



# PACIFIC CITIZEN



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Connecting the past with the present is the focus of **Manzanar at Dusk.**

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Teresa Maebori explains 'Uprooted.'

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## KONA KITCHEN IS A FAMILY AFFAIR

Actor-producer-restaurateur Yuji Okumoto on how his *ohana* has made their restaurant a huge success.

Yuji Okumoto with his daughters, Mari, Keilee and Emi, and his wife, Angie

PHOTO: COURTESY OF YUJI OKUMOTO



# PACIFIC CITIZEN BY THE NUMBERS . . . AND PLANNED GIVING

The *Pacific Citizen* Spring Campaign is in high gear! Have you sent your check in yet? Sometimes, it helps to understand why something is important by looking “at the numbers.” Let’s do that.

As of March 24, 2017, there are 7,823 members in JACL nationally. The total 2016 cost to produce the *Pacific Citizen* was \$345,000 (about \$44 per member). By policy, the JACL set the IRS value of the *Pacific Citizen* at \$12 per member, which allows everyone (to the extent of law) to deduct their dues payments from their taxes, less \$12).

When we had 20,000 members, covering the cost to produce the *Pacific Citizen* was pretty easy. However, with our membership at 7,823, the *Pacific Citizen* “program” last year ran a deficit, which has been accommodated in recent

years by drawing down our reserve account, which is pretty lean right now, even with these “good market” times.

With this in mind, the National Council at the last National Convention passed a resolution to request \$17 from each member that wanted the “newsprint” version of the *Pacific Citizen*.

All members with email addresses on file should also be receiving the electronic version of the *Pacific Citizen* as well. The nice thing about the electronic version for those who don’t live in California is that we get to read the *Pacific Citizen* about a week before we receive the newsprint, so it helps “all” JACL members read the *Pacific Citizen* at about the same time.

The goal for the *Pacific Citizen* Spring Campaign this year (and last year!) is \$100,000. That would be about \$13 per member.

Last year, we only managed to receive about half that number. So, with that said, let me leave you with two thoughts:

If you think the *Pacific Citizen* is important to you and to JACL, please consider sending in \$50 or \$100 to the Spring Campaign. You can find the coupon with the address to send it to in this issue. It’s fully tax deductible to the extent of the law.

For long-term sustainability, please consider the *Pacific Citizen* and JACL in your Planned Giving process like I have. This kind of “giving” is described at this link (<http://tinyurl.com/JACLPLAN>) and Mr. Steve Okamoto, who can be reached at [steveokamoto1@gmail.com](mailto:steveokamoto1@gmail.com), can explain to you how you can benefit from JACL’s charitable tax-exempt status and ensure the continued legacy of the JACL and the *Pacific Citizen* at the same time.

I hope to see many of you at the 2017 National Convention this year, which will be held in Washington, D.C., from July 6-9. Come early to see the D.C. fireworks. They’re world class! For more details, please visit [www.JACL.org](http://www.JACL.org).

Very Respectfully,

Chip Larouche,

PNWDC P.C. Editorial Board Representative

## JACL APPOINTS INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR STEPHANIE NITAHARA

The Japanese American Citizens League announces the appointment of Stephanie Nitahara as interim executive director, effective April 3. JACL is grateful for her commitment to the community and willingness to step up in a variety of roles over the last year.

Ms. Nitahara has nearly five years of experience on staff for JACL working out of the Pacific Southwest Regional Office. Hired as the Pacific Southwest Regional Director, she most recently served as interim associate director,

working in partnership with former interim executive director William Yoshino to manage the organization in this period of transition.

Prior to joining the staff, Ms. Nitahara served JACL in a variety of board roles, including Midwest District Governor, Midwest District Youth Representative and Chicago Chapter Board Member.

Her experiences in these varied roles provide her with a unique perspective that is an incredible asset to our organization.

We thank her for taking on additional



responsibilities as we work toward selecting a permanent executive director.

Sincerely,

JACL National Board

The *Pacific Citizen*’s mission is to “educate on the past Japanese American experience and to preserve, promote and help the current and future AAPI communities.”

JACL member?  Y  N  \$50  \$100  \$150  \$200  other \_\_\_\_\_

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## LEGAL-EASE: AN ATTORNEY'S PERSPECTIVE

### PAYABLE ON DEATH ACCOUNT FAQs

By Staci Yamashita-Iida

I recently created a revocable living trust for my 94-year-old grandmother. During the process, I asked her to gather a list of her financial accounts so that we could title them in the name of the trust. That's when I learned the truth: My grandmother is a bank account hoarder.

By that, I mean that she has accounts everywhere — big banks, small banks, credit unions, etc. Even though some accounts have less than \$100 in them, she still keeps them all because, in true hoarder fashion, “You never know when you might need them.”

While we were sorting through the various account statements, I asked her if she had POD beneficiaries named on each account. Our conversation went something like this:

“Grandma, who is the POD beneficiary on this account?”  
“I don't know.” “What about this account?” “I don't know.”  
“How about this account?” “I don't know.”

Finally, I asked her if she knew who any POD beneficiary was on any account. She answered, “I don't know. What's POD mean?”

That's when I decided to write this article. Though I am no expert on banking, I deal with financial institutions on a regular basis as an estate planning attorney, so I've decided to share a few things that I've learned along the way.

#### What Is a POD Account?

A payable on death (“POD”) account allows the account owner to name a beneficiary (or beneficiaries) who will receive the remaining funds in the account after the owner passes away. POD benefits can be set up for checking accounts, savings accounts, certificates of deposit, etc.

#### What Are the Benefits?

There are quite a few benefits to setting up a POD account. First off, it's easy to create. All you need to do is go to your local financial institution and fill out a form that makes your account payable to a specific person or persons upon your death. It's free to do, and you're able to change the beneficiary(ies) at any time as long as you're alive and well.

Second, you do not lose any control by appointing a POD beneficiary. You are still in charge of your money; you can withdraw every cent in your bank account if you want to. While you are alive, the beneficiary has no right or interest in your account funds and cannot withdraw money at any time.

And finally, by setting up a POD account, your money passes automatically to the beneficiary, thereby avoiding the probate process and saving you thousands of dollars in legal fees.

In summary, creating a POD account is a quick and easy way to determine to whom the funds in the account will go to upon your death.

#### What Are the Disadvantages?

Recently, a colleague of mine (also an attorney) brought a POD issue to my attention. He informed me that a father had named his three children as his POD beneficiaries. His children did not get along so, to prevent fighting, he left his savings account to the three children in equal shares . . . or so he thought.

When the father died, Son #1 showed the bank his father's death certificate and produced proper identification. The bank, recognizing Son #1 as a beneficiary, released all of the funds in the account to him. He then refused to share the money with his two siblings.

I was very surprised when I heard about that bank's actions. When I called, the manager did confirm that the bank's policy states that one beneficiary can withdraw

the funds on behalf of all beneficiaries.

To my knowledge, this is not a common practice. In my experience, the bank releases the funds to all of the beneficiaries, not just one. Hopefully, that was just a rule that specific bank employs — if not, it could definitely serve as a drawback to naming POD beneficiaries.

Additionally, one common mishap that occurs when setting up a POD account is that the owner tends to name a sole beneficiary. For example, let's say that Cynthia designates her husband, Mike, as her POD beneficiary. Mike predeceases Cynthia, so upon her death, the account must be probated, as her only beneficiary has already passed.

Most banks will provide the option of naming an alternate beneficiary, precisely for situations like the one above. However, married couples tend to set up their accounts early on before they have kids, forgetting to add the children onto the account as alternate beneficiaries later on. With POD accounts you are not given periodic reminders to update your beneficiary designations, so you must remember to do so on your own.

#### Does a Will or a Living Trust Supersede a POD Designation?

This is a question that comes up a lot in the estate planning field. Let's say, for example, that Mari opens up an account at Okane Bank and designates her son, Brett, as the POD beneficiary.

Ten years later, Mari creates a revocable living trust naming her two granddaughters as the beneficiaries of her estate; Brett is intentionally omitted because of the severe gambling problem he has developed. Upon Mari's death, the two granddaughters assume that they inherit the Okane Bank funds, figuring that the trust governs as the most recent document.

>> See FAQs on page 9



## A YONSEI TRANSPLANTED

### COLLEGE GRADUATION ... NOW WHAT?

By Matthew Ormseth

I graduate in four weeks; on the far side of commencement waits adulthood, responsibilities and the very real possibility of unemployment.

Too many of my friends graduating with me will leave college unemployed. Some feel cheated — that they were sold the promise of steady work, marketability, a foot in every job market's door.

Their parents shelled out thousands of dollars — for many, hundreds of thousands — and they themselves slogged through coursework, logging long hours at the library, juggling on-campus and off-campus jobs.

And now, what was it for? To many of my classmates, a college education is nothing more than a prerequisite in a job description. You need it, but it doesn't guarantee anything.

