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COMMUNITY'S CHILD

**Comic Artist Yumi
Sakugawa on Racism,
Identity and Art.**

Yumi Sakugawa volunteered and performed for the Tuesday Night Café, a free arts and performance series in Los Angeles' Little Tokyo.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF YUMI SAKUGAWA

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**Ebay Withdraws
Manzanar Drawings
Listing.**

» **PAGE 4**

**L.A. Rally Remembers
Covid-19 Victims.**

Ebay Withdraws Listing for Manzanar Drawings

The artwork is removed on the sixth anniversary of the Rago auction, thanks to a coalition of community members and the artist's family.

By JACS Consortium

In a victory for Japanese Americans fighting the sale and commodification of World War II Japanese American concentration camp art and artifacts, eBay on April 7 withdrew the sale of 20 Manzanar drawings hours before they were to be sold.

The provenance was unclear, a family member came forth to claim them and the sale was opposed by a national coalition of 59 organizations and 29 individuals who voiced their concern in a letter sent to eBay the day before the auction's end. The request was amplified in a change.org petition.

The drawings were made in 1942 by an artist known only as Matsumura, according to the listing. Lori Matsumura, the granddaughter of Giichi Matsumura, who tragically lost his life in 1945 when he stopped to sketch on a mountain hike and got caught in a snowstorm, said that both her grandfather and father were artists.

She learned of the listing the day before the auction's end, when contacted by National Park Service archaeologist Jeff Burton.

Lori Matsumura determined that the works were made and signed

by her father, after comparing his signatures on high school reports with those on the drawings online. But without seeing the drawings in person, she could not confirm this, and the auction clock continued to tick down. The sale was to conclude on April 6 at 6:46 p.m. PST.

Just hours before the auction was to end, a coalition of community members, including Mia Russell, David Inoue, Shirley Higuchi, Nancy Ukai, Bif Brigman, Bruce Embrey, Barbara Takei and Lori Matsumura (representing, respectively, the Japanese American Confinement Sites Consortium, JACL, Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation, 50 Objects, Minidoka Pilgrimage Planning Committee, Manzanar Committee, Tule Lake Committee and the Matsumura family), met with representatives from eBay's Regulatory Policy Group.

The meeting was arranged through

an introduction to eBay officials by the Anti-Defamation League in Washington, D.C., which had been in prior discussion with eBay about the sale of Holocaust items.

» See EBAY on page 4



A community victory for Japanese Americans, as eBay removes the sale listing of 20 Manzanar drawings just hours before they were to be sold.

Japanese American Olympian Racially Harassed; JACL Creates Anti-Hate Page



U.S. Olympic athlete Sakura Kokumai was racially harassed while training in Orange County, Calif.

As AAPIs across the nation continue to be victims of racially motivated hate crimes, National JACL has created an Anti-Hate page on its website (www.jacl.org) that contains vital resource information.

The civil rights organization on its website stated, "JACL works to eradicate the use of negative stereotypes and misperceptions about Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. To accomplish this, the JACL monitors and combats hate crimes and hate incidents including defamation and racial/ethnic profiling."

On April 1, Japanese American

Olympian Sakura Kokumai was racially harassed by an unidentified man while training at Grijalva park in Orange County, Calif.; Kokumai will be representing the U.S. in karate at the upcoming Summer Games in Tokyo.

The man began yelling at Kokumai as she recorded the exchange on her cell phone, frightened at the alarming tirade but remaining calm so as not to provoke him further. Throughout the heated exchange, bystanders did not offer help to the athlete. Only toward the end did a woman offer assistance — something Kokumai is still trying to process.

"This could of happened to anyone, if it wasn't me, someone could of gotten hurt," Kokumai wrote on Instagram. "We need to take care of each other. Why is it so hard to treat people with respect. . . I was angry, frustrated, confused, scared, but I was also heartbroken to see and experience how people could be so cold. . . Please take care of each other. Please look out for one another."

Kokumai, who was featured in the July 26-Aug. 15, 2019, issue of the *P.C.*, is widely regarded as America's best hope to win a medal in karate, which is making its Olympics debut in July; at press time, she did not report the incident with police.

— P.C. Staff



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— Gil Asakawa



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FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

How Many Yachts Can You Water-Ski Behind? How Many Guns Can You Hold at One Time?

By David Inoue,
JACL Executive Director

March 16 for Asian Americans: We know that as the day a single man went out in Atlanta and bought a handgun with just a cursory background check and no waiting period. He proceeded to use that gun to immediately shoot nine people, eight fatally, with the primary reason for targeting being a deep-seated hatred toward Asian women.

The same day in Phoenix, Ariz., five people were shot, four fatally. The next day, in Stockton, Calif., five people were shot in a drive-by shooting. And the next day in two separate shootings in Gresham, Ore., and New Orleans, La., eight people

were shot. A week after the Atlanta shootings, in Boulder, Colo., 11 people were shot, 10 fatally. Through the end of March, there have been a total of 126 separate mass-shooting events of four or more victims, with a total of 148 deaths and 485 injured.

I would venture that most of us have only heard of a handful of these events. On March 14, 15 people were shot in Chicago, but only two fatalities. Not enough deaths to pass the ever higher and higher sensationalism threshold for national news coverage.

The 2018 Small Arms Survey conducted by the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva, Switzerland, estimated 393 million civilian-owned guns in the U.S., or 1.2 guns for every

American man, woman and child.

The U.S. holds 46 percent of the total number of guns owned by civilians. Perhaps even more disturbing is that American civilians own more guns than the world's military and police forces combined, which hold only 146 million guns total. Our own U.S. military and police forces are estimated to possess just over 5.5 million small arms combined.

I think back to the 1980s movie "Wall Street" and the famous line, "How many yachts can you water-ski behind? How much is enough?" The question here perhaps to pose to Charlton Heston and the NRA, "How many guns can we pry from your hands?"

Here, the answer is actually no more than two. And yet, the NRA and the gun manufacturers tell us the answer to increasing gun violence is more guns. If everyone has a gun, we will all be safe.

Again, referencing back to the '80s, that strategy is chillingly reminiscent of the Cold War tactic of Mutually Assured Destruction. The result of that strategy was a ballooning deficit in the U.S. with escalating deficit spending and the ultimate bankrupting of the Soviet Union.

Yes, we won the Cold War but only because the Soviets couldn't spend as much as we did. The only winners were the defense contractors

that raked in the money to build our nuclear arsenal and the bombers and submarines to deliver them.

And now, we see the same effect on gun sales. Individuals are now engaging in an arms race to make sure they have a better gun than the person that is going to come after them and their family. The National Shooting Sports Foundation touts guns as a means for self-defense. I fail to see how promoting guns for self-defense fits in with a mission of promoting guns for sport.

Now, with the year that the Asian community has experienced and the threat of harassment and escalation to violence, most tragically in the mass shooting in Atlanta, many are buying into the marketing of gun manufacturers to arm themselves.

We must resist this false narrative that guns protect. The reality is that a gun in the home is more likely to end with tragic consequences. The Department of Justice estimates that 60 percent of all gun deaths are suicides. While it is the mass shootings, and the mass-fatality ones, more specifically, that draw the attention, guns are much more dangerous in the house where they are kept.

Although thankfully rare, even more tragic are the narratives of children finding a gun and shooting a sibling or themselves. Pro-gun

advocates will decry these incidents as rare and sensational, but the equal response is that the narrative of a gun actually being successfully used in self-defense is equally rare.

One might say the horse has already left the barn in that there are already so many guns out there. But that assumes there is just that one horse. In the case of gun sales, there are many more sales waiting to happen, and we can do something about that.

In the case of the Atlanta shooting, the gun was purchased the day of the shooting under what are some of the most lax gun sale regulations in the country. Something as simple as a mandatory waiting period could very well mean there would be eight more people still alive today.

Expanding background checks and requiring responsible retail practices from gun sellers. Requiring gun owners to take responsibility for their firearms to secure them properly. These are just a few fundamental, common-sense laws that should be easy to pass. Gun rights advocates always talk about how they are law-abiding citizens. If that's the case, they should have no fear of taking responsibility for their rights.

