



PACIFIC CITIZEN

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Mixed Race Studies
Conference

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JALD Delegation
Returns From Japan.

The famed physicist
tells of great adventures
ahead for mankind!



Pacific Citizen by the Numbers . . . and Planned Giving (Reprise)

The nice thing about the electronic version for those who don't live in California is that you get to read the *P.C.* about a week before you receive the newsprint via U.S. mail, so it helps "all" JACL members read the *P.C.* at about the same time.

The goal for the *Pacific Citizen's* Spring Campaign this year (and last year!) is \$100,000. That would be about \$14 per member. 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.

- If you think the Spring Campaign isn't worth your time and money, send me a note. I'd like to understand why!

- 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, can explain 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.

Hope to see many of you at the JACL National Convention this year, which will be held in Philadelphia from July 18-21. Full convention details will be coming out soon on the JACL website and in the *P.C.* and online.

Very Respectfully,

Chip Larouche,
PNWDC Governor and
P.C. Editorial Board Member

Spring is here, which means the *Pacific Citizen's* 2018 Spring Campaign is in high gear! Have you sent your check in yet? I have! Sometimes, it helps to understand why something is important by looking "at the numbers." So, let's do that.

As of Dec. 31, 2017, there are 7,370 memberships in JACL nationally, which is down about 4 percent from 2016. The total 2017 revenue for the *P.C.* fell short of its target, despite the collection of an extra \$17 per member who wanted to receive the newsprint version of the *P.C.*, which brought in \$35,632 — in other words, 2,096 of the memberships opted to receive the newsprint edition.

When we had 20,000 members, covering the cost to produce the *P.C.* was pretty easy. However, with our membership at 7,370, the *P.C.* "program" last year faced many challenges in raising revenue, even in these "good market" times.

Members with email addresses on file should also be receiving the electronic version of the *Pacific Citizen* — if you have chosen to do so — as well. If you are not, and you'd like to receive it electronically, send a note to JACL Membership Coordinator Mariko Fujimoto at mfujimoto@jacl.org.

PHOTO: SUSAN YOKOYAMA



Pacific Citizen Editorial Board Members (from left) Kayla Watanabe, Juli Yoshinaga, Jim Duff and Board Chair Gil Asakawa attended the March 3 performance of "Allegiance," which is currently playing at the JACCC's Aratani Theatre in Los Angeles.

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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."

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NIKKEI VOICE

IT'S MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER THAT WE REMEMBER TO NEVER FORGET

By Gil Asakawa

Day of Remembrance has grown to be a significant date not just on the Japanese American community's calendar but for many non-JAs as well. The Mile High chapter of JACL, for which I serve as the current chapter president, has been hosting Day of Remembrance events for years.

For readers who may not know what the day signifies, the Day of Remembrance marks Feb. 19, 1942, when President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066. His signature approved the eventual rounding up and incarceration of 120,000 people of Japanese ancestry — both immigrants and U.S.-born American citizens, including entire families with elders and children — in American concentration camps during World War II.

DOR observances are held across the country on or around Feb. 19 every year. A decade ago, Denver's DOR was a quiet, small affair.

It used to be held at the University of Denver's Sturm College of Law in the law school's atrium. About 75 chairs fanned out from a podium where speakers gave

presentations. One keynote speaker in particular that I remember was Dale Minami, the lead attorney who fought to overturn Fred Korematsu's conviction for fighting the incarceration.

About five years or so ago, we moved the event to a large auditorium room at History Colorado Center, the history museum in downtown Denver that also has a permanent exhibit about Amache, the concentration camp in southeast Colorado.

We expanded our programming and brought in a variety of speakers and added panels of camp survivors. During the last presidential campaign, we began including discussions of the country's growing anti-Muslim sentiment, reminding everyone that it happened before, and increasingly, the level of hate, ignorance and stereotypes aimed at Muslims was looking unsettlingly familiar.

The room would come to life with American swing music and Japanese songs of the 1930s and '40s; videos and slides of the camps would play on a screen as people arrived. We even had a taiko drum performance one year in the atrium outside the auditorium. The audiences grew to around 150-200 people, but room is so large that for a few years, the crowd seemed, well, puny.

Portland-based attorney Peggy Nagae was the keynote speaker for Mile High's DOR event.



PHOTOS: GIL ASAKAWA



This educational short comic about the life and legacy of Min Yasui was distributed at Mile High's DOR event.

Then, Donald Trump was elected president of the United States.

Last year, we had 500 people, a standing-room only audience that paid rapt attention to the event's guest speaker, Lane Hirabayashi, an Asian American studies professor and nephew of Gordon Hirabayashi, one of the other men besides Korematsu who fought incarceration to the Supreme Court during the war. His topic was the resettlement of JAs to Colorado after the war and the thriving "Japantown" that developed in Denver.

This year, the unsettled spirit of social justice once again brought more than 400

people to DOR on Feb. 18 to History Colorado Center, and as always, we began the event by asking anyone who had been in a camp to stand and be acknowledged, followed by a request for anyone who had a family member or a friend who was incarcerated to stand as well.

The first request reflected the dwindling number of survivors still alive; the second was a much larger, breathtaking reflection of the ripple effects this American tragedy is still having, generations down the line.

>> See NEVER FORGET on page 12



A MOTHER'S TAKE

'THIS IS ME'

By Marsha Aizumi

I always believe that when things repeat in my life, it's a sign that I need to pay attention. Recently, I met a young artist named Jason Chu, who talked about the difference between someone performing and a true artist. He defined a true artist as one who vulnerably creates his or her work. I didn't truly understand what he was trying to say until Aiden shared with me a song he thought I would like.

Last month, Aiden and I were booked to give the keynote for a huge speaking event — our largest one ever. About 900 people were gathering for an interfaith and intercultural breakfast. I was nervous on two levels: first, because of the sheer number of people we were addressing, and secondly, because it was going to be a large number of churches, temples and non-LGBTQ organizations.

The California Conference for Equality and Justice (CCEJ) was the host organization, and it wanted to introduce the topic of being transgender to groups and individuals, many who knew very little about the subject. It was going to be a different audience than

what we are used to speaking to.

I am not a morning person, so getting ready for this breakfast at 5 a.m. had me moving very slowly, both because of the hour and the audience I would be facing very soon. But when Aiden has a song he likes, he puts it on repeat. So, as my nervous self was getting ready, I heard these words playing over and over again . . . "When the sharpest words wanna cut me down, I'm gonna send a flood, gonna drown them out, This is brave, This is proof, This is who I'm meant to be . . . THIS IS ME!" At 6:30 a.m., I walked over to the Long Beach Convention Center with a spring in my step ready to share our story from my heart.

At the interfaith and intercultural breakfast, the song that was performed was . . . yes, you guessed it . . . "This Is Me." Actually, the night before, Aiden and I spoke to a group of young people — both queer and straight — and they were some of the youth singing onstage. When they sang, all I could see was the joy in their eyes and the pride in their faces as they stood before us claiming their place. There were many people in the audience reaching for their napkins to dab their eyes, including me.

One of the things I do when a song speaks to me is I go to YouTube to watch

some video clips of the song or search for the lyrics, since I can't always understand every word. The following week that was what I did. Here is the clip I found . . . https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XLFEvHWD_NE. By the way, it has almost 14 million views.

Watching Keala Settle perform this song live for the first time with the rest of "The Greatest Showman" artists showed me the power of bringing your vulnerability to your art no matter how scared, no matter how uncertain you are.

You can see the moment when Keala lowers the music stand and steps "into the ring" to declare that she's here and she's all in. From that moment on, she brings every single person in that room along with her. Her vulnerability is contagious, and it invites others to bring their whole heart to their art.

This year, 2018, will be 10 years since I sat across the table and saw the fear in my child's eyes when he told me that he wanted to transition to be my son. These 10 years have brought me some of my greatest moments of adversity, but also some of my greatest moments of learning.

I know that in the beginning, I did not want to step into the arena of advocacy. I was too afraid of people's judgment, criticism and rejection. I am a different person now.



PHOTO: RUDON PRODS.

Aiden and Marsha Aizumi spoke together at the CCEJ Breakfast 2018.

When I speak, I cry when I feel the pain and cry when I feel the joy. When I write, I hope you feel I am speaking my truth, and it is coming from a place of realness and compassion. It is in these moments that my vulnerability shows me that I am stronger and more courageous than I ever thought I could be.

"Look out cause here I come,
And I'm marching to the beat I drum,
I'm not scared to be seen,
I make no apologies, This is Me!"