You could call this entitlement. All of us soon-to-be graduates feel entitled to something that we're beginning to realize was never a guarantee.

I've always felt, by virtue of my college education, entitled to a job, and not just any job — a “good” job, one that's interesting, a bit challenging, something reputable. And I suppose maybe I'm not wrong in feeling entitled — if I didn't want that kind of work, I wouldn't have gone to college.

But when I trace that entitlement back to its source,

I realize I have no right to feel cheated at all.

There are some at my school who put themselves through college; I knew a guy who did his schoolwork on the bus when he went to and from double shifts at the local Arby's.

But for the vast majority of us, college was one of those lazy rivers you see at amusement parks and Vegas hotels; we drifted along the slow, inexorable current of our parents' money and insistence that we finish school, and now that we've arrived at the end of the artificial river, the current will be switched off, leaving us to fend for ourselves.

For most of us, graduating from college was not so much a feat of human willpower as it was allowing ourselves to be pulled along by the momentum of privilege. I can speak only for my own school, but it is remarkably difficult to fail out of Cornell if your parents can afford for you to be there.

I ordinarily despise the word “entitled” — it is the favorite tool of scorn for conservatives when talking of the poor; it is similarly favored by older generations when speaking of the younger ones.

But here, I think, it is spot on. I am entitled; my classmates are entitled. We feel entitled to stimulating, well-paying, respectable jobs. We feel entitled to a certain standard of living far better than the national or global average.

And it is only because — for the most of us — we were born into families that could pay to send us to schools which have become the gatekeepers of wealth and the bestowers of prestige, that we were born into environments that valued

wit and creativity rather than stifling it, that we were given opportunities to grow rather than responsibilities to work.

And so perhaps it will not be such a bad thing if I, or any of my classmates, find ourselves in a position where we are forced to work some profoundly unsexy, profoundly dull job.

We are not exempt from the responsibilities that govern us all — to provide for ourselves and our families, to do some line of work that benefits, rather than harms, the people around us.

If we can find work that does those things and is also well-paying and reputable and stimulating, so much the better. But we should not feel entitled to those things because we have not deserved them.

It frustrates me to see unemployment among my generation so high because I've seen that much of it is rooted in snobbishness, an unwillingness to subject oneself to Arby's, Toys-R-Us, Starbucks.

The fact of working at an Arby's with a college degree might seem strange, but that impression of strangeness is rooted in something more sinister — an insistence that you've ascended the class of people who are “supposed” to work at Arby's because you went to college.

When we begin to stratify people like that, we fragment what should be a shared humanity. We agree to live amongst one another because we need services we cannot provide ourselves.

>> See COLLEGE on page 9

## Minnesota Hosts Opening Reception and Panel Discussion for 'ROGER SHIMOMURA: MISTAKEN IDENTITY'



PHOTO: RANDY KIRIHARA

**Pictured is exhibition planning committee members (from left) Karen Tanaka Lucas, Carolyn Nayematsu, Gordon Nakagawa, Jehra Patrick, Ruthann Godollei, Cheryl Hirata-Dulas, Sally Sudo and Janet Carlson.**

More than 200 faculty, students, incarcerated and community members gathered at Macalester College's Law Warschaw Gallery in St. Paul, Minn., on Jan. 27 for the opening reception of "Roger Shimomura: Mistaken Identity." The exhibition, presented to recognize the 75th anniversary of Executive Order 9066, was sponsored by Macalester College in collaboration with the Twin Cities JACL.

Included were several bodies of work: "Minidoka on My Mind," "Minidoka Snapshots," "Yellow No Same" and "Nisei Trilogy," all of which draw upon the artist and his family's experiences while incarcerated in Minidoka during World War II. The exhibition gallery guide also includes an essay by Ruthann Godollei, DeWitt Wallace professor of art and the chair of the art department.

"These recollections offer a glimpse into the humility of the camps and the resilience and commitment of the citizens detained, who embodied and honored their American identity despite the cultural ignorance which characterized, and continues to characterize, Asian Americans and their status within American society," explained Godollei.

On Feb. 23, Twin Cities JACL members Sally Sudo, Karen Tanaka Lucas,

Gordon Nakagawa and Carolyn Nayematsu shared their experiences and thoughts on the Japanese American incarceration and how it relates to the present day.

Gallery director and exhibition curator Jehra Patrick facilitated the program, which was held in the gallery surrounded by a backdrop of works by Roger Shimomura. More than 70 audience members participated in the discussion.

To view the gallery guide, visit: <http://bit.ly/2ojmHmd>. To view the panel discussion video, visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5QAXMhwLut8&t=127s>.

## Twin Cities Chapter Participates in Panel on Japanese American Incarceration

Twin Cities JACL members Gordon Nakagawa, Hannah Semba, Sally Sudo and John Matsunaga participated on April 11 in a program, co-sponsored by the Minnesota chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-MN), to share their experiences and insights about whether the Japanese American incarceration could happen again today, but this time to Muslims and Muslim Americans.

The 75 community members who attended the "Japanese American Incarceration: Could It Happen Again?" panel discussion and question-and-answer session, which was moderated by Jaylani Hussein, executive director of CAIR-MN, were inspired and encouraged to educate themselves, stand with other communities but not speak for them and engage in sometimes difficult conversations with neighbors and friends who have different viewpoints.

Hussein challenged attendees not to remain silent but to take action. One suggestion was to submit an article about the program to the

newspapers in order to impact others. "Are we willing to do that?" he asked.

Sally Sudo was interviewed by local TV news station KMSP. A former incarcerated, Sudo warned those in attendance that "it doesn't take much for something like what happened to us to happen to another group of people. I think fear does a lot of strange things to people."

Hussein and other local Muslim Americans participated in the Twin Cities JACL Day of Remembrance program in February 2017. A Statement of Solidarity with CAIR-MN was published in the program booklet. Plans for future collaborative efforts are underway. ■



PHOTO: CHERYL HIRATA-DULAS

**Pictured (from left) is moderator Jaylani Hussein, executive director of CAIR-MN, and Twin Cities JACL members Gordon Nakagawa, Hannah Semba, Sally Sudo and John Matsunaga.**

## APAS in the News/NewsBytes

### VP Mike Pence Says U.S. Stands by Ally Japan on North Korea Problem

TOKYO — U.S. Vice President Mike Pence assured Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on April 18 that the U.S. stands "100 percent" behind its anchor ally in Asia in working to defuse risks from North Korea's nuclear program.

Pence struck a stern tone as he began talks with Abe and other Japanese leaders after arriving at a U.S. naval base from South Korea.

"We appreciate the challenging times in which the people of Japan live with increasing provocations from across the Sea of Japan," Pence said. "We are with you 100 percent."

The Trump administration has signaled a more forceful U.S. stance toward North Korea's recent missile tests and threats, including a warning from Trump that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has "gotta behave."



### L.A. Asian Pacific Film Fest to Honor Actor John Cho

LOS ANGELES — The L.A. Asian Pacific Film Festival is set to honor actor John Cho with a film retrospective and a career achievement award.

The 33rd edition of the Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival, which runs from April 27-May 4, is a film celebration presented across Los Angeles and highlights the achievements of Asian Americans in film. This year's edition will feature more than 180 films. This year's LAAPFF is presenting three films starring Cho, including "Better Luck Tomorrow," "Yellow" and "Columbus."

Cho will be presented with the Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival Career Achievement Award recognizing his prolific career, which includes such films as "Harold and Kumar" and the "Star Trek" film franchises, as well as the TV shows "FlashForward," "Go On," "Sleepy Hollow" and "Selfie."

"For nearly 20 years, John has been constantly representing on screen, stage and television. We are proud of his contributions as an actor and supporter of the film festival, VC and fellow Asian American artists," said Chanel Kong, festival manager.

### Karen Yamamoto Appointed to State Teachers' Retirement Board

SACRAMENTO — Gov. Jerry Brown announced the appointment of Karen Yamamoto, 67, of Sacramento to the California State Teachers' Retirement Board on April 17.

Yamamoto, a member of the Florin Chapter of the JACL, served as a second grade teacher for the Washington Unified School District from 1992-2007.

Among her other endeavors, she is also a member of the Asian Pacific Youth Leadership Project and the California Department of Education's Curriculum Development and Supplemental Materials Commission.

The California State Teachers' Retirement System is administered by the 12-member Teachers' Retirement Board, which sets the policies and makes the rules for the system and is responsible for ensuring benefits are paid by the system in accordance with the law.

Yamamoto's position requires Senate confirmation; there is no compensation.



### Drivers of Certain 2001-03 Hondas and Acuras Urged to Seek Airbag Repair

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA — Southern California residents driving certain 2001-03 Honda and Acura models were urged recently to take advantage of a free recall repair service to replace possibly defective Takata airbag inflators that could rupture and cause serious or potentially deadly injuries if ruptured.

