



# PACIFIC CITIZEN

CELEBRATING 92 YEARS

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Opposition to  
Keiro Sites  
Remain.

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A New Heart  
Mountain Podcast  
Set to Premiere.

## **PAT MORITA**

A new documentary  
reveals the man  
behind his iconic  
movie role.

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**MORE THAN**

# **MIYAGI**

THE PAT MORITA STORY



# JACL LEGACY FUND GRANTS 2021 PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT

By JACL National

The JACL Legacy Fund Grants Committee is pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for 2021 Legacy Fund grants. LFG Co-Chairs Roberta Barton and Toshi Abe encourage JACL chapters in good standing and JACL District Councils to apply. This year, the maximum grant award is \$6,000.

Legacy Fund grants will be awarded for projects and activities that support the mission of JACL and are supportive of the National JACL Strategic Plan. Instructions and application forms can be downloaded from JACL's website at <https://jacl.org/legacy-fund-grants/>.



Legacy Fund grants recipients from the 2019 JACL National Convention in Salt Lake City.

PHOTO: PACIFIC CITIZEN

[org/legacy-fund-grants/](https://jacl.org/legacy-fund-grants/).

The Legacy Fund was established by the JACL National Council at the 1990 JACL Na-

tional Convention in San Diego. Much of the original funds were donated by JACL members who gave portions of their redress

awards to further the legacy of the JACL. Each year, a portion of the earnings from the Legacy Fund Endowment provides the funds to run the LFG program.

*For questions or additional information, please contact Roberta Barton (rbarton4106@comcast.net) and Toshi Abe (tabe@jacl.org). Completed application submissions are due by May 1. Grant award recipients will be announced at this year's upcoming JACL National Convention.*



## HOW TO REACH US

Email: [pc@pacificcitizen.org](mailto:pc@pacificcitizen.org)  
Online: [www.pacificcitizen.org](http://www.pacificcitizen.org)  
Tel: (213) 620-1767  
Mail: 123 Ellison S. Onizuka St., Suite 313  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

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**Digital & Social Media**  
George Johnston

**Business Manager**  
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**JACL President:** Jeffrey Moy  
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# JACL Promotes Program Director and We're Hiring!

By JACL National



Phillip Ozaki

JACL is pleased to announce the promotion of Phillip Ozaki to program director — membership and fund development. Ozaki has served on staff for a cumulative four years, including as membership coordinator and Norman Y. Mineta Fellow.

Ozaki has extensive fundraising experience and is a founding board member of the National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance. He also brings work experience at several tech companies and an MBA

from ESADE Business School in Spain.

Ozaki wrote to JACL National, "First of all, I'm proud to announce that membership revenue grew in 2020 — thank you! We could not have done that without you! I'm honored to take on this challenging new role to carry on my grandparents' legacy and because we all know that JACL has a lot to offer. It's time to engage new funding partners to reinvigorate current programs and innovate new ones. If you're interested in joining a fundraising initiative,

please reach out to me at [pozaki@jacl.org](mailto:pozaki@jacl.org)."

JACL is now looking actively to hire a membership coordinator.

"It's a great time to work in the movement for social justice and in the Japanese American community," Ozaki wrote. "Plus, you get to work with our awesome volunteers (and youth) while developing highly sought fundraising skills."

*To view the full JACL membership coordinator job posting, please visit the JACL website at [www.jacl.org](http://www.jacl.org).*

## PACIFICCITIZEN 2021 SPRING CAMPAIGN

JACL MEMBER? ☐ Y ☐ N ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$150 ☐ \$200 ☐ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

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The *P.C.*'s mission is to 'educate on the past Japanese American experience and preserve, promote and help the current and future AAPI communities.'

*\* Your donations will help build and preserve a cohesive library of the Pacific Citizen to educate future generations.\**

*'I'm glad to see the Pacific Citizen growing and evolving with its website, and especially LOVE the much easier-to-navigate digital archives. It's a treasure trove for JAs to learn about our community's history, and for scholars and journalists looking to connect the past with the present. Thanks for the improvements, P.C.!'*

— Gil Asakawa



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## FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

# RACISM ISN'T ALWAYS OBVIOUSLY INTENTIONAL, BUT TAKING RESPONSIBILITY IS

By David Inoue,  
JACL Executive Director

Every Feb. 19, we take time to recall this as the day in 1942 that President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, which eventually paved the way for the mass incarceration of nearly 120,000 men, women and children of Japanese descent.

One very important point about EO9066 is that nowhere in the order can you find the word *Japanese*. This is especially important in the context of 11th-hour proposed revisions by the Justice Department to change

the interpretation of Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act.

This section of the law bars discrimination on the basis of race, color or national origin by recipients of federal funding and has traditionally recognized the effect of disparate impact in discrimination when obvious intent to discriminate may not be readily discernible.

When we discuss EO9066, we are always very clear that the intent was to discriminate against Japanese and Japanese Americans, and this was borne out in later revelations of uncovered documents, but the argument could be made that the law

was based entirely on the intent of preserving national security.

Clearly, the impact was focused on our community, and that is where questions of disparate impact are important to discerning the impact of policy.

We see disparate impact now most often in voting laws today. Efforts to increase voting security invariably lead to reduction in the ability of minority communities to vote. Voter ID laws can serve as a poll tax, requiring voters to obtain an approved ID, which may have certain costs to obtain.

While many people have a driver's license, this still predicates that someone drives, not always the case for someone living in an urban area with public transit. Gerrymandering and redistricting are another way that minority votes are diluted in value when packed into supermajority urban districts.

Ironically, the impact is more closely aligned with the original Constitutional intent of preserving the superior rights of land and then also slave-owning white men.

While we live under the same laws, how those laws are applied can be very different depending on the color of our skin. The Stanford Open Policing Project last year completed an analysis of 100 million policing

traffic stops and confirmed the anecdotal stories of what it means to be driving while Black, that Black people are 20 percent more likely to be involved in a traffic stop. Once that stop happens, it can also end in tragedy as in the case of Philando Castile.

As we talk about disparate impact vs. intent, it is useful to refer back to the Constitution. The 3/5 clause is famous for its valuation of slaves at a portion of free people. Nowhere does that mention the race of who a slave was, though it does explicitly state that nontax-paying Indians were not to be included in population counts for apportionment. However, there was essentially only one race to which slaves belonged, and that was Black.

For most of us, we can legitimately say that we try not to be intentionally racist. But that is not enough. On its face, EO9066 is not intentionally racist, it is only with the context of how it was implemented we see the racist impact. The Constitution, our drug laws, traffic laws and the like are on the surface, nonrace specific, but in implementation affect different racial groups very differently.

It is time we fully reckon with the disparate impact of our policies today and in the past. A full reckoning requires us to provide redress. Our

government did this in 1988 with the passage of Japanese American redress.

It is time for our government to do the same for Blacks who were wronged by slavery, Jim Crow and even today by the disparate impact of policies that surgically target and oppress Black communities.

Taking responsibility for mistakes should never come easy. It shouldn't necessarily be thought of as punishment, but there should be cost. For Japanese American redress, the cost to our country was over \$1.6 billion. What would be the cost of compensating those historically and currently wronged by slavery and its legacy? HR40 is the clearest path to making that determination so that we can be held accountable as a country.

As we remember our own experience as a Japanese American community, we must place our experience in the context of the long moral, or perhaps immoral, arc of our country, and ensure that we all take responsibility for the legacies of historic wrongs and seek to right them in the present before it is too late for another generation.

*David Inoue is executive director of the JACL. He is based in the organization's Washington, D.C., office.*



## NIKKEI VOICE

# CORKY LEE, THE MOST IMPORTANT ASIAN AMERICAN PHOTO- GRAPHER THAT PEOPLE DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT

By Gil Asakawa

A great American photographer died on Jan. 27 at a hospital in Queens, N.Y., his hometown. But you might not recognize his name: Corky Lee.

Like the subject of his half-century career, Asians in America, who have historically been invisible to mainstream Americans, Corky was invisible — he didn't seek the spotlight, he just wanted to record the community around him.

Most people wouldn't have known him. But along with Asian American activists and journalists across the country, my wife and I knew him,

and when I learned that he had died of Coronavirus-19, I was devastated by the loss.

"Goddammit, I'm heartbroken. Shattered. Corky Lee, a Chinese American photojournalist and the self-professed 'undisputed unofficial Asian American photographer laureate,' has died of Covid-19," I wrote on Facebook.

Corky chronicled the rise of the Asian American movement from a New York City perspective since the 1970s, and he tirelessly championed Asian American social justice. He chronicled the everyday lives of the Asian community and attended many (I think maybe every) march

and protest that included Asians or Asian Americans.

I mainly knew him through the Asian American Journalists Assn., and my wife and I met him years ago when he came to Denver for an OCA-JACL banquet during which a photo of his was auctioned off. Erin and I were emcees for that banquet.

The photo was a commemoration of the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad, which was built on the backs of thousands of Chinese laborers (many died along the way) but the Chinese were told they couldn't attend the completion ceremony. So, the famous photo of the two locomotives meeting at Promontory Point, Utah, had no Chinese faces in it at all. Google "Transcontinental Railroad Promontory Point Utah" and see for yourself.

