



# PACIFIC CITIZEN



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# The Ongoing Fight Against Defamation

By Priscilla Ouchida  
JACL National Director

When JACL was founded in 1929, the community was eye-deep in anti-Asian racism. “Yellow peril” had a strong foothold in American culture, and British author Sax Rohmer had launched his Dr. Fu Manchu character, which continues to serve as a prototype for an evil criminal genius. Who would James Bond be without his Dr. No or Flash Gordon without his Ming the Merciless? To add insult to injury, the villains were often portrayed in “yellow face” by white actors.

These stereotypes continue to surface today — UCLA student Alexandra Wallace’s rant against the “hordes” of Asians in the library or a recent episode of CBS’ “How I Met Your Mother” in which the whole cast portrayed extreme Asian stereotypes. Why does JACL care?

Treating stereotypes as comedy is not “harmless.” When Jay Leno makes a joke denigrating Koreans as dog eaters, Asian children get bullied in school for being dog eaters. An incident surfaced a few days ago in the NFL about behavior in the Miami Dolphins’ locker room where professional football players used stereotype “comedy” to bully their Japanese American athletic trainer. When national media legitimizes stereotypes, there is a harmful trickle-down effect.

Unfortunately, in the past two years, anti-defamation has become a growth program in JACL. A new incident crosses my desk every other week. In October 2013, Jimmy Kimmel aired a skit on his late-night show in which a child promoted the killing of all Chinese — the show incited international protests. Kimmel was followed by the Kate Perry “Geisha” performance at the November 2013 American Music Awards. Just as we finished lauding a great episode of “Hawaii Five-0” on CBS that delved into the incarceration of Japanese Americans at the Honouliuli confinement site, we were back to have a discussion on “How I Met Your Mother” that landed on almost every known anti-Asian stereotype.

Underfunded, JACL’s program addresses school bullying, hate crimes and defamation. The program is one of many programs that are categorized as “Social Advocacy.” If we polled the membership, the program would probably not rise to the list of Top 10 — it should because it is a critical program that impacts the everyday lives of our children and our community. Stereotypes and defamation are the tinder for racism.

As JACL continues its work with media networks, the organization has an opportunity to stand up against stereotypes and defamation. While we have the TV networks’ ears, we should take our message to the next level and invest in the opportunity that has been presented to us. ■

*‘Stereotypes and defamation are the tinder for racism. As JACL continues its work with media networks, the organization has an opportunity to stand up against stereotypes and defamation.’*

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## NIKKEI VOICE

# FOOD IS THE FOUNDATION OF JA CULTURE

By Gil Asakawa

My friends — and my “friends” on social media — know that I’m a foodie. I love food: good food, fast food, ethnic food, cheap eats, greasy diner food, fine dining and, most of all, Japanese food. And I post photos of food online to prove how much I love it.

Especially for ethnic communities, cuisine is a cultural gateway and an archive for our shared identity, stored in taste buds. I love the range of Japanese food most of all because of the culture the cuisine encompasses, from the most artisan “Washoku” — the traditional style of Japanese food that was recently named by UNESCO to the “List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity” — to Japanese American street treats like Spam musubi.

I submit that the strongest link between Japanese and Japanese Americans is rice. We seem genetically imprinted with the knowledge of cooking rice (many of us still use the knuckle rule to measure how much water goes in the cooker) and, of course, we all eat rice. And not to be prejudiced, but we prefer white rice over brown, jasmine or other more exotic strains.

We complain (“monku”) if we’re served rice that doesn’t have the right clumpy texture so we can pick it up with chopsticks. None of this Uncle Ben’s crap. My mom used to make a



Spam musubi made for Sakura Matsuri by the ladies at the Denver Tri-State Buddhist Temple

face and call that stuff “porro-porro” rice because it wasn’t sticky and needed a fork — or gasp! a spoon — to eat it.

We love the crunchy, burned bits of rice at the bottom of the cooker, and we love using leftovers to make comfort-food fried rice with bacon, frozen vegetables, eggs, soy sauce and whatever else is lying around.

We eat rice with ketchup — my mom adds small bits of chicken and some veggies and calls it chicken rice. We mix a raw egg with soy sauce and drizzle it over hot rice. OK, maybe in today’s health-conscious era I’m the only one

I know who still does that once in a while, but then again, I also love natto over rice.

And rice isn’t the only gastronomic tie that binds Japanese Americans together.

JA culture is a fascinating cross-cultural mash-up.

We get some of these crazy ideas from the fertile minds of multiple ethnicities in Hawaii. Spam musubi, one such invention, combines the U.S. military’s canned meat with rice and nori seaweed to make an Americanized cousin to sushi. A favorite dish at many Hawaiian restaurants and some stateside JA diners is Loco Moco, which is a hamburger patty draped with a fried egg or two, served atop a mound of rice and covered with brown gravy.

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## FOR THE RECORD

# THE CURIOUS CASE AT NSA

By John Tateishi

“Curiouser and curiouser,” says Alice as things become topsy-turvy in Wonderland. And that pretty much sums up the case of Edward Snowden and the NSA.

At first, I wondered why Snowden was placed on America’s Most Wanted list (and at No. 1, no less) when it was the NSA, in my view, that had committed the greater transgression by its secret program of collecting phone and email/Internet records of American citizens, USA Patriot Act or no.

Shouldn’t it have been the NSA that was on the carpet for violating the privacy rights of American citizens? We may have gotten used to having our civil liberties chipped away during the Bush-Chaney terror-chasing years, but really, this breach of our private lives is too much. It’s more than merely troubling.

Granted, the nation’s intelligence services need some latitude to sniff out potential terrorists, but there’s always a cautionary tale to the boogeyman-out-there-somewhere mentality that was so pervasive in the Bush Administration.

Maybe it was hoping for too much that President Obama would use his exceptional intelligence to see beyond the let’s-get-’em attitude that comes from dark corners in the minds of some in Washington and on the fringes as well.

But as we began to learn just how damaging some of the information released by Snowden was, I for one began to rethink the whole sorry mess. Some files, it turns out, have seriously compromised U.S. intelligence, we’re told, and irreparably damaged our relationships with some of our allies. This I believe.

So, maybe Snowden deserves — as the government wants — to be hunted down like an animal wherever he is (Russia for now).

Or maybe, just maybe, Snowden is nothing more than an honest whistle-blower who thought he was doing the right thing (as any good citizen would and should do) by reporting and exposing what most of us would see as governmental misdeeds.

After all, the snoops at the NSA were snooping on our private lives by collecting the metadata of millions of American citizens.

Honestly, the vast majority of us have nothing worth snooping into, I’m sure, so why bother? Isn’t this casting an awfully wide net just to include even the littlest of fish? On the other hand, maybe those who have lust in their hearts may get a little nervous knowing that someone or something out there somewhere has those nasty emails and photos of you stored in a safely kept cyber vault, hidden from peeping eyes. Safe, that is, until some clever hacker (probably a 12 year old) finds his or her way in and penetrates the invincible firewalls surrounding all that metadata. That would be a good time for you to begin to worry. On the other hand, that may be years from now, and who knows, you may even want those photos of a younger you back so you can admire who you used to be!