The airbag inflators pose the most urgent threat with up to a 50 percent chance of exploding upon deployment, according to the community group Airbag Recall: Southern California. The vehicle models at greatest risk include the 2001 and 2002 Honda Civic, the 2001 and 2002 Honda Accord, the 2002 and 2003 Acura TL, the 2002 Honda Odyssey, the 2002 Honda CR-V, the 2003 Acura CL and the 2003 Honda Pilot.

Owners of affected vehicles should schedule their free repair immediately by calling Honda at (888) 234-2138. Any Honda or Acura dealership will provide free towing service to the dealership and perform the free repair.



### Hello Kitty Café Opens at Westfield Santa Anita Mall

ARCADIA, CALIF. — Sanrio, the global lifestyle brand best known for creating the pop icon Hello Kitty, opened a new café and dining experience at Westfield Santa Anita shopping center in Arcadia, Calif., on April 7. The Hello Kitty Mini Café offers a variety of Hello Kitty-themed pastries and cakes, cookies, pies and tarts, as well as a variety of hot and cold beverages.

"We have seen great success and high demand from fans of all ages enjoying the Hello Kitty Café Truck and Pop-Up Container," said David Marchi, vp of brand management and marketing at Sanrio. "We are expanding the Café concept further with additional locations and formats to bring the experience to even more fans."

— P.C. Staff and Associated Press

# TULE LAKE COMMITTEE REFILES LAWSUIT

The committee is seeking an environmental and WWII historic resources review of the Tule Lake concentration camp site.

The Tule Lake Committee filed a second lawsuit on March 30 against Modoc County under a state environmental law protecting historic places in order to protect the site of the World War II Tule Lake concentration camp.

The Tule Lake concentration camp site needs protection from an airport whose planned expansion would cause irreparable damage to the historic site. Tule Lake is unique as it is the only War Relocation Authority concentration camp that was converted into a maximum-security segregation center. The U.S. government used this camp to imprison more than 12,000 Japanese Americans who protested the injustice to their World War II mass incarceration.

The TLC sued in July 2014 and is suing once again in 2017 to compel Modoc County to review the WWII resources, both surface and subsurface, that remain within the Tulelake Airport site.

The court action asks the Superior Court to compel the county to comply with the Cali-



A blueprint outlining the Tulelake Airport boundaries

fornia Environmental Quality Act. This state environmental law protects environmental resources, including historic places, from damage by governments before the extent of the damage is studied and documented.

The goal of the court action is to ensure that the county studies and documents, in advance, the airport's impact on the historic fabric of this nationally significant place.

The City of Tulelake, in Siskiyou County, owns the airport land and leases it to Modoc County to operate the airport. The lease was due to expire in October 2014. In January 2014, Modoc County's Board of Supervisors voted to extend the lease by 30 years.

The TLC asked Modoc County to survey the Tulelake Airport property for historical impacts first, before extending the lease.

The county ignored the TLC's request and approved the 30-year lease extension.

In July 2014, the TLC's attorney, Susan Brandt Hawley, a respected expert on CEQA and historic preservation, filed a court petition seeking Modoc County's compliance with the mandates of CEQA.

The lawsuit was successful as the county rescinded the 30-year lease extension. The county then approved a new 30-year lease extension without environmental documentation required by CEQA.

For the past 18 months, multiple government and community stakeholders have discussed how to reconcile the airport's plans with its location on an irreplaceable historic civil rights site.

During these stakeholder discussions, managed by the Udall Foundation, the parties agreed to a tolling agreement to suspend the legal action against the 30-year airport lease extension. The stakeholder discussions ended without resolution, and the tolling agreement ended on March 30.

This second petition, filed March 30, alleges that "approval of a long-term lease extension is a project subject to CEQA" and that it "may result in significant impacts to historic resources of national importance and to immediate surroundings such that the significance of such resources would be materially impaired."

It also requests a restraining order to prevent any actions that would further construction projects at the Tulelake Airport while the petition is pending. ■

## JAPANESE AMERICANS SHARE STORIES AT NEW MEXICO PANEL DISCUSSION

By Kevin Wilson,  
Eastern New Mexico News

CLOVIS, N.M. — Roy Ebihara, Lillie Kiyokawa and Fred Kimura knew about as much as you'd expect a bunch of 8- and 9-year-old kids to know why 1942 played out the way it did for them as Japanese Americans living in Clovis, N.M.

The approximate 75 years that have passed educated them on Japanese American relations before and after the attack on Pearl Harbor and just what fear, hysteria and people looking the other way could do to bystanders of a particular heritage.

Ebihara, Kiyokawa and Kimura — with some help from other storytellers from around the state — shared that education with a panel discussion on March 24 at the Clovis-Carver Public Library.

Speaking to a crowd of nearly 100, Ebihara, Kiyokawa and Kimura recalled their experiences of living in a New Mexico confinement site for nearly a year before being moved to larger WRA camps in Utah and Arizona for the remainder of World War II.

The exhibit on the detention of Japanese American New Mexico residents during World War II is partially funded by the National JACL Legacy Fund and Pacific Southwest District Trust Fund grants.

The three were among 32 Japanese American Clovis residents who were sent to internment camps in the weeks following the Dec. 7, 1941, Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

The attack flung the United States into World War II and citizens on the home-front quickly fomented distrust upon their neighbors of Japanese descent.

The attack happened on a Sunday. "We were waiting for a church bus to pick us up," Kiyokawa said. "It never showed up."

Between the three — Kimura and Kiyokawa are siblings — they had two fathers who were railroad machinists. The Japanese employees were often unwelcome in railroad unions, but still faced retribution for working during union strikes.

Ebihara remembered mornings would start with his father leaving for work after his mother packed his lunch. But on Dec. 8, 1941, Ebihara said, "He came back soon after with his lunch pail, and never went back to work."

In retrospect, Japanese American life in Clovis wasn't so great prior to World War II. The three did attend Eugene Field Elementary with other children, but went home to a housing area near the railroad tracks, with outhouses and dwellings that incorporated old railroad cars.

"They were known as Jap camps," said Andy Russell, a Central New Mexico Community College instructor who has researched Japanese internment since his senior year at Nevada-Las Vegas in 1987. "I'm sure the people who lived there called it something else."

They knew no better as kids and had



Victor Yamada (far left) of the New Mexico JACL chapter asks a question for (from left) Fred Kimura, Roy Ebihara and Lillie Kiyokawa.

mostly pleasant memories of grabbing cacti and tarantulas to sell to train passengers with little success.

But they knew the Pearl Harbor attack and the Jan. 20, 1942, midnight call to pack their bags weren't positive memories.

They were brought to what was known as the Baca Camp near Raton. They lived in barrack-style buildings until mid-December and were part of 120,000 confined persons of Japanese ancestry. Many were American citizens by birth.

They didn't return to Clovis for decades after that, though Ebihara's U.S. Army service took him to White Sands Missile Range. What hadn't been looted from their childhood homes was bulldozed, and they never found out what happened to the bicycle Lillie got for Christmas or the Kimura family's 1939 Studebaker President.

The history was mostly forgotten in Clovis until 2014, when Clovis native Adrian Chavez was taking a course in Albuquerque.

He took to what Russell said about what happened to those Clovis residents and felt a

personal connection because of the prejudice he'd experienced in Clovis with Japanese and Hispanic roots. He had a chance meeting with Mayor David Lansford on a Clovis visit. Upon hearing the story, Lansford asked Chavez if he could hang around for the next day's City Commission meeting.

"I knew it was an important part of history that needed to be told," Chavez said. "And here we are now, still talking about it."

The commissioners, Chavez said, were told they needed to answer for the injustice.

Later that spring, Ebihara, Kimura and Kiyokawa were honored by the city and served as marshals for the annual Pioneer Days.

"We do need to remember our history and the injustices of history," Lansford said. "We need to reconcile what happened. If we don't reconcile, it becomes a scar that never heals."

The exhibit is part of a project that includes historic markers, an outreach publication that should be available in April and a website that will incorporate the exhibit's information. ■

# YUJI OKUMOTO'S KONA KITCHEN IS A FAMILY AFFAIR

Actor-restaurateur keeps a lot on his plate.



By P.C. Staff

## KONA KITCHEN

8501 Fifth Ave N.E.

Seattle, WA 98115

Phone: (206) 517-5662

Cuisine: Hawaiian, Pan-Asian, American

Hours: Mon.-Thurs., 10 a.m.-9 p.m.;

Fri., 10 a.m.-2 a.m.; Sat., 8 a.m.-2 a.m.;

Sun., 8 a.m.-9 p.m.



Yuji Okumoto opened Kona Kitchen with his family in 2002.

In 2002, Hollywood's animated feature "Lilo & Stitch" taught the rest of the world the meaning of *ohana*, the Hawaiian word for "family." Also in 2002, Hollywood-born actor Yuji Okumoto took the word *ohana* to heart in September of that year when he opened Kona Kitchen in Seattle, Wash.