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



REIMAGINE EVERYTHING

Special Enrollment Period and Increased ACA Subsidies Could Help Close Gaps in Health Insurance Coverage for AAPI Adults

By Ron Mori

If you or someone you know is without health insurance, please let them know that assistance is here, due to new policy changes to the Affordable Care Act.

A new analysis from AARP's Public Policy Institute finds that nearly half of older adults purchasing health insurance through the nongroup health insurance market faced unaffordable health coverage in 2019, compared to 30 percent of younger adults.

As a result, a growing share of older adults remained uninsured: 9 percent of all people between 50-64 years of age, more than half of all

older adults who don't have access to job-based or public health coverage.

Prior to the Affordable Care Act, about one in five Asian older adults was uninsured. That declined after the ACA was passed but has increased again in recent years; 7.9 percent of Asian older adults did not have health insurance in 2019. Among older Hawaiian or Pacific Islanders, the increase in the uninsured rate has nearly eliminated the ACA's coverage gains.

Lack of affordable coverage is one reason why many adults ages 50-64 remain uninsured. AARP's analysis found that in 2019, a 64-year-old earning slightly above the threshold to be eligible for premium subsidies

under the ACA faced an average premium that was nearly 30 percent of that person's income.

Here's why it is so important: Two recent policy changes could help older adults purchase affordable coverage. A provision of the American Rescue Plan Act caps the amount an individual pays for health insurance in the marketplace at 8.5 percent of income for two years.

This provision went into effect April 1, overlapping with a special enrollment period that allows people to purchase health insurance through the nongroup market until Aug. 15. Yes, this is not a typo: The deadline to apply is now extended to Aug. 15.

"While the Affordable Care Act has greatly reduced the number of older adults who are uninsured, coverage has remained unaffordable for far too many people aged 50-64, including



Two recent policy changes could help older adults purchase affordable health coverage.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF AARP

many Asian American and Pacific Islanders," said Daphne Kwok, vp of multicultural audiences at AARP. "We want to make sure that the millions of currently uninsured older adults know that new subsidies are available to them beginning April 1. Health insurance that was unaffordable in the past may now fit in their household budget."

AARP is conducting an informational campaign that began April 1 to let older adults know about the

special enrollment period and new subsidies that could greatly reduce the cost of health insurance for millions of Americans. They can visit www.AARP.org/ACA for more information about how to get health insurance during this period.

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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PHOTOS: PACIFIC CITIZEN

RALLY REMEMBERS 118 COVID-19 VICTIMS

Save Our Seniors points finger at Pacifica-owned Kei-Ai South Bay site.

By P.C. Staff

More than 200 concerned people gathered peacefully in the late afternoon on March 20 between the Friendship Knot and the Space Shuttle Challenger model on Astronaut Ellison S. Onizuka Street.

They were there to follow a flowery wreath carried circuitously through Los Angeles' Little Tokyo to a rally site at Frances Hashimoto Plaza near the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center to be greeted by the thunderous drumming provided by East Los Angeles Taiko.

Atop the wreath was the number 118, which organizers Save Our Seniors assert was the number of residents who up to that point had died of Covid-19 during the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic while residing at Kei-Ai eldercare facilities purchased by the for-profit Pacifica Cos. LLC in early 2016 from the nonprofit Keiro for \$41 million.

The rally took place in the shadow of a mass killing in Atlanta, Ga., on March 16 that left eight people dead, with six of the victims women of Asian ancestry, leading many of the speakers to connect that massacre to the 118 deaths to a more subtle-but-

no-less-deadly form of anti-Asian violence, which has spiked alarmingly in the last 12 months.

David Monkawa, who served as the event's master of ceremonies, explicitly made the connection.

"Pacifica — I don't know what they're thinking, but they made a mistake. They're picking on people that pursued justice for over 50 years. Over two generations, to people that never give up. Why the hell would you want to pick a fight with them? With us?" he asked, making reference to the mass incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II, and eliciting cheers from the crowd.

"We . . . do not understand why Pacifica volunteered to open the doors for Kei-Ai L.A. to be a designated Covid facility," said Francine Imai of the recently formed Sakura ICF Family Council and one of the rally's many speakers. "The elderly and Covid do not mix. Many of the residents were 80-100 years of age, which ended in the result of 118 total unnecessary deaths. The greed-to-receive monetary compensation for Covid patients is unforgivable.

"It is also very upsetting and unbelievable that the families were not informed that the facility would be a Covid-designated facility"

Imai was referring to a program in which 27 Los Angeles County nursing homes were allowed to receive Covid-positive patients from other facilities, including hospitals. The program began in March 2020 and ended a year later.

Pacifica purchased four facilities in early 2016 from Keiro, which was formed decades earlier to care for elderly Japanese American and Japanese residents. Under terms of the sale, Pacifica would leave intact for five years the culturally-sensitive linguistic, gastronomic and other amenities.

The five-year period ended on Feb. 1, and Pacifica, which has indicated it wants to demolish the Sakura ICF and build market-rate apartments, has already begun plans

David Monkawa addresses the crowd gathered near the JACCC plaza in Little Tokyo.



Mitch Matsumura, holding a wreath with the number 118, prepares to lead a procession through Little Tokyo to the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center.

to transfer residents of one of the facilities, the Sakura Intermediate Care Facility in L.A.'s Boyle Heights neighborhood, which has thus far been able to keep the deadly virus at bay.

One of the biggest concerns of SOS is that the approximately 64 residents of the Sakura ICF would, if and when transferred, be exposed to SARS-CoV-2, which has exacted an enormous toll nationwide on elderly people of all backgrounds.

Speaking on behalf of SOS was co-chair Traci Toshiyuki Imamura, whose 106-year-old grandmother died of Covid-19 while at the Kei-Ai Los Angeles Healthcare on Lincoln Park Avenue.

"We still have questions about the quality at the Kei-Ai L.A. nursing home. We want to know why did the owner-operator apply for L.A. County-designated status, which means they do take in Covid-positive patients as overflow patients from the hospitals? And why did L.A. County grant them this designation when Kei-Ai L.A. had substantiated violations in the past two years?" asked Imamura, who then cited

such red flags as multiple improper infection-control violations, inadequate supplies of personal protective equipment and more.

"One question that haunts me: Why are there so many Covid deaths?" Imamura asked. "If the Covid-positive patients were well enough to be discharged from the hospital, why are they dying at Kei-Ai L.A.? What kind of care are they providing to the Covid-positive patients?"

She also stated that the Kei-Ai L.A. nursing home has the "highest numbers of Covid cases and deaths in all of the state of California."

Among them, Imamura noted, was Helen Kawagoe, the first woman national president of the JACL and longtime city clerk for the City of Carson, Calif., and Jack Nagano, who was born in 1918 during the Spanish Flu pandemic and later served in WWII as a member of the Military Intelligence Service. Both died in 2020.

Assemblymen Miguel Santiago and Al Muratsuchi also spoke and noted that they were sponsors of AB 279, which would prohibit California intermediate care facilities and skilled

Assemblyman Al Muratsuchi tells the assembled crowd on March 20 about AB 279, which he and Assemblyman Miguel Santiago introduced to prevent evictions and transfer from the Sakura Intermediate Care Facility in L.A.'s Boyle Heights neighborhood.

nursing facilities from terminating, transferring or significantly altering the conditions of residential care services under the Covid-19 state of emergency.

Monkawa, who spoke with *Pacific Citizen* immediately following the rally, also questioned Los Angeles County's role in allowing eldercare facilities such as Kei-Ai L.A. to accept Covid-positive patients.

"They allowed it. They also knew that the place (Kei-Ai L.A.) had multiple citations. They also knew that the place was just about all Japanese. So, having that information and doing it, to me, smacks of racism," Monkawa said, who added that a lawsuit against the county is an option under consideration.

