Banzai!” The charge fills the air followed closely by the sound of aircraft overhead. The airstrike has begun, signaling to the Marines that it’s time to take the beach. No, it’s not the opening scenes of a blockbuster movie, it is a living history weekend at the Pacific Combat Zone and the staff and volunteers of Company K – the Nimitz Living History Detachment – are at it again delivering a thrilling, high energy, one-of-a-kind history lesson that you can’t get anywhere else.

The WWII Pacific Combat Program puts visitors on the front lines of a beach landing somewhere in the Pacific in an immersive program that introduces the equipment, weapons and tactics of the U.S. and Imperial Japanese forces as they fought in places like Tarawa, Peleliu, Saipan and Iwo Jima. From the seats of the outdoor William P. Clements Jr. Amphitheater, museum visitors watch as living history interpreters share how America transitioned from a nation unprepared for war on the eve of the attacks on Pearl Harbor to a dominant world power by war’s end. The ninety minute program culminates in a battle simulation that allows visitors to experience the noise, chaos and sensations of battle.

If you’ve seen our Pacific Combat Program before, you’ll want to plan a return trip in 2019 because this year’s shows have something new to offer. With over 150 volunteers on the roster and the addition of talented new staff, Company K is primed to improve in many ways. In 2019, visitors can expect to see new presentations, changes in battlefield choreography, and new audio advancements. According to the Foundation’s Living History Coordinator Jeff Copsetta, “The idea is to have each program evolve throughout the season so each is a little different than the last, keeping it fresh, entertaining, and engaging.”

One change visitors might notice, our M3A1 Stuart tank has brand new tracks on it, allowing us to highlight this authentic 1942 tank more during the “battle” se-
Visit Texas Historical Sites For FREE On May 5

On Sunday May 5, the Texas Historical Commission (THC) will offer FREE admission to all 22 THC state historic sites, including the National Museum of the Pacific War. If free admission isn’t enough, we’re partnering with VOCES Oral History Project to bring you special programming on that day!

VOCES Oral History Project is the leading Latino oral history archive in the United States. It began in 1999, with a mission of capturing untold stories of Latinos and Latinas who served, in the military or on the homefront, during World War II.

On May 5th you will have the opportunity to use an interactive listening station to hear parts of VOCES vast collection of oral histories from World War II veterans, many of whom are Texans! A 2-hour oral history workshop will also be offered to teach you how to use different equipment, including a cell phone, to interview your own family and friends. We hope you will gain a new perspective into your family history as well as our collective historical narrative. Watch our website for workshop registration information and more about the day’s activities.

The VOCES project was founded by Maggie Rivas-Rodriguez in 1999. She is a former professional journalist and is a professor at the University Of Texas Austin Moody College of Communication’s School of Journalism. She and her staff and volunteers are dedicated to recording and disseminating the stories of US Latinas and Latinos and weaving the many perspectives into our historical narrative at the national, state and local levels.
Meet Karen Stevenson

The backbone of any nonprofit organization is its volunteers. So when the Volunteer Manager position at the Foundation opened up recently, we searched far and wide to fill it. In the end, the perfect candidate came to us.

Karen Bassett Stevenson has been involved with volunteerism and volunteers all her life. She’s volunteered with historical societies, environmental education centers, and the Texas Master Naturalists as the Alamo Area Training Director. As a non-profit program manager, she coordinated projects for volunteers with South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks; the Fort Bend Museum Association; and the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center. “I have watched others be transformed by their volunteer service, and been transformed myself,” Karen says.

With her background, it is no surprise that Karen paid a visit to the National Museum of the Pacific War while visiting Fredericksburg a few weeks back. As someone who enjoys volunteering, Karen asked a staff member about volunteering at the Museum and was told that the Foundation was actually in the process of hiring a new Volunteer Manager. Karen jumped at the opportunity, and the rest is history. “I feel so fortunate to be able to work with the Museum’s volunteers and help keep our heroes’ stories alive,” she added.

Karen joins us from San Antonio where she most recently was working for the Texas Master Naturalist/Alamo Area Chapter, but she has always wanted to live in Fredericksburg. Distant kin to renowned 19th century Texas architect Alfred Giles, Karen grew up visiting her cousins’ Hill Country ranch and considered it to be a haven. Karen, her husband, and their two dogs – Scout and Mathilda, both named after literary heroines – are in the process of making the move from San Antonio to Fredericksburg.