Marsha Aizumi is an advocate in the LGBT community and author of the book "Two Spirits, One Heart: A Mother, Her Transgender Son and Their Journey to Love and Acceptance."

A VISIT TO THE 2018 CRITICAL MIXED RACE STUDIES CONFERENCE

Leaders in the multiracial movement gather to 'Resist, Reclaim, Reimagine' – a direct call to action amidst the current political climate faced by historically underrepresented communities in the U.S.

By Rob Buscher,
Contributor

Over the past few decades, the Japanese American community has become increasingly inclusive of multiracial and multiethnic individuals. However, for those of us who appear less phenotypically Japanese, it is sometimes difficult explaining our connection to people who are less familiar with interracial marriage and mixed-race children.

Multiracial Japanese Americans are in many ways the direct result of institutionalized racism that stigmatized Japanese-ness in the 20th century. From the Alien Land Laws to the mass incarceration during World War II, the very existence of our Japanese immigrant ancestors was deemed objectionable. Is it any wonder that so many of our parents and grandparents would choose intermarriage with partners from other ethnic and racial communities?

Yet, despite the growing prevalence of mixed-race Japanese Americans, there are many outside our community who do not acknowledge the legitimacy of our existence within the spectrum of Japanese American identity.

This is why it was so empowering to attend an event like the Critical Mixed Race Studies Conference, where nearly every one of the 200-plus participants were mixed race. While each individual has a totally different experience being mixed race (even within the same mixed community) the fact that multiracial folks were a super majority



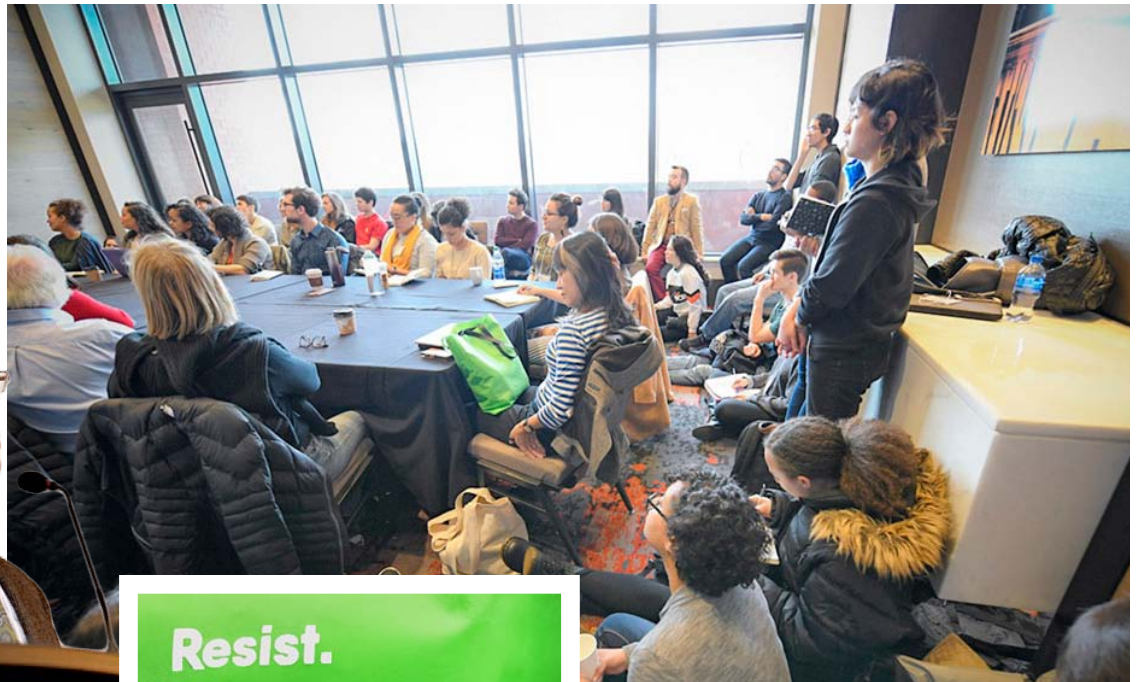
CMRS Association
President Greg
Carter

in this space meant that everyone had at least a basic understanding of the shared complexities surrounding our mixed identities.

Hosted at the University of Maryland on March 1-3, the 2018 conference's theme was "Resist, Reclaim, Reimagine" — titled with a direct call to action amidst the current political climate faced by historically underrepresented communities in the United States.

"This is the fifth time our community of scholars, activists, students and artists have gathered to share our work about racial mixture," said CMRS Association President Greg Carter. "The panels, roundtables, screening, readings, films, poster sessions and exhibits addressed these three areas to uncover the ongoing relevance of white supremacy around the globe. As a system of organizing societies, white supremacy does not work by magic, but by the tools of homophobia, transphobia, colorism, sexism and greed. The conference theme has attracted work that examines this in innovative, exciting ways."

While CMRS is primarily an academic conference, it is quite unique in the number of presenters and attendees who are not from a strictly academic background. Seemingly, there was an equal number of artists, activists and cultural producers represented amongst



Loving Day Project's Director of
Technology Eddie Nwabuoku (left)

the convention attendees. Likely the underlying activism inherent in the conference theme was a driving force in creating this kind of unique space.

"As an organization, the CMRS Association has also been at the juncture of resisting, reclaiming and reimagining since we last met in Los Angeles in 2017," Carter continued. "By challenging ourselves to be critical and to engender racial justice, everyone involved with the organization has been doing this throughout the year."

Thomas Lopez, a multiracial community organizer who has been active in this space for more than 25 years, expanded on the history of the organization.

"CMRS offers so much: cutting-edge research, diverse topics, arts and entertainment and a chance to build community," said Lopez. "Every year is different with unique keynotes, performances, venues and themes. I never know who I will run into and what to expect, but I never leave dissatisfied. It is the rare occasion when so many leaders in the multiracial movement are able to get together in person. I always leave inspired and motivated to keep going in spite of what headwinds I may be facing."

From the perspective of a multiracial Japanese American, I was pleasantly surprised to meet many people of mixed Japanese descent who were participating in the conference. One such person was Ken Tanabe, founder and president of Loving Day and another longtime supporter of the conference.

"You could say that my interest in CMRS started before there was a CMRS conference," said Tanabe. "I launched the Loving Day project six years before it started. For those who don't know, Loving Day is a global movement to celebrate the June 12 anniversary of *Loving v. Virginia*, the Supreme Court decision that struck down all U.S. laws against interracial marriage."

Notably, the JACL wrote an amicus brief in support of interracial marriage during this case, which was presented to the Supreme Court by late Philadelphia chapter member William Marutani. Loving Day is especially resonant among multiethnic families and their children but is open to anyone who believes in equality and building diverse communities.

Also in attendance from the Loving Day Project was Director of Technology Eddie Nwabuoku.

"As a Core Volunteer with the Loving Day Project, a person of mixed race and a participant in the academic study of mixed-race identity in the United States and worldwide, the CMRS Conference has been vital to my life and my larger work," said Nwabuoku. "CMRS is all about building, uplifting and promoting the community. This is still a fairly new field of academic research, but CMRS is the center of it all. If you are interested in the concept of race and its intersections with class, power, privilege and impact on life worldwide, you simply must attend!"

Indeed, it is the intersectionality that truly makes this space special, allowing for the free exchange of ideas between a diverse group of backgrounds both ethnically and in terms of profession.

"I learn something important every time I attend CMRS. It provides context to my work with Loving Day and informs the conversations and presentations that come with it. As a member of the Hapa Japan Board, I also draw from those experiences to provide insights that help us to craft future projects," Tanabe concluded.

PHOTO: ROB BUSCHER



Ken Tanabe (left) and Jeff Chiba Stearns lead
the Community Caucus at CMRS.



Among the attendees were Athena Askliapiadis and Jeff Chiba Stearns (both pictured at right)



Liz Acevedo at the CMRS Spoken Word Open Mic

PHOTO: ROB BUSCHER

Thomas Lopez with some younger attendees.

The Hapa Japan group that Tanabe references is an international organization seeking to track the growth of multiracial individuals amongst the Japanese diasporic community. The project consists of an event series, publications and a website hosted by the Hapa Japan Database Project, a research initiative at the University of Southern California's Ito Center, which is dedicated to the global study of mixed-race and mixed-roots Japanese people.