In typical fashion, Corky decided to stage his own history lesson and captured assemblies of AAPIs and the descendants of the original laborers at the same spot. He was single-minded that way, and so persistent that history should be kept honest, not whitewashed. He called his life's work "Photographic Justice," and it was.

New York filmmaker Jennifer Takaki, a friend of Corky's, has been working on a documentary, "Photographic Justice: The Corky Lee Story" for years, and I'm looking forward to seeing how the photographer was captured by the filmmaker. It's sure

to be a chronicle of the Asian community, not just of the man because he was such an omnipresent figure in the community.

In a memorable trip, Corky came to Colorado to shoot portraits of two men who shared history but probably had never met. Erin and I knew John Yee, the longtime Denver educator who had served with the acclaimed "Flying Tigers" squadron of fighter planes based in Kunming, China, during World War II. And we knew George "Joe" Sakato, a Medal of Honor recipient who fought in the famous 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

Sakato was in the terrible battle in France toward the end of the war, when Japanese American soldiers rescued the Texas "Lost Battalion" that had been surrounded by the

retreating Nazis (in total, 211 Texans were rescued, and the 442nd RCT suffered a total of 1,000 casualties, 800 wounded and 200 killed). During the battle, Joe lost his best friend, and in a rage, he raced up the hill and took out a machine gun nest. Joe came back to Denver and lived a quiet life working for decades with the US Postal Service, and he was a familiar face at Memorial Day services for Nisei veterans.

Both men have since passed away — Joe's former post office was renamed after him. When Corky came to Denver, we took him to John Yee's home, and he took a lot of photos. Then, we took Corky to the Nisei Memorial at Fairmount Cemetery, where the annual Memorial Day ceremony is held for Denver's JA community.

» See CORKY LEE on page 8

Corky Lee captured a photo of Joe Sakato next to the Nisei War Memorial.



Corky Lee chronicled Asian Americans through his photography since the 1970s.





Actor Tamlyn Tomita, clad in PPE gear, makes a defiant and impassioned speech to keep Pacifica Cos. LLC from possibly evicting elderly residents of the Sakura ICF in Boyle Heights after Feb. 1.



Actor Tamlyn Tomita (left) and PSW District Gov. Nancy Takayama both spoke out in favor of extending the now-expired five-year moratorium that prevents changes to the culturally sensitive care received by residents of the four former Keiro facilities.

PHOTOS: PACIFIC CITIZEN

Carlos Montes of Centro Community Service Organization on Jan. 26 speaks against changes to the Sakura ICF that could see its elderly residents replaced.



## OPPOSITION TO PLANS FOR FORMER KEIRO SITES REMAIN AS FEB. 1 DEADLINE ARRIVES

A pair of petitions aim to stall, stop the scenario that was set in motion in 2016.

By P.C. Staff

With just days to go before the arrival of a Feb. 1 deadline set five years ago, an ad hoc group of community activists calling themselves SOS (Save Our Seniors) staged a cap-cophonous rally on Jan. 26 outside the Sakura Intermediate Care Facility in Los Angeles' Boyle Heights neighborhood, east of downtown Los Angeles.

At stake: the future of the facility's 64 residents — average age 92 — living at the ICF. According to actor Tamlyn Tomita, who was one of the many speakers that day, the situation is bigger than the fate of those residents.

"It is not just a Japanese American issue," Tomita said, referring to the rise of gentrification that has not spared Boyle Heights. "It is a neighborhood, community issue."

With the Feb. 1 deadline having arrived, what will happen next remains to be seen. That fluid status quo dates back to Feb. 1, 2016, when the nonprofit Keiro Senior Healthcare sold its properties that housed four facilities specializing in culturally sensitive eldercare facilities for ethnic Japanese to the for-profit Pacifica Cos. LLC for \$41 million.

The California Attorney General's office, then led by Kamala Harris before she became a U.S. senator and later, the current vice president of the United States, mandated that to approve the sale, Pacifica must continue to offer unchanged for five years the same level of bicultural-bilingual care the mostly elderly residents of Japanese ancestry depended on for their physical, mental and emotional well-being.

The rally sought to shine a light on the potentially dire outcome that could see the Sakura ICF residents

displaced as the five-year moratorium was set to end, with Pacifica having revealed in the fall of 2020 its plans to get permission from the City of Los Angeles to convert the ICF to multidwelling apartments.

SOS' goal was to get an extension on the five-year agreement for the welfare of the ICF's residents, and it had launched a petition drive to gain support for that plan. But that was just one of two "Keiro"-related petitions launched in the run-up to the Feb. 1, 2021, deadline.

SOS' petition — <https://tinyurl.com/y4utr4x6> — seeks to extend the conditions set in the February 2016 sale, which saw the aforementioned Keiro ICF, as it was then known, and the Keiro Retirement Home (now known as Sakura Gardens), both located at 325 S. Boyle Ave. in Los Angeles; the Keiro Nursing Home (now known as Kei-Ai Los Angeles Healthcare Center) at 2221 Lincoln Park Ave.; and the South Bay Keiro Nursing Home (now known as Kei-Ai South Bay Healthcare Center) at 15115 S. Vermont Ave. in Gardena, Calif., all sold to Pacifica.

The second petition — <https://tinyurl.com/yy7eud6t> — intends to gain support to keep Pacifica from closing down the Sakura Intermediate Care Facility and moving its 64 elderly residents elsewhere so that Pacifica use the site to build market-rate apartments.

Currently, the first petition has collected more than 2,400 online signatures, and the second petition, sponsored by Koreisha Senior Care & Advocacy, has tallied nearly 6,000 online signatures.

Among the several speakers at the demonstration introduced by Hana Kawano and David Monkawa were Francine Imai, Karie Horie Addision, Dr. Takeshi Matsumoto (speaking remotely), David Silvas of the Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council, JACL PSW Gov. Nancy Takayama, Carlos Montes of Centro Community Service Organization and the aforementioned Tomita.

Tomita asserted, "Pacifica has broken its promises agreed to and subsequently chipped away at our nation's only Japanese bilingual and bicultural character of food, activities, music, sound, stories, restricted rent increases, no leasing, rebuild-

ing, changing, selling or reduction of services — and especially at this time of the Covid pandemic."

Supportive statements from Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi and L.A. City Councilman Kevin De Leon were also read.

One of the most-pressing concerns of SOS now with regard to the Sakura ICF is the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic and how the disease it causes, Covid-19, is especially deadly to the elderly, according to Monkawa, who spoke to the *Pacific Citizen* prior to the rally.

According to Monkawa, who is also a member of the Community Advisory Board (CAB) of the Keiro Pacifica properties, moving those 64 elderly ICF residents from the facility — which has been kept "Covid free" during the lockdown — would be especially detrimental to their health. (This is in contrast to news reports of outbreaks of Covid-19 at Kei-Ai Los Angeles and Kei-Ai South Bay, which have resulted in several deaths.)

"We on the Community Advisory Board have sent a letter [to the California Attorney General's Office]

saying we believe the seniors deserve to have their conditions extended because the promises that were given to them to keep things status quo for five years were broken," Monkawa said. The California A.G.'s Office brokered the 13-point conditions of sale in 2016.

Among the alleged broken promises: a decrease in bilingual staff and services, as well as a decrease in programs, Monkawa said. Another change: He said that there has been an increase in Medicare beds and a decrease in Medi-Cal beds. Medicare beds "bring in revenue of \$600 per day per person" vs. the Medi-Cal beds, which "bring in \$200," Monkawa said.

Monkawa also said that in 2018 and 2019, "Pacifica failed in the compliance report with how well they're going to stick with the conditions of sale." He also cited how there was a failure to repair an elevator "for several months" and the cancellation of a "company store" without notifying the residents.

» See **OPPOSITION** on page 8



STACI TOJI, ESQ.

TOJI LAW, APC

Estate Planning for the Generations

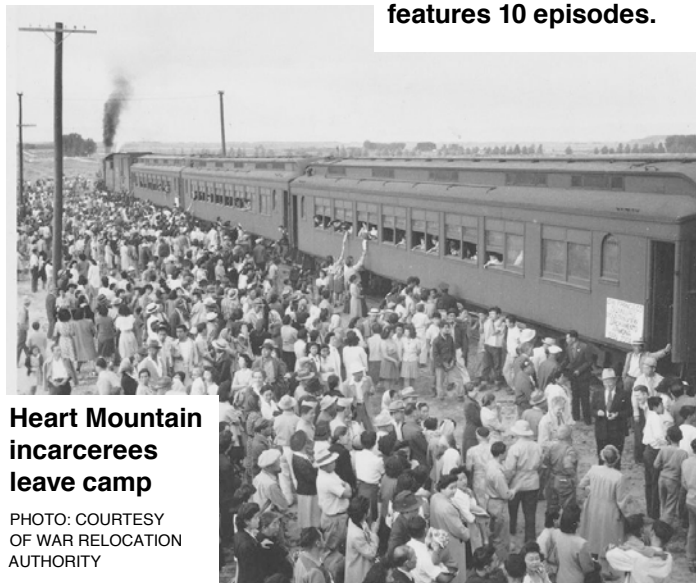
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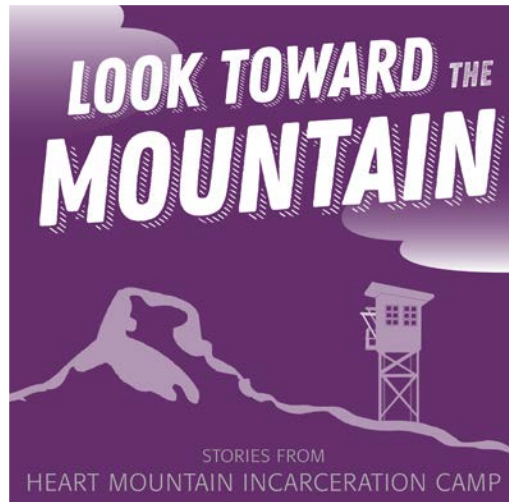


(Right) The new podcast features 10 episodes.