If you are interested in volunteering with the Foundation, please contact Karen at kstevenson@nimitzfoundation.org or 830-997-8600 x223 or visit us online.

Meet David Shields

As many of you know, the Foundation’s former education director, Bryan Degner, semi-retired at the end of 2018. Bryan’s transition to our part-time Education Outreach Coordinator meant the Foundation needed a new Director of Education. After a long search, the Foundation was fortunate to hire Dr. David Shields.

David comes to us from Plymouth, Massachusetts where he most recently worked as a program developer and interpreter at Pilgrim Memorial State Park. Prior to making the move to public history, David taught at the high school and collegiate level for nearly twenty years. From 1988 and 2017, David was a constant student himself earning numerous degrees, including a BA from Virginia Commonwealth University, an MA from the London School of Economics, and a PhD from the University of London at Royal Holloway.

David was drawn to the job at the Foundation because he felt a connection with Admiral Nimitz. David is from Newport News, Virginia, where his family has historically been involved in the ship building industry. David’s father was part of the design team for the USS Nimitz and one grandfather was part of the construction team, while the other was the quartermaster who took the Nimitz out on sea trials.

With his background in education and historical interpretation, David is well suited to meet the challenges facing our education department as the Foundation looks to grow its programming for students and the public in the upcoming years. “My favorite thing about working in public history is bringing the stories of the museum to life,” David said recently, and he is definitely good at that.
When a unique research request with an infamous subject made its way to the National Museum of the Pacific War (NMPW), it was my genealogical research skills honed over years that played a vital role in making a historical discovery.

The request came from historian Richard Frank, who concluded research at the NMPW during September 2018. He’d spent time studying one of our unpublished memoirs, which appeared to give new information on a well-known incident. Two of the most recognizable names from the Pacific War were involved and, according to the memoirist, so was a hapless officer that sent a notorious message from one to the other. The messenger was identified by name and Frank asked if that name could be verified in our archives.

First, a bit of background. During World War II, US landings at Leyte Island on October 20, 1944, threatened Japan’s access to oil and raw materials in the region. To counter, the Imperial Japanese Navy sent three large groups of fighting ships to the area. The series of encounters between the US and Japanese navies that followed is considered the largest naval battle in history and resulted in nearly 13 percent of all US Navy Cross medals awarded for bravery during WWII.

Admiral William F. Halsey and Task Force 34 protected the landings at Leyte. The Japanese navy’s plan was simple. One group of ships would attract Halsey’s attention and draw him and a large portion of his task force away from their protective mission while the other two groups attacked the landing area. The gambit worked, and three days later an urgent message requesting assistance arrived at the headquarters of Commander in Chief Pacific (CINCPAC) Admiral Chester W. Nimitz. In response, Nimitz radioed a message to Halsey requesting his location. When sent, it read:

TURKEYTROTSTOWATERGGFROMCINCPACAC-
TIONCOMTHIRDFLEETINFOCOMINCHCTFSIZEV-
ENTY-SEVENTYXWHEREISRPTWHEREISTASK-
FORCETHIRTYFOURRRTHEWORLDWONDERS

The radio officer sending messages like this would normally place a string of nonsensical words, called “padding,” at both beginning and end so that, if intercepted, any attempt to understand it would be frustrated. The officer receiving the message would then remove the padding before delivering the message. In this instance, the end of the message—“The World Wonders”—appeared to make sense, so it remained when delivered.

When read by Halsey, it gave the impression that Nimitz was sarcastically criticizing his decision to move Task Force 34 away from the landing area. In reaction, Admiral Halsey became enraged and brooded over the situation. During the hour it took for him to recover and head back to give assistance, the US lost one escort carrier and three other ships.

In the following decades, two key questions about “The World Wonders” message lingered. Who sent it and why did the ending of it make sense when it shouldn’t have? Both appeared to be answered in an unpublished...
memoir by Elmer R. Oettinger Jr. in NMPW’s archives. Written in the late 1980s, Oettinger’s memoir details his experiences during the war as a CINCPAC communications security officer. Shortly after completion he donated the memoir to the NMPW. In it, Oettinger revealed that a recently promoted ensign, named Dan Coster, sent the infamous message.