So, who’s to blame, and who’s in the right? Not to worry, says four-star Army Gen. Keith Alexander, who is in charge of U.S. Cyber Command and responsible for the NSA program. In a “60 Minutes” interview on CBS, he assured the American public that this most secret of agencies does nothing more than collect the data and never actually listens to telephone conversations or reads emails. They look for patterns of phone numbers because they’ve figured out how terrorist cells work, explaining that call patterns are one of the best sources for detecting possible terrorist activities.

Really? Did he actually reveal how the NSA hunts for and finds terrorists, how it prevents (and has prevented) potential attacks? Any smart (or even dim-witted) terrorist learned from that interview to take certain measures to avoid detection. Hard to believe it’s that simple to find out how our most secret agency conducts business. Granted, Alexander may have been playing a game at it, which I’m inclined to think.

>> See NSA on page 12



# Japanese American Organizations Honor Adm. Harris B. Harris Jr. in Hawaii

By JACL National Staff

**HONOLULU** — Adm. Harry B. Harris Jr., commander of the U.S. Navy Pacific Fleet and the highest-ranking Japanese American in U.S. Naval history, was feted by Honolulu-based Japanese American organizations on Feb. 7. More than 200 attended the “E Como Mai” welcome event at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii to honor Adm. Harris, who assumed command of the Pacific Fleet in October 2013.

During the dinner, Adm. Harris shared his recollections of growing up in the American South of the 1960s with a Japanese mother who emphasized the need for Harris to embrace his Japanese roots. Adm. Harris credited JACL and its work in the 1950s and '60s with paving the way — culturally and politically — for modern Japanese American leaders, as well as for enabling his own rise in the military.

Event highlights included performances by Julie Ilikea Afong, the 2008 Miss Aloha Hula contestant in the Merrie Monarch Hula Festival, and a video presentation on the admiral's background and accomplishments. On behalf of the City of Honolulu, Councilwomen Ann Kobayashi and Carol Fukunaga presented Adm. Harris with a certificate to recognize his many accomplishments and officially welcomed him to the Islands. Hawaii News Now

anchor Lisa Kubota served as mistress of ceremonies.

In attendance were former Hawaii Gov. George Ariyoshi, Sen. Suzanne Chun-Oakland (D-Hawaii) and Speaker of the House in the Hawaii State Legislature Joseph Souki. Also in attendance were National JACL President David Lin and National board members Michelle Amano, Sheldon Arakaki, Carol Kawamoto, David Kawamoto, Chip Larouche and Craig Tomiyoshi.

The dinner was sponsored by National JACL, the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, Go For Broke National Education Center, 442nd Veterans Club, 100th Infantry Battalion World War II Veterans Club, Honolulu Chamber of Commerce, Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, National Veterans Network and the JACL Honolulu Chapter. The MIS Veterans Club, Japanese Women's Society Foundation and Honolulu Japanese Junior Chamber of Commerce were also represented.

The dinner concluded with a presentation by JACL National Director Priscilla Ouchida to Adm. Harris of an original Gytaku painting of an ulua fish created by local artist Naoki Hayashi.

The trip, which was not funded by JACL, provided an opportunity for board members to tour the Honouliuli incarceration camp,



PHOTO: JOHNNY PHAYAKOUN

(From left) Former Hawaii Gov. George Ariyoshi, JACL National Director Priscilla Ouchida and Adm. Harry B. Harris Jr. at the “E Komo Mai” welcome dinner in Harris' honor in Honolulu on Feb. 7.

which is under consideration for National Park status, and to meet with the Hawaii JACL Chapter. National board members visited Honouliuli with the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii, which discovered the site in 1998.

Honouliuli, located on property currently owned by Monsanto, is the largest out of the eight Japanese American incarceration sites that were located in Hawaii. More than 1,200 individuals — primarily members of

the Japanese American community as well as German Americans, Italian Americans and prisoners of war — were confined in Honouliuli between 1943 and '45. In 2009, Congress directed the National Park Service to conduct a special resource study of the Honouliuli Gulch and other associated sites within the Hawaii National Park System.

National JACL has been working with the National Park Service to move the project forward. ■

## Forty-Fifth Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage Set for April 26

**LOS ANGELES** — The 45th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage, sponsored by the Manzanar Committee, is scheduled for noon on Saturday, April 26, at the Manzanar National Historic Site.

Each year, hundreds of students, teachers, community members, clergy and former incarcerated attend the pilgrimage. Planning is under way for the afternoon event as well as for the Manzanar at Dusk program, which is scheduled to take place from 5-8 p.m. that same evening at Lone Pine High School.

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

Through a creative presentation, small group discussions and an open mic session, Manzanar at Dusk participants will have the opportunity to learn about the experiences of those incarcerated in the camps. Participants will also be able to interact with former incarcerated in attendance to hear their personal stories, share their own experiences and discuss



PHOTO: GANN MATSUDA/ MANZANAR COMMITTEE

The traditional Roll Call of the Camps during the 44th annual Manzanar Pilgrimage on April 27, 2013, at the Manzanar National Historic Site in California's Owens Valley.

the relevance of the concentration camp experience to present-day events and issues.

Further details about the Pilgrimage and the Manzanar at Dusk program will be announced at a later date.

Pilgrimage participants are advised to bring their own lunch, drinks and additional

snacks, as there are no facilities to purchase food at the Manzanar National Historic Site (restaurants and fast food outlets are located in Lone Pine and Independence, which are nearby). Water will be provided at the site.

The Manzanar Committee is dedicated to

educating and raising public awareness about the incarceration and violation of civil rights of persons of Japanese ancestry during World War II and to the continuing struggle of all peoples when Constitutional rights are in danger.

A nonprofit organization that has sponsored the annual Manzanar Pilgrimage since 1969, along with other educational programs, the Manzanar Committee has also played a key role in the establishment and continued development of the Manzanar National Historic Site.

The Manzanar National Historic Site is located on U.S. Hwy 395 in California's Owens Valley, between the towns of Lone Pine and Independence, approximately 230 miles north of Los Angeles.

Lone Pine High School is located at 538 S. Main St. (U.S. Hwy 395), in Lone Pine, nine miles south of the Manzanar National Historic Site, across the street from McDonald's.

**For more information on the 45th Annual Pilgrimage, e-mail [info@manzanarcommittee.org](mailto:info@manzanarcommittee.org), call (323) 662-5102 or check the committee's blog at <http://blog.manzanarcommittee.org>.**



# APAs in the News



## Miyako Schanely Becomes First Japanese American Woman Promoted to General Officer

**FORT DRUM, N.Y.** — U.S. Army Reserve Brig. Gen. Miyako Schanely became the first female Japanese American and the first female engineer in the U.S. Army Reserve and second in the Army to be promoted to general officer in a ceremony held on Jan. 4 in

New York.