It was an endeavor he readily admits he could not have accomplished without help from his own *ohana*: his "calabash uncle" Colin Hara, as well as his mother-in-law, Elizabeth Mar, who had restaurant experience in Bremerton, Wash., plus his wife, Angie, a former CPA at a big-name accounting firm.

Without their help, Okumoto's "bright idea to open a restaurant" might have resulted in egg on his face, not part of a Loco Moco order from the Kona Kitchen's popular breakfast menu.

After marrying Angie and relocating to Seattle in the early 2000s, the idea of running a restaurant seemed appealing to Okumoto; his years in show business had left him feeling a bit burned out. "I kind of needed a change," he said.

According to Okumoto, who was recently in his hometown of Los Angeles from Seattle on a short visit to see his parents, Yoshiharu and Yemiko Okumoto, he had worked in a Japanese restaurant as a host. Not only that, he had played a cook on TV. So, his thinking at the time was, "How hard can it be, right?"

"I convinced my uncle, who had a catering business for many years in Hawaii, to come help us out to help with the menu and recipes," Okumoto said. "My mother-in-law, who owned a Chinese restaurant — she decided she would help us. She sold her stake in the Chinese restaurant to help us in Seattle with Kona Kitchen."

Even Angie decided to quit her "great job" to help. "The three of us decided to open this restaurant, which at the time I thought was a great idea. It's wonderful that it's family owned, the three of us together," Okumoto said. Of the trio, though, it was Okumoto who had the least amount of experience in restaurants.

"When you think about how many restaurants close

in the first year, it's staggering," Okumoto said. "They say ignorance is bliss. In my case, ignorance was simply ignorance, not knowing how hard it is."

Almost 15 years later, he can look back and laugh. "Boy, was I wrong!" Okumoto, it turns out, had a lot to learn.

"I never worked in a commercial kitchen before in my life," Okumoto said. "I had to learn everything. I learned how the ordering process went, I learned prepping, I cooked on the line." After his uncle returned to Hawaii, there was no safety net.

Learning how to do everything was a necessity for Okumoto because in the restaurant trade, every day is a challenge, like when a cook calls in sick — or just up and quits to take another job, something that actually happened.

"One time, I think I was pulling in 90 hours a week," he recalled. "That was really tough. But you have to kind of push through that and hopefully see the light at the end of the tunnel."

"My parents taught me, you never quit," Okumoto continued. "You never, ever quit. My mother-in-law and my wife, too, they come from that same mentality. You don't quit, ever."

It turns out, however, that the star of "The Karate Kid: Part 2," "Johnny Tsunami," "Awesome Asian Bad Guys" and "Seppuku" was up for the challenge of facing obstacles and figuring out ways to surmount them.

"I think that's what I liked about it, too," he said, with regard to the challenges of operating a restaurant. In a way, it also fits in with what he's also doing these days as he juggles running a restaurant while also continuing his show business career, now more as a producer than as an actor.

Okumoto learned about work from his father, who immigrated from Japan after World War II to the U.S., where he met and married his wife, a Nisei. It turns out that his father had spent some time in the restaurant biz as a short-order cook in Los Angeles before becoming a gardener.



(From left) Daniel Blinkoff, Yuji Okumoto, Tamlyn Tomita and Angie Okumoto



(From left) Yuji Okumoto with Hiroshima's Dan and June Kuramoto, Dean Cortez and Kimo Cornwell

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF YUJI OKUMOTO



**Kona Kitchen's popular chicken katsu served with rice and macaroni salad**



**Kimchi fried rice and eggs**

"I remember waking up at 6 a.m. and climbing into his truck, half asleep, with my older brother. The two of us would go on his gardening route and help him. I must have been 7 or 8. Raking leaves. Watering. Whatever. So, I did that for years. When I was 14, I had my own gardening route that I would do in the neighborhood. It was just what you did," Okumoto said. "You have to make your own path. In the long run, you go out there, do the work and be proactive."

At Kona Kitchen, breakfast on the weekends are the busiest times. But Friday and Saturday nights are busy, too, with the bar open and karaoke mics on until 2 a.m. Okumoto says the restaurant's most popular dishes

are the Kalua Pig and Cabbage, the Korean Chicken, the Katsu Fried Rice Loco, the Mochiko Chicken and the Kimchi Fried Rice.

With Kona Kitchen now a well-established, well-regarded restaurant — especially with University of Washington students from Hawaii craving "home-style grinds" — Okumoto says he and Angie are contemplating opening a second restaurant somewhere in Seattle.

Also, their three daughters, Mari (15), Keilee (11) and Emi (10) are now big kids and more independent, giving Okumoto more of an opportunity to pursue something he says restaurant work prepared him for: producing movies.

With restaurants, Okumoto explains, you're always, figuratively speaking, "putting out fires," solving problems and overcoming whatever obstacles the day throws at you. Movie producing is the same thing.

"I just completed shooting a feature film in Seattle called 'Ultra Low,'" Okumoto said, and one of its stars is Lauren Holly, from TV's "NCIS" and "Motive," not to mention the feature film "Dragon: The Bruce Lee Story."

His next project is "The Paper Tigers," which he described as a kung-fu comedy. "That's the next film that I'm producing, and hopefully, it'll start production sometime in the summer."

Still, for Okumoto, it comes back to family, to *ohana*.

"Thank God that they're supportive, like my wife having to step in and cover when I'm not there, my mother-in-law having to step in and cover when I'm not there, my uncle from Portland, he's been awesome," he said. "So, I've been really blessed and fortunate to be able to pursue my passion still and be involved in film while I'm in Seattle."

That's something everyone from Lilo to Stitch to "Mr. Miyagi" could all agree on.



**Kona Kitchen's fully stocked bar**



**Yuji Okumoto (left) with musician Jake Shimabukuro**

## AMERICAN HOLIDAY TRAVEL

### 2017 TOUR SCHEDULE

- Ireland Holiday Tour (Elaine Ishida) . . . . . May 1-10  
Dublin, Waterford, Blarney Stone, Killarney, Limerick, Galway, Kingscourt.
- China-Yangtze River-Hong Kong Holiday Tour (Carol Hida) . . . . . May 14-29  
Beijing, Yangtze River Cruise, Xian, Shanghai, Hong Kong.
- Grandparent-Grandchildren Japan Tour (Ernest Hida) WAITLIST Jun 26-Jul 5  
Tokyo, Hakone, Atami, Hiroshima, Kyoto.
- Yellowstone-Tetons National Parks Tour (Elaine Ishida) . . . . . Jul 7-14  
Salt Lake City, Jackson Hole, Yellowstone, Grand Tetons, Park City.
- Hokkaido Summer Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida) . . . . . Jul 17-30  
Lake Akan, Furano, Asahikawa, Wakkanai, Sapporo, Lake Toya, Hakodate, Tokyo.
- So. Dakota-Mt. Rushmore Tour (Elaine Ishida) . . . . . Aug 25-31  
Rapid City, Mt. Rushmore, Custer State Park, Black Hills, Badlands.
- Eastern Canada Holiday Tour (Carol Hida) . . . . . Sep 6-14  
Montreal, Quebec, Ottawa, Toronto, Niagara Falls.
- Classical Japan Autumn Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida) . . . . . Oct 5-16  
Tokyo, Mt. Fuji, Yamanashi, Shizuoka, Nagoya, Gifu, Hiroshima, Kyoto.
- Japan Autumn Countryside Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida) . . . . . Oct 19-29  
Tokyo, Sado Island, Kanazawa, Amanohashidate, Tottori, Matsue, Tamatsukuri Onsen, Hiroshima.
- New Orleans & Deep South Holiday Tour (Elaine Ishida) . . . . . Nov 5-12  
New Orleans, Natchez, Lafayette.
- So. America Patagonia-Easter Island Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida) . . . Nov 7-22  
Buenos Aires, Ushuaia, Calafate(Perito Moreno Glacier), Paine National Park(Grey Glacier), Punta Arenas, Santiago, Easter Island.

For more information and reservations, please contact:

AMERICAN HOLIDAY TRAVEL  
312 E. 1st Street, Suite 330 \* Los Angeles, CA 90012  
Tel: (213)625-2232 \* Email: americanholiday@att.net  
(CST #200326-10) Ernest or Carol Hida  
Elaine Ishida (Tel: 714-269-4534)

# CONNECTING THE PAST WITH THE PRESENT IS THE FOCUS OF 2017's MANZANAR AT DUSK

Now in its 20th year, the program aims to open discussion among participants learning about incarceration and those who actually lived through it.

**LOS ANGELES** — Sharing stories and experiences from the unjust incarceration of Japanese Americans in concentration camps during World War II and connecting this history to present-day issues will be the focus of the 2017 Manzanar at Dusk program, sponsored by the Manzanar Committee, which is scheduled from 5-8 p.m. on April 29 at the Lone Pine High School gymnasium in Lone Pine, Calif.

