

PACIFIC CITIZEN

MEDICAL MISSIONARY

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Spring Campaign Aids P.C.'s Future

As I begin my second year on the editorial board of the *Pacific Citizen*, I am reminded of my days as a journalist working at the *Rafu Shimpō*, the Japanese American daily newspaper in Los Angeles.

Truth be told, it was my first full-time job, and it took a while to get my head out of the fog of life

as a college student. I learned that you aren't likely to make deadline when you waltz into the office 30-45 minutes late. And though the newsroom was loosely structured and lacked clear direction, I realized you wouldn't be taken seriously by your supervisors and peers without taking a sincere approach to your job duties.

It was a process, but as time went by, something strange happened. I started to care. I buckled down, developed an earnestness for the written word and had one ingrained thought: Give subscribers a paper worth their time and money. (I used to take it as a personal insult whenever readers would say they subscribed to the *Rafu* only for the obituaries. And I heard it a number of times.)

For a good decade, I thought I did a credible job. The newspaper gave me wonderful opportunities as an editorial assistant, staff writer, sports editor and finally editor-in-chief of the English section. But a title, I told myself, meant nothing without owning up. So, I wrote hundreds of stories, and it was a joy writing all of them. As an editor, I gave direction to a talented and dedicated staff that chronicled important and, at times, historic news events in the Japanese and Asian American communities. I never played a musical instrument and have no artistic stroke, so having the capacity to write is my best form of self-expression. To this day, I am grateful for the experience.

It wasn't until I started working at a YMCA as a program director that I picked up another invaluable job skill: budget work. Being at the *Rafu* meant being part of a nice family owned operation. Folks did their jobs, did them well. If there was a budget, then no one knew of one except family stakeholders.

In my current position at the YMCA, I am responsible for creating and overseeing a budget each fiscal year. Program directors spend two to three weeks working on their budgets. When the new fiscal year starts, directors get a monthly income statement showing a breakdown of revenue and expenses for each program area (I have eight), how those actuals compare to the current budget and also how they measure against last year's totals.

Once the books close for the month and after reviewing monthly

outcomes, directors can make adjustments through a process called "forecasting." The catch is, you can only make changes in your forecast if it improves the bottom line. So, if you start a new program or if you won't need to spend next month's budgeted program supplies, then you can add that revenue or remove those expenses. But you can't add expenses without at least adding the same amount in revenue.

And, of course, being at a nonprofit means there is an indelible fundraising component to your work.

Which brings me to the *P.C.*'s annual Spring Campaign. The staff's fundraising efforts are a critical piece to the paper's operations. After advertising revenue, it is the single-most important source of income. The money goes to pay for a portion of staff salaries and all operating expenses, including rent, utilities, printing, postage, computer software and office supplies.

In a proposed media plan that is currently being reviewed by the national board, Executive Editor Allison Haramoto has outlined several key milestones, the most important of which is the ability to get the *P.C.* website back online. Besides giving readers access to content via the web, having a digital presence will make the donation process easier and add another potential revenue stream through online advertising. The website, for the most part, has been dormant. When it is relaunched, the staff will need money to update equipment and software.

That's why it's more important than ever to give to this year's Spring Campaign. The *P.C.* is motivated and ready to give its readers comprehensive news coverage — via print and the web.

"Our goal is to raise as much money as possible so that the *P.C.* will be able to give back to its loyal JACL members and subscribers. We're pushing harder than ever to be successful in our campaign this year because every dollar raised will go right back to our readers via a new and improved website, print edition and office structure," said Haramoto. "We're trying to get our brand back out into the marketplace, and we can if we have the resources to get there. We are grateful for every donation we receive because it puts us one step closer to realizing our goal of providing the best newspaper to our readers."

In the meantime, Haramoto and her staff are inspired by the continued support from JACL members and subscribers.

"Readers send us encouraging notes," she said. "They realize there are very few Asian newspapers anymore, so to hear that they support us and want us to continue is inspiring. We owe it to them to work hard to give them a product that they deserve."

John Saito Jr. is a Pacific Citizen Editorial Board Member and president of the West Los Angeles JACL chapter.

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NIKKEI VOICE

IS FAKE BELLY DANCING A FORM OF CULTURAL APPROPRIATION?

By Gil Asakawa

I read with interest a recent *Salon* commentary by novelist Randa Jarrar provocatively titled “Why I Can’t Stand White Belly Dancers.” She made the point that the popularity of “belly dancing” in the U.S. often has nothing to do with the rich cultural heritage that “Eastern Dance” has in the Middle East, where she grew up. She notes the origins of American belly dancing in 1890s “side-show sheikhs” with their harems of exotic dancers.

This history of Arabic cultural appropriation has similar historic parallels in the use of blackface minstrelsy and the introduction of Asian images in the American pop culture of the late 1800s and early 1900s. By today’s standards, Al Jolson singing “Mammy” or the ghastly fake-Japanese of Gilbert and Sullivan’s “The Mikado” seem ludicrous, but they were common ways that Asians and blacks were portrayed more than a century ago.

You’d think we’ve progressed – and we have, in many ways. But think back just a few months ago to the American Music Awards and Katy Perry’s ghastly faux-Orientalist performance that featured the proverbial everything-including-the-kitchen-sink array of props that signaled “Japan” and “the Orient” without actually being authentic Japanese or Asian. Just imitation Asian, like the imitation Middle Eastern exoticism of belly dancing.

In recent years, a similar discussion has gone on around the origins and current state



This group performed at a Denver festival and claimed it was paying homage to Chinese dragon dancing at the same time it was performing a Middle Eastern belly dance.

of yoga and how far Westerners have taken it from its Hindu spiritual roots to a mere healthy-living fad.

A couple of days after Jarrar’s opinion piece, a response essay came from a white attorney, Eugene Volokh, who blogs for the *Washington Post*.

His equally provocatively titled piece “What Would Salon Think of an Article Called, ‘Why I Can’t Stand Asian Musicians Who Play Beethoven?’” reminded me that people — even smart people — don’t get it. Although I don’t think he’s racist, Volokh is reducing the legitimate cultural concerns of people of color down to a black-or-white, all-or-nothing argument that makes people of color the bad guys for pointing out these obvious cultural appropriations.

Volokh’s argument, of course, is that if belly dancing by white people is bad, so must be Asians playing European classical music. It’s a specious point to hide behind, as if world-class Asian musicians who play

Beethoven or Bartok are practicing in simple cultural appropriation.

That’s a position he can afford to take because he’s been blessed all his life with what’s called “white privilege.”

>> See BELLY DANCING on page 16



FOR THE RECORD

WHY . . . AND WHAT FOR?

By John Tateishi

I began this column asking the question whether anyone else has noticed that the JACL is the favorite whipping boy of the JA community and often of Asian American academicians.

But I think the more relevant — and more interesting — question is, “Why?” What is it about the JACL that bugs so many people in the community? I can think of a number of specific things that occurred during my tenure running the redress campaign because of decisions I personally made and god knows there were plenty of times then. And I can also think of things that may have bugged the community when I was the national director.

But that isn’t what’s got me wondering. It’s the “Why” question.

I mean, why do the JACL’s critics keep pounding away at decisions made 60, 70 or even almost 80 years ago? What is it that makes the JACL’s critics feel compelled to keep writing about the JACL’s old sins? Over and over and over?

And for what purpose? What’s their objective? What do they hope to accomplish? Get at the truth, get to the proverbial bottom of things? What possible new information or insight can there possibly be after so many others have exposed and revealed so often in so many different ways?

And really, does anyone really care?

Maybe what they seek is to try to discredit the JACL and render it *persona non grata* among Asian Americans and those handful in mainstream America who might be interested?

What’s with all the muscle flexing that goes into bashing the organization? Does it make the JACL’s critics feel refreshed and whole? Does it fill a void in their lives to take their shots at the organization? Or give them a sense of power over the organization, maybe even give them a sense of superiority?

I sincerely hope not because that’s pretty sad.

It’s like they see evil lurking deep in the bowels of the organization and want yet again to expose the truths about the JACL. It’s like flogging a dead horse that, in their minds, just won’t die and go away.

If their purpose is to condemn the JACL for its past, that’s rather pointless because everyone already knows all about it. Besides, what the JACL is today is not what it was some 80 years ago. Besides, all the decision-makers and leaders from the days who seem to be the critics’ favorite targets are long gone, and you’d be mistaken to think that any of this current criticism of the JACL’s past is of such burning interest to us or to anyone else.

>> See WHY on page 16



FROM THE MIDWEST

THE MIAMI DOLPHINS, ROUGHING THE TRAINER

By Bill Yoshino
JACL Midwest Director

The case of Jonathan Martin, a former member of the Miami Dolphins football team, has been and continues to be an interesting sidebar for the National Football League. Martin left the football team on Oct. 28, 2013, and it was discovered that he had been the target of unrelenting bullying by three of his teammates: Richie Incognito, Mike Pouncey and John Jerry. This behavior was chronicled in a "Report to the National Football League Concerning Issues of Workplace Conduct of the Miami Dolphins" that was issued on Feb. 14.

An aspect of this case that has received far less attention in the media and elsewhere concerns the racist behavior of Incognito and Pouncey, who also mocked and vilified a Dolphin's assistant trainer who is Japanese. According to the report, Incognito and Pouncey directed several racial slurs at the assistant trainer using terms such as "Jap," "Chinaman" and "Chink." Incognito and Pouncey also called him a "dirty communist" and a "North Korean."