**Heart Mountain incarceratedees leave camp**

PHOTO: COURTESY OF WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY

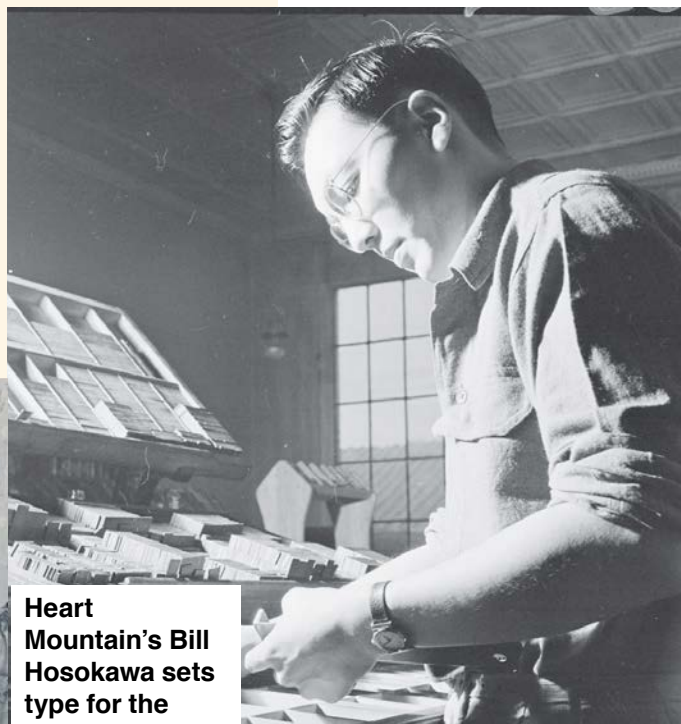


By Rob Buscher,  
Contributor

## 'LOOK TOWARD THE MOUNTAIN: Stories From Heart Mountain Incarceration Camp'

A new 10-episode podcast, set to launch Feb. 19, encapsulates an overarching theme of innovation, creativity and resilience.

When I first visited Heart Mountain during the annual pilgrimage in the summer of 2018, I would not have guessed that several years later, I would be given the opportunity to produce a podcast series about the camp. Then again, so much of the last year has become unpredictable with the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, which resulted in both a spike in anti-Asian violence and civil unrest in our country.



**Heart Mountain's Bill Hosokawa sets type for the *Sentinel***

PHOTO: WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY



**(Top) HM's Arthur Yamamoto in Army uniform**

PHOTO: COURTESY OF YOSHIO OKUMOTO

**(Right) HM's first marriage in camp, Kenichi and Shizuko Tanaka**

PHOTO: WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY



safety guidelines.

However, HMWF was able to join together with the more than 60 organizations that helped produce "Tadaima!" under the joint leadership of the National Park Service and Japanese American Memorial Pilgrimages. Thus, the funding that HMWF was planning to use for its pilgrimage workshops and other activities became reallocated for a variety of multimedia educational tools.

Despite the many challenges that Covid has wrought on our society, it has also opened up new avenues of opportunity. A year ago, it would have been unthinkable for me, a Philadelphia resident, to be working on a project based in Wyoming.

Yet, over the past six months, I have had the privilege of hosting and producing a podcast series telling the stories of Heart Mountain incarceratedees in a degree of detail that has never been done in the podcast format before.

Titled "Look Toward The Mountain," the name comes from a phrase used in Heart Mountain's camp newspaper, the *Sentinel*, in its inaugural edition on Oct. 24, 1942. The editorial team revealed how they came up with their name in the following excerpt:

*"Where did they turn for inspiration? They obeyed the age-old adage — 'Look toward the mountains,' Heart Mountain, of course, the natural source of spiritual and artistic inspiration."*

We chose this title because it references a unique story from Heart Mountain, as the *Sentinel* played an important role in daily camp life and is generally acknowledged as the highest-quality newspaper published in the 10 WRA camps. The editorial team's reasoning also encapsulates the overarching theme that I am hoping to capture through this podcast.

The forced removal and wartime incarceration were clearly unjust racially motivated violations of our civil liberties that traumatized generations of Japanese Americans. But the camps themselves, and particularly Heart Mountain it seems, were places where community existed and even thrived, demonstrating the best of Japanese American innovation, creativity and resilience.

This series is not meant to tell the comprehensive story of wartime incarceration from start to finish, but rather focuses on the individual experiences that add depth to the understanding of what daily camp life was like for the people who lived through it.

We do this by integrating audio samples from oral history record-

ings housed in the Densho collection, along with new interviews with Heart Mountain incarceration survivors. Inspired by the radio plays of the 1940s that would have been popular at the time of the incarceration, many written documents such as court testimonies, business and personal correspondence, newspaper editorials and diaries have been incorporated into the series with the help of HMWF Board Member Darrell Kunitomi.

Kunitomi is a Heart Mountain descendant and also a member of the Grateful Crane Ensemble, a musical theater performance troupe based out of Los Angeles' Little Tokyo, who has helped source voice actors to bring the many text-based additions to life.

Ray Locker has been my partner in crime when it comes to researching and writing the scripts for narrating each episode. He has a background in journalism as a political correspondent at *USA Today* and has been a member of the HMWF team for several years. Locker's journalistic approach helped to unearth a treasure trove of lesser-known stories from the camp years and others that deepen our understanding of well-known topics.

For my part, though I have spent much of my professional career studying and writing about topics related to the wartime incarceration, this was the first project I have worked on that necessitated such a detail of research into daily life in camp.

I have come away from it with a more nuanced understanding of the period and am equipped with even more reasons why this issue was such a travesty of justice. It has also given me great joy to make use of my skills as a musician to do some light soundtrack work on the series, including the theme song, which features both guitar and shamisen instrumentation — in what I hope evokes a blend of Japanese and Western tradition reflected in the lives of many incarceratedees.

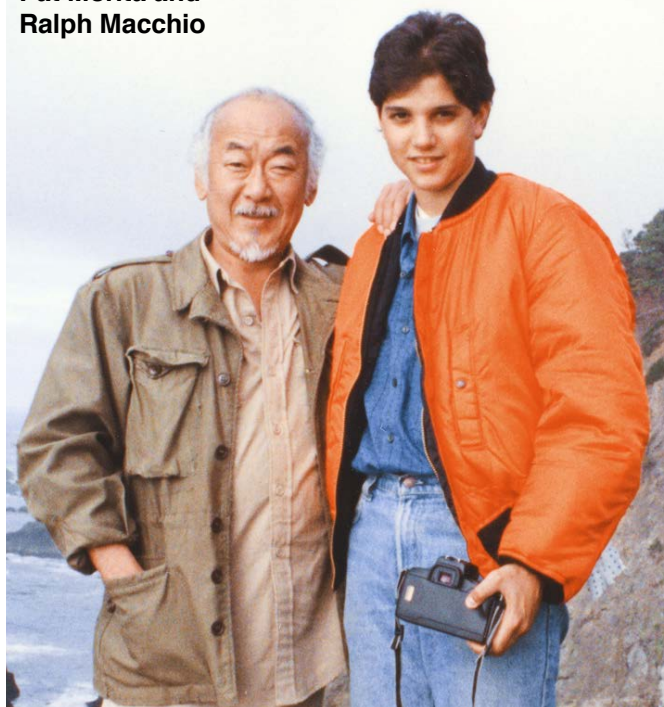
This project has not been without its challenges. For starters, living in a busy city like Philadelphia, finding ways to record high-quality audio without interruption from neighbors' construction projects and passing traffic proved difficult.

As someone who typically works in the written word, these were issues I had never dealt with previously. Not to mention the fact that my wife, Cathy, and I welcomed our first son, Mateo Masaki, into the world in mid-October. Finding time to record and edit each episode around his naps, feeding and changing schedule was also a challenge.