The Manzanar at Dusk program follows the 48th Annual Manzanar Pilgrimage that same day, at the Manzanar National Historic Site.

Now in its 20th year, Manzanar at Dusk is co-sponsored by the Nikkei Student Unions at California State University, Long Beach; California State Polytechnic University, Pomona; the University of California, Los Angeles; and the University of California, San Diego.

Through a creative presentation, small group discussions and an open-mic session, participants will have the opportunity to interact with former incarcerated in attendance and others to hear their personal stories.

"Manzanar at Dusk is important because Japanese American incarceration is something that not a lot of people know a lot about," said Riana Seto, president of the University of California, San Diego Nikkei Student Union. "Books only talk about the camps in one small paragraph, history lectures don't cover Executive Order 9066 and it's not a common topic that's talked about outside the Japanese American community. Even I didn't know much about it until three years ago, and I'm Japanese American. Instead of educating people about

the mistakes the U.S. government made, schools and textbooks try to brush it off, and now we're seeing the same thing happening today to Muslims in this country.

"This year is significant, not only because it's the 75th anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066 and the 25th anniversary of Manzanar being designated as a National Historic Site, but also because of the issues today with racial profiling and exclusion of a group of people," Seto concluded. "We see many parallels between Executive Order 9066 and the recent executive order to stop citizens from six Muslim countries from entering the United States."

As Seto alluded to, Manzanar at Dusk is also an opportunity to raise awareness of this dark chapter in American history among young Japanese Americans, who are now at least one or two generations removed from the incarceration experience.

"My grandma passed away a little bit after I was born, and so I did not personally know her that well," said Lauren Matsumoto of the University of California, San Diego Nikkei Student Union. "So, I leaned toward my grandpa to help understand the injustices that occurred for him. He was willing to discuss his memories whenever I would ask him for a research paper or because of my interest, yet his answers were always short. There was this shame that I could see my grandpa felt for having to face such a situation.

"At the end of last year, he passed away," Matsumoto continued. "Even though his death saddens me when I think about it, it has pushed me to be more outspoken about the

injustices he faced in order to never let his stories fade and never let this dark part of history fade. I believe once we forget this happened, it will happen again."

"Manzanar at Dusk is an integral component of the Manzanar Pilgrimage program," said Wendi Yamashita, co-coordinator of Manzanar at Dusk. "For the Manzanar Committee, it's important for us to collaborate with Japanese American college students to not only provide opportunities for mentorship, but also to learn what is important to them. Strengthening these bonds between our organization and students is an important part of the pilgrimage's legacy."

Added Manzanar at Dusk Co-Coordinator Carly Lindley: "While working in Japan for three years, I watched the political climate in the United States drastically change and seemingly become closer to a society that I had always thought was in the past. I knew that if I went back home, I would have to participate in this social discussion. This is when I became determined to work with the Manzanar Committee upon my return and, hopefully, have a positive impact on my community, no longer as a college student, but as an adult.

"As a college student, I worked alongside my peers and the Manzanar Committee to organize the Manzanar at Dusk program for two years," Lindley concluded. "I gained a lot of insight and knowledge about why it's important for people, not just Japanese Americans, to remember and be exposed to Manzanar and the experiences of those who suffered during that time."

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

**For more information, call (323) 662-5102 or e-mail 48thpilgrimage@manzanarcommittee.org.**

# NY/SC HOLDS ITS BIENNIAL LEADERSHIP RETREAT IN SEATTLE

Youth members engaged in reflection and leadership-development activities, as well as planned for July's upcoming JACL National Convention.



JACL NY/SC youth members gathered in Seattle, Wash., for the group's biennial retreat.

By **Kenji Kuramitsu**,  
National Youth Representative

The National Youth/Student Council of the JACL met from March 31-April 2 in Seattle, Wash., for its biennial leadership retreat. Representatives across five youth districts participated in the retreat, as JACL was excited to welcome new members to the NY/SC for their first retreat.

Additionally, this retreat was the first opportunity for many NY/SC members to see one another since the fall retreat, which occurred during July's JACL National Convention in Las Vegas, Nev.

NY/SC participants spent the weekend at the historic Japanese Cultural Community Center of Washington and participants stayed in Seattle's historic Panama Hotel in Seattle's Chinatown/International District (formerly a nihonmachi). Participants were also given a tour of the Nisei Veterans Center.

Throughout the retreat, NY/SC members engaged in reflection and leadership-development activities, as well as planned various convention-related activities for July's upcoming National Convention in Washington, D.C., including the youth delegate orientation, closing sessions and other campaigns and events for young people.

Additionally, NY/SC members

worked on the group's upcoming NY/SC Summits.

On April 8, the Eastern District Council's National Youth/Student Council summit entitled "Asian American Feminism: Not Your Asian Sidekick" was held at Smith College. The event examined the intersection between the feminist movement and Asian American Pacific Islander women.

In Los Angeles on May 7, the Pacific Southwest District Council will host an NY/SC Summit entitled "What Does It Mean to be Nikkei?" which will explore Nikkei identity through the arts.

The NY/SC is excited to continue to engage young leaders around the country by exploring these important issues that affect communities across the nation.

The NY/SC retreat was a valuable learning tool for NY/SC members to spend this time together in person, engaging in both community-building and planning future NY/SC actions and activities.

The NY/SC would also like to give special thanks to Theo Bickel and the Japanese Cultural Community Center of Washington for providing the group with time, space and deep knowledge of the community.

The NY/SC is also grateful to State Farm and Southwest Airlines for helping to make this in-person gathering possible.



Pictured are 2016 Manzanar at Dusk participants during small group discussions.

# FAMILY FOUND AND 'UPROOTED' EXPLAINED

PHOTO: REBECCA BARGER

How an exhibit opened people's eyes, ears and hearts by showcasing the power to overcome adversity.

By **Teresa Maebori**,  
Contributor

"I found your family!" he declared. As I stood there in the midst of people during Philadelphia's Day of Remembrance 2017 opening reception for the "Uprooted" exhibit, I turned to a Nisei who held a Tule Lake Camp Directory from World War II. He turned to the page that listed my family name: MAEBORI.

Under the listing was my father's name, William; my mother's name, Michiko; and paternal grandfather's name, Yujiro. It had each individual's number and the relationship listed. It was a revelation to see in black and white the names of my parents and of my grandfather, Yujiro.

This last listing was new to me. I did not know that my grandfather, Yujiro Maebori, had lived with my parents in their barracks in the Tule Lake concentration camp. There were many moments such as this during the showing of the exhibit that told of the labor done by 33,000 Japanese Americans who harvested sugar beets for the manufacture of munitions during the World War II and for American consumption.

The "Uprooted" exhibit was a resounding success, with approximately 1,200 visitors who came to view the photographs over its 11-day run.

The exhibit, commemorating the 75th anniversary of Executive Order 9066, was unveiled during the DOR opening reception on Feb. 18 at Friends Center in Center City, Pa., which drew a crowd of 250.

David Milholland, president of the Oregon Cultural Heritage Commission and the cocurator of the "Uprooted" exhibit, gave the keynote address in the Central Philadelphia Friends Meetinghouse.

Milholland outlined the history of the exhibit, featuring the photographs of Russell Lee and of the Japanese American labor camps. JACLers from Seabrook, N.J., and representatives from the Washington, D.C., and New York chapters of the JACL also were in attendance.

During its run, many people who attended "Uprooted" commented that it was their first time learning about this dark episode in American history and how it revealed a history hidden for decades.

Several attendees wrote in the guestbook about how this was a shameful episode and



Teresa Maebori lectures ninth-grade students from Abington Friends School about the history of the "Uprooted" exhibit.

yet the Nikkei still had courage, integrity and resilience throughout it all.

Through Lee's brilliant photography, the exhibit highlighted how the Nikkei managed to live their lives with dignity despite being unjustly confined. Lee photographed the campsites, the daily lives of the Nikkei, the laborers and their recreation. Lee's boss from the Farm Securities Administration called him a "taxonomist with a camera." His photographs captured in minute detail how the farm laborers and their families made their lives palatable.

One photo, in particular stood out for me. It showed two Nikkei men raising the stars and stripes in the morning outside tarpaper barracks. Another captured a laborer in his off hours cultivating a flower garden in an arid landscape to beautify his view.

There were many photos that illustrated how the Nikkei organized their lives governing themselves democratically; writing letters home to friends; taming a pigeon as a pet; setting the table with tablecloth, dishes, utensils, creamer and coffee pot in a tent for eight family members; making lunch for fellow laborers; and a young Nikkei, posing proudly with his hat jauntily askew, standing outside the laundry showing his self-worth intact. These photographs highlighted how the Nikkei normalized their lives and were the same as other Americans as they went about their lives.

During its run, eight school groups came to tour the exhibit. About 750-800 students viewed the exhibit, with some schools coming multiple times. Several of the schools studied the concentration camps through literature such as "When the Emperor Was

Divine" or "Farewell to Manzanar."