They addressed the assistant trainer in a mock Asian accent and made vulgar requests (omitted here), as well as made demands such as "give me some water you f--king chink." According to the report, this conduct took place frequently and happened in the presence of other Dolphin employees, including the assistant trainer's supervisor without anyone interceding to stop or correct

the behavior.

Incognito claimed he acted in humor and that he didn't perceive a power difference between himself and the assistant trainer. The slur-laced demands made by Incognito and Pouncey aren't exactly the vocabulary of humorists. They are the words used by those who choose to minimize and oppress their targets. It appears the assistant trainer's status, demeanor and physical characteristics made him a convenient target in a workplace environment that condoned bullying.

The report hit the mark when it said, in part, "We also find the treatment of the Assistant Trainer particularly troubling because he was not a fellow football player, but a subordinate, a member of the training staff. In our view, it is likely that the Assistant Trainer felt that he had no standing or ability to fight back, and feared the loss of his job if he protested and the players did not take kindly to his complaints . . ."

The lack of candor by the assistant trainer in cooperating with the report for fear of "losing the trust of the players" is not unusual. Victims often acquiesce and feign agreement with a bully in order to survive.

Many years ago, I called out Chicago Cubs broadcaster Harry Caray for his use of the J-word on air and for saying, "I don't feel slanty-eyed today, do you?" during a pregame interview with the Cubs' manager in referring to then-Los Angeles Dodger pitcher Hideo Nomo.

Interestingly, this incident became a headliner in the Chicago newspapers, causing Caray to respond.

In a letter to me, Caray explained that because the Cubs' clubhouse manager, who was Japanese American, accepted the slur as a "colloquialism," I was overreacting. In fact, he went on to say I had embarrassed the clubhouse manager. Seems as though Incognito had predecessors in concocting lame excuses and leveraging power differentials.

In a widely distributed quote, Dolphins head coach Joe Philbin recently said the team would have a better workplace environment. Based on the findings in the report, we would hope so.

Individuals should be sanctioned, workplace policies must be revised and clarified and training should be instituted so that employees such as the assistant trainer will never again feel the sting or threat of racial harassment. The cleansing of this mess continues.

The team is conducting an internal review, and it awaits recommendations from an independent advisory group. We will follow this with interest.

Editor's Note:

- On March 11, Martin was traded to the San Francisco 49ers, where he will be reunited with his former Stanford University Coach Jim Harbaugh, who is now head coach of the Niners. At press time, Incognito and Jerry remain unsigned.

Letter to the Editor

Fresno made headlines this month when it earned the dishonor of ranking near the top of a national survey on bullying against Sikh American schoolchildren. The "Go Home, Terrorist" report, released on March 13 by the Sikh Coalition, highlighted results of bullying forums conducted by independent researchers in Boston, Fresno, Indianapolis and Seattle in 2012 and '13. Fresno had the second-highest percentage of Sikh American students saying they had been bullied.

In response to the alarming report, which was summarized in an article published in the Fresno Bee, the Central California District Council JACL has submitted a Letter to the Editor to the P.C. and the Fresno Bee. Recalling the parallel experiences of Japanese Americans before, during and after their own World War II incarceration, the letter urges an end to the bullying and calls upon Fresno community members to support their Sikh American citizens. At press time, the Fresno Bee has yet to publish the letter, which is reprinted below.

For a link to the Fresno Bee article and the "Go Home, Terrorist" report, go to <http://www.fresnobee.com/2014/03/13/3818923/sikh-community-alarmed-by-bullying.html>.

Dear Editor,

Here we go again. Fresno earns yet another dubious distinction as detailed in the March 13 report "Fresno County Sikh Students Say They're Bullied at School." History unfortunately repeats itself and cries out for continued vigilance defending our civil liberties.

Japanese Americans incarcerated at government concentration camps during World War II experienced the same bullying suffered by Sikh citizens in today's post-9/11 environment. Stripped of their human rights because they looked like the enemy, Japanese Americans continued to endure bullying and prejudice many years after World War II ended. Wars will forever change societies; the challenge in such times is to protect national security without abandoning the

civil liberties guaranteed to all American citizens.

Founded in 1929, the Japanese American Citizens League is the oldest and largest Asian American civil rights organization in the U.S. The JACL today monitors and responds to issues that enhance or threaten the civil and human rights of all Americans. Bullying is one of those issues.

On behalf of the Central California District Council JACL, we stand behind our Sikh community and urge all citizens to do the same. Fear and hatred should be the exception, and not the standard, by which we live.

Respectfully,
CCDC Governor Robert Shintaku

Manzanar Visitor Center Set to Resume Summer Hours

Beginning Tuesday, April 1, the Manzanar National Historic Site Visitor Center will resume summer hours of 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. daily through Oct. 31.

"We are pleased to be able to extend our hours," Acting Superintendent Colin Smith said. "With a return to presequestration funding levels for 2014, we will be able to serve more visitors by staying open an hour later each day."

The Visitor Center features 8,000 square feet of exhibits and an award-winning introductory film, as well as a bookstore operated by the nonprofit Manzanar History Assn. A restored World War II mess hall nearby offers exhibits on the logistics and politics of food in Manzanar.

Exhibits are currently being developed for two reconstructed barracks.

A self-guided auto tour is available during daylight hours. Visitors may also explore the site on foot.

Information on group tour reservations is available online at www.nps.gov/manz/planyourvisit/reservations.htm or by calling (760) 878-2194, ext. 3333.

USS Ronald Reagan Hosts Japan Tsunami Memorial



PHOTOS: CAROL KAWAMOTO

SAN DIEGO, CALIF. — Jun Niimi, consul general of Japan in Los Angeles, expressed his thanks and appreciation on March 11 to the U.S. Navy onboard the USS Ronald Reagan for its assistance following the 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Japan. Following the 2011 disaster, the USS Ronald Reagan was deployed to Japan to assist and distribute aid to thousands of victims and survivors. Also on hand at the memorial ceremony were (right photo) JACL's David Kawamoto (second from left) and (from left) San Diego Buddhist Temple's Roy Okuhara, Glen Negoro and Tim Kajita.

Eileen Tamura Set to Keynote 45th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage

LOS ANGELES — Eileen Tamura, author of the 2013 book "In Defense of Justice: Joseph Kurihara and the Japanese American Struggle for Equality," will be the keynote speaker at the 45th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage, sponsored by the Manzanar Committee, scheduled for Saturday, April 26, at the Manzanar National Historic Site.

Each year, more than 1,000 people from diverse backgrounds, including students, teachers, community members, clergy and former incarcerated, attend the Pilgrimage, which commemorates the unjust imprisonment of more than 110,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry in 10 American concentration camps located in the United States during World War II. Manzanar was the first of these camps to be established.

In her book, Tamura, a professor and chair of the Department of Educational Foundations at the University of Hawaii at Manoa's College of Education in Honolulu, reveals a history of Japanese Americans during the first half of the 20th century as lived by Joseph Yoshisuke Kurihara, a dissident who was one of the central figures in the Dec. 5-6, 1942, Manzanar Riot and eventually ended up at the Tule Lake Segregation Center.

"We are so pleased to have Eileen Tamura as our keynote speaker," said Manzanar Committee Co-Chair Bruce Embrey. "Her contributions to our understanding of what our families and community endured during World War II are unique and powerful."

Continued Embrey: "Examining one of the most outspoken and least understood inmates, Joe Kurihara, professor Tamura illuminates the painful and complicated nature of the forced removal. By telling the personal story of Joe Kurihara, she sheds new light on the heroic resistance within Manzanar, particularly the events surrounding the Manzanar Riot of December 1942. She offers new understanding of the painful and divisive issue of loyalty and the struggles of those who chose to renounce their U.S. citizenship. We're proud and excited to have professor Tamura as our keynote speaker."

With the theme "A Memory, A Monument, A Movement," this year's Pilgrimage will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as well as the 10th anniversary of the opening of the Visitors Center at the Manzanar



Author and professor Eileen Tamura will give the keynote speech at the 45th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage, which is set to take place April 26.

National Historic Site.

The afternoon program, held at the Manzanar cemetery site, will begin with a performance by UCLA Kyodo Taiko, the first collegiate taiko group in North America. It will conclude with the traditional interfaith service and Ondo dancing.

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

Manzanar at Dusk is co-sponsored by the Nikkei Student Unions at Cal State Fullerton, Cal State Long Beach, Cal Poly 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 to hear their personal stories, share their own experiences and discuss the relevance of the concentration camp experience to present-day events and issues.

Both the Manzanar Pilgrimage and the Manzanar at Dusk program will also deal with the current fight to protect Manzanar's viewshed from being marred forever by large-scale renewable energy development by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's proposed Southern Owens Valley Solar Ranch and Inyo County's proposal to open up even more land near Manzanar to such development.

The Manzanar Committee has also announced that bus transportation to the Pilgrimage from Downtown Los Angeles is available.

The bus will depart at 7 a.m., arriving at the Pilgrimage at approximately 11:30 a.m., and will also take participants to the Interpretive Center at the Manzanar National Historic Site following the afternoon program. The bus should arrive back in Los Angeles at approximately 8:30 p.m.

Reservations will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis. For further information or to make a reservation, call (323) 662-5102 or send an email to 45thpilgrimage@manzanarcommittee.org. The nonrefundable fare is \$40 per seat, \$30 for students and seniors. Complimentary fares are available for those who were incarcerated at any of the former American concentration camps or other confinement sites during World War II.