Other speakers included Rev. Noriaki Ito (Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple), Rev. Ray Fukumoto (Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha), Mark Masaoka (Nikkei Progressives), Taiji Miyagawa (Save Our Seniors), Miya Iwataki (Little Tokyo Historical Society), Tiffany Lam (Chinatown Community for Equitable Development), Carlos Montes (Centro Community Service Organization), Nancy Takayama (JACL PSW), James Ahn (Korean American Federation of L.A.) and Rev. Allison Mark (Faith United Methodist Church). ■



A table holds the electric candles that the March 20 rally participants were asked to return.

EBAY » continued from page 2

As a result of the meeting, the listing was removed under eBay's Artifacts Policy, which regulates the sale of artifacts obtained from government or protected land. The company is also reaching out to the seller to attempt to facilitate the return of the drawings to the artist's family, which as of press time, remains unresolved.

Members of the JACSC will continue to work with eBay to apply the Artifacts Policy to other WWII Japanese American concentration camp artifacts that are listed for sale.

"Japanese Americans stand on the shoulders of those who've been fighting for the right to reclaim our material histories, such as Indigenous movements to protect sacred land, Black Lives Matter on monuments and international rethinking of artifacts looted by colonialists. The online auction platforms are one corner of the activity to sell those objects," said Ukai. "Ebay's delisting of the Manzanar drawings and saying they will work with us is a huge step, and we're grateful for their action. Now, we turn to working with them

on the details, such as identifying keywords for filtering."

On the sixth anniversary of the Rago auction, which was stopped by online community mobilization, the legal actions of the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation and the Japanese American National Museum permanently acquiring the collections), the April 7 victory came swiftly thanks to the coalition-building and community organizing work done in the past.

"The day we met with eBay was close to the six-year anniversary of when we launched the Facebook page Japanese American History Not for Sale on April 8, 2015," said Ukai.

"It shows how we as a community are much more organized and united today. Fifty-nine organizations and 29 individuals signed the letter in one day, with JACL and JANM as leaders, working shoulder to shoulder with pilgrimage groups, JACL chapters, activist groups, museums and many others."

Special acknowledgment to Brigman, Embrey, Ina, Kimiko Marr, Takei and Ukai for their organizing efforts, JANM for its leadership in the public awareness campaign and the broader community for its resounding support.

— Additional reporting by the P.C.

GO FOR BROKE STAMP TO BE RELEASED BY USPS ON JUNE 3

The first city of issue for the stamp will be Los Angeles, where Stamp Our Story began its campaign in 2005.

By Stamp Our Story Campaign

“Always be proud of your heritage.”

— Fusa Takahashi (93), Stamp Our Story Founder/Co-Chair and Go For Broke Veteran Widow

The U.S. Postal Service has announced that the official release date of the “Go For Broke Japanese American Soldiers of World War II Forever Stamp” is June 3. The first city of issue for the stamp will be Los Angeles, California, where Takahashi and her friends started the stamp campaign in 2005.

The little stamp with a big story cannot come soon enough for its supporters, especially in light of the rise in anti-Asian American violence and hate crimes.

The USPS is currently working with the Stamp Our Story Campaign and community partners that rallied for the stamp such as the Japanese American Veterans Association, Go For Broke National Education Center, Japanese American Citizens League, National Japanese American Memorial Foundation, Nisei Veterans Legacy and Friends of Minidoka, among many others. The goal is to collaborate and assist the USPS in its national rollout for the stamp.

A USPS national video dedication is being made, and special regional stamp dedications are being developed across the nation to commemorate the inspiring American legacy of the Go For Broke soldiers. Organizers seek to celebrate the release of the historic stamp, which is the first to feature the image of an Asian American soldier. The stamp is also one of only a few in U.S. postal history to feature a historical Asian American Pacific Islander subject.

Stamp Our Story is the coalition of family and friends of the Nisei soldiers that backed the proposal for the Go For Broke Soldiers Stamp and includes the many organizations that have supported the cause. Due to public petitioning by Stamp Our Story, a multitude of lawmakers across the country from both sides of the aisle sent letters of support for the proposal to the Postmaster General, which included 91 congressional lawmakers, three governors, seven state assemblies and numerous mayors and local officials. The campaign even received the overseas support from French citizens and officials in areas that were liberated from German forces by the Go For Broke Soldiers. Formerly called the “Nisei World

War II Soldiers Stamp Campaign,” the effort was started in 2005 by three California Nisei women who each endured incarceration in U.S. detention camps during World War II: Takahashi (93) of Granite Bay, Calif.; Aiko O. King (93) of Camarillo, Calif.; and the late Chiz Ohira of Gardena, Calif.

Two of the women are widows of U.S. Army Go For Broke veterans of the war. Takahashi’s husband, Kazuo, was a Military Intelligence Service veteran from San Francisco. Ohira’s husband, Ted, was a 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team veteran from Makaweli, Hawaii.

“In the past, our founders have each expressed their wish that the stamp brings people and organizations together to remember and honor what the Go For Broke Soldiers accomplished and be reminded of their American legacy that impacts us all today,” said Stamp Our Story Co-Chair Wayne Osako, who has been helping the campaign founders since 2006. “Organizations such as JAVA, GFBNEC, JACL, NJAMF and the many veterans family organizations have been friends of the campaign, and we are forever grateful. We would like to highlight that campaign co-founder Aiko King was an avid Ventura JACL member, whose chapter strongly supported the campaign. Also, the late Chiz Ohira, our co-founder, was also a founding member of GFBNEC, and her husband, Ted Ohira, was a founding GFBNEC board member.”

Some dedications will be virtual, and some will be held in-person, though limited due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

The campaign has long sought to honor the legacy of the Nisei men and women who served in the U.S. military during the war despite intense racial prejudice and war hysteria directed at them and the whole Japanese American community. The civil rights of more than 120,000 Americans of Japanese heritage were removed with the signing of Executive Order 9066 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt on Feb. 19, 1942.

Despite this injustice, 33,000 Americans of Japanese heritage enlist-

The Nisei Go For Broke Stamp features a photo of Hawaii Nisei soldier Shiroku “Whitey” Yamamoto.

PHOTO: USPS



ed anyway to show their American loyalty and help in the U.S. war effort. The 100th/442nd RCT would become the most-decorated unit for its size and length of service in U.S. history, including 21 Medals of Honor and eight Presidential Unit Citations.

Using their linguist skills, the MIS soldiers are acknowledged by historians as being critical to the Allied victory in the Pacific Theater.

Supporters also point out that the Go For Broke veterans not only helped to rebuild the Japanese American community, but also contributed to building a stronger and more unified nation at large.

“Their American story continues to inform and inspire us today,” said Osako. “Their legacy is a reminder to us all of the longstanding patriotic service from APIs that continues today. In addition, the Go For Broke Soldiers had an intense ‘can do’ spirit that propelled them through incredible obstacles both on the battlefield and at home in the U.S. This persevering spirit that we learn from their story can help all of us get through the difficulties of today.”

Takahashi shared the following statement to supporters: “We thank all of you who have supported the stamp campaign over the past 15 years. It took the support from many, many organizations and individuals to make this stamp become a reality. We invite you to celebrate the stamp with us when it comes out. And remember to always be proud of your heritage. As Nisei, it’s what our parents taught us that made these soldiers give their best. Thank you!”

The USPS named the stamp after the “Go For Broke” motto of the U.S. Army’s 100th/442nd Regimental Combat Team, but which now commonly refers to all of the American men and women of Japanese heritage who served in the war. Most served in the 100th/442nd RCT, Military Intelligence Service, 1399th Engineer Construction Battalion, Women’s Army Corps (WAC), Cadet Nurse Corps and Army Nurse Corps. ■

Inaugural Class of FEMALE BSA EAGLE SCOUTS Recognized

Isabella Hom is among the few Nikkei’s to earn scouting’s highest rank.

Boy Scouts of America, now Scouts BSA, began forming troops for girls in 2019. In February, the first female Eagle Scouts were honored in an official national recognition ceremony, and among those lauded were Michigan’s Isabella Hom.

Hom, whose family is a longtime member of the Detroit JACL, became the first female Eagle Scout from Troop 1707G from Troy, Mich. She served as the bugler for the national BSA ceremony webcast “Be the Change.”