Other schools connected the exhibit to their study of U.S. history or the study of immigration. It was amazing and heartening to take students through 1942-45. I witnessed many students grapple with the injustice that the Nikkei faced because of their ancestry and not because of any criminal act.

Many of their teachers were grateful for this exhibit and the profound impact it made. Their students could better understand how the conclusion of the Commission on Wartime Relocation and Internment of Civilians in 1982 was race prejudice, war hysteria and failure of political leadership. They could link it to what has happened in politics today with executive orders and the rhetoric of exclusion.

There were many poignant moments when visitors came and told their personal stories. During the DOR, a Nikkei from Seabrook, N.J., exclaimed that he was in an Idaho labor camp when he was 13. During that time, the school he attended closed for a month. The Nikkei students were sent out to the sugar beet fields to work. He said he was housed in a big building with other Nikkei students. He complained of a sore wrist and no salary.

Another time, several Nikkei talked about their families and how they had lost their businesses. A University of Pennsylvania student related that her grandfather had been a pharmacist in California, lost his pharmacy, volunteered for the 442nd while his family was in a concentration camp, then moved to Ohio when the war was over and started all over again.

One woman tearfully told of how her grandparents had owned a restaurant and

Maebori is pictured standing in front of her personal photos taken during her time in Caldwell, Idaho, where she was born in the labor camp.

were eventually able to buy a restaurant and resume their lives.

A woman who grew up in Seattle after the war spoke about how she went to school with Nikkei but never was taught about the concentration camps or the labor camps. She said her father was a professor of English at the University of Washington, where I attended, and I remembered his name.

Lastly, there was Louise Maehara's grandson, Lucas Rotman. He wrote in the guestbook that his grandfather had been picked up in Hawaii as a Japanese language teacher and sent to Santa Fe, N.M., where he was incarcerated for nearly four years. I had just learned about this concentration camp earlier that week and was flabbergasted that there were more than the 10 concentration camps that are usually listed. Lucas spoke about his grandfather, too, and how he served in the 442nd and died in Italy.

I am positive there were many more stories that were not expressed. I was energized and grateful for the opportunity to bring "Uprooted" to the East Coast. It opened people's eyes, ears and hearts. Many of our Nikkei families in JACL were uprooted but managed to put down roots and begin a new and rewarding chapter by overcoming adversity.

I dedicated this exhibit to all our Nikkei families who overcame prejudice and moved beyond adversity. Yes, and I found my family, the Maeboris. In the process, my family history came into focus with greater clarity as I understood how my parents spent their young married lives in an Idaho labor camp trying to live out the promises of citizenship in the United States.

We are grateful for funding from the JACL Legacy Grant Fund, the JACL Philadelphia Chapter, the Eastern District Council and the Racial and Social Justice Committee of Germantown Monthly Meeting. ■

## FAQS >> continued from page 3

This is not the case. The living trust dictates how trust assets are distributed. Because the POD account named Brett (as opposed to the trust) as the beneficiary, the money is rightfully Brett's. To avoid this issue, Mari could have changed the beneficiary to the trust or to her granddaughters.

### What Else Do I Need to Know?

The guidelines and procedures for POD accounts vary according to state law as well as financial institutions. Each individual has certain wishes and concerns. Each bank has its own internal policies. It all depends on your specific situation. Ask your local

bank detailed questions before designating a POD beneficiary, so you know what to expect or consult your local attorney for more information.

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

## COLLEGE >> continued from page 3

I'm not entitled to a better job and a higher wage and a more comfortable life just because I went to college, not when I arrived at graduation carried by the lazy current of my privileged upbringing and background.

I realize I have no right to feel entitled to a better job than people who haven't benefited from such auspicious circumstances, and surprisingly, I feel heartened by such a realization, less sectioned-off.

We all rely on one another, and believing you deserve a better life than another on something so baseless as a diploma is self-delusion.

*Matthew Ormseth is currently a student at Cornell University majoring in English. He seeks to give an honest portrayal of life as both a university student and member of the Millennial generation.*

A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

# CALENDAR

## National

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

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

## NCWNP

### 2017 Berkeley JACL Scholarship & Pioneer Awards Luncheon

**Richmond, CA**  
**April 30; 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.**  
**Richmond Country Club**  
**1 Markovich Lane**  
**Price: \$40 per person; \$20 students**  
Join the Berkeley JACL as it honors its 2017 high school scholarship recipients (12 graduating seniors) and Pioneer Award recipients (Al Satake and Ranko Yamada) for a buffet lunch. Please RSVP by April 18.  
**Info: Call (925) 932-7947 or email [ron\\_tanaka@yahoo.com](mailto:ron_tanaka@yahoo.com).**

### 58th Annual Spring Festival Bazaar

**Alameda, CA**  
**May 7; Noon-5 p.m.**  
**Buena Vista United Methodist Church**  
**2311 Buena Vista Ave.**  
**Price: Free; free parking is available at City Garage, 1416 Oak St.**  
The Buena Vista United Methodist Church is hosting its 58th annual Spring Festival Bazaar, featuring live music, arts and crafts boutique, games for kids, raffle and cultural activities for all ages.  
**Info: Call (510) 522-2688 for more information.**

### Matsuri! Japanese Arts Festival

**Santa Rosa, CA**  
**May 7; 11 a.m.-5 p.m.**  
**Julliard Park**  
**227 Santa Rosa Ave.**  
**Price: Free**  
Organized by Sonoma County Matsuri, this event is sure to provide cultural fun, awareness and opportunities to learn for people of all ages.  
**Info: Visit [www.sonoma-matsuri.com](http://www.sonoma-matsuri.com).**

**Colma Japanese Cemetery Clean-Up Day**  
**Colma, CA**

**May 20; 10 a.m.-2 p.m.**  
**1300 Hillside Blvd.**

**Price: Free and open to the public**  
The JCCCNC organizes this youth, family and community clean-up day annually. A light lunch, water, garbage bags, tools, cleaning supplies, watering bucket and flowers will be provided. Please bring your own gloves.  
**Info: To register, call (415) 567-5505 or email [Jennifer.Hamamoto@programsevents@jcccnc.org](mailto:Jennifer.Hamamoto@programsevents@jcccnc.org).**

## PSW

### Venice Japanese American Memorial Monument Dedication

**Los Angeles, CA**  
**April 27; 10-11:30 a.m.**  
**Northwest corner of Venice and Lincoln in Los Angeles**  
This dedication will commemorate the forced removal of Japanese Americans from their neighborhoods and their subsequent forced incarceration at Manzanar. The dedication's keynote speaker will be Warren Furutani. A fundraiser at Hama Sushi Restaurant will follow the ceremony.  
**Info: Visit [www.venicejamm.org](http://www.venicejamm.org).**

### 2017 Children's Day Festival

**Los Angeles, CA**  
**May 6; 11 a.m.-4 p.m.**  
**Peace Plaza**  
**Japantown**  
**Price: Free and open to the public**  
This traditional youth celebration will feature Japanese performances, youth art contests, arts and crafts activities, games, bounce house and much more.  
**Info: Visit [www.jcccnc.org](http://www.jcccnc.org).**

### Japan Night at Dodger Stadium

**Los Angeles, CA**  
**May 18; 7:10 p.m.**  
**Dodger Stadium**  
**1000 Vin Scully Ave.**  
**Price: Ticket prices vary.**  
Join the Dodgers as the team hosts Japan night! This special event ticket package includes a ticket to the game and an exclusive Japan Night T-shirt. The first 40,000 fans in attendance will also receive a Great Dodgers Moments Coin #3: Clayton Kershaw's No-Hitter presented by 76.  
**Info: Visit <http://m.mlb.com/dodgers/tickets/special-events/japan-night>.**

## PNW

### DOR Commemorating E.O. 9066

**Portland, OR**  
**May 6; 2-4 p.m.**  
**Portland Exposition Center**  
**2060 N. Marine Dr.**  
Sponsored by the Portland JACL and the Oregon Nikkei Endow-

ment, this Day of Remembrance program commemorates the 75th anniversary of Executive Order 9066. The event's keynote speaker will be Dale Minami and the MC will be Los Angeles TV anchor David Ono. In addition, Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR) will be a special guest speaker.  
**Info: Visit [pdxjacl.org](http://pdxjacl.org).**

### Japanese American Graduation Banquet

**Clackamas, OR**  
**May 7; 1 p.m.**  
**Monarch Hotel**  
**12566 S.E. 93rd Ave.**  
**Price: \$35 each; complimentary for graduating seniors; free parking**  
This year marks the 70th anniversary of this banquet, which is sponsored by 11 Portland area organizations. High school seniors will be honored and many scholarships will be awarded. The event's keynote speaker will be Elisa Dozono, who is an attorney and partner with Miller Nash/Graham & Dunn.  
**Info: For more information, contact [Setsy Sadamoto Larouche](mailto:Setsy.Sadamoto@msn.com) at [Larouche@msn.com](mailto:Larouche@msn.com).**