Anyone wishing to attend the Manzanar at Dusk program that evening should make other transportation arrangements.

The Gardena Valley Japanese Cultural Institute is also offering bus transportation to the Manzanar Pilgrimage from Gardena, Calif. The bus is set to leave GVJCI at 6:30 a.m. and will return by 8:30 p.m.

Registration information for the GVJCI bus is available on its website at <http://www.jci-gardena.org>.

Pilgrimage participants are advised to bring their own lunch, drinks and snacks, as there are no facilities to purchase food at the Manzanar National Historic Site (restaurants and fast-food outlets are located in Lone Pine and Independence). Water will be provided at the site.

Both the daytime program and the Manzanar at Dusk event are free and open to the public.

For more information, call (323) 662-5102, send an email to 45thpilgrimage@manzanarcommittee.org or check the Manzanar Committee's official blog at <http://blog.manzanarcommittee.org>.



Donna Ong-Kimura Elected New President of JCCCNC

SAN FRANCISCO — The Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California announced on March 17 the appointment of Donna Ong-Kimura as the organization's next president.

Ong-Kimura, who has served as a member of the JCCCNC board of directors since 2006, succeeds Donna Kotake at the nonprofit community center, which is based in San Francisco.

A native of San Francisco, Ong-Kimura has worked in the health care arena for the past 28 years and currently serves as a full-time software development senior adviser in the healthcare division at Dell.

"I did not grow up in the Japantown community. When I was young, I was part of my home neighborhood community. With the pace of life today and the rarity of kids attending neighborhood schools, it is hard to find close-knit neighborhood communities anymore. This makes the Japantown community so much more important to my family," said Ong-Kimura.

Ong-Kimura becomes the first ethnically non-Japanese president and the first Chinese American president of the JCCCNC. Although her husband has an established business in Japantown, she was not familiar with the JCCCNC until her youngest daughter participated in the Shinzen Goodwill Exchange Program in 2005. Ong-Kimura eventually moved on to co-chairing the program in following years.

Since then, she has supported the development of the Takahashi Youth Ambassador Fellowship Program, an exchange program between the U.S. and Japan to provide opportunities for youth to gain leadership and civic development skills.

Today, Ong-Kimura continues to

participate in many of the classes and workshops the JCCCNC has to offer.

"It has always been very important to me to preserve the Japanese American culture and heritage so that my children, who are half-Chinese and half-Japanese, would continue to learn about the experiences of their ancestors. I believe that my children have learned by example and give back to their communities in any way they can. They have an appreciation for the Japanese community and continue to participate."

In addition to her longtime involvement with the JCCCNC, Ong-Kimura has served as co-chair of the Kimochi golf tournament for more than 10 years, is past president and current treasurer of the San Francisco Nikkei Lions Club and is also the past president of the Buddhist Church of San Francisco Youth Athletic League.

"We are extremely privileged to have Donna as our new president. Along with her leadership skills, she also brings to her new role a unique and broad perspective as a parent of a child who participated in our programs, a program participant herself, a volunteer and a longtime board member," said Paul Osaki, executive director of the JCCCNC.

With her compassion and care, along with her extensive experience and dedication to the community, Ong-Kimura looks to embrace the legacy of the JCCCNC by building a strong foundation and future for the organization and community at large.

"As our first grandchild was just born, it makes it more important for us to preserve our community so that our grandchildren will be in touch with their heritage and will always have a sense of community," said Ong-Kimura. ■

UPDATE: Man Arrested in Anne Frank Book Vandalism in Tokyo

TOKYO — Japanese police have arrested a man for allegedly tearing pages out of books related to Anne Frank at a Tokyo library. More than 300 books related to Frank, including "The Diary of a Young Girl," have been found vandalized recently at libraries across Japan's capital.

Tokyo police say the man, who was arrested March 14, sneaked into a library and ripped pages from 23 Frank-related books on Feb. 5. Some of the ripped pages were found in a plastic bag at an unidentified house in Tokyo.

Police say the suspect, who is 36 years old, admitted to ripping the pages out of the books. They say his motive is unclear.

Frank wrote her diary during the two years her family hid from the Nazis during World War II. She was 15 when she died in a concentration camp in 1945. Her father survived and published the diary, which has become the most widely read document to emerge from the Holocaust.

— Associated Press

APAs in the News



TOKYO — Astronaut Koichi Wakata became the first Japanese to serve as commander of the International Space Station on March 9, the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency announced.

In a change of command ceremony, which was broadcast live on the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration website, commander Oleg Kotov of Russia passed on the role to Wakata, 50.

Wakata will serve as commander of the ISS for two months before he returns to Earth on May 14.

Wakata departed on his current mission on Nov. 7 aboard a Russian Soyuz rocket from Kazakhstan. It is his fourth trip to space and his second extended stay on the ISS.



Justice Department Nominee Debo Adegbile Is Denied Senate Confirmation

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Senate on March 5 failed to confirm President Obama's Justice Department nominee, Debo Adegbile, to head its Civil Rights Division.

By a vote of 52-47, Adegbile becomes the highest-profile presidential nominee whose confirmation has been rejected by the Senate.

Adegbile, a former litigation director of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, came under heavy fire for his voluntary advocacy of convicted cop killer Mumia Abu-Jamal, who murdered Philadelphia police officer Daniel Faulkner in 1981. Major law enforcement organizations were also opposed to the nomination.

The White House expressed disappointment with the Senate's vote; JACL National had also submitted a letter of support for Adegbile's nomination on the basis of his longstanding commitment to civil rights and voting rights for American minorities.

President Obama is now tasked with nominating another candidate to assume the position.



Vince Chhabria Confirmed to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Vince Chhabria becomes the first person of South Asian descent to serve as an Article III judge in California after he was confirmed by a 58-41 vote by the U.S. Senate on March 7.

According to the National Asian Pacific American Bar Assn., Chhabria's confirmation "increases the number of active Asian Pacific American Article III judges to 22 nationwide: four federal appellate court judges and 18 federal district court judges."

Since 2005, Chhabria has served as a deputy city attorney in the San Francisco City Attorney's Office, where he is the co-chief of appellate litigation. Prior to his current duties, he also spent several years working in the private sector in San Francisco.

Three more Asian Pacific American Article III judicial nominees are pending in the U.S. Senate: Manish Shah, nominee for the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois; Indira Talwani, nominee for the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts; and Theodore Chung, nominee for the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland.



Hawaii's Erika Moritsugu and Nani Coloretti Nominated to Top U.S. Housing Posts

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The White House has announced its intent to nominate Erika Moritsugu (*at top, left*) as the next Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations at the Department of Housing and Urban Development and Nani Coloretti (*at bottom, left*) for the position of HUD's Deputy Secretary, where she will be second in command, overseeing day-to-day operations and 9,000 employees.

Moritsugu is the deputy assistant director for legislative affairs at the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection. Prior to that, she was the deputy legislative director for U.S. Sen. Daniel Akaka from 2010-12. She also is a former Honolulu deputy city prosecutor.

She received a B.A. from the College of William and Mary and a J.D. from George Washington University.

Coloretti is currently the assistant secretary for management at the U.S. Department of Treasury, where she has worked in various positions since 2009. She also served as a budget analyst for the Department of Public Safety in Hawaii from 1991-92.

She is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, where she earned a B.A. in Economics and Communications. Coloretti also received an M.P.P. from the Goldman School of Public Policy at the University of California, Berkeley.

Both women await Senate confirmation. ■

Sustainable Cultural EcoDistrict Plan Unveiled for L.A.'s Little Tokyo

LOS ANGELES — Little Tokyo Service Center and the Little Tokyo Community Council released a groundbreaking community vision on March 10 for a sustainable Cultural EcoDistrict. As Little Tokyo celebrates its 130th anniversary this year, the community is demonstrating a plan to keep Little Tokyo thriving for the next 100 years.

Over the past 18 months, Little Tokyo has been developing a vision for neighborhood sustainability that respects and enhances the neighborhood's history and culture.

The vision is based on community values for resource conservation, "mottainai," and consideration of children and future generations, "kodomono tameni." It is also focused in the short term on transit-oriented development around the new Little Tokyo/Arts District Regional Connector station. In the long term, the vision identifies the opportunity to create a Cultural EcoDistrict to support the entire neighborhood.

In addition to affordable housing, cultural facilities, creative office space and pedestrian-oriented retail, the vision proposes an ambitious set of district-scaled green infrastructure — district heating and cooling, stormwater collection planters, "living machine" graywater filtration landscaping and a minisolar electric grid. The community vision was supported by the National Resources Defense Council, Local Initiatives Support Corporation and Enterprise Community Partners.

"We look forward to working with public- and private-sector partners in order to realize this vision," said Craig Ishii, chair of the Little Tokyo Community Council. "Our concept vision can be a model for the City of Los Angeles and the entire country for community-based sustainability."

The Little Tokyo initiative is one of 13 programs selected nationwide to participate in Partners in Progress, which is funded by the Citi Foundation and the Low Income Investment Fund.

Through PIP, LTSC and the other grantees will be able to initiate or deepen development or expansion of local stakeholder networks to improve places — the physical environment of a community including housing, transit and safety — and create opportunities for people — such as jobs, child development, education and health.

The visioning document is available online at <http://littletokyo.org/>.



PHOTOS: PACIFIC CITIZEN

Pearl Harbor Relic Headed to Museum After Auction

HONOLULU — A relic from a Japanese fighter jet used in the attack on Pearl Harbor is headed to a museum after selling for more than \$12,000 in an eBay auction.

