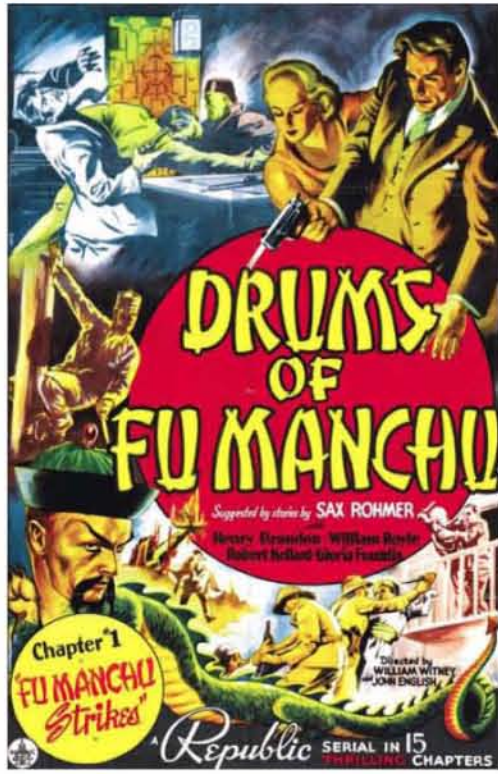


PACIFIC CITIZEN

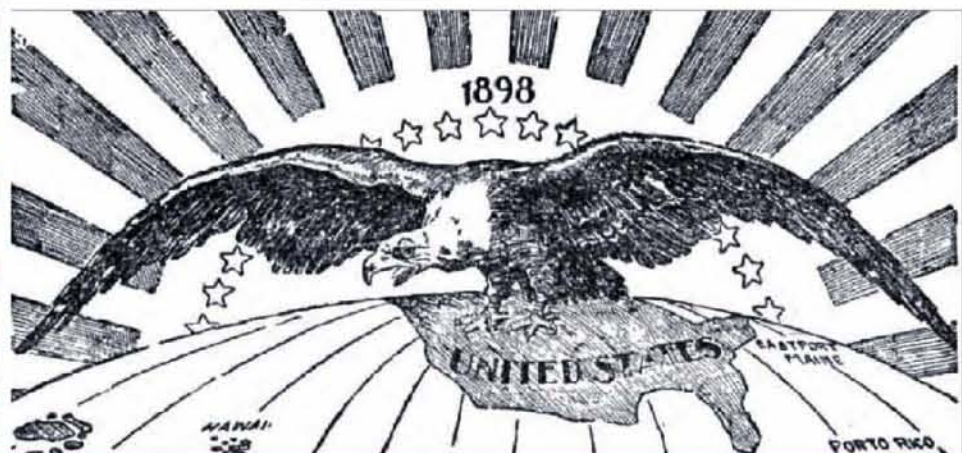


» PAGE 5



ADDRESSING YELLOWFACE

One JACL chapter's candid discussions yield a successful compromise.



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

For the last six years, I have had the honor and privilege to lead the NCWNP District as its Governor. I made a promise to myself six years ago that I would quit when I no longer enjoyed the job. That time has come. Therefore, I am resigning as District Governor, effective immediately. As I have stated emphatically on many occasions, I will not have the blood of murdered police officers on my hands.

For reasons that remain a mystery to me, JACL has chosen to embrace the Black Lives Matter (#BLM) organization. #BLM is a racist, radical, violent and anarchist organization that openly advocates and celebrates violence against law enforcement officers.

#BLM doesn't even try to hide this fact. If you don't believe me, read the six-point demands of #BLM's manifesto.

Opposing #BLM does not make me "anti-black" or a racist, any more than supporting

#BLM makes a person Martin Luther King. MLK practiced and preached nonviolence and would utterly reject the actions and rhetoric of #BLM. MLK also believed in judging a person by the content of their character, and not the color of their skin. He would not brush someone with the "racist" label merely for disagreeing with him.

Even more concerning to me is JACL's increasing intolerance for opposing viewpoints. Freedom of speech is one of the most fundamental rights that we as Americans have, and it should be a pillar of any organization calling itself a civil rights organization.

It is incredulous that members of JACL's National Youth/Student Council have attempted to suppress my freedom of speech, although this is consistent with the current state of affairs on America's colleges and universities.

This anti-free speech movement has finally gone too far, and a backlash has begun,

led by the presidents of the University of Chicago and Brown University. There are no "safe spaces" in the real world.

I have not left JACL, but with the direction it is now heading, JACL has certainly left me. To quote the district's resident journalist, historian and philosopher:

"All lives matter, that's given."

Sincerely,

David Unruhe



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LEGAL-EASE: AN ATTORNEY'S PERSPECTIVE

MEDI-CAL FAQs

By Staci Yamashita-Iida, Esq.

Medicare, Medicaid, Medi-Cal. If you're approaching the age of 65, these terms may have started to appear on your radar. But what exactly do they mean? What's the difference?

Medicare is a federally funded program that provides basic health care coverage for Americans over the age of 65 and certain disabled individuals. It is an entitlement program, meaning just about all Americans who are 65+ are eligible — even the wealthy, like Bill Gates. Medicare typically pays for things like short-term hospital stays.

Medicaid is a jointly funded federal and state program that provides healthcare coverage for individuals with limited income and resources. It is a needs-based program, meaning one has to qualify in order to receive benefits.

Medi-Cal is California's version of Medicaid. Most people are concerned with the type of Medi-Cal that deals with long-term care, i.e., skilled nursing facilities.