### Portland Taiko Benefit Banquet: Eat! Celebrate! Support!

**Portland, OR**  
**May 11; 6-8:30 p.m.**  
**Wong's King Seafood Restaurant**  
**8733 S.E. Division St.**  
**Price: \$65**  
This benefit dinner will feature a wine and beer reception, followed by an eight-course, vegetarian-friendly Cantonese dinner. An evening of taiko performances, mystery origami leis, live auction and special surprises will all benefit Portland Taiko.  
**Info: Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/portland-taiko-benefit-banquet-eat-celebrate-support-tickets-32665870498>.**

## MDC

### 2017 JACL Chicago Scholarship Luncheon

**May 21; Noon**  
**Skokie, IL**  
**Maggiano's Little Italy**  
**4999 Old Orchard Shopping Center**  
Come and support tomorrow's leaders as JACL Chicago awards its annual scholarship recipients.  
**Info: Visit [www.jaclchicago.org](http://www.jaclchicago.org).**

### 'Gambatte! Legacy of an Enduring Spirit' Japanese American WWII

**Incarceration, Then and Now**  
**St. Paul, MN**  
**May 23; 5:30 p.m. exhibit viewing; 6:30 p.m. program with speaker Paul Kitagaki Jr.**  
**Historic Fort Snelling Visitors Center**

**200 Tower Ave.**

**Price: Free and open to the public**  
Historic photographs of Japanese Americans during World War II taken by War Relocation Authority photographers are juxtaposed with contemporary photographs from Pulitzer Prize-winning photographer Paul Kitagaki Jr. The exhibit officially opens May 27 and will be on view until Oct. 28.  
**Info: Call (612) 726-1171 or visit [www.mnhs.org/event/3047](http://www.mnhs.org/event/3047).**

## EDC

### 'Before They Were Heroes' Photo Exhibit

**Boston, MA**  
**May 3-June 26**  
**Transit Gallery of Harvard Medical School**  
**25 Shattuck St.**  
"Before They Were Heroes" is an exhibition of photographs taken by the late Dr. Susumu Ito while he was a member of the celebrated WWII 442nd Regimental Combat Team. Ito took the photos with a prohibited camera, capturing the daily lives of Japanese American soldiers arriving in Europe. The Transit Gallery is open Monday-Friday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.  
**Info: Visit [www.nejacl.org](http://www.nejacl.org).**

**Brookline Sakura Matsuri Cherry Blossom Festival**  
**Brookline, MA**  
**May 13; Noon-4 p.m.**  
**Brookline High School Quad**  
**115 Greenough St.**

**Price: Suggested donation \$5 students; \$10-\$20 families**

In collaboration with the Genki Spark and Brookline High School Japanese Program, this event features food, cultural events and the region's only public taiko drumming showcase featuring taiko groups from the New England region.  
**Info: Visit [www.brooklinecherryblossom.com](http://www.brooklinecherryblossom.com).**

## CCDC

### Art of Survival: Enduring the Turmoil of Tule Lake

**Fresno, CA**  
**Thru April 30**  
**Fresno State University**  
**Henry Madden Library**  
**5200 N. Barton Ave.**

This traveling exhibition probes the complexity of the Japanese American confinement site in Newell, Calif. It was the only officially designated segregation center during WWII and was ruled under martial law. Through images of artifacts by photographer Hiroshi Watanabe, viewers will get a glimpse into the lives of those who were held at Tule Lake.  
**Info: Visit [library.fresno-state.edu](http://library.fresno-state.edu).**

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

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**Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California**

### JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

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

These are all full-time positions with benefits. Involvement with the JA community and understanding of JA culture, traditions and heritage is a definite plus.

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

# IN MEMORIAM

TRIBUTES

**MEI TAKAYA NAKANO**



Dec. 1, 1924 – March 26, 2017  
 Mei T. Nakano, born in Olathe, Colo., to Japanese immigrants, passed away peacefully after a brief decline from an accidental fall. She was one of eight children to writer parents who worked as tenant farmers in Colorado in the 1920s. Eventually moving to Los Angeles with her family, Mei attended high school during which time she met her husband, Shiro (Shi),

who she married in 1942 while incarcerated in a WWII internment camp at Amache, Colo. After the war, Mei and Shi returned to California and raised three children who survive Mei — son, Chris Nakano; daughter, Nikki Nakano Omi (Philip); and son, Philip Nakano. She is also survived by grandchildren, great-grandchildren, a sister and two brothers.

At age 46, Mei studied at San Francisco State University and graduated summa cum laude in language and literature. She subsequently earned an MA from Cal State East Bay and taught English at Laney and Diablo Valley Colleges. Finding a passion for writing, Mei co-founded Mina Press Publishing and published a children's folk tale, "Riko Rabbit," later authoring a description of her experiences living in an internment camp as a U.S. citizen and documenting the struggles of Japanese Americans, women in particular, in her book, "Japanese American Women: Three Generations" (first published in 1991). By the mid-1990s, focusing her concerns on human and civil rights issues, Mei engaged in a range of activities centered largely in the Sonoma County area where she lived, while continuing to share her experiences and opinions in articles, essays and public speaking. She helped to establish and chair the first Sonoma County Commission on Human Rights, participated on the board of the Sonoma County JACL and was active in the Peace and Justice Center of Sonoma County and the Sonoma County Peace Crane Project. For her activism and achievements, Mei was recognized and honored on numerous occasions during her lifetime.

Mei Nakano passed away at age 92 and was married for 72 years when Shi passed away in 2016. Mei always enjoyed yard work, gardening and time with her family, but in later years, she enthusiastically added Warrior games on TV to her activities. Her children would like to express their sincere gratitude for the care given their mother by the staff at Brookdale Chanate-Assisted Living, Santa Rosa. All are invited to join the family at a memorial gathering on June 10, 2017, 2-4 p.m. at the Glaser Center of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation, 547 Mendocino Ave., Santa Rosa. In lieu of flowers and in honor of Mei's favorite style of dining, please bring a small refreshment or snack to share.

**SACHIKO IWAI HIGAKI**



Sachiko Iwai Higaki, 92, of Hillsborough, CA, passed peacefully into everlasting life in Jesus Christ on March 29, 2017, surrounded by her loving husband, Harry, and their children. A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. on April 22 at Peninsula Hope Church, 599 Jefferson Ave., Redwood City, CA.

Sachiko was born in Osaka, Japan, on April 23, 1924. A dedicated teacher and wife, she graduated from Osaka Hirano

Teachers College in Japan and was married to Harry Higaki in Osaka, Japan, on Oct. 7, 1949.

Sachiko wholeheartedly served her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ at her church and taught Bible classes in her home.

Sachiko is survived by her husband, Harry, of 67 years; her son, Harrison (Heidi); daughter, Sharon (John); daughter, Audrey (Perry); 7 grandchildren and 6 spouses, 7 great-grandchildren and a large community of family and friends.

Sachiko was preceded in death by her daughter, Lois Toyo Higaki.

**TAKESHI 'TAK' SASAKI**

Mr. Takeshi "Tak" Sasaki, 92-year-old, Los Angeles-born Nisei resident of Monterey Park, passed away peacefully on April 13, 2017.

He was preceded in death by his brother, Hitoshi Sasaki.

Tak is survived by his brother, Saburo (Ann) Sasaki of Michigan; sister-in-law, Kathy Sasaki of Banning, CA; also nieces, nephews and other relatives.

A memorial service will be held on Wednesday, April 26, 12 p.m. at Fukui Mortuary "Chapel in the Garden," 707 E. Temple St., Los Angeles. The family kindly request no Okoden or flowers please. [www.fukuimortuary.com](http://www.fukuimortuary.com) (213) 626-0441

**Ishihara, Simiko 'Simi,' 92**, San Pedro, CA, April 11; she is survived by her husband, Teruo "Terry" Ishihara; children, Marleen M. Ray, Virtue T. Ishihara, Leonard H. Ishihara, Darleen S. Alkhalili and Terry T. Ishihara; sisters, Denko Hirose and Frances Okumura; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 3.

**Masaki, Takeko, 91**, Honolulu, Feb. 11; she is survived by her children, Mark (Sharon) and Esme (Ralph) Sakai; brothers, Tetsuo Ihara and Tsutomu (Mildred) Ihara; gc: 4; ggc: 3.

**Matsushima, Lawrence Yoshio, 73**, Ma'ili, HI, Feb. 5; he is survived by his wife, Stephany Auwae; daughters, Laura (Allen) Sturm and Kehau (Len) Kaalouahi; siblings, Evelyn (Ray) Fujiwara, Sandy (Kenneth) Saiki and Harry Matsushima; gc: 5.

**Miwa, Patricia Yeiko, 94**, Los Angeles, Feb. 28; she was predeceased by her husband, Kenneth Miwa; she is survived by her sons, Danny (Lisa), Glenn (Laura) and Marty (Melody) Miwa; she is also survived by many other relatives; gc: 2.