The *Honolulu Star-Advertiser* reported March 14 that a Honolulu attorney bought the item and donated it to the Pacific National Monument.

The relic is a serial number from a Zero fighter that crashed during the attack. The number was stenciled on the plane's fuselage.

Chief Historian Daniel Martinez of the World War II Valor at the Pacific National Monument says he was surprised by the donation pledge. He has said similar items are rarely donated if they are bought privately.

"I'm just so stunned and speechless, but extremely happy that someone has done something so generous on behalf of his country to have that preserved as part of

our national memory," Martinez said.

Damon Senaha said he bought the item in tribute to his Japanese American family, including his grandfather, a Japanese immigrant and plantation worker who witnessed the 1941 attack.

His grandfather urged his sons to join the U.S. military after the attack, Senaha said.

"He did say, 'This is your country. This is what you have to do because the rest of us are shamed,'" Senaha said.

The five sons went on to serve, including one with the famous 442nd Regimental Combat Team, a unit of mostly Japanese Americans in World War II.

The Zero relic is expected to go on display at the USS Arizona Memorial museum.

The piece was consigned to a pawnshop in California, which put it up for sale on the popular auction site.

— Associated Press

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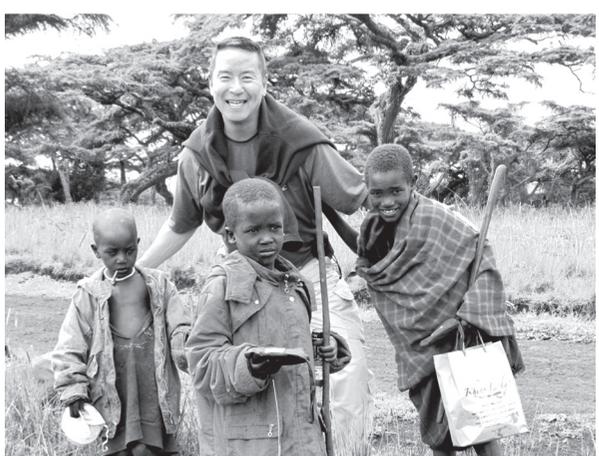
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Out of Africa With Rod Kuratomi



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF ROD KURATOMI

(Above) The entire 2014 Phil Simon Clinic Tanzania Project medical team.



Rod Kuratomi with local children in the countryside near Negorogoro Crater.

As part of a volunteer medical team from Huntington Memorial Hospital, Kuratomi heads to Tanzania to provide health care for local villagers and returns having personally experienced far more than he expected.

By *Connie K. Ho*
Contributor

Individuals dressed in brightly colored clothing, holding a spear along with a cell phone. Huts constructed of mud and sticks built across plains. Translators that communicated in Swahili and English. Rod Kuratomi was taken in by all the sights and sounds of Africa during a recent medical mission in Tanzania.

From Feb. 1-19, L.A. native Kuratomi worked with a volunteer medical team as part of the Phil Simon Clinic Tanzania Project (Tanzania Project for short). The group, led and organized by infectious disease doctor Kimberly Shriner, is affiliated with Huntington Memorial Hospital in Pasadena, Calif., where both Kuratomi and his wife, Cheryl, work in the laboratory. This year, Kuratomi joined the Tanzania Project for the first time while his wife made her sixth trip with the group — and he was amazed by all that he experienced.

“There are so many wild animals out there — the first time I saw a giraffe, I felt like I was the guy in ‘Jurassic Park’ seeing a dinosaur for the first time because I had never seen a wild animal outside of a zoo. An animal like a giraffe or an elephant, or anything like that — so to see all these animals running around wild everywhere was just unbelievable,” said Kuratomi in a phone interview.

The Tanzania Project first began primarily as an HIV treatment and education program. Over the past 12 years, it has become a traveling surgical and health care clinic that

provides medical services in rural areas of Tanzania.

“[Cheryl] told me about it for so many years, and she really wanted me to know what they were doing over there and the kind of experience that she was having. And she said it’s a really life-changing experience — you have to see it to understand it. So, she said, ‘I would really like you to go one time so you can see what it is that we’re doing over there and understand why I’m doing what I’m doing,’” explained Kuratomi. “Now that I’ve been there, I very much understand, and I will probably continue to do this from this point on. Currently, they want to do this every two years, so the next trip is scheduled for 2016, and I’ll be going then as well.”

The Tanzania trip was eye-opening for Kuratomi, who in his spare time serves as a karate instructor for the International Karate Assn., where he is a sixth-degree black belt, and as director of the Nikkei Games, where he also organizes the annual karate tournament. For their trip, Rod and Cheryl Kuratomi flew from LAX airport, made a layover in Amsterdam and arrived in Arusha, a city in northern Tanzania.

“There were very few paved roads there, so we spent a lot of hours on dirt roads, in one case as many as five hours from one paved road to another. Five to six hours on a dirt road is much different from five to six hours on a paved road because it’s dusty, it’s bumpy and it’s really



Rod and Cheryl Kuratomi pose for a picture with Mount Meru in the background.

‘These people have nothing and no way of getting any type of treatment — it’s very, very difficult for them. Yet, even though they have nothing, they seem to be happier . . .’

— Rod Kuratomi



Kuratomi with local children outside of the Kisongo clinic near the town of Arusha.



Project Tanzania members also experienced a photo safari in the Serengeti during their time in Africa.

goats and cows,” described Kuratomi.

During the medical mission, Kuratomi was part of the laboratory team that conducted diagnostic tests. He also assisted in the screening of patients for the triage portion of the clinic, determining patients who were the most sick and needed

on their back, and we would get swarmed with a couple of hundred people every day. At best, we were maybe able to see 120 every day, so it was really heartbreaking to send people home and tell them to come back tomorrow when you know that they had to go through so much hardship to get there,” Kuratomi said.

>> See AFRICA on page 11

uncomfortable,” Kuratomi recalled. “Even from our lodge where we were staying, the average drive to the clinics was one hour each way. The commute on a dirt road is much more difficult than driving on a paved road — we really appreciate the highways in the U.S.”

This year, the group had approximately 40 people — consisting of anesthesiologists, surgeons, nurses, social workers, a pharmacist, a pediatrician and an ultrasound technician — volunteer (including five other Asian Americans: plastic surgeon Chris Tiner, pharmacist Lisa Kim, orthopedic surgeon George Tang, medical resident Jessie Trieu and surgeon Tiffany Wu). Over a two-week period, the group cared for more than 600 patients.

“These people have nothing and no way of getting any type of treatment — it’s very, very difficult for them. Yet, even though they have nothing, they seem to be much happier than us Americans who have everything, who don’t appreciate what we have and don’t understand. We can’t put in perspective what our problems really are. When we have our electricity go out or the TV’s broken or the Internet’s down, we think it’s the end of the world, whereas these people have real basic problems like getting enough food to eat, getting enough clean water just to survive and access to health care,” Kuratomi said. “We get sick, we go to the hospital. If we get don’t have any money, we could get health care by going to a state or federal or city facility. But there, they have nothing, yet they seem to be happier than we are.”

The volunteers worked with the Massai, a tribal group that resides in rural Africa without running water or electricity. All of the water had to be hand carried from a central location, whether from a local river or a tap in a nearby town.

“Imagine carrying a five-gallon bucket of water on your head for miles. Clean water is a big issue here, and many water-borne diseases are rampant. The Massai people have lived the same way for centuries and survive by tending

the earliest care.

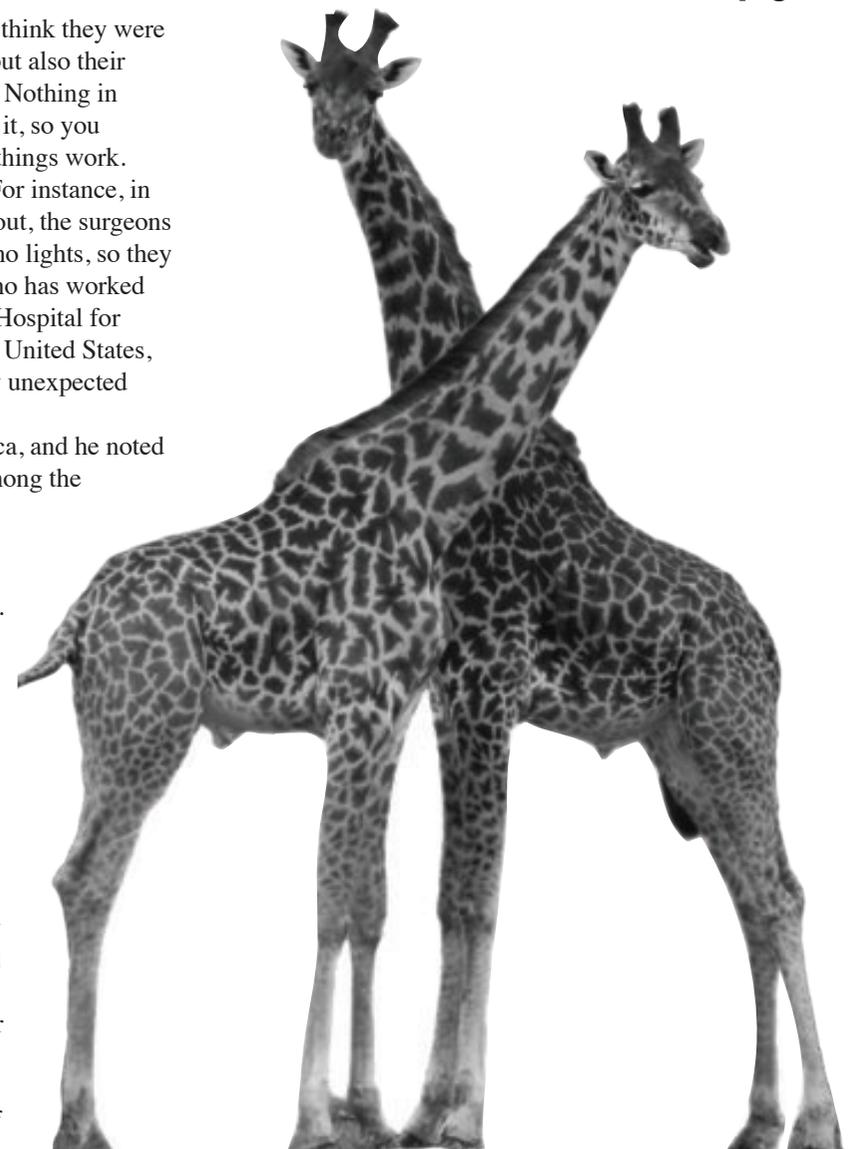
“All the people who went on the trip — I think they were hand-selected not only for their specialty but also their personality. Everyone got along very well. Nothing in Africa goes smoothly as you would expect it, so you have to be flexible and adaptable to make things work. We always have to think outside the box. For instance, in the middle of surgery, the electricity goes out, the surgeons have a patient on the operating table with no lights, so they have to use flashlights,” said Kuratomi, who has worked in the laboratory at Huntington Memorial Hospital for 26 years. “That would never happen in the United States, but you have to be adaptable to handle any unexpected situations that might come up.”