According to Oettinger, Ensign Coster had received a promotion from the enlisted ranks due to “bravery in sea combat” and had not been at CINCPAC headquarters for very long at the time of the incident. In Oettinger’s opinion, this new man had not been properly trained to handle sensitive messages and, therefore, posed a communications risk at CINCPAC. Oettinger claimed that he attempted to report the matter but his concern was rebuffed. As a consequence, “The World Wonders” message was sent sometime later.

Admiral Nimitz was born in Fredericksburg, Texas, where the NMPW is located, and our archives have several small collections from individuals that served at CINCPAC headquarters. Even though Oettinger gave a specific name, I approached this search as I would a genealogy puzzle. I considered it possible, even likely, that after four decades the name provided could be spelled as he remembered it sounded and not as it truly was. For that reason I considered name variations.

After searching through several folders I discovered a document that appeared useful. It was from the right timeframe and had lists of junior officers. Page two showed an Ensign “J. D. Kaster”—that immediately focused my attention. I followed up on my discovery by using a trusted genealogy website. I hypothesized that “J. D. Kaster” would be in the age range of most people who served during the war and would have been born between 1915 and 1925. One of my initial search results contained an Iowa WWII bonus record for a John Donald Kaster. After glancing over the handwritten entries on the form it seemed highly likely that I had the right person.

In one section of that record, John Donald Kaster indicated all the places that he served during the war. He wrote that he was on USS Northampton followed by brief duties elsewhere before eventually receiving an assignment to “Com-Chief Pacific Fleet.” I knew that Northampton was torpedoed and sunk in 1942, which might explain the act of bravery Oettinger mentioned, and I also recognized that “Com-Chief Pacific Fleet” would be CINCPAC.

I then checked the navy muster rolls, which showed that Kaster was a Northampton radioman when it was sunk. Those records also confirmed his short assignments and that he was promoted to ensign in early 1944, before assignment to CINCPAC headquarters. Some additional searching also resulted in hometown newspaper items that revealed he was known as “Don” Kaster.

One of the collections in the NMPW archives is related to USS Northampton. A folder in the collection contained recollections involving the sinking. I found that one of them was from the radio officer, Ensign Byron W. Eaton. In his remembrance, Eaton described how he and radioman Kaster destroyed the ship’s codebooks and decoding machines after the order to abandon ship was given. That act to deprive the Japanese of valuable means to decode American messages may have appeared significant enough to warrant a promotion and eventual assignment to CINCPAC headquarters.

“You are a superhero of the archives. Did you wear a cape and a mask when you did this?” That was the message of astonishment that I received from Richard Frank after providing the historian with my findings. As the NMPW archivist, genealogical research skills are something I regularly hone. The museum focuses on honoring those who served in the war, and some of the greatest satisfaction I receive from my job comes from making sure veterans are known. To help make that happen, I use trusted genealogy resources. In this case, the sender of “The World Wonders” message might have never been positively identified if not for an archival intercession.

This article was originally published in the March/April issue of the Society of American Archivists’ “Archival Outlook” and was reprinted with permission from the author.
Foundation Members Open New Exhibit on Wartime Music

In late January, Foundation members were invited to open the latest temporary exhibit on display in the George H.W. Bush Gallery. Songs of the Patriot: American Sheet Music from the First and Second World Wars uses music and art to explore how music publishers, songwriters, and cover artists expressed a range of American wartime feelings from anti-war statements to rallying support for troops overseas. The exhibit opened on February 1, 2019 and will run through July 28, 2019.

At an exclusive reception the evening before the exhibit opened to the public, around 80 Foundation members gathered to be the first to tour the new exhibit. The Foundation’s Associate Curator, Christine Hicks, shared stories behind some of the collection pieces and talked about how the exhibit fits within the overall mission of the Admiral Nimitz Foundation.

