friends at annual Rose Festival parties.

His activities at Epworth Methodist Church led to him being appointed to various national Methodist boards and to the Board of Trustees at Willamette University. Committed to his Nikkei (Japanese American) heritage, he was on the first Board of Governors of the Japanese American National Museum. In 1982, the Japanese Government awarded him the Emperor's Medal of the 4th Order of the Rising Sun for his work improving U.S.-Japan relations. He faithfully served numerous other organizations, including the Japanese American Citizen's League, Oregon Nissei Veterans, Rotary International, Japan America Society of Oregon, the Portland Chamber of Commerce and the Oregon Nikkei Legacy Center.

Even with his devotion to duty, he enjoyed spending time with his expanded family. The children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews and all their children enjoyed seeing the informal, light side of him at family events through the years. He and Nobi traveled to every corner of the world from Antarctica to Alaska, before Nobi's death last year. He loved sports and golfed well into his 80s.

George remained true to himself until the end . . . always taking responsibility, always keeping his dignity. We will miss his quiet way of showing us all how much he loved us.

He is survived by Loen Dozono (Sho), Jim Azumano (Lois), Bette Orazio (Gary), Cliff Tsuboi, Annie Migaki (Gerry), 12 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren and 5 great-great-grandchildren. His sister Rae Yasui, daughters Jane and Robbie, and wives Ise and Nobi all predeceased him.

Burial services were held at First United Methodist Church on Dec. 28. Remembrances may be sent to Epworth United Methodist, 1333 S.E. 28th, Portland, OR 97214 or Oregon Nikkei Endowment, 121 N.W. 2nd, Portland, OR 97209.

TRIBUTE

LILY YURIKO HONDA



Age 86 of White Bear Lake, MN, passed away Dec. 11, 2013. Wife of the late Osamu "Sam" Honda. Mother of Patti (Gary) Nakai (IL), Mark Kenji (Andrea) Honda (MN) and the late Nancy Honda. Grandmother of six. Survived by siblings May Miye Sato, Roy and Judy Kaname (PA), Margaret Ishi Ogawa and Florence Sachi (Ed) Kurihara (CA). Lily was a longtime member of the Twin Cities JAACL and one of the founding

members of the Minnesota Nikkei Project, which brought the Issei and later the Nisei senior citizens together for social activities.

In Memoriam

Goshi, Leslie Teruo, 81, Montebello, CA; a Hawaii-born Sansei and U.S. Army veteran; he is survived by his wife; two daughters; two sisters; 4 gc.

Hatakeyama, Mary Harue, 86, West Covina, CA; Nov. 23; she is survived by her children, Kris (Akemi), Nancy (Raymond) Maekawa, and Joy (Calvert) Kitaura; 8 gc; 3 ggc.

Hirokawa, George Mutsuo, 85, La Palma, CA; Dec. 4; a Hawaii-born Nisei veteran; he is survived by his wife, Annie; son, Greg (Maria); brothers, Kura (Yoshiko), Sanji and Louis (Ann); sister, Vivian (Lincoln) Urabe; 3 gc.

Kamachi, Roland Yoshiharu, 91, Nov. 11; a veteran of WWII; he is survived by his wife, Grace Setsuko; children, Teresa (Michael) Furukawa, Denise (Geoffrey) Yamamoto, Patrick and Anna (Tom) Ito; brother, Don Kamachi; brothers-in-law, Motoe (Martha) and Shiro Teramoto; sister-in-law, Maxine Teramoto; 12 gc; 3 ggc.

Kuwahara, Mary Setsuko, 86, Vale, OR; Nov. 30; she was born to Masayuki and Hatsumi Ikeda; she had three sisters and three brothers; she was predeceased by her husband, Tak, and grandson, Kelly McNeill; Tak and Mary have seven children: Diane (Alan) Yamasaki, Scott, Keiki and Christopher; Shirley (Mike) McNeill, Laurie (Justin); Suzie (Dave) Uchida, Tom (Shannon) and Marcus; Ron; Glenn; Carrie (Jeff) Davis, Joe, Kristen, Jayson and Kimberly; and Janis (Kelly) Sutton, Aaron (Kristin) and

Jay; she was active in the local 4-H clubs, Friendly Neighbor's Club, Idaho-Oregon Buddhist Temple and Snake River JAACL.

Manchester, John Thomas, 69, Camarillo, CA; Dec. 4; he served in the U.S. Army; he is survived by his wife, Melinda Doi Manchester; sons, Coleman (Katie) and Christopher (Eliza); brother, Lawrence (Donna); he is also survived by his former wife, Kathryn Coleman Chandler, many nieces, nephews and other relatives; 4 gc.

Miyashiro, Stanley Tetsuo, 69, Nov. 25; he is survived by his wife, Sandra; children, Jason (Mari) and Tiffanie (Phil) Bourassa; siblings; Priscilla Inana and Roy (Mary) Miyashiro; 2 gc.