Schanely, a resident of Black River, N.Y., joins Brig. Gen. Douglas R. Satterfield, Col. Todd Arnold and Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Flubacher as members of the 412th TEC command group. The 412th TEC is one of only two theater engineer commands in the Army.

Schanely is a graduate of the Engineer Officer Basic and Advanced Course, the Combined Arms and Services Staff School, the Army Command and General Staff College, the Army War College and Advanced Joint Professional Military Education.



## Jane Chu Nominated as Chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** — President Barack Obama intends to nominate Jane Chu as chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts.

Since 2006, Chu has been president and CEO of the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts in Kansas City, Mo., a \$326 million project financed at the height of the recession and finalized in 2011 utilizing private funds. If confirmed, Chu would fill a position that has been left vacant for more than a year.

“Jane’s lifelong passion for the arts and her background in philanthropy have made her a powerful advocate for artists and arts education in Kansas City,” said Obama. “She knows firsthand how art can open minds, transform lives and revitalize communities and believes deeply in the importance of the arts to our national culture. I’m proud to nominate her as chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts.”



## Japan’s Yuzuru Hanyu Wins an Olympic Gold Medal in Men’s Figure Skating

**SOCHI, RUSSIA** — Japan’s Yuzuru Hanyu, 19, made history on Feb. 14 when he finished first in Men’s Figure Skating at the Winter Games. Hanyu becomes Japan’s first-ever gold medalist in men’s figure skating and the first Asian man to win Olympic gold in that sport.

After skating a record-setting short program the previous evening, Hanyu stumbled on several jumps during his free skate. However, due to the mistakes of Canada’s Patrick Chan, who entered the games as the gold-medal favorite, Hanyu emerged victorious, largely helped by his nearly 4-point lead going into the final free skate.

Hanyu, who is coached by former Olympic silver medalist Brian Orser of Canada, is from Sendai, Japan, a town devastated by the 2011 tsunami and earthquake.

“This medal can’t help the recovery in the region,” he said. “I feel helpless here. I still feel like I’m not making a contribution. . . . As an Olympic gold medalist, I think this can help as a starting point of what perhaps I can do.”



## Kent Sasaki Reappointed to the California Building Standards Commission

**SACRAMENTO** — Kent Sasaki, 49, of Walnut Creek, Calif., was reappointed on Feb. 12 by Gov. Jerry Brown to the California Building Standards Commission, where he has served since 2012.

Sasaki, who earned a masters of engineering degree from the University of California, Berkeley, is unit manager and principal at Wiss Janey Elstner Associates, where he has held various positions since 1989. Sasaki also is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers Association of California.

This position requires Senate confirmation and there is no compensation. Sasaki is a Democrat.

## Joy Higa Appointed to State Teachers’ Retirement Board

**SACRAMENTO** — Manhattan Beach, Calif., resident Joy Higa, 46, has been appointed to the California State Teachers’ Retirement Board by Gov. Jerry Brown, the governor’s office announced Jan. 27.

The 12-member board administers CalSTRS (California State Teachers’ Retirement System). The board is responsible for setting the policies and rules for the system and ensures benefits are paid by the system in accordance with the law.

Higa has held various positions at UnitedHealth Group since 2006 and also served in multiple positions at the California State Controller’s Office from 2004-06.

This position requires Senate confirmation, and the compensation is \$100 per diem. Higa is a Democrat. ■

# DOR Resolution Passed by California Assembly

**SACRAMENTO** — ACR (Assembly Concurrent Resolution) 85, a bill officially declaring Feb. 19 as a Day of Remembrance in order to increase public awareness of Executive Order 9066, which forced nearly 120,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry from their homes and into federal detention camps throughout the West, was approved by a voice vote during an Assembly floor session on Feb. 18.

The bill was introduced by Assemblymembers Al Muratsuchi (D-Torrance) and Mariko Yamada (D-Davis), the only Japanese American members of the California Legislature.

Assemblymembers who are co-authors of the bill include Rob Bonta (D-Oakland), Ed Chau (D-Monterey Park), Paul Fong (D-San Jose), Richard Pan (D-Sacramento), Phil

Ting (D-San Francisco) and Das Williams (D-Santa Barbara). Sens. Ted Lieu (D-Torrance), Carol Liu (D-Glendale) and Leland Yee (D-San Francisco) also co-authored the bill. All are members of the API Legislative Caucus.

Executive Order 9066 was signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on Feb. 19, 1942. It immediately authorized the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II, where most spent the war behind barbed wire and under armed guard in remote areas — without due justice.

Following personal remarks by various assemblymembers about the Nikkei wartime experience, Muratsuchi thanked his colleagues for their support.

The resolution passed without debate. ■

# Go For Broke Launches Student Essay Contest

**T**he Go For Broke National Education Center is inviting high school and college students to share a meaningful Nisei soldier story for its upcoming essay contest.

Twenty winners will be chosen and given two tickets to Go For Broke’s 25th Anniversary Evening of Aloha Gala Dinner, which will be held in the fall at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel and Suites in Los Angeles. This year, a total of \$4,000 in cash prizes is also available.

“We are excited about expanding the student essay contest this year to include monetary prizes,” said Don Nose, president of the Go For Broke National Education Center. “It has proven to be an effective way to get a broad cross section of young people involved and passionate about the Japanese American WWII veteran story. We look forward with great anticipation to reading their submissions.”

To enter, applicants must submit a 250- to 500-word essay in response to one of three topics about the Nisei soldier experience. Topics include: 1) Describe a Nisei soldier experience or story, and explain why it is meaningful to you; 2) Explain how the Nisei Soldier experience is relevant to today’s generation; and 3) Discuss your ideas about how to preserve the legacy of the Nisei soldier.

Contest officials will notify all winners via email on July 31. To submit your entry by email, send a Microsoft Word or PDF document to [community@goforbroke.org](mailto:community@goforbroke.org) by Monday, June 30. Applicants must specify their school name, grade or year and phone number.

*For more information about the contest, visit [www.goforbroke.org](http://www.goforbroke.org).*



## Masaru Kent Kawai Appointed to Torrance Water Commission

**TORRANCE, CALIF.** — Masaru Kent Kawai, current president of the South Bay JACL Chapter, is one of seven individuals appointed Feb. 1 to the Torrance Water Commission. Kawai’s term expires in January 2018.

Kawai, who currently works as a physics and earth science teacher at Long Beach Polytechnic High School, has served as president of the South Bay chapter since 2006. Kawai also serves as head of the Nominations Committee for National JACL.

Kawai, received his bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering from California State University, Northridge. In 2009, Kawai

also became head instructor of the Gardena JCI Kendo Dojo.