After the tour, members traveled down Main Street - some in one of our living history vehicles - to 78624 The Bar where the exhibit came to life with the help of Carl, a 1940s style band from Austin, who performed pieces from the exhibit as well as other popular songs from the 1940s. Themed cocktails and culinary treats from Chef Leo Aguirre completed the evening.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for this special evening!
Museum Moves Full STEAM Ahead For Spring Break

Visitors to the museum during Spring Break this year had a chance to participate in our Full STEAM Ahead Spring Break programming. Each day of the week featured different hands-on experiments and activities where families and visitors of all ages had the opportunity to explore 1940s technology and innovations that helped win the war. Activities included building signal lamps, dropping marshmallow bombs to learn the physics behind dropping a bomb from a moving airplane, and using invisible ink to send secret messages just like The Office of Strategic Service. This was the first year that our education department has offered Spring Break programming. Public Program Coordinator Barbara Ford said, “We have just begun to scratch the surface on how STEAM programming can be applied throughout the museum. This week has just reaffirmed that our visitors, young and old, enjoy this type of activity and I look forward to bringing more STEAM programming to the museum and beyond in the near future.”

Foundation Acquires New Collection

The Foundation recently acquired the George Robert “Bob” Caron Archive, a collection of documents relating to Technical Sergeant Caron USAAC, who served as the tail gunner on the B-29 Enola Gay during the atomic bombing of Hiroshima on 6 August 1945. Caron was also one of only three photographers on the mission who captured the historic bombing on film. Taken as the mushroom cloud ascended over Hiroshima, Caron’s photos are the only official still photos captured of the atomic explosion itself and were widely distributed after the event. The collection was purchased from author Charlotte Meares who worked with Caron on the book Fire of a Thousand Suns about his experiences during the war.

The highlights of this new collection are analog and digital recordings of over nine hours of interviews with Robert Caron conducted in 1994, shortly before his death. As Sergeant Caron did not give many interviews during his lifetime, these recordings and related transcripts, notes, and correspondences represent a wealth of information for researchers interested in Caron’s eyewitness account to this pivotal moment in history. The Foundation was able to purchase this collection thanks to a generous donation by WWII veteran Carl Duncan, a longtime friend of the Foundation. Mr. Duncan stopped by recently to view the new collection and take a tour of the NERC and his namesake reading room. While here, Mr. Duncan remembered his time in the Navy fondly saying, “I really enjoyed my time in the Navy. I regretted when it was over.” Although he would have stayed in the service after the war, Mr. Duncan was discharged by Navy doctors who said he had tested positive for tuberculosis. Duncan was retested by a doctor after he got back home. That doctor said Duncan did not have the disease and that the Navy was wasting their time and his. The Navy would not change Duncan’s record and he was never allowed to reenlist. Mr. Duncan never developed tuberculosis.
Dear Members,

Thanks to your dedicated support, we had a successful 2018. We are off to a strong start in 2019, even with the weather challenges in the first couple of months. Visitation in the first few months is ahead of 2018 and we have had strong participation in a wide variety of programs. You will notice in the newsletter that although we have had some personnel turn-over in key areas, we have been successful in hiring some superb replacements.

We will finally start the Nimitz Gallery renovation the middle of April. If anyone asks, please let them know that although we will close the Nimitz Gallery on 8 April, the rest of the Museum, including the Bush Gallery and the Pacific Combat Zone, will remain open the entire year. The renovation will not affect any of our normal programs. We plan to reopen the Nimitz Gallery in December 2019 or January 2020.

This issue of the newsletter also contains articles on some new events our Education Department has introduced. We intend to continue to add more of these events and hope you will be able to attend whenever you are in Fredericksburg. Our living history shows started again in March with a modified format and some new material. You can always find out “what is happening” by visiting our website: pacificwarmuseum.org.

Finally, we have started installation of The Damon Wells Orientation Theater at the entrance to the Bush Gallery. When completed, visitors will experience a four-minute video-overview of WW-II in the Asiatic-Pacific from Pearl Harbor to Tokyo Bay displayed on a 20’ x 6’ HD “wall screen”.

As always, I thank you for your strong support. Such support allows us to continue to educate and excite our visitors, and to honor those who have served our country by telling their stories.

Thank you and I hope to see you at the Museum during 2019.

Best,

Mike Hagee

We’re Looking For A Few Good Kids For Summer Camp!

From June 10th-14th, 2019, the National Museum of the Pacific War invites students entering 4th through 6th grade to attend the museum’s inaugural summer day camp!

WWII Summer Camp is a great opportunity for budding historians, as well as kids who just like to have fun. Campers will get up-close and personal with the museum’s education collection, including authentic clothing, weapons, posters, vehicles, and other artifacts from the 1940’s. Daily special guests - including a WWII veteran - will help campers experience a variety of WWII topics.