As a result of the "Medi" confusion, there is an unfortunate amount of misunderstanding and misinformation floating around regarding the eligibility and qualification for Medi-Cal benefits. In my last article (*"Estate Planning FAQs,"* Sept. 23-Oct. 6, 2016, issue), I discussed the most frequently asked Estate Planning questions that I receive when I hold Elder Law seminars. To continue in the same fashion, I would like to share the three most common questions I am asked when it comes to Medi-Cal planning.

FAQ #1: I was told I make too much money to qualify for Medi-Cal. Is that true?

Qualification for long-term care Medi-Cal is determined by one's assets, not income. An applicant is allowed a certain amount of "countable" assets. Assets are not countable if they are exempt. Your home, a car and IRAs are a few important examples of exempt assets.

Nonexempt assets are things like vacation homes, rental properties, savings, investment accounts, etc. These are the types of resources that are "countable."

While it is true that you won't receive benefits if you have too many "countable" assets, it does not mean you are forever ineligible. There are legal ways to "spend-down" and/or liquidate your assets in order to qualify. If done properly, this can be an excellent strategy for receiving Medi-Cal benefits.

FAQ #2: I heard there was a three- to five-year "look back" period. What is that?

The easiest way to understand a "look back" period is through an example. Let's say Mr. Tanaka has never been in a nursing home and now needs nursing home care and wanted to use the Medi-Cal program to pay for it. If he applied, he would get denied, and it's easy to see why: He has too many assets. Realizing this, Mr. Tanaka gifts his properties, money and other "countable" assets to his three children in 2016. Voila! Mr. Tanaka is impoverished and now believes he is Medi-Cal eligible. But he is wrong.

Currently, Medi-Cal can "look back" to see if you've made

significant transfers like this within the past 30 months (2.5 years). A new law, the Deficit Reduction Act, will change this time frame to 60 months (5 years). If you have made this type of transfer, then you will be penalized with a period of ineligibility. In Bill Gates' case, even if he has no assets, he will be ineligible from receiving Medi-Cal until 2018 (under current laws) or 2021 (under the DRA).

Most people automatically dismiss the possibility of receiving Medi-Cal when they hear about the "look back" period, but this should not discourage anyone. If you appropriately navigate through Medi-Cal's labyrinth of rules, then there are legal ways of sheltering your assets without triggering the penalty period. Strict conformity with the rules is the key.

FAQ #3: If I use Medi-Cal, can the State take my home?

If you received Medi-Cal benefits after the age of 55, then your home can be subject to an Estate Recovery claim after your death if it is a part of your probated estate. So, even though your home is an exempt asset while you're alive, it can still be recovered by the State after your passing. The State is essentially reimbursing itself for the amount it expended on your medical care.

The good news is that an estate recovery is completely preventable. There are several different ways to protect your home and ensure that your assets are passed on to your loved ones. Strategies differ depending upon the individual, but a plan can be customized to fit your personal circumstances and goals.

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.



A YONSEI TRANSPLANTED

ART IS A POWERFUL AVENUE OF EXPRESSION FOR ALL PEOPLE

By Matthew Ormseth

A poet by the name of George Oppen once wrote, "There are situations which cannot honorably be met by art, and surely no one need fiddle precisely at the moment that the house next door is burning."

Oppen is an interesting guy. He was a promising poet as a young man, published alongside the likes of Ezra Pound and William Carlos Williams. But in 1936, faced with the two-fold catastrophe of the Great Depression and the rise of fascism in Europe, Oppen went silent. He wouldn't write another poem for more than 20 years.

Oppen believed it was irresponsible to write poems while people starved in Hoovervilles. He first worked as a labor organizer; when war broke out, he enlisted and fought in Europe. After the war, he worked as a carpenter in Mexico.

Oppen's life was consumed by the ethics of art-making, and it's a dilemma that's alive and well today. Why is it that opponents of gentrification picket, protest and occasionally deface art galleries more than any other type of establishment? It's because there's something selfish, something cruel, almost, about creating and consuming art in the midst of poverty. (Perhaps it's also because the art world so often fetishizes poverty.) Painting a landscape while your neighbor starves — or, as Oppen would put it, your neighbor's house burns down — that doesn't sit right with most people.

Of course, this is an exaggeration. But most people would agree that there are quite a few problems in the world and

quite a few people suffering on a daily basis. And most people would agree that art can do nothing to solve those problems, or cure those people of their suffering.

Art can do some things. Art can comfort people. Whenever I feel down or upset, I open a book. Reading lets me crawl into a different world, lets me feel the anxieties, hopes and despairs of others, and when I put the book down, I usually feel a lot better. It broadens my horizons of thought and lets me know that other people don't always have it so good, either.

But at the end of the book, those problems are still there. Art can comfort, but it can't cure.

What's more, the consumption of art is tied up in class. Wealthy people can afford to consume art — they have the time and the money to read novels, buy paintings, go to plays. Higher-paying jobs tend to encourage creative thinking, while lower-paying jobs tend to stifle it.

A quote from Anthony Burgess, author of *"A Clockwork Orange,"* comes to mind. "It is painful to be an expert on Spinoza in the evenings and a machine operative for the rest of the day," he wrote in the preface to *"A Clockwork Orange."*

With that being said, I don't think art is just another idle bourgeois pastime, like croquet or wine tasting. I think art is a powerful avenue of expression for all people, rich and poor alike. I think it can provide a great deal of comfort to some people, and show them hope and goodwill in places where

they previously saw none.

