



# PACIFIC CITIZEN

May 2-15, 2014

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## OUT FOR JUSTICE

Actor Sung Kang on his new role in Fox's action-drama 'Gang Related'

PHOTO: COURTESY OF FOX STUDIOS

THE NATIONAL  
NEWSPAPER OF  
THE JACL



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**JACL Convention  
Set for July.**



# TOYOTA MOVING U.S. BASE FROM CALIFORNIA TO TEXAS

By Associated Press

**TORRANCE, CALIF.** — Toyota is moving its U.S. headquarters from California to Texas to get closer to its Midwest assembly plants and improve communication between units now spread over several states.

Toyota will break ground this year on a new environmentally-friendly headquarters in Plano, Texas, about 25 miles north of Dallas. Small groups of employees will start moving to temporary office space this year, but most will not move until late 2016 or early 2017 when a new headquarters is completed.

The new campus will bring together approximately 4,000 employees from sales, market-

ing, engineering, manufacturing and finance. That includes 2,000 employees at the current headquarters in Torrance, Calif.; 1,000 employees at Toyota Financial Services, which is also in California; and 1,000 employees from Toyota's engineering and manufacturing center in Erlanger, Ky.

Toyota also plans to expand its technical center near Ann Arbor, Mich., and move approximately 250 parts procurement positions there from Georgetown, Ky., where the Camry and Avalon sedans are made. That will free up space for approximately 300 production engineers to move from Erlanger to Georgetown.



Jim Lentz, Toyota's CEO for North America, said the new headquarters will enable faster decision making. It's one of the most significant changes in Toyota's 57-year history in the U.S., according to Lentz.

"We needed to be much more collaborative," said Lentz.

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## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I appreciated John Tateishi's column in the 3/21-4/3/14 issue of the *Pacific Citizen* ("Why . . . And What For?"). As John indicated in his cathartic piece, the role of the JACL during its most controversial years has to be put in the context of the country that our community confronted, and the real choices that existed at the time.

For Japanese, the United States was, in the main, a hostile, racist nation. Issei were barred from citizenship and land ownership and were subject to scores of other humiliations, small and large. In the face of the bombing of Pearl Harbor and the evacuation and internment, what were the real choices available to the Japanese American community? The JACL was committed to the survival of the community at a time and place when that survival was not guaranteed. Looking at Europe, for example, it

was becoming clearer that extermination of despised groups was a real possibility. And the American historical experience was not inspiring on that score either.

In my younger days, when I was now safely protected by the distance of time and place, I used to believe that the JACL should have taken other steps during the years of World War II. But on closer examination, I had to ask, "What could those alternative steps have been? What would have been the prospects for massive resistance to the evacuation and incarceration? Or even not so massive resistance?" From what sources could such an action have been initiated and sustained in the face of a popular war in an overwhelmingly white nation? Remember also that the very executive order mandating the evacuation was signed by the most popular and progressive president of modern times.

Perhaps the JACL leadership could have been less gung ho in its advocacy of Nisei men enlisting in the U.S. military. I still believe that. But that is a difference of tone, not a call for resistance. As much

**>> See LETTER 1 on page 13**

Dear Editor,

I am writing in response to the column by John Tateishi in your recent *Pacific Citizen* ("Why . . . And What For?" March 21-April 3, 2014). I was shocked and disappointed by John's take on coming to terms with those our organization has demeaned during WWII.

He of all people, I would think, should understand the need to bring justice to victims of discrimination. His argument is that JACL's role in the damage caused by its stance toward the draft resisters, the Tule Lake resisters and the renunciants happened long ago and has been adequately addressed by the redress hearings, so we should forget it and move on.

Remembering the prominent role John played for JACL in bringing about redress, his attitude is puzzling. Does he not see the similarity between the attitude, by some, of not wanting to open old wounds by bringing up our incarceration as the same attitude he is expressing in not coming to terms with the harm JACL has caused a significant segment of our community?

He asks, "Why bring this all up now?" In the limited exposure I have had with those

**>> See LETTER 2 on page 13**

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## NIKKEI VOICE

# ASIAN AMERICA, SOCIAL MEDIA AND BABY BOOMERS

By Gil Asakawa

As a journalist, I've been really lucky.

I started my career as a music critic and then a reporter, so I've always been able to write about pop culture — especially the pop culture of my generation, the baby boomers. Then, when the Internet came along, I was able to move over to work almost exclusively in digital media, and these days I work in and speak about social media. Since I started writing my “Nikkei View” column and blog, I've been part of a growing chorus of Asian American voices (like the *Pacific Citizen*) covering issues and stories that mainstream media frankly tends to ignore.

So, I couldn't believe my great fortune last month when I was named the 2014 Asian American Journalists Assn.'s AARP Social Media Fellow.

If you aren't familiar with the organization, AARP's members are 50 years old and older. That means that this year, the youngest baby boomers are turning 50 and can join AARP (the baby boom went from 1946-64).

This fellowship is perfect for me because it combines the three passions that fuel my soul: my love for the era I grew up in, my embrace of online journalism and my involvement with and support for Asian Americans.

I'll be posting messages on AARP's Twitter (<https://twitter.com/AARPAAPI>) and Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/AARPAAPICommunity>) pages, and I will also write articles for AARP's page specifically for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (<http://www.aarp.org/asiancommunity>).

AARP is making serious efforts to reach out to Asian Americans. The organization describes itself as “a collection of diverse individuals and ideas working as one to influence positive change and improve the lives of those 50 and over. AARP members reflect a

wide range of attitudes, cultures, lifestyles and beliefs.”

That range includes issues of health care, elder care, retirement planning, social security, legislative agendas and lots more that affect Asian Americans. There are lots of ways AARP accomplishes these goals, and one of them just won a prestigious award.

George Takei, the most famous Japanese American, thanks to his stint as Hikaru Sulu on the 1960s “Star Trek” TV series and ensuing hit movie franchise, speaks publicly about his childhood in an internment camp and his support for LGBT issues. He is now a video star on YouTube and throughout various social media sites. Among his online avenues, he hosts “Takei's Take,” a funny look at the Internet and technology through the eyes of a senior who embraces the cool new stuff, and he inspires other seniors to do the same. “Takei's Take,” which is produced by AARP, was named the “People's Voice” winner in the Technology category for the Webby Awards. That's proof that old dogs *can* learn new tricks.

Within our community, Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month is the perfect time to think about the issues that AARP highlights. Most older APIs were born outside the United States, and many don't speak English at home, even if they're naturalized citizens. So, if you're an “Issei” Asian American, you have different needs and challenges when it comes to services and information to live up to AARP's motto, “Real Possibilities.” If you're a baby boomer Asian American, you share the cultural highlights of the generation (like growing up with rock 'n' roll and the pop culture of the 1960s, '70s and '80s), and you should be thinking about your life after retirement or how to stay healthy as you get older.

**>> See BABY BOOMERS on page 16**



## FOR THE RECORD

# THE NAME IS THE MESSAGE

By John Tateishi

In March, Daniel Snyder, owner of the NFL franchise Washington Redskins, announced that he was creating the Washington Redskins Original Americans Foundation to “provide meaningful and measurable resources that provide genuine opportunities for Tribal communities.”

A noble gesture indeed, if it weren't so transparent and offensive.

Besieged by criticism from native tribes over the use of the name “Redskins,” a word American Indians find demeaning and offensive, Snyder apparently hopes to buy the good will of at least some tribes through his foundation, which exists to show that the team and its owner are sensitive to Native Americans and do, in fact, care about their well-being.

And with a twist of the knife to ensure his message of defiance is clear, Snyder purposely includes the word “Redskins” in the name of this new foundation. It would be like someone creating a foundation for the Japanese American community and naming it the American Jap Foundation.

When asked about the pressures to change the name of the team in a recent interview, Snyder said, “We'll never change the name. It's that simple.”

Snyder owns the team and can do with it practically whatever he wants, but he's got to be pretty stupid to think that this issue will go away if he just remains obstinate. A name change is inevitable, no matter how much he thinks he can charm the tribes with his demonstration of good will through a foundation whose name offends Native Americans to the core.

Supporting Snyder, NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell sent a letter to Congress stating

that the “name has . . . from its origin represented a positive meaning distinct from any disparagement that could be viewed in some other context. . . . the name is a unifying force that stands for strength, courage, pride and respect.”

It's difficult to know if Goodell actually believes this nonsense or if, knowing that the word is a racial slur, he's simply a front man for the owners and will do their bidding, no matter the cost to his integrity. Or perhaps he's no different than Snyder in thinking that, in spite of their protests, using a disparaging word to describe a Native American isn't being racist.

But that's the point, isn't it? Once you're told that the R-word is a racial slur and offensive to Native Americans, you apologize and make a conscious decision not to use the word anymore unless, of course, you're blind to your own racism.

What a person thinks and feels is his own business so long as he keeps it private if it's offensive to others, but in a race-conscious society where it is no longer OK to use racially derogatory language in public, it's troubling that the owner of a public sporting franchise would continue to use a racial epithet for his team's name and that the team's fans aren't demanding a name change.

In a *New York Times* Op-Ed piece, author David Treuer of the Ojibwe Nation states “the pity that Mr. Snyder seems to feel for Indians and our plight is intimately connected with age-old ideas and images — strength, bravery, a warrior spirit, noble savagery — all of which are conjured by the cartoonish use of Indian names and mascots.”

**>> See MESSAGE on page 16**



Misako Shigekawa had two children while incarcerated at Poston, including daughter, Marlene, and son, Gerald. Marlene is the executive producer of a new documentary about mothers and their children.

# DOCUMENTARY 'FOR THE SAKE OF THE CHILDREN' TURNS A LENS ON MOTHERS IN POSTON

The Poston Community Alliance received a National Endowment for the Arts grant of \$20,000 and will expand the documentary 'For the Sake of the Children' to include family stories from other WWII camps.