It was Kuratomi’s first time visiting Africa, and he noted several problematic medical conditions among the patients, like bones that were never set.

“Our orthopedic surgeons were able to perform surgeries that enabled the use of a leg or arm long crippled from a past injury. Since all cooking is done over an open fire, there are many serious burn injuries. In a past trip, a woman that had her arm permanently fused to her body from a burn injury had her arm surgically freed, which enabled her to hold her child in her arms for the first time,” noted Kuratomi. “Cleft palates are also not usually repaired like in the U.S. — this is a popular surgery for our team. This year, we also performed a total hip replacement.”

He also saw how the patients traveled far and wide to seek medical treatment.

“A lot of our patients would walk five to 10 miles to come to the clinic, and some of them are elderly, carrying small children



Japan Marks 3rd Anniversary of Tsunami, Earthquake



The tsunami was estimated to be more than 30 meters tall and crested a nearby cliff. The wall of water scrubbed seaside neighborhoods, taking homes off of their foundations.

By Associated Press

TOKYO — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe pledged to boost rebuilding efforts as the country marked the third anniversary March 11 of a devastating earthquake and tsunami that left nearly 19,000 people dead, destroyed coastal communities and triggered a nuclear crisis.

Japan has struggled to rebuild towns and villages and clean up radiation from the meltdowns at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant. Reconstruction plans are finally taking shape, but shortages of skilled workers and materials are delaying the work.

The triple disasters known in Japan as 3-11 killed 15,884 people and left 2,636 unaccounted for on its northeastern coast. The country has earmarked 25 trillion yen (\$250 billion) for reconstruction through March 2016.

Three years later, nearly 270,000 people remain displaced from their homes, including many from Fukushima Prefecture who may never be able to return home due to radioactive contamination.

During a ceremony in Tokyo, officials and representatives of the survivors offered a minute of silence to mark the moment, at 2:46 p.m., when the magnitude 9.0 earthquake struck off the Tohoku coast. It was the strongest quake recorded in Japan's history.

Abe has visited disaster-hit areas regularly since taking office in late 2012, and said Tuesday he has seen signs of progress. Farming and fishing resumed in some areas, and some people have moved to public housing from shelters, he said, promising to do more.

"We must further speed up the reconstruction so that everyone affected by the disasters can return to ordinary life as soon as possible," Abe, wearing a dark formal suit, said during the solemn ceremony.

Abe has promised to move hundreds of communities along that ravaged coast to higher ground to avoid future tsunamis, and build thousands more public housing units within a year in Iwate and Miyagi prefectures.

In Fukushima, reconstruction has lagged further

behind in some areas because of the nuclear disaster.

Several towns are still off-limits due to high radiation, and disaster-hit houses remain untouched.

The plant has stabilized substantially, but it is still plagued by frequent leaks of radioactive water and other mishaps, triggering concern about whether it's really under control. The leaks are hampering the plant's decommissioning, which is expected to take about 40 years.

Yukari Tanaka, a resident of Futaba town, where the Fukushima Dai-ichi plant is located, told the ceremony she couldn't look for her father after the tsunami because they were ordered to evacuate. Weeks later, her father was found dead under the roof of their tsunami-toppled house, she said.

"I never forget how I regretted that I had to evacuate, leaving my father behind," Tanaka said.

Emperor Akihito, who also attended the ceremony, said that his heart breaks when he thinks of the Fukushima residents who have no idea if they can ever return home.

"Many disaster survivors are still experiencing difficulties. It is important that all people of Japan unite their hearts and stand by each other for a long period so that they can live without losing their hopes and in good health," Akihito said.

Abe, who still supports nuclear as a key power source and is pushing to export nuclear technology despite the crisis, only briefly mentioned the Fukushima disaster in his speech. In a sign of growing caution against reactor startups, veteran lawmaker Bunmei Ibuki, also speaker of the powerful Lower House of Japan's parliament, said the Japanese should remember they enjoyed the benefits of electricity at the cost of Fukushima.

"Each of us must reflect upon our wasteful lifestyle and shift to that of energy conservation," Ibuki told the ceremony, calling for an energy policy "toward a nuclear phase-out in the future."

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry issued a

PHOTO: JAGL

statement offering prayers to Japan's people and support for rebuilding efforts.

In northern Japan, some tsunami survivors held their own memorial events for their loved ones earlier on March 11.

In the once-bustling fishing town of Minamisanriku, local residents gathered in front of the frame of what used to be the town's disaster prevention center, where dozens of town employees died in the tsunami. The residents prayed in front of a small table filled with flowers, a Buddha statue and incense.

Much of the town's coastal area remains deserted, except for a few structures that survived.

Katsuo Izumi, who lost his wife in the tsunami, said his disaster-hit town of Higashi-Matsushima has seen some rebuilding of public housing, schools and other facilities. Altogether, the city lost 1,000 residents.

"We survivors have a responsibility to live a full life on behalf of those who perished in the tsunami," he said at a Tokyo ceremony, representing the survivors from Iwate Prefecture. "I hope to see the reconstruction achieved as soon as possible." ■



PHOTO: DAPRELL MIHO

In Miyagi Prefecture, a fishing boat sits on dry land a quarter-mile from the ocean after the tsunami carried it inland.

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JACL NY/SC Announces 2014 Youth Delegate Campaign and Travel Scholarships

SAN FRANCISCO — The JACL National Youth/Student Council is pleased to announce the launch of the 2014 Youth Delegate Campaign for the JACL National Convention in San Jose, Calif., from July 9-12.

The purpose of this campaign is to collaborate with local chapters to increase youth representation at the annual convention and provide youth delegates with the tools and training necessary to become active contributors and advocates for the organization.

In support of this campaign, chapters are encouraged to name a youth member as one of their delegates for the upcoming July convention.

The names of the youth delegate representatives

should be submitted to Kota Mizutani at jacl.delegate.campaign@gmail.com so that the NY/SC can help coordinate training sessions and support the youth members at the convention.

Additionally, the NY/SC is offering travel scholarships, sponsored by the JACL Legacy Fund Grant and Southwest Airlines, for five youth delegates to subsidize costs for chapters.

The scholarships will cover expenses for convention registration, round-trip Southwest Airlines airfare to/from San Jose, hotel lodging and ground transportation to/from the hotel.

Applicants must be active JACL youth members in good standing. Priority will be given to first-time convention attendees. Recipients will be expected to fulfill certain tasks before and during the convention as an official voting delegate and are encouraged to stay actively involved in their local chapters following convention.

Youth delegates can apply for the scholarship at jacl.org/youthdelegate. All scholarship applications must be submitted by April 1.

For Student/Youth members in the Northern CA-Western NV-Pacific (NCWNP) District, the district is sponsoring youth to attend convention. The NCWNP District will split the cost of NCWNP youth attending convention with the local chapter. For more information and the application for this initiative, visit jacl.org/ncwnpyouth.

For more information or questions, please contact jacl.delegate.campaign@gmail.com.



NY/SC members at the 2013 JACL National Convention in Washington, D.C.

JACL/OCA 2014 Leadership Summit Held in Washington, D.C.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Members from across the country attended the 2014 JACL/OCA Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C., held March 8-12.

The four-day annual summit was designed to broaden participants' knowledge on issues affecting the AAPI and civil rights community, as well as deepen their commitment to achieving equity and equality within their communities.

The summit's agenda included workshops, discussions and panels on AAPI coalition building within the AAPI community, advocacy training and ended with visits to Capitol Hill, where participants met with Congressional staffers to lobby on immigration reform and Voting Rights legislation.