At least three of its board members were in attendance at CMRS, including biracial Japanese Canadian filmmaker Jeff Chiba Stearns. In reflecting on the overlap from various multiracial organizing spaces, Stearns offered the following: "Many of the attendees and participants roll in the same circles. It's great to have a place where we can all meet up once a year to discuss how we can support each other."

Stearns' previous documentary titled "One Big Hapa Family" delved into the issue of intermarriage from a Japanese Canadian perspective. Stearns also used the conference to launch his new original ABC picture book titled "Mixed Critters," a playful way to teach children about mixed-race identity.

"Many of the animated and documentary films that I've directed and produced, including 'What Are You Anyways?' (2005), 'One Big Hapa Family' (2010) and 'Mixed Match' (2016), focus on multiethnic themes and exploring mixed-race identity," said Stearns. "Therefore, CMRS is an important

conference for me to attend, promote and exhibit my work to scholars and students."

Much of the work presented at CMRS is issue-based, and many of the connections and relationships that are established in these spaces have led to more direct activism. One poignant example is the "Mixed Match" film that Stearns directed. While his previous work dealt mainly with the Japanese Canadian community, the time he spends in multiethnic coalition spaces like CMRS has helped expand his work to include a broader mixed-race perspective.

The film, which has been making its rounds through the Asian American film festival circuit and college campus screenings for the past two years, reveals the challenges facing mixed-race individuals when it comes to finding bone marrow donors of a similar genetic composition.

Much of this project was made possible through Stearns' partnership with Athena Askliapiadis, a multiracial Japanese, Greek, Italian, Armenian, Egyptian American who represents Mixed Marrow, a Los Angeles-based organization that encourages mixed-race and multiethnic individuals to join the national bone marrow donor registry.

Reflecting on her experience at the past several CMRS, Askliapiadis said, "The connections made here have allowed me to bring my mission and film to different college campuses and events. Also, recruiting marrow donors is not easy — there are so many misconceptions and fears — but attending a

conference where people are open minded and willing to learn makes explaining less challenging."

Askliapiadis used this year's CMRS as an opportunity to recruit more individuals for the donor registry.

"CMRS has been directly supportive by allowing us space to host a drive, provide materials for distribution and show 'Mixed Match' during the closing night event in 2016," she said. "Screening our film for a 300-plus person crowd was so amazing and extremely touching for our patients, some of whom were in attendance. It was great to share the film with our peers and with a target audience who could relate and it can resonate so well with."

By the end of the conference, an evident bond had developed amongst the attendees, including CMRS veterans and first-time attendees alike. But the organizers were nearly forced to cancel because of the unseasonably strong Nor'easter that week.

"What happened on the second day of the conference shows what CMRS is about," Nwabuoku said. "Extreme windy conditions that day caused the host university to close down entirely. But attendees weren't going to let a little bit of wind stop them from attending, so the organizers rallied round and

within less than two hours, they were able to secure an alternate venue just outside of the university, rearrange the schedule, inform all the attendees about the changes and the show went on! That sense of community, and the eagerness to push on through no matter what, is emblematic of CMRS."

Indeed, the sense of community was palpable, and I found myself on the verge of tears often throughout the weekend, having found a kindred space at the intersection between academia and activism.

"You would be hard put to find a venue that represents the breadth of the multiracial community as much as this event," said Lopez. "If you wanted to get a peek into as much of the community as you can all at once, this would be the place. You will learn, you will laugh, you may cry, but mostly, you will leave inspired."

While details about the next conference have not yet been announced, it will tentatively take place in 2020.

For more information, visit criticalmixedracestudies.com.



A J-pop presentation group photo



DR. MICHIO KAKU AND WHAT'S NEXT FOR HUMANITY

A new book by the famed physicist tells of great adventures ahead.

By Alissa Hiraga,
Contributor

Mars colonization, the brilliance and menace of AI, humanity on the brink of extinction to salvation, the beauty and enormity of the universe — these dance in our minds as fantastically far-out mysteries and can be scary to think about. The popularity of science shows and podcasts are among the clues that show that humans want to unravel the mysteries of space and find a place in it all. Dr. Michio Kaku, professor, futurist and theoretical physicist, is a beloved figure in science for his ability to make complex, intimidating concepts accessible to all audiences. His best-selling books and talks reveal he is a scientist for the people, despite undeniable brilliance as co-founder of string field theory and work toward furthering Albert Einstein's work on the fundamental forces of nature.

Alissa Hiraga for the *Pacific Citizen* had the opportunity to ask Dr. Kaku a few questions inspired from his engaging new book “The Future of Humanity: Terraforming Mars, Interstellar Travel, Immortality, and Our Destiny Beyond Earth.” Kaku's new book is at once a hopeful, lively look into the future, a warning of the challenges humans as a species must overcome and a call to action on what mankind must do in order to thrive for millennia and beyond.

PACIFIC CITIZEN: Your book describes an exciting future for humanity while also pointing out that 99.9 percent of species eventually become extinct. What factors do you believe could cause humanity to fall prey to extinction and thus, short of the potential you describe in your book?

DR. MICHIO KAKU: We face both natural and self-inflicted disasters. Natural disasters include asteroid impacts, super volcanoes and ice ages. Self-inflicted ones include global warming, nuclear proliferation and bio-germ warfare.

Remember that the dinosaurs had no space program, so, 65 million years ago, an asteroid or meteor probably wiped them out. Hopefully, we will not face such a disaster, but we need a backup plan in case it happens.

We do not have to evacuate the entire planet any time soon. No need for a crash program that would take funds from badly needed programs.

For the present, we just need a settlement outside the Earth, an insurance policy, a plan B, in case something bad does happen.

We also should not go into space to avoid the greenhouse effect. These planetary problems are largely political and should be solved democratically and politically on the Earth.

PACIFIC CITIZEN: Much of what you describe in your book seems based on an assumption of continued exponential advances in technology. How will the tapering of Moore's Law, which suggests that computing speed will double roughly every two years, affect the continued advancement of technology in the coming decades?

KAKU: The wealth of today's society depends on Moore's Law — computer power keeps on growing exponentially, but this cannot last forever. Eventually, transistors become the size of atoms, and silicon becomes useless.

Silicon Valley could become a rust belt. The age of silicon could be closing, and we need a new generation of computers, perhaps molecular or quantum computers. That's why we physicists are furiously working on the next generation of computers.

Also, realize that the Space Race of the 1960s forced scientists to miniaturize computers. This, in turn, gave us the current computer revolution, with iPhones, the Internet, etc. Now, if we have a second golden age of space travel, perhaps a new generation of computers will emerge to energize the economy.

PACIFIC CITIZEN: As with many of your publications, you often reference both popular and lesser-known science fiction stories. What role does science fiction play in how you approach your work? What purpose do you believe it serves within our society?

KAKU: Science fiction inspires young people to become scientists. Edwin Hubble, who discovered the Expanding Universe theory, was a country lawyer who suddenly switched into astronomy. This was because he read Jules Verne as a child and was mesmerized by science fiction. Carl Sagan, the astronomer, was inspired by reading the “John Carter of Mars” series as a kid. Robert Goddard, the father of modern rocketry, read “War of the Worlds” as a kid and was inspired to build rockets. So, science fiction often not only points the way to a possible future, it also inspires the young.

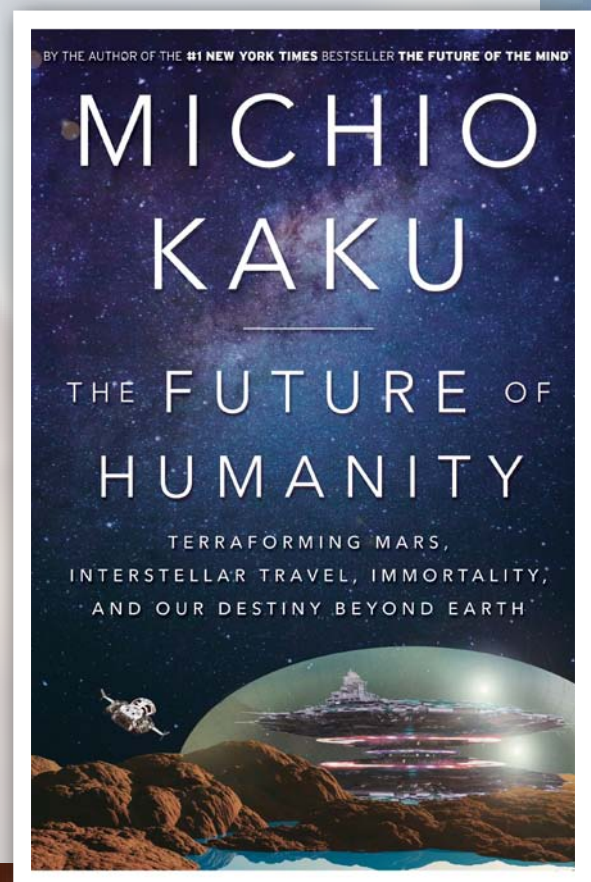
PACIFIC CITIZEN: The ambitions you describe in “The Future of Humanity” will be accomplished mostly by individuals and groups strongly educated in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math). What countries do you see as best positioned to lead humanity into the future you describe and what does the U.S. need to do to remain a leader for the future of humanity?