By P.C. Staff



Writer-director Joe Fox (pictured at left) interviews Alan Nishio, who was the founder and co-chair of the National Coalition of Redress/Reparations and is the current Little Tokyo Service Center board president.

Every year since Monica Embrey was about 8 years old, she has dutifully traveled hundreds of miles from the cityscape of Los Angeles, Calif., to the desert of Manzanar.

Embrey, who is of mixed ethnicity, passionately recounts how the Japanese American side of her family was unjustly relocated to Manzanar after the bombing of Pearl Harbor. It is a chapter in the 27-year-old's family history that she knows intimately thanks to her grandmother, Sue Kunitomi Embrey, who, despite outside pressures and cultural sentiment at the time, spoke out about the World War II incarceration of 120,000 persons of Japanese descent.

"I don't think there's a year I haven't cried," said Embrey, a North Carolina resident, who recently returned from the Manzanar Pilgrimage. "I definitely would not be the person I am had I not grown

up learning about these experiences and hearing about my grandmother. She became the inspiration for my entire career path to be a community organizer and an advocate."

Growing up in Chicago, Ill., Embrey's grandmother, an activist and the former chair of the Manzanar Committee, visited her



elementary school to talk about her wartime experiences. Before the war, the Kunitomis lived in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo, where the father, Gonhichi, ran a transportation service until a truck accident ended his life in 1937. As a single-parent mother, Gonhichi's wife, Komika, was able to scrape enough money together to purchase a grocery store in 1941.

Shortly after, however, the family would be forced to resell the store at a loss and relocate to Manzanar.

"My grandmother was 18 years old when Executive Order 9066 was signed. She and her eight siblings and my great-grandmother all moved from Little Tokyo to Manzanar," said Embrey. "After several decades, she actually moved back to Los Angeles and became one of the foremost active people within the Japanese American community to organize and petition our government for redress. She formed in 1969 the first pilgrimage back."

Embrey's family story will be part of the new documentary "For the Sake of the Children," which focuses on the multigenerational impact of the WWII mass incarceration of Japanese Americans. Produced by the Poston Community Alliance, the film originally focused on the struggle mothers endured to raise their children behind the barbed wire of Poston.

"We wanted to focus in on women and their struggle. We began shooting in 2012 because we got a grant," said the film's executive producer Marlene Shigekawa of the National Park Service grant. "We decided to expand it to begin reviewing the descendants. So now we're looking at four generations. The central question is, 'What is the impact of the Japanese American internment on you and your family?'"

The film's central focus is a topic with which Shigekawa is personally familiar. Her mother, Misako, gave birth to her and her brother at Poston in Arizona. Misako, then 103, was interviewed for the film six months before she died.

"We would hear stories about camp, and I would ask her questions, but I never really knew her underlying feelings in terms of feeling disgraced and shameful. It's hard to articulate as a Nisei," said Shigekawa of hearing her mother's interview in the film. "But to have it actually expressed to the filmmakers was a bit shocking and enlightening and unbelievable. Also at the same time, very courageous."

In addition to a previous grant received from the National Park Service, the Poston Community Alliance received \$20,000 from the National Endowment for the Arts. The filmmakers are currently working to raise donations to match that grant. The additional grant monies will be used to expand "For the Sake of the Children," to an hourlong film that will include family stories from other WWII camps.

"I think it's important to capture various aspects of the camp experience and its impact," said Alan Nishio, who was born in Manzanar and was interviewed for the documentary. "Most of the focus typically is on the camp survivors and not necessarily of the legacy of the camps on the



Marlene Shigekawa (center) with her daughter, Quincy Godin, and mother, Misako.

subsequent generations."

Nishio spoke in "For the Sake of the Children" about his personal recollections of Manzanar, where he was wrongfully incarcerated with his mother, father and sister.

"I didn't find out that Manzanar was one of the concentration camps until I was a senior in college. At that time, the camp experience was never in history books. We'd never read about it, and it was never a discussion within families," Nishio said. "It's important to close some of that chapter. There continues to be Sansei today that do not talk about the camps. It continues to be a deep wound for many. I think it's important to have a forum, have that shared, and hopefully it sets the basis for some conversation around dinner tables."

Directed by Joe Fox and James Nubile, "For the Sake of the Children" is scheduled to be released next year. Shigekawa says they hope to screen the film at film festivals and on public television. The filmmakers also invite those with personal family stories of WWII incarceration camps to share their memories and photos on the "For the Sake of the Children" blog.

For Embrey, the chance to participate in the documentary was an opportunity to continue the work her grandmother began decades ago by continuing to speak out about her family's story of survival and resiliency.

"Memories can fade, especially when the people who actually lived them are no longer with us," said Embrey. "It's a responsibility for Sansei, Yonsei and the Japanese American community to remind the U.S. of the wrongs that were committed here and just what it took to make sure those wrongs were corrected and never repeated."

**For more information about the film, or to make an online donation, visit [www.forthesakeofthechildren.blogspot.com](http://www.forthesakeofthechildren.blogspot.com).**

#### For the Sake of the Children

To help the Poston Community Alliance match their \$20,000 NEA grant, checks can be mailed to:

Marlene Shigekawa  
Board Member/Project Director  
Poston Community Alliance  
956 Hawthorne Dr.  
Lafayette, CA 94549

The filmmakers of "For the Sake of the Children" (from left) Joe Fox, Marlene Shigekawa and James Nubile at the 45th Manzanar Pilgrimage.



### Polaris Tours 2014 Schedule

May 15. ~ May 25	<b>Kii Peninsula:</b> "Koyasan, Kii Katsuura, Shirahama, Toba, Kyoto"
May 17 ~ May 25	<b>Wonders of Iceland:</b> "Stunningly Beautiful"
May 24 ~ Jun. 02	<b>Gardens &amp; Villas of the Italian Lakes:</b> "Venice, Como, Bellagio, Lugano"
April / May / June	<b>Spring Las Vegas Show:</b> "TBA"
Jun. 21 ~ Jun. 29	<b>The Best of Switzerland:</b> "Matterhorn, St. Moritz, Lucerne, Zermatt"
Jul. 07 ~ Jul. 16	<b>Japan By Train:</b> "Hiroshima, Kurashiki, Okayama, Kyoto, Tokyo"
Sep. 07 ~ Sep. 18	<b>Tohoku &amp; Hokkaido:</b> "Simplistic & Natural Beauty"
Sep. 07 ~ Sep. 21	<b>Highlights of Spain:</b> "Barcelona, Valencia, Granada, Seville, Madrid"
Oct. 04 ~ Oct. 11	<b>Andean Lake Crossing &amp; Chilean Wine Country:</b> "Bariloche, Santiago"
Oct. 09 ~ Oct. 18	<b>Treasures of France:</b> "Paris, Avignon, Arles, St. Remy, Nice, Monaco"
Oct. 15 ~ Oct. 27	<b>Dynamic Taiwan:</b> "Taipei, Taroko Gorge, Tainan, Kaohsiung"
Oct. 17 ~ Oct. 31	<b>South Africa &amp; Victoria Falls:</b> "Cape Town, Johannesburg & Safari"
Oct. 19 ~ Oct. 28	<b>Autumn Japan:</b> "Hiroshima, Kyoto, Kanazawa, Takayama, Tokyo"



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# Celebrating Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