This year's selected JACL participants were Jessica Asai (Portland), Toshiko Grace Hasegawa (Seattle), Emi Kamemoto (Washington, D.C.), Janet Komoto (Snake River), Steven Sharp (PSW), Kenneth Sogabe (San Francisco), Yasuo Tokita (PSW), Rosemary Uyeda (Florin), Justin Valas (Mile High) and Matthew Walters (Twin Cities).

Special guests of the summit included Congresswoman Colleen Hanabusa (HI-1), former White House Cabinet Secretary Chris Lu and Congressman Mark Takano (CA-41).

The JACL/OCA DC Leadership Summit is made possible through the generous support of sponsors State Farm and Southwest Airlines.



JACL members attend the JACL/OCA Leadership Summit in Washington, D.C.

— JACL National Staff

AFRICA >> continued from page 9



Patients await treatment with the Tanzania Project team outside of Endulen hospital.

Apart from providing medical services, the volunteers also focused on health education.

"Our group has made great strides in HIV/AIDS education and the disease, which spread unchecked previously and is now on the decline due to education and treatment. We have also been able to treat malaria, which is the No. 1 cause of illness in the country," Kuratomi continued.

He cites that the trip is possible through community donations, and the team took small trinkets such as toys, toothbrushes and hats to gift to the village children.

"They don't have the money for it, nor do they have access to it. Anything that we can bring them, anything along life's basic necessities that they could use — they appreciate everything," Kuratomi said. "This trip is possible through donations, so the medications, the surgical supplies — all of this is through donations made to the nonprofit organization, so there's a constant need of funding in order to make these trips possible. We pay our own transportation and lodging to get there, but there's also a huge overhead of medical supplies and drugs that are necessary to make the trip successful. So, we're always looking for people that are willing to make tax-deductible donations for a very worthy cause."

To find out more about the Tanzania Project or to make a donation, visit the organization's website at <http://www.philsimonclinic.org/>.



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On behalf of Willy Kai, we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the many friends and families who have traveled with Kokusai over the years. We hope to provide you with the same level of quality and service that you enjoyed with Willy, as he passes the torch over to his daughter, Stephanie.

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DOCUMENTARY CAPTURES ‘STORIES FROM TOHOKU,’ *Three Years After Japan’s Earthquake & Tsunami*

PHOTO: BRIDGE MEDIA, INC.

The film ‘Stories From Tohoku’ premiered at CAAMFest 2014 and will be screened nationwide at select locations.

By Nalea J. Ko
Reporter

It was just over three years ago on March 11 when startling images of Japan’s devastating 9.0-magnitude earthquake and subsequent tsunami were broadcast around the world. Capturing personal stories of loss and resilience, those images moved a community of Japanese Americans thousands of miles away to give back.

Dianne Fukami, an independent film producer, was then board president of the Japanese Cultural Community Center of Northern California, when the calls and personal visits streamed in from those who wanted to help.

Following the lead of the community, nonprofit organizations mobilized relief efforts in the U.S. to help victims. The JCCCNC, Fukami says, raised \$4 million to donate toward survivors of the devastation.

“So all of a sudden, community organizations — whether it was a local JACL group or a cultural center like us or the Little Tokyo organizations down in L.A. — were becoming repositories for donations,” Fukami said. “And we were thinking, ‘Wow! That’s amazing. What a great story. Somebody should do a documentary about it.’ Then we thought, ‘Why not us?’”

In late 2011, Fukami teamed up with co-director Eli Olson and producer Debra Nakatomi to begin “Stories From Tohoku,” a film that documents the relief efforts and stories of survivors from the northeastern region of Japan, which was leveled by the tsunami.

“I think probably the most personally riveting experience is sitting with the individuals and hearing their stories,” said Nakatomi, who served as producer. “Currently, there are still 98,000 people in the region that live in temporary housing. They will likely not return back to a more traditional home because recovery is very, very slow. So, when you see what their prospects are for the future, it’s very sad. But through it all, I think we were so encouraged, which we tried to capture in the film.”

The small film crew made four trips in total to the Tohoku region of Japan for the film “Stories From Tohoku,” which premiered March 15 at the Center for Asian American Media’s CAAMFest 2014.

Buddhist monks chant prayers while walking through the tsunami-affected area of Inshinomaki in Japan’s Tohoku region.



PHOTOS: BRIDGE MEDIA, INC.

Olympic figure skater Kristi Yamaguchi (pictured left), who traveled with a delegation to Japan, took in the destruction left in Kesenuma. In the Tohoku region of Japan, a sign (pictured right) hangs next to a destroyed home reading "to a nostalgic future."

"Listening to the survivors' stories about losing everything and accepting those losses with resilience; I couldn't even imagine. This resilience is a cultural trait, gaman — enduring the unbearable with dignity, and it became the recurring theme throughout the film," said Eli Olson, the co-director, in a press release.

The film also captures volunteers like Olympic figure skater Kristi Yamaguchi, who traveled with an 18-member delegation from Project Aloha in October and November of 2011. The group visited Tokyo, Iwaki, Kesenuma, Sendai and Ishinomaki.

Other volunteers and philanthropists were also moved by the stories from survivors and made it their mission to make a difference in the tsunami-torn regions of Japan.

Dr. Paul Terasaki, an organ transplant scientist, sponsored 20 Los Angeles college students through the Terasaki Japan Education Tour to visit the region in June of 2012.

Twenty-one-year-old Megan Ono, a senior at California State University, Long Beach, was one of those students. The trip, she says, changed her life.

"I had no idea what to expect," said Ono. "I followed what everyone else saw on the news. When we first drove in there were just these huge stacks of cars, 10 cars high. It was like a movie of a warzone."

Prior to seeing the devastation firsthand, Ono and her fellow college students in the Nikkei Student Union held a fundraiser called "Cranes for a Cause" that generated \$14,000 for the Japanese Red Cross. Ono — who followed the news coverage of the earthquake, tsunami and nuclear disaster — says she still wasn't prepared for



PHOTOS: BRIDGE MEDIA, INC.

A stark reminder of life before the 2011 Japanese earthquake and tsunami, many homes in Japan's Tohoku region remained unfixed when American delegations first traveled to the area.

the emotional impact of the trip.

"The thing that every survivor told us is that they want their story to be heard. They didn't want people to forget. They wanted people to know that they're still struggling," Ono said. "So after I graduate, I definitely plan on going back, whether it's to work there, live in Japan, to visit Tohoku and give back or reconnect with the relationships I made."

The Japanese government estimates that the earthquake and tsunami caused some 25 trillion yen, or \$300 billion, in damages. A total of 15,884 people were confirmed dead, according to the National Police Agency of Japan. The tsunami, the Japanese government estimates, moved 5 million tons of debris offshore, with 70 percent sinking.

Volunteers and the filmmakers who traveled to Tohoku took back with them souvenirs made from survivors and firsthand impressions.

"One house that I remember very distinctly looked like the people had just abandoned it very quickly," said Fukami, of visiting Kesenuma. "There was a photo album on the living room floor, and in the dusky time of day, the wind was blowing and these pages of a photo album were sort of flapping — you could see all the photos in there. I didn't touch them. It was just too previous for me to touch. I could see that there were family pictures in there, and I knew that those people would never come back."

Fukami and Nakatomi, both Sansei who met in 2009 through an education delegation to Japan, say they have plans to air "Stories From Tohoku" on PBS in May. They are also hoping to get the film translated

to air on Japanese television.

Nakatomi said they had ambitiously expected to finish the documentary by the first anniversary of the earthquake and tsunami. "We're happy that it's completed. We're really encouraged by some of the early reviews that we're getting."

The film's next stop is the Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival on May 6-7 at the Japanese American National Museum's Tateuchi Democracy Forum.

For more information about upcoming screenings of "Stories From Tohoku," visit www.storiesfromtohoku.com.

A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS



CALENDAR

National Cherry Blossom Festival WASHINGTON, D.C.

Thru April 13

National Cherry Blossom Festival Headquarters, Union Station 50 Massachusetts Ave., N.E.

Every spring when the cherry blossom trees are in bloom, visitors gather to celebrate the friendship between the U.S. and Japan in this festival. Enjoy hands-on cultural activities for the whole family, Tidal Basin paddle boating, the Blossom Kite Festival, sake tasting, a kimono fundraiser, art exhibits, performances and more.

Info: Visit www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org or call (877) 44-BLOOM.

>>NATIONAL

The 45th Annual National JACL Convention SAN JOSE, CA July 9-12

Double Tree by Hilton 2050 Gateway Place

The 2014 JACL National Convention's theme is "We Are America." National JACL is accepting proposals for convention workshops scheduled on July 11 from 10 a.m.-noon. The deadline to submit a workshop proposal form is April 30.
Info: Email dc@jacl.org or visit www.jacl.org.

>>EDC

Art Exhibit: The Creative Process in Modern Japanese Printmaking BOSTON, MA Thru Aug. 17 Museum of Fine Arts Boston 465 Huntington Ave.

The exhibit displays 20th century Japanese *shin hanga* and *sosaku hanga* prints. Headlining the showcase is Yoshida Hiroshi's "Sailboats," six large woodblock prints.
Info: Call (617) 267-9300 or visit www.mfa.org.

JAA of New York's Spring Flea Market NEW YORK, NY April 5, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Japanese American Association of New York 15 W. 44th St., 11th Floor

This family-friendly flea market, to be held in the JAA Hall, will feature new and used

clothes, chinaware, jewelry and more items for sale.
Info: Call (212) 840-6942, ext. 6899, or visit www.jaany.org.