“I’m proud to represent the next generation of scouting. I learned the value of many skills — including organization and communication — which I will use in many aspects of my life,” said Hom of her achievement. “I am glad that girls now have the chance to participate in the same Boy Scout program that their brothers and fathers have experienced. For me, achieving the rank of Eagle Scout is the culmination of a considerable amount of hard work and dedication.”

Attaining the rank of Eagle is a feat few attain. According to Scouts BSA, of all scouts nationally who join the program, only 4 percent attain this rank, which requires 21 merit badges (13 of which are required for Eagle), a minimum of six months as a Life Scout and have completed a leadership community service project.

“I was under a tight deadline to join the inaugural class of female Eagle Scouts — it meant finishing the rank of Eagle Scout in two years,” Hom told the *Pacific Citizen*. “Being a scout allowed me to experience leadership opportunities, work with many members of the troop and attain personal growth. I learned about servant leadership and had many chances to practice it in different roles, such as a Troop Guide, Bugler and Senior Patrol Leader. Those roles allowed me to embrace chances that I didn’t have in other youth groups.”

Reflecting on her personal journey and what it means for others, particularly girls, interested in joining the scouting program, Hom said, “I think any girl can reach the rank of Eagle Scout if they commit themselves to scouting. . . . Try new things, learn to take risks and

encourage others, too. It might lead you to new interests or skills.”

Hom’s interest in health care led her toward earning CPR certification during the First Aid merit badge (Eagle required), as well as attaining the Disability Awareness merit badge. Both inspired her Eagle project, where Hom learned to manage a large budget and run a program benefiting a local homeless shelter. Hom created hygiene kits and provided touchless thermometers, pulse oximeters, blood pressure monitors and Naloxone medical supply cabinets. To fund these activities, she organized scouts to recycle more than 21,000 bottles and cans.

Scouting runs in Hom’s family. “My twin brother and uncle are Eagle Scouts, and my dad and grandfather were Boy Scouts in their youth,” she said. “Going forward, I hope to continue serving my community by entering the health-care field after college.”

Said Isabella’s mother, Julie Sasaki-Hom, of her daughter’s achievement: “Our family is very joyous for and proud of Isabella choosing to dedicate herself to scouting. Even before joining, she wanted to be an Eagle Scout. I think she knew that earning the top rank meant reaching a high standard for character and commitment.

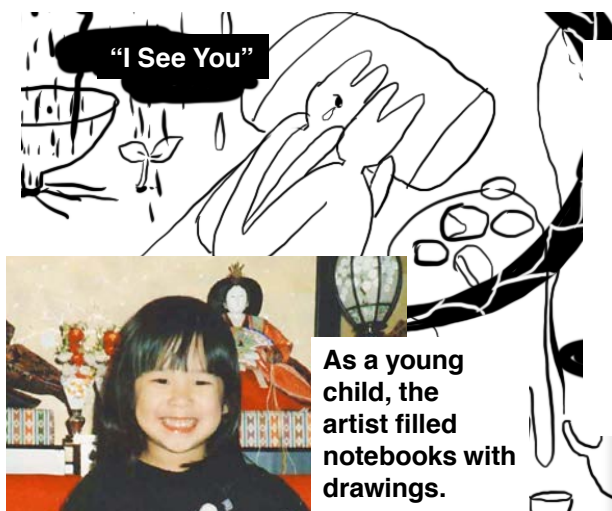
“Being in scouts can lead to enjoyable, lifelong community service,” Sasaki-Hom continued. “Isabella’s grandparents have served almost two decades as National Park Service volunteers for the Manzanar National Historic Site. Like their grandparents, I hope that my children will continue to follow the scout slogan: ‘Do a Good Turn Daily.’”

— P.C. Staff



Isabella Hom from Troy, Mich., recently became an Eagle Scout as part of BSA Scouting’s inaugural female class.

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF THE HOM FAMILY



As a young child, the artist filled notebooks with drawings.

'I am a Japanese American woman. I am second generation. I am a daughter of immigrants.'

— Yumi Sakugawa

PHOTO: DAKOTA LEE STROUD

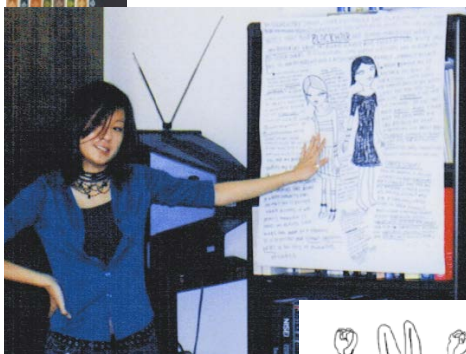


At 20, Sakugawa wrote about her coming-of-age experience or *Seijinshiki*, and she later used the photo for her "Memoirs of a Non-Geisha" columns.

COMMUNITY'S CHILD: COMIC ARTIST ON RACISM, IDENTITY AND ART

Before becoming a celebrated artist, Yumi Sakugawa cut her teeth in community work and laid bare her soul in the pages of this very newspaper.

"Memoirs of a Non-Geisha" ran in the *Pacific Citizen* from 2006-10.



In 2004, Sakugawa participated in Los Angeles' Nikkei Community Internship, a program that places young Japanese Americans in paid internships with JA community organizations.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF AMY PHILLIPS



By Lynda Lin Grigsby, Contributor

Once there was a comic artist who filled the pages of books with drawings of humanoids going on earthly and outer space adventures. Sometimes, the humanoids were in the shape of bunnies or one-eyed beings navigating very human emotions and relationships. People found the artist's drawings and writing very relatable, so they shared her work on social media and eventually bought her books and merchandise. The artist grew her brand to international acclaim.

What people do not see are the roots that link artist Yumi Sakugawa to the Asian American community. In Los Angeles' Little Tokyo, Sakugawa cut her teeth in community work, hewed a place for herself in community theater and laid bare her soul in the pages of this very newspaper in a monthly column called "Memoirs of a Non-Geisha."

When her community was in pain from rising anti-Asian sentiment and violence, Sakugawa, 36, did what came most naturally to her — she used art to amplify messages of healing and solidarity.

In a March 30 Instagram post, Sakugawa illustrated close-up images of faces — one stoic, the other crying — around a political theorist's powerful words: "It is easy to feel helpless. But that doesn't mean we are weak."

Helpless and strong aptly describe the tension of the Asian American soul in the weeks after a gunman in Atlanta targeted and killed Asian American women working at massage businesses. Since then, anti-Asian attacks continue to pop up across the nation to remind us all that we are descendants of a brutal American legacy.

"I feel the frustration of feeling like a silent minority," said Sakugawa, who is Japanese Okinawan American.

Modern-day activism is more nuanced than it used to be, but preconceived notions of an

activist needing to be loud and commanding continue to prevail. Sakugawa is not that. In fact, she is the absolute opposite. Her voice is soft and lilting and often breaks into a musical laugh. She seems infinitely more likely to offer warm hugs than firm handshakes, but Sakugawa is a fierce activist for the community she loves.

On the same weekend Americans took to the streets to rally against racialized violence, Sakugawa facilitated a donation-based virtual webinar for Asian Americans and allies to meditate and move through their emotions. Her webinar raised \$1,650, which was donated to the Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders community fund. The fund has raised more than \$5 million through GoFundMe.org.

The artist is a self-described introvert. Marching in the streets with a bullhorn might not be her thing, but she wields a unique power.

"There's a quiet thunder. There is a quiet storm," said Janet Lo, who facilitated the movement part of the webinar with Sakugawa.

The artist stays true to her values and makes an impact.

COMMUNITY ROOTS

A little under a decade ago, when Sakugawa was in her 20s, she already had a respectable following on Tumblr, a microblogging and social networking site. She was making self-published comics and zines. Then in 2012, she created a web comic about the depths of platonic love called "I Think I Am in Friend-Love With You" that went viral. It attracted the attention of a literary agent. In 2013, a book was born.

Since then, many milestones have come and gone, including more books on meditation and life hacks. In 2014, Sakugawa was nominated for an Ignatz Award for her self-published comic zine "Never Forgets." She has also done art shows and installations at museums. Her work also has been featured on BuzzFeed and the *New Yorker*.