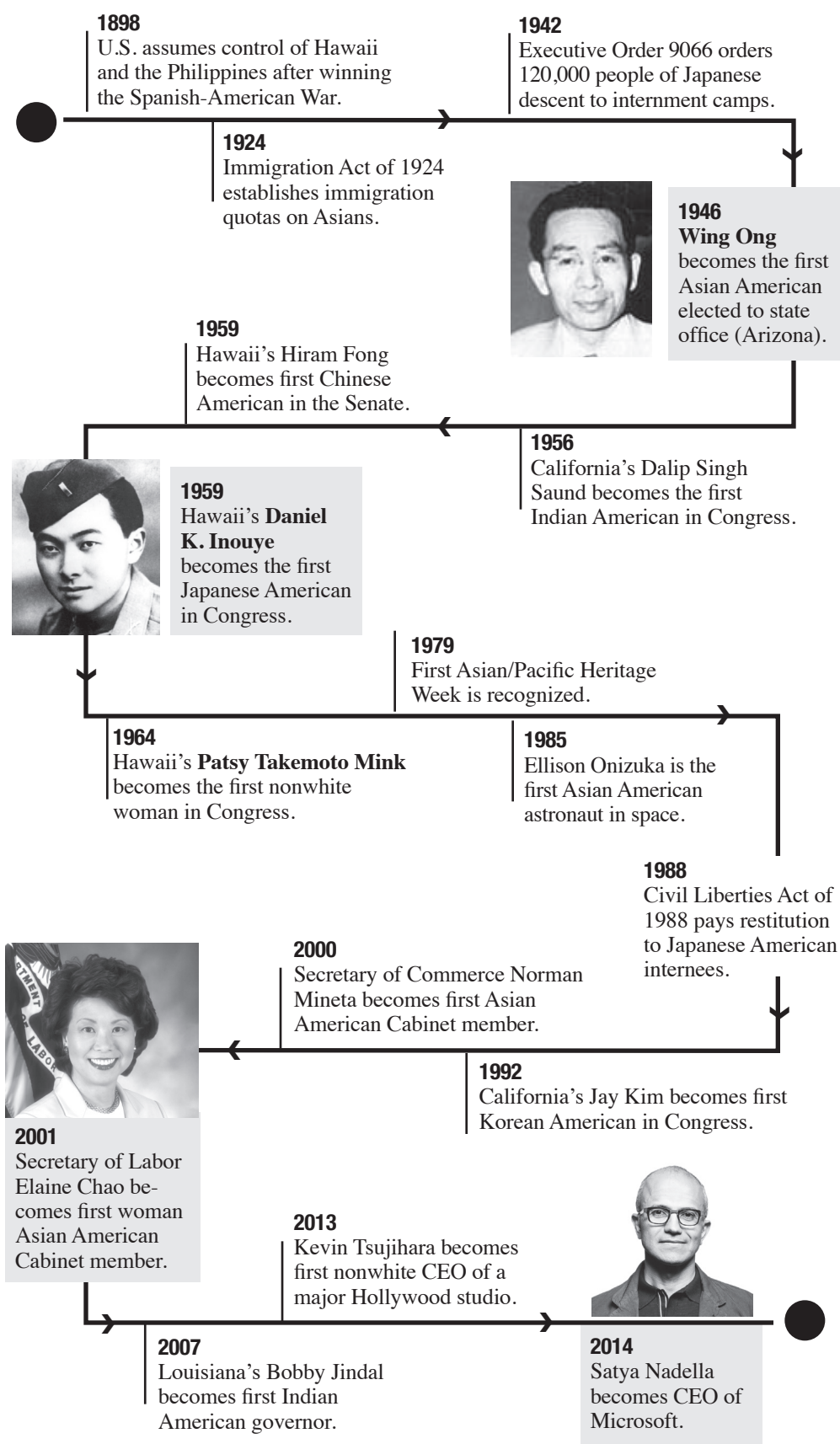
By P.C. Staff

May is Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, a celebration of Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States. According to the Library of Congress, May was chosen “to commemorate the immigration of the first Japanese to the United States on May 7, 1843, and to mark the anniversary of the completion of the transcontinental railroad on May 10, 1869. The majority of the workers who laid the tracks were Chinese immigrants.”

APA Heritage Month originated in a congressional bill. In June 1977, Reps. Frank Horton of New York and Norman Mineta of California introduced a House resolution that called upon the president to proclaim the first 10 days of May as Asian/Pacific Heritage Week. The next month, Sen. Daniel Inouye and Sen. Spark Matsunaga of Hawaii introduced a similar bill in the Senate. Both passed.

On Oct. 5, 1978, President Jimmy Carter signed a joint resolution designating the annual celebration, and in May 1990, President George H. W. Bush designated May to be Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

Following is a timeline of important Asian American milestones.



## News Briefs



### Bernadette Lovato Named New Superintendent for Manzanar National Historic Site

**SAN FRANCISCO** — Manzanar National Historic Site has named Bernadette Lovato as its new superintendent; Lovato will begin her new position in June, replacing the recently retired Les Inafuku.

Lovato, who currently serves as district manager for the Bureau of Land Management's Carson City District Office, began her federal career in 1990 with the National Park Service Division of Interpretation and Visitor Services. She then worked at Grand Canyon National Park and Glacier National Park in the Concessions Management program before transferring to the Bureau of Land Management in 2002.

"I have strong ties to the Owens Valley and am looking forward to joining the Manzanar team. I have had a lifelong interest in inclusiveness and social equality, so this assignment is especially important to me," said Lovato.

Said Pacific West Regional Director Chris Lehnertz: "Bernadette's experience will be a great asset for the park. Her background managing many different types of resources and familiarity with the area make her an excellent choice to oversee the varied and complex issues at Manzanar."



### Mark Matsuda Is Named Police Chief in the City of Torrance, Calif.

**TORRANCE, CALIF.** — Mark Matsuda, 50, was sworn in April 15 as the city of Torrance's first Nikkei police chief and the 12th chief in its history.

Matsuda, who has worked as a police officer with the Torrance Police Department since 1987, will oversee a department of more than 200 sworn officers and an annual operating budget of \$68 million.

He first graduated with honors from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Academy and received his B.A. degree from California State University, Long Beach, as well as a master's degree from Chapman University in 2007.

Matsuda has served as interim chief for the past three months since the retirement of John Neu. His appointment comes following an in-house selection process conducted by City Manager Leroy Jackson.



### S.F. State University's Amy Sueyoshi Awarded 2014 OAH/JAAS Japan Residency

**ATLANTA** — Amy Sueyoshi, associate dean of the College of Ethnic Studies at San Francisco State University, has been awarded the 2014 OAH/JAAS Japan Residency at the University of the Ryukyus in Asian American history and history of sexuality at the annual meeting of the Organization of American Historians on April 12.

Sueyoshi, who specializes in sexuality, gender and race, earned her B.A. from Barnard College and a Ph.D. from the University of California, Los Angeles. She is also the author of "Queer Compulsions: Race, Nation, and Sexuality in the Affairs of Yone Noguchi (2012)."

The OAH and the Japanese Association for American Studies, with the support of the Japan-United States Friendship Commission, select two U.S. historians to spend two weeks at Japanese universities giving lectures, seminars and advising students and researchers interested in the American past. It is also part of an exchange program that brings Japanese graduate students who are studying in the U.S. to the OAH annual meeting.

Sueyoshi was presented her award by OAH President Alan M. Kraut and OAH President-Elect Patricia Limerick.



### Furniture Designer George Nakashima's Complex Honored With National Landmark

**HARRISBURG, PENN.** — The George Nakashima Woodworker Complex in Bucks County, Penn., is one of four new national historic landmarks announced U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and National Park Service Director Jonathan B. Jarvis on

April 23.

Internationally renowned furniture designer and woodworker Nakashima is recognized as one of America's most eminent furniture designer craftsmen. His complex is significant for its innovative Japanese-influenced International Style structures designed by Nakashima and built under his direct supervision.

The George Nakashima Woodworker Complex joins 2,540 other sites across the country recognized as places that possess exceptional value and quality in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the United States.

Other sites receiving this designation include the Adlai E. Stevenson II Farm (Mettawa, Ill.), the Detroit Industry Murals (Detroit Institute of Arts, Detroit, Mich.) and the 1956 Grand Canyon TWA-United Airlines Aviation Accident Site (Grand Canyon National Park, Ariz.).



# Participants Pay Homage to the 45th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage

By Charles James  
Contributor

An apple orchard normally conveys a sense of goodness to most hearing the term, but the word *manzanar*, which is Spanish for “apple orchard,” would come to have a very different meaning for many of Japanese ancestry in the United States during World War II. And it still does for the more than 1,000 on hand to attend this year’s 45th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage, which was held April 26 at the Manzanar National Historic Site in California’s Owens Valley.

Thanks largely to the efforts of Sue Kunitomi Embrey and others, the Manzanar Relocation Center site was formally established as a national historic site in 1992 by President George H. W. Bush. The first Pilgrimage was held on site in 1969, and it has continued for 45 years. It is an act of love, respect and remembrance that is, in the words of the Manzanar Committee’s Mission Statement, “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.”

This year’s Pilgrimage was also a “call to action” by the Manzanar Committee to the threat of a large 1,200-acre solar photovoltaic plant being proposed by the City of Los Angeles just a few miles northeast of the camp.

“The Committee feels the presence of



Manzanar Committee Co-Chair Bruce Embrey (left) urged citizens to oppose the proposed Southern Owens Valley Solar Ranch near Manzanar; (right) the traditional interfaith service at the Manzanar Cemetery Monument.



such a large industrial-sized solar energy plant would undermine the isolation and desolate historical viewscape that internees experienced, an important psychological component of why they were sent there in the first place,” said the Manzanar Committee’s Gann Matsuda.

With more than 1,000 people from diverse backgrounds attending this year’s Pilgrimage, it was a commemoration as well for the 110,000 Americans of Japanese ancestry that were sent to 10 American concentration camps around the country during World War II. The individual experiences and personal memories of those incarcerated at Manzanar make up the richness of the camp’s history of loss, pain and joy.

The Sue Kunitomi Embrey Legacy Award was presented to Arthur A. Hansen, renowned scholar and co-founder of the Japanese American Oral History Program. The Legacy Award was also given to educator Mas Okui, who as a 10-year-old boy spent more than three years at Manzanar.

This year’s keynote speaker was Eileen H. Tamura, a history professor from the University of Hawai‘i Manoa, whose area of expertise has been research focusing on the history of education, Asian American history and historical issues concerning minorities, ethnicity and culture. She is also the author of “In Defense of Justice: Joseph Kurihara and the Japanese American Struggle for Equality.”

Once again this year, the crowd was treated to an exuberant performance by UCLA Kyodo Taiko, the nation’s first and oldest collegiate taiko drumming team.

Before breaking to conclude the official program with the traditional interfaith service at the Manzanar Cemetery Monument, Manzanar Committee Co-Chair Bruce Embrey gave an impassioned plea to those gathered to send letters to the City of Los Angeles expressing their opposition to the proposed Southern Owens Valley Solar Ranch near Manzanar.

At the end of the day, more than 500 students from schools and colleges around the state, along with others on the pilgrimage, came together at the Lone Pine High School Gymnasium to take part in the Manzanar at Dusk Program, where they met and interacted with those formerly incarcerated at Manzanar. The program was 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. They were also joined by several campus groups from the Muslim Students Assn.

In small discussion groups, participants talked about the importance of what happened at Manzanar and how it relates to what is seen in today’s events and issues. They all agreed that what happened to the more than 110,000 people of Japanese heritage who lived on the Pacific coast of the United States at the time of World War II was neither good nor was it right.

More importantly, they all agreed that it should never be allowed to happen to anyone ever again. ■

## L.A.’s Little Tokyo Set to Hold Nikkei LGBTQ Forum

The JACL Pacific Southwest District and the Church & Society Committee of the Centenary United Methodist Church are set to hold “Nikkei LGBTQ Crossroads: Our Stories” on Saturday, May 31, from 1-3 p.m. at the Centenary United Methodist Church of Los Angeles in Little Tokyo.