KAKU: There is a brain drain currently into the U.S. of top scientists, mainly via the H-1B visa. Silicon Valley is 50 percent foreign born. But, this cannot last forever. China is rapidly catching up in science and technology.

We must revise our science educational program to become modern and more relevant to peoples' lives. Our educational system does a great job preparing us to live in the world of 1950. Unfortunately, we don't live in 1950 anymore.

So, education is the weak link. Only 30 percent of the public graduates from college, and they do very well economically. We have to make sure that everyone has the chance of getting a great education, so they don't see a decline in their standard of living.

PACIFIC CITIZEN: In your book, you touch upon the recent public exchange on the threat of artificial intelligence between Elon Musk and Mark Zuckerberg. You offer your own prediction of self-aware robots toward the end of this century or early next based on your theories regarding the necessary conditions for consciousness, as well as suggestions for preventing a “Terminator”-type machine revolt in the form of programming and fail-safes that could prevent such revolts. Are the “Three Laws of Robotics” that Issac Asimov articulates in “I-Robot” sufficient? If not, what changes or additions would you make to the Asimov rules so that AI programmers could prevent such revolts?



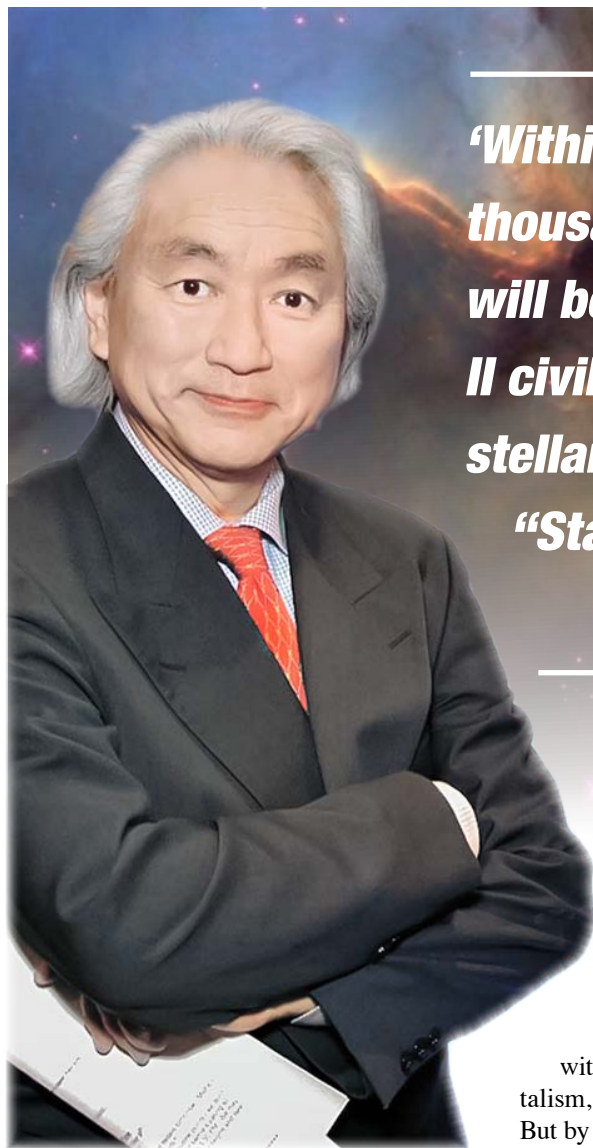


PHOTO: ASIAN BOSTON/ROB KLEIN

‘Within a few thousand years, we will become a Type II civilization, with stellar power, like in “Star Trek”’

— Dr. Michio Kaku

civilization, with planetary politics and culture to deal collectively with these problems. Right now, we are a fragmented Type 0 civilization, with all the savagery of fundamentalism, nationalism, sectarianism, etc. But by the end of the century, we should become planetary, and hence many of these problems will be resolved. (Within a few thousand years, we will become a Type II civilization, with stellar power, like in “Star Trek”). Within a hundred thousand years, we might become a Type III civilization, a galactic one, like in “Star Wars.”

So, the most dangerous period is the transition from a fragmented Type 0 civilization to a Type I planetary civilization.

PACIFIC CITIZEN: Your passion and enthusiasm for your chosen profession repeatedly comes through in both your published and televised works, and it serves as an inspiration for people of all ages and backgrounds. You talked about your father’s incarceration in a Japanese American internment camp. What impact did your family’s experiences have on your childhood, how you approach your life and your profession?

KAKU: My parents were locked up in Tule Lake, Calif., from 1942-46. After they left the camps, they were penniless, with nothing. So, as a child, I realized that we were not rich and that if I was to succeed in life, I would have to do it myself.

But my parents never held a grudge or felt self-pity or anger. Their attitude was the past is the past, and that we must forge on, to make sure that such disasters do not happen again, and also to bring honor to our people.

For more information on Dr. Michio Kaku and his works, visit <http://mkaku.org>.

KAKU: Mark Zuckerberg of Facebook is right, that for many decades to come, AI will create jobs and prosperity. But eventually, robots will become self-aware and a threat to us by the end of the century, perhaps.

At that point, I think we need a fail-safe, a chip in their brain to shut them off if they have murderous thoughts. But, this crisis is still perhaps a century away. Right now, robots have the intelligence of a cockroach.

Eventually, they will be as smart as a mouse, rat, rabbit, cat and dog. When they reach monkey intelligence, we need to put a chip in their brain to shut them off just in case.

PACIFIC CITIZEN: The Drake Equation, designed to estimate the number of communicating civilizations in the cosmos, suggests that a key reason we have not discovered intelligent life could be that intelligent life may have an inclination toward self-annihilation shortly after becoming technologically advanced. As you envision how humanity may evolve socially and culturally over the coming decades and centuries, how do you feel about our ability to become a functioning multiplanetary species in time to mitigate the risk of any self-inflicted causes of extinction here on Earth?

KAKU: We face many self-inflicted dangers until around the end of the century. Our savage, Type 0 civilization will then become a planetary Type I

SEC. ZINKE’S COMMENTS HIGHLIGHT THE NEED FOR CONTINUED FUNDING OF JA CONFINEMENT SITES GRANTS

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Like most Americans, JAACL is dismayed by Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke’s attempt at humor, patronization — or combination of the two — when he addressed Hawaii Representative Colleen Hanabusa, a fourth-generation American, in Japanese during a House committee hearing on March 15. His flippant remark was inappropriate and lacking the respect he afforded other representatives during the same hearing.

Ironically, this sleight was made immediately following the congresswoman’s passionate plea for continued funding of the Japanese American Confinement Sites grant program, which serves the purpose to “identify, research, evaluate, interpret, protect, restore, repair and acquire historic confinement sites in order that present and future generations may learn and gain inspiration from these sites and that these sites will demonstrate the nation’s commitment to equal justice under the law.” The preceding language is taken directly from the National Park Services website that Zinke oversees.

The injustice of the World War II incarceration of Japanese Americans was due to the very racist sentiments unin-

tionally exhibited in Zinke’s flippant comment, that Japanese Americans were and are perpetually foreign. Although not as brazen as General John DeWitt’s statement in 1942 that “A Jap’s a Jap. It makes no difference whether the Jap is a citizen or not,” the sentiment is not so dissimilar.

If anything, Zinke’s comment clarifies and reinforces the need for full funding of the JACS program. This program was established in 2006 with broad bipartisan support and has since provided \$23 million to 186 different programs in 21 states plus the District of Columbia.

We are grateful to the more than 54 bipartisan members of the House of Representatives that have signed on to a letter of support for continued funding of the JACS program.

On March 14, JAACL submitted a letter from 114 organizations to the Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies calling for continued funding.

We urge Congress to continue funding of the JACS program at the same level as in years past.

For more information on the program, visit www.jacl.org.

