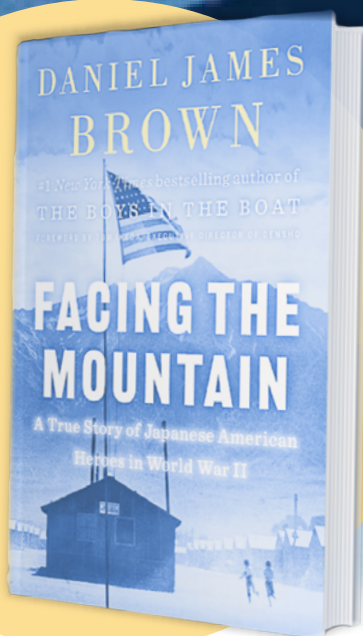




# FACING THE MOUNTAIN

A True Story of Japanese American  
Heroes in World War II



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the spotlight on  
the 442nd.**

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Dedicated in Little  
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of Hate and the  
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# A LEGACY INTERSECTS WITH PRESENT, FUTURE

Rose Ochi Square is dedicated in Little Tokyo at San Pedro, E. First streets.

By P.C. Staff

With the start of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month still fresh, a civil rights fighter for all was remembered on May 4 in Little Tokyo when Rose Ochi Square — the intersection of San Pedro and E. First streets — was dedicated.

The ceremony had been in the works since a Jan. 13 announcement by Los Angeles City Councilman Kevin de Leon following the Dec. 13, 2020, death of Rose Ochi, at 81. (See *Pacific Citizen*, Jan. 22-Feb. 4, 2021, issue.)

Born Takayo Matsui in 1938, she spent her early years not far from Rose Ochi Square on the other side of the Los Angeles River in the East

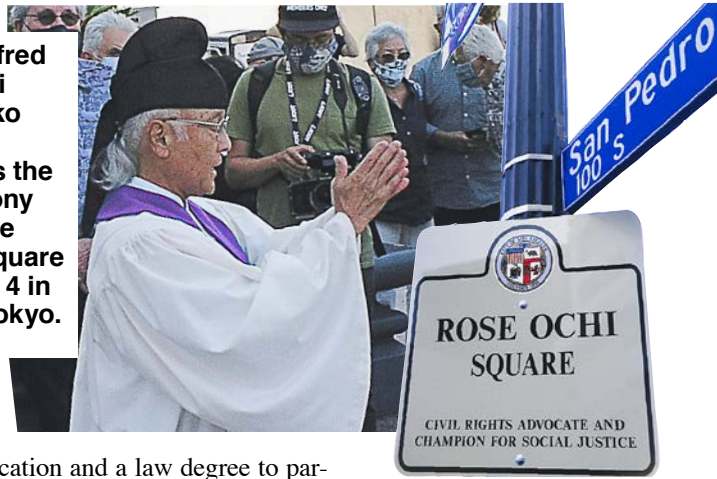
Los Angeles neighborhood of Boyle Heights.

Her first name “Rose,” however, was acquired during World War II by a teacher after her Japanese American family and she were uprooted and incarcerated at the Rohwer War Relocation Center in Arkansas. “Ochi” was added after her marriage to Thomas Ochi, who was present at the dedication.

“Her legacy is embedded in the history of our city, as well as our state and our nation,” said Councilman de Leon, who said Ochi’s early experiences, including having her mouth washed out with soap for speaking Japanese in school, molded her into becoming a fighter and activist.

As an adult, she would use higher

Rev. Alfred Tsuyuki of Konkō Church blesses the ceremony for Rose Ochi Square on May 4 in Little Tokyo.



education and a law degree to participate in the political system and undertake a host of tasks, serving at the municipal, state and national levels and pushing to make the site of California’s Manzanar WRA Center into the Manzanar National Historic Site “so that no American would ever forget what happened,” de Leon said.

» See LEGACY on page 12

The sign designating the intersection of Little Tokyo’s San Pedro and E. First streets as Rose Ochi Square was unveiled. Similar signs are to be installed on the remaining corners in the near future.

PHOTOS: PACIFIC CITIZEN

## JACL WELCOMES NEW MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR TO NATIONAL STAFF

Bridget Keaveney succeeds Phillip Ozaki, who has been promoted to JACL’s development director.



all membership duties including rosters, NMC meetings, managing the mbr@jACL.org inbox, renewals, credentials and membership campaigns. In addition, she will serve as the staff person on the National Convention Credentials committee and the liaison to the National Youth/Student Council.

“I feel incredibly honored to be part of such a venerable organization. I look forward to continuing my passion of bringing together different ideas and people from various communities and advocating for their rights. As someone who grew up in a small, rural town in Oregon, it’s important to me that I make a conscious effort to reach out to those who may need an organization like JACL in their lives,” said Keaveney.

“I believe that the position that I now hold at the JACL will allow me to pursue what I hope will be a lifelong career committed to social justice.”

Ozaki, who is currently training Keaveney in her new duties, reflected: “We are delighted to hire Bridget, who has already hit the ground running as our membership guru. In just one month, she has done an excellent job refreshing our membership materials and connecting with chapter leadership. Bridget’s background brings new perspectives that our membership program needs. . . . Together, we are trying to solve the challenging question, ‘How can we get more people like her involved with JACL?’

» See STAFF on page 12

JACL National is excited to introduce Bridget Keaveney as its membership coordinator; she succeeds Phillip Ozaki, who has been promoted to development

director. Keaveney, who began her duties on March 29, is based in the organization’s San Francisco headquarters.

Keaveney will be responsible for

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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.’

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‘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

# WE CAN'T ALL BE 'CRAZY RICH ASIANS,' BUT WE DO BELONG

By David Inoue,  
JACL Executive Director

This August will be three years since the movie “Crazy Rich Asians” debuted bearing the hopes of the Asian American community. The sense was that success could open the door to Asian American representation in the movies, but failure could mean another 25 years until another majority-Asian-cast movie would be made by a major studio, as it had already been that many years since the “Joy Luck Club.” Fortunately, “Crazy

Rich Asians” would go on to draw nearly \$175 million domestically and \$239 million worldwide. It seems, there would be a future for Asian representation in cinema.

This seemingly has been fulfilled with the recent Oscar awards. For 2019, though Korean, not Asian American, the film “Parasite” won best picture, director, original screenplay and, of course, international film. And the 2020 best director and picture awards went to Chloe Zhao and “Nomadland,” while Yuh-Jung Youn won best supporting actress for “Minari” amidst multiple

nominations for both pictures.

Animation films such as “Raya and the Last Dragon” and “Abominable” also have featured the voices of numerous Asian American actors. The Marvel universe will bring us the “Eternals,” directed by Zhao and featuring the acting of Kumail Nanjiani, Gemma Chan and Don Lee, and Iman Vellani will be appearing as the Pakistani superhero Ms. Marvel in her own Disney+ series, as well as a leading role in the upcoming film “The Marvels.”

On the smaller screen, while ABC’s “Fresh Off the Boat” has sunsetted, a boatload of other new shows have since joined it in presenting Asian leads, including “Never Have I Ever” (Netflix), “To All the Boys” (Netflix), “Nora From Queens” (Comedy Central) and, most recently, a refresh of “Kung Fu” (The CW), featuring a majority-Asian cast to atone for the ridiculousness of David Carradine as the lead in the original version.

This contrast of the original “Kung Fu” series and the new one makes me realize how different the representation my children are exposed to compared to what I experienced at the same age.

In literature, they have so many options for diverse stories and characters. The “Hardy Boys” books that I grew up reading are antiquated in multiple ways. My daughter is able to read the books from the Shibutani Siblings (Maia and Alex) and see a character who shares her first name. My son enjoys “Superman” comics just as much as I did, except he is able to read about Superman protecting a Chinese American family in “Superman Smashes the Klan” by Gene Luen Yang.

As we celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, it is more apparent that Asians are increasingly and better represented in all facets of media, and, more importantly, Asian actors are being recognized for their contributions artistically.

In combating anti-Asian attitudes and violence, in the long term, our focus is on changing the norm of Asian Americans as foreign. JACL focuses on this by highlighting the dangers of unbridled xenophobia and racism against the Japanese American community during World War II, resulting in one of

the worst losses of constitutional rights by Americans in this country’s history.

But, we also do this by emphasizing and celebrating our representation in our pop culture. Our presence in popular TV shows or movies helps to normalize our presence and break the stereotypes that feed prejudice.

The story of Asian immigration may still be shown in the movie “Minari,” or it could be the less “Asian” portrayal of Grace Park’s character in ABC’s “A Million Little Things.” The greater the number of roles occupied by Asian and Asian American actors, the more others will be exposed to the diversity of who we are and what we represent.

We don’t always have to be the hero; in fact, it’s good to see Asian faces as the villain, too — so long as those characters help to break down stereotypes and expand the diversity of who we are. After all, we’re not all “Crazy Rich Asians” either.

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



## NIKKEI VOICE

# ANTI-ASIAN HATE ISN'T JUST IN THE FORM OF SHOOTINGS AND ATTACKS

By Gil Asakawa

It’s been a tragic and depressing couple of months. Amidst the rising numbers of anti-Asian hate incidents, including harassment, verbal assaults and physical attacks, a March 16 mass shooting in Atlanta targeted Asian-owned spas, and six of eight murdered victims were Asian women.