People of all generations are invited to learn more about gender, sexuality and LGBTQ stories in the Japanese American community. Panelists will speak about their individual experiences navigating LGBTQ issues in the Nikkei community and their areas of profession, as well as their hopes for LGBTQ inclusion and awareness in the future.

Featured panelists include Eric Arimoto, a fourth-generation Japanese American gay man and a Pasadena, Calif.-based marriage and family therapist intern

whose clinical focus is working with LGBT persons; Riku Matsuda, a senior intergroup relations specialist at the Los Angeles County Commission on Human Relations; Bishop Roy I. Sano, who served in a variety of pastoral settings throughout his nearly 50 years as a United Methodist minister; and Mia Frances Yamamoto, a radical feminist Asian American transgender woman lawyer who practices criminal defense in Los Angeles.

Set to moderate the panel is Eileen Ma, executive director of API Equality Los Angeles.

The event is free and open to the public. Donations are welcomed and will support various organizations.

For more information, contact Traci Ishigo, program coordinator, at [tishigo@jacpsw.org](mailto:tishigo@jacpsw.org).

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# Out for Justice

Actor Sung Kang takes on the role of a cop navigating Los Angeles' gang scene in Fox's gritty new action-drama series 'Gang Related.'

By **Connie K. Ho**  
Contributor

**B**etter Luck Tomorrow." "The Fast and the Furious" series, "Bullet to the Head." These are some of the films where Korean American actor Sung Kang has been able to flex his muscles and hone his acting résumé, and now he's taking on a new role in Fox's "Gang Related," a new TV series premiering May 22 about an elite Los Angeles police task force unit that takes on the city's most dangerous gangs, including one gang to which a task force member has specific ties. The *Pacific Citizen* spoke recently with Kang on his new TV role and his emotional connections to his "Fast" family.

**What drew you to the role of Tae Kim in "Gang Related"?**

**Sung Kang:** First of all, it's always a wonderful gift when you have a friend that creates the role for you. Chris Morgan, who was the writer for "The Fast and the Furious" 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7, called me and said he had a pilot that he had developed, and he had a role that he had created for me. He was wondering if I would like to come play with him and join this team. And that in itself — how often as an actor do you get somebody to create a character and give you a stage where you can shine? We're friends, but he also knows the kind of work that I strive for as an actor. It was just a wonderful thing, and then we get to collaborate and bring this character to life: It's an introduction to a Korean American character in a fictionalized setting; he has a dark past, but he's fighting for good. There are themes of family in "Gang Related" — [Tae Kim] has integrity. There are so many layers with this guy, but yet also it's make-believe, it's Hollywood, so there are these cool aspects to it where there's a sexiness, coolness and a machoness to this guy. So as a man, as an actor, it's just a wonderful gift to receive an opportunity like this.

**It's great that you mention layers to your character in "Gang Related." In the pilot episode, you see Tae as very methodical, able to hide his true feelings and knowledgeable about life in downtown Los Angeles, Koreatown in particular. There's one scene where your character picks up burning pieces that are used to brand gang members, and he successfully hides the searing pain. With that in mind, do you think there are any similarities or differences between you and your character?**

**Kang:** Absolutely — all the tough-guy stuff is make-believe. I'm holding this burning thing in my hand and claiming I'm invincible to pain, so that stuff — there's a lot of glamorization and that was what I was alluding to earlier, the fun part. But there are scenes of the character in "Gang Related" of loyalty to family and fighting for good, and I think these are themes that I try to live by. I think that there's an integrity that I try to live by, and I think about how if Sung was in the position of this character Tae Kim, how would he react?

And some of the things I can relate with the things that Tae Kim's fighting for — he has a dream, he has a dark past he's trying to shake off, he's always striving to better himself. So, I think those universal humanistic goals, that's where, if I had to say Sung and Tae had some things similar, that probably would be it. All the cool stuff, all the tough-guy stuff, I'm only a human being — I'm not really a tough dude; that's the Vin Diesels and the Dwayne Johnsons.



Sung Kang portrays Tae Kim in Fox's new action-drama "Gang Related," which premieres May 22.

**There's also a ton of stunts and action scenes in the series. Did you do anything in particular to prepare for the physicality of this role?**

**Kang:** The great thing about having the support of a studio system is that they always allow you to have access to the best of the best. So, if we need consultants to talk about what the FBI or what the LAPD does day to day, how to properly hold a gun, all these things — it's kind of like being on a Major League Baseball team. Those resources and those educational things are at your whim, and that's pretty awesome. For the physicality and getting into the

mind of an FBI officer, those things and those resources were so available. I give credit to Chris Morgan and Scott Rosenbaum, the showrunner, and Fox for always being so open and allowing those resources to exist.

**You talked about Chris Morgan and "The Fast and the Furious." Are there a lot of people, either actors or behind-the-scenes crew, who worked on "Fast" along with "Gang Related"?**

**Kang:** One of the actors plays a recurring guest star, a really strong guest star on one of our episodes. A lot of the stunt





Fox's "Gang Related" features an all-star ensemble cast.

team — any time there's some car-related action or just high-intensity vehicle stuff, there's always overlap with "The Fast and the Furious." Even Paul Walker's stunt double worked on our show. And, of course, we have Chris Morgan — Hollywood is quite small.

#### In what way? Can you elaborate?

**Kang:** There tends to be a lot of overlap, and I think when you're lucky enough to shoot in L.A. and be in this business for years, and something tragic like a loss of a friend like Paul (Walker) happens, it's nice that there's a community that is actually there for you. There are condolences, and there's support — so I have to say, that's how I noticed a major, major overlap. And the people associated with "The Fast and the Furious" also worked on "Gang Related." [We were all] emotionally connected.

#### You talked about shooting in L.A., and "Gang Related" does a great job of showcasing different parts of the city such as the First Street Bridge and Boyle Heights. What is it like to film in so many different locales in the city, and what is the filming schedule like?

**Kang:** It was a four, five-day workweek, on average about 13 hours. But for an actor, at least for me, it never feels like work. I feel like I show up to a place and play pretend for a living. But in terms of the hours and being in L.A. — what a blessing. Even if you work late hours, you can drive home and be with your loved ones; that was pretty cool, and I haven't shot in L.A. in a long time. I think we really lucked out that Fox supported the idea of us shooting in L.A. But not only that, it really helps, as they say, to bring that environment to life. In fun, exciting and well-crafted shows,

the city is the character, right? So, we not only got to see parts of L.A. that I've probably never been to but also when we shoot there, [it allows] people to be introduced to a new character and this side of Los Angeles.

#### Do you have a scene of which you're particularly proud?

**Kang:** I have a scene in Episode 7 where my character goes to visit part of his past, and I've been able to do some of the best work that I've ever done in front of the camera.

#### And how about as an actor, in general?

**Kang:** In terms of favorite moments as an actor, those are wonderful victories for me where you get to delve into a character emotionally and where the writing supports a level of acting — the thing that drove me to pursue this dream as an actor. And all the moments with the rest of the cast and crew when we go on location. Let's say we have a night shoot, and during those moments where we're moving the camera, we've got a quick break — all those little moments and all those conversations of bonding and getting to know each other — I think those moments are priceless. It's like you get to go to camp every day and hang out with a bunch of people who all have the same dream of make-believe.

#### In the show, the characters are so diverse. They come from all walks of life and speak so many different languages. You also get some screen time to speak Korean. Growing up, did you speak the language?

**Kang:** I did get to speak Korean, and I do speak Korean — I would probably say at a third-grade level, it's very elementary. But it's funny — there's an episode where

there's four different languages in a one-hour show, so back-to-back. And me being able to introduce the American audience to a Korean American — a guy they maybe recognize and are desensitized to, but now I'm introducing this Korean part of my culture.

#### How exciting for you to be able to introduce your culture to a wide audience.

**Kang:** There were challenging moments — a lot of things get lost in translation, but fortunately, we are in Los Angeles. It's the largest Korean community in America, so there's an abundance of Korean people willing to help. I get a lot of love from the community — when we get to shoot in Koreatown, they're supporting, they want their brother to represent well. We have a lot of support from the community — I think we're representing three dimensionally, so that was exciting. And if we get picked up for another season or two or three or four or five, it's going to be cool to have scenes with other Asian characters and be able to employ other Asian actors because of my character and this Korean or Asian story line. I'm excited about that, the potential — it's pretty cool.

#### Anything else that we can look forward to with your character this season in "Gang Related"?

**Kang:** I think people are going to get their hearts broken — there's a lot of emotions out there this season. So, I hope that makes people want more and wonder where this character's going or where he came from. There's a wonderful seed that's planted this season, and it's kind of up to the audience to pour water on that and let it grow. I'm really excited — the potential of that character growing into something. ■



The special police task force unit in "Gang Related" navigates the streets of Los Angeles to tackle and bring down some of the city's most notorious gangs.



# Inyo County and L.A. Groups Urge Caution, Continued Vigilance in Fight Against Large-Scale Renewable Energy Development in Owens Valley

## INDEPENDENCE AND LOS ANGELES, CA —

A broad array of groups working to protect the Owens Valley and the Manzanar National Historic Site from being devastated by large-scale renewable energy development urged caution and continued vigilance on April 4 in spite of actions by the Inyo County Board of Supervisors and Planning Department that appeared to remove the Owens Valley from consideration as a area where such development would be allowed.

At a meeting of the Board of Supervisors on April 1, County Planning Department staff presented a revised Renewable Energy General Plan Amendment (REGPA) proposal that did not include the Owens Valley as a Renewable Energy Development Area (REDA).

However, many individuals and organizations, including the Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley, the Manzanar Committee and the Owens Valley Committee, warned that the Owens Valley REDA is still very much under consideration.