But I think people need to be realistic about what art can accomplish. I think artists who see their work as transformative are misguided; I think writers who believe their books are literally life-changing are out of touch. Life, for most people, is grounded in realities — bills, mortgages, obligations to work and family. Art won't transform any of that. A good book won't magically take any of that away.

Gentrification is an enormously complex and contentious issue, one much bigger than the ethics of art-making. But art has a role in it. Art — or should I say, "fine art" — is foreign to many of these invaded communities. The concept of going to an art gallery to stare at a paint-splattered canvas or a heap of twisted wire hanging from the ceiling is strange to many working people.

Most people in the world lead lives driven by necessity. You work to pay the rent; you save to buy a car; you go back to school so you can get a better job and earn a little more money and have a little easier time at it. Anything that doesn't satisfy these necessities is superfluous. Art is superfluous. And art galleries are strange because they set aside a space for the consumption of art separate from the routines of normal people.

But that doesn't mean art doesn't exist in the real world of normal people. There are murals that brighten the days of passing commuters and kids walking home from school, if only for a moment or two. There are paperbacks whipped out on buses or subways. There is music trickling out of car windows. There are photographs in magazines that take you to far-away corners of the world, places you never even knew existed. This is all art, even if it won't win a Pulitzer or end up in an art gallery. This, I think, is art that George Oppen would approve of.

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.

JAPANESE BATTLESHIP FLAG DONATED AT PEARL HARBOR

PEARL HARBOR, HAWAII — A Japanese navy flag that flew on the battleship of the man who planned the attack on Pearl Harbor was donated Oct. 13 to the National Park Service.

Dianne Hall of Salisbury, N.C., handed over the flag in a ceremony nearly 75 years after the Dec. 7, 1941, attack that launched the U.S. into World War II.

Hall's father, Robert Hartman, was a U.S. Navy sailor who got the red-and-white flag showing the sun's rays from the Battleship Nagato after Japan surrendered.

The Nagato was Adm. Isoroku Yamamoto's flagship during the bombing of Hawaii. Yamamoto is credited with being the mastermind of the attack.

Hall said the flag made of red-and-white pieces of wool is deteriorating. It already has a few holes.

"It feels good in my heart that it's going somewhere where it's going to be taken care of and where children, adults and different countries can see this," Hall said.

Her father took the flag on Aug. 30, 1945, when U.S. sailors were allowed to take

memorabilia from the ship.

Hall remembers using it as a blanket when she was about 5 and her family using it as a bedspread when she was a child. After that, it was stored away, she said.

She didn't hear the story behind it until the 1970s, when her father started talking more about WWII.

Scott Pawlowski, the National Park Service's chief of cultural and natural resources for the museum and visitors center at Pearl Harbor, said officials haven't decided how the flag will be displayed.

He said it's not clear whether the flag was flying on the Nagato when Yamamoto ordered the attack. But he said it's likely it was on board the ship, which at the time was in port in southern Japan.

Pawlowski said it's a significant donation.

"It's a witness to both the message that Yamamoto sent out for the Japanese to proceed with the attack on Dec. 7, and it participated in the attack from a distance, providing cover screening as the fleet was returning from Hawaiian waters," he said.

— Associated Press

JAPAN PANEL BEGINS TO STUDY EMPEROR'S POSSIBLE ABDICATION

TOKYO — Experts on a government-commissioned panel were set to hold their first meeting Oct. 24 to study how to accommodate Emperor Akihito's apparent abdication wish, in a country where he is not supposed to say anything political.

Unlike many European countries where abdication of kings and queens are relatively common, Japan's modern imperial law doesn't allow abdication, and Japan's postwar constitution stipulates the emperor as a mere "symbol" with no political power or say.

Allowing Akihito to abdicate would be a major change to the system, and it raises a series of legal and logistical questions, ranging from laws subject to change to the emperor's post-abdication role, his title and residence.

The six panel members — five academics and a business organization executive — will compile a report early next year after interviewing specialists on the constitution, monarchy and history.

Akihito, 82, suggested his wish to abdicate in a rare video message to the public in August, citing his age and concern that he might not be able to fulfill his official duties. His message was subtle and the emperor did not use the word "abdication," because

saying that openly could have violated his constitutional status.

Current law, set in 1947, largely inherits a 19th-century constitution that banned abdication as a potential risk to political stability.

About 80 percent of the general public supports Akihito's abdication, saying he should be allowed to retire and enjoy life while he is still in good health. In addition to receiving foreign dignitaries, Akihito still travels across the country to attend ceremonies and has repeatedly visited disaster-hit areas to console survivors.

The government reportedly wants to allow Akihito's abdication as an exception and enact a special law to avoid dealing with divisive issues such as possible female succession and lack of successors.

The abdication issue has also renewed concerns about aging and a shortage of successors in the 2,000-year-old monarchy. Akihito and his wife, Michiko, have two sons — Crown Prince Naruhito and his younger brother, Akishino — as first and second in line to the Chrysanthemum throne. The couple has four grandchildren, but only one — Akishino's son — is eligible to become emperor under Japan's male-only succession system.

— Associated Press

APAs in the News/NewsBytes

Lisa Sasaki Named Director of the Smithsonian's Asian Pacific American Center



WASHINGTON, D.C. — Lisa Sasaki has been named the director of the Smithsonian's Asian Pacific American Center, which provides vision, leadership and support for Asian and Pacific Islander American initiatives at the Smithsonian, effective Nov. 14.