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JALD DELEGATION RETURNS FROM JAPAN



The delegates had the opportunity to meet Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. He is pictured here with JACL Executive Director and JALD participant David Inoue (right).

The 2018 JALD delegates sightseeing in Yamaguchi Prefecture.

The 10 delegates from the 2018 Japanese American Leadership Delegation, including JACL National Director David Inoue, returned to the U.S. on March 10 following a full week of meetings, discussions and networking opportunities with Japanese leaders.

With the aim to strengthen and diversify U.S.-Japan relations, the program builds people-to-people relationships with Japanese leaders from various sectors.

The group first visited Tokyo, where they met with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who emphasized that this was the 150th anniversary since Japanese Americans first arrived in Hawaii.

The delegates also met with many other leaders in Tokyo, including Foreign Minister Taro Kono; Yoshimasa Hayashi of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology; and U.S. Ambassador to Japan William F. Hagerty.

In Yamaguchi Prefecture, the delegates participated in a symposium titled "The Japanese American Experience: Commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the First Emigration From Japan to Hawaii," co-sponsored by the Japan Foundation Center for Global

Partnership, USJC and the Yamaguchi International Exchange Assn.

More than 120 individuals attended the symposium, which discussed the journey of Japanese Americans, the role of Japanese Americans in contemporary America and how to promote diversity and inclusion in both Japan and the U.S. The group also toured the Museum of Japanese Emigration to Hawaii, as well as Hagi-yaki Pottery and other sites.

"Although it was obviously quite an experience to meet with Prime Minister Abe and other Japanese political and business leadership, what was most interesting about the week was the discussions we had about our respective experiences as Japanese Americans," said Inoue. "Having these conversations within the setting of being in Japan added a different dimension, as we all had varying relationships with our background being of Japanese descent."

This year's delegates included Sheri Bryant, Darcy Endo-Omoto, Monica Okada Guzman, Inoue, Denise Moriguchi, David Ono, Lisa Sakai, June Taylor, Chris Uehara and Laurie Van Pelt. To date, 197 have participated in the program since its inception in 2000.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF U.S.-JAPAN COUNCIL



The 2018 JALD delegates with U.S. Ambassador to Japan William Hagerty and USJC President Irene Hirano Inouye (center).



The Riverside JACL chapter is celebrating its 50th year of service. Pictured at the chapter's recent installation luncheon are (from left) Willie Takano, Nancy Takano, Dolly Ogata and Doug Urata.

RIVERSIDE JACL KICKS OFF 'YEAR OF CELEBRATION'

The Riverside JACL chapter has begun a celebratory year for its 50th anniversary of service. The "Year of Celebration" was kicked off recently with the chapter's annual installation luncheon for members, guests and community partners.

During the luncheon proceedings, Chapter President Michiko Yoshimura, herself a member of the chapter's original board of directors, introduced and thanked several of the group's charter members, including Willie and Nancy Takano. Other longstanding members present included Bette Brown, Charles Fugimoto, Dolly Ogata and Lily Taka.

In addition, Robyn Peterson, newly appointed director of the Riverside Museum, updated attendees on the museum's current remodeling project and apprised guests of the current state of renovation on the Harada House, a National Historic Landmark in the city.

The event's featured speaker was JACL National President Gary Mayeda, who spoke on the importance of the work of JACL now as well as in the past. Mayeda also installed the chapter's 2018 board of directors.

A slide presentation of the chapter's activities of the past 50 years was created and presented by member Doug Urata.

Community partners and friends included representatives from the Harada Foundation, Multicultural Council, Riverside Art Museum, Riverside Metropolitan Museum, Save Our Chinatown Committee and the Sendai Committee of the International Relations Committee.



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PALO ALTO SCHOOL BOARD TO VOTE ON RENAMING SCHOOL AFTER 442 VETERAN

'Yamamoto' surname provokes emotional opposition by some recent immigrants.

By George Toshio Johnston,
Senior Editor, Digital & Social Media

The push to rename one of two Palo Alto, Calif., middle schools after a local man who was awarded the Silver Star after being killed in action in Europe while serving in the U.S. Army during World War II seemed like a layup just a few weeks ago.

But after several local residents voiced opposition to having either Jordan Middle School or Terman Middle School renamed for Fred M. Yamamoto, a graduate of Palo Alto High School's class of 1936 and former incarcerated at the Heart Mountain WRA Center in Wyoming who volunteered to serve in the storied 100th Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team and was killed Oct. 28, 1944, the chances of the Japanese American being so honored may be in doubt.

It will come down to a vote by the five members of the Palo Alto Unified School District's Board of Education, set to take place on March 27.

Ironically, most of those opposing the name change to that of an Asian American appear to be recent immigrants from China, and the reason for their opposition: Fred Yamamoto's last name is the same as that of Isoroku Yamamoto, the admiral who served in Imperial Japan's Navy and is credited with, among other things, planning the Dec. 7, 1941, attack on the Pearl Harbor naval facility in Hawaii.

When Brad Shirakawa, 62, learned in February that Fred Yamamoto was among a group of candidates to have a Palo Alto middle school named after him, the Sunnyvale, Calif., resident said, "I was shocked and kind of happy about it." But he also wondered how Fred Yamamoto could beat out all the suggested names, which included Steve Jobs and Mohandas Gandhi.

Then, Shirakawa learned that Yamamoto was the No. 1 recommendation among just six finalists, and he thought, "Hey, we've got a great shot at this!" The other finalists with ties to the local community are Ellen Fletcher, Edith "Eugenie" Johnson, Frank Greene Jr., William Hewlett and Anna Zschokke, as well as two place names.

The drive to rename the schools arose when it was learned in 2015 that namesakes Lewis Terman and David Starr Jordan were said to be proponents of eugenics, which has become associated with racist ideology and practices such as forced sterilization of people deemed unfit to reproduce.

But following the vocal opposition to renaming one of the schools for Fred Yamamoto at a recent school board meeting, as well as an online petition opposing using Yamamoto as a name for the school, Shirakawa is no longer

The Palo Alto Unified School District's Board of Education will vote on March 27 whether to name one of two middle schools after Army veteran Fred M. Yamamoto.



PHOTO: BRAD SHIRAKAWA



PHOTO: COURTESY OF PAM HASHIMOTO

« Fred M. Yamamoto, a member of the 100th Battalion/442nd Regimental Combat Team, was killed in action during World War II on Oct. 28, 1944.

hopeful that Fred Yamamoto will get the nod.

Asked whether he thinks the board will vote against Yamamoto being named for one of the schools, Shirakawa said, "Frankly, I could not blame them if they did. The vocal opposition has become very loud."

JACL National President Gary Mayeda weighed in on the issue, writing in an email, "In a multicultural society, we cannot afford to trip over misplaced confusion of identity. Two very different people can have the same last name and should not be confused, especially when one is an American citizen."

JACL Executive Director David Inoue, in a letter to PAUSD Interim Superintendent Karen Hendricks, wrote, "I am writing to express our support of honoring Fred Yamamoto with the naming of one of your middle schools," adding that Yamamoto's legacy "is one that not only deserves to be memorialized but also one that all Americans can learn from."

According to the Washington, D.C., office of the Organization of Chinese Americans, its Palo Alto chapter is working on contacting the local school board on the issue, with the national organization working in concert with the National JACL.

Meantime, JACL's Northern California-Western Nevada-Pacific District Regional Director Patty Wada also sent a letter in support of the renaming one of the schools for Fred Yamamoto, who was "an American hero but also someone whose life and death are a testament to the very definition of a loyal and dedicated citizen."

Attempts by the *Pacific Citizen* to contact the five school board members and opponents with Chinese surnames listed in online news reports for comment were unsuccessful.

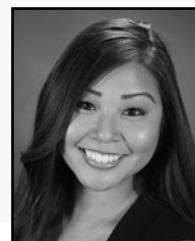
Interestingly, while the online petition to block Fred Yamamoto's surname states: "There exist certain hurt feeling when the last name 'Yamamoto' is mentioned, especially for Asian immigrants whose families were tragically affected in China, Korea and Southeast Asian countries during World War II," and that "our middle schools should never be affiliated with such a person," historians say that Adm. Isoroku Yamamoto was against Japan's invasion of Manchuria and Japan's war with China, and despite his part in planning the attack on Pearl Harbor, he was against going to war with the United States.

In 1943, Adm. Yamamoto was killed by U.S. forces during WWII when an airplane transporting him was shot down by American P-38 Lightning aircraft.