The same day as the Atlanta shootings, the national group Stop AAPI Hate released a devastating report stating that the site logged almost 4,000 anti-Asian incidents from March 19, 2020-Feb. 28, 2021.

The attacks continued, and media covered them, and President Joe Biden spoke out against anti-Asian attacks and on March 30 released new actions to fight the violence, xenophobia and bias. The U.S. Senate passed the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act on April 22, aimed at strengthening efforts to fight hate crimes, especially against Asians. The House will vote on the bill in May.

Also in April, a bipartisan group of Colorado’s congressional representatives and senators penned legislation to make Amache, the Japanese American wartime concentration camp in southeast Colorado, a National Park. There’s been a lot going on in the AAPI and JA communities!

Amidst all the news — both good and bad — Denver’s Asian American and Pacific Islander community got a surprise blast of bad: a rude reminder that anti-Asian hate can take many forms.

On April 1, the *Villager Newspaper*, a weekly paper based in Greenwood Village, a mostly wealthy, mostly white suburb south of Denver, ran an April Fool’s “joke” article with the headline, “America’s Largest Amusement Park Heads to Greenwood Village.”

“This project has been kept under wraps because it is being developed by a Chinese firm that is investing \$5 billion into this park,” the article said. “Because of the recent Asian alleged hate crimes, the planning

commission and council have moved quietly through confidential Zoom meetings with Chinese officials to complete the contract.

“Several city planners traveled to Wuhan, China, to work out the details that include bringing over 1,000 Chinese workers and their families to the area for the two-year construction period.”

The article was outrageously inappropriate given the context of the attacks against Asians across the country.

But wait, there’s more! It went on to say that the area’s schools are expecting over 1,000 students from China and that the district was seeking Mandarin teachers to accommodate them. The piece also added that “area hotels are being contracted for lower rates for the Chinese families and adding more rice, vegetables and chopsticks to their morning breakfasts.”

Not surprisingly, the AAPI community, both individuals and organizations, were outraged by the publication and responded on social media. The daughter of the family run newspaper replied to comments but never apologized, just defended the article as a spoof and a joke — the old, “It’s your problem if you can’t take humor” line.

The family doubled-down and pointed out that they’ve covered Asian businesses and individuals in their pages, even giving a prominent Chinese American couple an award in 2019. The old, “I have friends who are (name your community of color here)/My sister married a (name your

community of color here)” excuse.

Two weeks later, the *Villager* published an op-ed on its cover saying it was defending the tenets of free press. At the top of the home page for that issue online, the *Villager* posted a note that included a nonapology apology: “The *Villager* would like to acknowledge our April Fool’s spoof may have been construed or perceived as inappropriate and offensive and for that the *Villager* is sorry. It was absolutely and sincerely not the papers (*sic*) intent.” The old, “We’re sorry if you were offended” excuse.

The Mile High Chapter of JACL sent its own scathing letter to the *Villager*, along with other area AAPI organizations.

An advertising boycott was launched by a group called Colorado Asian American Response Committee (CARC), which was formed last year when anti-Asian incidents were first reported in the state (full disclosure: I’m a member of CARC), and to date, 12 advertisers contacted us to say they’ve pulled out of the *Villager*, and 30 advertisers are no

longer in the past two editions of the weekly. One advertiser, a real estate agency, sent a scathing letter to its clients and business networks decrying the racism of the *Villager*’s article.

The media has, not surprisingly, picked up the story, adding to the *Villager*’s embarrassment, and it was published across the country over the *Associated Press* wires.

If nothing else, this past year of hate against Asians has awakened the country to the constant presence of racism against Asians and helped the media begin to seek out better, deeper and more important stories about our communities. For that, I suppose, we owe the *Villager* a small bit of acknowledgment for its ill-timed and stupidly conceived blast of racist humor.

*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.*

**The Villager’s  
April Fool’s Joke  
edition was met  
with heavy out-  
rage from AAPI  
organizations  
and across social  
media for its  
inappropriate and  
racist content.**



AMERICA'S LARGEST AMUSEMENT  
PARK HEADS TO GREENWOOD VILLAGE



# DANIEL JAMES BROWN, DENSHO ARE 'FACING THE MOUNTAIN'

The bestselling author of 'Boys in the Boat' puts the spotlight on the 442nd in a new book.

By George Toshio Johnston,  
P.C. Senior Editor, Digital &  
Social Media

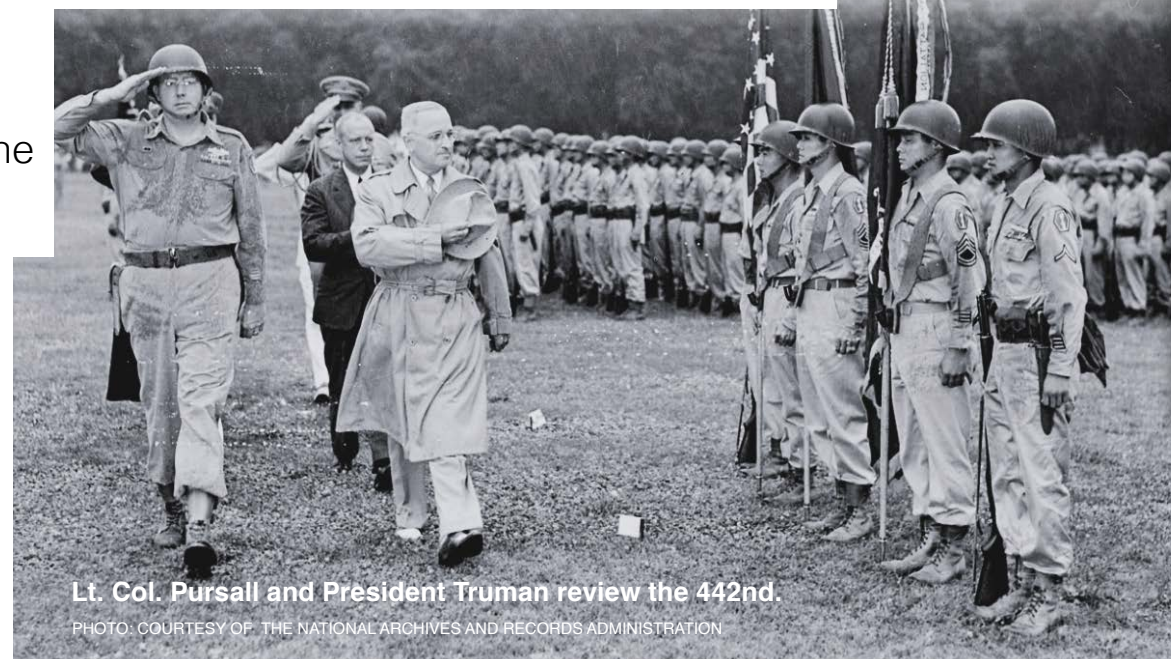
With the May 11 release of Daniel James Brown's book "Facing the Mountain: The True Story of Japanese American Heroes in World War II," as its subtitle states, it's possible that the Japanese American experience on battlefields (and in courtrooms) of that era is finally about to be illuminated in a big, big way.

That's because the bestselling author — whose 2013 book "The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics" was a career-making smash hit that turned the Seattle-based Brown into a brand-name superstar — has already generated news that "Facing the Mountain" might become a multipart series, with Hawaii-born Japanese American director Destin Daniel Cretton, helmer of the upcoming Marvel Cinematic Universe installment "Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings," attached to direct.

But a series is in the future, and the future, as the world had to learn with the continuing, unforeseen global pandemic that began in 2020, doesn't always go according to plan.

The book "Facing the Mountain" is here, now and new, and in the coming weeks and months, Brown and Densho Executive Director Tom Ikeda will be in the spotlight to discuss Brown's 540-page book (ISBN 9780525557401), published by Viking with a suggested retail price of \$30, that began when the two met in 2015 in Seattle, when they were among the honorees at the annual Mayor's Arts Awards.

Brown was there to receive one



Lt. Col. Pursall and President Truman review the 442nd.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION

of the many accolades for "The Boys in the Boat," while Ikeda was there to be honored for, at that time, Densho's two-decades of technology-driven efforts to digitally preserve and make accessible Japanese American history, whether digitized analog community newspapers like *Pacific Citizen* or video interviews of Japanese American community members.

It proved to be a fortuitous and serendipitous meeting. And, it helped that Brown, who grew up in the San Francisco Bay area, already had some second-hand knowledge of the Japanese American experience because of his father, who sold wholesale florist supplies to flower shops and nurseries.

Brown told the *Pacific Citizen* that his father was usually even-keeled — but he could never forget one of the rare times when he saw his father get visibly angry and that was when he relayed what had happened to his many Japanese American friends and customers during the war.

"A lot of these folks came back to greenhouses that had been shattered and businesses that had been closed

and land that had been taken out from under them," Brown said. "You'd sort of have to know my father to appreciate how rare it was that he would get that angry. But it really stuck with me as a kid."

Following the ceremony, Brown introduced himself to Ikeda after hearing him discuss Densho and its mission. Ikeda, meantime, told the *Pacific Citizen* that he was familiar with Brown's work, having read and enjoyed "The Boys in the Boat."