Sasaki, who is currently the director of the Audience and Civic Engagement Center at the Oakland Museum of California, will report to Richard Kurin, the Smithsonian's acting provost and under secretary for museums and research.

Before joining the staff at the Oakland Museum of California in 2012, Sasaki was the director or program development at JANM in Los Angeles from 2003-12.

Sasaki earned her bachelor's degree in history and archaeology from Cornell University and her master's degree in anthropology from the University of Denver.

Rep. Doris Matsui of California Injured in Car Accident



WASHINGTON, D.C. — Democratic Rep. Doris Matsui of California was released from a Washington hospital Oct. 7 after she was involved in a car crash that caused internal bleeding and bruised ribs.

A spokesperson said Matsui, 72, was being driven from her Washington home to Dulles International Airport for a flight to Sacramento on Oct. 4 when her vehicle was struck by another car.

She was wearing a seatbelt in the back seat but took the brunt of the impact. Her long-time driver and the driver of the other vehicle were not seriously injured.

Matsui, who represents the 6th Congressional District, was taken by ambulance to a hospital, where she underwent surgery to stop the bleeding.

Spokesperson Lauren Dart said the six-term congresswoman has been told to rest and not travel for a few weeks. Matsui, who has been in office since 2005, is expected to win re-election in November.

Los Angeles High School Named After Teacher Ted K. Tajima



LOS ANGELES — Alliance College-Ready Public Schools has renamed one of its public high schools as the Alliance Ted K. Tajima High School after longtime teacher Tajima, who taught at Alhambra High School for 35 years.

Present at the Oct. 12 dedication ceremony were Tajima's four daughters, as well as former students and supporters. Los Angeles Unified School District Associate Superintendent Dr. Earl Perkins,

City Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell, Ambassador Frank Baxter and Chief of Staff Lizette Patron from the Office of Los Angeles Unified School District Board member Monica Garcia were featured speakers at the event.

Tajima, who passed away in 2011 at the age of 88, was a beloved teacher at Alhambra High School who led the school's newspaper to 26 All-American awards from the National Scholastic Press Assn.

Alliance College-Ready Public Schools is a network of 28 public charter schools that serves families in Los Angeles' most underserved communities.

Hawaiian Airlines Establishes New Policy on Seat Selection for Flights to America Samoa



HONOLULU — Hawaiian Airlines has changed its seat assignment policy for its route between Honolulu and American Samoa after a survey found passengers with their carry-on luggage were 30 pounds heavier than expected.

Earlier this month, the airline stopped allowing passengers to preselect seats. Instead, they are assigned seats when they check in for their flights at the Honolulu and Pago Pago airports to

ensure that weight is evenly distributed around the jets' cabins.

The new policy has prompted discrimination complaints sent to the U.S. Department of Transportation, which says the policy is not discriminatory.

Hawaiian Airlines says its new policy calls for making sure each row of seats has an empty one or one occupied by a child to protect the planes in the event of crash-landing situations.

Heart Mountain Announces Search for New Executive Director

POWELL, WY — The Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation has announced a search for a new executive director following the recent resignation of Brian Liesinger, who served in that role for more than three years.

The new executive director will be a full-time professional responsible for leading the day-to-day operations of the center, implementing the HMWF's strategic plan and continuing to foster key relationships. Persons interested in applying should visit the HMWF site (<http://www.heartmountain.org/jobs.html>).

— P.C. Staff and Associated Press

ADDRESSING YELLOWFACE IN OPERA, THEATER AND FILM

PHOTOS: PAEFF

One JACL Philadelphia chapter board member discusses his ongoing discussions with Opera Philadelphia over offensive stereotypes in its production of 'Turandot.'



By Rob Buscher, Member, JACL Philadelphia Board of Directors

For about six weeks from August-October, Philadelphia JACL has been involved in on-going discussions with Opera Philadelphia over offensive stereotypes in its production of Giacomo Puccini's "Turandot." Philadelphia board member Rob Buscher is sharing information about this process in case other JACL chapters facing similar issues in their local areas find it helpful.

Back in October 2015, I caught wind of the "Turandot" production that Opera Philadelphia was planning when a Chinese American theater artist brought it to my attention. They announced the production at the simulcast of another opera in a public park in Philly, using a trailer with footage from the Cincinnati production of the same opera that features blatant yellowface makeup by white actors.

I reached out by email to the opera to explain why the images in the video teaser were offensive to our community, and I requested a meeting to discuss ways in which it might alter it to avoid causing a major uproar in the AAPI community, similar to what happened with the 2014 "The Mikado" production in Seattle.

Opera Phila responded in March 2016, at which point I and three AAPI theater artists met with the vp of public programming and a community liaison. We had a great hourlong conversation about yellowface, orientalism, exoticism and other topics. After an engaging discussion, they told us there was nothing that could be done since the costume, wardrobe, makeup and character design were intellectual property of the original designer, and they were contractually obligated to do it as originally designed.

Needless to say, we were fairly discouraged, but they did provide the opportunity for one of the artists to write a piece for their study guide that critiqued the more problematic aspects of the show. They also promised further dialogue as we got closer to the start of production on Sept. 23.

Time passed, and we all got busy with our own paid and volunteer work, so we didn't pursue anything more until about late August, when Opera Phila began heavy promotions for the production. Opera Phila continued using the teaser video with yellowface intact and, to add insult to injury, incorporated the tagline, "A Beautiful Exotic Adventure."

At this point, several other artist-activists contacted Opera Phila, and I guess their personnel finally realized that they were going to have to address our concerns in some way more than the lip service they had given us the first time.