"I think the projects and opportunities just keep coming, so I feel very fortunate," said Sakugawa via Zoom from her Los Angeles home. She wears thick-rimmed glasses and



sips from a can of La Croix while we catch up — and I mean it literally because the intimate phrase "catch up" can be casually dispersed to describe an interaction between strangers. We are not strangers. Before she became an acclaimed artist with loyal fans, Sakugawa and I worked together at the *Pacific Citizen* for one summer in 2004.

We must have had some intense water cooler conversations, but neither of us could remember. For both of us, that summer was the entry point into the Japanese American community, and we navigated it as outsiders.

Sakugawa is Shin-Nisei — or second generation — born to immigrant parents, Haruji and Fumie Sakugawa. I am Chinese American, also a daughter of immigrants.

In 2004, the *P.C.* office was in Monterey Park, a suburb of Los Angeles. I was a burgeoning journalist, recently hired as the assistant editor, and excited to apply my degrees in English and Asian American Studies. Sakugawa was a student at the University of California, Los Angeles, who came to work at our office through the Nikkei Community Internship, a program that places young Japanese Americans in paid internships with JA community organizations. On paper, we fit our roles perfectly, but in reality, it felt different.

"I mean it was just an interesting dynamic with that class because we did have some folks who were already well-connected in the community," said Amy Phillips, the NCI Los Angeles coordinator during Sakugawa's tenure. "There is a sort of like a JA version of an old boys' network."

Sakugawa did not have the pedigree, or the shared family history of the World War II JA incarceration, but she wanted to understand how she fit into the community, said Phillips.



Sakugawa's art also centers on healing and self-love.

Four More JACL Women of Redress



Mary Tsukamoto
- Florin



Gene Doi
- Atlanta



Ruth Hashimoto
- Albuquerque



Meriko Mori
- Los Angeles

As a matter of general fact, Japanese American women made redress happen. Among much else, they were much more willing to lobby HR 442 face to face with Washington politicians than were Japanese American men. So it was with Meriko Mori, Mary Tsukamoto, Gene Doi & Ruth Hashimoto.

A Commemoration

- - Grant Ujifusa
grantujifusa.org

» Her search for a place permeated her writing. In the Oct. 1-14, 2004, *P.C.* issue, Sakugawa wrote: “While many Yonsei my age have relatives who were in internment camps or fought alongside fellow Americans in World War II, I grew up learning about how my relatives had to take cover in bomb shelters in the countryside while firebombs rained down on them.”

Similarly, at the beginning of my time at the *P.C.*, I always felt defined by what I was not. Shortly after my hire, a longtime columnist in a JA newspaper pointed this out in one of his pieces: I was not Japanese American.

“I don’t know, I just feel like identity is fluid,” said Sakugawa, reflecting with me. “There isn’t such a strong binary between those who fit in and those who don’t. It really is how you frame it. How you contextualize where you belong.”

Her words got me thinking about “Your Illustrated Guide to Becoming One With the Universe,” another Sakugawa hand-drawn book about the path to inner peace. Breathe, she urges in the book, and erase the boundaries that separate us from others, separate us from ourselves and “see the underlying energy that unites all of us.” A burst of illustrated constellations surrounds the words.

Sakugawa wrote for the *P.C.* from 2004-10. She named her monthly column “Memoirs of a Non-Geisha” in 2006. A lot of her writing centered on the theme of being on the outside — including one column about the time she studied in Singapore, an Asian-majority country. Her Americanness made her stand out. It emanated from her pores and manifested itself even in her walking style.

Her writing for the *P.C.* represents a young soul vibrating and processing her place in the world, but her reflections are more centered and integrated. Now, her intent seems to be to use her art and platform to help the ravaged and the population of people, who like her, struggled to find a place in the universe.

“Always being seen as an outsider can bring harm,” she said. “But then also, I think there is something really valuable about seeing the world through multiple perspectives instead of just one perspective. I think it is enriching. And I think it creates capacity for more empathy to other people who may feel that they don’t belong or feel that they are not included in mainstream narratives.”

Sakugawa was born and raised in Southern California’s Orange County, where she attended summer Obon festivals and attended Japanese language school on Saturdays. In her spare



Sakugawa created the Claudia Kishi web comic as an ode to the Japanese American book character, one of the few Asian American characters in 1990s tween books who wasn’t a two-dimensional sidekick or stereotype.

time, she filled notebook after notebook with sketches — mostly of bunnies on adventures, a theme likely inspired by her own childhood pet black bunny, Emi.

“She was drawing and drawing whenever she had time,” said Haruji Sakugawa, a retired chemist, about his daughter. In elementary school, teachers said Sakugawa’s attention would often drift into her own creative world. “I guess that she could not resist her imagination even in the class.”

After graduating from UCLA with an art degree, Sakugawa went adrift. She waited tables at a sushi restaurant and then taught English in Japan for a year. She was terrible at both jobs, for sure.

“I was almost fired,” she said about teaching English in Japan. “I think the only reason why I didn’t get fired was because they couldn’t find a replacement quickly enough.”

In 2009, after returning home to Southern California, Sakugawa felt a need to be a part of something again. She had been involved in the Nikkei Student Union and an Asian American theater group in college, and she missed the enthusiasm and sense of belonging that a community group provided. To meet the need, she started volunteering for Tuesday Night Café, a free arts and performance series in Los Angeles’ Little Tokyo. Alongside other Asian American artists, Sakugawa worked behind the scenes to put on live performances under the evening sky.

“The community will always be there for you,” she wrote in the August 2009 *P.C.* issue about the experience.

Ask any of her friends about Sakugawa’s skyrocketing popularity, and they will tell you it happened both gradually and meteorically. It is the paradox of success. A higher profile can obscure the years and years of work, the notebooks and notebooks filled with ideas and cosmic bunny drawings.

The Toronto Comic Arts Festival in 2014 invited Sakugawa to participate and showcase her work. Lo, a former UCLA classmate who is now a frequent participant in her virtual webinars, attended the event and observed fans continually approaching Sakugawa.

“It was crazy to just meet her fans. People just kept coming up and saying, ‘Oh, I just want her to sign this, I’m such a big fan of her Tumblr,’” said Lo. “And I think that was my first moment to be like, ‘Oh my God, my friend is published, and she has adoring fans!’”

Is it OK to appropriate a saying if it is true? Here it is: You can take the girl out of the community, but you can’t take the community out of the girl.

Traci Kato-Kiriyama, an artist, community organizer and TNC director, watched Sakugawa transform from a volunteer to a well-known artist without losing her values.

“I think that my memories of the early Yumi haven’t changed much from my sort of understanding of Yumi now,” said Kato-Kiriyama. “She’s someone who just really sat really well in their own quirkiness.”

In the “before time” prepandemic, Sakugawa continued her relationship with TNC as a performer. One of her favorites was an improvisational, multimedia performance about food memories. Dressed in white, she stood before the audience as a hungry ghost, gold glitter sparkling in the lights of the Aratani Courtyard.

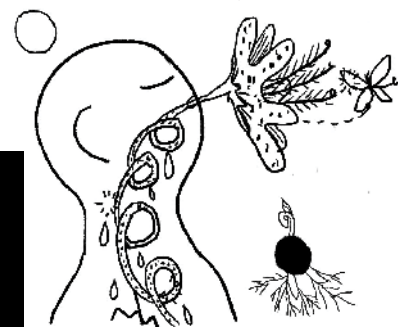
The artist can chart her success through many milestones, including the first time she held her published book in her hand and the first time she saw her books displayed at Urban Outfitters, an upscale retail chain.

Her parents, of course, have a different benchmark for success.

“When Kinokuniya started carrying my books. It was like a reference point for them



PHOTO: DAKOTA LEE STROUD



PERFECTION IS NOT NEEDED WHEN YOU ARE EXPRESSING YOUR TRUTH
YUMI SAKUGAWA

Lately, Sakugawa’s artwork calls for political activism and self-healing.

that was like, ‘Oh, this is like really amazing!’” said Sakugawa.

REPRESENTATION

Lately, Sakugawa’s artwork showcased on Instagram to more than 125,000 followers has centered on the theme of healing.