"The Planning Department presented a new alternative to the Board of Supervisors that they called 'Less, Less Intensive,' which removed the Centennial Flat/Darwin and Owens Valley REDA's," said Alan Bacock, Water Program Coordinator for the Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley. "But even though the Owens Valley REDA was erased from the map, it continues to exist. The location is no longer defined, but it now includes all areas within the Owens Valley."

"The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's proposed Southern Owens Valley Solar Ranch and the Owens Valley REDA are definitely not off the table, as they are now going to be studied in conjunction with the latest \$400,000 California Energy Commission grant that was just awarded to Inyo County," said Mary Roper, president of the Owens Valley Committee. "There was an assumption on the part of the public, not based on any action that was taken at this board meeting, that this 'Less Less Intensive' REDA map was the one that was going to go forward. This is not the case at all."

Manzanar Committee Co-Chair Bruce Embrey noted that the Board of Supervisors took public input into account, but he also indicated that the fight against large-scale renewable energy development in the Owens Valley, especially within the viewshed of the Manzanar National Historic Site, must continue.

"The Inyo County Planning Department suggested some criteria to add to the REGPA to determine whether a solar project



PHOTO: JUDYTH GREENBURGH

Stakeholders called on the Inyo County Board of Supervisors to protect the Owens Valley from large-scale, industrial renewable energy development. Present at the press conference were (from left) Alan Bacock, Big Pine Paiute Tribe of the Owens Valley; Mary Roper, president of the Owens Valley Committee; Bruce Embrey, co-chair of the Manzanar Committee; and Meredith Hackleman, Los Angeles community/environmental activist.

should be built, including mitigating impacts to the culture and economy and to avoid significant alterations to the viewshed of Owens Valley," he said. "These are important considerations. But while the Manzanar Committee appreciates the Board of Supervisors taking our concerns seriously, no firm decision was made."

"We intend to remain vigilant, continue to organize against the LADWP's plans for the SOVSR and push for distributed solar energy projects in Los Angeles and in the Owens Valley so there will be no need for large-scale industrial solar projects that would destroy the viewshed of the Manzanar National Historic Site," Embrey added.

Indeed, the LADWP's Southern Owens Valley Solar Ranch remains on the drawing board as well as the negotiating table.

"The term sheet and Memorandum of Understanding for the SOVSR is still out there, and the LADWP accepted the board's invitation to discuss it," Roper noted.

The public is urged to closely follow the actions of the Inyo County Board of Supervisors and Planning Department in the weeks and months ahead.

"We are not done with this fight," Roper emphasized. "Check the board agendas every Thursday night or Friday because there are going to be items that slip in under our radar. There are several supervisors who seem determined to continue on with the SOVSR and the Owens Valley REDA, no matter if it isn't pictured on the 'Less Less Intensive' map.

Also, keep an eye on anything that has to do with electrical transmission. That is really the key as to what extent Inyo County can be industrialized."

"It is important to note that the activities conducted on April 1 showed that county staff and the Board of Supervisors are listening and responding to the concerns of the public, but this is not the end of the discussion," Bacock warned. "Inyo County is still in preliminary evaluations of the REGPA, and no decision has been made to actually choose any of the alternatives that have been presented. The 'Less, Less Intensive' alternative is a good step forward, but there are still questions that remain."

"The movement to save Inyo County from industrial renewable energy projects should not end because of the newly proposed alternative in the REGPA," Bacock added. "We are in a marathon, not a sprint." ■

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# Do You Know the Way to San Jose?



By JACL National Convention Committee

The San Jose JACL welcomes all to celebrate “We Are America” at this year’s National JACL Convention at the Doubletree Hotel from July 9-12 in San Jose, Calif., the nation’s 10th largest city. With great weather and full amenities, San Jose has much to offer — we are happy to have you come early or leave later to enjoy our beautiful city.

San Jose is a place of change. From being the “Valley of Hearts Delight, which pays homage to the area’s rich agricultural industry, to its nickname as the “Capital of the Silicon Valley,” home to some of the biggest tech firms in the industry, San Jose has it all.

As a city with a rich, diverse cultural population, San Jose is also home to Japantown, one of the last three historic Japantowns in the United States, San Jose Taiko and the Japanese American Museum of San Jose.

Convention delegates will get their first welcome to San Jose when they fly into the Norman Y. Mineta San Jose International Airport, named after the former U.S. Transportation Secretary and politician who, in 1971, became the first Asian American mayor of a major American city.

This year’s convention theme is “We Are America,” and it reflects the diversity within the Asian American Pacific Islander community and the important role we play in our nation’s socioeconomic future. For far too long, AAPI’s and other people of color have struggled to gain acceptance as Americans. The 2014 JACL National Convention will focus on raising awareness about diversity and inclusion of communities of color as an integral part of the fabric of American society.

The 2014 JACL National Convention, chaired this year by Wayne Tanda, will be held at the Doubletree Hotel in San Jose, located just minutes from the Norman Y. Mineta San Jose International Airport and several mass transit transportation services, including the Valley Transit Authority Light Rail System and bus services. Visiting other parts of the Bay Area? The Cal Train Commuter Train service and Bay Area Rapid Transit are also available and connected to several VTA bus lines.

The convention will culminate with the San Jose Obon on July 12 and 13. This two-day Obon festival features the traditional Obon odori (dance) on both days. Convention participants are invited to stay after the convention to

fully experience this tradition-strong event. Each year, San Jose is proud to host nearly 1,200 dancers to the Obon festival, as well as collegiate taiko performances and food and game booths for all ages.

Other entertainment venues and places and things of interest located in San Jose include the Winchester Mystery House, sports teams like the San Jose Giants AA baseball team, the Children’s Discovery Museum, the Tech Museum of Innovation, the Rosicrucian Egyptian Museum, as well as California’s Great America amusement park, which offers a full day of family entertainment.

San Jose is also home to a great variety of shopping, including the Westfield Valley Fair mall, home to 230 premium shops and restaurants, and right across the street is the European-inspired neighborhood of Santana Row, home to more than 70 shops and boutiques. And not too far away is the famous Gilroy Premium Outlets.

Please join us in July for the 2014 JACL National Convention in San Jose!

For more information, visit [www.jacl.org/2014](http://www.jacl.org/2014).



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# Mile High Hosts Screening of 'Hafu' Documentary

The Mile High chapter of the JACL hosted a screening of the documentary "Hafu" at the Sie Film Center in Denver on April 17, followed by a panel discussion.

"Hafu," produced and directed by Megumi Nishikura and Lara Perez Takagi, follows the lives of five "hafus" — the Japanese term for people who are half-Japanese — as they explore what it means to be multiracial and multicultural in Japan. For some, Japan is the only home they know, for others, it is an entirely new experience, and then there are those who are caught somewhere in between the two different worlds.

Following the screening, the Mile High chapter hosted a panel discussion to discuss the film's impact today.

Moderated by board member Gil Asakawa, the panel featured board member Justin Valas, board member Donna

Hansen, Sylvia Smith Brown and James Simms. Each of the panelists shared their experience growing up multiracial and multicultural.

Interestingly enough, the panelists who grew up on a military base in Japan had a significantly easier time being socially accepted than the panelists who grew up in Japan or in a small town in America, because diversity is inherent in military bases.

One of the panelists even echoed the opinion shared by one of the people featured in the documentary, saying that mixed-race people will have a much easier time growing up once they accept the fact that they will never be fully accepted by Japanese society.

The evening was educational for all in attendance. The chapter aims to host additional documentary screenings in the future.



Participating in the panel discussion were (from left) Mile High board members Donna Hansen and Justin Valas, Sylvia Smith-Brown, James Simms and moderator/board member Gil Asakawa.

## Twin Cities JACL Education Committee Participates in Regional Social Studies Conference



PHOTO: CHERYL HIRATA-DULAS

Sally Sudo (right) distributes complimentary resource materials to high school social studies teacher Pamela Alsbury at the Minnesota Council for the Social Studies and Great Lakes Area 2014 Annual Conference.

The Twin Cities JACL Education Committee participated in the Minnesota Council for the Social Studies and Great Lakes Area 2014 Annual Conference on March 3 at the Sheraton Hotel in Bloomington, Minn.

Educators from Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin attended the two-day conference, which is aimed at increasing professional development opportunities for social studies teachers of all grade levels.

Sally Sudo staffed the JACL's exhibit booth as well as distributed complimentary resource materials, including the JACL National Education Curriculum Guide on "A Lesson in American History: The Japanese American Experience," the Twin Cities JACL's revised curriculum guide on the Military Intelligence Service Language School at Camp Savage and Fort Snelling (CD-ROM) and the Densho Civil Liberties

Curriculum (CD-ROM).

The chapter's trifold displays on the MISLS and incarceration served as backdrops for the exhibit table.

"It's always a pleasure to meet the teachers, some of whom have taught about this chapter in American history, and others who are learning more about it and want to include these lessons in their future plans," said Sudo. "They are always so appreciative of receiving these resource materials and learning that our chapter has a Speaker's Bureau willing to send someone to speak to their students."

A grant from the JACL Legacy Fund supported the chapter's participation in the conference, as well as revision of the MISLS curriculum guide, which can be found online at [www.twincitiesjacl.org/education#TOC-Military-Intelligence-Service-Curriculum-Guide](http://www.twincitiesjacl.org/education#TOC-Military-Intelligence-Service-Curriculum-Guide).

## Washington Union High School Looking for Nisei Graduates

**FRESNO, CALIF.** — Washington Union, a rural high school district at the southwest border of the Fresno, Calif., city limits, will be giving honorary high school diplomas to Nisei internees who would have graduated from Washington Union in 1942-45.

The graduation ceremony will be held during the school's regular graduation ceremony on June 6, beginning at 7 p.m.