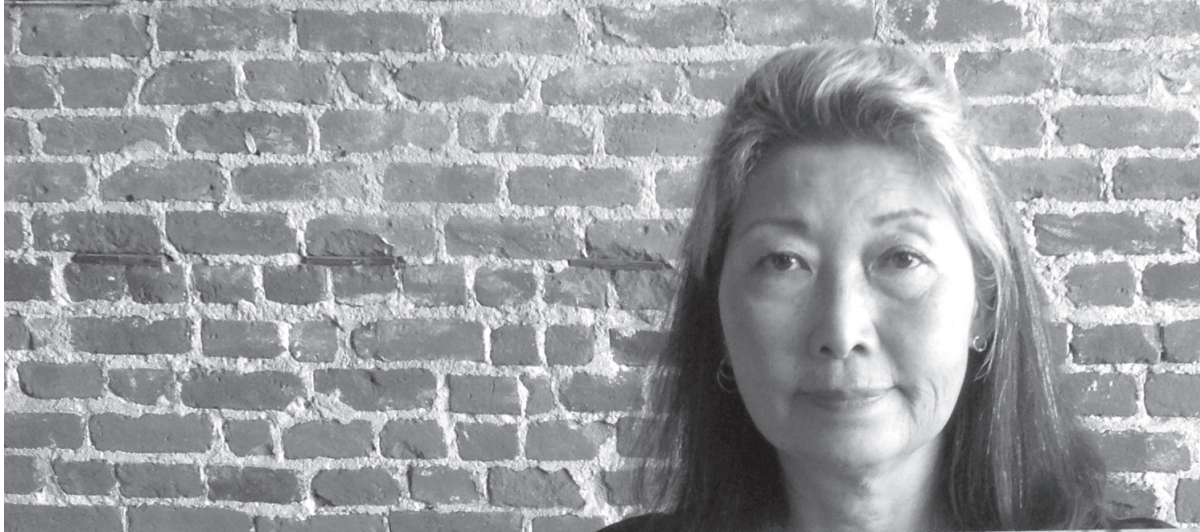
The objectives of the Water Commission are to make recommendations for assuring high-quality, noninterruptible water service at the lowest possible cost. To this end, a major focus of the commission centers around working with staff to implement major capital improvements, as provided for in the Water System Master Plan. In addition, the commission advises the City Council regarding water policy/legislative matters.

Kawai joins Chair Linden Nishinaga on the seven-member commission. Nishinaga will serve until Jan. 31, 2016. ■



# LITTLE TOKYO BRACES FOR THE DEMOLITION OF FORMER JAPANESE AMERICAN-OWNED ATOMIC CAFÉ

PHOTO: COURTESY TADASHI NAKAMURA



Metro will demolish the historic brick building on First and Alameda Streets in Little Tokyo, the former site of the Atomic Café, a post-WWII Japanese American-owned restaurant and punk mecca, and the Troy Café, the birthplace of Chicano rock band Quetzal.

*By Nalea J. Ko*  
*Reporter*

**B**efore she was “Atomic Nancy,” Nancy Sekizawa was a normal child who would nap in a booth while her parents served customers in their Little Tokyo restaurant, the Atomic Café.

“You could say that I was a J-town girl,” said Sekizawa of growing up in Los Angeles’ Japantown. “That’s all I really knew. I was going to school, and then I would go to Little Tokyo or Atomic Café to work with my parents.”

Minoru and Ito Matoba opened Atomic Café in 1946, shortly after World War II and the mass unjust incarceration that swept up Ito Matoba and some 120,000 people of Japanese descent.

After being displaced twice, the café made a final relocation in 1961 to a modest brick building with large plate-glass windows on First and Alameda Streets, the current location of Señor Fish.

Sekizawa, now 60, recalls how her family restaurant was one of the few in that era with a jukebox. In the daytime, Nisei and Little Tokyo businesspersons would gobble up Atomic Café noodles or other restaurant fare. Unknowingly grooming her to become Atomic Nancy, Sekizawa’s father would give his daughter, then 3 or 4 years old, stacks of discarded 45s from the jukebox.

After her father had a stroke in the mid-1970s, Sekizawa took over the café operations, jamming the jukebox with punk rock music. “My mom was really liberal. She really liked anything pretty much,” Sekizawa said. “She would react, ‘Oh, God! That sounds really good!’ And it would be something from, like, Sid Vicious.”

In the late 1970s and early ’80s, the Atomic Café became a mecca for punk and rock bands. The unlikely nightspot lured in patrons such as the Ramones, Sid Vicious, Devo, David Bowie, the Go-Gos and Blondie, to name a few. The Atomic Café heir



The Atomic Café, last located at First and Alameda Streets in Los Angeles’ Little Tokyo, closed shop on Thanksgiving Day in 1989.





PHOTOS: COURTESY NANCY SEKIZAWA

Nancy Sekizawa's parents, Minoru and Ito Matoba (pictured right), opened Atomic Café in 1946.

would comb the *L.A. Weekly* to see which bands were playing in the area to get an estimate of the expected late-night crowd.

But the Atomic Café's rented Seeburg jukebox played its last tune when the restaurant finally closed on Thanksgiving Day of 1989. "It was so sad when we had to close the doors, just knowing that my family struggled," Sekizawa said. "I didn't really want to fight it because I felt like it was all done, we had done it."

Sekizawa, who became a drug treatment counselor, plans to return to the former site of the Atomic Café on Feb. 22 for a fundraiser that aims to help preserve the cultural and musical history of the building.

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority will demolish the building in the late summer or early fall to build a 1.9-mile underground light-rail system that connects the Gold Line to the Seventh Street station. Thanks to Little Tokyo community leaders, who have been actively involved since the project's inception, the story of Atomic Café will be memorialized.

"We will continue to work with the community to ensure their concerns and ideas are addressed," said Metro spokesman Rick Jager. "In fact, we will be planning on some type of a graphic illustration at the station, noting the musical historical significance of the location in years' past. We may even use some of the old tile work on the existing building in that graphic illustration at the station."

The \$1.366 billion Metro Regional Connector project is slated to open in 2020. The current occupant, Señor Fish, was given 30 days to vacate the historic building.

"Under Metro policy, they are entitled to relocation assistance and payments," Jager said. "However, Señor Fish has not shared their relocation plans with Metro. There are a number of eligible payments that they could be entitled to receive, and they have 18 months after relocating to make a claim. However, they will need to be



PHOTO: NALEA J. KO

The historic building at Alameda and First Streets, now home to the Señor Fish restaurant, sits across from the Japanese American National Museum.

forthcoming with information in order for us to process a claim."

In addition to telling the story of Atomic Café, the history of the subsequent business, Troy Café, will also be commemorated. Owned by Sean Carillo and Bibbe Hansen (mother of Channing and musician Beck), Troy Café during the 1990s was the training ground for Chicano musicians.

"I did once," said Evelyn Yoshimura, Little Tokyo Service Center community organizing director, of visiting the Troy Café. "The reason I went is a friend called me up and said her son and his friends were going to perform at this place in Little Tokyo. We were really good friends, so I went, and it was packed. It's funny because the group that played ended up being Quezta!"

To help tell the history of the Atomic and Troy cafés, the LTSC commissioned filmmakers Akira Boch and Tadashi Nakamura to complete a short documentary. Boch, originally from Northern California, can draw on his firsthand experiences at Troy Café.

"When I moved down to L.A. in 1994 is when the Troy Café was going really strong, and I lived downtown about seven blocks away or so in a loft," Boch

said." The Troy Café was what I always — when I was younger — imagined a café should be like."