Later, Brown went to *Densho.org* and began listening to some of the oral histories and was drawn to what he had heard.

"They were stories about perseverance and resilience and ordinary people confronting difficult times and challenges and having to overcome them," Brown said.

The seed that had been planted at the Mayor's Arts Awards was sprouting — but it was still a long way from becoming a book.

"At that point, I don't think it was really clear to him what exact story he was going to tell," Ikeda said, "so I remember just sharing kind of a range of oral histories . . . and we would just have conversations back and forth, and he would say, 'Oh, this is really interesting,' and as he started getting more interested in the military service, I was feeding him stories both on the MIS as well as the 442 as well as the earlier 100th."

Brown's recollections dovetailed with Ikeda's.

"The deeper I went, the more intrigued I became," Brown said. "I started talking with Tom, and he and I spent about a year going back and forth talking about different scenarios and different possibilities for how this might be developed into a book."

"The challenge that we had, as we talked back and forth," Brown

continued, "was what would the story be because we're talking something finite in terms of the book. You can't tell the whole story of the Japanese American experience."

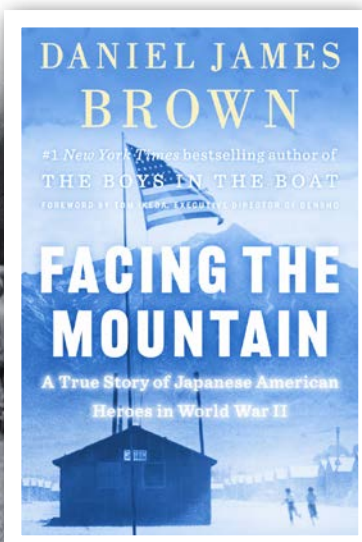
Still, it was progress. Brown's publisher, meantime, was chomping at the bit for a follow to "The Boys in the Boat." But were they really interested in a book that focused on the experiences of some Japanese Americans during WWII? Did it have the crossover appeal it needed to approach the success of "The Boys in the Boat"?

"They didn't seem to blink. I was wondering how that would go myself, for some sort of obvious reasons. Frankly, I think they were just glad to get a manuscript in hand," Brown chuckled. "It had been many, many years that I had not been handing them anything. Actually, when they read the proposal for the book and sample chapters, they were all in right away."

But before Brown could turn in a final draft last year, he needed to do the research. While Densho, the Go For Broke National Education Center and the Japanese American National Museum all were helpful resources, Brown also visited Hawaii and Europe, where the 442 fought, to do even more research. As welcome as it might seem to have to go to Hawaii and Italy to conduct research, for Brown, it was a necessity.

Contrasting what he recalled learning in school about the experiences Asians have had in the U.S., Brown said he thought he was "pretty well acquainted" with the Asian American and Japanese American communities.

"But, I will tell you, researching the book was in many ways a revelation to me," Brown said. "I mean, I really dove deep into the history of the Chinese Exclusion Act and these



various restrictive laws. I dove into the violence against Chinese immigrants, starting with the Gold Rush in the 1850s, the Yellow Peril years and all that. I'm an educated guy, and I had known all that existed, but it really brought it home to me in a way that it hadn't before."

Brown also noted that working on the book overlapped with the Trump administration.

"I was reading about all these families trying to make their way in America at the same time the 'Muslim ban' thing was going on and then doing a deep dive into the concentration camps at the same time the administration was breaking families up and incarcerating families," he said. "My book is not overtly political, but it certainly was fueled by all that stuff that was going on."

"The process of researching the book deepened and sharpened my awareness in a way that surprised me because I thought I had known the story pretty well, which I suspect is true of a lot of non-Japanese Americans," Brown continued. "I think that they feel that they know the story better than they really do."

Related to that, Brown said he was "kind of stunned" when he was talking with some of the people associated with the book's publisher at "how little they knew about the story."

"I think it's partly an East Coast/West Coast thing," Brown said. "I was absolutely flabbergasted, actually, at how little they knew about what had happened. I think most of them had some vague idea that Japanese Americans were incarcerated during the war, but boy, that was as far as their understanding went. I don't know why it hasn't penetrated more. I don't really know the answer."

"My book isn't going to change the world here, but one of the reasons I wanted to write this book was my previous book was very successful, so I knew I'd have a big platform for this book. . . . When I started digging into these stories and meeting these family members, I really



Author Daniel James Brown and Densho's Tom Ikeda (left)





**Pvt. Rudy Tokiwa**

PHOTO: COURTESY OF THE TOKIWA FAMILY COLLECTION



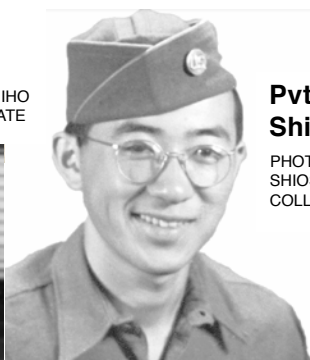
**Kats Miho at Maui High**

PHOTO: KATSUGO MIHO FAMILY ESTATE



**Gordon Hirabayashi**

PHOTO: UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON LIBRARIES, SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, SOC9328



**Pvt. Fred Shiosaki**

PHOTO: SHIOSAKI FAMILY COLLECTION

thought I wanted to use my heightened platform for making the story better known, particularly outside the Japanese American community, obviously.”

One of the obstacles Brown faced, too, was that so many of the people whose stories had been preserved had died. But he was able to spend extensive time with one of the four principal “characters” he ultimately settled on to tell the story, Fred Shiosaki of Seattle. Shiosaki was a member of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team’s K Co., which was involved in the Rescue of the Lost Battalion.

“Fred fit neatly into the narrative I was trying to create because he was in the right places at the right time,” Brown said. But their relationship ended, however, when Shiosaki died at 96 on April 10.

The other men who have prominent roles in “Facing the Mountain” are Kats Miho, who was born in Hawaii on the island of Maui, and from the mainland like Shiosaki, Rudy Tokiwa and Gordon Hirabayashi, who wasn’t a soldier but someone who fought using the legal system against the injustice visited upon Japanese Americans by the federal government.

For Ikeda and Densho, working with Brown is just the latest part of the journey that began 25 years ago.

“Our mission is to preserve and share the stories of the World War II Japanese American incarceration to promote justice and equity today,” said Ikeda. “So, to have someone like Dan interested in the stories and consider writing a book really was, I think, in terms of what we were thinking, a way to share the story.”

Over the years, Ikeda said he has

met many authors and filmmakers who were interested in the Densho repository. But there was something about Brown that stood out — how closely he listened.

“It didn’t seem like he was coming in with an agenda,” Ikeda said. “He was very curious. The thing that I noticed and appreciated was he listened to some thoughts and then he did the work. He actually went to our archive and learned how to use it.”

Before long, thanks to the research Brown had done, he soon learned and knew “things that I didn’t know,” Ikeda said. “It was, actually, at some point, a really interesting relationship in terms of sharing information.”

That relationship no doubt will continue to evolve in the coming weeks with the rollout of publicity for “Facing the Mountain.”

For Brown, having completed the book means he is still in a postcompletion refractory period. He did allow that he may try writing fiction for book No. 5.

Professionally, Brown is, at nearly 70, in a good place, with writing books for a living his third career; his first career was teaching English at the college level, which was followed by working as a technical writer and editor.

“Twenty years ago now, I just sort of on the side started writing a book about a piece of my family history.”

That was the basis for “Under a Flaming Sky: The Great Hinckley Firestorm of 1894,” about a deadly forest fire in Minnesota that killed 350 people, one of whom was his great-grandfather.

The book did reasonably well, and Brown secured a contract for a second book, “The Indifferent Stars Above: The Harrowing Saga of the Donner Party Bride.”

And, of course, there is Hollywood, what with “Facing the Mountain” on its way to becoming adapted for the screen

## Prologue

*Following is the Prologue, written by Densho Executive Director Tom Ikeda, for Daniel James Brown’s “Facing the Mountain.” It has been reprinted with permission courtesy of its publisher, Viking, an imprint of Penguin Publishing Group, a division of Penguin Random House. Copyright © 2021 by Daniel James Brown.*

*‘We made the sacrifices. It was a sense of “Hey, I earned this. It’s not that you owe me. It’s this — that we have earned this.”’*

— Fred Shiosaki

By Tom Ikeda,  
Densho Executive Director

One of the many pleasures of writing a book like this is meeting the extraordinary people who have lived the story you are telling. Usually, you meet them only virtually, through the letters or diaries or video recordings they have left behind. Occasionally, if you are lucky, you get to meet them in person.

Such was the case on a typically splendid Hawaiian afternoon in 2018 when my friend Mariko Miho ushered me into the Maple Garden Restaurant in Honolulu’s McCully-Mo‘ili‘ili neighborhood. The place was loud with the clattering of dishes and lush with warm aromas arising from a buffet arrayed along one wall. Most of the people lined up at the buffet were there for the midweek, midday senior discount. We were there for the company.

Mariko led me to the back of the restaurant where half a dozen white-haired gentlemen, all in their nineties, were sitting at two large round tables, surrounded by their wives and sons and daughters. Mariko introduced me. Everyone smiled and waved a bit shyly and then resumed their conversations. Mariko seated me next to two of the gentlemen and introduced them to me as Roy Fujii and Flint Yonashiro. They were veterans of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team (RCT). During World War II, the regiment had fought the fascist powers in Europe so valiantly that they had emerged from the war as one of the most decorated units in American history. Roy and Flint had known and cared for each other for at least seventy-five years. They had fought together, lost friends together, bled together, been through hell together.