Camp will run from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, Monday through Friday. The fee for each child to participate is $50 and $35 for each additional sibling. Please plan for your camper to attend all week. Registration forms can be found online at www.pacificwarmuseum.org or can be picked up at the George H.W. Bush Gallery front desk. Registration forms are due no later than May 24th. There is a limit of 20 campers and registration is first come, first serve. A waiting list will be instituted once camp is full. Parents will be notified if spots become available. To learn more about this exciting experience call Public Program Coordinator Barbara Ford at (830) 997-8600 ext. 225.
Regular newsletter readers might have noticed a change in our past couple of issues. That is because longtime editor of the NND, Lee Price Arellano, recently retired from the position to pursue her own creative endeavors. Lee leaves behind big shoes to fill and we hope our readers will join us in thanking Lee for her years of volunteer service to the Admiral Nimitz Foundation.

Lee joined the Foundation family in 1997. “We had just moved to the Hill Country about a year earlier and I was looking for something to do,” Lee told us recently. “Helen McDonald offered a couple of suggestions of volunteer positions that needed filling, one of which was the newsletter.” One of Lee’s first assignments was listening to audio recordings of that year’s Symposium to recap the sessions. From there, “it just grew with the museum. These years were so rewarding and informative and I appreciate the opportunity. I learned so much. History, but also new software and how to produce a newsletter,” she concluded.

Before retiring to the Hill Country in the mid-1990s, Lee had an eventful career as a political officer with the U.S. State Department with assignments to Mexico, Guatemala, and Greece. “The time in Mexico and Guatemala particularly changed my life and interests,” Lee remarked. It was while in Mexico that she developed an appreciation for folk art and pottery, which she began collecting. Lee is particularly captivated by the work of Heron Martinez Mendoza. She runs a collector’s website for the Mexican potter and is in the process of authoring a book on the artist and his work.

Lee will be greatly missed by all of us at the Foundation, but her legacy will live on through the NND. “If you go through the newsletter archives, it’s so obvious when Lee became involved,” ANF Development & Membership Director Marty Kaderli observed. “The quality of the newsletter changed for the better.” Thank you again, Lee, for your hard work and contributions over the years.

Celebrate Women’s History in the Museum Stores!

Rosie the Riveter
Adult 3/4 Baseball Tee - $32

“We Women Doctors in War” - $35

Ladies Fly Girls T-Shirt - $18.95

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Heroes are Standing By: The Pacific Medals of Honor

HOLDING THE LINE IN THE ADMIRALITY ISLANDS: SERGEANT TROY A. MCGILL, USA

By Kent Knudson

Seventy-five years ago, while Admiral Chester Nimitz and his forces were gaining steam fighting through the Central Pacific, General Douglas MacArthur and his Southwest Pacific Area forces were preparing to go on the offensive in the Admiralty Islands. Securing the Admiralties was one of the final goals of the Bismarck Archipelago Campaign that would complete the encirclement and isolation of the Imperial Japanese fortress at Rabaul 350 miles to the southwest. It would also provide enough land to build an airfield as well as a military installation and acquire one of the best natural anchorages in the south Pacific. “Putting the cork in the bottle,” as MacArthur would describe this effort, would give him logistic bases that would support the ensuing liberation of the Philippines.

General Walter Krueger, Commanding General of Sixth Army, Alamo Force, assigned the 1st Cavalry Division as the nucleus of Task Force BREWER. The division had participated in the 1941 Louisiana maneuvers and had completed five months of jungle training in Australia. Its 5th Regiment would spearhead the effort. It was the oldest regiment in the division, organized in 1855.

Hyane Harbor, on the east side of Los Negros (the second largest of the islands), was chosen for the initial landing site on the idea that, while far from the best location, it was the last place the Japanese would expect the Americans to land and was in keeping with MacArthur’s strategy to “Hit ‘em where they ain’t.” Initial air reconnaissance had mistakenly given the command leadership the impression that the island was vacant and undefended. Codebreaking work later informed that there were over 3,250 Japanese soldiers in the Admiralties. General MacArthur ordered a reconnaissance-in-force that would become the occupation force if the island was unoccupied and issued orders that D-Day would be 29 February 1944. A report later arrived from a scouting party validating the codebreakers, however, it was too late to turn back.