» See CAMP on page 9



Pat Morita and  
Ralph Macchio

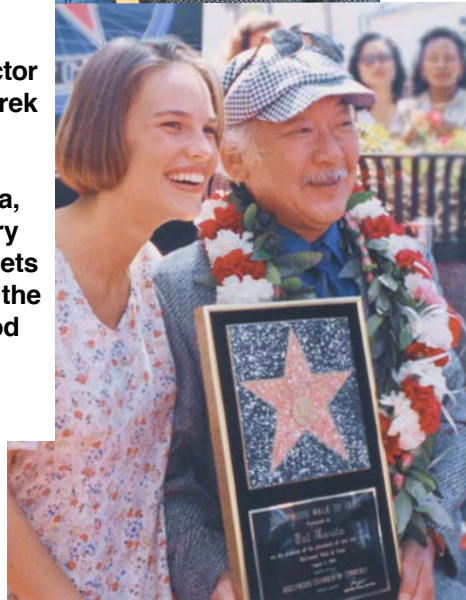


PHOTOS: COURTESY OF LOVE PROJECT FILMS



(Top right)  
Ralph  
Macchio  
and director  
Kevin Derek

(Right)  
Pat Morita,  
with Hilary  
Swank, gets  
a star on the  
Hollywood  
Walk of  
Fame.



## DOCUMENTARY TELLS PAT MORITA'S **TRIUMPHS, TRAGEDIES**

'More Than Miyagi' reveals the man behind the magical movie role.

By P.C. Staff

**'COBRA KAI!'** "COBRA KAI!" "COBRA KAI!" Since Jan. 1, there've been millions of eyeballs trained on "Cobra Kai" and the launch of its third season on Netflix.

But in case you don't subscribe to the streaming service, "Cobra Kai" is a TV series that revisits some of the characters introduced in the 1984 motion picture "The Karate Kid."

The conceit of this TV show, more than three decades after the original movie, is that it still takes place in Los Angeles' San Fernando Valley and with many of the same actors reprising their roles — but with a twist.

Unlike the original movie and two of its sequels, protagonist Daniel LaRusso — the New Jersey transplant who learns karate for self-defense — shares the lead with his original movie nemesis: uberbully Johnny Lawrence, whom LaRusso defeated in the climactic ending at the mythical All Valley Karate Tournament.

Hence the title, "Cobra Kai," the dojo where Lawrence trained under the demented tutelage of a sociopathic ex-Green Beret named Kreese.

And just how did LaRusso defeat Lawrence in the 1980s? A secret weapon named Mr. Miyagi, the Yoda-like karate sensei and building supervisor/handyman at the Reseda apartment where Daniel

and his mother landed after their cross-country journey.

Actors Ralph Macchio (LaRusso) and William Zabka (Lawrence) lead the cast of veterans and newcomers in "Cobra Kai," which actually launched in spring 2018 on premium streaming service YouTube Red (as it was then called) and lasted for two seasons. It was YouTube's most-watched original series and was generally well-received.

It was during the cruel, cruel Covid summer of 2020, however, when "Cobra Kai" really became popular, after it was picked up by Netflix — and when Season 3 dropped on Jan. 1, "Cobra Kai" became a bona fide cultural phenomenon.

Despite the show's success, there is one major, gaping hole that is conspicuous by its absence: that of the aforementioned Mr. Miyagi, a character who also appeared in a fourth movie that saw LaRusso gone, replaced by a new student, Julie Pierce, played pre-Oscars by Hilary Swank in 1994's "The Next Karate Kid."

The absence of Miyagi is understandable, however, because the actor who breathed life into this iconic pop culture figure died in 2005.

That actor was, of course, Noriyuki "Pat" Morita.

For those "Karate Kid" and "Cobra Kai" fans missing both Miyagi the character and Morita the man, there is now a new documentary on his life, available Feb. 5 via several video-

on-demand services (Apple TV+, iTunes, Google Play, Amazon Prime Video, etc.), thanks to its director, Kevin Derek, and his producer partner, Oscar Alvarez of Love Project Films.

Derek and Alvarez began work on "More Than Miyagi: The Pat Morita Story" back in 2016 (*P.C.*, Dec. 16, 2016-Jan. 26, 2017 or [tinyurl.com/1l6wxjdf](https://tinyurl.com/1l6wxjdf)) after producing their documentary "The Real Miyagi," about master *karateka* Fumio Demura, who also was Morita's stunt double in the original "Karate Kid" movies.

The pair was approached by Morita's widow, Evelyn Morita, after she saw their Demura documentary. She told them of a memoir written by her late husband, which all realized could serve as a foundation for a

documentary about Pat Morita's life.

Slowly but steadily, the documentary came to fruition. In an email exchange with the *P.C.*, Derek explained, "The reason it took this long was because I was working on two projects at the same time."

As for whether it was worth putting in four years of his life to relay a story that, when the project began, might not have seemed like an obvious choice, Derek wrote, "Yes!

I learned a great deal about this wonderful person and met many people along the way that I wouldn't have if it wasn't because of this project."

The success and timing of "Cobra Kai" was an unplanned for boon to "More Than Miyagi" — and Derek couldn't be happier.

"The interest in Pat Morita was always there, but I think the popularity of 'Cobra Kai' has made the younger generation more aware of who he is, and I think the timing is perfect because Season 3 is looking to honor Mr. Miyagi's legacy as Ralph Macchio's character makes a soul-searching pilgrimage to Miyagi's homeland in Okinawa," Derek wrote.

"It's perfect timing," Alvarez told the *Pacific Citizen*, adding that no one saw coming this fortuitous turn of events. That said, he asserted that "Cobra Kai" could not have succeeded without the original "Karate Kid" — and the four-movie original "Karate Kid" franchise would not have succeeded the way it did without Pat Morita.

Morita, who prior to the breakthrough role in "Karate Kid," was most-famous for this role as Arnold in the "Happy Days" TV sitcom during the 1970s, famously received a career highlight best supporting Oscar nomination for his depiction of Miyagi. (That Oscar went to Dr. Haing S. Ngor for his role in "The Killing Fields.")

What the documentary reveals, however, in addition

to that professional triumph are the many personal tragedies, tribulations and setbacks that Morita mostly overcame — but, unfortunately, not all, and not the least of which was alcoholism. "More Than Miyagi" doesn't pull any *seiken zuki* in that part of his life.

"Everyone knows that Pat had an alcohol problem," Derek wrote. "I'm sure people can relate to this because there is at least one person in every family that has some sort of addiction."

"Pat Morita's wife explains it by saying, 'I've always known alcoholism is a disease, and I never stopped loving him. You don't stop loving someone just because they have cancer.'"

Perhaps some of the roots for Morita's excesses can be traced to his childhood experiences.

As a boy, Noriyuki Morita contracted spinal tuberculosis and spent years of his young life — including time being confined in a full-body cast — in a sanatorium until an experimental surgery succeeded in giving him back some semblance of having a normal life.

Then, when he could be released at age 9, with the U.S. at war with the Axis powers, that normal life meant leaving the safe confines of a children's hospital to join his family at one of America's concentration camps with thousands of other Japanese Americans.

There were other familial traumas revealed in the documentary that also undoubtedly took a collective toll on the young Noriyuki Morita. Alvarez even wondered how he was able to not break and be driven to commit suicide — though one might wonder if Morita's substance abuse problems were, in actuality, a slow-motion form of that unfortunate action.

Using Morita's own voice, as well as archival footage of Morita's TV and movie appearances, "More Than Morita" tells of the comic actor's career and personal struggles, steadily propelled by his standup comedy career, a trajectory he took in his 30s after securing a career in the aerospace industry.



Evelyn and Pat Morita on  
their wedding day



Pat and  
Evelyn  
Morita



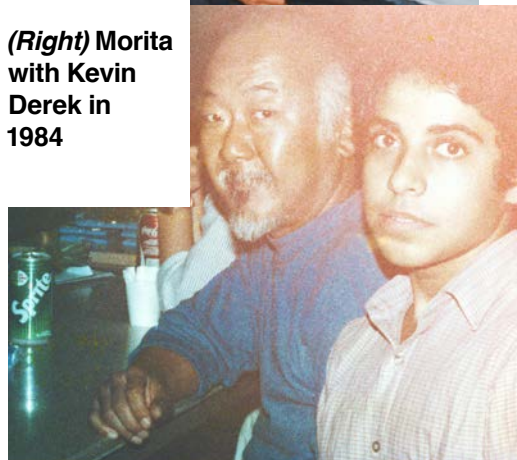


(Top) Morita doing his stand-up comedy act



(Top) Pat and Jerry Weintraub

(Right) Morita with Kevin Derek in 1984



It was a brave leap of faith for anyone to take and even more unusual for a Japanese American, if the number of successful Japanese American comedians is any indication.

Commenting on that career rise and personal fall are several people who either knew or worked with Morita or were impacted by his life, including Macchio and Zabka, as well as actors Martin Kove, Esai Morales and James Hong, fellow comedian Tommy Chong, “Karate Kid” scribe Robert Mark Kamen and more. Even Henry Winkler, who famously played an equally iconic character in “Happy Days” (Arthur “Fonzie” Fonzarelli) weighs in compassionately on Morita’s battles.

Noticeably absent from the documentary, though, are actor Tamlyn Tomita, whose movie career was launched in “The Karate Kid Part II,” as well as any of Pat’s daughters from his first marriages. (Evidently, this statement from one of his daughter’s, Aly Morita — “My sisters

and I are aware of a documentary being made right now about our father, but have declined to become involved” — reported in the Dec. 16, 2016-Jan. 26, 2017, *P.C.*, was unchanged.)

Unimaginable as it may seem now, the documentary also explains how Morita had to audition over and over again to convince producer Jerry Weintraub to award him the role. The superproducer couldn’t imagine the comedian, who billed himself as “the hip Nip,” had what it took to play the role.