Soon, they were both regaling me with stories, and I was flinging questions at them. Roy patiently explained how to adjust the elevation settings on a 105-millimeter howitzer. They both talked about the terrifying sound of incoming artillery shells, about handing out candy bars to starving children in Italy, about swimming in the Mediterranean, and about picking their way through deadly minefields in Germany. I pulled out some maps, and soon both men were hunched over them, eagerly comparing notes, pointing out features of some terrain in France — mountains they had climbed, river crossings where friends had died. We talked for an hour or more, and through it all they were both so bright-eyed and clearheaded and vibrantly alive that you might have thought them twentysomething rather than ninetysomething. It was easy to see the eager, audacious, good-hearted young men they had once been.

When lunch was over and the veterans began to push their chairs away from the tables, family members scrambled for walkers and canes. Daughters who were themselves in their sixties or seventies rushed to help their fathers stand up. Sons cleared aisles for wheelchairs. When Roy Fujii rose to stand, he wobbled just a bit. A chair stood between him and the door, and it wasn’t clear that he saw it. Faster than I could

have, ninety-four-year-old Flint Yonashiro sprang to his feet, sprinted around the table, pushed the chair out of the way, steadied Roy, and handed him his cane.

It was a small thing, but I’ll never forget it. It summed up in a gesture everything I have learned about not only those half a dozen men but thousands more just like them. For three-quarters of a century, all across the country, they have been coming together — at luncheons and dinners and *lū‘au*, in homes and restaurants and veterans’ halls — needing to be in one another’s presence again, needing to show again how much they love one another, needing to take care of each other, as brothers do. As they left the restaurant that afternoon, strangers made way for them, and a hushed reverence washed over the room. All of us knew that they would not be with us much longer, and all of us wished that were not so. And that is why I have set out here — with a great deal of help from some of them, and from their sons and daughters and friends and compatriots — to tell you their remarkable story as best I can.

Some came from small towns, some from big cities. Some hailed from family farms in the American West, some from vast pineapple and sugarcane plantations in Hawai‘i. By and large, they had grown up like other American boys, playing baseball and football and going to Saturday afternoon matinees. They performed in marching bands on the Fourth of July, went to county fairs, ate burgers and fries, messed around under the hoods of cars, and listened to swing tunes on the radio. They made plans to go to college or work in the family business or run the farm someday. They eyed pretty girls walking down school corridors clutching books to their chests, making their way to class. They studied American history and English literature, took PE and shop classes, looked forward to their weekends. And as the holiday season approached in 1941, it seemed as if the whole world lay before them.

But within hours of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, all that changed. Within days, the FBI was banging on their doors, searching their homes, hauling their fathers away to undisclosed locations. Within weeks, many of them would watch as their immigrant parents were forced to sell their homes for pennies on the dollar and shutter businesses that they had spent decades building. Within months, tens of thousands of them or their family members would be living in barracks behind barbed wire or have family members who were.

For all their essential Americanness, the traumatic events of that December brought back into focus something they had always known: their place in American society remained tenuous. Millions of their countrymen regarded them with an unfettered animosity born of decades of virulent anti-Asian rhetoric spewing forth from the press and from the mouths of politicians. Local ordinances regulated where they could and could not live. Labor unions routinely barred them from employment in many industries. Proprietors of businesses could, at will, ban them from entering their premises. Public facilities were sometimes closed to them. State laws prohibited their parents from owning real estate. In many states they were not free to marry across racial lines. Their national government prohibited their parents from becoming citizens.

And they knew this, too: their lives, their very identities, were inevitably bound to their roots. The values that their parents had bestowed on them — the manner in which they approached others, the standards by which they measured success, the obligations they felt, the respect they owed to their elders, the traditions they celebrated, and a multitude of other facets of their individual and collective identities — were not things they could or would willingly cast aside. They were, in fact, things they cherished.

» and “The Boys in the Boat” looking ready to be directed by George Clooney.

But, as noted, that is all in the future. The book is now and Brown is hopeful that he achieved the book’s purpose — or as he put it: “I think contextualizing and putting this whole thing into human terms, terms that anybody can identify with, what it’s like to suddenly have your home taken away from you, and your business and your livelihood.

“That’s what I’m trying to do with the book — get people to open their hearts and look through a different set of eyes than they may have in the past and consider what it’s like to have these series of traumas inflicted on you and reflect on what that means with where we are today.” ■

» Because many of them had relatives living in Japan, they had seen the storm clouds growing over the Pacific long before most other Americans had. And they knew immediately on that first Sunday in December 1941 that straddling two worlds now suddenly at war would challenge them in ways that would shake the foundations of their lives.

For those young men there was no obvious path forward, no simple right way or wrong way to proceed with their lives. Some of them would launch campaigns of conscientious resistance to the deprivation of their constitutional rights. Others — thousands of them — would serve, and some

would die, on the battlefields of Europe, striving to prove their loyalty to their country. Scores of their mothers would dissolve into tears as they saw grim-faced officers coming in past barbed-wire fencing bearing shattering news. But by the end of their lives almost all of them — whether they fought in courtrooms or in foxholes — would be counted American heroes.

At its heart, this is the story of those young men — some of the bravest Americans who have ever lived, the Nisei warriors of World War II, and how they, through their actions, laid bare for all the world to see what exactly it means to be an American. But it’s also the story

of their immigrant parents, the Issei, who like other immigrants before them — whether they came from Ireland or Italy, from North Africa or Latin America — faced suspicion and prejudice from the moment they arrived in America. It’s the story of how they set out to win their place in American society, working at menial jobs from dawn to dusk, quietly enduring discrimination and racial epithets, struggling to learn the language, building businesses, growing crops, knitting together families, nurturing their children, creating homes. It’s the story of wives and mothers and sisters who kept families together under extreme conditions. It’s the story of the first Americans since the

Cherokee in 1838 to face wholesale forced removal from their homes, deprivation of their livelihoods, and mass incarceration.

But in the end it’s not a story of victims. Rather, it’s a story of victors, of people striving, resisting, rising up, standing on principle, laying down their lives, enduring, and prevailing. It celebrates some young Americans who decided they had no choice but to do what their sense of honor and loyalty told them was right, to cultivate their best selves, to embrace the demands of conscience, to leave their homes and families and sally forth into the fray, to confront and to conquer the mountain of troubles that lay suddenly in their paths. ■

# The Senate Champion of Redress



Sparky Matsunaga

“The man who should take nearly all of the credit for Senate passage of the redress bill is Sen. Sparky Matsunaga. He is the one who sponsored the bill and organized the vote on that in the Senate. If Sen. Matsunaga’s efforts were to be weighted at 10, mine would be one.”

--Senator Daniel Inouye

*A Commemoration Of Sparky’s Legacy*

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# SAFETY IN THE TIME OF HATE AND THE CORONAVIRUS

For Japanese Americans, there is a shared history with different viewpoints on policing and safety. Law enforcement and community leaders all seek to answer the question, 'What should community safety look like?' amid rising anti-Asian racism and violence.

By Lynda Lin Grigsby,  
Contributor

One life imprisoned can cause a ripple effect that spans generations. What happens when it is 120,000 people targeted by the government for imprisonment?

It causes collective, intergenerational trauma.

The World War II incarceration of Japanese Americans is a touchstone of pain and identity for a community that during that time in U.S. history was identified as such a threat to national security, its members needed to be surveilled, detained and imprisoned.

One shared experience refracted across generations can produce a variety of perceptions, especially in the debate about policing, imprisonment and public safety. Because of their shared WWII experience, some Japanese Americans argue that it is time to re-examine policing and America's criminal justice system.

"I know the intergenerational harms that arresting people and incarcerating them causes," said Carl Takei, a senior staff attorney with the American Civil Liberties Union. "And if we can build something different that's more compassionate, then we should."

In Arcadia, Calif., a suburb of Los Angeles, the city's first Japanese American police chief raps on his desk to summon continued good fortune.

"We have been very lucky," said Roy Nakamura about his city's clean slate of anti-Asian hate crime, a sharp contrast to the spike in these reports across the nation.

The controversy about the future of law enforcement is rife with pain and emotion. With the April 20 Derek Chauvin murder conviction fresh in memory, police officers across the U.S. fatally shot six people just 24 hours after jurors in Minneapolis handed in a guilty verdict, according to the *Associated Press*. The circumstances of the deaths vary widely. Some say they reflect an urgent need for radical changes to American policing.

In the Japanese American community, the debate takes on an added layer of tension between a community's shared history and a collective desire for safety amid a surge in anti-Asian racism.

Both sides of the debate seek to answer a fundamental question: What should community safety look like?

## The Police Chief: Change Is Necessary

To talk about the future of policing, one needs to examine what exists and what came before.

"I believe that we should always study history so that we never repeat our mistakes," said Nakamura, 56.

The Sansei police chief is talking about cancel culture, the modern-day form of ostracism and erasure, which police departments are facing in varying degrees. A March *USA Today*/IPSOS poll revealed an increase in trust (69 percent, up from 56 percent last summer) in local police and law enforcement to promote justice and equal treatment for people of all races.