Anthropomorphic clouds contemplate with soft gazes urging you to “pay attention to the sparks” in life. The illustrations are in black and white and seem to break down barriers — especially the limitations of the human body. In one piece, a flower stalk wends through the profile of a body like a twisty straw until it blooms out of the mouth.

“Perfection is not needed when you are expressing your truth,” reads the caption.

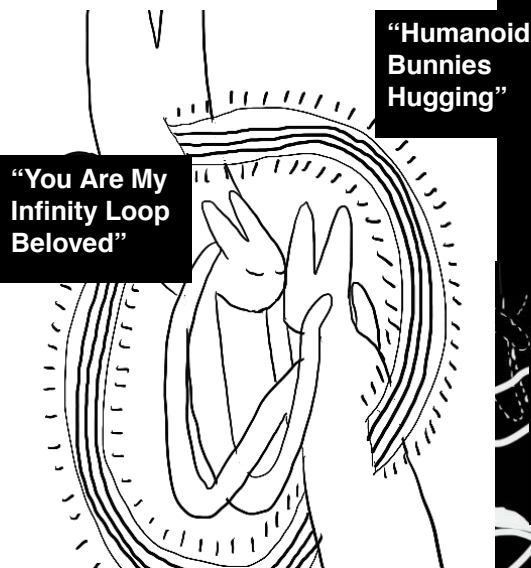
Sakugawa is one of a very few well-known Asian American female artists. She has also struggled with her own mental health. With success comes pressure and a choice: Do you divorce the personal from the art, or do you lay your soul bare in every sketch and interview?

Sakugawa chooses the latter.

“As I became more aware of what it means to be an Asian American artist, an Asian American woman artist, I realized that oh, I also really want people to see the human behind the art, behind the books, and see that I am a Japanese American woman. I am second generation. I am a daughter of immigrants. And even if my works aren’t always explicitly Asian American, that is a big part of who I am, and people should know that.”

In 2013, when millennial bloggers started turning their attention to ’90s pop culture, a lot of the dialogue centered on “The Baby-Sitters Club,” a novel series about a group of teenage girls running a babysitting service. Sakugawa took notice. She voraciously consumed “The Baby-Sitters Club” as a preteen self-professed bookworm who worshipped at the altar of Claudia Kishi, the series’ only Japanese American junk-food-loving artistic character with her own storyline. In Kishi, Sakugawa saw reflections of herself. She also noticed voices like hers were not being represented in the conversations.

» See ARTIST on page 12



“You Are My Infinity Loop Beloved”

“Humanoid Bunnies Hugging”



“We Are in the Underworld Together Not Alone”

COVID-19 PUTS AMACHE CAMP'S NATIONAL PARK PURSUIT IN LIMBO

Already designated a National Historic Landmark, for Amache to become a unit of the National Park System, it would need to pass four additional tests during a site study.

By Associated Press

DENVER — At first, the trip unfolded as just an academic tracing of family history.

John Tonai had for years heard the stories from his father, Minoru, about the Amache American concentration camp in southeastern Colorado, where the U.S. government transported thousands of Japanese Americans from California and held them behind barbed wire and guard posts for three years during World War II. The family lore became a constant soundtrack that, over time, receded to a kind of background noise — always heard, seldom absorbed.

But in 1990, as a master's student at the University of Northern Colorado, Tonai actually visited the site just outside the town of Granada.

His father had described the exact location of the family barracks — Building 9L, Apartment B. Tonai approached a slight dip in what remained of the foundation, a subtle reminder of the doorway to another time.

Just stepping across that threshold proved a life-changing experience. “When I did that,” recalled Tonai, 60, “the stories came flooding back. My father used to talk about things like walking down a certain road at the camp, and now I could envision him as a 13- to 16-year-old boy, actually doing it.”

Since Tonai's experience decades ago, the Amache site has been curated and improved, largely under the leadership of the Amache Preservation Society, a local school project headed by John Hopper, a social studies teacher-turned-principal of Granada High School.

Hundreds of local students have found the single square mile of land a valuable historical resource, but it also has hosted years of pilgrimages for the former incarcerated and their families and drawn more than 20,000 visitors annually.

All of that has led Amache to another threshold. Supporters of the site have pushed to establish it as a unit of the National Park System, a designation that could literally put Amache on the map as a federally run tourist destination.

People like Tonai and his father, about to turn 92, have lent their voices to the ongoing preservation of a site that has broad historical and cultural importance, but particular resonance for the families of those who experienced Amache firsthand.

“He probably has stronger thoughts than almost anybody I know,” John Tonai, who now works as an exhibit preparator and photographer for the Japanese American National Museum

in Los Angeles, said of his father. “My dad was a teenager, just coming into his own, and he was always very angry about it. He has always supported preserving the memory of the camp.”

The effort on the federal level officially began in late 2019 with the John D. Dingell Jr. Conservation, Management and Recreation Act. The massive legislation included dozens of initiatives and effectively launched a study of the Amache site's suitability. But months later, the gears ground to a halt: Most significantly, the Covid-19 crisis stifled the normal schedule of public comment and wreaked havoc on the prescribed timeline.

“Right now, it's kind of in limbo,” Hopper, 57, said. “The way I'm looking at it, we've lost a year with the Covid deal, not being able to meet in person.”

An already lengthy federal process — the study and recommendation alone have a three-year timeline — suddenly seemed to get nudged even further into the future. For Hopper, who has seen his work with Amache become an all-consuming passion, the prospect of handing the lion's share of the responsibility for the site to the government experts sooner rather than later offers peace of mind.

At a time when rural Colorado struggles with declining population and attendant economic challenges, Amache offers restorative opportunities. The work of the Amache Preservation Society has already helped restore a valuable historic and cultural marker. National Park designation would only add to the attraction, Hopper figures.

“People come from a long distance away to see Amache,” Hopper said. “That's a help for the community, as well as people spending dollars and time in Granada. That's the other thing: You become a National Park site, and it helps the community with

more jobs and kind of solidifies that the community will stay.”

Covid-19-related delays in the federal study's public engagement effort, which stalled last spring, could push that portion of the process to next spring, noted Jeremy Sweat, chief of planning and compliance for the National Park Service regional office in Lakewood, Colo.

Once a new NPS team has been assembled, he added, some virtual meetings will be added to the schedule to receive public input. When that portion of the process is complete, the federal staffers will start analyzing the four key criteria that figure into the study recommendation to the Secretary of the Interior, who then forwards the report to Congress.

Congress isn't bound by the findings, which are designed simply to inform lawmakers. Any member could still introduce a bill to establish Amache as a unit of the National Park System, Sweat said.

The Amache incarceration site already has been designated a National Historic Landmark. But to become a unit of the National Park System, it would need to pass four additional tests during the site study. On average, about one in four studies results in a recommendation for inclusion.

Even with approval, the NPS noted, it can take as long as 10 years to get a new national park up and running.

For now, Amache is hoping to clear four hurdles of the site study: Significance: Amache's status as a National Historic Landmark already pretty well checks this box.

Suitability: The focus turns to the site's uniqueness and whether or not it's represented or protected by other entities.

Feasibility: This portion of the study looks at whether the site is of sufficient size and appropriate configuration to allow the NPS to manage it at a reasonable cost.

Need for NPS management: The

Amache entrance

PHOTO: ATHENA ASKLIPIADIS



Min Tonai, 91, has lent his voice to the ongoing preservation of Amache. He is currently working on a memoir for his grown children about his life.

PHOTO: GEORGE T. JOHNSTON



question here is whether NPS management is the “clearly superior” approach to other options. Could a site continue under its current management or move to management by some other entity, whether state or federal, private or nonprofit.

The fact that Amache already benefits from the management of the Amache Preservation Society doesn't necessarily mean that this is the optimal approach — and won't count against the site in the study.

Hopper feels that National Park designation would be optimal, though if the federal government were to disagree, he would probably pursue other avenues, such as the creation of a state park on the site. But he has looked hard at all the NPS criteria and, by his calculation, Amache more than measures up.