A second meeting was convened between JACL Philadelphia President Scott Nakamura, myself and the other theater artists from the first meeting with the president, director of marketing and others from Opera Phila.

As a result of this meeting, they agreed to 10 points of action to address our concerns, which I was then able to publicize through a statement from Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf as a member of his Advisory Commission on APA Affairs. The object was to hold them accountable, and they have kept good on all promises made to date.

Some of the action items I was directly engaged in were to design a lobby exhibit on the history of yellowface, participate in a video explaining our perspective to be shown before the simulcast, participate in classroom visits to interested area schools to discuss yellowface and publish my critique of Puccini's opera as written on Opera Phila's website. Additionally, this resulted in some coverage from a few dozen AP-affiliated news sources and a local radio spot I did for WHYY, which was partially transcribed to the NewsWorks website.

The discussions kind of came to a head a couple weeks ago with the Beyond Orientalism forum, a public discussion about yellowface and institutional racism in mainstream Philadelphia theater. The forum was planned months before this issue resurfaced, but because of the timing, it became a focal point for a lot of the artist-activists involved in these discussions.

We were able to attract an incredibly diverse audience of AAPI artists and audience members, other People of Color artists and allies, as well as a dozen or so representatives from various establishment theaters, who all happened to be Caucasian. The panel was incredible, and everything was great up until the point the moderator opened it up to the floor for discussion. At that point, the Caucasian theater directors and administrators spent about 20 minutes defending the lack of diversity in their productions and complaining

about how difficult it was from their perspectives.

Needless to say, this really hurt a lot of the AAPI theater-activists, especially from a younger demographic. What began as a good faith discussion on improving diversity devolved into a session for "well-meaning" white liberals to alleviate their guilt. Moreover, the theaters represented weren't even the larger ones.

The good news is that the three Opera Phila representatives who were present refrained from making similar excuses during the discussion, or patting themselves on the back for taking corrective actions. We had coached them enough that they realized it wasn't their place to speak, and afterward, I even heard them explaining to another Caucasian theater administrator why what they said was offensive to our community.

I really believe that we changed the hearts and minds of this company, and I think they will genuinely approach the AAPI community pro-actively in discussion about whether to even attempt a potential future production of "Madame Butterfly" (tentatively slated for 2019).

One reason I believe we were successful with regards to the opera is because we had a diversity of opinions in the room when we began round two of discussions late last month.

Each of us came to this issue from a slightly different place — some hurt and angry, others somewhat apologetic to the opera, although the majority of us were somewhere in the middle: upset, but willing to engage in constructive dialogue as long as mutual respect was given.

Having some folks in the conversation that were highly critical and others who were more diplomatic in their tone created a good balance and made it easier for the opera representatives to understand and accept our message.

While my personal preference would have been to withdraw the characters of Ping, Pang and Pong from the production, we were able to make a compromise that worked for both parties.

I hope that this can be a starting point for further dialogue on better inclusion of our community in Philadelphia theater, and perhaps a model for future advocacy around issues of representation in stage plays and theater productions. ■



Yellowface in film, theater and television has long been a topic of discussion and controversy.

A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

CALENDAR

NCWNP

Echoes of Nikkei Dispersal
Featuring Author/Activist
Diana Morita Cole
San Francisco, CA
Oct. 26; 7-8:30 p.m.
Union Bank Hospitality Room
1675 Post St.
Price: Free

Author/activist Diana Morita Cole will present a program addressing multiple topics, including the experiences of Japanese Americans, Japanese Canadian and Japanese Latin Americans. She will also show and discuss the short film "Hidden Internment," which reveals the plight of kidnapped and incarcerated Japanese Latin Americans. Following the program, Cole will be available for an audience meet and greet. This program is sponsored by the Japanese American National Library.
Info: Call (415) 567-5006.

San Jose JACL's 13th Annual Community Recognition Dinner
San Jose, CA
Nov. 5; 5 p.m.
Holiday Inn San Jose-Silicon Valley
1350 N. First St.
Price: \$125; \$115 for JACL members

This year's theme is "Kansha" (gratitude) and the following individuals will be honored: Vernon Hayashida, Adrienne Reiko Iwanaga, Stan Kawamata and Rich Saito. Come and celebrate their remarkable community accomplishments and enjoy an evening that also includes a silent auction, quilt drawing and a framed Otsuka print drawing.
Info: Contact the San Jose JACL at (408) 295-1250 or visit www.sanjosejacl.org.

Na Leo Holiday Concert and VIP Reception
San Francisco, CA
Dec. 18; 4 p.m.
JCCCNC
1840 Sutter St.
Price: General admission \$65; VIP (includes reception) \$110
Na Leo is returning to the Japanese Cultural and Community Center of Northern California where the group performed to a sold-out crowd in 2014. Come see them perform holiday classics and some of their most popular hits celebrating the warm sounds of aloha! Over the course of their career, Na Leo has released 23 CDs, and they are recognized as being the biggest-selling female

Hawaiian group in the world.
Info: Call (415) 567-5505.

PSW

Togen Daiko 20th Anniversary Concert
Oxnard, CA
Nov. 5; 3 p.m.
Oxnard High School
Performing Arts Theater
3400 W. Gonzales Road
Price: General admission \$15; Advance tickets \$10

Togen Daiko, a Japanese American Buddhist drumming group, celebrates 20 years of drumming with this concert featuring special guests including Kinnara Taiko of Los Angeles, Azuma Kotobuki Kai of Ventura County and Ichimi Daiko of San Luis Obispo. JACL members can purchase tickets at a discounted online price, where a percentage of the sales will benefit the Ventura County JACL.
Info: Visit <https://squareup.com/store/togendaiko>.