"What if you erase everything from the past? What if you don't take into

consideration the mistakes? I mean, is there a possibility that we won't be able to recall the mistakes that we've made as a community, as a society?" said Nakamura, who was appointed chief in January.

He was born in Tokyo and grew up in Guam before moving to Southern California to pursue education. Watching police TV shows drew Nakamura to a career in law enforcement. Something about the portrayal of police officers solving crime cases filled his head with aspirations.

Douglas Nakamura, a Nisei from Hawaii, always told his son, "Don't live by the color of your skin. Let your work speak for you. Shut your mouth. Grind it out and do the best you can."

During WWII while living on the island of Oahu, Douglas Nakamura watched other JAs get rounded up and incarcerated after Japan bombed Pearl Harbor. His family was spared, but he thought it was important to teach his children about the desolate War Relocation Authority prison camps and the heroism of the WWII segregated JA units in the U.S. military.

Today, with almost three decades of experience in law enforcement, Nakamura's office at the Arcadia Police Department is across the street



(Top)  
The Arcadia Police Department serves and protects a city of more than 57,000 residents, 60 percent of whom identify as Asian American.



(Left)  
Roy Nakamura, a 28-year veteran, is Arcadia's first Japanese American police chief. He was appointed in October 2020.



(Bottom)  
Chief Roy Nakamura takes a moment to chat with community members at the April 28 event.

Members and allies of Chicago-based Nikkei Uprising (from left) Cori Nakamura Lin, JJ Ueunten and Chris Aldana rallied in front of Cook County Jail on April 11 to call for the abolition of the jail.



The sound of taiko reverberated in front of Cook County Jail where Emily Harada played the yoko uchi.

PHOTOS: ALEC OZAWA



### Volunteer Japantown Prepared employees from the Hilton hotel.



**A volunteer community foot patrol is helping to protect San Jose Japantown seniors. Volunteers are intergenerational, racially diverse and come from all over the Bay Area.**



**"I used to feel safe," said Nadine Sachiko Hsu, a family photographer and owner of Sachiko Studio in Arcadia, Calif.**

**More police presence would help business owners feel safer, according to Pam Yoshida, co-president of the Japantown Community Congress of San Jose, West Valley JACL member and owner of Nikkei Traditions, a San Jose Japantown store.**



from Santa Anita Racetrack, where thousands of Japanese Americans were temporarily incarcerated in refurbished horse stalls during WWII.

For Nakamura, the lesson of the past informs his job as police chief — it is about community.

More than 57,000 people, 60 percent of whom identify as Asian American, live in Arcadia according to Census information. The city's medium home property value is over \$1 million.

Arcadia Police Department's 72-sworn officers are tasked with keeping the city safe. It's a job Nakamura says that needs examination, not cancellation.

"I'm not perfect. Neither are my officers," said Nakamura. "We learn from our mistakes."

To answer the call for changes to American policing, the police chief is advocating for regular audits of police departments to keep law enforcement accountable and ensure best practices reflect the needs of the community.

"Reform sounds ugly, and nobody likes change, including police chiefs and police officers. But I think that reforms, at times, are necessary," said Nakamura.

#### ***The Communities: We Need Protection***

In the first quarter of 2021, anti-Asian hate crimes increased by 164 percent, according to a new report from the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism at California State University, San Bernardino.

So, what does safety look like in the time of hate and coronavirus?

"My vision for a safe city is one that takes into consideration the perspective of the community," said Nakamura. "If the community does not feel safe, then I think that there's a disconnect."

On April 22, the Senate overwhelmingly passed an anti-hate crime bill aimed at addressing the surge in anti-Asian racism and attacks. The bill, sponsored by Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii) and Grace Meng (D-N.Y.), seeks to establish online reporting of hate crimes and create a new Justice Department position to review hate crimes during the pandemic. The bill now goes to the House.

Even as lawmakers seek to pass legislation, anti-Asian hate continues to spew on the streets.

In Monterey Park, Calif., Nadine Sachiko Hsu, 41, said a man recently shouted anti-Asian slurs at her friend's mom.

"I luckily have not been a victim," said Hsu, owner of Sachiko Studio, a professional family photography studio in Arcadia. "We're concerned, upset, mad and in disbelief."

In a pandemic, running a small business is a struggle. Coupled with the threat of racism, it can be untenable. Hsu, who identifies as Japanese American and Caucasian, has a great-uncle who was incarcerated at Santa Anita and Manzanar. She supports stricter punishments for hate crimes and thinks policing is important to community safety.

"I haven't heard anyone in the local police department come out and tell me they're doing more to keep us safe or raising any awareness, which makes me feel uneasy," said Hsu.

In San Jose's Japantown, the economic effects of the pandemic on local businesses are visible. Some businesses either remain closed or

can only operate limited hours. The historic area is home to many senior residents, who live in the area's three housing facilities, and senior visitors, who frequent Japantown's grocery store or senior center.

Japantown seniors feel unsafe because of the increase in elderly attacks, which are unrelated to anti-Asian hate, said Pam Yoshida, co-president of the Japantown Community Congress of San Jose and a member of the West Valley JACL.

"We have had a few situations with seniors being knocked down on the sidewalk by someone who was mentally ill and do not believe these were motivated by anti-Asian hate," said Yoshida, a Sansei.

In response to the attacks, retired San Jose Police officer Rich Saito started a volunteer community foot patrol, Japantown Prepared, to help protect the area and its seniors. The volunteers are intergenerational, racially diverse and come from all over the Bay Area to put on red vests and patrol Japantown.

"The residents feel very comfortable with the foot patrol volunteers," said Yoshida, who also owns Nikkei Traditions, a Japantown store that sells Japanese American books, snacks and even T-shirts emblazoned with "Executive Order 9066."

The San Jose Police department also increased its presence in Japantown with its foot and bike patrol, said Yoshida.

"Police engagement is crucial," she said.

#### ***The Abolitionists: We Need to Imagine a Different World***

In March, a gunman in Atlanta targeted and killed employees and patrons of spa businesses. Six of the eight victims of the mass shooting were of Asian descent. After news of the event shocked the nation, lawmakers in Seattle, Wash., held a virtual roundtable meeting with Asian American community leaders to talk about safety amid surging anti-Asian hate.

**» See SAFETY on page 12**



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## REIMAGINE EVERYTHING

# TECH USAGE AMONG OLDER ADULTS SKYROCKETS DURING PANDEMIC

By Ron Mori

In a year with a global pandemic significantly limiting social interaction, technology became more important than ever, especially for older adults.

New research from AARP found that more older adults (44 percent) view tech more positively as a way to stay connected than they did before Covid-19. In addition, 4 out of 5 adults age 50+ rely on technology to stay connected and in touch with family and friends.

Yet, the report also found that the greater adoption and reliance on technology is uneven, as 15 percent of adults 50+ do not have access to any type of internet, and 60 percent say the cost of high-speed internet is a problem.

**Technology has become more important for older adults since the onset of the global pandemic.**

PHOTO: AARP

“Technology enabled older adults to better weather the isolation of the pandemic — from ordering groceries to telehealth visits to connecting with loved ones,” said Alison Bryant, senior vp of research at AARP. “But it also exacerbated the divide. So much more is done online, and the 38 million disconnected older adults are being further left out.”

### AARP 2021 Tech Trends Report Key Findings:

- Annual tech spending by the 50+ exponentially increased — from

\$394 to \$1,144. The top three tech purchases were smartphones, smart TVs and earbuds/Bluetooth headsets.

- Using technology to connect with others across multiple forms of communication has increased since the onset of the pandemic. Many say they are using video chats (45 percent), texting (37 percent), emailing (26 percent) and phone (29 percent) more now than before the pandemic. As of 2019, about half had never used video chat, but by 2020, 70 percent have, with 1 in 3 using video chat weekly.

- Tech use among the 50+ increased particularly in wearable devices — from 17 percent to 27 percent.
- 50+ use of smartphones increased dramatically. For instance, use for ordering groceries grew from 6 percent to 24 percent; use for personal health increased from 28 percent to 40 percent for activities such as telehealth visits, ordering prescriptions or making appointments; use for health and fitness information increased 25 percent to 44 percent; and use for financial transactions increased from

37 percent to 53 percent.

- Half of the 50+ want to learn more about using tech (54 percent).
- Cost (38 percent), awareness/lack of knowledge (37 percent) and privacy concerns (34 percent) are the top self-reported barriers holding the 50+ back from adopting new technology.
- Privacy concerns continue to be a factor when it comes to tech, with 83 percent lacking confidence that what they do online remains private.
- Weekly use of streaming increased to 58 percent from 44 percent, a significant shift in how the 50+ consume entertainment.

AARP has a long history of providing personal technology resources including digital literacy initiatives, practical guidebooks and advocacy on technology issues for the 50+.

As part of our digital literacy work, OATS (Older Adults Technology Services) from AARP offers digital literacy courses, resources and events, which are a key part of the AARP Virtual Community Center, an online destination for AARP members and nonmembers alike.

OATS from AARP empowers older adults to overcome barriers to digital engagement by fostering skills and giving them the confidence they need to use technology and stay connected.