“I thought we were a good fit on all of them,” he said. “Amache is nationally significant, and we'd be the furthest east of all the other National Park camps. We're right on Highway 50, a coast-to-coast highway that's well traveled. And Amache has a uniqueness about it.”

Meanwhile, if the study process moves Amache to the next stage, a member of Congress could introduce a bill to authorize the creation of a new National Park. That would then need to pass in both the House and Senate and be signed into law by the president.

That's the outcome that would bring Hopper a sense of completion.

“When I retire, I want to feel good about it,” he said. “I want to walk away and let the next generation take it on.”

And that's where Tanner Grasmick comes in. The 26-year-old social studies teacher grew up around Granada and, in his senior year, worked at Amache fixing signs, doing restoration, giving tours and then traveling to spread the word around the region. He even visited Japan, where he met a host family with whom he remains in touch.

His dedication to Amache now has the familiar echo of Hopper's as he works the dark history of the site into his own teaching at Granada High School. That's why Hopper already has tagged him as his successor.

Whether the National Park Service takes control of the site or not, there will always be a role for the area kids — even if it's just managing the museum, which would remain a separate, local entity.

Grasmick feels like he's up for the task of following in his teacher's footsteps.

“I've met countless people from pilgrimages to Amache, and they're such great people that I'd love to continue on with what Mr. Hopper has done and keep it going for them, too,” he said. “I'd definitely like to do it for a lifetime commitment.” ■



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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.

NATIONAL

Annual JACL National Convention

July 15-18

Virtual Event

Join JACL at its annual convention, which will be held virtually featuring a National Council meeting as well as breakout sessions and more! Be sure to visit JACL's website for complete convention information and announcements as they become available.

Info: Visit www.jacl.org.

NCWNP

11th Annual Matsuri! Japanese Arts Festival
Sonoma County Matsuri Festival

Santa Rosa, CA

May 15; 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Virtual Event

Price: Free

Enjoy the VIRTUAL showcase of traditional Japanese dance, music and cultural presentations as the Sonoma County Matsuri Festival presents this event for all to join. The event will be held virtually by Zoom. Registration is free.

Info: To register, visit www.sonoma-matsuri.org. For more information, visit www.sonomamatsuri.org.

'The Betrayed' Benefit Screening and Discussion
Watsonville, CA

May 22; 1-3 p.m.

Virtual Event Benefit Screening for Watsonville Buddhist Temple

Price: \$25 Per Person or \$50 Per Household (Includes Play Screening and Discussion)

"Betrayed," a two-act play by Hiroshi Kashiwagi about a young Nisei couple who meet at Tule Lake and fall in love, only to be torn apart by two controversial "loyalty" questions during World War II, will feature Helen Ota and Michael Palma. Following the play, a discussion will be held featuring Satsuki Ina, Soji Kashiwagi and cast members Ota and Palma.

Info: Tickets are available at Eventbrite.com: Search "The Betrayed." For additional information, email Buddhist@wbtemple.org.

PSW

Alzheimer's Conference

Los Angeles, CA

May 1; 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Virtual Conference

Price: Free

Join Keiro as it co-hosts alongside Alzheimer's Los Angeles for this conference event that will be provided in both English and Japanese to educate the community on Alzheimer's disease and its related disorders, as well as discuss research and treatment options, caregiving support and a virtual research fair.

Info: Visit Keiro.org/alzheimers-conference for more information.

Discussion on Intergenerational Trauma of Japanese Americans

San Diego, CA

May 12; 6-7:30 p.m.

Virtual Event

Price: Free

Join the San Diego JACL as it presents this discussion that will explore the intergenerational impact and trauma of the Japanese American incarceration during World War II. Featured speakers will be Dr. Debra Kawahara, associate dean of academic affairs California School of Professional Psychology at Alliant International University in San Diego, and Dr. Donna Nagata, professor of psychology and clinical science chair for the Department of Psychology at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Moderator will be Gabby Masuda Ambata.

Info: To RSVP, email sandiegojacl@gmail.com by May 11 to receive a link to the event.

PNW

Japanese American Museum of Oregon at Naito Center

Portland, OR

May 6

Virtual Grand Opening Celebration

Come celebrate the grand opening of the new Japanese American Museum of Oregon at Naito Center (formerly the Nikkei Legacy Center) in Portland's historic Oldtown Neighborhood. The new space features exhibits like this summer's highlight of Japanese American women's experiences through the decades as well as the actual jail cell of Minoru Yasui.

Info: Register at grandopening.jamo.org.

Book Launch Discussion: 'Facing the Mountain'

Seattle, WA

May 11; 5 p.m.

Virtual Event

Price: Free

"Facing the Mountain" is a new book by Daniel James Brown that chronicles the World War II incarceration of Japanese Americans and the experiences of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. The event will also feature a discussion between the author and Densho Executive Director Tom Ikeda.

Info: For more information and to register, visit <https://densho.org/mountain/>.

'Where Beauty Lies' Exhibit
Seattle, WA

Thru Sept 19

Wing Luke Asian Museum

719 S. King St.

Price: Museum Admission Fees

What defines beauty? The museum's latest exhibit examines the complicated history, culture, industry, psychology and politics of beauty from the Asian American perspective. Personal stories, reflections, art and artifacts representing a diversity of identities and experiences all showcase the ideas of what beauty truly means.

Info: Visit wingluke.org.

EDC

Kimono in Print: 300 Years of Japanese Design
Worcester, MA

Thru May 2

Worcester Art Museum

55 Salisbury St.

Price: Museum Admission

This is the museum's first exhibit devoted to examining the kimono as a major source of inspiration and experimentation in Japanese print culture from the Edo period (1603-1868) to the Meiji Period (1868-1912). This dialogue between print and kimono design is illustrated by approximately 70 Japanese prints.

Info: Visit <https://www.worcesterart.org/exhibitions/kimono-in-print/>.

APAICS Annual Legislative Leadership Summit
Washington, D.C.

May 10-13

Virtual Event

Price: Free

Join APAICS for this four-day virtual conference as subject matter experts, AAPI elected officials, community/corporate leaders and more discuss various issues affecting AAPIs and the nation at large. The event will be broadcast using the CVENT platform. Topics include Allyship: The Key to Unlocking the Power of Diversity, America's Digital Divide and Lack of Access, Civil Rights Movement: What the AAPI Community Faces Today, COVID and Its Economic Impact and much more.

Info: For more information and to register, visit apaics.org.

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>.

ADVERTISE HERE

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

FOR MORE INFO:
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(213) 620-1767

Section 8 Waiting List Opening

Plummer Village Senior Community located in North Hills, CA is accepting applications for our affordable 1-bedroom apartment homes.

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(818) 891-0646 TTY (510) 238-3254

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All applicants must meet program guidelines



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Raising funds now toward production of the first
feature documentary film on the 90 plus year history
of the Japanese American Citizens League

Produced by filmmaker LANE NISHIKAWA

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<https://bit.ly/OURLEAGUE>

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GO TO: <https://jacl.org/our-league-of-dreams>

Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) is a non-profit, tax-exempt charitable organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code

In MEMORIAM

Honda, Fred Shigeto, 96, Los Angeles, CA, May 26, 2020; he was predeceased by his wife, Victoria Honda; he is survived by his children, Lynn, Gordon and Sharon Honda; siblings, Chieko, Kazuko and Setsuo; he is also survived by nieces, nephews, cousins and other relatives.

Hoshijo, Toshiko, 99, Honolulu, HI, May 29, 2020; she was predeceased by her husband, Larry; she is survived by her children, Gerald (Gladys) and Sharon Shiraki (Stanley, D.); siblings, Tomie Nakamura (Kenneth, D.), Minoru, Sueko Inouye (Fred, D.), Akira (Karin) and Sumie Dela Rosa (Florendo); gc: 3; ggc: 1.

Hosokawa, Mariko, 72, Hoffman Estates, IL, Feb. 17, 2020.

Inouye, Tadao Fred, 90, Gardena, CA, June 2, 2020; he is survived by his wife, Sue Inouye; son, Jason Inouye.