2016 Japanese Food Festival
Universal City, CA
Nov. 13; 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
Hilton Los Angeles/
Universal City
555 Universal Hollywood Dr.
Price: Adults \$55 and child \$28 presale by Nov. 10; Adults \$70 and child \$35 after Nov. 11
Come and taste Japanese cuisine at its finest. Sample sushi, authentic Japanese ramen, sake and more! The event will also feature the premiere screening of "Tsukiji Wonderland," the story about Japan's famous fish market and the inspiration behind the documentary "Jiro Dreams of Sushi." Door prizes and drawings will also be held.
Contact: Visit <https://JapaneseFoodCultureUSA.org>.

MDC

Chrysanthemum Banquet
Bloomington, MN
Nov. 5, Begins at 11 a.m.
Normandale Hylands
Methodist Church
9920 Normandale Road
Price: Member \$20; nonmember \$25
Please join the Twin Cities JACL for the Chrysanthemum Banquet, an exciting opportunity to meet new friends and reconnect with old ones. A bento box is included with your ticket purchase. This year's program will feature speaker Erika Lee, one of the nation's leading immigration and Asian American historians. Lee teaches American history at the University of Minnesota and is

the author of "The Making of Asian America: A History."
Info: Contact Amy Dickerson (612) 338-8405 or email adickerson323@gmail.com.

JASC Holiday Delight Kodomo Matsuri
Chicago, IL
Nov. 12, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
JASC
4427 N. Clark St.
Price: Free

This children's festival and craft bazaar will feature Japanese food and refreshments, holiday shopping, JASC Legacy Center treasures, silent auction and a Kraft Komer for participants of all ages. Also featured will be Tsukasa Taiko drumming, Santa Claus, a raffle drawing and Shubu-Kai Japanese classical dance.
Info: Visit www.jasc-chicago.org.

PNW

Screening of 'Honor and Duty: The Mississippi Delta Chinese'
Seattle, WA
Nov. 12; 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Wing Luke Museum of the Asian American Experience
719 S. King St.
Price: Screening is free but does not include museum admission.
Celebrate and honor Chinese American veterans with the premiere of the documentary "Honor and Duty: The Mississippi Delta Chinese." Executive producers Gwendolyn Gong, E. Samantha Cheng and Cathay Post #186 Project will also be on hand throughout the day to answer questions and discuss the topics and themes of the documentary. This program is part of the Tateuchi Story Theatre Performing Arts Series.
Info: Email programs@wingluke.org.

Harvest Bazaar
Ontario, OR
Nov. 13; Noon
Ontario Community Church
240 S.E. Third St.
Price: Free
Come out and support the Ontario Community Church at its Harvest Bazaar, featuring mafa chicken, sushi, udon, hom bow, homemade pastries, country store, crafts, games and more! The worship service begins at 11:15 a.m., the bazaar begins at noon and the auction will be held at 2 p.m.
Info: Visit www.facebook.com/Harvest-Bazaar-Ontario-Community-Church-462996340506115/.

The Seventh Annual Seattle Slack Key Festival
Seattle, WA
Nov. 13; Noon-6:30 p.m.
Town Hall Theatre
1119 Eighth Ave.
Price: General admission \$35 (side seating) and \$50 (center back seating)
Come hear, taste and feel the music of Hawaii with the Seventh Annual Seattle Slack Key Festival, sponsored by Hawaiian Airlines. The afternoon will feature many of Hawaii's master musicians, including George Kuo, Jeff Au Hoy, Nathan Aweau and Hi'ikua. Prize drawings will also be held, in addition to delicious food and beautiful tropical flower displays.
Info: Visit www.brownpapertickets.com/event/1350490.

EDC

Oishi October! Change the World With Onigiri
Boston, MA
Oct. 28; 6-8 p.m.
Boston University Metropolitan College Campus
808 Commonwealth Ave.
Demonstration Room 117
Price: \$10 adult; \$5 children
This fun-filled evening will feature an educational workshop on how to make delicious (oishi) popular Japanese foods: rice balls (onigiri), savory pancake (okonomiyaki) and rice-stuffed fried tofu-skin pockets (oinarisan) while helping to provide healthy school meals to children in need. Admission includes refreshments, activities and a donation to Table for Two's Change the World With Onigiri campaign. Participants must register for this event as space is limited.
Info: Email dgsamuels@gmail.com.

The 2016 Silk Road Gala
Boston, MA
Nov. 5; 6:30 p.m.
John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum
Columbia Point, Boston
Price: \$200
The Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence presents its annual benefit to support its essential programs and services. The dinner will feature food stations from local chefs and restaurants as well as cultural performances throughout the evening.
Info: Visit <https://www.atask.org/site/get-involved/silk-road-gala.html>.
Jake Shimabukuro
Boston, MA

Nov. 9; 8 p.m.
Price: Varies
Internationally known ukulele virtuoso and composer Jake Shimabukuro will perform his beautiful melodies. Don't miss this opportunity to hear the sounds of Aloha on the East Coast.
Info: Visit <http://thewilbur.com/artist/jake-shimabukuro/>.