AARP has also long advocated for low-cost high-speed internet solutions for older adults and continued this work by recently supporting the new \$3.2 billion Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) program.

This program is available to subsidize broadband service for eligible Americans during the pandemic. AARP is collaborating with the Federal Communications Commission to conduct education and outreach to let people know about the EBB program.

This program was established to help households struggling to pay for internet service during the pandemic and provides eligible households a monthly discount of up to \$50 toward broadband service.

Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer or tablet from participating providers if they contribute at least \$10 but no more than \$50 toward the purchase price.

More information about the program including eligibility is available at <https://www.fcc.gov/broadband-benefit>.

**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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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

### 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](http://www.jacl.org).

### National AAPI Day Against Bullying and Hate May 18 Virtual Event

**Price: Free**  
In 2019, Act to Change spearheaded the inaugural National AAPI Day Against Bullying and Hate in honor of the birthday of Vincent Chin, whose murder in a hate crime in 1982 sparked a national uprising. This year's signature event will feature "United We Stand," as it's more important now than ever that we stand up to xenophobia. Special guests include Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-Ill.), Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-Hawaii), Jeremy Lin, Simu Liu, Olivia Munn, Randall Park, Bowen Yang and many more.

**Info:** To register, visit <https://acttochange.org>.

### 'Healing Fractured Communities: Coming to Terms With Systemic Trauma' Webinar

**May 19; 3-4 p.m. EST  
Virtual Event**

**Price: Free**  
The harsh reality that anti-Asian/BIPOC violence continues to increase. In this program, presented by the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation, American Psychological Assn. and JACL, Shirley Ann Higuchi, Satsuki Ina and Arthur Evans will discuss the links between systemic racism, cross-communal trauma and how all mental health-care workers can make a difference today. In closing, JACL's David Inoue and Maysa Akbar, chief diversity officer of the American Psychological Assn., will reflect on the discussion and consider steps we can all take.

**Info:** To RSVP, visit <http://bit.ly/healing-fractured-communities>.

### AAPI Heritage Month: Solidarity Is a Full-Time Job

As we celebrate the strength and resilience of our communities across the nation, we unite in solidarity with allies in the fight to Stop Asian Hate across the country. We belong, we are beautiful and we will always work to spread love over hate.

**Asian Americans Advancing Justice @AAA\_AAJC**

**Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum @apiahf**  
**Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance @apalanational**  
**JACL @JACL\_National**  
**National Council of Asian Pacific Americans @NCAPAtweets**  
**OCA-Asian Pacific American Advocates @OCANational**  
**South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT) @SAALTtweets**  
**Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC) @searac**  
**APIA Scholars @APIA\_Scholars**

## 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. Featured artists include Shakuachi Grand Master Riley Lee from Australia, Sonoma County Taiko, Ensoha Minyoshu, Bay Area Miyake, TenTen Taiko, the DeLeon Judo Club, and others. The event will be held virtually by Zoom. Registration is free.

**Info:** To register, visit [www.sonoma-matsuri.org](http://www.sonoma-matsuri.org). For more information, visit [www.sonomamatsuri.org](http://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](https://www.eventbrite.com): Search "The Betrayed." For additional information, email [Buddhist@wbtemple.org](mailto:Buddhist@wbtemple.org).

### 2021 Berkeley JACL Scholarship, Pioneer and Youth Leadership Awards

**Berkeley, CA**

**May 23; 11:45 a.m.-1:30 p.m.  
Zoom Virtual Event**

Join Berkeley JACL at its annual event recognizing the chapter's scholarship recipients, Pioneer Award winners Mark Fujikawa and Leroy Morishita and Youth Leadership Award honoree Elizabeth Uno.

**Info:** RSVP with your name and email by May 19 to Ryan Matsuda ([ryan.matsuda@outlook.com](mailto:ryan.matsuda@outlook.com)) and Ron Tanaka ([ron\\_tanaka@yahoo.com](mailto:ron_tanaka@yahoo.com)) or call (925) 932-7947 to receive the Zoom link to the event.

## PSW

### Bystander Intervention Training Los Angeles, CA

**May 18; 1-2 p.m. PDT; May 26, 3-4 p.m. PDT**

**Asian Americans Advancing Justice**

**Virtual Webinar**

**Price: Free**

This one-hour interactive training will teach you Hollaback's 5D's of bystander intervention methodology. The discussion will start by talking about the types of disrespect that Asian and Asian Americans are experiencing right now. You'll then learn what to look for and the positive impact that bystander intervention has on individuals and the community. You'll also learn five strategies for intervention and how to prioritize your own safety while intervening.

**Info:** Visit [advancingjustice-la.org](http://advancingjustice-la.org) to register and for more information. Each webinar is limited to 500 attendees. More sessions will be added in the coming weeks.

### Welcome Back to JANM!

**Los Angeles, CA**

**Japanese American National Museum**

**100 N. Central Ave.**

**11 a.m.-5 p.m. PDT Friday, Saturday and Sunday only; closed Mon.-Thurs.**

**Price:** Timed, advanced tickets are required. No walk-in visitors. Admission is accepted up to 30 minutes after ticket time. No ticket refunds. Please contact JANM to rebook a new time.

JANM has reopened! Reserve admission tickets to visit the museum once again. Current exhibits include "Under a Mushroom Cloud," which commemorates the 75th anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki; "Common Ground: The Heart of Community," which chronicles 130 years of Japanese American history.

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

**'Question 27, Question 28'**  
**Los Angeles, CA**

### JANM

**100 N. Central Ave.**

**Virtual Program Thru May 21**

**Price: Free**

Artists at Play is sharing free theater for audiences in celebration of AAPI Heritage Month. What were the experiences of Japanese American women during the WWII American concentration camps? "Question 27, Question 28" by Chay Yew tells their stories of hardship, determination and love. This presentation is an abridged version of the original directed by Jully Lee, which has been shortened and edited for families.

**Info:** Visit [www.janm.org](http://www.janm.org) for the video link.

### USC Pacific Asia Museum

**Reopening**

**Pasadena, CA**

**46 N. Los Robles Ave.**

**Price: Pay What You Wish Thru**

**June 6; Free Admission to**

**Frontline Workers Thru Memorial Day Weekend**

After a year of closure, the USC Pacific Asia Museum is excited to announce its reopening! Reservations can be made on USC PAM's website. All visitors must purchase or reserve advanced timed entry tickets online. Onsite ticket purchases will not be available. Incredible programming will be offered in celebration of AAPI Heritage Month as well as continued Zoom workshops and online programming.

**Info:** Visit <https://pacificasiamuseum.usc.edu>.

## PNW

### '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](http://wingluke.org). All visitors are required to sign a Coronavirus/Covid-19 waiver of liability. Health and safety protocols are in place. Check the museum for exact hours of operation.

## MDC

### Chicago Japanese Film

**Collective Festival**

**Chicago, IL**

**May 25-31**

**Virtual screenings**

**Price: \$15 all access; student**

**prices and discounts available**

The first-ever Japanese film festival

to be held in the Mid-West, this virtual event will showcase nine films (seven narrative features and two documentaries), two of which are North American premieres. Tickets purchased May 16-31 will be \$15 for all access or \$10 for one film. Student discount codes and promotional discount codes are available.

**Info:** Email [info@cjfc.us](mailto:info@cjfc.us) or visit <https://www.cjfc.us/>.

### Amache Virtual Pilgrimage

**Amache, CO**

**June 11-13**

This year's Amache Pilgrimage will be streamed through the JAMPilgrimages YouTube channel. Please tell your friends and family, as more information about this event will be posted soon. There is also a new Facebook group that will have the most up-to-date information: All Things Amache [facebook.com/groups/809799359625587/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/809799359625587/).

**Info:** Visit [Amache.org](http://Amache.org) for more details.

## EDC

### Bringing Asian Cuisine to the American Table

**Boston, MA**

**May 19; 3 p.m. EST**

**Virtual Event**

**Price: Free**

Boston University's Megan Elias will explore the diverse history of Asian and Asian Pacific Food in the U.S. She'll track how traditional ingredients have made their way into the American diet and detail the journeys of Asian American cookbooks that made their mark.

**Info:** Visit <https://www.bu.edu/alumni/> for more information.

### Building AAPI Power

**Boston, MA**

**May 24; 2 p.m. EST**

**Virtual Event**

**Price: Free**

The Asian Community Fund and the Boston Foundation offer a data presentation assessing the needs of the AAPI community. Afterward, community leaders Carolyn Chou (Asian American Resource Workshop) and Souvanna Pouv (Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association of Greater Lowell) will talk about how those needs can be met to create lasting change.

**Info:** Visit <https://events.tbf.org/event/home/buildingaapipower>. ■

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# In MEMORIAM

**Hiraïke, Isamu Sammy, 98**, Los Angeles, CA, Jan. 19; during WWII, his family and he were forcibly relocated to and incarcerated at the Manzanar WRA Center in CA; he was predeceased by his wife, Reiko; he is survived by his daughters, Eileen Hiraïke and Dr. Kathleen (Dr. Kenneth) Sakamoto; sister, Asako Doi; sister-in-law, Kimiko Kochi; he is also survived by nieces and nephews.

**Hirashima, Margie, 98**, Los Angeles, CA, Dec. 27, 2020; she was predeceased by her husband, Frank; she is survived by her son, Jeff (Elaine) Hirashima; gc: 2; ggc: 1.