Nakamura says they are hoping to receive grant money to complete the film.

"I think mainly we wanted to show that there's all this history," he said. "The Troy Café and the Atomic Café inspired other artists and was just this hub of arts and culture. I think it's a really important story, and recently there has been media attention. But I think they're more attracted to the punk side of it. And we really want to make sure that the Little Tokyo community element, the fact that Atomic Café was established by a Nisei couple after the war — I think that's been lost in all the media attention."

Nakamura and Boch plan to film additional interviews and footage at the Feb.

22 fundraiser, when Atomic Nancy will return to the former site of her family business to spin records for a new generation of Little Tokyo patrons.

"You know a lot of people still call me Atomic Nancy, even my age people," Sekizawa said, breaking into a laugh. "But younger people don't even know who the hell I am."

A few days before her return to Atomic Café, Sekizawa told the *Pacific Citizen* that she was up until 2 a.m., practicing on her turntables.

"All of the things I remember, growing up as a little kid, whatever was in the jukebox at that time, whatever was really popular, I'll be playing all that," she said.

Her daughter, Zen, who also used to sleep in the Atomic Café booths as a child, will be at the event to cheer on Atomic Nancy.

"She grew up with the music. A lot of times I said, 'I'm sorry I exposed you to so much weirdness.' She says, 'Are you kidding, mom? That was the greatest part of my life.' I'm going, 'Oh wow! All right!'"

**For more information about the efforts to commemorate Atomic Café and Troy Café, visit [www.facebook.com/RememberAtomicTroy](http://www.facebook.com/RememberAtomicTroy).**



# HIGHLIGHTING MODERN LOVE IN 'WEDDING PALACE'

Director Christine Yoo brings her award-winning Korea-U.S. independent co-production to the big-screen and talks about her unique filming experience.

By Connie K. Ho  
Contributor

**A**lmost 35 percent of married couples meet online, according to a study by the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. With that statistic in mind, the romantic comedy "Wedding Palace" tackles the issue of modern love and technology in a comedic way. Starring Hye-Jung Kang (2003's "Oldboy") and Brian Tee (2006's "The Fast and the Furious: Tokyo Drift"), the Korea-U.S. independent co-production has gone on to garner awards on the 2013 film festival circuit, including the Golden Angel Award — Best Asian-American Film at the Chinese American Film Festival and the Director's Award at the Atlanta Korean Film Festival. Director Christine Yoo spoke recently with the *Pacific Citizen* on her experience making the film and what's next for "Wedding Palace."

**Pacific Citizen: What made you interested in telling this story?**

**Christine Yoo:** I was just inspired to do it really from my own family experience, I guess. I come from a very large, extended family on both my mother and my father's side. But particularly from my mom's side, everyone is really close, and Koreans are usually all up in your business; I wanted to do something that had that feeling.

**Pacific Citizen: The story is bicoast-**

**al, taking place in the United States and Korea. What was the experience like filming in Koreatown in California and Seoul, Korea?**

**Christine Yoo:** Originally in the U.S., I had wanted to shoot in Memphis because that's actually where I'm from, and the story I felt was always a Memphis story in a lot of ways. But just because of practicality, when you get down to logistics, we filmed in Los Angeles.

I live in Los Angeles with one of the largest Korean American populations. And the story is about a young Korean American man who works in the ad business, and he travels to Korea on business. I felt that that was just something a lot of people do these days, just in terms of being an international or global citizen of the world. I've traveled to Korea a lot, and I wanted to do something that was reflective of that experience.

**Pacific Citizen: Growing up in Memphis, have you lived in a lot of other cities in the U.S.?**

**Christine Yoo:** I was born in Buffalo, N.Y., actually, and then I did most of my growing up in Iowa City until sixth grade. Then my family moved to Memphis between sixth and seventh grade. I grew up in the South, and when I went to school, I went to a boarding school on the East Coast, just outside of Boston. When I originally was in college, my first couple of years I did in New



Director Christine Yoo's latest film was inspired by her own family experience.



I did in New York, and then I ended up getting the film bug and then transferred to USC. I've been fortunate to have a lot of experiences in different regions in the U.S.

**Pacific Citizen: And what has the response to the film been like from viewers?**

**Christine Yoo:** Overall, I would have to say it's been very positive. We've actually found that the film has a broader audience than just the Asian American audience. The film had its theatrical release this past fall, and we found that a lot of Hispanics and African-Americans and Caucasians responded to it. We've really found a broad audience base, and I think that people have just been responding to the comedy. And I think that everybody can kind of relate to the whole wacky, dysfunctional family thing.

**Pacific Citizen: We also saw that there's a contest happening now until March 14. Winners who submit photos of a viewing party as well as a short essay or short video featuring their thoughts of "Wedding Palace" are eligible to win the grand prize of a \$250 iTunes gift card, a Hite Jinor premium gift pack, "A Korean Kitchen" cookbook, a traditional cloth painting and a "Wedding Palace" DVD signed by you. The contest is sponsored by Hit Jinro, the Korea Tourism Organization, Mutual Publishing and GoGo Entertainment. Tell us a little more about the competition.**

**Christine Yoo:** It's taken this movie a long time — it hasn't been easy for us to do the film. So, I was really happy that the movie is now being widely seen. One of the ways



Director Christine Yoo (center) filmed "Wedding Palace" in South Korea and Los Angeles.



"Wedding Palace" is a romantic comedy that has garnered positive feedback from audiences of all cultures and backgrounds.

it's really very tough to get anything Asian American related off the ground. And if we don't support what we do, nobody is going to support us. I really encourage people to try to embrace the efforts that artists are putting out there. I was really fortunate that I had an opportunity to work with a lot of supertalented people, and I'm just really excited that I worked with some established actors but I also worked with some new faces that I hope people will come to discover. For me, that was one of the best parts of making the movie.

it alone, and this is a movie that I always wanted or I always visualized people watching it together. Hopefully, it'll encourage people to get together with friends and family to watch it.

**Pacific Citizen: Any other comments for your fans?**

**Christine Yoo:** I hope that people watch the film and, also especially for fellow Asian Americans, I really hope that they do continue to support the movie because

*"Wedding Palace" is now available On Demand, on DVD and online for viewing. Find Wedding Palace on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/weddingpalaceGO>) and Twitter (<https://twitter.com/weddingpalaceGO>) for updates. Visit the movie's official website at [www.WeddingPalaceMovie.com](http://www.WeddingPalaceMovie.com) for more information on the competition.*

## 2013 Spring Campaign Winner

**Congratulations to Ted and Michelle Namba of Arizona!**

They are the grand-prize winners of the P.C.'s 2013 Spring Campaign drawing for a five-day Carnival Cruise for two courtesy of the National JACL Credit Union.