Pat Morita, with an assist from director John Avildsen, proved Weintraub, who originally wanted the celebrated Japanese actor Mifune Toshiro for the part, wrong.

With “More Than Morita” debuting on several streaming services as a video-on-demand title, one almost inexplicable absence is that of Net-

flix, which ran Derek and Alvarez’s previous documentary, “The Real Miyagi.” With “Cobra Kai” among its offerings, it would seem like a natural fit and the service could have had it exclusively to itself.

That was not, perplexingly, the case. According to Alvarez, Netflix sent an email saying, in effect, that the documentary didn’t fit its criteria. “They never give you a full explanation,” he said.

That aside, both Derek and Alvarez are stoked for the potential success of “More Than Miyagi” — and Netflix is still helping out, indirectly.

The payoff is especially poignant for Derek, who himself studied karate with Fumio Demura.

“I had met Pat back in 1983, and back then, I’d only known him as Arnold on ‘Happy Days.’ Just the brief moment I had with him — you could feel what a kind, gentle soul he was,” said Derek.

Alvarez concurred.

“I want to share this with the world, and they’re going to see who Pat really was,” he said. “Yes, there’s a dark side to him, but he was a kind person, and he was very funny and compassionate. He had a tough life, and I hope the movie resonates with everyone.”

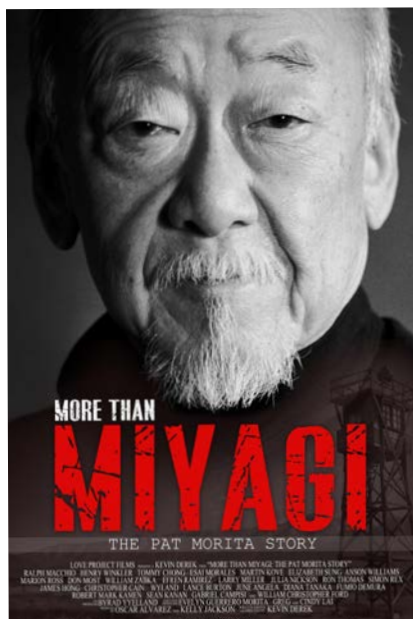
Now that the movie is done, Derek said he had one wish.

“I just wish Pat was still here with us, so I could’ve personally interviewed him and dove in deeper with the questions because there are a lot of aspects and reasons for the choices that he made that no one can answer other than him.”

(For anyone interested in buying “More Than Miyagi” on physical media rather than via streaming, it can be purchased on DVD or Blu-ray at [morethanmiyagi.com](http://morethanmiyagi.com).)



Morita at the 1985 Academy Awards



(Top) The poster for “More Than Miyagi”

CHAPTER GREETINGS

2021

May the  
New Year ring in  
Hope, Health  
and Happiness  
to all!



Happy Holidays  
Bobbi Hanada  
[bhanada@aol.com](mailto:bhanada@aol.com)

Happy New Year  
Robert & Jane Shintaku  
Paul, Jonathan, Vivian  
Jeff, Kimberly, Juliana, Jaden

FRESNO CHAPTER  
JACL



## OPPOSITION » continued from page 4

There are also problems with Pacifica at other former Keiro facilities, Monkawa said, citing a California Department of Health report showing spikes in patient care violations at the South Bay Kei-Ai and the Lincoln Heights Kei-Ai.

“Based on those things, we believe the seniors deserve an extension,” Monkawa said. As for the duration of an extension, he said, “We’re willing to negotiate.”

One possible wrinkle with having the California Attorney General’s Office take action on the matter: the current A.G., Xavier Becerra, has been nominated to serve as the Secretary of Health and Human Services under the recently inaugurated President Biden — which might mean the Pacifica matter could fall through the cracks.

Nevertheless, Councilman de Leon sent a letter to Attorney General Becerra on Jan. 14 urging that he “take another look at this proposed transition in light of this unprecedented pandemic and extend the current conditions to permit the current residents to continue receiving care . . .”

Also on the political front, Assemblyman Muratsuchi in December announced he would introduce legislation to block Pacifica’s plan to move forward with its conversion plans. Included in that bill would be a provision requiring the owner of facility like former Keiro properties to provide at least six months of advance notice to residents of a facility like the Sakura ICF.

Those political actions came about after Pacifica, in the fall of 2020, applied to the Los Angeles City Planning Commission to convert the ICF into apartments, which was the impetus for the first petition to prevent that from happening.

The Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council’s Planning and Land Use Committee later came out opposed unanimously to Pacifica’s proposal for the Sakura ICF.

The chair of the CAB, Dr. Kenneth Hayashida, told the *Pacific Citizen* prior to the rally that Pacifica has been uncooperative and that among the conditions of sale was a require-



**The SOS’ petition seeks to extend the conditions set in the February 2016 sale of what was then known as Keiro ICF and the Keiro Retirement Home (now known as Sakura Gardens), which was sold to Pacifica. Also included are Keiro Nursing Home (Kei-Ai Los Angeles Healthcare Center) and the South Bay Keiro Nursing Home (Kei-Ai South Bay Healthcare Center).**

ment that it submit annual reports for review.

“The companies are supposed to be sending reports to our board to have me, as the chairman, and the board certify that they are complete and accurate and reflective of what’s going on,” Hayashida said. “Well, the board for two years has not approved those reports because they were felt to be incomplete.”

Speaking at the rally, JACL PSW District Gov. Takayama relayed how she had been present at last fall’s Boyle Heights Neighborhood Council Planning and Land Use meeting, when a Pacifica representative presented its plans for the current Sakura Gardens site.

When the representative was asked where the current residents be placed, Takayama said, the answer was that some residents, if they are able, can be placed in other rooms on the campus, and others would be relocated outside Sakura Gardens.

A follow-up question asked was whether the residents would still get the same care necessary care and, if relocated outside Sakura Gardens, would they go to a home that was culturally sensitive and honored the five-year agreement. According to Takayama, the answers to both questions were unsatisfactory.

“It was very obvious that no thought was given to the care of these residents,” Takayama said. She

added that several JACL chapters, including SELANOCO, Greater Los Angeles, San Fernando, Twin Cities JACL in Minnesota and Mile-Hi in Denver, support an extension of the five-year agreement.

The National JACL provided the following statement regarding the situation, which was supposed to be included in the Tuesday rally but was overlooked.

“One of the fights JACL joined in years ago was to highlight importance of culturally and linguistically appropriate services to Asian and Asian American communities. For individuals with limited English proficiency, health outcomes are proven to be improved when services are received in the preferred language other than English, and diet and activities of daily living are done with sensitivity to the individual’s cultural background.

“Originally part of Keiro organization, Sakura Gardens was part of a comprehensive network of culturally proficient services for aging members of the Japanese American community in Southern California for over 50 years. With the sale of Keiro’s final remaining properties in 2016, Pacifica Companies took ownership and management of Sakura Gardens with the promise of at least five years of continued service to its residents. Unfortunately, that five years is coming to an end and Pacifica is asking

to convert the facility to mixed-use housing for families and a parking garage.

“Sakura Gardens is emblematic of a growing problem in the downtown and East L.A. area and across the nation as ethnic enclaves are being replaced by gentrification. The Covid pandemic has exacerbated the strain on neighborhoods like Little Tokyo and Boyle Heights, as we continue to lose the foundational community businesses and residents that made the communities what they are today. Sakura Gardens has been a key part of that fabric both to the Boyle Heights community and what continues to our nation’s largest Japanese American community South California for over 50 years.

“The threat of the Covid pandemic is felt even greater for the residents of Sakura Gardens as restrictions on programming and shifts in staffing and residents served have applied further stress upon the residents. Now the threat of removal from their homes due to the proposed changes is unconscionable during a pandemic whose impact has been most acutely felt in the senior community served by Sakura Gardens.

“We call upon Pacifica Companies to pause and take stock of the dangers of proceeding with the closure to its residents, to whom they remain obligated as caregivers. Pacifica must work with greater transparency with

the community that has supported Sakura Gardens for its 50 years of existence to ensure the community’s needs are served.

“Sakura Gardens was founded on the mission to honor our community elders. Pacifica should honor that original mission to serve its residents and ensure their safety throughout the ongoing pandemic. We hope that all interested parties recognize the importance of Sakura Gardens to the immediate Boyle Heights neighborhood and the local Japanese American community and find a way to continue to serve our seniors through the established Sakura Gardens model of care.”

Hayashida called Pacifica’s behavior “kind of shocking,” especially in light of how some of the Japanese Americans who would be impacted by being relocated from the Sakura ICF were alive when Japanese Americans were forcibly relocated during WWII.

“You’re talking about the very people who were let down by Earl Warren when he was the attorney general of California in 1941, 1942 and then when he was governor-elect and governor in 1942, when Earl Warren and the state of California turned their back on the civil rights of Japanese Americans in Southern California.” ■

## CORKY LEE » continued from page 3

The memorial has etched in it all the men who served in the U.S. military, WWII veterans on the front and all the men since then (including my father, who served in the Korean War) etched on the back. There, Joe Sakato posed next to the name of his friend and pointed to it: Saburo Tanamachi. I don’t know if any of their portraits ever made it into any of Corky’s last exhibits.