The March 27 meeting is set for 6:30-10 p.m. at the boardroom of the Palo Alto Unified School District Board of Education, located at 25 Churchill Ave. in Palo Alto. The members of the PAUSD board can be found at tinyurl.com/yc4nn5qq.

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Sun. April 22nd 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM Long Beach JCC 1766 Seabright Ave. Long Beach, CA 90813	Tues. April 24th 12:30 PM - 2:00 PM Southeast JCC 14615 Gridley Rd. Norwalk, CA 90650	Sat. April 28th 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM E. San Gabriel VJCC 1203 W. Puente Ave. West Covina, CA 91790
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A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

CALENDAR

NCWNP

J-Sei's Flavors of Spring Tasting Event
Berkeley, CA
April 20; 6-9 p.m.
Berkeley City Club
2315 Durant Ave.
Price: \$75

Join J-Sei for an evening of delightful tastes and sips from Bay Area restaurants, caterers, wineries and microbreweries. A silent auction and live music will surely provide the perfect ambiance for an evening of delicious food and beverages.
Info: Visit <http://flavors offspring2018.bpt.me>.

2018 Berkeley JACL Scholarship and Pioneer Awards Luncheon
Richmond, CA
April 29; 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
Richmond Country Club
1 Markovich Lane
Price: \$40; \$20 Students

Join the Berkeley JACL as it honors its scholarship recipients and Pioneer Award recipient Lee "Cubby" Nakamura, co-owner of Tokyo Fish. The chapter is proud to recognize Nakamura for his longtime service to the East Bay community and JACL. Scholarship recipients include Jared Akiyama, Alyssa Cho, Maya Kashima, Kailee Nabeta, Alexander Tsuetaki, Luka Uchiyama and Sydney Wong.
Info: Call (925) 932-7947 or email ron_tanaka@yahoo.com.

S.F. Giants Japanese Heritage Night
San Francisco, CA
April 30; 7:15 p.m.
AT&T Park
24 Willie Mays Plaza
Price: \$18 for JCCCNC Members; \$23 General Public

Join the JCCCNC to cheer on the San Francisco Giants as they take on the Cincinnati Reds during Japanese American Heritage Night, honoring the 150-year culture of the San Francisco Japantown community. Tickets also include a seat in the designated JCCCNC section, collective JHN Cherry Blossom printed backpack and admission to the pregame JHN event. Seating is limited.
Info: Contact Andrew Sumi at (415) 567-5505, ext. 229, or email asumi@jcccnc.org.

'Exquisite Art Under Adverse Conditions' — From the Japanese American Incarceration Camps: 1942-1945
San Jose, CA
Exhibit Now Open
Japanese American Museum of San Jose
535 N. Fifth St.

This extensively remodeled and enhanced section of the museum is dedicated to the art and craft created by many artisans who were forcibly held in the camps during World War II. Using natural

material from the 10 desolate incarceration camps, the artwork comes alive in a very naturalistic way reflecting the "Art of Gaman" — to endure the seemingly unbearable with patience and dignity.
Info: Visit www.jamsj.org.

PSW

'Allegiance'
Los Angeles, CA
Thru April 1
JACCC Aratani Theatre
244 S. San Pedro St.
Price: Ticket prices vary.

East West Players and the JACCC by special arrangement with Sing Out, Louise! Prods. And ATA present the Broadway musical "Allegiance," starring George Takei. Inspired by Takei's true-life experience, this musical follows one family's extraordinary journey in this untold American story. The production also features Greg Watanabe as Mike Masaoka and Elena Wang as Kei Kimura.
Info: Call (213) 680-3700 or visit allegiancemusical.com.

'Hapa.Me — 15 Years of the Hapa Project' Exhibit
Los Angeles, CA
April 7-Oct. 28
Japanese American National Museum
100 N. Central Ave.

In this new exhibition by artist Kip Fulbeck, it pairs photographs from his groundbreaking 2006 exhibition "Kip Fulbeck: Part Asian, 100% Hapa" with new portraits of the same individuals. The photographs are accompanied by each subject's handwritten responses to the typically posed question, "What are you?" Fulbeck created the Hapa Project in 2001, traveling the country to photograph more than 1,200 volunteers who identified as Hapa. Its goals were to promote awareness and recognition of the millions of Hapas in the U.S. and to give a voice to multiracial people and various ethnic groups.
Info: Visit www.janm.org/hapa-me.

'Contested Histories: Art & Artifacts From the Eaton Collection'
Los Angeles, CA
Thru April 8
Japanese American National Museum
100 N. Central Ave.

Price: \$12 Adults; \$6 seniors 62 and over; students & youth, \$6; children under 5 and JANM members, free
Come view the collection that was almost auctioned off in 2015, all of which are now at JANM. The Allen Hendershott Eaton collection includes more than 450 paintings, photographs, sculptures, jewelry and other objects from the camps. Each item has been conserved and on exhibit in the museum's Hirasaki National Resource

Center with support from the National Park Service's Japanese American Confinement Sites grant program.
Info: Visit www.janm.org.

'Japanese Americans and the Impact of Internment'
San Diego, CA
Through April 15
New Americans Museum
2825 Dewey Road
Price: Free

This exhibition features the Emmy Award-winning film "The Legacy of Heart Mountain" with photographs from the Yoshio Okumoto Collection of the Densho Digital Repository and select images from the George and Frank C. Hirahara Photo Collection of Washington State University Libraries MASC, as well as objects on loan from the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego. This exhibit provides personal perspective of the incarceration experience while helping to expand peoples' understanding of the complex Executive Orders wielded by U.S. presidents.
Info: Visit www.newamericansmuseum.org.

Asian Pacific American 2018 Gubernatorial Debate
Pasadena, CA
April 27; 7-8:30 p.m.
Pasadena City College
Sexson Auditorium
1570 E. Colorado Blvd.
Save the date for the first APA-focused gubernatorial debate in California history. Scheduled to discuss issues pertinent to the state of California are candidates Travis Allen (R), John Chiang (D), John H. Cox (R), Delaine Eastin (D), Gavin Newsom (D) and Antonio Villaraigosa (D). Viewers can also tune in at apagovdebate.eventbrite.com. This event is presented by the Center for Asian Americans United for Self-Empowerment (CAUSE).
Info: Visit causeusa.org.

PNW

Portland Taiko Benefit Banquet 2018: Eat, Celebrate, Support
Portland, OR
April 6; 6-8:30 p.m.
Wong's King Seafood Restaurant
8733 S.E. Division St.
Suite 101
Price: \$65-\$650

This hosted event, featuring a wine and beer reception followed by an eight-course vegetarian-friendly Cantonese dinner, will benefit Portland Taiko. The evening will also include taiko performances, mystery origami leis, a live auction, several special guests and surprises.
Info: Visit <https://tinyurl.com/pdxtaiko>.

'Year of Remembrance: Glimpses of a Forever Foreigner'
Seattle, WA

Thru April 22
Wing Luke Museum
The Hugh & Jane Ferguson Foundation Welcome Hall
719 S. King St.

This exhibition recognizes the 75th anniversary of E.O. 9066 and explores historic and contemporary issues of racism, discrimination and human rights. The inspiration for the exhibit came from "Glimpses of a Forever Foreigner," a book of poems by Lawrence Matsuda and artwork by Roger Shimomura.
Info: Visit www.wingluke.org.

Epworth United Methodist Church Spring Bazaar
Portland, OR
April 29; 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Come and support the Epworth United Methodist Church's Spring Bazaar, which will feature special lunch take-out, bake sale as well as a plant and produce sale. Delicious food options include teriyaki beef bowls, chow mein, inarizushi and Asian chicken salad. Food is take-out only; all proceeds benefit the Epworth United Methodist Church.
Info: Call (503) 232-5253.

2018 Asian Hall of Fame
Seattle, WA
May 5; 6-10 p.m.
Fairmont Olympic Hotel
411 University St.
Price: \$200 General Admission
Join the 2018 Asian Hall of Fame Celebration where this year's honorees, including writer-producer Kourtney Kang, author Kevin Kwan, TV host Melissa Lee and chef Roy Yamaguchi will be feted for their contributions to the AAPI community and beyond. Proceeds from the event benefit the Robert Chinn Foundation programs.
Info: Visit asianhalloffame2018.shindigg.com.

CCDC

Asian Fest: Year of the Dog
April 28
Fresno City College
1101 E. University Ave.
Price: Free
AsianFest celebrates Asian American culture and showcases the talents of community performers, martial artists and cultural organizations. There will also be numerous exhibits, craft booths and amazing food, in addition to a children's craft area. This event is coordinated by the Asian American Faculty and Staff Assn. at Fresno City College.
Info: Visit <https://www.facebook.com/events/182918448976717/>.