Morita, Elaine Yoshimi, 76, La Puente, CA; Dec. 15; former internee of Gila River; survived by husband, Bobby; children, Cindy (Gary) Ito, Christy (Sergio) Rodarte, Neal Takai, Stacy (Ramon) Bonilla, Tricia (Ricky) Moreno and Kere (Marcos Gaytan); sister of Richard (Mary) Suzuki; 14 gc; 4 ggc.

Murakami, Harry Haruyoshi, 93, Torrance, CA; Dec. 17; Harry is survived by his children, Ann (Lowell) Zweigle, Peggy, Glenn (Karen), Alan (Ilene) and Gail; sister, Alice Sakauye; 8 gc.

Nishida, Miriam Hanayo, 86, Torrance, CA; Nov. 25; she is survived by her daughters, Gail Nishida-Coppock, Kathleen Nishida and Sandra (Ron) Bates; brother, Paul (Bobi) Matsumoto;

sister-in-law, Shizue Okada; brothers-in-law, Shigeru (Rae) Nishida and Kenji (Martha) Nishida; 2 gc.

Shima, Mary Yoshiye, 97, Inglewood, CA; Nov. 27; she is predeceased by her husband, Shingo; survived by her children, Carolyn (Yosh) Hiraki, Michael (Ann) Shima, Kathryn Shima and Spencer (Rena) Shima; sister, Rose (Robert) Fukuhara; 5 gc; 3 ggc.

Shono, Masao 'Mas,' 84, Long Beach, CA; Dec. 15; a Terminal Island-born Nisei veteran; he is survived by his son, Eric (Dona) Shono; daughters, Cozette (Eugene Bilderback) Hashimoto; Lynette (Michael) Chiles and Nadine (John) Doran; brothers, Hiroo (Kozue), Tetsuo (Rosie), Tadaaki (Michi), Yoneo (Setsuko) and Junji Shono; 7 gc.

Wakasugi, George Kazumitsu, 85, Gardena, CA; Dec. 14; he was predeceased by his wife, Edna, and daughter, Lynne Shintaku; survived by his children, Claire (Thomas) Wong and Jill (Benedict) Ouano; son-in-law, Brian Shintaku; 6 gc; 2 ggc.

TRIBUTE

FRANK YONEKAZU TANAKA



Frank passed away peacefully at his home in San Francisco on Dec. 14, 2013, at age 92.

He was born in San Francisco on Jan. 28, 1921. After internment at Heart Mountain relocation camp during WWII, he moved to New York and earned a B.A. from NYU. He served in the Army MIS as an interpreter during the war trials in Japan. Following his military service, he returned to New York and earned an M.B.A. from NYU. While in New York, he met his future wife, Edith. They settled in San Francisco, where he founded his successful travel business, Tanaka Travel Service. He escorted numerous tour groups traveling around the world, catering to the Japanese American community. Upon retirement, he enjoyed gardening, painting and being a grandpa.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Edith, his daughters, Susan, (husband, Kurtis Chin), Carol, (husband Clifford Chow), Joan (husband Mitchell Lam) and his grandchildren, Ryan and Alex Chin, Erin and Allyson Chow and Kelsey and Nicholas Lam. He was predeceased by his son, Robert.

Frank requested that there be no service. Donations can be made in his memory to Kimochi Inc., 1715 Buchanan, San Francisco, CA 94115 or to your favorite charity.

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WWII Vet Roy Matsumoto Turns 100, Celebrates With a Screening of His Completed Film 'Honor and Sacrifice'

Creators of the Japanese American WWII documentary 'Honor and Sacrifice' are hoping to nationally broadcast the film on PBS later this year.

By Nalea J. Ko
Reporter

Retired Military Intelligence Service linguist and specialist Master Sgt. Roy H. Matsumoto is one of the most highly decorated Japanese American soldiers from World War II.

Included in his stockpile of military honors are the Congressional Gold Medal, five Bronze Stars, a Legion of Merit, a Burmese Medal of Freedom, a Burmese Green Beret, an Honorary Green Beret, two Distinguished Unit Citation ribbons, inductions into the U.S. Army Ranger Hall of Fame and MIS Hall of Fame and a Combat Infantryman Badge, just to name a few.

The WWII veteran earned another notable distinction last May: He turned 100 years old.

"Approximately 200 people showed up, including members of my family from around the country, the son of my cousin, Harry Omoto, from Los Angeles, and the son of a fellow Merrill's Marauders, who flew in that morning from Alaska!" said Matsumoto, who lives in Washington. "It was a wonderful surprise. We had taiko drummers, good food and a premiere showing of 'Honor & Sacrifice.'"