Corky may not have been famous to most people, but he was a superstar to those who met him, knew him, worked alongside him, were touched by his “photographic justice” and were inspired by him. He spoke to community organizations and college groups whenever he was invited, and he talked about the issues that sparked his photos, not just the artwork itself. He was truly selfless.

As I wrote in my Facebook post, “I’ll miss his eye, talent and saucy New York accent and quick smile and laughter. Take great pictures in the next world, Corky. RIP in this one.”

*Gil Asakawa is former chair of the Pacific Citizen Editorial Board and author of “Being Japanese American” (Second Edition, Stone Bridge Press, 2015). He blogs at [www.nikkeiview.com](http://www.nikkeiview.com).*



**Corky Lee (left) with Cambodian photojournalist Dith Pran.**



## CAMP » continued from page 5

This project also challenged me to confront certain blind spots that I had in my knowledge of the camps, which was largely remedied by working with a variety of subject matter experts who lent us their perspectives whenever needed. I don't want to give too much away, but I offer the following brief synopsis of some key topics discussed in the series.

Beginning with the first two episodes, we explore the origins of the Japanese American community — their immigration stories and first decades in the country prior to forced removal and mass incarceration at Heart Mountain, profiling the regions they came from and certain key individuals whose stories will be further expanded on throughout the series.

We also devoted an entire episode to the history of North-western Wyoming in the Bighorn Basin, where Heart Mountain was located, exploring the stories of the indigenous peoples who first inhabited the land and the white Americans who pushed them out during the Westward Expansion (including Wild West legend Buffalo Bill Cody) in order to better contextualize the setting of the stories to come.

Episodes 3-5 of the series detail how the incarcerated population established some sense of normalcy amidst the deeply traumatic experience by re-creating daily routines from their lives outside of camp — things like school, work, worship services, shopping and the like that give life its usual rhythm.

One of my favorite episodes is the fourth, titled "Prison Food," in which we do a deep dive into food culture at camp and the many creative solutions incarcerated found to produce dishes that resembled their prewar diet.

Two episodes in the middle of the season presented my greatest personal challenge, as it required me to be objective in my description of JACL's wartime collaboration with the War Relocation Authority.

Episode 6 explores the organized resistance to the draft by Heart Mountain's Fair Play Committee, while Episode 7 tells the story of volunteers and draftees who enlisted to serve in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team.

I can think of few better locations from which to tell this story, given that Heart Mountain was both the only camp with a formal committee of draft resisters who were jailed en masse and the only camp with its own USO center.

In these and other episodes, I was also confronted by my own bias related to a pivotal figure at Heart

Mountain — Bill Hosokawa, editor-in-chief of the *Sentinel* newspaper. Although I never met Bill, he was a friend of my family for many years. Reading through his editorials while conducting research on camp life, I came to realize that I would have likely disagreed with many of his viewpoints, which during his years at Heart Mountain at least were decidedly assimilationist and generally touted government propaganda lines.

In addition to the episodes exploring the divisiveness that the government sowed with its so-called Loyalty Questionnaire and subsequent military draft, Episode 8 titled, "Crime and Punishment," paints a somber picture of camp life as it investigates crimes that incarcerated inflicted on members of their own community.

The final two episodes of the season tell slightly more upbeat stories about how the community pursued creative interests in the arts and music, which both helped to pass the time and also helped many to process the traumatic events they were living through.

We also discuss the role that team sports, particularly football, had in unifying the Heart Mountain incarcerated around a common goal, encouraged by camp administrators who saw it as a means to further "Americanize" their inmates.

Even with 10 episodes that each run about an hour in length, we are still barely scratching the surface, with many stories left to tell.

***"Look Toward The Mountain: Stories From Heart Mountain Incarceration Camp" podcast series is presented by the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation and is funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities. The first two episodes of the series will be released on Feb. 19, with subsequent episodes released in the weeks to come. The series is free and available to the public through Spotify, Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts and other major podcasting platforms.***

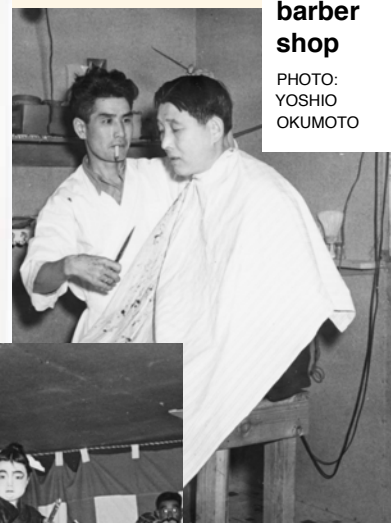
### Heart Mountain Obon dancers

PHOTO: COURTESY OF YOSHIO OKUMOTO



### The HM barber shop

PHOTO: YOSHIO OKUMOTO



### HM's Emi Matsumoto, Banto Mikaru Odori

PHOTO: YOSHIO OKUMOTO



### Heart Mountain Boy Scouts

PHOTO: COURTESY OF WAR RELOCATION AUTHORITY



### (Right) Heart Mountain Police Officer Yoshi Shumato and (left) men playing Shogi

PHOTOS: YOSHIO OKUMOTO



### "Kites" (right) and "Windstorm" (left) pencil sketches by Estelle Ishigo

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF HEART MOUNTAIN WYOMING FOUNDATION



### HM Christmas party

PHOTO: YOSHIO OKUMOTO



### Jishiro Miyauchi's "Heart Mountain"

PHOTO: COURTESY OF HMWF



A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

# CALENDAR

**DUE TO HEALTH AND SAFETY CONCERNS IN THE U.S. BECAUSE OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, PLEASE CHECK REGARDING THE STATUS OF EVENTS LISTED IN THIS ISSUE'S CALENDAR SECTION.**

## NATIONAL

**'Setsuko's Secret' Series: Post-War Community Advocacy and Political Leadership**

**Feb. 13, 1-2:30 p.m. PST  
Virtual Event**

**Price: Free**

Join Shirley Ann Higuchi, author of "Setsuko's Secret: Heart Mountain and the Legacy of the Japanese American Incarceration" in this discussion that will also include Assemblyman Warren Furutani, Congressman Mike Honda and Lawyer Dale Minami, moderated by ABC7-TV's David Ono. This conversation will explore growing up post-war, the activism of the Sansei generation, the redress movement, our current national crisis and where we go from here.

**Info: To register, visit [https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN\\_2zeAmDRJQ02R\\_2U9DL679A?fbclid=IwAR00khisV43rbR6XjVTZrC1NmMSI40YMuMLQg251P5W9\\_sjAhBmHQCfSt0&eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=eb1bdcaf-cb08-42c3-ba9b-d9b01c504a49](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN_2zeAmDRJQ02R_2U9DL679A?fbclid=IwAR00khisV43rbR6XjVTZrC1NmMSI40YMuMLQg251P5W9_sjAhBmHQCfSt0&eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=eb1bdcaf-cb08-42c3-ba9b-d9b01c504a49).**

**Day of Remembrance — FACEism: A Panel Discussion of History and Accountability**

**National JACL**

**Feb. 19; 6-7:15 p.m.**

**Virtual Event**

**Price: Free**

Join JACL National, Smithsonian American History Museum, HMWF, JANM, JACL DC and the National Japanese American Memorial Foundation in this event commemorating the annual recognition of Day of Remembrance. This year will feature David Ono and his documentary series FACEism, which examines how racism is rooted in often-ignored and painful histories. The event will be moderated by Modupe Labodea and feature panelists Ono, Ann Burroughs and JACL Fellows Cheyenne Cheng and Matthew Weisbly.

**Info: Visit <https://www.si.edu/Events?trumbaEmbed=view%3Devent%26eventid%3D150615382>.**

## NCWNP

**San Jose's 41st Annual DOR Program 'Confronting Race in America: Unifying Our Communities'**

**San Jose, CA**

**Feb. 14; 3-4 p.m.**

**Virtual Event**

**Price: Free but donations are welcome.** The Nihonmachi Outreach Committee presents this program that will address the erosion of civil liberties in wartime, what Japanese Americans had to endure during WWII and what African-Americans and other racial minorities face today. The event aims to bring together different communities in order to build trust, respect and understanding among all people. Guest speakers will include Rev. Jethroe Moore II, Tomio Hayase-Izu, Alice Hikido and Bekki Shibayama. The event will also include a candle-lighting ceremony honoring persons of Japanese descent incarcerated in American concentration camps.

**Info: Visit [www.sjncc.org](http://www.sjncc.org).**

**Stockton JACL DOR: 'Shadows From the Past: Sansei Artists and the American Concentration Camps'**

**Stockton, CA**

**Feb. 18; 1:30 p.m.**

**Price: Free**

This new exhibit focuses on the art of a select group of Sansei artists whose work illustrates how they view their challenging cultural, historical and political place in America. Artists include Reiko Fujii, Jerry Takigawa, Tom Nakashima, Lucien Kubo, Wendy Maruyama, Masako Takahashi and Na Omi Judy Shintani. These artists bring a dark corner of our country's collective past to light and show how the power of art can be transformative.