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## A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

PHOTO: COURTESY OF JACCC



## CALENDAR

**JACCC's Hinamatsuri Festival  
LOS ANGELES, CA****March 1, 1-4 p.m.****Japanese American Cultural and  
Community Center****244 S. Pedro St.****Cost: \$20/General admission;  
\$10/JACCC members**

The spring season of the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center's "On the Veranda" Series opens with Hinamatsuri: Girl's Day. The festival will feature the Ogasawara-Ryu Tea School, crafts and the traditional doll exhibition.

**Info: Visit [www.jaccc.org](http://www.jaccc.org) or call  
Wakana Kimura at (213) 628-2725.**

## &gt;&gt;EDC

**Author Amy Tan Meet and Greet  
NEW YORK, NY****March 6, 6:30-8p.m.****Asia Society  
725 Park Ave.****Cost: \$15/General admission;  
\$10/Members; \$12/Seniors and  
students**

The Asia Society is hosting a meet-and-greet event with author Amy Tan, who will sign copies of her new book "The Valley of Amazement." Orville Schell of the Center on U.S.-China Relations will join the discussion to talk about reconstructing family stories and fiction writing.

**Info: Visit [www.asiasociety.org](http://www.asiasociety.org) or call (212) 288-6400.**

**The Anime Boston Convention  
BOSTON, MA****March 21-23****Hynes Convention Center and  
Sheraton Boston Hotel  
900 Boylston St. & 39 Dalton St.  
Cost: \$65/At-the-door registra-  
tion; \$55/Children 6-12**

Anime Boston is a three-day convention aimed to promote manga, pop culture and anime. The convention also includes cosplay, a swamp meet, formal ball, karaoke, live gaming and more.

**Info: Visit [www.animeboston.com](http://www.animeboston.com).**

**Asian American Legal Defense  
and Education Fund's****40th Anniversary  
NEW YORK, NY****March 25, 6 p.m.****Pier 60, Chelsea Piers  
62 N. Riv.****Cost: \$500/Individual ticket;****\$10,000-\$50,000 Table of 10**

AALDEF is celebrating its 40th anniversary of promoting civil rights for Asian Americans nationwide. Mari Matsua of the University of Hawaii at Manoa, comedian Aasif Mandvi and John G. Chou of the General Counsel of AmericSourceBergen Corp. will be honored with the 2014 Justice of Action Awards.

**Info: Visit [www.aaldelf.org](http://www.aaldelf.org) or call (212) 966-5932.**

## &gt;&gt;PNW

**Portland Taiko Benefit Banquet  
PORTLAND, OR****April 23, 7-9 p.m.****Wong's King Seafood Restaurant  
8733 S.E. Division St.****Cost: \$75/VIP tickets (Includes  
\$50 donation); \$60 (\$35  
donation)**

The Portland Taiko 20th anniversary benefit banquet tickets include tax-deductible donations to the group. There will be an auction, no-host bar, dinner and performance.

**Info: Visit [www.portlandtaiko.org](http://www.portlandtaiko.org) or call (503) 288-2456.**

**The 92nd Annual Banquet &  
Scholarship Fundraiser  
SEATTLE, WA****March 21, 6-9 p.m.****Seattle University, Campion Hall,  
Tower Ballroom****914 E. Jefferson St.  
Cost: \$90/Preregistration;  
\$50/Student**

The theme of the Seattle JACL's 92nd annual Banquet and Scholarship Fundraiser is "Legacy." The honorees include Aki Sogabe, Francisco Irigon and Marsha

Aizumi. The night includes a dessert dash, auction and live performances. The event benefits JACL community programs.

**Info: Visit [www.jaclseattle.org](http://www.jaclseattle.org) or call (805) 225-3169.**

## &gt;&gt;NCWNP

**Northern California Cherry  
Blossom Festival****SAN FRANCISCO, CA****April 12-13 and 19-20,  
10 a.m.-5 p.m.****Japantown (Post Street,  
between Laguna and Fillmore  
Streets)**

The Northern California Cherry Blossom Festival draws over 200,000 attendees every year. The festival includes food booths, ikebana, live performances, a Japanese tea ceremony and the Queen Program.

**Info: Visit [www.sfcherryblossom.org](http://www.sfcherryblossom.org) or call (415) 563-2313.**

**Nichi Bei Foundation's Author  
Reading Series of 'Voices From  
the Canefields'****SAN FRANCISCO, CA****March 2, 2-4p.m.****Japanese Cultural and  
Community Center of Northern  
California****1840 Sutter St.**

Franklin Odo, the founding director of the Smithsonian Institution's Asian Pacific American program, will talk about his new book "Voices From the Canefields: Folksongs From Japanese Immigrant Workers in Hawaii."

**Info: Visit [www.njahs.org](http://www.njahs.org) or call (415) 673-1099.**

**San Jose Girls Day Festival****SAN JOSE, CA****March 2, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.****Japanese American  
Museum of San Jose****535 N. Fifth St.****Cost: \$5/Nonmembers;  
\$3/Seniors and students;  
Free/Children and members**

The Japanese Doll Festival will feature traditional Hina Matsuri dolls, unique exhibits and arts and crafts.

**Info: Visit [www.jamsj.org](http://www.jamsj.org) or call (408) 294-3138.**

**The CAAM Fest 2014****SAN FRANCISCO, OAKLAND,  
BERKELEY****March 13-23****Cost: \$12/Advanced general  
admission; \$11/Students,  
seniors and disabled;  
\$10/CAAM members**

The 11-day CAAM Fest 2014, presented by the Center for Asian American Media, highlights artistic creations from around the world. The festival kicks off and culminates with director Ham Tran's film "How to Fight in Six Inch Heels."

**Info: Visit [www.jamsj.org](http://www.jamsj.org) or call (408) 294-3138.**

## &gt;&gt;PSW

**JANM Hosts Live Japanese  
Tattoo Demonstrations****LOS ANGELES, CA****March 8, 1-4:30 p.m.****Japanese American  
National Museum  
100 N. Central Ave.****Cost: \$9/General admission;  
\$5/Seniors and youth**

Artists from the exhibit "Perseverance: Japanese Tradition in Modern World" will

conduct live tattoos, including the tebori technique. The exhibit is by Kip Fulbeck and curated by Takahiro Kitamura.

**Info: Visit [www.janm.org](http://www.janm.org) or call (213) 625-0414.**

**Miso Tasting Workshop  
LOS ANGELES, CA****April 19, 1-3 p.m.****JACCC, South Gallery  
244 S. San Pedro St.****Cost: \$25/General admission;  
\$20/JACCC members**

Miyako Oriental Foods presents the "On the Veranda: Miso Tasting" workshop, where guests can taste a variety of miso dishes and test their cooking skills.

**Info: Visit [www.jaccc.org](http://www.jaccc.org) or call (213) 628-2725.**

**Judo Dojo Rummage Sale  
LOS ANGELES, CA****March 1, 8 a.m.-Noon****California Bank and Trust  
11345 Olympic Blvd.**

The Sawtelle Judo Dojo rummage sale will help raise money for students traveling to the Jr. National Judo Championships in Hawaii on July 4-6.