The school is looking for contact information for the following graduates or their relatives:

Class of 1942: Hisaye Kanegawa, Mari Kimura, Marie Matsumoto, Haruye, Kiyoshi and Shizuko Muroi, Sanai Watarida

Class of 1943: H. Hayashi (male), M. Hayashi (female), K. Hirasuna (female), K. Nagai (male), Roy Sato, E. Takahashi (female)

Class of 1944: Tom Nakayama

Class of 1945: T. Kumasaki (female), Mits Matsumoto, Aiko Outa

Organizers have identified 50 Nisei enrolled at the school in 1942 and contacted 31 of them or their relatives.

If the graduate has passed away or is unable to attend, the family is encouraged to send a representative to receive his/her diploma. A response is requested ASAP, as cap and gowns will be ordered for the attendees.

Anyone with information on the 19 Nisei graduates is asked to contact Jean Yamamoto at (559) 260-7516 or email [jnenyo@hotmail.com](mailto:jnenyo@hotmail.com).

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## TOYOTA >> continued from page 2

Larry Dominique, the president of ALG, an automotive consulting and forecasting firm, said Texas is a cheaper place to do business than California, which has higher corporate taxes and more onerous work rules like paid family leave. But he said Toyota could be hurt by a brain drain if employees choose not to go.

Dominique, a former executive with fellow Japanese automaker Nissan Motor Co., said Nissan lost 68 percent of its workforce when it moved from California to Tennessee in 2008. The disruption can also cause the company to lose momentum, Dominique said.

"Some people believe that with a big cultural shift like that, you shake up the tree, bring in new blood," he said. "But the negative side to that is that you lose centuries of institutional knowledge, and that's so hard to get back. It takes you back four or five years."

Lentz said the cost of doing business in California wasn't a factor in Toyota's decision. Lentz, who became Toyota's first CEO for the North America region in 2013, said Toyota President Akio Toyoda encouraged him to think of ways to make North America more self-reliant. As part of that process, Lentz settled on the idea of a combined headquarters last April or May.

The company decided not to locate in California because it was too far from its plants in Kentucky, Indiana, Mississippi

and San Antonio, Texas. Kentucky was rejected because Erlanger wasn't big enough, and Ann Arbor was rejected because it was too close to Detroit rivals like General Motors and Ford.

Lentz said the company ultimately came up with a list of

100 possibilities that it whittled down to four.

"As we visited those four primary locations, it became quite clear that the Dallas metro area was far and above the best choice," Lentz said. He wouldn't disclose the other three finalists. ■

## City of Torrance Disappointed With Toyota Announcement

**TORRANCE, CALIF.** — Toyota opened its Torrance, Calif., headquarters in 1982, located just off the 405 Freeway and home to the company's engineering, finance, marketing, product planning and sales departments. Occupying nearly 2 million square feet on a 130-acre site, Toyota is believed to employ 5,300 people at its facility.

"Trust me, we don't want to lose a great partner like Toyota," said Torrance Mayor Frank Scotto during a press conference on April 28. "Toyota has done a number of things for the city. The fact that they are leaving and taking a lot of citizens and residents possibly to Texas — we are very disappointed with that because a lot of those people are part of our families."

According to experts, it made sense for Toyota to base its operations in Torrance due to the city's close proximity to Los Angeles International Airport, location to the twin ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles and location near a major freeway.

But an ever-evolving automaking industry put the location at a disadvantage, with major car manufacturers

building cars in North America and out of California due to cheaper costs.

According to Scotto, there is nothing Torrance can do to change the automaker's mind.

"We could offer them a lot of things," he said. "But we recognize that the deal they have is something that it would take the state of California to be a part of, not the city of Torrance. It's too late. The train has left the station."

With Toyota's announcement, Scotto said the city is going to progress forward and look for a new tenant to lease the space.

"Although we are disappointed with today's announcement, Torrance is a progressive and forward-looking city, and we welcome the challenge of growing new opportunities to other corporations that are seeking a new home in Southern California," he said. "Torrance is excited about any new businesses joining our beautiful Southern California city."

— P.C. Staff

## LETTER 1 >> continued from page 2

of the experience of the African American community shows, at least to me, there are moments in a community's life when its very survival is paramount as it confronts (or seeks to lessen direct encounters with) massive armed force and a pervasive racist ideology. I believe the years of World War II were such a moment for our community.

Like others, I suppose, I could beat up on the JACL for historic sins of commission and omission. But I won't. I believe that the continued survival of the Japanese American community owes so much to the JACL. (Even the organization's support for the McCarran-Walter Act, probably one of the most reactionary pieces of legislation passed in the post-World War II era but which was supported because it allowed Issei to become citizens, shrinks in significance because of JACL's role in our survival.) And there have been some proud moments since.

To cite just two: JACL's stand in broad solidarity with Arab and Muslim Americans has been exemplary; and the organization's support of same-sex marriage (20 years ago!) was a high point of courage and principled action for all of us.

I applaud all those who openly resisted the evacuation and internment. I would honor all those Nisei men who refused to go into the military in the face of the evacuation. But such heroic actions, while inspiring and encouraging, were not the models for collective action within the Nikkei community. At a time of high danger and stress, our parents and grandparents did what they felt they had to do to survive with dignity. And they did so. And so did the JACL.

Sincerely,

Masaru Nakawatase  
Philadelphia

## LETTER 2 >> continued from page 2

affected by being in Tule Lake, and those going to Japan as renunciants, I have heard stories of broken families, broken lives and profound shame that resulted from their experiences as Tule Lakers and/or renunciants. Perhaps, as what happened with the redress hearings, it would be cathartic for our community to hear from some of these people.

In recent years, Iku Kiriya, president of the SoCal JA Historical Society, has put together two very enlightening community forums addressing Tule Lake. We in the San Fernando Valley Chapter have met with former Tule Lakers to hear their stories.

One remark I heard at this meeting, made by a JACL member, expressed the sentiment of others when he remarked that he did not see the Tule Lakers as any different from anyone else who went to camp, saying that perhaps the discrimination they suffered was self-imposed.

A little historical investigation would reveal that at their 1944 National Convention, JACL went on record as condemning those not answering with

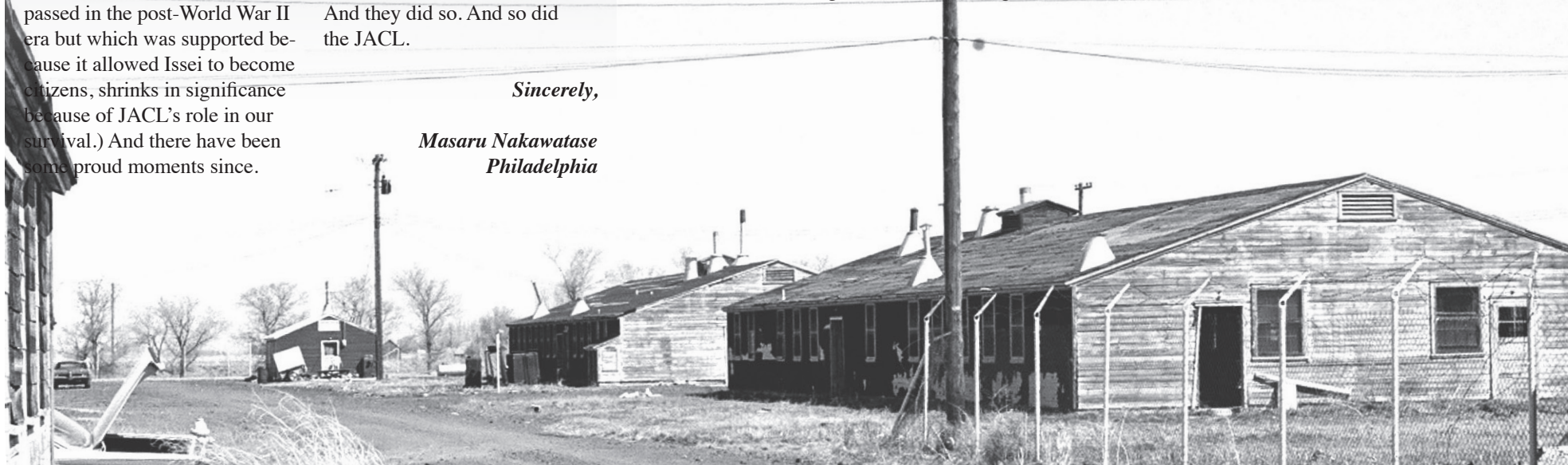
an unqualified yes to both of the loyalty questions, thus banishing them to Tule Lake, and condemning those expatriating to Japan. Also, Saburo Kido, national president, declared draft resisters guilty of sedition.

Being a longtime JACL member and having lived through WWII, I am sympathetic to the extreme wartime positions that might have caused JACL to react as it did.

I also believe that for whatever the justification, great harm was done, and after celebrating the redress victory, which granted to us an apology from our government, it is time for our organization to have the integrity to offer an apology to those in our community who have been harmed by our actions.