**Hongo-Namba, Lily Sadako, 95**, Portland, OR, March 23; during WWII, she was incarcerated at the Minidoka WRA Center in ID, where she graduated from Hunt High School; she was predeceased by her first husband, Shigeru Hongo; and daughter, Wendy Peace; she is survived by her husband, Mark; son, Dr. Gary S. Hongo (Jonna); son-in-law, Jeff Peace (Donna); sisters, Kimi Iwamoto and Jean Takashima; gc: 5; ggc: 6.

**Inouye, Mac Mansaku., 97**, Denver, CO, Oct. 11, 2020; Army veteran; thrice married.

**Izumigawa, Jim, 69**, Los Angeles, CA, Jan. 12; he is survived by his siblings, Sally Tagawa and Dennis Izumigawa; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews, grand nieces, grand nephews and other relatives.

**Kawaguchi, Mae, 94**, Sunnyvale, CA, Dec. 13, 2020; she was predeceased by her husband, Makoto; son, Glenn Kawaguchi; she is survived by her sons, Scott (Sharon) and Richard (Karina); daughter-in-law, Dana Kawaguchi; sister, Alice Neishi; gc: 7.

**Kawaguchi, Mitsue Ogura Matsuo-ka, 97**, Coarsegold, CA, Dec. 3, 2020; during WWII, she was incarcerated at the WRA Center in Poston, AZ; she was predeceased by her husband, Hiromitsu Matsuoka; she is survived by her sons, Ray (Marge) Matsuoka, Stanley Matsuoka, Gilbert (Nancy) Matsuoka and Dennis (Jeani)

Matsuoka; gc: 11 ggc: 6.

**Kawaharada, June, 83**, San Marino, CA, Feb. 1; she is survived by her husband, Allan; children, Kim (Paige), Jill, Jon (Yukiko); 4 sisters; gc: 8; ggc: 1; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and their children.

**Matsuura, Vernon, 83**, Los Angeles, CA, Jan. 25; he is survived by his wife, Carol Mikami Matsuura; children, Julie (Mary) Artino Matsuura and Jason Matsuura (Edel); brothers, Mel Matsuura (Haru) and Gene Matsuura (Jean); brother-in-law, Richard Mikami (Ann); sisters-in-law, Meiko Inaba, Lynn Mikami and Shirley Mikami; gc: 2.

**Miyamura, David, 72**, St. Augustine, FL, Nov. 19, 2020; he is survived by his mother, Chieko Miyamura; brother, Ted Miyamura; sister-in-law, Hilda Miyamura; lifelong partner, Bette Marcoux; "inherited" stepchildren, Eric Marcoux, Nicole Wickens and Christopher Marcoux; gc: 3.

**Miyamura Jr., Frank, 72**, Los Angeles, Jan. 5; retired Air Force veteran; he is survived by his sisters, Frances and Joyce; 2 nephews.

**Nakashima, Kevin Katsuya, 65**, New Hope, PA, Nov. 7; son of Marion and George Nakashima (the famed woodworker and founder of Nakashima Studios); Philadelphia JACL Chapter member; he is survived by his sister, Mira; 3 nephews and a niece and their spouses; five great-nephews and two great-nieces. Donations in honor of Kevin: Nakashima Foundation for Peace, 1847 Aquetong Road, New Hope, PA 18938.

**Nakayama, Shigeru, 73**, Sacramento, CA, Feb. 22; Army veteran; he was predeceased by his sister, Mitsuko (Hajime) Misaka; he is survived by his wife, Sachi; sons, Derick and Bryan (Melissa); sister, Fusako (Tom); sister-in-law Hiroko (Bruce).

**Nakayama, Yoko, 79**, Alhambra, CA, Jan. 22; she is survived by her brother, Masami Nakayama; a niece and many relatives and friends.

**Onishi, George Jogi, 88**, Los Angeles, CA, Dec. 27, 2020; Army

veteran; he was predeceased by his wife, Velma Beverly Onishi; son, John Ahau Onishi; granddaughter, Kaitlyn Kiana Elliott; he is survived by his children, Michael Jotaro Onishi, George "Butchie" Onishi (Josie), David Akuni Onishi and Kimberlee Elliott (Tim); sisters, Violet Okuhata and Annette Pipi; half-sisters, Stephanie Pauling and Winifred Nagy; he is also survived by many cousins, nieces, nephews, friends and ohana; gc: 6; ggc: 2.

**Onishi, Haruko, 83**, Lodi, CA, Jan. 7; during WWII, her family and she were incarcerated at the Rohwer WRA Center in AR; she was predeceased by her first husband, Henry Okazaki; and second husband, Sus Onishi; she is survived by her children, Kelly Yamane and Corey Okazaki (Lisa); siblings, Cindy Nishimoto (late husband Julius), George (Christine), Tom (Gracie), Dickie (late wife Nadine); sisters-in-law, Naomi Iwamiya, Grace Watanabe (Sach); gc: 3.

**Onishi, Miyo (née Kuwashima), 95**, Canton, MA, March 29; she was predeceased by her husband, Massey Onishi; she is survived by her children, Linda Dunn (Greg) and Steven Onishi (Dawn); gc: 5; ggc: 2.

**Shimatsu, Rodger, 77**, Northridge, CA, Dec. 19, 2020; he is survived by his wife, Tamara Martin; children, Jennifer (Leonardo Gomez) Shimatsu-Gomez and Lance Shimatsu; sister, Aileen (Bruce) Sato; mother-in-law, Tokuye Namiki; father-in-law, John Martin; gc: 3.

**Sugimura, Misuko, 98**, Monterey Park, CA, Jan. 8; during WWII, she and her family were incarcerated at the Poston WRA Center in AZ; she was predeceased by her husband, George; siblings, Misayo Kumakura, Yoshiko Hanaoka, Sam Mori, Sus Mori and Bob Mori; she is survived by her daughter, Debra Mills (David); and sisters-in-law, Michiko Mori and Kay Mori.

**Sunahara, Marilyn, 86**, Gardena, CA, April 1; she is survived by her children, Jeffrey Kiyoshi (Wendy), Ryan Shizuo (Janice) Sunahara and Stephanie June Sunahara;

brother, Kenneth (Jan) Kagiya; gc: 4; she is also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

**Takeda, Yoshimichi, 89**, Kaneohe, HI, March 4.

**Tekawa, Hideko, 87**, Seatac, WA, March 5; during WWII, her family and she were incarcerated at the Poston WRA Center in AZ; she was predeceased by her husband, Donell Manabu Tekawa; she is survived by her children, Brian (Kathy) Tekawa, Sharon (Ron) Hirata and Julie (Wes) Yee; sister, Yuri Nishioka; gc: 5; ggc: 8.

**Tsuyuki, Ricky Mutsumi, 64**, San Gabriel, CA, Dec. 31, 2020; he is survived by his siblings, Alfred Y. (Michie), Theodore (Keiko), Makoto, Hitomi Tsuyuki and Christine M. Nagashima; he is also survived by many nieces, nephews, cousins, grand-nieces and grand-nephews.

**Uyeda, Aki, 85**, Los Angeles, CA, Jan. 16; Air Force veteran; he was predeceased by his wife, Alice; and stepdaughter, Lonna Price; he is survived by his sister, Kayo Tsuruda, stepson, Darrel (Sofia) Krebs; step-gc: 4.

**Wehara, Itsuko, 82**, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA, Dec. 28, 2020; she is survived by her husband, Russell Wehara; siblings, Yukio Urushibata (Mable), Yeiko Fukunaga (Fred) and Alice Kammerman (Mark); she is also survived by many other relatives.

**Yamada, Harold Tetsuo, 86**, Reno, NV, March 21; during WWII, he was incarcerated at the Rohwer WRA Center in AR; Army veteran; he is survived by his wife, Colleen Mayeda; 6 children; gc: 17; ggc: 5.

**Yamada, Henry Noboru, 85**, Los Angeles, CA, April 11; he is survived by his wife, Grace Nobuko (Okuno); children, Aric, Kristen (Tom Kratky) and Curtis (Marga Yamada); gc: 4.

**Yamaguchi, Eitetsu, 82**, Hamden, CT, March 10; he is survived by his wife, Kazuko "Kay" Yamaguchi; daughters, Kelly Yamaguchi-Scanlon (Paul), Amy Uccello (Sebastian) and Lisa Yamaguchi; gc: 2.

## TRIBUTE

### YUKA YASUI FUJIKURA



Yuka passed away peacefully on March 23, 2021, at the age of 94. Born in Hood River, Ore., she was the beloved youngest child of Masuo and Shidzuyo Yasui, sister to Yuki and Michi and her brothers Kay, Ray, Minoru, Roku, Robert and Homer. Yuka attended high school in Hood River until May 1942 when Executive Order 9066 authorized the incarceration of tens of thousands of American citizens of Japanese ancestry and resident aliens from Japan.