His birthday came after the documentary "Honor and Sacrifice: Nisei Patriots in the MIS," which chronicles Matsumoto's life, was completed. That was made possible thanks to donations from a 2012 Kickstarter campaign, which raised more than \$33,000 to extend what was a 17-minute film into a 28-minute-long documentary. In total, filmmakers raised \$75,000 to produce the film that documents stories Matsumoto was forced to keep secret for five decades.

Matsumoto was one of about 6,000 Japanese Americans who served in the MIS and were prohibited from discussing their service until the passage of the Freedom of Information Act in 1974.

MIS members were tasked with translating Japanese documents, interrogating prisoners of war and intercepting radio transmissions.

The choice to keep his combat stories secret was also personal for Matsumoto. "If I did [talk], it sounds like I am bragging, 'I did this and that,'" he said.

But, Matsumoto's daughter, Karen, was compelled to tell her father's life story once he starting talking about it almost 18 years ago.

"At first, I was driven by *oya koko* — respecting and making one's parents happy — and I also wanted to pay homage to the service to country of my father and the veterans of the MIS," said Karen, who co-produced the film. "I came to see my father's story as being more than one of individual heroism in wartime. It exemplified the experience — the sacrifice and dedication to country — of many Japanese Americans during the war."

Born in California, Matsumoto moved in 1921 with his brother, Takeshi, to Japan, where he lived and studied until 1930. He further honed his Japanese language skills upon returning to the U.S. and working at a grocery store, delivering orders to families that spoke different regional dialects.

Any future plans the young Matsumoto had, however, were

abruptly interrupted when the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor in 1941. Like some 120,000 persons of Japanese descent, Matsumoto was uprooted from his life and unjustly interned. He was sent to the Santa Anita detention facility and then later Jerome.

Despite being unjustly incarcerated, Matsumoto enlisted in the Army. Declared an "enemy alien" just for being Japanese, he was prohibited from serving until those restrictions were lifted. He was eventually recruited as a MIS linguist with the Merrill's Marauders, a special operations unit stationed in the South-East Asian theater.

"Fortunately, I had good knowledge of the Japanese language, including the dialects and idioms spoken by the enemy, which allowed me to learn about their activities and plans," Matsumoto said. "Others did not have the background to understand their Southern Japanese dialects. I think God helped me!"

Serving in Burma, India and China, Matsumoto is credited with saving his own battalion twice. He retired from the Army in 1963.

Once silent about his combat, Matsumoto's film has been screened in Hiroshima, Japan, and more than a dozen U.S. locations.

"I have been to more than a dozen showings, including film festivals and other special events where they showed the film," Matsumoto said.

A screening of the documentary is scheduled for Feb. 8 at the Seattle Asian American Film Festival and on Feb. 23 at the San Francisco Bay Area's Films of Remembrance.

The filmmakers are now hoping to find underwriters to broadcast "Honor and Sacrifice" nationally on PBS. "There's an opportunity to have a credit at the end of the broadcast," said the film's director, Lucy Ostrander, of Stourwater Pictures. "It's a valuable film for Americans to see, so we're working toward having a national PBS broadcast later this year."

Whether or not the filmmakers are able to see that dream to fruition, Karen says she hopes viewers of the film now have a deeper understanding of the historical contributions made by Japanese Americans.

"I hope we succeeded in making an 'anti-war' film, in the end, because war is such a terrible thing, dividing families, tearing whole nations apart and leaving lasting scars that are difficult to heal."

For more information about upcoming screenings of 'Honor and Sacrifice,' visit www.honordoc.com, or to contact the filmmakers about underwriting opportunities, email lucy@stourwater.com.



PHOTO: FUMI MATSUMOTO

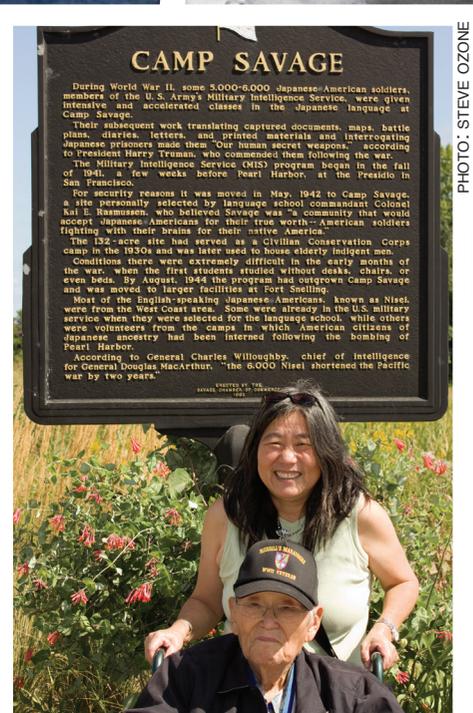


PHOTO: STEVE OZONE

Roy Matsumoto and one of his two daughters, Karen, visited last September the former site of the U.S. Army's Camp Savage in Minnesota.

A time to celebrate our past and look forward to the future.



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