Sincerely,

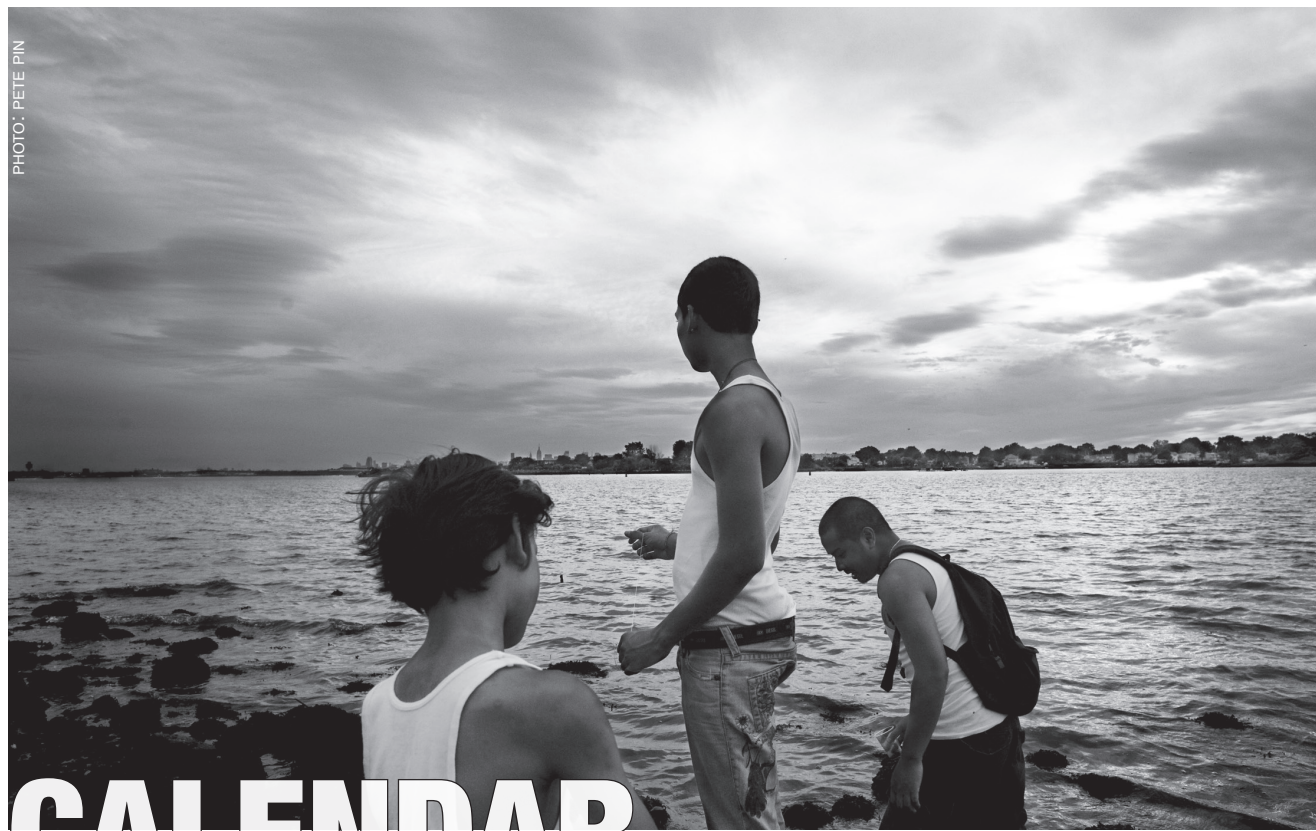
Phil Shigekuni  
San Fernando Valley Chapter, JACL





## A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

PHOTO: PETE PIN



# CALENDAR

## >>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." This year's convention will focus on raising awareness about diversity and inclusion of communities of color.

**Info:** Email [dc@jacl.org](mailto:dc@jacl.org) or visit [www.jacl.org](http://www.jacl.org).

## >>EDC

### Conference on Asian Pacific American Leadership Gala WASHINGTON, D.C.

**May 9, 7-10 p.m.**

**The Sphinx Club  
1315 K. St. N.W.**

**Cost: \$75/General Admission; \$100/VIP Reception; \$1,000/Circle of 25; \$650/10 Tickets**

The Conference on Asian Pacific American Leadership will commemorate APA Heritage Month by honoring community leaders and CAPAL alumni at its 25th Anniversary Gala. Reception speakers include former Sec. of Transportation Norman Y. Mineta and Deputy Secretary of Labor Chris Lu.

**Info:** Visit [www.capal.org](http://www.capal.org) or call (877) 892-5427.

**Brookline Sakura Matsuri  
BROOKLINE, MA  
May 10, Noon-4 p.m.  
Brookline High School  
115 Greenough St.**

### **Cost: \$10-20/Suggested Donation**

Join Genki Spark for its third annual Brookline Sakura Matsuri. Celebrate the blooming Japanese cherry blossoms with food, music, games, bon odori dancing and live taiko performances. The festival is being held in partnership with the Japan Society, Brookline Asian American Family Network, Showa Boston, New England JACL, Amos A. Lawrence School and William H. Lincoln School.

**Info:** Visit [www.thegenkispark.org](http://www.thegenkispark.org) or call (617) 308-4900.

### **Roger Shimomura's 'Great American Muse' Art Exhibit NEW YORK, NY**

**Thru June 28**

**Flomenhaft Gallery**

Roger Shimomura's "Great American Muse" is comprised of 30 new paintings that explore the interplay between the female figure, still life objects and contemporary art.

**Info:** Visit [www.flomenhaftgallery.com](http://www.flomenhaftgallery.com) or call (212) 268-4952.

## >>PNW

### **Kodomo No Hi, Children's Day**

**PORTLAND, OR**

**May 24, 1-3 p.m.**

**Portland Japanese Garden  
611 S.W. Kingston Ave.**

**Cost: \$9.50/Adults; \$7.75/Seniors; \$7.75/College Students; \$6.75/Youth (6-17)**

The Children's Day festival celebrates Japanese

American culture with taiko, activities, entertainment, crafts and the raising of the koi nobori (carp banner).

**Info:** Visit [www.japanese-garden.com](http://www.japanese-garden.com) or call (503) 223-1321.

## >>NCWNP

### **Eden Chapter Bazaar**

**SAN LORENZO, CA**

**June 7, 3-8 p.m., and June 8, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.**

**Eden Community Center  
710 Elgin St.**

The Eden Township JACL chapter is hosting its annual fundraising bazaar. There will be chicken and rib dinners, udon, sushi, curry, corn, bingo games and Eden Athletic Club silent auction.

**Info:** Contact Ron Sakaue at (510) 276-0752 or Ed Oda at (510) 538-6380.

### **Sake San Jose**

**SAN JOSE, CA**

**May 22, 4:30 p.m.**

**Japantown San Jose  
Jackson Street (between Third and Seventh Streets)**

**Cost: \$40/Early Bird; \$50/General Admission; \$60/VIP**

The sake will be flowing at the Yu-Ai Kai Ninth Annual Sake San Jose. The event gets started with the traditional sake cask breaking, or *kagami-wari*, and a toast. Ticketholders must be 21 or older. Proceeds benefit the Yu-Ai Kai Community Senior Service.

**Info:** Visit [www.sakesanjos.com](http://www.sakesanjos.com) or call (408) 294-2505.

### **San Jose Buddhist Church Obon SAN JOSE, CA**

**July 12-13**

**San Jose Buddhist Church  
640 N. Fifth St.**

This Japantown two-day event features game booths, food, cultural exhibits and demonstrations, plus live performances by the Chidori Band, San Jose Taiko and 1,200 dancers in costume.

**Info:** [www.sjbetsuin.com](http://www.sjbetsuin.com) or call (408) 293-9292.

## >>PSW

### **UCLA Asian American Studies Center Reception and Celebration**

**LOS ANGELES, CA**

**May 17, 2-4 p.m.**

**Senshin Buddhist Temple  
1311 W. 37th St.**

The UCLA Asian American Studies Center is celebrating the completion of the Yuji Ichioka and Emma Gee Endowment in Social Justice and Immigration Studies. Ichioka, who coined the term "Asian American," authored the award-winning book "The Issei: The World of First Generation Japanese

### **Day in the Life of Asia Pacific America WASHINGTON, D.C.**

**May 10**

**Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center**

**600 Maryland Ave., S.W.**

**Capital Gallery, Suite 7065**

"Day in the Life of Asian Pacific America" invites all amateur and professional photographers on May 10 to snap images that capture the essence of Asian Pacific America. Upload photos to Flickr and Instagram using #LifeAPA. Officials from the Smithsonian Asian Pacific American Center will feature selected images in digital exhibits throughout the year.

**Info:** Visit [www.smithsonianapa.org/life2014](http://www.smithsonianapa.org/life2014) or email [LuisA@si.edu](mailto:LuisA@si.edu).

Immigrants." Gee served as a member of the Amerasia editorial board and as an editor of "Counterpoint: Perspectives on Asian America."

**RSVP:** Email [IchiokaGee@eventbrite.com](mailto:IchiokaGee@eventbrite.com) or [aascrsvp@aasc.ucla.edu](mailto:aascrsvp@aasc.ucla.edu) no later than May 7.

### **Taiko Center of L.A. & Esencia Flamenca**

**SAN PEDRO, CA**

**May 16, 7:30 p.m.**

**Grand Annex**

**434 W. Sixth St.**

**Cost: \$20/Early Bird Tickets; \$25/At-the-Door; \$25/Advanced Cabaret Table; \$30/Advanced VIP Café Deck**

Team Taiko of the Wilmington Skills Center, a group of Spanish-speaking ESL students, will take to the stage with Esencia Flamenca. Rev. Shuichi Tom Kurai of Taiko Center L.A. has lead the taiko group, which was created thanks to a grant from the James Irvine Foundation to engage low-income communities in cultural music.

**Info:** Visit [www.grandannex.org](http://www.grandannex.org) or call (310) 833-4813. ■

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# In Memoriam

**Fukuda, George J., 92**, Los Angeles, CA; April 4; King City, Calif.-born Nisei; former internee at Amache; George was predeceased by his beloved wife, Miriam, and son, Greg; he is survived by his children, Ronald, Steven (Patty) and Koko; sister, Kathy (Tad); and many nephews and nieces; 2 gc.

**Inouye, Ray Eiki, 90**, Los Angeles, CA; April 7; a Honolulu-born Nisei; he is survived by his sons, Chris and Steve (Ann) Inouye; daughter, Deena (Dr. Mitchell) Lew; siblings, Richard (Mitzi), Ralph and Clyde (Shirley) Inouye and Edith Oba and Louise (Raymond) Shiratori, all of Hawaii; and many nieces, nephews and other relatives; 6 gc.