MDC

Festival of Nations 2018
St. Paul, MN
May 3-6
175 W. Kellogg Blvd.

Price: \$11/\$8
The Festival of Nations is the longest-running multicultural festival in the Midwest, featuring more than 100 ethnic groups in a celebration of this nation's cultural heritage. In addition to cultural booths, there will be ethnic cuisine, entertainment and much more for people of all ages! Twin Cities JACL will have a merchandise booth at this festival.
Info: To volunteer at the Twin Cities JACL booth, email katalucas@aol.com; for general festival information, visit www.festivalofnations.com.

EDC

'Hold These Truths': Live Theater Production
Washington, D.C.
April 3; 6:30 p.m. reception/
8 p.m. performance
St. Augustine's Episcopal Church
Arena Stage
1101 Sixth St. S.W.

Price: Tickets \$55-\$70
Sponsored by APAICS and JACL, this play tells the true story of Gordon Hirabayashi, who defied an unjust court order to uphold the values on which America was founded.
Info: Contact Anthony Reyes at Anthony@apaics.org, call (202) 296-9200 or visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/hold-these-truths-play-reception-tickets-42055100939?aff=efbeventix>.

Jake Shimabukuro
New Bedford, MA
April 12; 8 p.m.
Zeiterion Performing Arts Center
684 Purchase St.
Price: Tickets begin at \$29.
The ukulele virtuoso returns with his inspired touch on everything from island standard, popular tunes and classic symphonic concertos.
Info: Visit <https://zeiterion.org/jake-shimabukuro/>.

Japan Festival Boston
Boston, MA
April 29; 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
This year's festival will feature 30 food booths, 50 stage performances, 80 arts and crafts booths and various information booths, as well as 50 workshops and cosplay events.
Info: Visit <http://www.japanfestivalboston.org/>.

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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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IN MEMORIAM

TRIBUTE

Ando, Dora Shizuko, 92, Morgan Hill, CA, Jan. 8; she is survived by her children, Steven (Janet) Ando and Kathy (Jeff) Honda; siblings, Dorothy Tazumi and Eddie Nishimura; gc: 4.

Bredeeen, Toyoko, 81, Portland, OR, Feb. 12; she was predeceased by her husband, Perry A. Bredeen Jr.; she is survived by her children, Pamela, Charmane Lathrom (Lonnie), Perry III and Rachelle Lutter (Bryan); mother, Fumi; siblings, Chieko, Chiyoji, Toshiko, Yoko, Yukiko, Kozo and Junko; gc: 2.



Chan, Albert, 87, Albany, OR, Feb. 18; during WWII, his family and he were forcibly removed to the Puyallup Fairgrounds but avoided the mass incarceration of Japanese Americans by moving to Malta, MT; he was predeceased by his wife, Patricia Ann Kennedy; he is survived by his daughters, Nancy MacDonald (Tom), Christine Larson (Doug), Leslie Parker (David) and Amy DeYoung (Bill); gc: 6; ggc: 1.

Fujinami, Noriko, 104, Los Angeles, CA, Feb. 7; she was predeceased by her husband, Yeisaku Fujinami; daughter, Yoko Fujii; she is survived by her daughters, Reiko Fujinami (Mel LeBeauf), Yukiko Yabuta (Dick) and Saeko Yanai (David); gc: 6; ggc: 6.



Geisel, Sadako, 95, Kettering, OH, Feb. 18; she was predeceased by her husband, Adam; she is survived by friends, Ann and Denny Hart, Eileen and Ashley Thompson and Lauren and Becky Jacobs.



gc: 4; ggc: 2.

Nagano, Ben Toshio, 71, Los Angeles, CA, Feb. 7; he is survived by his son, Gregg (Maria); brothers, Bob (Sumie) and John (Lori); he is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Hieshima, Asaichi Shimidzu, MD, 98, Seal Beach, CA, Jan. 10; he was predeceased by his wife, Yoshi Alice; son, Alan; he is survived by his children, Grant (Donna), Georgia (Hiroshi) Ueha, Adele (Isaac) Inouye and Eric; gc: 2; ggc: 2.



Ihara, Tetsuo, 93, San Francisco, CA, Dec. 18, 2017; he is survived by his brother, Phillip Ihara (Sharon Ihara); sister-in-law, Kazue Ihara; three nieces.



Kametani, Yoshiyuki George, 99, Whittier, CA, Feb. 14; during WWII, he was incarcerated at the Poston WRA Center in AZ and the Tule Lake WRA Center in CA; he was predeceased by his wife, Marlee; he is survived by his children, David (Karen), Michael (Terri), Delana Webber (Jon Alan); gc: 5; ggc: 6.

Matsumoto, Chiyoko T., 95, Waiialua, HI, Dec. 29, 2017; she was predeceased by her husband, Tadashi Matsumoto; daughter, Yvonne Fong; she is survived by her children, Clyde (Annette), Allison Matsumoto and Lois Kiyonaga (Kevin); sisters, Jeanette Kawakami, Mildred Sakamoto and Lilian Matayoshi (James);

Oba, Mitsuye, 96, Los Angeles, CA, Jan. 1; she is survived by her husband, Minoru; children, Rev. Gary (Rev. Janet Cromwell) Oba and Donna (Robert Morrison) Oba; she is also survived by many other relatives.

Rikimaru, Kazu, 90, Los Angeles, CA, Jan. 15; he is survived by his children, Marilyn (Andy) Braceros, Tyra (Gina) Rikimaru and Annie (Evan) Chase; siblings, Ken Rikimaru and Reiko Nimura; gc: 11; ggc: 4.

Sato, Edward, 83, Santa Monica, CA, Dec. 25, 2017; he was predeceased by his wife, Karen; he is survived by his sister, Grace Kitaoka.

Taniguchi, Akira, 91, Gardena, CA, Dec. 21, 2017; he is survived by his siblings, Jimmy (Grace) Taniguchi and Tsuneko (Tom) Matsunaga; step-brothers, Henry (Emiko) and Joe Taniguchi; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

Ueda, Charles Shiro, 85, Torrance, CA, Feb. 14; he is survived by his wife, Chieko; children, Karen (Richard) Shipherd, Kevin (Nikki) and Kyle; sister, Alice Umetsu; sister-in-law, Agnes Ueda; gc: 5.



Watanabe, Louie Mitsuru, 82, Sacramento, CA, Feb. 14; he is survived by his wife Emi; daughters, JoAnn Epstine (Peter) and Julie Lefler (John); he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and cousins; gc: 4.

Yoshihiro, Maryann Ito, 73, Alhambra, CA, Feb. 3; she is survived by her brother, Tom Ito.

MIKE KAZUJI MIYAGISHIMA



Mr. Mike K. Miyagishima was born in Terminal Island, Calif., to Mr. and Mrs. Rikizo and Ryo Miyagishima on March 30, 1930.

Mike was the fourth of five children; Noriko (first), Kimiye (second), Kazuichi (third) and Yuji (fifth). He is survived by his wife, Eufracia Catalina Porras y Gallegos Miyagishima of the family home. Together, they had five children. Their first son is James Miyagishima, with daughters Kaitland (Jay), Ramona (Abraham) and son

Santiago (Maria Juliette). His second son is Robert Miyagishima, wife Maura Morton of El Paso, Texas; they have two daughters, Laura (of the family home) and Roberta and Dani with daughter, Arianna and son, Dimitri. His third child is Carol, who married Doug Rogers, from Las Vegas, Nev. They have two sons, Mike (San Francisco) and Sean (Preston, Ariz). Finally, their third son is Mayor Ken Miyagishima of Las Cruces, N.M., who married Rosie Reza, daughter, Danielle (currently a medical student at Yale), and three sons, John, Frank and Carlos. Eldest child is Jose Gallegos, married to Amy Soto with son, Juan Carlos.

Mike grew up in Terminal Island, Calif. After serving four years at an internment camp at Poston, Ariz., during WWII, he was reunited with other family members in November 1945. He returned to the Los Angeles area and decided to enlist in the Air Force on Dec. 31, 1948, at age 18. He served during the Korean War and received the Bronze Star for actions associated with that assignment.