>>NCWNP

AARP Senior Driving Refresher Course SAN FRANCISCO, CA June 12, 1-5 p.m. Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California 1840 Sutter St.

Cost: \$15/JCCNC or AARP Members; \$20/Nonmembers
This four-hour AARP Smart Driver Course is for individuals 50 years or older who previously took the eight-hour class and need to update their certificate. Some graduates may be eligible for a car insurance discount.
Info: Visit www.jccnc.org, call (415) 567-5505 or email programsevents@jccnc.org.

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

The Northern California Cherry Blossom Festival draws more than 200,000 attendees every year. The festival includes food booths, ikebana, live performances, a Japanese tea ceremony, martial arts exhibitions and the Queen Program.
Info: Visit www.sfcherryblossom.org, email info@sfcherryblossom.org or

call (415) 563-2313.

Lecture: After Camp, Post-War Nisei Life and Politics SAN JOSE, CA May 3, 1 p.m.

Japanese American Museum of San Jose 535 N. Fifth St.

Cost: \$5/Nonmembers; \$3/Students and Seniors; Free/Children and JAMsj Members
Japanese American scholar and historian Greg Robinson will answer the questions concerning what happened after some 120,000 persons of Japanese decent were unjustly incarcerated during World War II.
Info: Visit www.jamsj.org or call (408) 294-3138.

>>PSW

Sara Hutchings Clardy Scholarship and Grad Luncheon PHOENIX, AZ April 27, 12:30 p.m. China Chili Restaurant 302 E. Flower St.

Cost: \$25/General Admission
Join the Arizona JACL Chapter for the 53rd annual Sara Hutchings Clardy Scholarship and Graduates Luncheon and Gold Saguaro Tribute. The keynote speaker will be Arizona U.S. Marshall David Gonzales. RSVP no later than April 20.
Info: Call Michele Namba at (623) 572-9913 or email m.namba@cox.net.

JANM 2014 Gala Dinner LOS ANGELES, CA April 12, 5 p.m. Hyatt Regency Century

Plaza Hotel

2025 Avenue of the Stars Cost: \$250-\$1,000/Individual Tickets; \$1,750-\$100,000/ Sponsored Tables

The Japanese American National Museum's 2014 Gala Dinner theme explores the history of Japanese Americans in sports. The event will begin with a silent auction and reception. Jamie Hagiya, Scott Fujita and Wat Misaka are scheduled to attend the dinner and program. The Young Professionals Network will hold an after party at X-Bar. RSVP with dinner reply forms by March 31.
Info: Visit www.janm.org/dinner2014 or email specialevents@janm.org.

Power of Commission Hearings: First Person Voices of Japanese Americans TORRANCE, CA May 3, 1-3 p.m.

Katy Geissert Civic Center Library, Community Meeting Room 3301 Torrance Blvd.

The 1981 Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians hearings that marked the redress movement for Japanese Americans will be commemorated in this event that will include insights and excerpts from the hearings.
Info: Visit www.library.torrance.ca.gov or call (310) 618-5959.

Temecula Wine and Music Festival TEMECULA, CA May 3, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Vail Lake Resort

38000 Hwy. 79

Cost: \$45/General Admission; \$65/Gold Seating; \$120/ Platinum Tables Seating; \$250/VIP

This year's 10th Annual Temecula Wine and Music festival will include a lineup of prolific performers, eleven local and international wineries and over 40 vendors.
Info: Visit www.temeculawineandmusicfestival.com or call (951) 696-0184.

>>MDC

Samurai: Beyond the Sword Art Exhibit DETROIT, MI

Thru June 1 Detroit Institute of Arts Museum 5200 Woodward Ave. Cost: \$16/General Admission; \$8/Youth

Samurai: Beyond the Sword is an exhibit that looks at how military arts, culture and spirituality intersect. Exhibit sponsors include Toyota, DENSO International America, E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Foundation and Yazaki North America.
Info: Call (313) 833-7900 or visit www.dia.org.

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FOR MORE INFO:

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(800) 966-6157

In Memoriam

Anzai, Mutsuko, 78, Torrance, CA; Feb. 16; survived by husband, Yoshio; children, Noreen (Michael) Nishiki and Wesley (Kathy); siblings, Toshie (Masatoshi) Ueda, Fumiko Oka, and Fusako Kitano; sister-in-law, Yoko; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; 5 gc.

Aoo, Rei Hiroko, 50, North Hollywood, CA; Feb. 23; survived by husband, Shigeki Kamitakahara; sister, Reiko (Yi Hua Yang).

Araki, Yoshikane, 90, Santa Maria, CA; Oct. 31; survived by wife, Peggy E. Araki; daughters, Jeanne (Rich) Dickey Corinne (Michael) Araki-Kawaguchi Roxanne (Gary) DeJarnatt; sisters Y. Ruthe Fujishige, Jane Kagawa, brother Dennis (Barbara) Araki, Sister-in-Law, Bernie Araki. 4 gc.

Fujikawa, Sachi, 95, Salinas, CA; March 3; survived by nieces and nephews, Judy (Jack) Lew, Michael (Karie Bessho) Matsuda, Glenn, Lor Diegel, Donna; 2 grandnieces, Jade Lew and Lexi Diegel.

Fujita, Meriko, 95, Highland, CA; March 1; survived by daughters, Dr. Eri (Takehiko Phil) Yasuhara and Miki (Ron) Swick; 1 gc.

Hamai, Kay Kazuyo, 87, Gardena, CA; Feb. 27; survived by her husband, Kazuo; son, Joe (Janie); daughter, Sharon (Jiro) Akasaka; brother, Fred Akira Kitada; also many nieces, nephews and other relatives; 4 gc.

Harabe, Kinue, 92, Fountain Valley, CA; Feb. 21; survived by daughters, Sayoko Aoto, Tsutaetae, and Shoko (Chuck) Hull; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; 3 gc; 3 ggc.

Isomoto, Kazuo "Mike," 76, Culver City, CA; Feb. 23; survived by wife, Jean Keiko Isomoto; children Darolyn (Alvin) Goya; 2 gc; 8 ggc.

Iwata, Fumi, 90, Los Angeles, CA; March 2; survived by sister, Toshiko Iwata; nephews Gordon, Russell and Dean (Carolyn) Iwata; cousin Yoshiyasu Iwata and long-time friend, Roni Miyakawa.

Kimura, May, 83, Los Angeles, CA; Feb. 11; survived by husband, Ben; daughters, Rochelle (Rick) Dumlao, Debbie (Tony) Alvarez, and Marcia; siblings, Yosh

Takakuwa, Tomi Gyotoku, and Michi Lai; she is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives; 3 gc; 3 ggc.

Kinjo, Tae, 85, Arcadia, CA; Feb. 11; predeceased by husband Tosh; survived by her brothers, Yusuke, Hideo and Ray (Yoko) Omori.

Matsumoto, Minoru Henry, 94, Orange, CA; Feb. 16; survived by daughters, Michie Noma of Japan, and Kimie (Fred); brother, Hiroshi; sister-in-law, Satsuko Kimura of Japan; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives in U.S. and Japan; 5 gc; 6 ggc.

Mayeda, Henry Shigeo, 87, California; Feb. 19; veteran of WWII; survived by wife, Sadako Mayeda; daughters, Judy (Mike) Wong, Janet (Mark) Mayeda-Le-tourneau, Joyce Mayeda-Wong; also survived by many other relatives; 4 gc.

Murakami, Toki, 83, Monterey Park, CA; Feb. 23; survived by husband, Haruki Murakami; daughter, Laura (Jonathan) Kono; son, Gregg Murakami; brother, Tosh Saito; Also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; 3 gc.

Ninomiya, Calvin, 87, Chevy Chase, MD; Feb. 28; a retired chief counsel of the U.S. Treasury Department Bureau of Public Debt; born in Seattle, Mr. Ninomiya was unjustly interned with his family at Jerome before serving in the Army; he retired from the U.S. Treasury in 1995; he served as acting chair of the NJAVC; he developed and managed the JAVA scholarship program; he is survived by his wife of 55 years, Hannelore; children Lisa, Roland and Erik; elder sister Rose Masuda; and several nieces and nephews.

Oda, Clara Yuriko, 82, Chino Hills, CA; Feb. 11; survived by children and their spouses: Kenneth, Kathleen (Wilson), Lynn (Roland), Carolyn (Clifford), Russell, and Mitchell (Celia); 10 gc.

Oishi, Alice Miyako, 90, Gardena, CA; March 4; survived by husband, Jimmy R.; son, Robert Y. (Jihyon M.); her sisters, Aiko Muranaka and Sadae Uwahori and other relatives; 3 gc.

Oyama, Nori (Hayashida), 91, Caldwell, ID; March 3; predeceased by father Kenta, mother, Kame, and brothers, Satoru,

Shigeyuki, and Seichi; survived by husband, Roy; three sons and their wives, Terry and Kathleen, Alan, and Greg and Laraina; also survived by her sister, Fumi Ogawa and numerous nieces and nephews; 4 gc.

Sato, Ted T., 87, San Gabriel, CA; Feb. 14; he was interned at Poston during WWII; survived by three daughters, Lynn (Craig W. Smith) Sato-Smith, Roxanne Bejar and Debbie (Frank M. Saito) Saito; 6 gc.

Soraoka, Genzo, 95, Wahiawa, HI; Oct. 26; interned during WWII at Gila River; retired from the U.S. Army; survived by his wife Julia Toshi Soraoka; children, Linda, Edward (Karen), Daniel (Cynthia), and Thomas (Naomi) Soraoka, 5 gc.