**Ishida, Michael Kioyshi, 47**,



Costa Mesa, CA; he is survived by his parents, Frank Kiyo and Dianne Dee Ishida; sister, Leslie (Andrew) Nau; nephews, Trevor and Chase Turner; grandmother, Mitsuko (Tony) Salcido; aunt, Margaret Tsuchiya deGuerena; uncle, Gary (Jeanne) Ishida; cousin, Stacie (Tim) Johnston; and many other close relatives.

**Ikkanda, Roy Mitsugi, 95**,



California; April 2; a Kibei Nisei born in Waipahu, HI; he is survived by his beloved wife, Fumiko; sons, Steve (Kiku) Ikkanda and Vance (Reiko) Ikkanda; daughter, Karen (Gary) Taka; sisters, Natsuo Sunahara of Hawaii and Kikuno Ikkanda of Japan; in-laws Teruo (Teruko) Tamada, Suzuko (Ben) Sera, Aiko Tamada, Takeshi (Tatsuko) Tamada of Japan, Takanori (Miyoko) Tamada of Japan, Yoshinori (Kimiko) Tamada of Japan; and many other nieces, nephews

in the U.S. and in Japan; 6 gc; 1 ggc.

**Kasai, Grace Shinako, 92**,



Salt Lake City, UT; March 8; survived by brother, Joe Sueoka; sister, Akiko Kato; and many nieces and nephews.

**Katsuki, Lily Yuriko, 91**, Los Angeles, CA; April 3; she is survived by her daughter, Darlene Carroll; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

**Kawa, Taro, 93**, Los Angeles,



CA; April 14; interned at Gila River while attending UCLA; he was involved for 40 years in Little Tokyo community and with Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple; he was preceded in death by his wife, Toshi; survived by his daughters, Susan (John) Devenport, Margaret (George) Magallon; sons, Steven (Nanci) Kawa, Alan Kawa; and many nieces and nephews; 4 gc; 6 ggc.

**Kitahara, Hironori, 78**, Santa Monica, CA; April 9; he is survived by his wife, Teruko Kitahara; children, Keiichi (Naomi) Kitahara, Fumiko (Simon) Otto, Hiroko (Michael) Domes; brother, Tetsuo (Masae) Kitahara of Japan; sister, Hiroka Miyama of Japan; also survived by cousins, nieces, nephews and friends across the U.S., Japan and Brazil; 5 gc.

**Kurata, Dr. Ray Ichizo, 66**, April 17; he is survived by his mother, Sumako Kurata; sister, Miyako Tachibana; brother-in-law, Noriyoshi Tachibana; nephew, Jonathan Tachibana; nephew, Taizo Tachibana; and niece, Miwa Tachibana.

**Liu, King Fong 'Katheleen,' 90**, Pasadena, CA; April 15; she is survived by her sons, Wilson (Shirley) and Howard (Noreen) Liu; daughter, Susan (Gordon) Maruya; and many nieces, nephews and other relatives; 4 gc; 3 ggc.

**Pipes, Yaeko, 85**, Burbank, CA; Feb. 13; she is survived by her former husband, Ronald Earl Pipes Sr.; son, Ronald Earl Pipes Jr.; and a niece in Japan.

**Miyamoto, Mary Emiko, 98**, Culver City, CA; April 8; predeceased by her beloved husband, James Yoshio Miyamoto; she is survived by her son, Yoshiaki (Sharon) Miyamoto; daughters, Akimi (Jon) Rasmussen and Shirley Miyamoto; also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; 7 gc; 8 ggc.

**Nakashima, George S., 91**, Los Angeles, CA; March 22; predeceased by his wife, June; he is survived by his sister, Bette Nakatomi; Glenn D., Gerald E. Hayashi, Gloria A. (David) Siebold, Cynthia Mikimoto, Barbara (Jim Perna), Debra (Bob Miyamoto), Judy (Ricky Schlesinger) and Douglas Nakatomi.

**Okazaki, Helen Sadako, 94**, Selma, CA; March 26; she is survived by her sons, Wayne (May) and Stanley (Dionisia) Okazaki; 3 gc.

**Saegusa, Margie Noriko, 66**, California; April 16; she is survived by her beloved husband, Takeo Saegusa; her daughter, Yuko (Roger) Wong; her siblings, Tom Okamoto, Yoshiko Nakagawa, Timmy Okamoto (Jeanne) and Kay Okamoto; and several nieces, nephews and cousins in California and Japan.

**Shoji, Chiseo, 95**, Las Vegas, NV; April 23; born in Portland, OR; predeceased by his wife, Nami, and son, Jaro; survived by his son, Todd, and daughter, Dori.

## Merrill's Marauders Veteran Roy Matsumoto Passes Away at 100

Roy Hiroshi Matsumoto, whose life story is told in the award-winning documentary "Honor and Sacrifice," passed away April 21 at the age of 100.

Matsumoto, who served with the famed Merrill's Marauders during World War II and was inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame, passed away peacefully in his sleep at his home on San Juan Island, Wash., in the company of his loving family, according to his daughter, Karen Matsumoto.

Matsumoto was born in Laguna, Calif., in May 1913.

In fall 1942, while at the Jerome Relocation Center in Arkansas, Matsumoto volunteered to serve in the U.S. Army as a Japanese language intelligence specialist in the 5307th Composite Unit, Provisional, which later gained fame as Merrill's Marauders.

Matsumoto earned the Legion of Merit and the Bronze Star for his military service in the Burma Campaign.

When the provisional unit disbanded, he joined the 475th Infantry Regiment of the "Mars Task Force" and was attached to Chinese Nationalist Army guerrilla forces operating behind enemy lines.

During the Korean War, Matsumoto was stationed in Okinawa. In 1952, he was transferred to the Presidio in San Francisco, then to the Oakland Army Base, from which he was reassigned to the Transportation Command at Fort Story in Virginia. He retired in 1963 after 20 years of Army service.

In 1993, Matsumoto was inducted into the Ranger Hall of Fame at Fort Benning, Ga. Later that same year, he was awarded the American Patriot Award for service to his country by the Japanese American Veterans Assn.

In 2011, he was awarded a Congressional Gold Medal in Washington, D.C. He is also the subject of the award-winning documentary "Honor and Sacrifice: The Roy Matsumoto Story," produced by Don Sellers and Lucy Ostrander, with Karen Matsumoto serving as associate producer. In April, the film earned the 2014 Erik Barnouw Award from the Organization of American Historians.

Matsumoto was a life member of the JACL, Merrill's Marauders Assn., Military Intelligence Service Assn., Ranger Regiment Assn. and Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Matsumoto is survived by his wife, Kimiko; daughters, Fumi and Karen; sons-in-law Richard and John; and three grandchildren. ■



### 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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Gerald Fukui  
President



## BABY BOOMERS >> continued from page 3

And, if you're an Asian American from the younger generations, you may be thinking now about the responsibilities of caring for your parents and grandparents — because Asian culture emphasizes respect for elders, and lots of us have grandparents living with us at home.

This is an important time of generational transition for Asian Americans, so I'm thrilled to be working with AARP on these issues.

As part of my duties for the AARP Fellowship, I'll be moderating a plenary

panel about social media at JACL's National Convention in San Jose, which will be held July 9-12. The good news is that more 50+ Asian Americans are online and on Facebook than older non-Asians. So, I may not be telling you anything you don't already know.

I hope you attend, and come say, "Hi" after the panel!

*Gil Asakawa is a member of the Pacific Citizen Editorial Board and the author of "Being Japanese American." He blogs about Japanese and Asian American issues on his blog at [www.nikkeiview.com](http://www.nikkeiview.com), and he's on Facebook, Twitter and lots of other social media. He was recently named the 2014 AAJA-AARP Social Media Fellow.*



PHOTO: AARP

George Takei hosts "Takei's Take" on YouTube, produced by AARP, which looks at the Internet and technology through the eyes of a senior.

## MESSAGE >> continued from page 3

... To pay tribute only to brave warriors and pitiful reservations is to engage in a fantasy that erases the lives of real Indians for whom the racial slur 'redskins' is intolerable."

The national JACL issued a statement on this matter in the April 1-7 DC Digest. Originally issued as a press release from the Chicago office and authored by Midwest Director Bill Yoshino, the statement navigates an interesting circumstance of Comedy Central comedian Stephen Colbert portraying a stereotypical Asian character announcing his newly created "Ching-Chong Ding Dong Foundation for Sensitivity to Orientals or Whatever," a clearly satirical vehicle aimed at pointing out the absurdity of Snyder's foundation.

Yoshino's statement, however, takes exception with the way in which Colbert chooses to make his statement.

"Much of 'The Colbert Report's' humor is based on the premise of the outrageous character played by Stephen Colbert, a caricature of a racist, sexist, over-the-top right-wing conservative media personality. Yet too often, the guise of humor and satire are used to absolve individuals of all responsibility when their humor misses its mark and becomes offensive.

"The JACL objects to Colbert's use of racist jokes to make a larger point about bigotry and ignorance. There is much to criticize around Dan Snyder's racial insensitivity and the enormous amount of privilege he wields in actively perpetuating the use of a racial slur. However, there is nothing clever or humorous about resorting to tired, racist stereotypes that target another marginalized group in order to make this point."

I don't watch Colbert's program but have liked what little I've seen of him elsewhere, which surprises me all the more that his satire of Snyder would resort to the use of a searing stereotype that offends Asian Americans.

As Yoshino puts it, when the humor misses its mark, it becomes offensive in itself.

And when an NFL franchise owner refuses to accept that he's insulting Native Americans, it's time to pressure him into changing the name. As Treuer states, "The name will change. Either the NFL will make Mr. Snyder change the name, or we will."

*John Tateishi is a former JACL National Director.*

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