**Miyamoto, Sam Shigeru, 89**, Monterey Park, CA, March 7; during WWII, his family and he were forcibly removed from their West Coast home and incarcerated at the Poston WRA Center in AZ before becoming part of the Gripsholm Exchange and sent to Japan against their will in exchange for U.S. POWs. He is survived by his wife, Jean; children, Steven (Angela) Miyamoto, Sharon (Steven) Miyamoto-Oda and Julie (Denny) Sunabe; siblings, Archie (Kay) Miyamoto, Terry Hashimoto, Yooko Honda and Lillian Fujii; he is also survived by many nieces and nephews; gc: 3.

**Nagaoka, Lillian, 86**, Torrance, CA, Feb. 21; she was predeceased by her husband, Robert and son, Russell; she is survived by her daughter-in-law, Susan Nagaoka; sisters, Gladys Hara, Miyoko (Yoriyoshi) Nakamoto, Lorraine (Masao) Kato; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 2.

**Nakasu, James, 95**, Torrance, CA,

March 3; he was predeceased by his wife, Gladys; he is survived by his son, Kris (Judi); he is also survived by several nieces and nephews; gc: 2.

**Nakamoto, Gracine Yoshie, 94**, Honolulu, HI, Jan. 30; she is survived by her sons, Craig (Betty Sato) and Dean (Mary Fong); sister, Violet Tomoyasu; gc: 3.

**Nishikawa, Masanori, 95**, Los Angeles, CA, March 8; he was predeceased by his wife, Chizu; he is survived by his children, Ardis Nishikawa, Elaine Nishikawa and Karen Shiba; siblings, Toshiye Mukai and Emiko Jeanne Reed; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

**Nonaka, Masami, 82**, Arvada, CO, March 2; during WWII, his family and he were removed from Los Angeles to Colorado and incarcerated at the Granada WRA Center (Camp Amache); he is survived by his wife, Yasuko; children, Stephanie (Bill) Delo, Bobby (Michelle) Nonaka and Tricia (Don) Nelson; sister, Miko Matsui; gc: 10.

**Ojima, Mitsuko, 96**, San Mateo, CA, March 14; during WWII, she was removed from Portland, Ore., and incarcerated at the Minidoka WRA Center in Idaho until she was released to work in Chicago; she was predeceased by her husband, Toshio; she is survived by her daughters, Janice (Larry) O'Sullivan and Wanda (John) McMullin; she is also survived by many nieces and nephews; gc: 6; ggc: 9.

**Ogawa, Alice (Fumi) Hayashida, 96**, Boise, ID, April 12; during WWII, her family was temporarily detained at a camp in Pinedale, CA, then transferred to the Tule Lake WRA Center and then the Minidoka WRA Center in Idaho; she was predeceased by her former husband, Yosie; she is survived by her daughters, Iris (David) Horner, Lois (Frank) Hasebe, Janis Ogawa (Jerry Kirk) and Tyris (Peter) Thomas; she is also survived by several nieces and nephews; gc: 2; ggc: 2.

**Omi, Richard, 93**, San Mateo, CA, March 1; he was removed from Modesto, CA, and incarcerated at the Granada WRA Center

(Camp Amache) in CO; he was predeceased by his wife, May; he is survived by his second wife, Alice; children, Wendee (Brian) Omi-Leong, Wesley (Lily) Omi and Tim (Tan) Omi.

**Sasaki, Susumu, 75**, San Jose, CA, Feb. 23; he was predeceased by his wife, Yoshiko.

**Shimoda, Betty, 89**, Sebastopol, CA, March 1; she is survived by her husband, Satoru "John" Shimoda; her two daughters, Carol (David) Hebel and Susan (Tadashi) Tamai; gc: 2; ggc: 3.

**Shimodoi, Loretta Haruko, 85**, Mililani, HI, Jan. 10; she is survived by her sons, Randal H., and Alton J. (Lynda); sisters, Helen Fujimoto, Alice Arakaki and Linda (Alan) Wagatsuma; gc: 3.

**Shizuru, Mary, 86**, Los Angeles, CA, March 11; she was predeceased by her husband, Gump; and daughter, Nancy Tamura; she is survived by her sons, Tak (Marlene) Kikuchi and Dennis (Tina) Kikuchi; son-in-law, Jim Tamura; she is also survived by many nieces and nephews; gc: 7; ggc: 2.

**Takao, Noboru Ronnie, 92**, Gardena, CA, March 11; he is survived by his wife, Tamiko; daughters, Christine (Alan) Miwa, Cathy (David) Uyemura, Dianne and Donna; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 5; ggc: 7.

**Tameno, John, 84**, Mesa, AZ, April 1; during WWII, his family and he were forcibly moved to the Pinedale, CA, Assembly Center, then transferred to Tule Lake WRA Center and finally the Minidoka WRA Center in Idaho; he is survived by his children and grandchildren; sisters, Mary Tameno and Ruth Harada.

**Teramoto, Martha Masako, 88**, Los Angeles, March 3; she was predeceased by her husband, Motoe; she is survived by her children, Kenny, Rick (Simms) and Linda Teramoto; brother, Ben Matsunaga; sisters-in-law, Maxine Teramoto, Setsuko Kamachi, Eiko and Michiye Matsunaga; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 3.

**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.

Contact: [busrmgr@pacificcitizen.org](mailto:busrmgr@pacificcitizen.org) or call (213) 620-1767

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## REIMAGINE EVERYTHING



## RECALLING PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN'S REMARKS ON SIGNING THE CIVIL LIBERTIES ACT OF 1988

By Richard Hansen,  
AARP Senior Speechwriter and  
Guest Columnist

I am very fortunate to work with so many talented AARP employees with amazing work histories. On this 75th anniversary of Executive Order 9066, I asked my colleague to share his thoughts on his memories working with President Ronald Reagan.

— Ron Mori

Aug. 10, 1988, is a date that will remain etched in my memory for the rest of my life. At the time, I was a member of President Ronald Reagan's Public Affairs staff at the White House. Sadly, Aug. 10 was the day my father passed away. But before I left Washington to be with him in his final hours, I helped put together the background material to be used for the president's remarks for his Aug. 10 signing of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.

The president drafted much of the remarks

himself from his own thoughts. Here are some moving excerpts from what President Reagan said on that historic occasion. The *Pacific Citizen* plays a prominent role.

"... (W)e gather here today to right a grave wrong. More than 40 years ago, shortly after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, 120,000 persons of Japanese ancestry living in the United States were forcibly removed from their homes and placed in makeshift internment camps. This action was taken without trial, without jury. It was based solely on race, for these 120,000 were Americans of Japanese descent.

"... The legislation that I am about to sign provides for a restitution payment to each of the 60,000 surviving Japanese Americans of the 120,000 who were relocated or detained. Yet, no payment can make up for those lost years. So, what is most important in this bill has less to do with property than with honor. For here, we admit a wrong; here, we reaffirm our commitment as a nation to equal justice under the law.

"... And now, I wonder whether you'd per-

mit me one personal reminiscence, prompted by an old newspaper report sent to me by Rose Ochi, a former internee. The clipping comes from the *Pacific Citizen* and is dated December 1945.

"Arriving by plane from Washington," the article begins, "Gen. Joseph W. Stilwell pinned the Distinguished Service Cross on Mary Masuda in a simple ceremony on the porch of her small frame shack near Talbert, Orange County. She was one of the first Americans of Japanese ancestry to return from relocation centers to California's farmlands. 'Vinegar Joe' Stilwell was there that day to honor Kazuo Masuda, Mary's brother. You see, while Mary and her parents were in an internment camp, Kazuo served as staff sergeant to the 442d Regimental Combat Team. In one action, Kazuo ordered his men back and advanced through heavy fire, hauling a mortar. For 12 hours, he engaged in a singlehanded barrage of Nazi positions. Several weeks later at Cassino, Kazuo staged another lone advance. This time, it cost him his life.

The newspaper clipping notes that her two surviving brothers were with Mary and her parents on the little porch that morning. These two brothers, like the heroic Kazuo, had served in the United States Army.

After Gen. Stilwell made the award, the motion picture actress Louise Allbritton, a Texas girl, told how a Texas battalion had been saved by the 442nd. Other show business personalities paid tribute — Robert Young, Will Rogers Jr. And one young actor said: "Blood that has soaked into the sands of a beach is all of one color. America stands unique in the world: the only country not founded on race but on a way, an ideal. Not in spite of but because of our polyglot background, we have had all the strength in the world. That is the American way." The name of that young actor — I hope I pronounce this right — was Ronald Reagan. And, yes, the ideal of liberty and justice for all — that is still the American way.

Richard Hansen is a senior speechwriter for AARP.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF RICHARD HANSEN



President Ronald Reagan signs the Civil Liberties Act of 1988.

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