Ioki, Emiko Amy, 95, Los Angeles, CA, June 4, 2020; she is survived by her children, Louise (Gary) Ino, Douglas Ioki, Bruce (Cathy) Ioki and Nancy (Shawn) Stone; sister, Uri Terada; gc: 4.

Ishida, June Tomiko, 93, Hilo, HI,

May 20, 2020; she is survived by her sons, Reginald (Dyanne) Ishida, David Ishida, Howard Ishida and Kenneth (Marcia) Ishida; she is also survived by many grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

Katayama, Mark Akio, 74, July 6, 2020; he is survived by his siblings, James Katayama, Maxine Morisaki and Kenneth Katayama.

Kato, Mary, 92, Monterey Park, CA, July 11, 2020; she is survived by her children, Gail (Les) Huey, Sarah Santa Ana, Jay, Wade (Liz) and Paige (Kim); brother, Isamu Morimoto (May); sister-in-law, Barbara Morimoto; brother-in-law, Fred Yoshiwa (Ralph); gc: 8; ggc: 4.

Katoku, Takao, 90, Captain Cook, HI, May 10, 2020; he is survived by his siblings, Allen (Fumie) Katoku, Francis Katoku, Gary Katoku, Sylvia Hayase and Evelyn (Harold) Tasaka; sister-in-law, Sachiko Katoku; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Miyashiro, Merv, 95, Temple City, CA, July 11, 2020; he is survived by his wife, Sue; children, Pete, Trina (Gilbert) Morrell, Julie (Tommy) Kochi-

yama and Sheri (Joe) Palus; siblings, Warren (Helen) Miyashiro and Myrtle Oganeku; gc: 7; ggc: 1.

Mori, Frances Yuriko, 98, San Francisco, CA, June 23, 2020; she was predeceased by her husband, Bruce Sakae; son, Bruce Jun (KIA, Vietnam); and siblings, Matsuhito "Duke" Yamasaki, Joe Yamasaki and May Matsushita; she is survived by her sisters-in-law, Kimi Shipley and Youko Yamasaki; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Morita, Takako Yoshimoto, 95, Los Angeles, May 6, 2020; she is survived by her children, Walter (Carrie) Morita, Jennifer (Bruce) Kerr, Laura (Gary) Bethel and Judy (Mel) Kaneshiro; gc: 7; ggc: 6.

Nieda, Sam, 90, Alhambra, CA, May 28, 2020; a Korean War veteran, he was predeceased by his brother, Masao; he is survived by his wife, Kikuko; sons, David (Lynne) and Edwin (Michelle); sister, Yoshiko; gc: 4.

Nishimura, Akiko, 89, Los Angeles, CA, July 8, 2020; she is survived by her daughters, Diane (Donald) Guerrero and Judy (Craig) Ida; sister-in-law,

Matsuye Kuhara; gc: 5; ggc: 1.

Nogami-Young, Lori Keiko, 65, Honolulu, HI, July 13, 2020; she was predeceased by her father, Richard; hanai parents, Betty and Harold Silva, and hanai brother, Hal; she is survived by her husband, Aaron; and mother, Ann Masae.

Okamoto, Grace Hisako, Rocklin, CA, Sept. 10, 2020; she was predeceased by her husband, Masato; siblings, Yoshio, Yoshinao, Saburo, Minoru, Henry, George, James, Hannah and Aiko; she is survived by her sons, Richard and John; daughter-in-law, Cary; brothers, John and Steven; gc: 1.

Okamoto, William Taro 'Bill,' 100, Torrance, CA, May 19, 2020; he is survived by his children, Carol (Robert) McClellan and Roy (Lori) Okamoto; brother, Jack Okamoto; sisters-in-law, Haruko Inatomi and Lillian Okamoto; gc: 2.

Okazaki, Yukie, 87, San Gabriel, CA, July 11, 2020; during WWII, her family and she were incarcerated at the Tule Lake WRA Center in CA; she was predeceased by her brother, George Masaichi Nii; she is survived by her husband, Sid; children, Ken (Zeena Lee) Okazaki and Julie (Rob) Komoto; siblings, Fusae Miyamoto, Fumie Yoshida, Terrie Masuda and Richard (Diana Nicholaev) Nii; gc: 3.

PLACE A TRIBUTE

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

CONTACT:

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ARTIST » continued from page 8

Most of the bloggers writing about “The Baby-Sitters Club” and Kishi were white, so they didn’t really *know* what it was like to have a dynamic Asian American character like Kishi. So, Sakugawa created her own web comic about Kishi, a love letter to the “crazy, unique, extremely confident and just like me, a second-generation Japanese American.”

The Kishi web comic took off on the web and landed Sakugawa on the Netflix short documentary “The Claudia Kishi Club.” In July, her web comic will also be featured in “We Are the Baby-Sitters Club,” an anthology of essays and artwork from grown-up readers.

Remember: There are many paths to activism. Sakugawa has two pieces showcased in the Giant Robot April 3-21 Rakugaki 3 group exhibit — iterations of a celestial piece called “I Leave Shrines Everywhere I Go.” Both pieces sold out on the first day.

“Her work, to me, has a larger meaning because of who she is and what she does,” said

Eric Nakamura, co-founder of Giant Robot and owner of the Giant Robot Store and GR2 Gallery. “Some people can paint a picture of a cat. It doesn’t matter who did it, it’s just a cat. I think her images, for me, tell a larger story and involves who she is and what she does.”

Sakugawa’s books and merchandise are top-sellers in the Giant Robot store, said Nakamura, especially her 2015 book “There Is No Right Way to Meditate.”

If art is the gateway to her soul, then be prepared to be greeted with some darkness. It comes from a personal place.

Sakugawa’s mental health deteriorated while teaching English in Japan. She didn’t have access to the same antidepressant medication she had been taking in the United States, and her job struggles sent her in a downward spiral. Her art often references mental health issues and depicts self-help strategies.

“I believe I have a personal responsibility to speak more candidly about mental health and

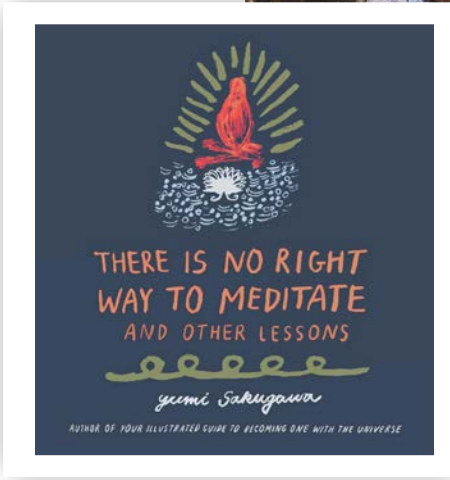
to be upfront about struggles I’ve had with mental illness because I know that when more people speak up about it, more people feel seen,” said Sakugawa. “I think that’s one of the beautiful healing things about sharing art and sharing stories. When you share painful dark experiences, it paradoxically makes people feel less alone and more connected because then they can relate to the vulnerability instead of feeling like they have to pretend everything is OK.”

Sakugawa straightens her glasses and nods her head. It’s an important point to remember as the global pandemic drags on.

The artist has spoken her truth.



Sakugawa volunteered and performed for the Tuesday Night Café, a free arts and performance series in Los Angeles’ Little Tokyo.



Her 2015 book “There Is No Right Way to Meditate”

AARP

How do the approved vaccine options compare?

The three current COVID-19 vaccines approved for use in the U.S. are Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson.

How effective are they?

All three vaccines more than meet the 50 percent effectiveness threshold required by the FDA.

	Pfizer-BioNTech	Moderna	Johnson & Johnson
How many shots?	Two shots are required, 21 days apart. 	Two shots are required, 28 days apart. 	One shot required.
Potential side effects	Pain at injection site, tiredness, headache, muscle pain, joint pain, chills and fever 	Pain at injection site, tiredness, headache, muscle pain, joint pain and chills 	Pain at injection site, headache, fatigue and muscle pain

AARP is fighting to protect the health of Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders 50+ and their families by providing trusted information and resources surrounding COVID-19.

Learn more about COVID-19 vaccination at aarp.org/vaccineinfo