She was removed and incarcerated first in Pinedale, Calif., and then at Tule Lake, Calif. She was able to leave the relocation camp unaccompanied at age 16 to enter high school in Denver. Upon graduation she attended the University of Oregon and received a bachelor of arts degree. Yuka furthered her education by getting a master of nursing degree from Yale University and a master of public health degree from the University of Pittsburgh. She worked as a nurse at Grace-New Haven Hospital and later at the Visiting Nurses Association in New Haven. She won a Fulbright Scholarship to work and study demography at the Institute of Public Health in Japan, where field studies were being done on people working in the rice growing, the coal mining and the fishing industries. While in Japan she met and married the love of her life and "best friend" Toshio Fujikura, a pathologist. She returned with him to the States and had four children. She continued her volunteer work in public health while raising a family, gardening, cooking, doing Japanese embroidery, singing and traveling. She was the heart of her family and instilled in them the values of her father that "We are all born for a purpose, and that purpose is to make this world a better place for our having been here."

Yuka leaves behind her husband, Toshio; and children Amy, Kay, Ken and Tyra, brother, Homer; and grandchildren Kevin, Daniel and Katelyn and many nieces and nephews, family and friends. In remembrance of Yuka's life, the family asks that any charitable donations be made to the Minoru Yasui Community Volunteer Award, <https://www.sparkthechangecolorado.org/mycva>

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## LEGACY » continued from page 2

Ochi was also active in the nonprofit space, serving, among many other organizations, on the board of trustees of the L.A. County Bar Assn., being a founding member of the Japanese American Bar Assn. and participating in JACL at the national level, including an unsuccessful bid to become JACL's first woman president in 1986, an election that was decided by two votes.

Two years later, her efforts to help make Japanese American redress a reality came to fruition when President Ronald Reagan signed the Civil Liberties Act of 1988. Reagan famously included Rose Ochi in his remarks before enacting the bill.

"Rose, *Rosa*, Ochi led a remarkable life, a life of distinction, of honor and grace, of dignity and of elegance. Our nation is better for her sacrifices and her contributions and the City of Angels is proud to call her a cherished daughter," de Leon said, who then introduced another speaker, Darlene Kuba, who was one of the many younger people mentored over the years by Ochi.

"Today, we honor the accomplishments and contributions of a remarkable woman. Rose's entire life was



**Thomas Ochi holds a smaller version of the sign that will mark an intersection of Little Tokyo as Rose Ochi Square.**

dedicated to ensuring equity and justice for all," Kuba said. "She was a true example of how one person can make a difference."

The next speaker received laughs from the crowd when he said, "Hi. I'm Tommy Ochi, frequently introduced as Mr. Rose Ochi. After 57 years of marriage, I think I know Rose very well. She would be surprised and extremely grateful for this honor. She never sought to have her accomplishments publicized. In fact, I read an article on redress that stated, 'No one would know of her contributions since she never talked about it.'"

The trio of de Leon, Kuba and Tommy Ochi then proceeded to remove the cloth that covered the new Rose Ochi Square sign, the first of four that will adorn each corner of the intersection.

Afterward, asked by the *Pacific Citizen* what his late wife would have said were she alive to receive such an honor, Tommy Ochi laughingly replied, "She'd probably say, 'You've got to be kidding!'" He reiterated how she didn't like to talk about what she accomplished. "She liked to just do stuff."

**Before saying a few words for the occasion, lobbyist Darlene Kuba thanks L.A. City Councilman Kevin de Leon for helping to have the intersection of San Pedro and E. First streets named Rose Ochi Square.**

PHOTOS: PACIFIC CITIZEN



## STAFF » continued from page 2

"With my promotion to development director and Bridget's hire, we have more capacity to find critical funding for our youth, education and social justice programs. We have already applied for grants for our education program, expanded our Convention sponsorship efforts and launched our 2020 Annual Report, which can be found on our website ([www.jacl.org](http://www.jacl.org))."

Keaveney was recommended to JACL from the Japanese American Museum of Oregon, where she was a cultural assistant, cataloger and lead volunteer for several years. She is a December 2019 graduate of Portland State University with a bachelor of arts in letters, social sciences and liberal studies and a certificate in global studies. She also has a content creation background as a co-publisher and illustrator for

the children's book "Dreams of Little Miss Aeva."

"My biggest goal at the moment is to cultivate as many strong relationships with chapters as possible, so that I may work with their coordinators to strengthen and build outreach programs that encourage and support membership participation. I wish to explore and implement as many strategies as possible," Keaveney said. "My hope is to also encourage members to utilize social media as a means to entice and recruit new members. When used strategically, I believe that social media can be a catalyst to helping chapters engage with their members, share their content and network with others."

Welcome, Bridget, to JACL!

**Bridget Keaveney can be reached at [bkeaveney@jacl.org](mailto:bkeaveney@jacl.org).**

## SAFETY » continued from page 8

The Seattle Police department could increase patrol in the Chinatown International District, said a law enforcement official.

Seattle JACL President Stanley Shikuma, who attended the meeting, wondered how increased police presence in one concentrated area would protect Asian Americans who live throughout the Seattle area.

"It doesn't," said Shikuma, a Sansei. "It gives the impression that you're doing something, but it doesn't really solve the problem."

The answer, Shikuma said, can be found by addressing the root causes of the issues like homelessness, mental health issues and food insecurity.

Shikuma, 67, is part of a growing number of Asian Americans who are approaching the call for increased community safety through an abolitionist lens.

Abolition is a political vision of a restructured society where community safety comes by fulfilling people's foundational needs. If a person steals, then the question arises: Is it because they are experiencing food or housing insecurity? Then, abolitionists say we should direct resources and funds to meet those needs, not criminalize them.

On May 1, the Nikkei Abolition Study Group held its first virtual session to explore the ideas of community safety. The study group is the collaborative effort of three Japanese American organizations: Tsuru For Solidarity, the New York Day of Remembrance Committee and Nikkei Uprising in Chicago.

It is the first of six free monthly sessions focusing on community safety through an abolitionist framework. About 125 people from across the U.S. attended, said Linda Morris, who co-facilitated the first session.

Suggested reading included Mariame Kaba's article, "So You're Thinking About Becoming an Abolitionist," but being an abolitionist is not required to be a part of the study group. Facilitators ask that participants identify as Nikkei, in part, to provide a space for a community with a shared history of overpolicing, surveillance and mass incarceration to talk openly about safety.

"Why do we equate safety with policing and the carceral system?" said Morris, 31, a civil rights lawyer in New York. "That's something that we've experienced in our history, and we know that policing can be a very harmful institution and tool of the state."

The FBI arrested Lisa Doi's great-grandfather Kazuichi Doi after Japan bombed Pearl Harbor, indicating that he had been under surveillance for some time.

"Do I think the country was safer because my great-grandfather was arrested for being an active mem-

**The World War II shared experience of mass incarceration informs Japanese Americans' ideas of community safety. Linda Morris' grandparents, Paul Itsuo Ishimoto and May Teruko Asaki Ishimoto, pictured at a cherry blossom festival after camp, were married while incarcerated at Jerome.**



**New York Day of Remembrance Committee members are working to demand justice for Black lives, close all U.S. concentration camps and free all from incarceration. Pictured (from left) are Emily Akpan, Lauren Sumida, Becca Asaki and Linda Morris.**

PHOTO: MICHELLE CHEN

ber of his Buddhist temple?" said Doi, Chicago JACL president and a community organizer with Tsuru for Solidarity. "No."

During WWII, Morris' grandparents were incarcerated at Manzanar, Jerome and Rohwer. Her family's history provides a framework for closer self-examination.

Out of the isolation of the WRA camps emerged the narrative that the U.S. government wrongly imprisoned 120,000 innocent Japanese Americans, two-thirds of whom were American citizens. But community organizers like Morris want to challenge this narrative on two fronts by asking: When is incarceration OK? And what does innocence really mean?

"If we weren't citizens, would it be OK then?" said Morris, who is Yonsei. "My great-grandparents weren't citizens and were incarcerated, so was it OK then to incarcerate them? What was grounding our sense that we were good citizens, so we didn't deserve it?"

Morris paused, then said pointedly, "We didn't deserve it because we were human."

Organizers say they are excited that the study group would provide space for tough conversations like these.

"Those points of tension and potential conflict are actually spaces that can be very generative and where we can begin to really come up with creative solutions and challenge our imagination," said Morris.

Against a backdrop of increased violence and racism against Asian American, the study group's focus on abolition contrasts with other community members' call for

increased policing.

It makes Shikuma wonder if the call for more policing is actually a reflex made out of habit.

"It's a system that we inherited, so we just go along with it," said Shikuma, who is a study group participant. "Some people get caught up in retribution and punishment. And that becomes the driving force: If someone does something wrong, we've got to make sure that they pay a price in the false belief that if you make the price high enough, they won't do it. That logic doesn't really work."

Habits, according to author James Clear, are the small decisions and acts one makes daily. The good ones, he argues in the bestselling book, "Atomic Habits," can help build better people and societies.

"Every action you take is a vote for the type of person you wish to become," said Clear in his book.

Over time, the bad habits left unexamined can slowly wear us down like a coastal erosion.

The question is now, which way should we go?

### Join the Next Nikkei Abolition Study Group

The conversation will focus on incarceration and the prison industrial complex.

**DATE: June 12**

**TIME: 1-2:30 p.m. ET/**

**10-11:30 a.m. PT**

**INFORMATION:**

**Registration required.**

**Visit [bit.ly/NikkeiAbolition](http://bit.ly/NikkeiAbolition).**