**Info: Visit <https://www.deltacollege.edu/student-life/delta-center-arts/lh-horton-jr-gallery/online-exhibitions-virtual-events/shadows-past> for more information about this event.**

**'What Does It Mean to Be an American?' DOR Webinar**

**Northern California**

**Feb. 20; 10-11 a.m.**

**Virtual Event**

**Price: Free**

Join educators and teachers across the country to explore "What Does It Mean to Be an American?" the free online curriculum for high school and college students designed to engage and power all students. Developed by the Mineta Legacy Project in partnership with Stanford Program on International and Cross-Cultural Education, this curriculum includes primary source images, videos and text.

**Info: Please email [info@tobeamericans.com](mailto:info@tobeamericans.com).**

**Financial Seminar: Investing in Stocks Contra Costa, CA**

**Feb. 24, 6-7:15 p.m., or Feb. 28, 3-4:15 p.m.**

**Virtual Event**

**Price: Free**

This hands-on seminar is presented by CCJACL Board Member Samia Husain, who is a vp at Wells Fargo in Analytics and Research. The discussion will allow attendees to learn more about how to value a stock, how to choose between stocks and how to diversify your portfolio, among

the highlights.

**Info: To RSVP, please email [yolsgaard@yahoo.com](mailto:yolsgaard@yahoo.com) and put CCJACL Financial Seminar in the email title.**

## PSW

**Los Angeles DOR 'Uniting With Other Communities to Keep Democracy Alive'**

**Los Angeles, CA**

**Feb. 13; 2 p.m.**

**Virtual Event**

**Price: Free**

This year's annual DOR program will feature speakers Mario Perez, Dr. Curtiss Takada Rooks and Mariko Fujimoto Rooks and will be presented on YouTube by the Manzanar Committee. This program is presented by the Go for Broke National Education Center, JACL PSW, Manzanar Committee, Nikkei for Civil Rights and Redress, Nikkei Progressives, Progressive Asian Network for Action, OCA-Greater LA and Visual Communications.

**Info: Email [info@jacpsw.org](mailto:info@jacpsw.org) for more information.**

**'A Remembrance of Names: A Buddhist Monument to the WWII Japanese American Incarceration' Program**

**Arizona, CA**

**Feb. 19; 3-4:30 p.m.**

**Arizona State University Asian American Studies Program, Center for Buddhist Studies**

**Virtual Event**

Join Rev. Duncan Ryuken Williams in this virtual talk that will explore how the incarceration experiences of Japanese American Buddhists offer a way to heal and repair America's racial and religious fractures that endure in different ways, even in the present. Williams will also outline a major new initiative to remember the names of those incarcerated in the form of a Buddhist monument that he is creating.

**Info: Visit [duncanryukenwilliams.com](http://duncanryukenwilliams.com) for more information.**

**Japanese Cooking for Beginners with Azusa Oda: Chirashi Zushi**

**Los Angeles, CA**

**Japanese American National Museum**

**Feb. 27; 11:30-1:30 p.m.**

**Virtual workshop**

**Price: \$20 Member; \$25 General**

This interactive workshop will feature cookbook author and designer Azusa Oda as she teaches participants how to cook chirashi zushi in celebration of Girl's Day in Japan. Oda's blog, humblebeanblog.com, shares contemporary variations on simple and delicious Japanese recipes.

**Info: Visit [janm.org](http://janm.org) for more information and how to sign up.**

**JANM Online Museum Collection**

**Los Angeles, CA**

**Japanese American National Museum Online**

JANM's Museum Collections Online features selected highlights from the museum's permanent collec-

tion of more than 60,000 unique artifacts, documents and photographs. Among the collections that can be viewed online are the "Stanley Hayami Diary," "Hisako Hibi Collection," "George Hoshida Collection" and "Hideo Date Collection," "Estelle Ishigo Collection," among others. Although the museum is temporarily closed, viewers can still experience its inside treasures.

**Info: [www.janm.org](http://www.janm.org).**

## PNW

**Day of Remembrance: 'Redress and Reparations: Yesterday and Today'**

**Portland, OR**

**Feb. 20; 2-3:30 p.m.**

**Virtual Event**

**Price: Free**

Join Portland JACL and the Vancouver NAACP for this program that will honor and reflect on the Japanese American Redress Movement and present perspectives from local leaders on the present-day struggle for reparations for Black Americans. A special presentation will be presented by Peggy Nagae, who will be joined by panelists Bridgette Fahnbulleh, Cameron Whitten and Malia Forney.

**Info: Registration is required to receive the Zoom link. Please RSVP by Feb. 18 at [tinyurl.com/PDFDOR2021](https://tinyurl.com/PDFDOR2021).**

**Wing Luke Museum Online Digital Content**

**Seattle, WA**

**Wing Luke Museum**

Although the museum's doors are temporarily closed, there is still a plethora of curated stories, digital content and neighborhood resources available to access and view. Viewers can check out Education, YouthCAN, Collections and Community Art all online!

**Info: [www.digitalwingluke.org](http://www.digitalwingluke.org).**

## IDC

**'Setsuko's Secret' a Conversation with Shirley Ann Higuchi and Rob Citino**

**Wyoming**

**Feb. 19; 11 a.m.-Noon**

**Virtual Event**

**Price: Free**

HMWF's Shirley Ann Higuchi will discuss her new book "Setsuko's Secret" as well as be joined in conversation by Rob Citino, PhD.

**Info: For more information, visit [https://zoom.us/join/register/WN\\_aCjc7pdaSWiZ7aiUfJXXxw](https://zoom.us/join/register/WN_aCjc7pdaSWiZ7aiUfJXXxw).**

## MDC

**Twin Cities Day of Remembrance Program 'Conscience and the Constitution'**

**Minnesota**

**Feb. 21, 4-6 p.m. CST**

**Virtual Event**

**Price: Free**

The Twin Cities JACL presents its annual program that will include a screening of "Conscience and the Constitution," an hourlong, award-winning PBS documentary that tells the story of the draft resistance movement at Heart Mountain during

World War II. A dialogue on the contemporary significance of the film will follow the screening featuring Frank Abe, the film's writer/producer/director, and Jaylani Hussein, executive director of the Minnesota chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR).

**Info: To register for the program, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/DOR21>.**

**'Righting Historical Wrongs: Connecting Black Reparations and Japanese American Redress'**

**Chicago, IL**

**Feb. 21, 2 p.m. CST**

**Virtual Event**

**Price: Free**

This year's program will feature author John Tateishi and Alderman Robin Rue Simmons. Tateishi was JACL's redress director and helped develop the organization's redress strategy. Simmons represents Evanston's Fifth Ward and helped pass the nation's first reparations bill, which uses cannabis taxes to address historic and ongoing anti-Black racial discrimination. Josina Morita, commissioner of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District, will lead a follow-up discussion.

**Info: For more information, visit <https://chicagodor.wordpress.com>.**

## EDC

**Webinar Interview with Kathy Matsui: 'Japanese Americans & Japan — Legacies'**

**East Coast**

**Feb. 16; 7 p.m. EST**

**Virtual Presentation**

**Price: Free**

This video series highlights the careers and life journeys of prominent Japanese American leaders who are pioneers in developing U.S.-Japan relationships. This interview will feature Kathy Matsui, chair of the U.S.-Japan Council Board of Councilors.

**Info: Visit <https://www.usajapancouncil.org/events/japanese-americans-japan-legacies-interview-with-kathy-matsui-virtual-event/>.**

**Japan Society of Boston Free Online Resources**

**Boston, MA**

**Virtual classes and information**

**Price: Free**

The Japan Society of Boston is offering free online resources featuring Japanese language learning tools, Japanese cooking, origami, arts and lectures and much more, all in a virtual online capacity.

**Info: Visit <https://japansocietyboston.wildapricot.org>.**

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# In MEMORIAM

**Arakaki, Haruko, 96**, South San Gabriel, CA, July 22, 2020; he is survived by his daughters, Georganne Lynch and Kathleen Hendrickson; siblings, Hideo (Kazy) Oshiro and Yo Sakai; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; gc: 1; ggc: 1.

**Hashimoto, Bernard Toshio, 85**, Gardena, CA, May 14, 2020; he is survived by his children, Karen, David (Susan) and Kevin; siblings, James and Betty (Victor); gc: 3.

**Ike, Nobuko 98**, San Gabriel, CA, June 17, 2020; she is survived by her children, Toshiyuki Ike and Nancy (Ted) Lieu; gc: 2.

**Kamada, Kenji, 104**, Berkeley, CA Nov. 17, 2020; he was predeceased by his wife, Toshiko; he is survived by his sons Yuji, Shingo and Alan; sister, Jean Nakazono; and by nieces, nephews, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**Mark, Debbie Joy, 67**, Gardena, CA, May 26, 2020; she is survived by her sons, Jason Ma, Kevin Mark; mother, Nori Naka; brother, Les Naka; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

**Nakano, Frank Hiroshi, 84**, Culver City, May 28, 2020; he was predeceased by his siblings, Florence, Ruby and George; he is survived by his children, Genji (Laura) and Bastiaan (Kenza); gc: 3.