**Info: Email Lori Quon at [lori@rakkudesigns.com](mailto:lori@rakkudesigns.com) or call (310) 999-4588.**

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



# In Memoriam

**Chuman, Masato 'Mas,' 91,** Altadena, CA; Jan. 10; survived by wife, Matsuye "Matsy"; children, Lorraine (Steve Mikolajczyk) and Gerald (Irene); 2 gc.

**Bennett, Shigeko Kobayashi, 83,**



Carson, CA; Dec. 17; survived by sons, Joseph and Rusty; 9 gc; 11 ggc.

**Hashimoto, Lily Tsuyako, 93,** Torrance, CA; Jan. 11; survived by children, Calvin (Teresa) and Loryce (Daniel Muramoto); brother-in-law, John (May); 1 gc.

**Hokoda, Katsumi, 86,** Poway, CA; Dec. 24; predeceased by son, Wade; survived by wife, Mary; children, Mark and Audrey (Christopher) Marx; sister, Teruko Tamaru; sisters-in-law, Margaret and Yoshie Sakamoto; 2 gc.

**Ideishi-Greenberg, Alice Yaeko,**



**78,** Redlands, CA; Jan. 5; survived by children, Robert (Susan), Russell, Roger (Siobhan), Randall (Paula) and Susan England; siblings, Fred (Noriko) and Tadayoshi Nakagawa, Donna (Shigemi) Nakagiri and Jane (Hideo) Kawamura; sister-in-law, Kazuko Nakagawa; 10 gc; 6 ggc.

**Imada, Tadashi William, 98,** Los Angeles, CA; Jan. 26; survived by wife, Toshiye.

**Ishida, Rev. Junnosuke, 88,** Alhambra, CA; Dec. 31; survived by sons, Tadao, Fumio and Kohei (May); siblings in Peru and Japan; sisters-in-law, Shizuye Shiroishi and Kiyoe; brother-in-law, Yoshio (Aiko); 1 gc.

**Kai, Willy Shigeo, 87,** Huntington Beach, CA; Dec. 19; a WWII veteran; survived by wife, Kimiko; daughters, Stephanie (Tod)

Fukuzawa and Pamela Wesnitzer; sisters, Ayako Kurihara and Hideko Nishihara; 3 gc.

**Kikkawa, Kazuya Roy, 91,** Jan. 1; Los Angeles, CA; survived by sons, Brian (Marybeth), Sidney (Barbara) and Ronald (June); brothers, Hiro (Chiyo) and Robert (Alice); 3 gc.

**Masato, Arisumi, 85,** Torrance, CA; Dec. 1; survived by wife, Ethel; children, Lynne (Mark) Arakawa and Glenn (Sharon); siblings, Hiroshi, John, Mitsuo (Eleanor), Tadashi (Sandra) and Joe, Aiko (Fred) Yamashige and Tokie (Sachio) Taira; brothers-in-law and sister-in-law; 2 gc.

**Mayeda, James Hajime, 89,** Los



Angeles, CA; Dec. 26; a retired L.A. civil engineer and WWII veteran; survived by children, Charles (Sue), Ann (Mark) Schaefer, Amy (Reggie) Thibodeaux and Lynn Foxx; 7 gc.

**Mitani, Tsugiko, 93, Dec. 31;** survived by sons, Dr. Jerry M. (Gladys) and Dr. Dennis T. (Diana); sister, Elaine (Masao) Matsumoto; 2 gc; 1 gc.

**Nakatsuka, Mary Mariko, 89,** Culver City, CA; Dec. 26; survived by husband, Tom Tsutomu; sons, Tim (Patricia), Kirby (Susan), and Jordan (Kaz); step-granddaughters, Jenny (Eric) DiBella and Ellen (Scott) Jones; step-great-grandchildren, Joseph and Marco DiBella, Jacqueline and Jessica Jones; brother, Jim (Tomi) Eno; brother-in-law, Sam (Susie); sisters-in-law, Kimi Eno, Hanako Kawamoto, Ruby Cosby and Helen (John) DiMilia.

**Noda, Tony Yoshio, 71,** Los



Alamitos, CA; Dec. 29; a U.S. Army veteran; survived by wife, Harumi;

children, Christopher, Sally (Trever Peterson) and Renee (Steven) Maldonado; brother, Norman (Sonia); brother-in-law, Takefumi (Mariko) Kasai; aunt, Keiko (Hisashi) Ito; 3 gc.

**Oda, Tomiko, 89, Dec. 24;** predeceased by husband, Masaichi; survived by daughters, Marian (Dennis) Murphy and Marilyn Kishi; siblings, Sue (Yoichi) Izumi, Ruby Uemura and Aki (Yetsuko) Hanamoto.

**Okubo, Pamela Keiko, 66,** Gardena, CA; Dec. 31; survived by brother, Ron; aunt, Yoneko Kobata; uncle, Shozo (Aussie) Hiraizumi.

**Oshio, Mari, 81,** Torrance, CA; Dec. 6; survived by children, Nina (Kelvin Ishigo) and Perry; brother, Joe Ono; 3 gc.

**Otsuji, Matsune, 97,** Venice, CA; Jan. 2; Hilo, Hawaii-born Kibei; beloved mother and Obaachan; predeceased by husband, Shigeo; survived by 7 children; a niece, nephew and other relatives; 15 gc; 14 ggc.

**Sera, Roy Toshiyuki, 70,** Hacienda Heights, CA; Dec. 27; predeceased by parents and brothers, Hideo and Herbert Sera; survived by former wife, Monique; two sons, James Christian and Daniel Mikio; siblings, Margie Asako Yoneda and Sadao.

**Shibata, Ryoko, 82,** West Los Angeles, CA; Dec. 31; survived by daughters, Jane and Grace; son, Keith; and her four brothers, nephews, nieces and other relatives in Japan.

**Tamashiro, Robert P., 41,**



California; Dec. 26; survived by wife, Faith; children, Madison, Tatum and Cole; parents, Andrew and Dale; brother, David (Jodi); grandparents, Haruno Tamashiro and Betty Shimabukuro; parents-in-law, Dale and Joyce Hirayama; sister-in-law, Robyn (Geoffrey) McDonald.

**Tomita, Nagao John, 93,** Los Angeles, CA; Dec. 18; survived by wife, Misao; children, Stephen (Connie) and Cindy (Kenji) Oda;

## TRIBUTE

### MARY 'MOLLY' KITAJIMA



Mary "Molly" Kitajima passed away on the morning of Jan. 25, 2014, surrounded by her family, friends and loved ones. Molly was 89 years old.

Molly was born on Oct. 25, 1925, in the Surrey and Delta regions of British Columbia, Canada. Molly enjoyed poker games, golfing and traditional Japanese taiko drumming — which she performed well into her late senior years — with Heiwa and Onami Taiko.

Molly will be deeply missed by her sons, Robert Keith and Scott Kitajima; daughter, Naomi Kitajima; daughter-in-law, Karen Kitajima; son-in-law, Tom Langenstein; grandchildren, Kurt, Kris, Kameron and Jennifer Kitajima, Jonelyn and Jeffrey Langenstein, Sam Kimbrel, Valerie Vizona; and her faithful dog, Rimi.