Sergeant Troy A. McGill, U.S. Army, and 1,025 of his fellow soldiers were soon underway on that D-Day in an assault group headed to the narrow 50-yard wide entrance to Hyane Harbor. The landing site was a small beach with tangled mangroves along the shore. McGill was attached to Troop G, 2nd Squadron, 5th Calvary Regiment and had joined the Army in November 1940 at Ada, OK. Born on 15 July 1914 in Knoxville, TN, he and his family, originally from the area around Greenville, TN, lived in the Mount Olive community of South Knoxville until their move to the Sooner State.

The attack group arrived at 7:00 a.m. undetected and proceeded on schedule with the capture of Moktome airstrip. Engagements with the Japanese intensified as the day progressed and continued until the next day against a narrowed perimeter. On the afternoon of 1 March, the enemy offensive began again, but was repulsed. They would keep probing. The Japanese leadership still believed that the main American action would occur on the other side of Los Negros and kept the bulk of their troops there. On 2 March, the rest of the 5th Cavalry arrived, along with the 99th Battalion Field Artillery, the 40th Naval Construction Battalion (Seabees) and other support troops. The Japanese began their real fight with full assault of the beachhead on the night of 3 March around 9:00 p.m.

In the early morning hours of 4 March 1944, McGill and his squad of eight men were defending a revetment 35 yards ahead of the northwest corner of the main American perimeter. It was bearing the brunt of the Japanese attack. Although he and his men were covered by crossfire on both their left and right flanks to protect them from infiltrators, they could not receive support from the balance of the troops behind them when 200 enemy troops stormed the area intending to drive the Americans out and occupy the north end of the airstrip. Six of his squad were either killed or wounded, leaving just McGill and one other soldier. McGill ordered the other soldier to escape to the next revetment.

Sergeant McGill was determined to hold his position against this fervent charge at all costs, firing his weapon until it jammed. With the enemy just five yards away, he courageously leapt from his foxhole and engaged them in hand-to-hand combat, using his rifle as a club until he was killed. The Americans would go on to hold their perimeter against a numerically superior foe and 2d Squadron, 5th Cavalry would receive a Distinguished Unit Citation.

As the morning light of dawn gradually illuminated the site, over 105 enemy dead were found around McGill’s position. Sergeant Troy McGill’s selfless and intrepid stand inspired his comrades and was a decisive factor in the battle, posthumously earning him the Medal of Honor.

By 9 March 1944, the Japanese were in retreat from Los Negros; soon Manus Island and Seeadler Harbor followed. On 18 May, the Admiralties were officially in Allied hands. By mid-1944, naval and air bases were established. America was getting ready to return to the Philippines.

McGill was later buried at Knoxville National Cemetery in Tennessee. A portion of Interstate 40 in the state bears his name and honors his memory and sacrifice.
Upcoming Events

April 6 & 7  Pacific Combat Program
April 12  Nimitz Dinner
April 20  Nimitz Jr. Corps
April 26  Leadership Seminar
Fredericksburg Inn & Suites
May 5  THC Free Day
May 11  2nd Annual Robotics Competition
May 18  Nimitz Jr. Corps
May 25 & 26  Pacific Combat Program
May 27  Memorial Day Program

Visit www.pacificwarmuseum.org for more info

Our Partnership with the Texas Historical Commission: Working together by agreement as a state agency and a non-profit organization, the THC and Admiral Nimitz Foundation formed a new public-private partnership created to preserve the historic resources of the National Museum of the Pacific War and guide the expansion of the Museum. It is the only institution in the continental United States dedicated exclusively to telling the story of the Pacific Theater battles of World War II.

The Admiral Nimitz Foundation is a 501(c) 3 non-profit foundation eligible for corporate matching grants. Foundation members may forward any forms for matching gift programs with their membership contributions.
On February 23, the Foundation held our first ever National Day of Remembrance with special programming to celebrate Japanese American contributions during WWII and remember the signing of Executive Order 9066, which led to the forced removal and incarcerations of Americans of Japanese ancestry and the beginning of a difficult chapter of American history. Museum visitors were treated to musical performances from Austin Taiko drummers, were able to tour the Japanese Peace Garden with the Foundation’s gardner, and got to try their hand at origami making and using copsticks. The day also included the screenings of two documentaries and a talk on Japanese American Internment in Texas with historian Dr. Abbie Grubb.