**Ogawa, Ellsie, 98**, Monterey Park, CA, Aug. 9, 2020; she was predeceased by her husband, Minoru Ogawa; she is survived by her children, Lillian S. Kimura, Taka (John Schooler) Nakamura and Donald S. (Eileen) Ogawa; gc: 4; ggc: 1.

**Tanaka, Kumiko, 80**, San Francisco, CA, May 24, 2020.

**Uyeki, Kaoruko, 94**, Monterey Park, CA, June 22, 2020; she is survived by her daughters, Grace Uyeki and Caroline (Stephen) Nakajima; gc: 3; ggc: 2.

## TRIBUTE

### KIYOTO ARAKAWA



**Dec. 4, 1932-Dec. 11, 2020**

Dr. Kiyoto Arakawa passed away peacefully in his sleep at home while battling cancer and COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease).

Although Kiyoto (Kiyo) spent most of his adult life on the mid-peninsula, he was born in Fresno, Calif., during the Great Depression to immigrant parents from Japan. Kiyo grew up on his family's grape ranch that was built on land homesteaded by his father.

He spent most of his childhood in the shadow of the Sierras, where he developed a deep love of nature. Fresno was home except for four years spent in internment camps during WWII. After returning from being interned and upon graduating from Washington Union High School in Fresno, he entered UC Berkeley, where he met Jeanette Omi, who was to become his wife of 64 years. They were married the year Kiyo graduated from UCSF Dental School. Kiyo then fulfilled his military obligation as a dentist at March Air Force Base in Riverside, Calif. Upon completion, Kiyo and Jeanette chose to settle in Palo Alto, Calif., because it was "halfway" between Fresno and San Francisco (Jeanette's hometown). It was their good fortune that Dr. George Hiura, a well-established Palo Alto dentist, was looking for an associate to share his practice and asked Kiyo to join. He accepted and established a family practice where he felt privileged to treat multiple generations for 45 years. He often expressed gratitude that his life was enriched by having had the opportunity to treat some of the nicest people one could ever hope to meet. When he wasn't "drilling and filling," he spent a fair amount of time pursuing fish and golf balls, and following the Giants, Niners and Warriors. But Kiyo always made time for his two sons, Douglas and Aaron, and their various activities: baseball, rocket-building and launching, and their many musical interests. He also made time for the Palo Alto Buddhist Temple (PABT) where he was Board president a record five times. Kiyo's love of nature inspired family camping in the Sierras and touring national parks. Upon retirement, his farming roots became more prominent as evidenced by his devotion to maintaining his bonsai and succulent collections. He also put his handyman skills to use at PABT and with friends' home projects.

Kiyo, who was the youngest of nine, was predeceased by his parents and all his siblings. He is survived by his wife Jeanette, sons Douglas and Aaron, granddaughter, Skylar, and many nieces and nephews. On Dec. 23, 2020, guided by extant Covid-19 regulations, the family with a few relatives met privately to remember Kiyo and witness his inurnment into his outdoor niche at Alta Mesa Memorial Park in Palo Alto.

His family is deeply grateful for the many messages and gestures of comfort and support it received. The following is one such message that was shared at the gathering:

*"Even if we know that all and everything changes,  
When our important person passes, we are saddened,  
Remembering and contemplating on a special relationship  
That was built with that person.  
In our world of impermanence, we are, once again,  
Being guided to seek permanent unhindered, and true life.  
No doubt, Dr. Arakawa has now returned to a realm  
Of pure and permanent peace, and continues, as before his  
passing,  
Works to better the world in his kind and masterful ways."*

In lieu of flowers, the family would appreciate contributions to Palo Alto Buddhist Temple (pabt.org), Fresno Buddhist Temple Betsuin (fresnobuddhisttemple.org), Buddhist Church of San Francisco (buddhistchurchofsanfrancisco.org), American Cancer Society (cancer.org), American Lung Association (lung.org), or any other charity of your choice.

## TRIBUTE

### JAMES KUBOTA

**March 28, 1930-Jan. 15, 2021**



James Kubota, a graduate of Detroit Pershing High School and the University of Michigan, died Friday, Jan. 15, 2021, in Phoenix, Ariz., at 90.

Kubota was born in Sumner, Wash., in 1930 to Nui and Sadao Kubota. In 1942 the family was evacuated to the war relocation camp in Minidoka, Idaho.

In 1945 Kubota's family relocated to Detroit's east side, where he attended Pershing High School, graduating in

1948. Kubota was awarded a Regent's Alumni Scholarship to the University of Michigan. He received the non-academic scholarship because his civil and constitutional rights were violated by the U.S. government by sending him to an internment camp during the war. He went on to earn a bachelor of science degree in electrical engineering.

Following graduation he was drafted and placed in the U.S. Signal Corps, serving stateside for two years. From there he began a career in microwave electronics.

While visiting friends in Chicago in 1951, he met Tomoye (Toby) Ozone, who he married in 1954. Their children are Bill (Sharon MacDonell), Susan and Bob (Ilene Takiguchi) and two grandchildren, Patti and Suzi.

While working in Michigan, he joined a Detroit start-up company, Omni Spectra Inc. which relocated to New Hampshire in 1975. Kubota rose to the position of vice president of Engineering at MA/COM Omni. He was recruited in 1983 by a company in Glendale, Ariz., and after a brief period he accepted a position with Southwest Microwave Inc. in Tempe, Ariz., as vice president & general manager of its Microwave Products Division. He retired from Southwest Microwave Inc in 2008.

After coming to Phoenix he became interested in honoring Nisei soldiers who were killed in action during WWII. He learned several camps had erected historical markers but the nearby Gila River camp did not have one, so he was appointed to create them. Two were built. He constructed the first one in 1995 at the camp site for the Gila River 50-year camp reunion. The second one was built in 2006 for the National JACL Convention held in Phoenix, Ariz. A contest was promoted, seeking a design and then he organized and constructed the monument. It stands at the now-closed Gila River Community Arts & Crafts Center. It remains at that site.

Kubota spoke of the pleasure he gained from the many camp tours he led, some with Mas Inoshita also of Phoenix, who was held in Gila River and served in the Military Intelligence Service during World War II. Kubota enjoyed meeting many former internees and families, hearing their memories about their lives during those years of incarceration.

## TRIBUTE

### KEVIN E. NAGATA

Kevin Nagata, 61, of Fresno, CA, died on Jan. 3. For more than half his life, he served as a trustee to the JACL's Health Insurance program, which later became the JACL Health Benefit Trust, serving as the vice-chairman of the Trust at the time of his passing. In 2015, the Trust established the JA Community Foundation, of which he was a founding director and served as chairman of the Grants Committee. He is survived by daughter, Brayden; mother, Jane S., brother, Brian; and sister, Colleen Alvarez (Jay). Memorial services and a Gathering of Gratitude will be held after the conclusion of the current Covid pandemic.

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## PLACE A TRIBUTE

'In Memoriam' is a free listing that appears on a limited, space-available basis. Tributes honor your loved ones with text and photos and appear in a timely manner at the rate of \$20/ column inch.

## CONTACT:

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## REIMAGINE EVERYTHING

# THE U.K. VARIANT

By Ron Mori

New research has shown that the fast-spreading United Kingdom coronavirus variant has more symptoms than those infected with the original strain of the virus. According to experts, people who test positive for the variant are more likely to report a persistent cough, tiredness, muscle aches, sore throat and fever compared to those who have the original strain.

Patients infected with the U.K. variant were significantly less likely to report a loss of the sense of taste or smell, which are symptoms that we have been reading and hearing about in the news.

The U.K. variant, known as B.1.1.7, was first detected in September and has since spread rapidly around the world. It is circulating in at least 28 U.S. states and

growing as of press time.

It has been reported that the new variant is 40 percent-70 percent more transmissible than the original coronavirus strain. It could become the dominant strain in the U.S. by March, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Preliminary studies suggest the current Covid-19 vaccines will be effective against the B.1.1.7 strain.

### U.K. Variant Symptoms

Cough was the most common symptom in those infected with the new variant, reported by 35 percent. The other common symptoms were fatigue/weakness (32 percent), headache (32 percent), muscle aches (25 percent), sore throat (22 percent) and

fever (22 percent). Only about 15 percent with the new variant reported a loss of taste or smell, compared to 19 percent of those infected with the original coronavirus.

Top symptoms reported by patients in the United Kingdom:

SYMPTOM	VARIANT	ORIGINAL STRAIN
Cough	35%	28%
Fatigue/Weakness	32%	29%
Headache*	32%	30%
Muscle Aches	25%	21%
Sore Throat	22%	19%
Fever	22%	20%
Loss of Taste	16%	19%
Loss of Smell	15%	19%

Source: U.K.'s Office for National Statistics (ONS)



PHOTO: AARP

\*Difference between variant and original strain is within the statistical margin of error.

The CDC is also tracking new coronavirus strains discovered in South Africa and Brazil. These variants are being tracked by scientists, since they seem to spread quickly and have the potential to become much more dominant.

In addition to getting the vaccine, the best way to protect yourself against the new variants is

to continue to follow the same precautions that protect against the original coronavirus strain: Wear two masks, wash your hands, practice social distancing, avoid crowds and stay home if at all possible.

For the latest coronavirus news and advice, visit [aarp.org/coronavirus](http://aarp.org/coronavirus).

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



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