Tamanaha, Roy Koichi, 78, Montebello, CA; Feb. 16; survived by his wife, Frances Tamanaha; son, Troy Tamanaha; daughter, Tamara Tamanaha; also many relatives.

Ujimori, Robert Kazu, 31, California; Feb. 23; survived by wife, Isela; parents, Harvey (Kay); grandmother, Emi Takamatsu; siblings, Mark (Kristen) and Joanna; aunt, Gayle (Rick) Wada; uncle, Wesley (Stacy) and Dennis; also survived by aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Unoura, David Kiyoshi, 92, La Mesa, CA; Feb. 14; survived by wife, Mary; children, Debby and Deric (Susan) Unoura; brothers-in-law, Roy (Kiyo) Sato and Joe (Mari) Sato; also survived by many uncles, aunts, nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Waki, Asaye, 97, Los Angeles, CA; Feb. 25; survived by daughter, Mitsuko (Yoshikazu) Osako; daughter-in-law, Tomoko Waki; brother, Tsutomu (Yaeko) Ikenaga of Japan; sister-in-law, Chieko Ikenaga; she is also survived by cousins and other relatives; 3 gc; 4 ggc.

TRIBUTES



HARUKO OKAWA, 101

Berkeley, Calif., Feb. 23, 2014
Survived by sons, Melvin (Michi), Stephen (Patty); daughter, Lorene Nakagiri (Gary); grandchildren, Melany Yeung, Brent Nakagiri (San Mateo JACL Pres.), Rachele and Kevin Okawa; great-grandchildren, Naomi and Ryan Yeung, Matthew Okawa.

YOSHIRO KATSURA

Yoshiro Katsura, a well-loved and honorable man, died Jan. 30, 2014, in Ventura, Calif., where he had lived for several years. He was born on Oct. 15, 1934, in Oakland, Calif., to Tomiichiro and Tsuru Katsura. The family lived in Berkeley except for the years when they were interned at Topaz, Utah. After the war, the family returned to Berkeley per his mother's wishes so that Yosh and his three brothers could attend U.C. Berkeley.

Yosh graduated from Berkeley High School where he was the student body president and participated in football and diving. He then went on to graduate from U.C. Berkeley, School of Engineering. While there, he played football and rugby (including in Vancouver, Canada). Even in his 70s, Yosh was recognized by people who remembered him for his athletic achievements.

Yosh was a registered professional engineer. After working some time for other companies, he opened his own firm, Katsura Consulting Engineers. He specialized in water and waste-water treatment facilities. His work can be seen around California, especially in Ventura and Los Angeles counties, even alongside the Grapevine. He also completed projects in South Korea.

Once Yosh allowed himself to slow down his business, he and Betty took wonderful trips, near and far. Highlights include walking through crop circles in England, visiting Japan during cherry blossom time and taking Betty to Okinawa, where she lived when she was young.

Yosh was an intelligent man who was well informed of national and world news. At one time, he read three newspapers a day. He read books on political and economic subjects. He enjoyed PBS, NPR, classical music, ballet and plays. He was a member of the Ventura County chapter of JACL and had served as president. When reminiscing about activities with JACL, he would simply say, "Good times."

Yosh was a witty and humorous man who loved to laugh and made people laugh, often without intending to do so. His humorous sayings and stories became known as "Yoshisms." To the end, to meet Yosh was to love him. His kindness, honesty and goodness were evident and drew people to him.

Yosh's loss is mourned by Betty, his wife, his three daughters and their husbands, Kimiye and Larry Cronin, Miyoko and Michael Sawamura, Midori and Jeff Resler, and his son, Ken Katsura. His brother and sister-in-law, Toshiro and Irene Katsura, and his sister-in-law, Teri Katsura, survive him. Missing him also are Betty's daughter, Alisa Van Order, her husband, Tim Bukovszky, and their children, Jeremiah and Paige.

Yosh was a modest man and wished to have no services. While he would have found this tribute much too wordy and immodest, it is a celebration of the life of this wonderful man and an acknowledgement of our love and respect for him.

A man so deeply loved is deeply mourned and will be missed forever.

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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BELLY DANCING >> continued from page 3

Wikipedia explains white privilege thus: “The term denotes both obvious and less obvious unspoken advantages that white persons may not recognize they have, which distinguishes it from overt bias or prejudice. These include cultural affirmations of one’s own worth; presumed greater social status; and freedom to move, buy, work, play and speak freely. The concept of white privilege also implies the right to assume the universality of one’s own experiences, marking others as different or exceptional while perceiving oneself as normal. It can be compared to and/or combined with the concept of male privilege.”

Most people of color that I know are familiar with this concept — even older JAs who may not be so interested in stirring the pot and complaining about such social inequities. Too many of the white people I know unfortunately don’t know the term and deny the concept.

Volokh’s response was underscored by a bunch of comments, most of which agreed with him and disparaged Jarrar.

I’m not as much a hard-liner as Jarrar. I’ve known too many white Japanophiles who speak better *Nihongo* than me, who have learned Japanese dancing and music, or folk arts, or cooking, or martial arts, from authentic traditional masters. I don’t think these people are misappropriating our culture — my culture — for their own ends or show a phony appreciation for Japan or Asia.

There’s a level of respect that allows cultures to spread from one geopolitical time and place to others. And in this shrinking, connected world we live in, the spread of cultures happens even faster than ever before.

So, I’m OK with teenaged fans putting on a bathrobe and thinking they’re paying homage to their favorite anime as if they’re wearing a real kimono. But I do acknowledge that level of objectification is just scratching the surface and is not real. When that fan goes on to study Japanese in college and serves as a bridge for Japanese culture and commerce as an adult, I’ll know that her teenaged obsession was real and respectful.

For now, I can put up with seeing her and her friends at the Cherry Blossom Festival, and I’ll roll my eyes and put up with bad belly dancing palmed off as the “real thing” at a Middle Eastern restaurant.

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, and he also is the Japanese expert for Answers.com at www.japaneseanswers.com.

WHY >> continued from page 3

There are those, like the resisters, the No-No Boys, the renunciants and others, who may have legitimate gripes against the JACL for what happened to them personally in the environment of WWII. No question about that. But didn’t we deal with these issues during the redress campaign when we hashed all of this out and by a formal public apology to the resisters?

But they are not the ones I’m talking about. It’s the others who seem unable to get over the organization’s past.

It’s a pretty big stretch, it seems to me, to judge behavior or attitudes found in the JACL back in, say, the 1930s by today’s standards. It was such a different time, and social conditions for Asians in this country were nothing like they are today (that’s even true about the ’60s and ’70s). To talk about things like assimilation and patriotism and to criticize the JACL for advocating either or both reflects an inability to recognize the difficult social circumstances of the times for Asians. It would be like criticizing blacks for being so acquiescent in the pre-civil rights South or like criticizing the Chinese community on the West Coast for wearing “I Am Chinese” lapel buttons after Japan’s attack on Pearl Harbor.

Assimilation, patriotism, accepting your social status, disassociating and distinguishing — those were all survival mechanisms, ways to get through your day without being hassled or threatened with harm.

It’s easy enough to look back over a span of time and judge someone’s behavior if you haven’t walked in his or her shoes. Of course the JACL and the community strove to assimilate and show that they were as American as anyone else. But in doing so, they were no different than any other immigrant group in this country. By the second generation, assimilation and acceptance are important to all newcomers.

So, it comes back to the question, “Why?” Why is the JACL such a favorite target? Don’t tell me controversial decisions of the past. We’ve been over that so many times that it’s boring, quite frankly. And don’t tell me urging the Nisei to be more American (whatever that meant), because if that’s the criticism, show me an immigrant community that didn’t hold those things as important to their becoming Americans.

Now, if those same critics want to take on the JACL for what it is or isn’t today, that’s a different matter. Or, if they want to take me on for my leadership during redress or post-9/11, as the saying goes, bring it on!

John Tateishi is a former JACL national director.

Bainbridge Island Set to Commemorate 72nd Anniversary of JAs During WWII



PHOTO: DALE GOODWIN

The memorial wall — made of old-growth red cedar, granite and basalt — displays the names of the JA Bainbridge Islanders who were incarcerated during World War II.

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND, WASHINGTON — Inspired by the legacy of a community that welcomed its Japanese American friends and neighbors home after World War II, volunteers will gather at the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial for “Service and Community” on March 30 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Volunteers will offer landscape maintenance and improvements to the National Historic Site, which is located at Pritchard Park on Bainbridge Island.

The event will be hosted by the private nonprofit Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial Assn. Appropriate work clothing, gloves and gardening tools are appreciated. During the cleanup, visitors are encouraged to enjoy guided tours of the memorial site, with some tours actually hosted by incarceration survivors. Lessons

on how to create origami paper peace cranes will also be offered to children.

In addition, the day’s events will mark the 72nd anniversary of the first Japanese Americans placed in concentration camps. An informal commemoration to celebrate the broad community partnership that made the memorial site a reality will be held at 11:30 a.m., the approximate time when the ferry Kehloken departed the Eagledale Ferry Dock with 227 Bainbridge Island men, women and children onboard.

Invited guests include representatives from the National Park Service, City of Bainbridge Island, Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Parks and Recreation District, Bainbridge Island History Museum, Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community and the Bainbridge Island/North Kitsap Interfaith Council.

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