While he was stationed at Holloman Air Force Base, near Alamogordo, N.M., he met Juan Gallegos, who was a contracted employee with the U.S. government and wife, Concha. He introduced Mike to his daughter, they fell in love and decided to get married. Although both sides of the family were against it, he married Eufracia Catalina Porras y Gallegos on Nov. 28, 1952. They honeymooned in Juarez, Mexico. They had two sons while stationed at Holloman AFB: Jim in June 1953, Bob in July 1955. When he was stationed at Altus AFB, Okla., Carol was born in June 1959; and finally when he was stationed at Kessler AFB, Miss., Ken was born in May 1963. His last stateside assignment was at Vandenberg AFB, Calif., where he stayed until October or November 1968. He was in computer maintenance and no longer an air traffic controller. While he was stationed at Vandenberg, he went to night school and he eventually earned his associate in arts degree. His last active duty assignment was in Bangkok, Thailand, with temporary duty assignments to Vietnam. He moved his family to Alamogordo prior to reporting for duty in Thailand. He finally retired on Nov. 30, 1969. The family stayed in Alamogordo until May 1971 when they all moved to Las Cruces, N.M., except his eldest son, Jim, who enlisted in the Army.

Mike Miyagishima continued with his education and soon earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from the main campus of New Mexico State University. He retired from civil service in the summer of 1987.

Mike Miyagishima was affectionately known by his family as Mr. Volunteer. Once he retired from the Air Force, civil service and as a loan officer with White Sands Federal Credit Union, he started volunteering his time to different organizations. These included the local soup kitchen, the N.M. Mounted Patrol, American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He would read to students at Booker T. Washington Elementary School and University Hills Elementary School as well. He was very active in collecting donations for the Law Enforcement Torch Run and he participated in the Special Olympics. He was an active swimmer and scuba diver when he was stationed at Vandenberg AFB near Lompoc, Calif., in the late 1960s. He loved to go abalone fishing/hunting at the local beach and usually took his two eldest sons, Jim and Bob.

He was admitted to the ICU in Las Cruces, N.M. on Jan. 26 with infections to his lungs and his blood. He was moved to the ICU at University Medical Center in El Paso, Texas, on Feb. 6, where he developed a heart problem. He succumbed to his serious infections and passed away on March 5 at approximately 5:20 a.m.

Funeral arrangements are being handled by Baca's Funeral Chapels, 300 E. Boutz Rd., Las Cruces, NM 88005. Public viewing prior to the rosary is scheduled for March 16 from 5-7 p.m., with the rosary starting at 7 p.m. Catholic mass will be officiated by Most Reverend Oscar Cantu, bishop of Las Cruces, and it will be held at Immaculate Heart of Mary Cathedral, 1240 S. Espina St. Las Cruces, NM 88001 on March 17 at 10 a.m.

Primary casket bearers are Ken Miyagishima, Bob Miyagishima, John Miyagishima, Frank Miyagishima, Michael D. Rogers and Sean D. Rogers. Honorary casket bearers are Jim Miyagishima, Kaitland Kazuko Valencia-Miyagishima and Carlos Miyagishima.

Entrusted to Baca's Funeral Chapels of Las Cruces, 527-2222, your exclusive providers for "Veterans and Family Memorial Care." For online condolences log on to <http://www.bacasfuneralchapelslascruces.com>.

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REIMAGINE EVERYTHING

THE TAX FILING DEADLINE IS APPROACHING: THINGS TO LOOK OUT FOR AND BE AWARE OF

By Scott Tanaka

In the first article that I wrote for the *Pacific Citizen*, I mentioned that prior to pursuing a career in social work, I was working full-time for a small bookkeeping and tax preparation business. I definitely do not miss those months leading up to the tax filing deadline!

With the April 17 deadline fast approaching, I want to talk about a few scams that you should be aware of. Older adults are often more vulnerable to these types of scams, especially those who live alone and are not familiar with the Internal Revenue Service's protocol. The first one I want to talk about is the **IRS Imposter Scam**.

This scam is not a new one. I remember back in 2015, when I was still working in accounting, clients would call us about how they received a phone call from the IRS demanding payment for past-due taxes owed. We would always tell them that the IRS never uses the telephone as a first method of communication; it always mails you a correspondence first.

AARP's Fraud Watch Network tells us: The **IRS Imposter Scam** is an intimidating and sophisticated phone scam in which callers claim to be IRS employees and say you owe taxes. They might also:

- Threaten to arrest or deport you if you don't pay.
- Know all or part of your Social Security number.
- Rig caller ID to make it look like the call is from the IRS.
- Tell you to put the money on a prepaid debit card and tell them the card number.

What to Do?

Know that the IRS does NOT:

- Call to demand immediate payment about taxes owed without first sending you a notification by mail.
- Ask for credit or debit card numbers over the phone.
- Threaten to bring in local police or other law enforcement to arrest you for nonpayment.

If you have any doubts, call the IRS directly at (800) 829-1040.

A second type of tax fraud that has surfaced recently is the **Tax Refund Scam**. The IRS is warning taxpayers of a fast-growing scam involving fraudsters stealing their information from professional tax preparers to file fraudulent tax returns.

The scammers use the data to arrange to send refunds to the taxpayers' real bank accounts. Then, a scammer posing as a debt collector tells the taxpayer that a refund was erroneously deposited in his or her account and that it should be forwarded to a fake collection agency.

The IRS also warns that taxpayers who file electronically might find that their tax return is rejected because a return bearing their Social Security number has already been filed by a scammer. If that happens, taxpayers should follow the IRS' Taxpayer Guide to Identity Theft, which can be found online (<https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/taxpayer-guide-to-identity-theft>). Those who've already received erroneous refunds should follow IRS guidelines (<https://www.irs.gov/taxtopics/tc161>).

Also, always be on the look out for **TAX ID Theft**.

AARP Fraud Watch Network explains: Tax ID Theft is when your personal information is stolen for a fraudulent refund.

More specifically, tax identity theft can involve:

- Filing a tax return using another person's Social Security number.
- Claiming someone else's children as dependents.
- Claiming a tax refund using a deceased taxpayer's information.

Your personal information can be stolen in a number of ways, including theft of mail or tax returns, corrupt tax preparation services or phony emails from imposters. Con artists can quickly learn a lot about you in order to take your money while also defrauding the government.

What to Do?

To avoid tax identity theft:

- Do mail tax returns as early in the tax season as possible before the cons beat you to it.
- Don't give out personal information unless you know who's asking for it and why they need it.
- Do shred personal and financial documents.
- Do know your tax preparer.



- Do check the status of your refund after filing at irs.gov/Refunds.

For help, contact the IRS Identity Protection Specialized Unit at (800) 908-4490 and visit irs.gov/identitytheft.

If you've spotted a scam or think you may have been scammed, call the AARP Fraud Watch Network helpline at (877) 908-3360 for advice and guidance.

Scott Tanaka is a board member of the Washington, D.C., JACL chapter and project coordinator for AARP Multicultural Leadership.

NEVER FORGET >> continued from page 3

Peggy Nagae, this year's keynote speaker, paid tribute to a longtime Denver hero of civil rights and social justice, Minoru Yasui.

Yasui was the third man who fought incarceration all the way to the SCOTUS during the war, and lost. Nagae was the lead attorney who fought to overturn his wartime conviction in the 1980s. She was able to get his conviction for breaking curfew overturned, but Yasui unfortunately died in 1986 before SCOTUS could rule on the other aspects of his appeal.

But his standing as a giant in JA history wasn't all Yasui accomplished. After the war, he settled in Denver and began fighting for the civil rights of all people, not just JAs. He was a founder of the Urban League, an African-American organization, and he also helped start organizations for Latinos, American Indians and LGBTQ communities.

Yasui was a lifelong supporter of JACL, and he served as president of the Mile High chapter. He was also a founding member of JACL's Redress Committee and served as the head of the City of Denver's Commission on

Community Relations for decades.

Nagae gave a compelling history of Yasui's legal battles and career-long commitment to civil rights, and the audience went away familiar with both national and local history that's important to keep alive, remember and never forget.

On a personal note, I was asked by a Denver nonprofit to write the script for an educational short comic book about incarceration and also about Min Yasui, and we gave out copies at DOR. It was the culmination of a childhood dream, since I wanted to be an artist for Marvel Comics when I was growing up. I didn't draw these stories, but it was an honor to write them.

You can download a PDF copy of the comic at <https://milehighjacl.files.wordpress.com/2018/02/20180219-jacl-dor-comics.pdf>.

Gil Asakawa is chair of the Editorial Board of the Pacific Citizen and author of "Being Japanese American" (second edition Stone Bridge Press, 2015). He blogs at www.nikkeiview.com.

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