IDC

Minidoka: Artist as Witness Exhibit
Boise, ID
Through Jan. 15, 2017
Boise Art Museum
670 E. Julia Davis Dr.
Price: Varies
Sponsored by Boise Valley and Snake River JACL chapters, this exhibit features poignant works by Takuichi Fujii, Wendy Maruyama (Tag Project), Kenjiro Nomura, Roger Shimomura (painter) and Teresa Tamura (photographer), who have all created art based on personal or family experiences related to Minidoka.
Info: Email britney@boiseartmuseum.org or call (208) 345-8330, ext. 26.

Wendy Maruyama, Artist Lecture
Boise, ID
Nov. 9; 6 p.m.
Boise State University
Special Events Center
1800 University Dr.
Price: \$15/\$10 BAM members & BSU ID holders
A public lecture by an internationally known contemporary Japanese American artist and creator of the "Tag Project." Hear about Wendy Maruyama's artwork related to the Minidoka War Relocation Center in Idaho and the ways art can be used to document events and express personal experiences.
Info: To purchase tickets, visit www.boiseartmuseum.org/special-events or call Rebecca at (208) 345-8330, ext. 15.

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IN MEMORIAM



Abellera, Jane Yoshino, 86, Monterey Park, CA, Oct. 7; she was predeceased by her husband, Lurito Larry Abellera, and sister, Alice Watanabe; she is survived by her children, Laurence Abellera and Sherrie (Ty) Suehiro; siblings, Hatsue Uyeda, Judy Nakamura, June Moniz, Betty (Yukio) Uyehara, Ronald (Elsie) Uyeda, Mildred Motonaga, Janet (Barry) Tarumoto, Edwin Uyeda, Earline Yuen and Mona (Steven) Okido; she is also survived by many other family members both here and in Hawaii; gc: 3; ggc: 5.

Aoyama, Sayeko Mary, 74, Seattle, WA, Oct. 19; she is survived by her husband, Martin; daughter, Joyce (Octavio); sons, George (Kirkland) and Randy (Anndrea); she is also survived by many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends; gc: 3.

Hayashida, Neal M., Seattle, WA, Oct. 5; he is survived by his wife, Trudy; son, Dennis (Praspasri) Richard; daughter, Kristine Moore (Brent); sister, Natalie Ong (Albert); nephew, Gary Ong (Elizabeth); niece, Paula J. Ong; gc: 2.

Hayashikawa, Tsuyako 'Jean,' 92, Pahoa, HI, Oct. 6; she is survived by her sons, Don, Wayne and Eric Hayashikawa; gc: 6; ggc: 2.



Ito, Christine N., 49, Los Angeles, CA, Oct. 3; she was predeceased by her mother, Sachiko Ito; she is survived by her husband, Kenji Kobayashi; father, Rev. Soki Ito; brother, Andrew (Mayumi) Ito; she is also survived by nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Komatsu, Nagato, 87, Los Angeles, CA, Oct. 13; he is survived by his sons, Keith (Ellen) and Kevin (Irine) Komatsu; sisters, Koko (Shig) Fukutomi and Tori McCoy; he is also survived by many nieces and nephews; gc: 2.

Maeda, Michihiro, 65, Sacramento, CA, July 24; he was predeceased by his wife, Lucy Oda; he is survived by family members in Japan.

Miyamoto, Yukiko, 85, Los Angeles, CA, Sept. 22; she is survived by her husband, Mas; children, Debbie, Karen and Craig; gc: 5; ggc: 2.

Nakagaki, Yoshiko, 94, Gardena, CA, Oct. 18; she was predeceased by her son, Wayne Nakagaki; she is survived by her children, Etsuko Tani and Kenneth (Ann) Nakagaki; sisters, Tsuyuko Iwamoto and Toshiko Mizuno; sister-in-law, Eiko Dotemoto; she is also survived by many nieces,

nephews and other relatives here and in Japan; gc: 4.

Nakamoto, Takako, 89, Glendora, CA, Oct. 2; she is survived by her son, John (Kelly) Nakamoto; daughters, Mitsuko (Ernest) Pierre and Tamiko (Rod Bradley) Nakamoto; brother, Takashi (Tsuruko) Nakamura of Japan; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives here and in Japan; gc: 5.

Nohara, Clifford Yoshio, 92, Honolulu, HI; he is survived by his wife, Barbara N.; sons, Glenn M. (Wendy), Rodney H. (Jan), Rex A. (Joanne), Michael S. (Kathi); sisters, Hiroko Nakasone, Stella S. Isara, Amy M. Kawamoto; gc: 6; ggc: 1.



Okazaki, Rev. Fumio, 80, Boyle Heights, CA, Oct. 16; he was the former head minister of the Tenrikyo Southern Pacific Church; he is survived by his wife, Kazuko; son, Rev. Marlon Okazaki; daughters, Cherie Larice, Jayne Evans, Roxane Okazaki and Diane Metcalf; sisters, Kumiko Koga, Takako Ritchie and Machiko Kuida; he is also survived by other relatives here and in Japan and France; gc: 10.

Omoto, Arthur Yoichi, 69, Gardena, CA, Oct. 11; he is

survived by his wife, Patricia; sons, Daniel (Veronica), David (Jackie), Alex and Robert; brother, Yutaka Omoto of Tokyo; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives here and in Japan; gc: 4.

Omura, Dorothy E., 90, Honolulu, HI, Oct. 5; she is survived by her son, Joseph I. Omura; daughter, Carole N. Omura.

Sasaki, Harumi, 81, Long Beach, CA, Sept. 25; she is survived by her children, Sharon (Ken) Atherton, Darlene (Matt) LeVault, Eric and Colleen Sasaki; gc: 4; ggc: 1.