Molly's service was held at Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church (SACBC) in Union City, Calif., on Saturday, Feb. 15 at 4 p.m. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Molly's name to SACBC's Umenoki Gardens Senior Home at 32965 Alvarado-Niles Road., Union City, Calif. 94587.

sisters, Tomiko and Aiko; sister-in-law, Dorothy; 3 gc.

**Toyota, Tatsuo, 85,** La Mirada,



CA; Jan. 1; a Hawaii-born U.S. Army veteran and Nisei; predeceased by wife, Atsuko; survived by children, Michele (Russell) Garwacki and Mark (Patrice); also survived by 4 siblings; 5 gc.

**Uyeda, Shiro, 89,** Los Angeles, CA; Dec. 31; survived by wife, Toni; daughter, Christine (Leroy) Demery; siblings, Yone Amimoto, Okuni Yamamoto, Sab Uyeda, Shikako Sogabe, Emi Kamiya and Akira Kikugawa; sisters-in-law, Catherine Uyeda, Emi Kato and Yoko Kikugawa.

**Uyemura, Chikashi 'Chick,' 93,** Gardena, CA; Dec. 14; predeceased by wife, Mariko, who passed in 1977, and his wife,

Taeko Hazel, who passed in 2005; survived by son, David (Cathy); daughter, Susan Vuolo; stepsons, Donald (Marian) Aoki, Alan (Misao) Aoki and Jackson (Judy) Aoki; sister, Shizuye Kawai; 8 gc.

**Yoshida, Sheryl Jeanne, 62,** Long Beach, CA; Jan. 14; predeceased by father, Toru Nakahara and sister, Debra Nakahara; survived by husband, Roy Hiroshi Yoshida; mother, Yasuko Nakahara; siblings, Karen Yoshikawa, Rick Nakahara and Glen Nakahara.

**Yoshimi, Isamu, 87,** Isleton, CA; Jan. 19; survived by wife, Yasuko; children, Arlene, Charlotte (John) Kim and Dennis (Lally); brother, Mitsuo Yoshimi; 2 gc.

## 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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# GWU Students Clean the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism



GWU students Alex Gross (left) and Adrienne Coulter pick up frozen blankets at the National JA Memorial. Behind them is the inscription of President Ronald Reagan's national apology. Behind the inscription is a pool of water with five rocks, each representing five generations of persons of Japanese ancestry.

## NSA >> continued from page 3

Whatever.

But the nagging fact remains that the NSA is allowed to probe secretly into our lives, whether by legal or judicial authority. Theoretically (because some things about government protections of our rights seem only theoretical nowadays), our rights to privacy are not being violated by this NSA program. Or so *they* tell us.

Assure me as they will, I'm uncomfortable with the thought that the government can carry out this metadata mining and get away with it with not so much as a whimper from the civil rights community. The ACLU filed a lawsuit challenging the legality of the NSA program (and I hope we had the wherewithal to join that suit as an *amicus*), but otherwise there is a resounding silence from the civil rights community.

Frankly, in this regard, I don't give a hoot what the other organizations have or haven't done about the NSA revelations, but I'm curious to know where the JACL stands on this matter. Is this intrusion on our protected right to privacy as Americans not a compelling civil rights concern? Is this not even worth a debate?

Or is this for us just not the sort of issue we concern ourselves with anymore? We, a founding member of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, and we who were once at the heart of the civil rights community?

"Curiouser and curiouser," says Alice.

*John Tateishi is a former JACL national director.*

## FOOD >> continued from page 3

To add to the cultural diversity, I make an addicting snack that coats Mexican corn chips with soy sauce and sugar, and people at parties call them "crack chips."

JA food culture doesn't even keep just to Japanese cuisine.

Chop Suey, a Chinese American invention, is etched on a historic sign in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo. It's an apt and accurate reflection of how Japanese Americans have dined at Chinese restaurants for more than a century as our community's "going out" food of choice. While other Americans think first of Chinese for takeout, we head to Chinese restaurants to eat in, for banquets and family get-togethers like after funerals.

So, chop suey and chow mein, not necessarily authentic Chinese food, but traditional in America, are part of our cultural DNA as much as inari sushi (which JAs call "footballs" and Japanese go, "Huh?").

Teriyaki chicken or beef are big parts of our community. What JA organization

or church hasn't cooked up hundreds of pounds of teriyaki chicken for a fundraiser? And our idea of sushi is more the "footballs" and futomaki, the fat rolls with six or seven ingredients, not the upscale sushi with expensive sashimi. Sure, we love to eat fancy sushi when we can afford it. But we cook and eat so much more than the stuff most people imagine when they think of Japanese food.

What are some of your favorite Japanese American family or community foods? Send me an email with your dishes of choice and your family stories about food: [gil@nikkeiview.com](mailto:gil@nikkeiview.com). Send me photos, because if you're like me, you can't help but shoot a picture before you eat!

*Gil Asakawa is a current member of the P.C. Editorial Board and former P.C. Board Chair. His blog is at [www.nikkeiview.com](http://www.nikkeiview.com), and he also is the Japanese expert for [Answers.com](http://Answers.com) at [www.japaneseanswers.com](http://www.japaneseanswers.com).*

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Following a JAVA Speakers Bureau engagement at George Washington University, students visited the National Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism on Jan. 18.

Following a briefing of the memorial by a docent from the Japanese American Veterans Assn., Alyssa Coulter and her sister, Adrienne, volunteered to organize a contingent of GWU students to clean the memorial as a community service.

The Coulter sisters, both freshmen whose hometown is San Francisco, along with Anna Yusov, a freshman from Seattle, and Alex Gross, a freshman from Rockville, Md., visited the memorial on Feb. 1, where they picked up trash and raked the leaves. Alyssa Coulter said the GWU team plans to clean the memorial on a regular basis.

In an email report to the JAVA Speakers Bureau, Alyssa Coulter said, "We enjoyed helping the community by being able to clean up the memorial. It looks great, and I am glad that people visiting will get to see it in a clean condition."

Professor Bonnie Morris, who invited the JAVA speakers to talk to her class at GWU, said that she is "grateful to share this important (Japanese American) history with her classes and is proud of her students' community spirit."

community spirit."

Various officials from Japanese American organizations also expressed their appreciation to the GWU students and Morris.

JAVA President Gerald Yamada told the GWU team that the Japanese American community appreciates "this considerable initiative. . . . I am glad you recognized the need and took action."

Said Dan Matthews, chairman of the board of the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation, to Morris: "Your leadership with your students is largely responsible for this wonderful moment," and he told the students that "Nisei patriotism . . . and acts of heroism inspire all Americans."

And Craig Uchida, chairman emeritus of NJAMF, said, "I know that families who were interned and veterans who served during World War II are grateful."

The NJAMF transferred ownership of the memorial to the federal government in 2002. The National Park Service has responsibility to maintain the memorial. The NPS cleans the memorial when requested, however due to many demands, the NPS does not clean the memorial on a regular schedule.

NJAMF and JACL have sponsored clean-up programs in the past. ■

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