Sato, Marven Fujio, 81, Kapolei, HI, Sept. 26; he is survived by wife, Mildred; son, Daryl Sato; gc: 1; ggc: 2.



Tanigawa, Noboru, 91, Torrance, CA, Oct. 2; he was predeceased by his brothers, Hideo (Jimmy) and Mitsuru (Jack) Tanigawa; he is survived by his children, Clifford

(Linda) Tanigawa and Andrea (Ross) Nakayama; gc: 4.

Tsuyuki, Toshiye, 100, San Gabriel, CA, Sept. 27; she is survived by her children, Rev. Dr. Alfred Yoshihisa (Michiye) Tsuyuki, Theodore Ted (Keiko) Tsuyuki, Makoto Tsuyuki, Christine Megumi Nagashima, Hitomi Tsuyuki, Ricky Mutsumi Tsuyuki; sister, Sakae (Asao) Sakaki; sister-in-law, Tomiko Fujimoto; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 14; ggc: 10.

Watanabe, Yukiko, 97, Aiea, HI, Sept. 19; she is survived by her daughters, Faye (Barry) Kurren, Carol (Guy) Kitaoka; brother, Keiji Tsugawa; gc: 4; ggc: 5.

Yamaichi, Mieko, 84, San Jose, CA, Oct. 12; she was predeceased by her husband, Shigeru; she is survived by her children, Angela Craig (Richard), April Yamaichi, June Cruz (Michael) and Benjamin Yamaichi; siblings, Masami, Yoshiko, Teruko, Isao, Kazuko, Fusako and Toshiko, all of from Japan; gc: 5.

Yoshida, Yutaka Koichi, 104, Honolulu, HI, Sept. 13; a retired physician and Army veteran who served in WWII; he was a member of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team (H Company) and recipient of the Silver Star, Purple Heart and Bronze Star with Oak-Leaf Cluster; he is survived by his son, Ken; daughter, Ann; brother, Tokuo; gc: 2. ■

TRIBUTE

TERUKO MIYOSHI OKIMOTO



03/31/1916 - 09/15/2016

Teruko Miyoshi Okimoto, 100, passed away suddenly on Sept. 15, 2016.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Shikano and Sajiro Miyoshi of Waka yama-ken and her husband, Thomas T. Okimoto. She was also predeceased by her sisters, Aiko Hironaka, Sachiko Sugimoto, Ritsuko Eder and Misao Fujii. She is survived by her daughter, Kristin, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Terry was born in San Diego and grew up in Terminal Island, was interned in Manzanar during WWII, settled in San Pedro and Rancho Palos Verdes. She spent her later years in Cupertino, CA.

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REIMAGINE EVERYTHING

ARE THE RISKS OF NOT GETTING A FLU SHOT WORTH IT?

By Ron Mori

There's an old joke that if you ask your local druggist, "What is your favorite season?" — he or she will say, "The flu season!" Why not? The druggist will likely fill more prescriptions and sell many more over-the-counter remedies during flu season than at any other time of year. Flu season begins in October, peaks between December and February, and can last into May.

But flu season is no joke. In fact, for too many, it's a tragedy, particularly for people with ongoing health issues or if you are 65 years and older. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), annual flu-associated deaths can approach 50,000 — with nearly 9 of every 10 deaths being among people age 65 and older. More than 200,000 people must be hospitalized.

Yet, only about 58 percent of American seniors, on average, have been getting their influenza vaccine, or "flu shot," in recent years. That's really sad because so many of those deaths could easily have been prevented.

Many people I talk to don't seem to realize just how risky the flu virus can be or just how easy it is to catch it. For example, you can catch the flu if you're around an infected person who coughs or sneezes. You can also pick up flu germs from touching a surface that someone with the flu has

touched, such as a railing or a doorknob, then passing the germs from your hand to your nose or mouth.

The good news is that you can protect yourself from the flu by simply getting your annual flu shot. Now, let's face it, nobody likes to get shots and, yes, there will be some time and possible inconvenience involved with getting your flu shot. But you need to ask yourself: "Are the risks of *not* getting a flu shot worth it? Spending weeks feeling lousy, having to be hospitalized or even possibly dying?"

The CDC recommends that people 50 or older get a flu shot every year. For people 65 or older, you have two options — the regular-strength flu shot or the Fluzone High-Dose, a vaccine that creates a stronger immune response to combat age-related weakening of the immune system. Your healthcare provider can help you decide which dosage is better for you.

These days, flu shots are available in many locations such as your doctor's office, work place, supermarket or drugstore. If you'd like more information on the flu or on flu shots, visit

the Influenza (Flu) page on the CDC website (<https://www.cdc.gov/flu/>), which includes a "Flu Vaccine Finder" where you can enter your zip code and find a place near you to get a flu shot.

As far as cost is concerned, part of the Affordable Care Act's preventive benefits, people in Medicare and Medicaid can get an annual flu shot at no cost, and both flu vaccines are covered. For everyone else, many insurance plans provide coverage for the flu vaccine. It is best to double-check on your co-pay or responsibility for payment.

Well, I've done my best to shoot down all the "reasons" I've heard for not getting a flu shot. So, PLEASE get one!

Ron Mori is a board member for the Washington, D.C., JACL chapter, and manager of community, states and national affairs — multicultural leadership for AARP.

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- Japan Spring Countryside Holiday Tour (Ernest Hida) Apr 14-24**
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